

ATTACHMENT TO AGENDA ITEM

Ordinary Meeting

19 November 2019

Agenda Item 11.2 Shepparton Statement - the path forward

Attachment 1 Fast Facts Greater Shepparton Sustainability..... 175

**Attachment 2 Solutions from youth - Shepparton Statement - Council
response 179**

SUSTAINABILITY AT GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL

ENERGY

Council tracks and monitors consumption, costs and emissions for:

- Electricity (all Council-run assets and including streetlighting)
- Gas
- Fleet (diesel and petrol)

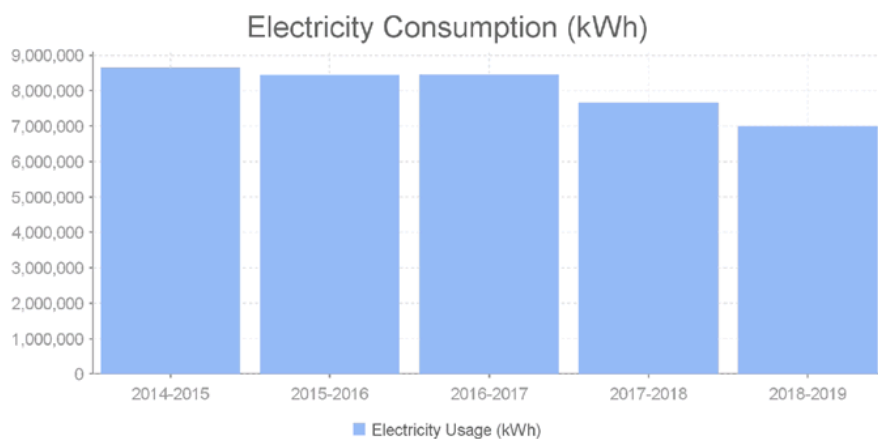
Council uses this data as a decision making tool for energy efficiency actions and renewable energy installations.

Energy Reduction Plan

Council developed an Energy Reduction Plan in 2015 to reduce energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions. A target of 20% energy reduction by 2020 was implemented and considered to be both ambitious and achievable.

As of May 2019 council has already achieved a 19% reduction in electricity usage. This has been achieved by the installation of solar on council buildings. The energy reduction plan will finish at the end of 2020. It is projected that the target of 20% electricity reduction will be exceeded.

The graphic below shows a clear reduction in electricity consumption from 2014/2015.



Solar PV Installations

One of the actions from the Energy Reduction Plan was to install solar on council buildings. The installation on council buildings program was implemented in the 17/18 financial year.

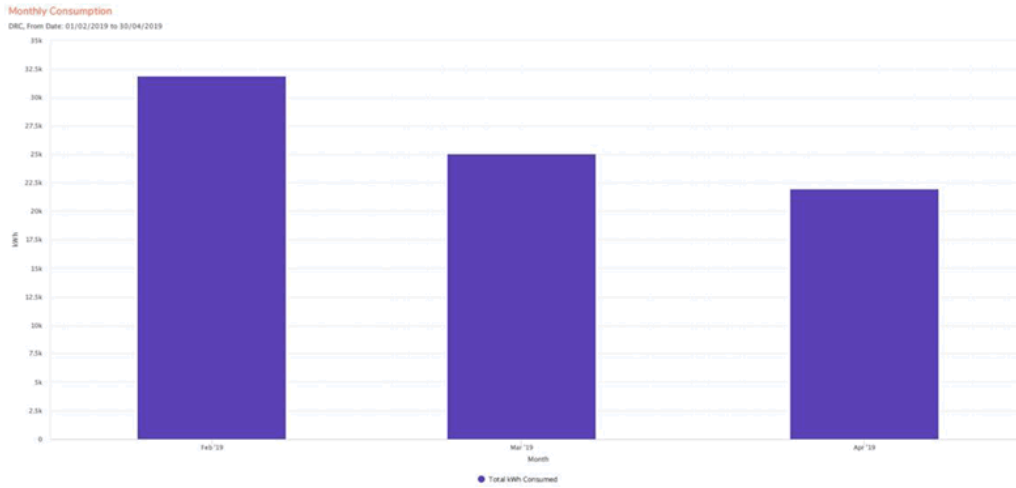
Solar is currently installed on four council buildings, those being:

- Welsford Street – 90kw system
- Shepparton Sports Stadium – 35kw system
- Doyles Road Complex – 99kw system
- Mooroopna Hub - 56kw system

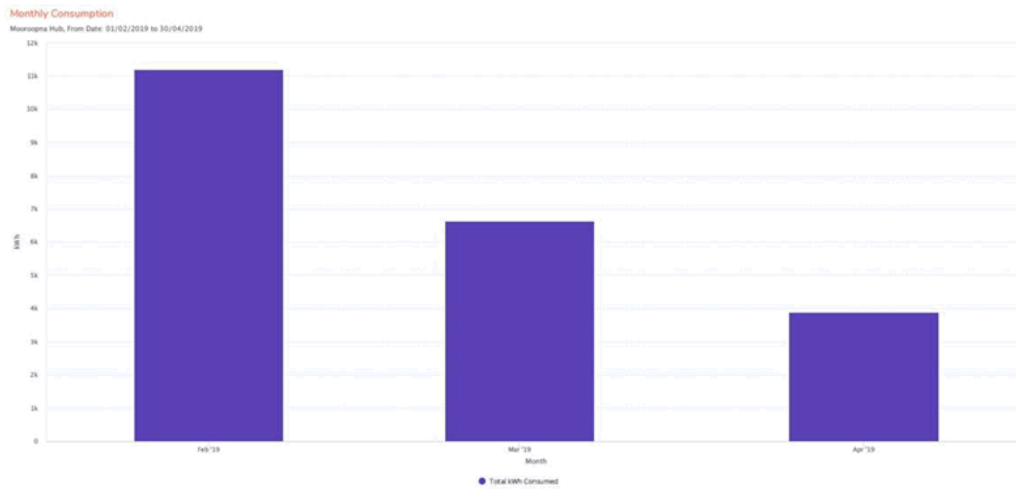
Future installations include:

- Aquamoves – 99kw system
- Shepparton Saleyards – 55kw system

The installation of a 99kw 302 panel system at the Doyles Road Complex has reduced Council’s energy consumption at this site by approximately 32% between the months of March and April 2019.



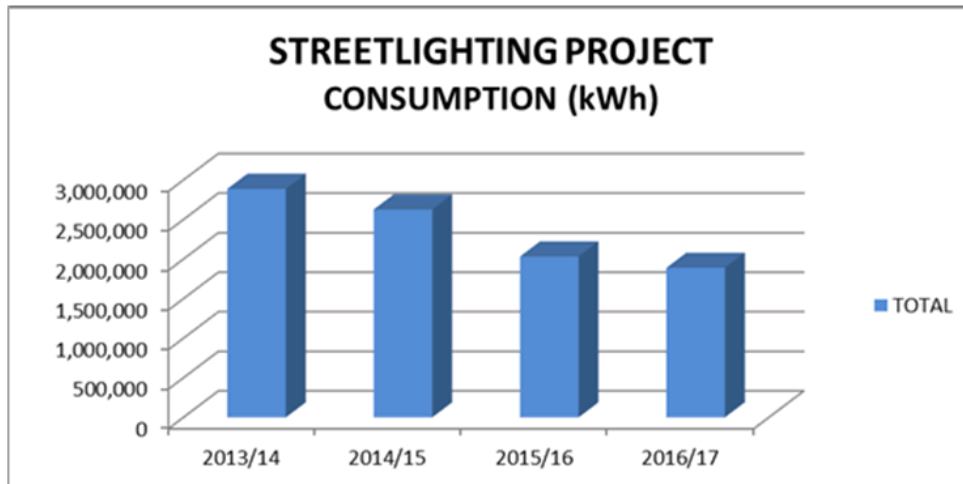
The installation of a 56kw 170 panel system at the Mooroopna Hub has reduced Council’s energy consumption at this site by approximately 42% between the months of March and April 2019.



