

Community Action Planning - SECCCA Councils collaborating to reduce emissions

SECCCA has a strategic vision to transition communities in Melbourne's south east to Zero carbon.

In March 2020, seven SECCCA Councils agreed to collaborate with Ironbark Sustainability on an evidence-based Community Action Planning project. This project will deliver a realistic plan for achieving the required annual reductions in emissions within the necessary timeframe.

Early results indicate communities within each participating council area need to reduce emissions by 660 kt CO₂-e (3.9%) per year until 2050.

The scale of reductions required can seem exceptionally high. For this reason, it's important for councils to carefully consider how best to leverage resources.

Councils acknowledge that most often, direct action by a council will not be the most efficient way to reduce emissions. Instead there are a number of ways that councils can engage and work with stakeholders and other levels of government to facilitate the required emissions reductions. These are interventions.

Community Action Planning has a number of key stages:

- Develop a Regional Community Emissions Profile and Science-derived Target
- Identify Action Opportunities
- Model the Business-as-Usual Scenario
- Identify Market Barriers
- Identify Intervention Opportunities
- Intervention Analysis
- Finalisation of Pathways

SECCCA member councils participating in this project have a combined land area of 2,804km². The councils participating are:

- Bayside City Council
- City of Casey
- City of Greater Dandenong
- City of Kingston
- Cardinia Shire Council
- Frankston City Council
- Mornington Peninsula Shire

By approaching emissions reduction at a regional level SECCCA councils are looking to increase the scale of opportunity, take advantage of synergies across the region, and maximise cost effectiveness.

Project outcomes are due at the end of 2020. Ahead of results being provided, participating councils will continue to develop their Climate Emergency response plans and deliver on existing community emissions reduction programs.

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