Accord funded projects

Grants provided to Councils in Round One

$110,000 to Moyne Shire Council to carry out a land capability and biodiversity program. This project will enable the mapping of sustainable land use within Moyne Shire, with findings aimed at being incorporated as planning scheme overlays within the council’s planning scheme.

$121,000 to Moorabool Shire Council to complete a current landscape risk and biodiversity asset mapping program. This project will enable identification and mapping of natural areas of significance (including threatened species, high value habitat and erodable land) for the purpose of protecting these assets through the council’s planning scheme.

$93,500 to City of Greater Bendigo Council to assess the feasibility of reclaiming mine despoiled crown land sites in Bendigo. This project will identify decontamination approaches and potential future uses for despoiled sites to realize maximum community benefit and will inform other gold-fields councils and inform some of the future issues that accompany the current resurgence in mining activities across Victoria.

$55,000 to Nillumbik Shire Council to development a Masterplan for Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre. This project will provide a strategic master plan to guide the future management and development of Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre within the broader context of the state wide ‘Learning to Live Sustainably’ program.

$292,000 for Hobsons Bay City Council, in partnership with Melton Shire Council, Brimbank City Council, and Wyndham City Council, for the Kororoit Creek sustainable catchment management implementation program. Led by Hobsons Bay City Council in partnership with Melton Shire, Brimbank City, and Wyndham City councils as well as the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria this project will develop an agreed management approach to coordinate and implement actions within the Kororoit Creek Regional Strategy 2005 – 2030.

$143,000 for Darebin City Council to create a 2006-09 Public Lighting Action Program in partnership with, Banyule City Council, Hume City Council, Manningham City Council, City of Melbourne Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, City of Whittlesea, Moreland City Council, and City of Yarra Council (members of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA)). Through the creation of Sustainable Public Lighting Action Plans for each NAGA member council this project will build capacity within local government to deliver large scale public lighting improvement in Melbourne’s north.

$88,000 to Buloke Shire Council to lead City of Greater Bendigo, Ballarat City Council and Loddon Shire Council (members of the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Councils (CVGA)) with the CSIRO in the Reaching for Renewables project. This strategic work enlists the help of CSIRO to identify current and future renewable energy opportunities for four central Victorian councils for community and institutions to utilize.
$88,000 for Moreland City Council in partnership with City of Port Phillip Council and Darebin City Council to evaluate approaches to sustainability assessment in the planning system. This project involves evaluation of council approaches to sustainability in the planning system and the development of council networks to encourage dialogue on sustainable built environment outcomes through planning approaches.

Grants provided to Councils in Round Two

$83,000 to Southern Grampians Shire Council, in partnership with Glenelg Shire Council, City of Warrnambool, Moyne Shire Council and Corangamite Shire Council, for regional sustainability partnership projects and the development of an environment strategy. This project will enable the South West regional strategic sustainability partnership to deliver partnership projects through a new regional sustainability network for local governments. The project will also result in a local environment strategy for the Southern Grampians.

$180,000 to City of Yarra Council to complete a work program to move towards zero net emissions in the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) Region in partnership with Banyule City Council, Darebin City Council, Hume City Council, Manningham City Council, City of Melbourne Council, Moreland City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council and City of Whittlesea Council (members of NAGA). This project will help councils move towards zero net emissions by enabling the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action partnership to research carbon offsets and develop a common methodology for carbon projects for all local governments.

$35,000 to Banyule City Council to integrate sustainability into the Greensborough Principal Activity Centre redevelopment. This project will enable sustainability initiatives to be effectively integrated into the design and construction of a new major redevelopment at the Greensborough Principal Activity Centre, and provide case studies to inform future developments at other activity centres.

$113,000 for Moorabool Shire Council in partnership with Murrindindi Shire Council, Mitchell Shire Council, Macedon Ranges Shire, Surf Coast Shire, Bass Coast Shire and Baw Baw Shire Council to facilitate future planning for Melbourne’s Peri Urban Rural areas. This project will improve understanding of conditions, trends, pressures, threats and drivers of change and response mechanisms to facilitate planning for the Future of Melbourne’s Peri Urban Rural Councils.

$80,000 for East Gippsland Shire Council to develop an environment strategy for the East Gippsland community. This project will result in an environment strategy to enable the Council to give appropriate focus to environmental issues of importance to the East Gippsland community.

$50,000 for Banyule City Council to deliver sustainable street lighting through the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Public Lighting Action Program. This project will deliver the second stage of the Public Lighting Action Program to enhance Victorian Councils’ ability to progress towards sustainable public lighting.
$230,000 for Manningham City Council, in partnership with Darebin City Council, Yarra City and Moreland, to progress sustainable buildings in local government. This project will develop an approach to reduce the use of energy, water, materials and minimise greenhouse emissions and waste in buildings in the local government sector and implement a pilot: Accelerating Sustainable Buildings in the Local Government Sector.

$30,000 for Glenelg Shire Council to develop an environment strategy for the Glenelg community. This project will result in an environment strategy to enable the Council to give appropriate focus to environmental issues of importance to the Glenelg community.

Grants provided to Councils in Round Three

$190,000 for Hindmarsh Shire Council to lead a project to improve sustainability in the Wimmera Mallee region in partnership with Northern Grampians Shire Council, Ararat Rural City Council and other organisations within the Wimmera Mallee. This project will provide regional capacity to address sustainability objectives through networking between multiple parties. This project is a first step for the region to begin to address capacity constraints such as lack of resources and the dispersed nature of region which has lead to a lack of current data, understanding and action around sustainability.