Installation of solar not only delivers a financial benefit with the reduction in the electricity we use, but also environmental benefits with the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions being produced.

Watts Working Better -

- changed over 3,409 streetlights between 2014 and 2016
- Consumption dropped from 2.9 Gigawatts per year to 1.9 Gigawatts per year = using a third less energy to power streetlights.
- Cost decreased \$180k over that period.

**COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS**

Council's Community Sustainability Grants program has been running since 2016. This is a grant opportunity for community groups to apply for funding to assist in sustainability related projects. The grant is for up to \$2000 and has funded 18 applications.

Examples of projects that have been funded include:

- Vegetable Gardens
- Water Tank installation
- Block out blinds
- Reusable catering supplies for football clubs
- Community events/workshops related to sustainability

SUSTAINABLE DECISION MAKING POLICY

Council has adopted a Sustainable Decision Making Policy that outlines the sustainability principles to be applied as part of Council's strategic and operational functions to achieve triple bottom line outcomes (environmental, social and economic). Council also has adopted a Procurement Policy which promotes sustainable purchasing, and requires information on sustainable purchasing for all purchases made for Council purposes.

GOULBURN BROKEN GREENHOUSE ALLIANCE

Council currently auspices the GBGA, and works in partnership with the Alliance and other member Councils and Catchment Management Authorities to deliver projects to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Current projects include developing a business case for changing main-road streetlights to more energy efficient lights, developing a business case for a state-wide public network of electric vehicle chargers, and developing a tender for a Power Purchase Agreement for procurement of a portion of Councils electricity through renewable energy. Past projects include the Climate Smart Agricultural Development project, which modelled the likely impact of climate change

on a number of agricultural commodities, and an electric vehicle feasibility study and business case for Council's fleet.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Council has participated in a positive feasibility study and business case for the incorporation of electric vehicles into Council's fleet. As a result, Council has purchased two electric vehicles and associated charging infrastructure. Charging infrastructure will be installed at the Doyles Road Complex and the Welsford Street office. The vehicles are expected to be in use by the end of October.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN

Council has adopted a Climate Adaptation Plan to assist council prepare for present and future challenges of climate change. Council already incurs costs due to physical damage to assets and health impacts from extreme weather events, and these events are expected to increase in frequency and intensity due to climate change. These events include droughts, storms, flooding and heatwaves. The Plan outlines the risks to Council and the community from climate change, and actions to reduce the severity of these risks to Council and the community.

Shepparton Statements from our Youth		
Name	Comment	Council Response
Jasmine	<p>The number one thing that us has individuals can do to help climate change, is to be informed.</p> <p>I believe the younger generations are being taught only the definition of climate change and not actually the meaning, impact or actions that it actually entails.</p> <p>Myself being a 24 year old, I have heard other individuals recognise that climate change is caused by extra heat in the climate system due to the additional of greenhouse gages to the atmosphere, but not all believed that the additional greenhouse gases are primarily input by human activities.</p> <p>Australia is defiantly being held back by the self-interest of only a few politicians and only a small network of highly influential companies that are prepared to sacrifice individuals health and well-being for their own short term economic gain.</p> <p>Climate & Health Alliance president, Peter Sainsbury has stated that in the next 10 to 100 years it will be rising which means we will be expecting more severe increased global warming, severe and frequent extreme weather events, more land and marine environmental destruction, more human injuries, ill health and premature death.</p> <p>I believe people are not aware on how easy, how little but how far the below sugestions can impact climate change in the slightest way:</p> <p>Car pool — instead of each member of friendship group, family members or partners driving to the same place in their own cars, designate someone to pick you up on the way or vise verser.</p> <p>Electricity — Turn off all powerpoints and lights when not in use, replace regular light bulbs with fluroescent bulbs, take shorter showers and dry your clothes outside rather than using a dryer</p> <p>Food — use reusable bags for every trip to the supermarket and try and buy local and seasonal produce as it saves energy in transport and storage</p> <p>Recycle — Placing all recyclable rubbish in the correct bin and hamy-down your clothes so someone else will find love with your items</p> <p>Household — when purchasing new appliances, make sure you are looking at the energy star rating label and look into solar panels</p>	<p>Council have a car booking system for the passenger fleet. When staff book a car it alerts them if someone else has booked a car that are going to the same destination. The Sustainable Working Group, an internal staff group, have developed a car pool program with dedicated car parks available for staff who carpool to work. This can certainly be adopted by others organisations and schools in the municipality.</p>

