



CENTRAL VICTORIAN
Greenhouse Alliance

ANNUAL REPORT
2022-23

The Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of the lands and waters on which we live and work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured continuation of culture, traditional practices, and care for Country.

CVGA operates on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung, Wadawurrung, Eastern Maar, Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Jupagulk, Wergaia, Wamba Wamba, Tatti Tatti, Waddi Waddi, Barapa Barapa, First Peoples of the Millewa-Mallee, Latji Latji, and Ngintait Peoples.

We are committed to genuine and meaningful partnership with Traditional Owners, and to working together on climate action to heal people, Country, and climate in our region, and beyond.

This year CVGA has been pleased to walk with and learn from Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation as a partner supporting the Dja Dja Wurrung Renewable Energy Strategy Nyauwi Mtjeka and Climate Change Strategy Turning Wrong Way Climate Right Way. Officers from across CVGA's member councils also participated in a climate change adaptation workshop on Country, led by DJAARA and Monash BehaviourWorks, exploring opportunities for partnership. CVGA supported DJAARA with a grant from the MASH Community Bonus Fund for installation of a solar system on the new Corporate and Community Centre under development in Bendigo. CVGA looks forward to continuing to work with DJAARA, Borengi Gadjin Land Council, and Traditional Owners across the region to support the vision and priorities outlined in Country Plans and emerging climate strategies.



Acknowledgement of Country

Image courtesy of Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

CVGA has had another year of growth both in scale of endeavour via multiple projects, and in reputation via a range of activities, participating in conferences and summits, advocacy and collaborations. All the while, CVGA is expanding local government's understanding of what the Alliance is and has achieved, and creating a return on investment for councils and communities.



Partnering with DJAARA has been a highlight of the year, acknowledging that First Nations people are on the frontlines of climate change in Australia – caring for Country and disproportionately impacted by climate change – and increasing understanding of how local governments and Traditional Owners can work together to achieve climate and biodiversity outcomes and make self-determination a reality.

The floods of October 2022 had a substantial impact in our region and were instructive in the understanding of climate risk, preparation for natural disasters, plus their tail end. An El Nino summer is looming, and the role of local government in preparing for climate risk cannot be underestimated. The Local Government

Act 2020 requires councils to consider governance of climate and environment risks. If a council's approach to identifying climate risk is not aligned to its existing risk management framework, those councils are compromising compliance with the Act.

Climate and environment risk affects the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community, impacting public health, emergency management, community services and recreation facilities and carrying financial and social implications for LGAs, requiring a whole of council approach. The financial implications of these risks have been the subject of discussions at previous Alliance Conferences exploring the insurance sector's approach to climate risk for local government.

March saw the Regional Zero Emissions Forum in Castlemaine with representation from Loddon Campaspe, Mallee and Grampians organisations, local government and community representatives looking to explore emerging opportunities and accelerate progress to reduce emissions. Organised by CVGA in conjunction with the City of Greater Bendigo and funded by Regional Development Victoria, it has led to the current development of a Regional

Zero Emissions Roadmap and the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Action Plan.

As part of the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration Governance Group, CVGA attended the CEO Roundtable at the Greater Bendigo Climate Summit in May – an Australian first led by local government across three days. The draft Greater Bendigo Zero Emissions Roadmap was presented outlining the top 35 projects to achieve zero emissions by 2030 that was developed following extensive community consultation.

A review of CVGA's MASH Community Solar Program was undertaken this year, to position the Alliance for future activity helping low wealth households and community groups achieve energy efficiency. A business case is being prepared for the supported one-stop shop approach in future and expressions of interest to participate and invest in a further iteration of MASH will be sought.

Work continued on multiple projects including the Donald and Tarnagulla Microgrid Feasibility Study, Retrofitting for Resilience Project, and Hydrogen Working Group; while the Lighting the Regions and Community Sparks Neighbourhood Battery Feasibility projects concluded.

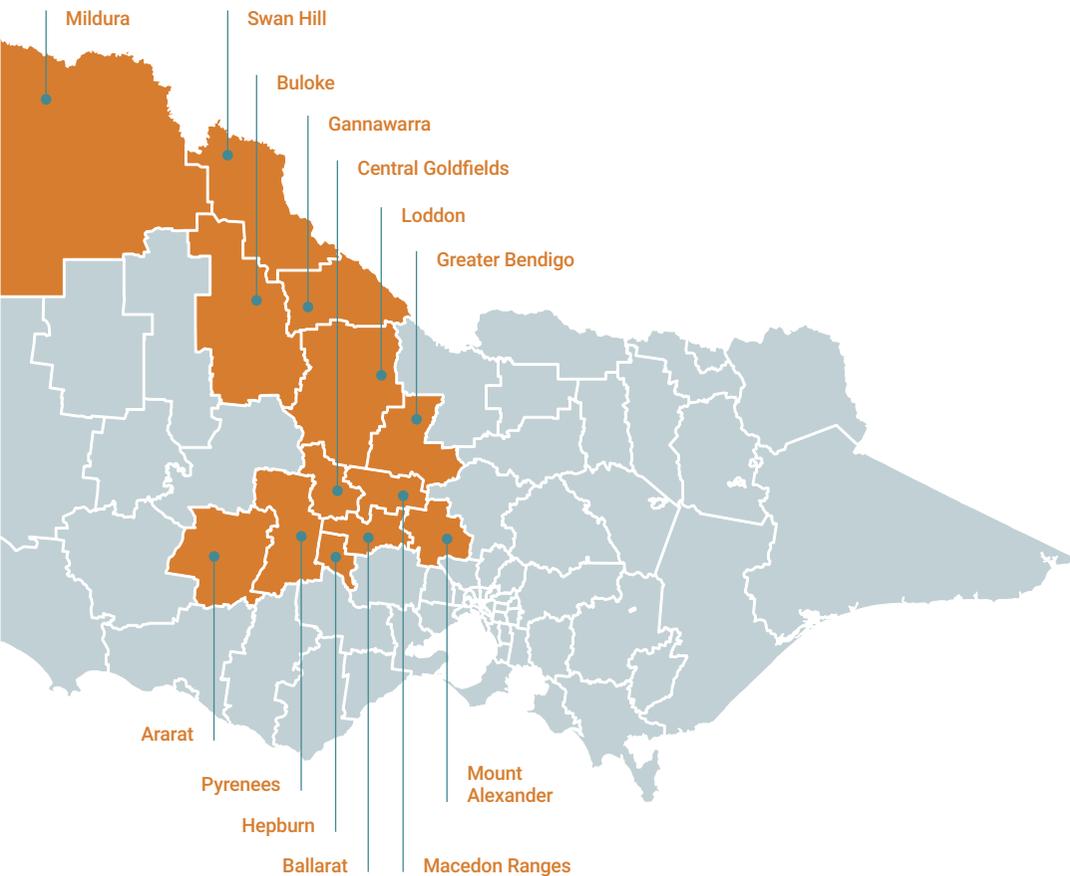
Two new projects commenced include the Energy Leadership Program: Local Governments Guiding Better Practice Renewable Energy Development (in partnership with DEECA Loddon Mallee, the City of Greater Bendigo, and the Community Power Agency), and the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils Project (a joint Alliance initiative, led by WAGA and funded by Emergency Management Victoria).

