

STRATEGIC PLAN

of the

Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance

2016 - 2019

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This document outlines the goals and functions of the Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA).

Who we are

The CVGA represents a partnership of 13 local governments who have chosen to work together to improve their ability to address the causes and consequences of climate change and to help communities in our region prepare for, grow and thrive in a rapidly changing climate.

Based in Castlemaine in Mount Alexander Shire, Alliance staff work to help members maximise the efficiencies of collective action and represent our region's specific issues regarding climate change with the Victorian state and federal governments.

This Alliance was created to facilitate the collective ability of our members and other stakeholders to proactively address issues associated with Climate Change.

Our vision

The Central Victorian region has a strong integrated economy, healthy communities and a thriving natural environment.

Regional institutions, people and communities are strong, well informed and well-prepared for the climatic changes they are and will continue to experience in the years ahead.

As a region we are proactively tackling the issues this will raise and finding new opportunities to grow and thrive in this new environment.

Our region, and most importantly our members, are more than pulling our weight when it comes to advocating for and actively addressing the root causes of climate change.

Strategic Goals

The Alliance exists to help our members achieve the following outcomes:

- zero net GHG emissions across the CVGA catchment area by 2050¹
- sustainable economic growth in the CVGA catchment area is high and increasing²

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¹ This target is overtly linked to the State Government's Greenhouse Gas Emissions reductions targets embedded in the *Victorian Climate Change Act (2010)* and amended in July 2016. These targets include five-yearly interim targets.

² Metrics for sustainable economic growth have not yet been determined to track this goal.

Strategic Functions

The Alliance's core strategic functions are to:

1. **Provide leadership** by working to ensure that Climate Change is a relevant consideration in normal business
2. **Build capacity** within and between member organisations to better address Climate Change related challenges
3. **Create and help deliver innovative projects** that leverage and maximise the benefits of collective action
4. **Advocate** on behalf of members and the broader community to lower barriers to effective action and support other entities who helping address our strategic goals.

How we can accomplish these goals?

The Alliance aims to provide our members with a vehicle and a forum in which to be bold, innovative and courageous in the Climate Change space.

Mutually Reinforcing Outcomes

To achieve the Alliances goals it is essential that resources and effort are effectively coordinated so they achieve mutually reinforcing outcomes.

This is only possible if as many entities as possible agree to work to a common plan, with consistent and agreed outcomes, and consistent and shared information and measurement data.

The Alliance represents a vehicle for its members and other stakeholders to fill a role as a *Backbone Organisation* that leads and facilitates this evolution.

The Alliance will work towards achieving mutually reinforcing outcomes that fulfil on our strategic goals by:

- facilitating the development, and then ongoingly representing, a *commonly agreed vision and agenda* (plan of action) that will help fulfil on the Alliance's goals (above)
- ensuring that members' and other stakeholders' and partners' staff understand and support the Alliance's agenda
- helping progressively align member's actions in this space with the common agenda
- helping identify and develop projects that 'fill the gaps' or otherwise forward the common agenda of the Alliance members (including identifying and sourcing member and non-member funding where appropriate)
- ensuring decisions are made and progress is tracked against the common agenda through the collection and provisions of timely, consistent, robust and shared data
- empowering and supporting projects and entities in our communities that help fulfil on our common agenda or can support Alliance or member projects
- advocating for and advancing changes in state-government or other relevant entities' policy-settings/decisions that align with the Alliances' goals and common agenda
- ensuring that, over time, relevant target audiences (including member staff as well as external policy-makers and community influences) become aware of, and increasingly support and align their efforts to the Alliance member's common agenda