$130,000 to Whitehorse City Council to lead a project to evaluate sustainability engagement programs in partnership with Bayside City Council and Knox City Council. This project will enable the development of a behaviour change program evaluation best practice tool-box for local government in collaboration with the National Centre for Sustainability. The council will assess the usefulness of the draft tool-box using four local government behaviour change program evaluations before disseminating tool-box for use by all Victorian municipalities.

$90,000 to Yarra Ranges Shire Council to investigate council responsibilities for bushland management and climate change, in partnership with Maroondah City Council and Knox City Council (members of the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA)). This project seeks to identify the responsibilities of local government for the maintenance of bushland areas on private and public land, and determining the broader constraints/issues around biodiversity management for local government. It will determine the impacts of climate change on bushland areas and identify types of biodiversity and bushland management that would benefit most from the actions of local government in a time of climate change.

$165,650 to Mitchell and Strathbogie Shire Councils to develop, implement and monitor an effective regional behaviour change program. The program, based on the Sustainable Homes model piloted by Darebin City Council, will include 31 practical themed workshops to educate participants from the region including staff serving at the Puckapunyal Department of Defence military site on water and energy use, reduced waste and recycling, green purchasing and sustainable transport usage.
$87,000 for Moorabool Shire Council to facilitate future planning for Melbourne’s Peri Urban Rural areas in partnership with, Bass Coast Shire Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Mitchell Shire Council, Murrindindi Shire Council and Surf Coast Shire Council. This project will analyse research completed through part one of this project, funded through Round 2 of the accord. The analysis will be used to improve understanding of environmental pressures on Melbourne’s Peri Urban Rural Councils by developing a range of planning tools to obtain better environmental outcomes in these regions.

$60,000 to Ararat Shire Council in partnership with North Grampians Shire Council and the Grampians Regional Waste Management Group to commission a feasibility study into a small scale multi-feedstock bio-energy plant. This project will produce a feasibility study that evaluates technology that can be both an alternative waste disposal system and use locally grown Blue Mallee biomass to produce renewable energy, aiming to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions from both waste and electricity use.

$50,000 for Indigo Shire Council in partnership with Wangaratta Shire Council to implement a partnership program that will connect landholders to the roadside land abutting their properties. The roadside partnership program is a behaviour change and education program connecting landholder to catchment management. By working with adjoining landholders this project will increase landholder ‘ownership’ and management of their roadsides and highlight why roadsides are important components in their whole of property management and at the catchment scale.

$250,000 for Ballarat Rural City Council to lead the Central Highlands Regions in responding to climate change threats to biodiversity with a community engagement model. Ballarat will lead a project that will develop a community engagement / behaviour change model to encourage the public to make choices that consider climate change and biodiversity management prior to making planning applications. Community engagement will centre on a marketing campaign ‘Managing Biodiversity in Your Own Backyard’ delivered through local real estate business, church groups and other previously untargeted stakeholder/community groups.

$152,000 for Gannawarra Shire Council to lead the ‘Living Green in Gannawarra and Surrounds’ project in partnership with Loddon Shire Council, Swan Hill Rural City Council and Buloke Shire Council. A rurally focused community education and engagement program, this project will deliver free workshops on energy, water and waste reduction in the home to communities across the Central Murray region.

$103,000 for Warrnambool Rural City Council to develop a land suitability and decision making framework for rural Victoria in partnership with Corangamite Shire Council. Using the South West region as a case study, this project will determine a process to enable recognition of the highest value of land (industry, biodiversity, amenity, residential). A decision making tool kit will then be developed to assist planners in guiding settlement, protecting biodiversity and ‘climate change proofing’ agriculture land. A stakeholder engagement forum and marketing project to raise the profile of the issues identified in the study amongst planners and land managers will follow the initial findings.
$90,000 for Casey City Council together with Cardinia Shire Council, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Frankston City Council, Bass Coast Shire Council (members of the Western Port Greenhouse Alliance (WPGA)) to develop a toolkit for protecting the Western Port community from the impacts of climate change. This project will investigate role of local government in risk management and in the case of an extreme weather event. A plan for increased community preparedness to extreme weather events caused by climate change will be developed and the project will look to how to minimise the effects, improve recovery responses and identify and prepare those sections of the community more susceptible to such events.

$30,000 each to a total of $240,000 to Indigo Shire Council, Swan Hill Rural City Council, Murrindindi Shire Council, Colac Otway Shire Council, Horsham Rural City Council, Yarriambiack Shire Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council and West Wimmera Shire Council for the development of environment strategies. Assisting rural councils to develop environment strategies is a strategic priority under the accord. The accord provides 2:1 matched funding (a minimum of $15,000 committed by Council and a maximum $30,000 from DSE) to low capacity, rural councils for the development of an environment strategy where one does not currently exist.

$100,000 for the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to investigate the utilisation of Victoria’s planning and building framework to support sustainability. The project will focus on ESD outcomes for the built environment, addressing issues associated with the urgent need to adapt to climate change and improve consistency, practice and outcomes achieved through Victoria’s planning and building frameworks. The project will support and inform the work of the MAV Local Government ESD Advocacy Group and draw on the findings and recommendations of the accord funded Hansen/SBE report, Sustainability Assessment in the Planning Process – an Investigation Report.

$115,000 for the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) to investigate the capacity of local governments to deal with sustainability, climate change and equity issues. This project will examine the social impacts of climate change identified in research to date and investigate the implications for local government in delivery of social services and meeting obligations to their communities. It will also provide much needed resources to build local government’s capacities, understanding and responses to the social dimensions of climate change, including the need to respond to equity issues.