A Victorian Greenhouse Alliances Advocacy Positions Statement has been endorsed to guide the Alliances in their response to strategic advocacy opportunities. CVGA has made submissions to multiple state and federal enquiries. Five Greenhouse Alliances, including CVGA, developed a comprehensive advocacy document to the now abandoned Commonwealth Games, covering opportunities to deliver a Games that would be climate positive, and will continue to call for sustainability legacy outcomes in the roll out of the Regional Funding Package announced following cancellation of the Games. CVGA and the Alliances have celebrated advocacy wins with access to energy consumption data from Powercor, increased efficiency standards for new builds in the National Construction Code, and the announcement of strengthened emissions reduction targets by the Victorian Government.

The Board and CVGA's Working Group have met through the year with solid numbers due to a blend of remote and face to face meetings, focusing on our five strategic action areas of clean energy resilience, adapting communities, carbon neutral councils, climate ready councils and ambitious partnerships, with a strengthened focus on knowledge sharing and learning. In doing so local governments are facilitating change and building capacity in other sectors that will see a continued expansion of climate action and emissions reduction across the region.

Cr. Dr. Jennifer Alden,
City of Greater Bendigo
CVGA Chairperson

Message
from the Chair



The Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) is a formal partnership of 13 local governments who have chosen to work together to address the challenges of climate change. Established in 2001, the CVGA is part of a broader network of Greenhouse Alliances operating across Victoria.

Vision

Our region is climate positive by 2035 and prepared for the impacts of climate change.

Climate positive means that an activity goes beyond achieving net zero carbon emissions to create an environmental benefit by removing additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Mission

CVGA will lead and support collaborative action by its member councils to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of the region's communities through innovative projects, advocacy, and knowledge sharing.

How we work

The work we do is diverse and is based on the idea of the ripple effect of change, represented by our logo.

Councils:

Our core work is to help our member councils address climate risk, embed climate change in decision making and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is achieved through programs and knowledge sharing.

Communities:

Through our programs and partnerships, we assist councils in helping their communities address climate change.

Regional:

By working collaboratively, we influence outcomes across the whole region and with other greenhouse alliance networks to scale up the work we do through programs, knowledge sharing, and advocacy.

State and Federal:

Through our advocacy work we inform and influence state and federal policy and programs, and through our knowledge sharing we help other regions learn from our successes.

About Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)

Board Members

Dr Tim Harrison
Ararat Rural City Council

Cr Belinda Coates
City of Ballarat

Cr Jennifer Alden
City of Greater Bendigo (Chair)

Cr David Pollard
Buloke Shire Council

Cr Wayne Sproull
Central Goldfields Shire Council
(Deputy Chair)

Cr Ross Stanton
Gannawarra Shire Council

Bruce Lucas
Hepburn Shire Council

Cr Linda Jungwirth
Loddon Shire Council

Cr Annette Death
Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Cr Jason Modica
Mildura Rural City Council

Michael Annear
Mount Alexander Shire Council

Cr David Clark
Pyrenees Shire Council (Treasurer)

