

Theme 6

An Environmentally Sustainable Local Economy

Create an innovative and environmentally sustainable economy that generates growth opportunities and influences future strategic investments.

Overview

Council, the community and industry has expressed the desire to grow the economy in a sustainable manner that minimises environmental impacts. There is strong local (as well as state and national) policy support for this initiative – such as the recently adopted Community Climate Action Plan – that seeks to reduce the City's environmental footprint. Council has also set a target of becoming carbon neutral by 2040 within the Plan.

The linkages between environmental sustainability and economic development outcomes have strengthened in recent times, driven by improved efficiencies and reductions in waste via sustainable business practices, circular economy opportunities to re-use waste (i.e. outputs) as a resource (i.e. inputs) and government policy (and funding) support for environmentally sustainable practices and achieving waste reduction goals.

Opportunities identified for 'green' business practices include promotion of renewable energy and circular economy practices that minimises waste and increase efficiencies of inputs. Banyule is well placed to harness the benefits of the circular economy philosophy across all sectors, with Council playing a lead role in promoting, attracting and supporting a sustainable business base.

Strategic Directions

6.1: Support the development of a sustainable and circular 'green' economy

6.2: Build business resilience to current and future climate impacts

Indicators of Success

- Develop a policy to encourage environmental sustainability outcomes for commercial development
- Provide advice and promote opportunities about government funding to support and subsidise environmentally sustainable outcomes
- Promote industry best practise through distribution of fact sheets
- Organise a Council forum to promote sustainable development practices



Strategic Directions



6.1: Support the Development of a Sustainable and Circular ‘Green’ Economy

Building a sustainable local economy in Banyule requires active involvement from Council through the following channels:

- Delivery of education and training programs;
- Leading by example;
- Investigate feasibility of major sustainability projects;
- Provision of enabling infrastructure; and
- Advocating to other levels of government and industry.

At a precinct level, Council must advocate and examine opportunities for on-site renewable energy generation in Heidelberg to meet the needs of the health precinct. Council should also investigate the feasibility for HWBP to transition to renewable energy generation.



6.2: Build Business Resilience to Current and Future Climate Impacts

Banyule's business base will need to build resilience to future climate impacts to ensure they are able to operate in a sustainable nature going forward. Sustainable business practices will reduce operational emissions, whilst simultaneously realising greater cost reductions. The emissions profile of businesses will vary significantly depending on service. For example:

- Manufacturers: emissions are likely to be dominated by energy consumption during the production process and material transportation
- Hospitals: emissions profile likely to be dominated by significant heating, cooling and lighting demands
- Cafes/restaurants: equipment operation and food waste processing will largely contribute to their emission profile
- Retail stores: packaging and store energy consumption will often determine overall energy performance.

Council should facilitate and support sustainable business growth through policy development, advocacy, information sharing and education channels where appropriate. There are also a broad range of government funding opportunities available to businesses that should be promoted to the local business base.

Action Plan

The Action Plan provides a guide for the delivery of the projects and actions to achieve each theme's strategic directions and overall objective. The plan includes relevant actions, internal/supporting stakeholders, indicative costs and timeframes, categorised as follows:

- Short term (within 1 year);
- Medium term (1-3 years); and
- Long term (4 years +).

Note: Indicative costs are subject to confirmation and are assumed to be expenditure beyond the existing budget. In instances where projects are able to be delivered within existing resources, or where costs are unknown, these are listed as 'N/A'. Importantly, these costs do not refer to specific internal staffing requirements for Council.

Project	Action	Stakeholder/s		Priority	Time frame	Indicative Cost
		Internal	Partner			
Business Support	Promote opportunities about government funding to support and subsidise environmentally sustainable outcomes for the local business base	Economic Development, Transport & Environment		High	Ongoing	N/A
	Promote industry best practise through distribution of fact sheets (e.g. fact sheets promoting financial incentives and savings of environmental upgrades).	Economic Development, Transport & Environment		High	Ongoing	N/A
Circular Economy Business Case	Prepare a business case to support circularity assessing material flows across the municipality.	Transport & Environment, Economic Development		Medium	Medium	N/A
Circular Economy Training	Identifying circular economy training needs, developing short courses to meet these needs and planning various events to showcase the circular innovations already happening in Banyule. This should also include delivery of the Circular Advantage training program for businesses.	Transport & Environment, Economic Development		Medium	Medium -Long Term	N/A

Indicators of Success & Monitoring Tools

Indicator	Monitoring
<i>Develop a policy to encourage environmental sustainability outcomes for commercial development as part of a broad ESD focus</i>	Annually, via Council's records
<i>Provide advice and promote opportunities about government funding to support and subsidise environmentally sustainable outcomes</i>	Annually, via Council's records
<i>Promote industry best practise through distribution of fact sheets (e.g. fact sheets promoting financial incentives and savings of environmental upgrades)</i>	Annually, via Council's records
<i>Organise a Council forum to promote sustainable development practices to Council and stakeholders including the investment and development community</i>	Annually, via Council's records