Name	Comment	Council Response
	<p>If these above points are more visible and communicated within workplaces, schools and the community than each individual will be able to make their own contribution to the change of climate change while we wait for a large scale change.</p> <p>A suggestion may be turning it into a prize winning program of some sort, one for business's, one for schools. I believe sadly, individuals these days will do what they can when it someone benefits them aka getting resignation with a prize of some sort. A prize is a small price to pay when all the 'teams' will be cleaning up without even realising.</p>	<p>Yes we agree, council will continue to improve these messages for our staff and include them as part of our discussion with schools, businesses and other governments. We will be updating our Environmental Sustainability Strategy and these messages will part of our Sustainability communication section.</p> <p>This is a great idea and one we are keen to talk to you about.</p>
Tilliah	<p>Shepparton needs to realise we're in a climate crisis. While the federal government isn't acting or making the immediate changes necessary to reverse the damage done to our environment, we can change this at a local level.</p> <p>We need to educate children so they are fully aware of the consequences their actions have on the environment. We need to show children how to recycle, how to make compost. How to reduce single use plastics at school and at home. We need to teach them about the consequences of factory farming and the horrendous impact this has on animals and the environment.</p> <p>The level of rubbish in streets and parks across Shepparton is disgusting. Especially considering how close this town is to lakes and rivers. I personally think, a clean up Australia Day should be organised for Shepparton and surrounding towns. We need to make incentives for businesses to reduce their rubbish, and increase their use of recycled materials.</p> <p>Please realise how many people want a better future for our children. Thank you for reading.</p>	<p>Council will commit to starting a conversation with our community. We will continue to talk to youth and start a climate change conversation with the agricultural sector, business, sporting clubs, service clubs, service providers and other agencies to understand how climate change is affecting them know and start to plan for what we need to do so our community is resilient to the impacts of climate change and the future is full of opportunity.</p> <p>RiverConnect in partnership with Council, Goulburn Broken Catchment Mangement Authority, Goulburn Valley Water and the Goulburn Murray Landcare Network run over 50 education events each year with local schools about environmental matters including waste and water. Council will continue to have discussions with the education department as the Greater Shepparton College progresses around these environmental issues.</p> <p>RiverConnect coordinate quarterly river clean ups in partnership with Veolia and community volunteers along with many other litter clean up activities on a regular basis but this is not enough. We need to find a solution to the dumping of litter in our towns and in our natural areas. Council has installed 5 Gross Pollutant Trap's divert 16 tonnes per year from stormwater entering the Goulburn River.</p> <p>Through the Goulburn Valley Waste Resource Recovery Group and Sustainability Victoria, council is working to develop and implement the <i>Regional Litter and Illegal Dumping Plan</i> .</p> <p>Clean up Australia Day activities in March along the Broken and Goulburn Rivers.</p> <p>Council also offers free disposal at the Resource Recovery Centres for a number of recyclable items. For more information please visit our website - http://greater-shepparton.com.au/assets/files/documents/waste/Free_at_Greater_Shepparton_Resource_Recovery_Centres_2019-07.pdf</p>