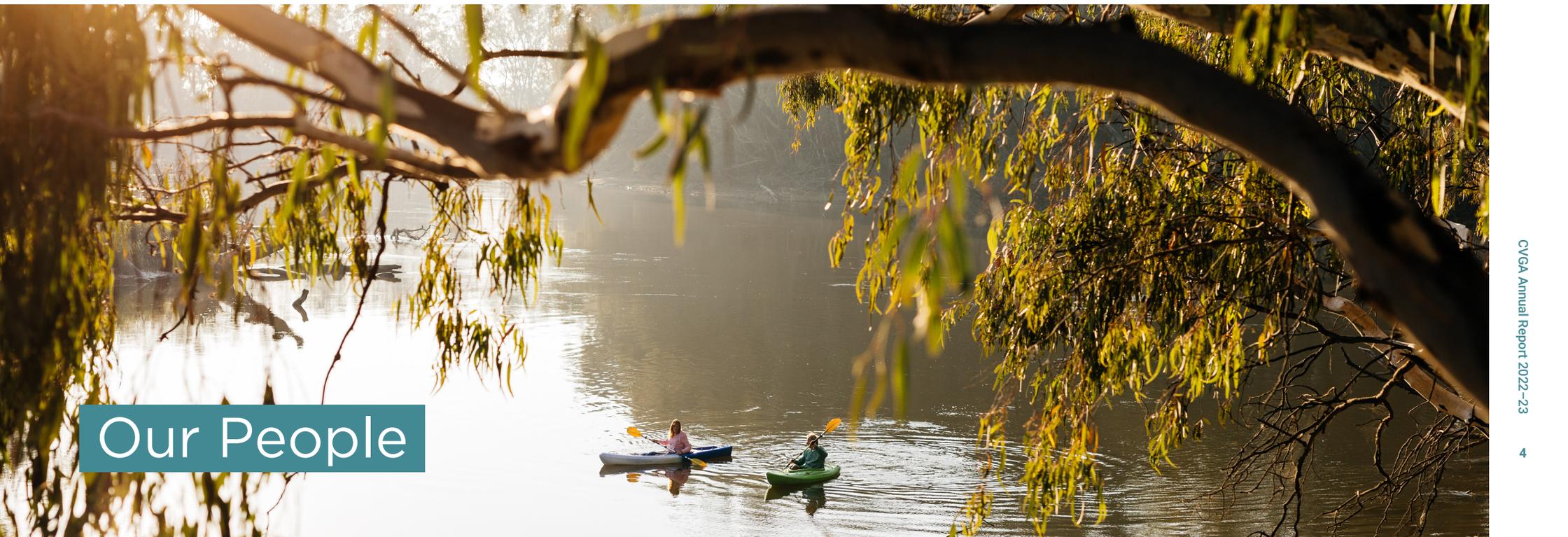
Cr Bill Moar
Swan Hill Rural City Council

Employees

Annika Kearton
Chief Executive Officer

Sandra Ryan
Operations Manager

Dr. David Gormley O'Brien
Programs Manager



Our People

The Donald Learning Group Inc. is very grateful for the support from the CVGA, who assisted the Community Centre to install a 12 kW lithium battery to support our solar system already in place. The project has increased our town's capacity to build resilience within the community and provide a safe space should we encounter an emergency event or loose power.

As part of the MASH Grant this project has extended our ability to deliver healthy cooking classes looking at the correlation between what we eat and how our brain and body functions under stress and cooking ready to heat meals to support our Food Bank Programme in place.

We are excited to see our capacity to deliver further engagement initiatives develop as a result of this grant opportunity. Thank you CVGA for this wonderful opportunity to become sustainable and offer what our community needs.

Charmaine Delaney

Manager for the Donald Learning Group Inc

The City of Greater Bendigo has benefited greatly from the collaborative projects and advocacy facilitated by the CVGA. Over the last year we have been pleased to be a part of the MASH review and the Neighbourhood Battery Initiative and we are excited to be progressing collaborative initiatives related to public electric vehicle charging, low income household retrofits and the development of a Regional Zero Emissions Roadmap for Loddon Mallee. Our membership has provided us with access to expertise and the ability to lend our voice to issues which we may not have had capacity to advocate on individually. The networking opportunities have also enabled us to learn a lot from other councils in our region. It is a critical organisation for local government which we are pleased to continue to be a part of.

Michelle Wyatt

Manager Climate Change and Environment,
City of Greater Bendigo

Macedon Ranges Shire Council values our membership with the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance. The collaborative approach in building collective climate-resilient communities across central and northern Victoria has proven invaluable in informing our Counting Down to Zero strategy and Climate Emergency Plan. The CVGA's tireless work with its 13 represented Councils and other Greenhouse Alliances strengthens advocacy on shared challenges and opportunities that will benefit all Victorians into the future. For smaller, regional Councils such as Macedon Ranges Shire Council, the CVGA broadens our ability to influence wide-spread changes across the region, whilst the information sharing provides our team with a support network of like-minded experts to call upon.

Cr Annette Death

Councillor at Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Feedback from Members and Stakeholders

	Initiatives	Outcomes
Projects	Lighting the Regions II: Major Roads	CVGA has finalised the facilitated upgrades to lighting on major roads across eleven local government areas in the region. More than 10,900 lights have been replaced with energy efficient LED technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs.
	Donald & Tarnagulla Microgrid Feasibility Study	CVGA worked with C4NET to explore the feasibility of microgrid solutions for the townships of Donald and Tarnagulla. CVGA facilitated the community engagement component of this project in partnership with Swinburne University and Powercor. A solar and battery system has also been installed at Tarnagulla Urban Fire Brigade and Donald Community Centre, partially funded through the MASH Community Bonus Fund. This project was completed in June 2023. Project information and reports can be found here .
	Community Sparks Neighbourhood Battery Feasibility Study	CVGA worked with Hepburn Energy and nine councils to explore the technical, commercial, regulatory, and social feasibility of neighbourhood battery implementation in six locations across Hepburn Shire and adjoining shires within the Grampians Power Hub region. This project was completed in September 2022. Project information and reports, including a community guide to neighbourhood batteries can be found here .
	Retrofitting for Resilience Research Project	CVGA partnered with DEECA's Loddon Mallee Adapt Program and the Castlemaine Institute on this 12-month community-based research project to identify practical options for residents to 'upgrade' or 'retrofit' their homes and gardens to reduce exposure to climate risks and enhance resilience. The project was completed in June 2023. Project information and reports can be found here .
	Getting REZ Ready: Energy Leadership Program for Local Governments	CVGA partnered with DEECA Loddon Mallee and the Community Power Agency to design a tailored training program and resources for councils to prepare for the development of Renewable Energy Zones in the region. The training focuses on building the capacity of local governments to guide better practice renewable energy development, community engagement and benefit sharing. The project is ongoing.
	Victorian Climate Resilient Councils (VCRC) Program	CVGA has partnered with the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances, led by the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA), to develop a sustained program of support for Victorian councils to embed climate risk assessments and adaptation into emergency management systems and processes, with an initial focus on heat and storms. This project is ongoing.
	MASH, Hepburn Solar, Mallee Sun, and Brimbank Community Solar Programs	Four organisations have benefited from free or subsidised solar and/or battery systems through the MASH Community Bonus Fund, sharing in a total of \$21,500, including Maryborough Community House, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Donald Learning Centre, and Dunolly and District Neighbourhood Centre. CVGA put its Community Solar Programs on hold from September 2022 to conduct an extensive program review to inform the design of the next phase of MASH, with a stronger focus on electrification and energy efficiency for low wealth households. The review has been completed and CVGA is in the process of designing a new program model to be piloted in 2024.

