

Environmental Sustainability Framework

The Environmental Sustainability Framework is the practical reference framework through which Council implements the Colac Otway Shire Environmental Sustainability Policy.

Sustainability Principles

- **Protecting and enhancing the natural environment**, taking due care to avoid serious or irreversible environmental harm.
- **Integrating the principles of sustainability and sustainable development and climate change resilience into decision making.**
- Encouraging **sustainable procurement**.
- **Reducing resource consumption**, particularly energy and water.
- Capturing **renewable resources to generate energy**, such as solar.
- **Considering the waste hierarchy** when procuring, using and disposing of resources and materials.
- Operating in a sustainable manner and **reporting sustainability performance transparently**.
- **Encouraging and inspiring the community to live sustainable lifestyles** and build their resilience to future climate change.

Focus Areas

- **Natural Environment**
- **Built Environment**
- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction**
- **Climate Change Adaptation**
- **Water**
- **Waste & Pollution**

Sustainability Priorities

	Natural Environment	Built Environment	Greenhouse Gas Reduction	Climate Change Adaptation	Water	Waste & Pollution
Vision	A healthy and connected natural environment where indigenous landscapes are protected, valued and accessible.	Sustainable, resilient, and accessible towns and communities	A municipality that is energy efficient and rapidly moving towards a zero carbon future for a safe climate	A municipality that is adaptive and resilient to changes in short and long-term climatic conditions	A water sensitive municipality with healthy waterways	A healthy, clean and safe municipality that that enhances natural ecosystems, public health and livability & minimises waste generation and maximises reuse and recycling
Approaches & Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity protection and conservation • Adaptive environmental management • Connected natural systems • Engage and educate the community • Promote sustainable eco-tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Greening • Environmentally Sustainable Design • Building resilience and livability • Urban connectivity and active transport • Sustainable land use planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and embed energy efficiency • Promote and utilise renewable energy • Environmentally Sustainable Design • Electrification of council fleet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate risk management • Enhanced Emergency Management • Asset resilience and livability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated water management • Water sensitive urban design • Reduce reliance on potable water • Minimise urban impacts to waterways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Efficiency • Reduce, reuse and recycle • Litter management • Environmental risk management
Strategic Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colac Otway Environment Strategy • Colac Otway Planning Scheme • Regulatory compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colac Otway Environment Strategy • Colac Otway Planning Scheme • Active Transport Strategy • Colac 2050 Growth Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colac Otway Environment Strategy • Colac Otway Carbon Neutral Roadmap • Colac Otway Climate Change Action Plan* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colac Otway Environment Strategy • Colac Otway Climate Change Adaptation Plan • Health and Well Being Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colac Otway Environment Strategy • Colac Stormwater Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colac Otway Waste Management Strategy • Regulatory compliance

* To be developed by June 2022