Name	Comment	Council Response
Zarif	<p>They say the journey of a thousand miles, starts with a single step. What better way to save the world than to start locally here in Shepparton?</p> <p>Going carbon-free or taking the necessary first steps towards progression of a better environment could act as the catalyst and inspire neighboring areas to take action, and so on, like a domino effect.</p> <p>Some ways in which I believe we can achieve this is putting more money towards renewable energy, making it more affordable or free installations of solar panels and development of renewable energy.</p> <p>We must also must give farmers the support they need and deserve, they're having enough trouble trying to grow crops or raise animals, not to mention the water crisis, mortgage rates, milk prices etc. Give the farmers the support they deserve and we have more people on board that can work together for more environmentally friendly farming.</p>	<p>Council is already considered a regional leader in many areas to do with addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation. We were the first regional council to adopt a hybrid fleet policy for Council passenger fleet, led the Watts Working Better project where over 12,000 inefficient streetlights were changed over to energy efficient ones, installation of large scale solar on council buildings, tracking and monitoring energy use, Energy Reuction Plan, Climate Adaptation Plan, the Shepparton Statement, One Tree Per Child, Urban Forest Strategy and many more. Leadership is one of the councils core values and we will continue to provide leadership through this process.</p> <p>We currently have several projects aimed at increasing the capacity and use of renewable energy. Cosgrove landfill captures the gas given off from waste and uses it to create enough electricity to power the town of Dookie for an entire year. We also have several exciting proposals in the works, including one to install a solar farm on top of the old landfill, Cosgrove 1. Council has installed 275kWh of solar panels on our large energy using sites including the Welsford Street Council offices, Sports Stadium, Doyles Road Complex and the Mooroopna Hub. This year another 149kWh are being installed on Aquamoves and the Saleyards. 3 large solar farms have recently been approved for construction by private investors. Council will continue to invest in solar and energy efficient projects into the future. Greater Shepparton was the first regional council to offer Environmental Upgrade Agreements for local businesses. This agreement allows businesses to install solar panels without any upfront costs. They then pay back the cost of the panels over 10 years to the lender through their rates.</p> <p>Council is committed to having a productive and sustainable agricultural community. The Climate Smart Adaptation Development project identified agricultural commodities that are likely to be profitable into the future under climate change modelling. This work needs to move to a second phase and we are seeking funding to support that work. This isn't enough though and we are going to continue to talk to the community about the challenges they face now and how things will look in the future under worsening climate change impacts. If we start to plan for this now, we can transition more cheaply and quickly.</p>

Name	Comment	Council Response
	<p>We have to also create the market for more environmentally friendly products like electric cars, learn from the countries that are more environmentally friendly and model them. This may result in huge costs and mass amounts of change, two of the most fearful factors people face, but if we don't change now there will be no food, or an economy, or life as we know it.</p> <p>MAKE SHEPPARTON CARBON-FREE and let's save this planet of ours.</p>	<p>We absolutely agree. Council has purchased 2 electric vehicles for the council fleet. They are expected to be delivered and operational by the end of October. There will be branding and reporting back to the community on how they perform and the savings (both financial and carbon emissions) we expect we will make.</p> <p>Council has adopted the Energy Reduction Plan that is due to expire in June 2020. The next plan will be far more ambitious and will focus on a carbon reduction target.</p> <p>There will be many opportunities to provide input into this plan.</p>
Tallulah	<p>I think for a start we should really be using the city's money on things that better our land that we live, not over budgeting on a building that didn't work at the last location and probably won't work at the next.</p> <p>It is very depressing that our Reef will soon be no more because of the Adani coal mining, because we have alot of it we can make money from it. But what happens when we run out? What will be the next money maker?</p> <p>We need to keep our natural resources where they belong in the earth. Our country will never be the same we used to be free but now we are owned by China and other parts of the world, our farmers can't get what they need to grow crops and supply us with the basic food we need to survive and this is not ok, our meat and produce will be coming from over seas.</p> <p>I can appreciate that we can't live without our technology in today but why can't we use safer energy sources to power them? Money. Thats why, all people care about is money, that's the way it's always been, if it wasn't money it was possessions.</p> <p>Our parents made a big mess of our world today because they didn't know. They didn't know the back lash it would cause, but now that they know what do they do? Nothing. Because it's not there responsibility once there dead it's ours. They got to live with all the beauty of the earth while we get the ash.</p> <p>Greed is what powers our world so we need to use it and be greedy ourselves and take what our parents had so the great barrier Reef isn't just a memory and our children don't have the back lash from us.</p> <p>It's time for change and where the only ones who can do it.</p>	<p>Council is committed to finding a solution with you and the community for our community, for our future generations.</p>