Summary of 2022-23 Outcomes Against Our Strategic Plan

	Initiatives	Outcomes
Advocacy	Campaigns	The Victorian Greenhouse Alliances and CASBE, with support from MAV, concluded the first phase of the <i>Planning for a Safe Climate Campaign</i> in December 2022. In the lead up to the state election, 123 people from 51 councils were briefed on the campaign and meetings were held with 21 MPs to discuss the campaign. Campaign asks were discussed by MPs in Parliament on three occasions. MAV and the Victorian Greens incorporated key asks into their policy platforms in the lead up to the state election. The Alliances will continue this campaign in partnership with CASBE, MAV and the Planning Institute of Australia in 2023.
	Submissions and consultations	CVGA has led and contributed to joint submissions on behalf of members in response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 flood event in Victoria; Senate Inquiry into Australia's preparedness to host Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games; Inquiry into the implications of severe weather events on the road network; National Fuel Efficiency Standards Consultation Report; VNI West Project Assessment Draft Report; Safeguard Mechanism Consultation Report; National Electric Vehicle Strategy Consultation Report; and proposed updates to the National Construction Code to increase minimum energy efficiency standards for new homes.
Knowledge Sharing	Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Conference	CVGA worked with the Greenhouse Alliances to program the 2023 VGA Conference, to take place in August 2023.
	CVGA Working Group	CVGA has continued to facilitate knowledge sharing between member councils through its regular working group of officers and project specific working groups.

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Summary of 2022-23 Outcomes Against Our Strategic Plan

Donald and Tarnagulla Microgrid Feasibility Project

The Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance partnered with the Centre for New Energy Technologies (C4NET), Powercor, Victorian universities, and Loddon and Buloke Shire Councils on the Donald and Tarnagulla Microgrid Feasibility Project.

This multi-year project explored the technical, cultural, and social elements of microgrid feasibility in two contrasting regional towns – Donald and Tarnagulla – selected for this study based on their strong community aspirations for new energy solutions and increased reliability.

The project concluded in 2023 with a Community Energy Transformers Forum in Bendigo to share the learnings from this and other microgrid feasibility studies with representatives from local and state government, researchers, and community groups.



The project found that a microgrid is not an economically feasible solution for Donald or Tarnagulla at the current time, but that microgrids may become a more viable option in some regional communities, with similar characteristics to Donald and Tarnagulla, in the medium term (10+ years).

- A fully islandable microgrid requires significant upfront investment that requires significant revenue to recoup the capital cost – but the magnitude of this depends on the degree of islandability and the ability to access available value streams. The more revenue streams that can be accessed the more favourable the business model for ownership.
- Further exploration of innovative community ownership and operating models for microgrids may be beneficial. Under current settings, there are significant hurdles for communities seeking to develop sustainable governance structures to manage risk, investment, and operational complexities of microgrid assets. More research may inform community benefit energy providers and social enterprise models and feasible means of addressing the associated complexity of ownership and operation.

While the project explicitly explored the feasibility of a microgrid, it also aimed to work with communities in Donald and Tarnagulla to identify and prioritise the communities' objectives with regards to future renewable energy projects to address a range of goals including sustainability, reliability, and energy independence.

- Many of the communities' objectives did not require a microgrid and could be met through other, smaller scale community energy projects.
- The project also found that the community experiences and understands the nature and value of reliability differently from Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSPs) and regulators, and may value the integration of additional renewables and distributed energy resources more than network operators.

These are key lesson for future projects, highlighting the importance of deep and wide community engagement to understand the energy problems experienced by a community, and their goals and values, to help communities prioritise their energy needs and identify the most appropriate technical solution(s).

The final project report and resources to support community education and engagement on microgrids are available [here](#).

This study was supported by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources and C4NET.

Retrofitting for Resilience Project

Retrofitting for Resilience was a 12-month research project led by CVGA in partnership with the Castlemaine Institute and ADAPT Loddon Mallee, with funding from the Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

This community-based project, grounded in a case study of Mount Alexander Shire, explored opportunities to increase the uptake of home retrofit actions by households for the purpose of increasing their resilience to extreme weather events (bushfire, flooding, storms, heat and cold). The project aimed to:

- understand existing levels of community awareness about climate-related risks, household exposure and vulnerability, and potential adaptation measures at the household level;
- identify a suite of 'resilience retrofit' options for different housing types and situations;

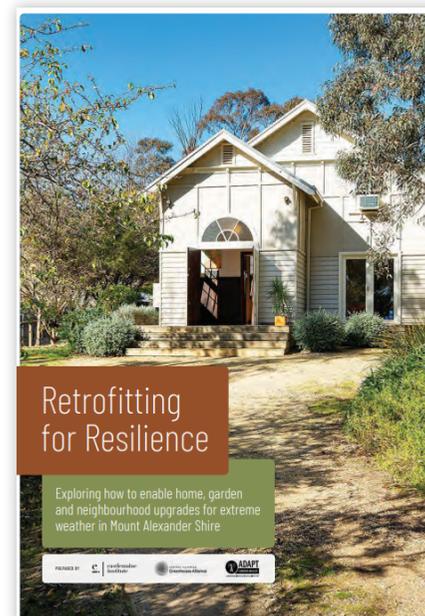
- identify existing and hypothetical resources, services and incentives that could support households to retrofit their homes, with a focus on disproportionately impacted groups; and
- explore community preferences and attitudes towards resilience retrofits, including the key drivers, enablers, and barriers to uptake.

