

Creating a Malmsbury Community Climate Change Action Plan: Briefing Pack October 2018

Due to landscape, demographics, infrastructure and services, every community is different. Recognising differences at the local level, when Macedon Ranges Shire Council adopted their Climate Change Action Plan, the following action was included:

C.10 Local community climate change plans: Facilitate development and implementation of a pilot community climate change plan for a local community in the shire, potentially as an extension of the Places for People Program. Extend the community climate change planning process(es) to other local communities as appropriate.

Malmsbury has been chosen as the pilot site to develop a localised action plan. We would like to work with you and others in the Malmsbury community to develop a local Climate Action Plan before the end of the year.

By and For You

To ensure the plan addresses issues and opportunities most relevant to the local area, we have designed a process so that the Action Plan can be developed, owned and implemented by the Malmsbury community.

The development of the plan has been funded by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC).

The content of the plan will be developed by you, the people of Malmsbury. Support will be provided by consultants [Gavin Ashley](#) and [Amy Brand](#) from [HIP V. HYPE Sustainability](#) (HV.H) and from Silvana Predebon from Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

The process

A community information session was held on the 14 October at the Malmsbury Town Hall. Notes from this session are included later in this document.

3 workshops will be run to develop the content of the Action Plan and decide how the plan will be actioned and monitored into the future.

The table below provides a high-level overview of the potential content of each workshop. It's important to note that this process will evolve over time. The sessions will be facilitated by HV.H Sustainability and their process will change in response to the decisions made by participants.

After each workshop, the notes and any new information will be posted on Council's website at <http://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Environment/Climate-Change#section-5> so that you and others in the community can follow along, even if you can't make every workshop.

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How we will work together 2. Community skills audit 3. What do we need from the Action Plan and this process to make it effective? 4. Review current state 5. New ideas 6. What needs to be done before the next workshop? 7. Evaluation of session 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action Plan structure 2. Agree on a filter to short-list actions 3. Short-list actions 4. Scoping short-listed actions 5. Local skills and resources 6. What needs to be done before the next workshop? 7. Evaluation of session 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feedback on draft Action Plan 2. Further scoping of actions (if necessary) 3. Confirming roles and responsibilities 4. Next steps to maintain momentum 5. Evaluation of process
<p>↓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate notes via email • Notes up on Council website • Action Plan wire frame • Potential for participants to talk with other community members, stakeholders or technical experts 	<p>↓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate notes via email • Notes up on Council website • Action Plan draft 1 • Potential for participants to talk with other community members, stakeholders or technical experts 	<p>↓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate notes via email • Notes up on Council website • Final Action Plan

You're invited to get involved

Everyone who lives, works, owns property, or is a regular visitor to Malmsbury is invited to get involved. Stay up-to-date by visiting <http://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Environment/Climate-Change#section-5>

Save the date

Workshops have been arranged for the following dates:

Sunday 28 October, 9.30am – 1pm – Malmsbury Mechanics Institute

Sunday 11 November, 1pm – 5pm – Malmsbury Mechanics Institute

Sunday 2 December, time TBC – Malmsbury Town Hall

Get invited

An invitation will be sent via email before each workshop. If you haven't already supplied your email address, please email Silvana at SPredebon@mrsc.vic.gov.au so she can include you on the e-mail list.

Pass it on!!

Please pass this information pack along to anyone else in the community you think might be interested in participating in this project.

Project enquiries

Please contact, Silvana Predebon at Macedon Ranges Shire Council:

SPredebon@mrsc.vic.gov.au

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Background: A snapshot of Malmsbury (2016 stats)

The population and demographics of Malmsbury will impact on the types of projects that might be effective locally. It may also be important to consider the size of the population and how this could impact the scale of potential projects or available investment.