Name	Comment	Council Response
Liaqat	<p>My name is Liaqat and I am student. I am youth leader and a state wise representative for young students in Victoria.</p> <p>I believe climate change is real and it is happening and will affect all of us in the future if we don't act now. Well, I think students have to play a major role in being a voice for a change, in fact now that there is will be a new super secondary school, currently known as Greater Shepparton College (Intern name).</p> <p>I would like to ask Shepparton Statement to put forward an idea to the Department of Education not to use plastic in the canteen because waste generated every day in the canteen, not only in the canteen but other waste materials contains readily biodegradable organic matter such as kitchen waste, garden waste and paper, which on average accounts for about 5% of the total weight of waste generated only at one school so, following that multiply that percentage to 3 equals to 15% from just schools.</p> <p>Think of waste generated from Hospitals, Aged Cares, other institutes, factories and many more...</p> <p>We need to start from from where and this new school would be the perfect start off controlling of the plastic waste.</p>	<p>We are currently working within Council to improve our internal processes and reduce waste. Part of this is to look at ways we can avoid waste within food and catering, using less single use plastic at events and encouraging staff to think before they purchase single use items.</p> <p>Once we have achieved the goal of reducing our own single use plastics, then we will be in a good position to offer other organisations a model for achieving the same thing.</p> <p>Great idea Liaqat, we will make sure this is part of our discussions with the Department of Education.</p>
Emily	<p>I believe climate change is a world wide issue affecting each and every human, animal and our environment.</p> <p>We can end climate change in so many ways but first, we all need to come together to make that change.</p> <p>Please, cut out cO2, deforestation, plastic, think about your future and how we might be destroying it.</p> <p>I think about climate change every single day. It scares me so much.</p>	<p>We will be updating our Environmental Sustainability Strategy over the next 12 months, this will be an opportunity to develop some actions around areas that council has some influence over.</p> <p>Council has adopted the Energy Reduction Plan that is due to expire in June 2020. The next plan will be far more ambitious and will focus on a carbon reduction target.</p> <p>There will be many opportunities to provide input into this plan.</p>
Tash	Go carbon free pls	<p>Council has adopted the Energy Reduction Plan that is due to expire in June 2020. The next plan will be far more ambitious and will focus on a carbon reduction target.</p> <p>There will be many opportunities to provide input into this plan.</p>
Sterling	I am Sterling, I believe in a carbon free Shepparton, climate change is real and this will give us a chance.	<p>Council has adopted the Energy Reduction Plan that is due to expire in June 2020. The next plan will be far more ambitious and will focus on a carbon reduction target.</p> <p>There will be many opportunities to provide input into this plan.</p>

