

CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS CLIMATE ACTION

CLIMATE CONVERSATION REPORT
OCTOBER 2022



This October was Climate Conversation Month in the Central Goldfields. Over the month, 114 local residents took part in 11 climate focused conversations.

WHAT ARE CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS?

Climate conversations are kitchen-table style discussions intended to get our community talking about climate change, including the opportunities for creating change and taking action together.

WHO TOOK PART?

- Asteria
- Carisbrook Conversations
- Dunolly community group
- Maryborough Field Naturalists
- Goldfields Renewable Energy Group
- Girl Guides
- Goldfields Art Gallery
- Maryborough Community Garden
- Uniting Church
- Youth Council
- Zonta

WHAT WE LEARNT ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

- There is a growing acceptance that climate change is a real threat
- Some people do not believe changes in climate are human-induced
- The level of concern about climate change varies from very high to disengaged
- Differing perspectives on climate change can make it a difficult and often avoided conversation
- Most people think about waste and recycling when asked about climate action
- Education is an important tool to facilitate climate action

NEXT STEPS

Ideas captured through Climate Conversations will help guide the delivery of the Central Goldfields Climate Action Plan 2022-30.

Please share this report and continue the conversation on what climate change means for our community and local opportunities for action.

For further opportunities to get involved in climate action in the Central Goldfields, visit:

<https://engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au/climateaction>



Climate Conversation Month was community-led initiative, supported by Council and funded by the Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership.

WHAT OUR COMMUNITY IS SAYING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

WHAT WE ARE EXPERIENCING

Temperatures going up
 Loss of crops
 Impacts on wildlife
 Food insecurity
 More extreme and variable weather
 Trees lost
 Impacts on people
 Diseases from mosquitoes
 Changing seasons
 Damaged roads
 Changing planting times
 Water insecurity
 Impact on our bees
 Bushfire
 floods
 Species extinction
 QLD fruit fly now in the area

HOW WE FEEL

Pessimism
 Concern
 Helplessness
 Distrust
 Apathy
 Frustration
 Anger
 Unsafe

WHAT WE SEE AS CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Deforestation
 Confusion around what is really 'environmentally friendly'
 Resistance to living frugally
 Denial
 Inequality
 Greenwashing
 Misinformation
 Disposable society
 Consumerism
 Population growth
 Competing priorities
 Capitalism

IDEAS FOR YOU AT HOME

1. Buy local
2. Go all electric
3. Install solar
4. Compost
5. Grow your own food
6. Buy less
7. Reuse and recycle
8. Carpool or ride to work
9. Talk to others about climate action

CLIMATE ACTION IDEAS

Pay more attention to Djaara management of Country
 More EV chargers across the Shire
 Electric lawn mowers for Council
 Community billboard for local climate action
 Increase environmental building standards
 Messaging through art
 Landfill generated electricity
 Train to Dunolly
 Heat retreat for Dunolly
 Community owned solar farm
 Reduce barriers for tiny homes
 Home energy efficiency audits
 Keep climate conversations going
 Choose a whole community project
 Plastic bag free Shire
 Recycling education
 Assist renters to install solar
 Rate incentives for solar
 Local energy hub
 Incentives to reduce household waste
 More support for mental health
 Be prepared for floods
 Attract sustainable business and industry to the Shire
 Set tangible community targets
 Increase climate literacy
 Train builders in sustainable building