Here's a quick reminder of some key statistics for Malmsbury:

Population: 645

Dwellings: 307

Needs assistance due to age or disability: 4.1%

Households

Couples with children: 65 (24.4%)

Couple without children: 88 (33.1%)

One parent families: 28 (10.5%)

Lone person household: 60 (22.6%)

Group household: 8 (3%)

Employment

Employed: 322 (96.1%)

Unemployed: 13 (3.9%)

Total labour force: 335 (61.5%)

Not in the labour force: 159 (29.2%)

Home ownership

Owned: 74 (24.4%)

Purchasing 135 (44.6%)

Renting: 30 (9.9%)

Household Income

Less than \$650 (low): 38 (16.2%)

\$650 to \$1,449 (lower middle): 88 (37.4%)

\$1,449 to \$2,499 (upper middle): 55 (23.4%)

\$2,500 or more (high): 31 (13.2%)

Incomes not stated: 23 (9.8%)

[Click here to find more Malmsbury statistics from idCommunity.](#)

Report: Information Session 14 October 2018, for the Malmsbury Community Climate Change Action Plan

A community info session about this project was held on Sunday 14 October and for those that couldn't make it, here's what happened...

32 locals attended the info session, along with Macedon Ranges Mayor Jennifer Anderson, council officer Silvana Predebon, HIP V. HYPE consultants Gavin Ashely and Amy Brand. We started with a Q&A about the project and then started gathering information about current projects, groups, opportunities and challenges in Malmsbury.

Below is the summary of the discussion and the information gathered.

Why was Malmsbury selected by Council?

Council was seeking a location that would benefit from the investment in the Action Plan, and where people would be willing to provide feedback about the process to help Council determine whether a broader rollout of the Action Planning process would be valuable.

Specifically, Malmsbury was chosen because:

- It was the right size – not too small, not too large.
- There are currently no other community consultation processes being run by Council in the town so there's less risk of over-engagement or participant burn-out.
- There was demonstrated interest in a local response to climate change and some activity already occurring.
- There is a demonstrated ability to work collaboratively within the town.

Have Council been in touch with Traditional Owners in regard to this project and is there scope for involvement?

Council regularly consult with the Traditional Owners of the Macedon region, the Wurundjeri, Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung communities – [click here for more information](#). Most recently, two of the traditional owner groups recently have been involved with the development of the [Biodiversity Strategy](#).

Thus far the Wurundjeri, Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung communities have not been directly consulted about the Malmsbury project, however there is certainly scope in the project to build connections between the Malmsbury community and the Traditional Owner groups if there is a collective desire to do so.

Is there space in the process to consult experts that may need to be involved in scoping actions?

Given this is a community-led process, it will be up to those at the workshops to decide what other stakeholders need to be consulted or involved in the process. The timing of the workshops has been spaced to allow everyone participating in the formulation of the plan to consult, connect and maybe even do a little bit of research between sessions.

Are there goals and measures are in place for this project specifically or broader contextual targets that should be considered in how we create and structure the Action Plan?

There are currently no targets set for this project. It will be up to the workshop participants to determine if they want to set any specific goals or targets as part of the Action Plan.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council have aligned their own goals with the State Government targets: "Promote the vision of a zero net emissions shire by 2050 as a shared council-community vision, consistent with the target for a zero net emissions Victoria"

Council itself had indicated its intent to be zero net emissions for its operations by 2030, but this is not yet an adopted target.

Malmsbury is already taking action

We gathered information on climate action already taking place in and around Malmsbury. There's some fantastic work going on right across the community so there's a strong foundation to build from. Here's what we know so far:

- Solar panels on individual houses
- Tree planting on Common
- Mulching trees in Botanic Gardens
- CFA Fire Guard Groups
- Millions injected into expanding Malmsbury Justice Precinct
- Tree program in cemetery
- Native grassland regeneration at the Common
- Perennial carbon storage - ecological burning reduces fire hazards and benefits native grasses over annual weeds
- Permaculture methods are being used for soil building on private land – practicing soil building and microbe etc diversity and improving knowledge on permaculture and regarian skills which work on storing carbon
- Channel reserve
- Commons project
- Mulching arboretum

Participants in the info session also noted that there are many local groups already established:

- Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group
- Kyneton Transition Hub
- Friends of Malmsbury Gardens
- Malmsbury Primary School
- Malmsbury Playgroup
- Malmsbury Landcare (and district)
- Cemetery Trust
- Malmsbury Primary School permaculture kitchen garden – kids learn veggie gardens and ongoing soil organisms for fertility
- Malmsbury historical society
- Malmsbury community action group with MYTC
- Malmsbury Advance Association – funds available?
- Town Hall Committee
- Malmsbury Cricket Team
- Youth Justice Centre
- St John Church
- CFA
- Doxa youth camp

If you know anyone involved in these groups, please feel free to pass this info pack along and encourage them to come along to the workshop. We'd love everyone to know about this project.

We started to reflect on the strengths and challenges facing the town:

STRENGTHS

- Skills and knowledge on soil, not dirt building
- Tonnes of farmland (biggest impact is to get farmers to build soil fertility. Towns people can do little in comparison. We need farmers on board)
- Many bare hills, perfect for wind farms
- Beautiful gardens, commons and river running through
- People care
- Lots of trees
- Botanic gardens
- Lots of space, communal and private land
- Plenty of scope for solar and wind
- Scope for sewerage – innovative ways of recycling treatment – back to community
- Town can become totally independent for power, water and sewage
- Places to meet

CHALLENGES

- _ Lack of knowledge on regenerative and permaculture systems shown to sequester carbon in grasslands / farms on a massive scale - need an expert to come in and coordinate a fun workshop (Darren Doherty or Dan Palmer)
- _ Changing people's mind sets to new scientific ways of sequestration carbon.
- _ Getting more people to participate
- _ Wind farms prohibited in Macedon Ranges
- _ Heritage overlays – permits and \$\$\$ for solar
- _ Drought and ore fires (if we don't do anything)
- _ Change in people's minds
- _ No major shops so lots of cars going elsewhere to bring in goods and associated waste that then gets transported out again

Lastly, participants were asked to leave comments and ideas relating to the Action Plan:

- Community wind farm on Post Office Road (there was some agreement and disagreement noted on this comment)
- Ban petrol leaf blowers for council cleaning
- Solar farm at Malmsbury Youth Training Centre
- Recycling bins in town
- Green bin collection
- There are 2 proven, high EROEI (energy returned on energy invested), regenerative (ie improves soil, water biology) energy systems that could within 1 year get Malmsbury off grid and fossil fuels.
- For decision making processes and systems for carbon sequestration en masse the best in the world is [Darren Doherty](#) (in Bendigo).
- Green waste strategy
- Better planning to replace willows and weeds immediately with native planting on rivers so weeds don't grow back and so the net result is not demanding of the landscape and heating of the water, killing local fish.
- Vegetation planning re carbon, fire, flood, food, beauty
- Community solar schemes – shared purpose, group PV generation etc
With individual and community batteries
- Cooperative group re surplus food / making preserves etc
- Community info on roundup and similar garden products
- Community initiative – meat free Mondays??? Reduce carbon emissions??? (local grown meat better than QLD avocados)
- Electrification of heaters and cooking. Displace gas (inc. bottled) and wood stoves.
- Microgrid – solar WORD / P2p, enable islanding during storm / fire outages
- Commuting EV fleet for local trip. Electric recharging.
- Community garden
- Active community hub
- Co-op for services
- Fireguard groups
- Improve paths for walking
- Improve railway station – better community use

As you can see, many people are already thinking about specific ideas. Existing and new ideas will be explored during workshops so there's still plenty of time for ideas to be shared, explored and refined

During the community info session held on 14 October, participants also talked about some inspirational projects they knew about:

- Community wind farm – [Hepburn Wind](#)
- Solar group purchasing to create discounts ([Castlemaine MASH](#))
- Sustainable community living developments
- Wye River Community Action Plan(CFA)
- [Newstead microgrid](#)
- Transition movement (lots of resources and ideas)
- 2011 Solar Cities
- Energy Assessment – Home and Business
- [Z-Net Hepburn Shire](#)