

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING PROJECT – REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP REPORT 14TH JULY 2020



REGIONAL COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

The South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) supports councils and their communities in Melbourne's south east to respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change. SECCCA exists to advocate, educate and deliver targeted projects in the areas of greenhouse gas abatement, sequestration and adaptation. SECCCA's vision is that their communities are thriving, live a zero emissions lifestyle and are resilient to the changing climate. Established in 2004, SECCCA has secured over \$9 million of investment to deliver numerous innovative climate change related projects for its member councils and their communities. For more information visit www.seccca.org.au.

In March 2020, seven SECCCA councils agreed to collaborate with Ironbark Sustainability on an evidence-based community climate action planning project for the region. This project will produce a greenhouse gas emissions profile and science-derived emission reduction target for each municipality and the region and a regional community action plan.

By tackling emissions reduction at a regional level, SECCCA councils aim to increase the scale of opportunity and maximise cost effectiveness by taking advantage of synergies across the region. SECCCA councils also understand that reducing the region's emissions is a shared responsibility and best achieved through collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP AS A FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION

Direct action by a council is often not the most efficient way to reduce emissions and stakeholders outside of local government play a critical role in being able to enact meaningful climate change action. There are a number of ways that councils can work with stakeholders and other levels of government to facilitate emissions reduction.

With this in mind, on 14 July 2020 SECCCA held a Regional Emissions Reduction Stakeholder Workshop involving stakeholders with the greatest potential to support emissions reductions in the SECCCA region. More than 20 business, industry and government stakeholders participated and contributed to discussions about emissions reductions in the region. The full list of attendees is attached to this report.

The first half of the workshop provided stakeholders with information about the SECCCA Community Climate Action Planning Project, the greenhouse gas reduction target, the regional emissions profile, and action planning process. Below is a summary of the key findings for the regional emissions reduction target and emissions profile.

SECCCA's Emissions Reduction Target

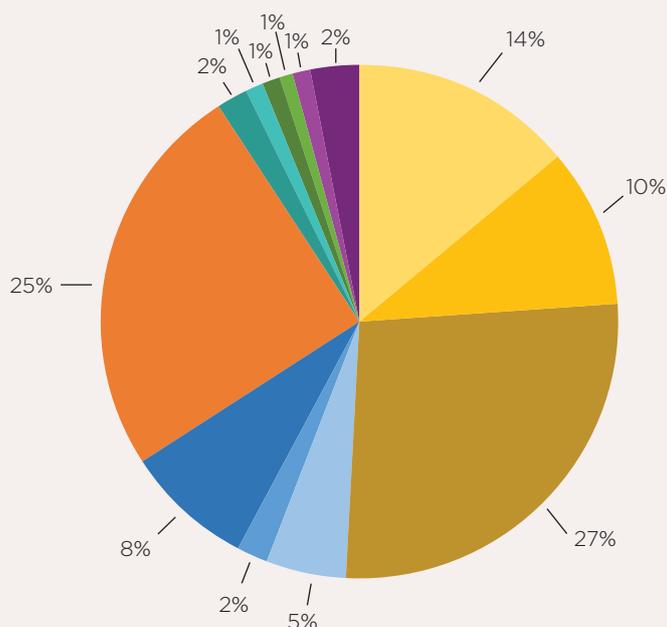
- SECCCA has set an ambitious target which aligns to the Paris Agreement of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- The region needs to reduce emissions by 976 kt CO₂-e which represents a challenging 5.8% reduction per year until 2037.



MAIN SOURCES OF GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS IN THE REGION

- The largest source of emissions is stationary energy use (67%). This includes residential, industrial and commercial use of electricity and gas.
- On-road transportation is the second largest emissions source contributing 25% of the region's total emissions.
- Looking at the breakdown by sector, industrial electricity is the largest emitter (27%). The industrial sector includes emissions used in manufacturing and the energy, waste and water services.

SECCCA Regional Emissions Profile



- Stationary Energy - Electricity Residential
- Stationary Energy - Electricity Commercial
- Stationary Energy - Electricity Industrial
- Stationary Energy - Gas Residential
- Stationary Energy - Gas Commercial
- Stationary Energy - Gas Industrial
- Transportation - On-road
- Waste - Solid Waste
- Waste - Wastewater
- Agriculture
- Land Use - Land Clearing
- Industrial Processes
- Product Use

STAKEHOLDER EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLANS

The second half of the workshop was dedicated to hearing from business and industry stakeholders about their emissions reduction projects and priorities. Background research and discussion during the second half of the workshop indicated that many organisations have already set emissions reduction targets and have plans in place to achieve these. Some of the plans and projects stakeholders shared were progressive and inspiring.

Examples are provided below.

- Visy, a global leader in packaging and resource recovery has been a pioneer in sustainability since their inception. The company is currently focusing on closed loop manufacturing, waste to energy and decarbonising their operation's energy use.