Name	Comment	Council Response
Pauline	Go carbon free 🌱 🏠	Council has adopted the Energy Reduction Plan that is due to expire in June 2020. The next plan will be far more ambitious and will focus on a carbon reduction target. There will be many opportunities to provide input into this plan.
Goulburn Valley Grammar School Students	<p>It only takes one minute for Australians to produce one tonne of plastic waste.</p> <p>The 'Three Rs' of sustainability were identified by members of our school community as the best way to improve the outlook for our planet, as they are simple but practical principles that can be implemented not only on a small-scale household basis, but by the community at large with the help of the Council. We have modelled our statement on the principles of 'reduce, reuse, recycle' and grouped our suggestions under these headings. We would like to highlight the significance also of the order of operation of these principles; reducing should always be the first point of action, what cannot be reduced, should when possible, then be reused, and finally recycled. We have included dot point lists under each section of our suggestions.</p> <p>Reduce</p> <p>Recently, Australia has seen the introduction of legislation to 'ban the bag,' which has evidently had a huge impact on the collective environmental footprints of Australian citizens. It is an example of the success of widespread implementation of 'reduce' initiatives. If different forms of reusable packaging were more widely available or promoted in the Greater City of Shepparton, then the residents would be more likely to invest in such products and thus reduce waste production.</p>	<p>One of the main mechanisms of discouraging waste, especially to landfill is price. The state government has a landfill levy which increases every year. This means that waste becomes increasingly expensive and recycling becomes a more viable alternative.</p> <p>As a Council we have been working with local businesses, business and community groups to link them to services to reduce their waste and waste footprint. We have also implemented a Waste Management Policy (Available on the Council Website) which includes the Waste Management Hierarchy. This hierarchy stipulates the most to least preferable options for dealing with waste with disposal being at the very bottom. Through our education program we work with the community and business to try and find ways of avoiding waste wherever possible.</p>

Name	Comment	Council Response
	<p>Reduce the amount of litter in our waterways by cleaning them, and other natural habitats, regularly, such as every two weeks.</p>	<p>RiverConnect coordinate quarterly river clean ups in partnership with Veolia and community volunteers along with many other litter clean up activities on a regular basis but this is not enough. We need to find a solution to the dumping of litter in our towns and in our natural areas. Council has installed 5 Gross Pollutant Trap's divert 16 tonnes per year from stormwater entering the Goulburn River.</p> <p>Through the Goulburn Valley Waste Resource Recovery Group and Sustainability Victoria, council is working to develop and implement the Regional Litter and Illegal Dumping Plan.</p> <p>Clean up Australia Day activities in March along the Broken and Goulburn Rivers.</p> <p>Council also offers free disposal at the Resource Recovery Centres for a number of recyclable items. For more information please visit our website - http://greater-shepparton.com.au/assets/files/documents/waste/Free_at_Greater_Shepparton_Resource_Recovery_Centres_2019-07.pdf</p>
	<p>Reduce the footprint of local businesses by introducing a mandatory recycling rate.</p>	<p>Unfortunately, this is not within the scope of Council to be able to do. However, Council would welcome new recycling businesses being situated in the Goulburn Valley that can come up with new and innovative ways of dealing with waste and recycling. Council will also advocate on this with the regional waste group and Sustainability Victoria.</p>
	<p>Reuse</p> <p>This action will form part of an initiative to encourage basic sustainable behaviour, which will not only be comprised of 'reducing,' but also 'reusing,' as follows:</p> <p>One billion coffee cups are used in Australia every year, and these are not recyclable, a fact only now appearing in the collective consciousness of the nation. The significance of raising awareness and encouraging 'sustainable swaps', such as the increasing trend of reusable coffee cups, is understandably paramount. Similarly, the current overuse of plastic water bottles bears many similarities to unsustainable coffee cup habits. The successful national 'ban the bag' movement, hasn't only been an effective 'reduce' campaign, but has encouraged 'reusing' of shopping bags. With more people buying reusable shopping bags and thus a significant reduction in the previously excessive ten million plastic bags a day statistic.</p>	
	<p>Distribute Council-branded reusable coffee cups at events, similar to what occurs at university open days, etc.</p>	<p>Council has tubs of cups that can be taken to each council run community event. While these aren't currently a give away, it ensures we don't purchase single use products.</p> <p>In addition, page 30 of the council Event Planning Guide provides ways in which event organisers can make sure their events are run in a sustainable manner.</p>