The project found that there are significant opportunities to improve the resilience of existing homes, gardens and surrounding landscapes at household and neighbourhood scale. In addition to reducing the negative impacts of climate change on residents' safety, health and wellbeing, resilience retrofits also allow households to save money through reduced future property damage costs and reduced operational expenses resulting from improved energy efficiency.

A Housing Typologies and Retrofit Options Guide for Community was developed through the project which identifies a detailed set of retrofit options for home and gardens, and the actions that households can take based on their housing typology and the types of extreme weather to which they are most exposed. This guide will be further tested before publication in 2024.

The project also identified a range of systemic barriers to the uptake of retrofit actions that must be addressed through future investment and program design.

- **Retrofits as long-term infrastructure investment:** Evidence increasingly verifies the large-scale economic benefits of investing in resilience; but under current policies and financial models, government funding for disaster response and recovery far outstrips funding for resilience building. Within this positioning, home retrofits are understood to be the responsibility of households, incremental investments for personal gain, rather than being seen as large-scale infrastructure investment by government.
- **Barriers to household action: Navigating the retrofitting journey is complicated;** barriers to household action primarily include insufficient risk awareness and motivation to act, cost and time, inability to make changes to homes (for renters), challenges navigating and applying available information, and mistrust of programs and services.



- **Market development:** The market for retrofit work is still nascent, especially in regional areas. The labour-intensive requirements of retrofit work make it less attractive to tradespeople, particularly as an understanding of the scale of need and demand for retrofits in the context of a changing climate is still emerging.

Broad uptake of resilience retrofits will require coordinated efforts across multiple sectors, including local and state government, community-based organisations, and the property sector, among others. This is particularly true for actions specifically designed to support households that are likely to be disproportionately impacted by extreme weather events.

A copy of the final research report and recommendations is available [here](#).

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Project Highlights

Community Sparks

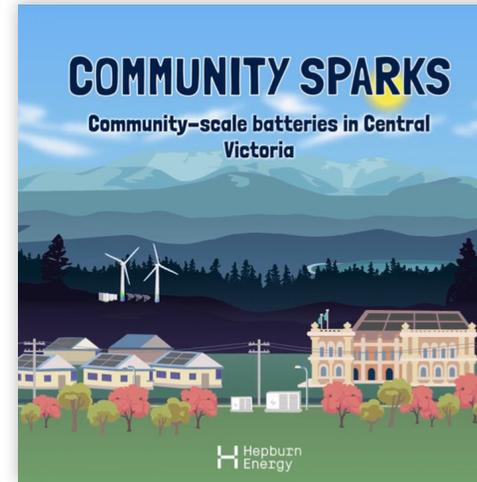
Community Sparks was a 12-month research project exploring the technical, commercial, and social feasibility of neighbourhood batteries across six locations in Hepburn Shire and the Grampians Power Hub region.

The project was led by the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance in partnership with Hepburn Energy, Hepburn Shire, City of Ballarat, City of Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields Shire, Gannawarra Shire, Swan Hill Rural City, Mount Alexander Shire, Mildura Rural City, Macedon Ranges Shire, and Powercor, with funding from the Victorian Government's Neighbourhood Battery Initiative.

The six locations selected for the study (Wheatsheaf, Lyonville and Glenlyon, Clunes, Ballan and Pomonal) experience energy reliability issues and/or solar export limitations, and are broadly illustrative of typical hamlet, village, and town-scale location types in central Victoria.

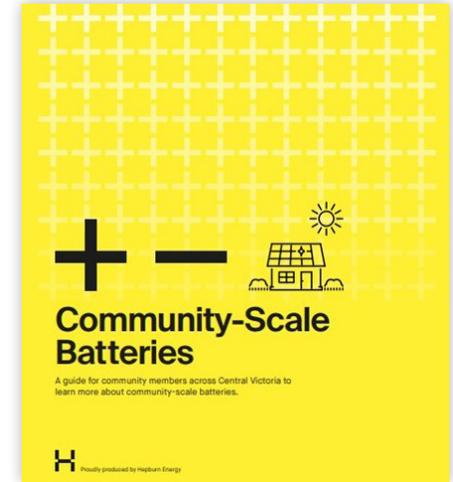
The study included social, technical, and economic feasibility analysis:

- **Social Feasibility Analysis** conducted by Hepburn Energy showed that community members are interested in community-scale batteries for a range of reasons, including a desire to unlock more solar export on low voltage distribution networks; to increase energy independence; to improve network reliability and resilience; and to increase energy affordability.
- **Technical and Economic Feasibility Analysis** conducted by Orkestra Consulting including in-depth modelling across 118 transformers in the six study locations, servicing 2,090 homes and 248 businesses. Each transformer was subject to 100 simulations based on different solar uptake scenarios, battery sizes, and control profiles, making a total of 11,800 simulations.



The study found that neighbourhood batteries may offer soft network benefits to distributors (such as reducing the need for more costly network upgrades) and address some of the issues and priorities identified by the community (such as enabling more solar capacity and increased energy independence). But neighbourhood batteries were not financially viable in any of the study locations, even after soft network benefits were factored into the analysis, primarily due to the costs of batteries.

The study identified other opportunities to address local energy priorities, including the potential for behind-the-meter batteries located at community or industrial facilities offering back-up power and benefits back to the community. In some cases, upgrading transformers to a larger size could also address issues like solar export constraint and energy independence. Distributors could enable neighbourhood batteries to become more economically



viable by making payments in recognition of the network services they provide, such as delaying grid upgrades and enabling more solar. Another option for distributors to support neighbourhood batteries is to release more attractive network tariffs that would reward energy customers for using locally produced energy.

Final project reports are available [here](#).

