

Sustainability Victoria
Local Government Energy Saver program video

Text: Victorian councils are leading the way on climate change starting in their own backyards.

Travis Riches: The Colac Otway Shire recognise that climate change is a significant issue that's impacting us now. We need to act and that's exactly what we're doing.

Text: Colac Otway Shire Council. Setting strong targets.

Stephen Hart: That made us start thinking about the emissions across the council's operations. And that led to where we are today where we have a target to be carbon neutral by 2020.

Text: Leading the region.

Travis: In five or six years we've gone from doing really small projects to big, technical, significant investments. So I'm really proud that in many ways Colac Otway is leading the region in this space. And that's significant for a small, rural council.

Text: Bass Coast Shire Council. Cutting emissions.

Deirdre Griepsma: So Bass Coast Shire Council recognises climate change and we see that everyday around us with our foreshores and beaches. We see coastal erosion. So it's important we do something now.

Text: Building a better future.

Deirdre: We've done projects that are quite diverse. It ranges from the work at the landfill across to putting solar panels on buildings, also having the off-the-grid systems. So it doesn't take a whole lot to work out that it's actually a really good idea to do these things.

Felicity Sist: Showing leadership in that area actually has an immediate impact on the environment but it's actually that influence that you can have through education programs, talking to school kids, that really

will introduce a sustainable change that will continue to happen.

Text: Moira Shire Council. Proving the business case.

Jackson Tennant: We've seen over the last four or five years that energy prices are just going up and up. So the business case for all of our investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency is just getting better and better and is an absolute no-brainer.

Text: Good planning makes for good business.

Mark Henderson: When it came to environmental issues and renewable energy issues the council has just embraced it 110 percent. So, yep, some are motivated by cost reduction but largely motivated by good environmental credentials. So I saw to everyone: get on board.

Deirdre: I'm really excited about being able to do these projects because this is my community. I live here. And to know that I can look back and say: we did that. That's great. We really made a difference.

Text: More good news from the state of the future.