- Scentre Group owns and operates 42 Westfield living/shopping centres in Australia and New Zealand. Westfield Southland and Fountain Gate are two of the largest shopping centres in Victoria, both located in the SECCCA region, and cater to a population catchment of more than one million residents. Scentre Group is pursuing net zero scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030 across its wholly owned portfolio. To achieve this, they are investigating retrofits, new technologies, solar installs and batteries for energy storage.
- IKEA, a large global chain for furniture and homewares, is already a market leader and is introducing a number of additional global sustainability initiatives next year (2021). These include circular hubs with buy back services for used furniture, more closed loop approaches and local microgrid projects. By 2025, IKEA aims to consume and purchase 100% renewable electricity for all buildings. With two thirds of their buildings worldwide already run on 100% renewable electricity; in Australia, IKEA is powered by over 20,000 solar panels, generating 22% of the energy required for their domestic operations.
- BlueScope is the third largest global manufacturer of premium coated and painted steel products. The company operates metallic coating and painting facilities in the SECCCA region (Western Port). Bluescope recently bought into the Finley solar farm to supply a percentage of their energy use, with the target of a 1% year-on-year reduction in their overall greenhouse emissions intensity per tonne of steel to 2030. For the financial year 2018/19 they achieved a 1.2% reduction.

Stakeholders also discussed barriers they face in achieving large-scale and long-lasting emissions reductions. Some of the key barriers identified include; not knowing available solutions, the challenge of working with suppliers, a lack of organisational support, the need to meet consumer demand, and the difficulty of managing tenants.

WORKSHOP FINDINGS - FUTURE STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION IS NEEDED

Engaging with stakeholders is crucial to developing a climate action plan for the SECCCA region. Vital to this, is understanding what actions stakeholders are currently taking, what they are planning and what barriers to further action stakeholders are facing. Once there is a clear understanding of stakeholder emission reduction plans and the barriers to implementation, SECCCA can develop actions that will support stakeholders' emission reduction efforts. Identification of stakeholders relevant to the region's emissions trajectory was the first step to collaborative climate action planning. This was followed by the workshop which brought together a number of key stakeholders aiming to meaningfully reduce emissions in the south east of Melbourne.

At the workshop, stakeholders showed an interest in learning about other organisations' greenhouse gas initiatives and supported the idea of investigating opportunities for future collaboration.

The workshop strengthened SECCCA's view that collaborative stakeholder planning is the right approach to climate action in the region. Councils have historically been involved in community climate action, but working in collaboration with industry stakeholders is a relatively new approach.

Initial findings of the SECCCA Community Climate Action Planning Project also show that collaborative stakeholder planning is needed to achieve significant and lasting emissions reductions. An annual reduction of 5.8% is required to achieve SECCCA's target to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

**Collaborative
stakeholder planning
is the right approach
to climate action
in the region**

NEXT STEPS

SECCCA's vision is for a thriving, zero emissions south east region, that is resilient to climate change. This Community Climate Change Action Planning Project will help to deliver this vision.

It will identify the most effective ways that local government can support business to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

SECCCA understands that emission reduction is challenging. This workshop is breaking new ground. It is the beginning of a conversation about how key stakeholders in the south east, might be able to work together and play their part in the global effort for climate action.

As we progress the SECCCA Community Climate Action Planning Project, we will be back in touch with relevant stakeholders to discuss future collaboration opportunities. We will develop strategies and actions and check back with stakeholders about their appropriateness and likelihood of success.

Thanks again to those who contributed to the discussion so openly and willingly.

For more information please contact Dominique La Fontaine on **0428 455 005** or email dlafontaine@seccca.org.au.



ATTACHMENT 1

ATTENDEES	
STAKEHOLDERS:	LINK TO RELEVANT INFORMATION
Colin Roberts (Scentre Group, Westfield & Fountain Gate)	www.scentre.com.au/about-us/sustainability
Jon Ward (Visy Industries)	www.visy.com.au/about/clean-energy
Vonda Fenwick (South East Melbourne Manufacturers Alliance)	
Damian Mannix (South East Melbourne Organisation)	
Philip Alviano (Master Builders Association of Victoria)	www.mbav.com.au/news-information/news/sustainability
Nicholas Burt (Facility Management Association of Australia)	www.fma.com.au/resources/transition-low-emission-hvacr-industry
Olivia Barrie (Mornington Peninsula Vignerons Association)	
Trent Griffiths, Yolanda Silveri (Melbourne Water)	www.melbournewater.com.au/water/water-facts-and-history/liveability-and-environment/towards-net-zero-carbon-emissions
Matt Mollett (South East Water)	southeastwater.com.au/AboutUs/EmissionsReductionPledge/Pages/default.aspx
Hedy Dalvand (United Energy)	www.unitedenergy.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/20172018-United-Energy-Summer-Saver-FAQ-1.pdf
Joanna Pendergast (EPA Victoria)	www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/epas-environmental-performance/how-we-manage-our-greenhouse-gas-emissions
Christine Han (Monash Health)	monashhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/MonashHealth_AR18_Full_web20181030.pdf
Bhumika Selot (IKEA)	www.ikea.com/au/en/files/pdf/6f/c0/6fc0b180/ikeasustainabilityreportnew2020.pdf
Stephen Pollard (DELWP)	www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/reducing-emissions/emissions-targets
Brett Fraser, Iván Aguirre (Victorian School Building Authority)	www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/Pages/GreenerGovernment.aspx
Leanne Stray (Department of Education and Training)	www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/reducing-emissions/emissions-targets
Shelley Kyriazis (BlueScope Australia and New Zealand)	s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/bluescope-corporate-umbra-co-media/media/2672/sustainability-report-2019-final.pdf
Joanna Chia (Department of Transport)	www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/reducing-emissions/emissions-targets

APOLOGIES:

Kathryn Every (Port of Hastings Development Authority)

Luke Wilkinson (Sustainability Victoria)

Fiona Armstrong (Climate and Health Alliance)

Hugh Cotton (Cleanaway)

COUNCILS:

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