Name	Comment	Council Response
	<p>Expand services to manage used batteries.</p> <p>Recycle In Australia, we are facing a crisis as, despite having authorities and resources to sort our recycling, we have always then exported these materials to other countries to be converted into new materials. The implications of China no longer accepting Australia's recycling, as of January 2018, render the efforts to promote recycling in the community, insufficient to deal with our increasing waste crisis. As a result, countries such as Malaysia have become "dumping grounds" for often illegal waste from Australia. This is only a temporary solution; sooner or later Australia will have to take responsibility for our own waste.</p> <p>We do stress the importance of publishing recycling guides, as a significant proportion of the problem is a lack of education about what is appropriate to be disposed of in specific bins. Our community needs to supplement such an initiative with a greater awareness of where our waste and recycling goes, as Greater City Shepparton is maintaining its status as one of the most successful municipalities in this issue, and remains largely unaffected by the recycling crisis since January last year. Shepparton has the opportunity to capitalise on its great work by becoming involved in the push to create recycled material in Australia. Because we are no longer able to export our recyclables to other countries to be used in the creation of new materials, setting up the infrastructure to do that work in our own country prevents the millions of tonnes of recyclables that are successfully recovered by the facilities we do have from going to landfill.</p> <p>Set up the infrastructure to create new materials from recycled materials in our municipality.</p>	<p>Batteries are recyclable within waste services at Council. We have partnered with Sustainability Victoria to offer a free battery recycling program at the our Resource Recovery Centres as part of detox your home. We have also partnered with mobile muster to allow for old mobile phones to be recycled as well as offering a recycling service most small e-waste items free of charge.</p> <p>Council has had and will continue to have discussions with recycling companies on the feasibility of operating in our region.</p> <p>As a Council we are always looking for new and innovative ways to serve the community. One of these is to support new business by offering grants. Keep an eye on both Council, state and national grants, we need more innovative businesses to deal with waste and recycling. Council also had submission to the recent parliamentary inquiry on the recycling crisis where we advocated the idea of setting up regional recycling facilities. This will ensure materials will be locally processed and would reduce carbon footprint as less haulage would be required.</p>

Name	Comment	Council Response
	<p>Use such materials to use on roads and create public spaces such as playgrounds.</p> <p>Develop and send out recycling handbooks.</p> <p>Achieve/maintain a recycling rate of 30% across all goods and infrastructure as per the National Waste Policy of 2018.</p> <p>Goulburn Valley Grammar School is proud to be involved with the Shepparton Statement and is excited to learn how we can support the Council in creating a more sustainable City of Greater Shepparton.</p> <p>References: ABC News. 2019. You Ask We Answer: What do the major parties think of recycling and waste in federal election 2019? - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation). [ONLINE] Available at: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-11/election-recycling-and-waste-policy-you-ask-we-answer/11092608. [Accessed 24 May 2019].</p>	<p>Council has recently visited a trial demonstration of road paving where recycled plastic was the main material used. We will continue to investigate innovations like this to use in our service delivery.</p> <p>We will continue to work with the state government to update and improve the education material available for recycling.</p> <p>The Shepparton community diverts over 7,000 tonnes of co-mingled recyclables through Kerbside collection every year, minimising waste sent to landfill. In fact, Shepparton now diverts around 50% of total kerbside waste from landfill. We are always looking to invest in the future by finding new and innovative ways to increase this figure. We hope to work with bright young minds in the future to further reduce waste being sent to landfill. Council also want to follow the waste hierarchy by ensuring waste avoidance is the number one priority.</p> <p>We're excited to work with you to create a more sustainable Greater Shepparton.</p>