



ANNUAL REPORT 2013



HIGHLIGHTS

Through hard work and effective collaboration, EAGA's members can celebrate a number of key outcomes in 2013:

- Winning two significant grants through the Victorian Adaptation Sustainability Partnership (combined value \$173K) to develop a Regional Adaptation Roadmap and undertake a Bushlands and Urban Biodiversity research project.
- Completion of a tariff review project across the region's energy intensive sites which has successfully identified annual savings of over \$98,000.
- Assisting 1439 households reduce emissions and save money through energy efficiency retrofits through the Live Green with LESS program.
- A joint street light change over initiative (between Maroondah and Yarra Ranges) expected to generate significant financial savings.
- Submission of a number of formal advocacy responses through Federal and State consultation processes.
- Establishing a regional Eco Driver program aiming to reduce fuel expenditure and greenhouse gas emissions over twelve participating Councils.



KEY INITIATIVES IN 2013

Live Green With LESS

Between November 2012 and July 2013, EAGAs members worked in partnership with Lower Energy Supplies and Services to help the region's households lower their electricity and gas bills through the installation of a number of subsidised energy efficiency products. Leveraging Council's existing engagement channels with low income households was effective in driving uptake with disadvantaged residents (where energy bills represent a higher proportion of living costs).

Street Light Bulk Change Over

The joint street light change over initiative between Maroondah City Council and Yarra Ranges Council will deliver cost efficiencies through a shared procurement process, with a focus on a joint installation tender. Importantly, this model is transferable to other municipalities sharing a common distribution network.

Tariff Review

Six of EAGAs members have recently completed a tariff review across the region's energy intensive sites and successfully identified annual savings of over \$98,000. Tariff optimisation involves ensuring that a



network and demand tariffs are the most cost effective based on a site's consumption profile.

Eco Driver

EAGA has developed a strategic partnership partner with the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) to deliver a regional Eco Driver program. The fuel efficiency behaviour change program will kick off in early 2014 and aim to reduce fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from the member's vehicle fleets.

Advocacy

EAGA has utilised it's scale, reputation and member's commitment to advocate for initiatives that promote sustainable, low

carbon communities at state and federal government levels. This has included making formal submissions to the review of the Energy Savings Initiative (ESI), Australia's Emission Reduction Caps and Targets Review and the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) Terms of Reference.

EUA Research

In collaboration with the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action, EAGA completed a research study that quantifies the potential direct economic benefits that could be unlocked by Environmental Upgrade Finance within each municipality in Victoria. The report estimates the EAGA region could benefit from an additional \$4.5B in capital investment and over 18,000 jobs if the finance is enabled.

Project database

The members have developed an innovative inventory tool for searching and characterising past projects. This tool seeks to connect people across all Councils with common interests or projects and streamline information sharing.

Website

EAGA's website was launched in May and will serve as the key channel for the Alliance to communicate its work and outcomes. Visit the site here: www.eaga.com.au

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Through the seven local government partnerships that make up EAGA, we can proudly promote the successes that have been gained in the last twelve months. Through the leadership of our Regional Coordinator, Scott McKenry, these achievements give EAGA the basis for improving our goals for the next twelve months that gives back real benefits to our members. 2013 being our inaugural year, our goals were realistic. With monthly meetings between the Committee and then with regular briefings with the Executive, EAGA was given every possible opportunity to be effective. The Executive voted to extend the role of Regional Coordinator for another 12 months. We felt that the role to be vital in coordinating another year of successful programs for 2014.

Maria McCarthy
Deputy Mayor
Yarra Ranges Council



VISION & STRATEGY

EAGA's vision

Melbourne's East is home to healthy, prosperous, environmentally sustainable and resilient low carbon communities.