A plain language guide for community members to learn more about neighbourhood batteries was developed by Hepburn Energy through this project. It offers in-depth information about community-scale batteries and looks at different models in detail, offering guidance on relevant regulations, clear cautions about some models, and case studies of existing community-scale batteries. The guide, and a short video produced by Hepburn Energy are available [here](#).

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Project Highlights

CVGA
Total Income

\$610,516

CVGA
Expenses

\$647,679

CVGA
Profit/Loss

(\$37,163)

CVGA Grants and partner
contributions received

\$239,125

\$70,000

from DELWP
(now DEECA) for
Community Sparks

\$43,400

from Project Partner
for Microgrid Project

\$46,551

from Member Councils for Lighting the Regions 2 Project

\$47,668

from DELWP
(now DEECA) for Energy
Leadership Program

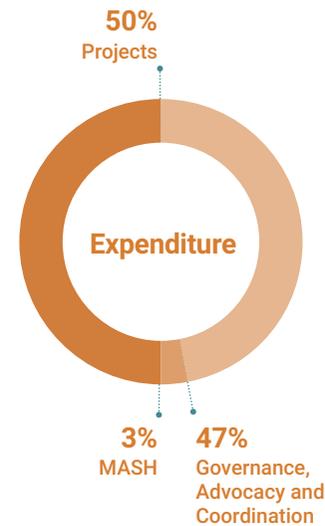
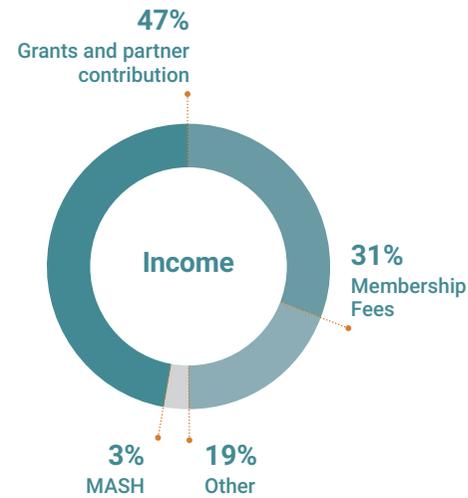
\$41,506

from Sustainability Victoria
for Small Business Energy
Saver Project

MASH Community Bonus grants awarded

\$21,690

to Maryborough Community House, Djaara in Bendigo,
Donald Leaning Group, Dunolly Neighbourhood Centre



The Year Ahead

In 2023–24 FY, CVGA has increased membership fees by 1.75% in line with the rates cap. CVGA will receive \$200,000 in grant funding from the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA) under Round 3 of the Neighbourhood Battery Initiative. The project is expected to be completed in 2024.

2022-23 Financial Overview

Central Victorian
Greenhouse Alliance
Incorporated
For the year ended
30 June 2023

Statement of Financial Position

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated
As at 30 June 2023

<u>Account</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets		
Bank		
CVGA - Operations Account (Bank Aust)	0.00	233,844.00
MASH Credit Card - Bank Aust	0.00	98.77
CVGA Operations	151,057.12	0.00
CVGA Debit Card - Bendigo Bank	434.83	0.00
Bank Aust 5606	0.00	46,615.99
Bank Aust 5625	0.00	51,914.73
Bank Aust 5626	0.00	25,971.13
Bendigo Bank 3992	125,000.00	0.00
Total Bank	276,491.95	358,444.62
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	0.00	21,388.53
Accrued Interest	105.28	105.28
ATO Activity Statement Account	7,911.00	0.00
Rental Bond - Salvage Yard	0.00	978.33
Sundry Debtors	0.00	458.15
Total Current Assets	8,016.28	22,930.29
Non-Current Assets		
In-House Software	10,227.27	10,227.27
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(7,833.44)	(6,008.08)
Motor Vehicles	53,588.98	64,788.98
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(32,911.50)	(35,225.50)
Plant and Equipment	7,532.09	7,532.09
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(6,941.49)	(5,787.98)
Total Fixed Assets	23,661.91	41,314.76
Total Assets	308,170.14	422,689.67
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	0.00	540.55
Annual Leave Provision	24,948.92	10,663.87
Asset Suspense (1)	(680.00)	(680.00)
Asset Suspense (2)	680.00	680.00
CVGA Credit Card (Bank Aust)	0.00	341.44
CVGA Credit Card (Bendigo Bank)	76.00	0.00
Goods And Services Tax	(4,781.70)	2,087.29
GST Adjustments	178.05	178.05
PAYG Withholding Tax Payable	15,404.02	17,494.02
Project Funds Held: Community Bonus - HSBB 2.0	0.00	2,149.76
Project Funds Held: Community Bonus - MASH 5.0	0.00	7,509.26
Project Funds Held: Community Bonus - MSBB 1.0	981.27	10,432.89
Project Funds Held: Community Bonus - Brimbank 1.0	1,118.57	758.68
Project Income Held: C4 Microgrid	0.00	9,675.45
Project Income Held: Community Sparks	2,000.00	(6,100.00)
Project Income Held: Energy Leadership Program	43,268.18	0.00
Project Income Held: Retrofitting for Resilience	16,108.72	95,997.00
Project Income Held: Small Business Energy	0.00	19,885.12
Rounding	0.01	0.00
Superannuation Payable	742.93	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	100,044.97	171,613.38

2022-23
Financial Statements

Central Victorian
Greenhouse Alliance
Incorporated
For the year ended
30 June 2023

Total Liabilities	100,044.97	171,613.38
Net Assets	208,125.17	251,076.29
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(37,163.14)	(68,185.79)
Retained Earnings	245,288.31	313,474.10
Total Equity	208,125.17	245,288.31

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2022-23
Financial Statements

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Central Victorian
Greenhouse Alliance
Incorporated
For the year ended
30 June 2023

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2022-23
Financial Statements

Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Account	2023	2022
Trading Income		
CVGA Project Management Fee	105,337.23	40,657.03
Interest Earned	783.00	703.60
MASH Admin Fee to CVGA	5,505.00	12,379.02
MASH Income	34,300.91	117,239.91
Membership Fees	159,630.00	159,630.00
Project Income	297,205.85	851,654.03
Total Trading Income	602,761.99	1,182,263.59
Operating Expenses		
Accommodation & Meals	793.64	3,907.55
Accounting Fees	2,500.00	2,900.00
Advertising	246.80	14,237.11
Audit Fees	2,600.00	1,600.00
Bad Debts	0.00	3,454.55
Bank Charges	316.47	195.00
Bookkeeping	1,399.99	9,861.48
Computer Maintenance & Support	0.00	27.23
Computer Software	1,329.98	1,707.60
Consultancy	46,555.00	1,100.00
CVGA Expenses to be Reimbursed	357.96	0.00
Depreciation	10,237.30	13,561.85
Dues & Subscriptions	0.00	141.82
E-comms Subscription & Hosting	458.09	1,170.45
Fuel	507.88	1,110.28
Graphic & Web Design	745.41	3,107.70
Info Line Subscr. & Costs	186.50	670.10
Insurance And Registration	2,431.53	2,911.67
Interest	10.14	368.80
Leave Provision Movement	14,285.05	(11,619.04)
Low Cost Assets (write off)	0.00	575.43
MASH Community Bonus	21,690.91	25,717.27
Meeting Expenses	1,157.08	4,229.18
MV Repairs and Maintenance	3,675.55	1,110.16
Postage & Freight Charges	177.10	1,406.14
Printing, Stationery, Office	949.91	775.64
Professional Development	0.00	1,800.00
Project Consultant Fees	84,088.28	4,012.50
Project Expenses	94,685.61	708,225.39
Project Management Fees	110,842.23	53,036.05
Rent Outgoings	0.00	695.15
Rent Paid	3,593.63	10,328.19
Salaries and Wages	214,021.57	349,374.12
Sundry	0.00	211.26
Superannuation	21,902.10	33,469.02
Telephone & Internet	530.88	1,784.42
Travel & Transport Expenses	223.94	1,670.73
Website Hosting & Maintenance	1,308.20	1,293.47
Workcover Premium	3,870.80	4,475.73
Total Operating Expenses	647,679.53	1,254,604.00

Central Victorian
Greenhouse Alliance
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For the year ended
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Other Income		
CVGA Expenses Reimbursed	594.66	209.80
Hot Desking	0.00	4,500.00
Profit/(Loss) on Disposal of Non-current Assets	7,159.74	(555.18)
Total Other Income	7,754.40	4,154.62
Net Profit	(37,163.14)	(68,185.79)

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2022-23
Financial Statements

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated

For the year ended
30 June 2023

Statement of Cash Flows

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Account	2023	2022
Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	647,819.95	1,403,530.56
Payments to suppliers and employees	(663,915.83)	(1,415,359.53)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	4,776.60	4,029.67
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(11,319.28)	(7,799.30)
Investing Activities		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	0.00	0.00
Payment for property, plant and equipment	0.00	(3,583.59)
Other cash items from investing activities	(6,474.52)	(457.50)
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(6,474.52)	(4,041.09)
Financing Activities		
Other cash items from financing activities	(63,893.43)	(143,896.91)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	(63,893.43)	(143,896.91)
Net Cash Flows	(81,687.23)	(155,737.30)
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	358,103.18	513,840.48
Net change in cash for period	(81,687.23)	(155,737.30)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	276,415.95	358,103.18

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2022-23 Financial Statements

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated

For the year ended
30 June 2023

Depreciation Schedule

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Name	Method	Rate	Cost	Opening \$	Purchases	Disposals	Depreciation	Closing Acum Dep	Closing \$
In-House Software									
Mallee Sun Solar Website	SL	20%	\$ 6,409	\$ 2,357	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,282	\$ 5,334	\$ 1,075
MASH HSBB Website	SL	20%	\$ 1,818	\$ 477	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 364	\$ 1,706	\$ 113
MASH Website upgrade	SL	20%	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,605	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 795	\$ 1,205
Total In-House Software			\$ 10,227	\$ 4,439	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,045	\$ 7,834	\$ 2,394
Motor Vehicles									
2019 Hyundai Kona	DV	25%	\$ 53,589	\$ 27,570	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,894	\$ 32,913	\$ 20,677
Toyota Prius	DV	25%	\$ 11,200	\$ 1,994	\$ -	\$ 1,628	\$ 366	\$ -	\$ -
Total Motor Vehicles			\$ 64,789	\$ 29,564	\$ -	\$ 1,628	\$ 7,259	\$ 32,913	\$ 20,677
Plant & Equipment									
CVGA Pull-Up Banners	DV	40%	\$ 3,657	\$ 984	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 394	\$ 3,066	\$ 590
HP i5 Laptop	DV	100%	\$ 904	\$ 540	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 540	\$ 540	\$ -
Total Plant and Equipment			\$ 4,561	\$ 1,524	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 934	\$ 3,606	\$ 590

The accompanying notes from part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

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2022-23 Financial Statements

Central Victorian
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For the year ended
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Statement of Changes in Equity

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Account	2023	2022
Equity		
Opening Balance	245,288.31	313,474.10
Current Year Earnings	(37,163.14)	(68,185.79)
Total Equity	208,125.17	245,288.31

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2022-23
Financial Statements

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated

For the year ended
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2022-23 Financial Statements

Notes to the Financial Statements

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The association is a not-for-profit entity. The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

No judgements or estimations were made by the management of the charity in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

Income Tax

The association is a not-for-profit organisation and is exempt from income tax under the provisions of Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Property, Plant and Equipment

All property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost and are depreciated over their useful lives to the association.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is ready for use.