EAGA pursues its vision through a Strategic Plan with the following key objectives:

- Leverage the network of EAGA to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation projects
- Build the capacity of EAGA's members and stakeholders through collaboration, partnerships and effectively sharing information
- Utilise EAGA's scale, reputation and member's commitment to advocate for initiatives that promote environmental sustainability and low carbon communities at state and federal government levels
- Develop partnerships to secure resources for projects whilst maintaining strong governance structures and an engaged membership

GOVERNANCE

EAGA undertakes its work under the guidance of:

- An **Executive Committee** comprising of Directors and Councillors from each Council. The Executive meets quarterly to manage EAGA's strategic priorities and budget. The Committee's Chairperson is elected each year.
- A **Steering Committee** that is responsible for developing and implementing projects, consistent with the strategy. The Steering Committee meets monthly and is comprised of Officers from each member.
- **Working Groups** are established by the Steering Committee to manage project implementation, technical discussion and information sharing (meeting as required)
- **Regional Coordinator** employed by Maroondah City Council on behalf of all EAGA member Councils. The Coordinator's responsibilities include
 - Managing the governance structures and committees
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Advocacy
 - Facilitation of project delivery

VOLUNTEER CASE STUDY

In the second half of 2013 I had the privilege of working for EAGA as a volunteer researcher and co-author of the research report (EUA) finance for the regions: This was an invaluable opportunity for me to build my knowledge and skills in the area of building energy efficiency and gain a greater understanding of the role of the Alliances in delivering greenhouse initiatives.

I will also be able to use this experience as credit towards my current post graduate studies in sustainability. I would be very happy to continue involvement with EAGA in this capacity and would highly recommend anyone considering taking up a similar volunteer opportunity.

Diana Savenake
28 January 2014



FINANCES

All seven EAGA members contribute \$15,000 annually to the Alliance budget. A majority of these funds support the Regional Coordinator's salary and expenses, with the remainder set aside to support project delivery. The Alliance has accumulated a budget surplus with carry over funds from previous years. The surplus will be used to fund the member Council's participation in the Eco Driver program and other projects

prioritised for 2014.

EAGA has successfully secured two major state government grants through the Victorian Adaptation Sustainability Partnership which will complement annual membership contributions to ensure a sound financial position over the coming twelve months. The grant funds will be used to employ a dedicated project officer to deliver the Climate change Adaptation Roadmap project.

Income	Amount
Member Contributions	\$105,000
Project Income	\$5,550
Surplus at 31st December 2012 (Carry Over)	\$161,770
	\$272,320
Expenses	
Coordinator Salary & Oncosts	\$80,549
Program Expenses	\$1,925
Project Expenditure	\$18,140
	\$100,614
EAGA Reserve	\$171,706

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

We asked our internal and external stakeholders to provide some feedback on their impressions of EAGA's last twelve months – here's what some of them had to say:

- *"The EAGA commitment to the Live Green with LESS project showed long term commitment in the residential energy space by each of the councils to their communities, especially low income housing."* (Lucy Allinson, LESS)
- *"I regard the strong relationship between EAGA and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, as vital to achieving real adaptation outcomes at the local level in Melbourne's east."* (Ben Johnson, DEPI)
- *"Well done EAGA for getting so active so quickly."* (Greg Hunt, SECCCA)



THE EAGA REGION

EAGA's region covers approximately 3,000km², extending from densely populated urban areas in the west to less populated rural areas in the east. The region includes a range of features:

- 18% of Victoria's population (1,011,641 total)
- 34% of households considered low income
- 25% of residents are renters and 26% are born overseas
- 62% of businesses in the region are home-based
- 43% of industries (by employment) are in healthcare, professional services, retail and manufacturing sectors
- The industrial areas in Knox, Maroondah and Monash are a core strength of the region's economy and major contributor to Victoria's manufacturing sector



ABOUT

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) is a formal collaboration of seven Councils in Melbourne's east, working together on regional programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate regional adaptation

The Alliance implements joint initiatives that provide economies of scale and enable projects typically beyond the reach of individual Councils. EAGA's project work is complemented by advocacy, capacity building and regional partnerships

CONTACT

The Alliance is seeking project partners and volunteers to help it implement innovative emission reduction initiatives.

Talk to our Regional Coordinator:

Scott McKenry

Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action

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MEMBERS

- City of Boroondara
- Knox City Council
- Maroondah City Council
- Monash City Council
- City of Stonnington
- City of Whitehorse
- Yarra Ranges Council