Employee Provisions

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of six months or less.

Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from grants. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Grant is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated

For the year ended
30 June 2023

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2022-23 Financial Statements

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses, and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compliance report.

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated

For the year ended
30 June 2023

Statement by Members of The Committee

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2023

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In accordance with a resolution of the committee of Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated, the members of the committee declare that the financial statements:

- 1 present a true and fair view of the financial position of Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and;
- 2 at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

President: 
(Signature)

Cr David Clark
(Name)

Date: 13/11/23

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Financial Statements

Strategy Action Areas

CVGA is entering the second year of our current strategic plan (available [here](#)). This plan identifies five priority areas for action over the next five years, working towards the vision of a region that is climate positive by 2035 and prepared for the impacts of climate change.



01 Clean Energy Resilience

This action area reflects work CVGA is doing to help the region to become a net exporter of renewable energy whilst also improving the reliability, cost and resilience of energy for communities across the region.

Priority activities for 2023–24

- Getter REZ Ready: Local Government Guiding Better Practice Renewable Energy Development (Energy Leadership Program)
- Business Renewables Buying Group Power Purchase Agreement
- Regional Greenhouse Alliance Neighbourhood Battery Investigation Project, building on *Community Sparks*
- MASH Program re-design and pilot, building on *MASH Program Review 2023*



02 Adapting Communities

This action area reflects work CVGA is doing to help communities in the region become more engaged in adapting to climate change and reducing its vulnerabilities to climate change impacts.

Priority activities for 2023–24

- Victorian Climate Resilience Councils Program
- Project design and joint funding applications for climate vulnerability and risk assessments and cost-benefit analysis of adaptation options



03 Carbon Neutral Councils

This action area reflects work that CVGA is doing to help its member councils achieve emissions reductions in its own operations. Many councils have their own emissions reduction targets that are within 2025–45, however CVGA's goal is to help all councils accelerate their own targets to achieve net zero by 2030.

Priority activities for 2023–24

- All Electric Councils Working Group
- Electric Vehicle Public Charging Policy Development Working Group, building on *Charging the Regions*



04 Climate Ready Councils

This action area reflects work that CVGA is doing to help its member councils embed and improve consideration of climate change across its operations and service delivery.

Priority activities for 2023–24

- Whole of Home Resilience Project, building on *Retrofitting for Resilience Research Project*
- Cool It Phase 3 Project, building on *Cool It Phase 1 and Phase 2*



05 Ambitious Partnerships

This action area reflects work that CVGA is doing to help facilitate greater action across the region in areas where councils have less influence. This is done through effective partnerships and collaborations including:

Priority activities for 2023–24

- Regional Zero Emissions Roadmap and coordination
- Victorian Greenhouse Alliances' Conference
- Joint advocacy with the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances, Council Alliance for Sustainable Built Environments, Planning Institute of Australia, Municipal Association of Victoria, Australian Local Government Association, Climate Emergency Australia, Cities Power Partnership and Better Futures Australia, with a focus on planning for a safe climate, elevating ESD targets, active and public transport, and electrification and energy efficiency for low-wealth households

Looking Ahead

Our Impact

Between 2018–21, the net benefits of CVGAs work in the region has amounted to 21 times the amount invested by its member councils in the form of membership fees and project costs, including:

- \$9.3M net financial savings to councils
- \$3.5M in grants
- \$6.6M savings for households and businesses
- 569,000 tonnes of emissions reduced

CVGA continues to deliver strong emissions reductions, cost savings, and other benefits to councils and their communities through our projects, knowledge sharing and advocacy work.

We are committed to evaluating the outcomes of our work. Project reviews and evaluations undertaken this year highlight the ongoing impact of CVGA's projects in the region.

MASH Community Solar Program

This year CVGA commissioned Right Lane Consulting to conduct an independent review of our popular MASH Community Solar Program (including MASH, Hepburn Solar, and Mallee Sun).

CVGA began delivering the MASH Program in 2018 and since then over 1,700 solar PV systems and 80 batteries have been installed by participating households and businesses across the region. Twelve of the thirteen local government areas in the CVGA region now have solar penetration

rates above the Victorian state average, and MASH program participants have collectively saved close to six tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

Local communities have also been supported through the program with grants provided to community groups and schools to install solar PV and battery systems. Since 2018, MASH has contributed over \$100,000 of Community Bonus solar and battery installations to 17 community groups and schools across the region.

The Australian energy market is changing rapidly, as are the needs and priorities of consumers. Through a planned review process, CVGA is exploring how to best work with local government partners and build on the success of the MASH Program to expand support for household and small business energy efficiency and electrification, with a strengthened focus on energy equity.



Charging the Regions Project

Two years on from the completion of the [Charging the Regions \(CTR\) Project](#), CVGA has undertaken a review of public charger usages across the network of 23 charges installed through this initiative. Network data shows growing uptake of electric vehicles and demand for charging infrastructure in the region. The number of electric vehicles drivers accessing charging points across the CTR network has more than doubled, from 1,577 unique drivers in 2021–22, to 3,669 unique drivers in 2022–23



Since February 2021, the Charging the Regions network has been used

23,438 times
Saving an estimated

Lighting the Regions – Major Roads Project

After many years of work, CVGA has finalised the facilitated upgrades to lighting on major roads across eleven local government areas in the region. The project has:

- Replaced 10,900 street lights with energy efficient alternatives.
- Saving approximately 43,521 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions during the life of the new assets (over 20 years) – equivalent to taking 10,121 cars off the road for one-year!
- Saving approximately 2,176 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year – equivalent to lighting 2,720 average Australian homes!

- 156,000** litres of petrol
- 2.7** million electric kilometres provided
- 367** tonnes of GHG emissions
- 10,202** trees – equivalent of CO₂ saved



CENTRAL VICTORIAN
Greenhouse Alliance

For more information,
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