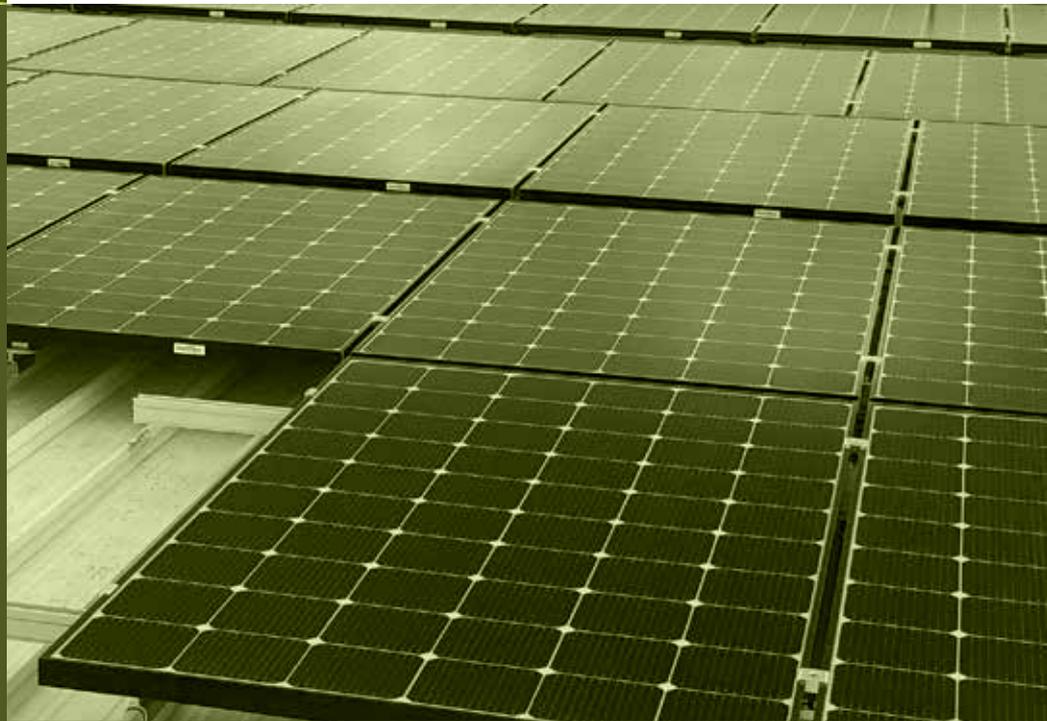




EASTERN ALLIANCE  
FOR GREENHOUSE ACTION

## MEMBERS

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



# 2017–2018 ANNUAL REPORT



## ABOUT EAGA

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) is a formal collaboration of eight 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.



## CHAIR PERSON'S STATEMENT



**Cr Josh Fergeus**

City of Monash,  
EAGA Executive Chair

Since joining EAGA's Executive Committee in 2016 I have been exceedingly impressed with EAGA's achievements. This year we have welcomed our eighth member - Glen Eira City Council. We've also received a commitment from all members to a new four-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a strategic plan which will see us through to 2021, marking the 2017-18 financial year as one of both growth and consolidation.

The ongoing commitment from our members continues to be underpinned by the clear financial and greenhouse savings that EAGA continues to deliver to communities in Melbourne's East. On average, for every dollar contributed to EAGA, approximately \$2.41 is returned to member councils through project-based savings. These benefits are particularly evident in our joint energy performance contract program, which has expanded from four to six councils this year.

EAGA has continued its leadership role in delivering a number of state-wide initiatives, including Solar Savers and the development of a new Local Government Power Purchasing Agreement. Both of these initiatives demonstrate how the network of Victorian Greenhouse Alliances provide a key vehicle for rapidly scaling-up local action on climate. These cross-regional approaches have also proved effective in leveraging significant advocacy outcomes for all Victorian councils – particularly for addressing barriers to the replacement of major roads lights and for securing critical changes to the proposed Local Government Act.

I am immensely proud of EAGA's successes over the past twelve months, and would like to thank our staff and committees for their passion and dedication. I would particularly like to thank and commend our Executive Officer Scott McKenry, whose leadership continues to help EAGA's influence and impact grow.

**Cr Josh Fergeus**

City of Monash, EAGA Executive Chair

# SUMMARY OF 2017/18 OUTCOMES AGAINST STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Direction	Initiative	Outcomes
Mitigation and adaptation projects	Energy Performance Contract (EPC)	EAGA's joint EPC program has expanded from four to six councils. The project aims to reduce energy consumption and operational costs by ~30% in council owned buildings and facilities. A number of major energy conservation measures have been implemented that are expected to deliver ~\$200K/yr in savings and 1,500 tonnes of abatement for each council. The initiative is led by EAGA's Major Energy Projects Manager, John Richardson.
	Solar Savers	EAGA has continued its leadership of a consortium of three Greenhouse Alliances and 25 councils to deliver the iconic solar program for low income and vulnerable households. Over 250 solar systems were delivered in the year, with interim evaluation data demonstrating a net benefit of \$292/year per household. The program is supported by a \$0.76M State Government grant and is overseen EAGA's Program Leader, Anna Imberger.
	Scaling up solar on council facilities	Five EAGA councils secured funding from Local Government Victoria to develop a business case for scaling-up and refining a new procurement approach for behind the meter solar on council facilities. The project will systemically assess and prioritise 'second tier' sites (outside the EPC project), compare and contrast technology and contracting models, and develop coordinated implementation and procurement plans.
Capacity building and information exchange	Local Government Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA)	In collaboration with the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances, EAGA has led the establishment of a Local Government Electricity Contract Working Group to help Victorian councils save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through their electricity contracting. The Working Group is developing a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for Victorian councils to procure low cost renewable energy from 2020/21, at the conclusion of their current retail contracts.
	Major Road Lighting	EAGA completed a regional business case for the replacement of major road across the region. The findings show that replacing all inefficient major road lights with energy efficient LEDs could save \$61.6M in electricity costs and cut emissions by 236,682 tonnes over the next 20 years. On the back of the study, EAGA members have begun planning to undertake a joint retrofit program in the 2019/20 financial year.
	Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Conference	EAGA collaborated with the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances to deliver the second joint conference attended by over 300 local government (and other) representatives from across Victoria. The event featured a number of high profile key note addresses and showcased the depth and sophistication of local government projects from across the country.
Advocacy	Submissions	Eleven formal advocacy submissions were developed over the course of the year covering key federal and state issues including energy market reform and climate change policy. This advocacy was particularly effective on the issues such as major road lighting where EAGA met the Minister for Roads to discuss an equitable co-investment model for replacing lights that are cost-shared with VicRoads. EAGA was also successful in securing a number of changes to the proposed Local Government Act that may enable residential Environmental Upgrade Agreements.
	Engagement	EAGA continues to represent local government on a number of key committees, including Ausnet Services Customer Consultative Committee where issues of importance to councils can be directly raised with the distribution business' CEO and Directorate. EAGA is also represented on the State Government's stakeholder engagement panel for the Victoria Energy Efficiency Target and its scheme that will provide subsidies to the EPC program.

# IMPACT

## Cumulative GHG savings-current & forecast



## TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR MEMBERS

“We had great response from the Knox residents to the Solar Savers program. We received over 300 enquiries about the program with 46 residents so far deciding to install a solar panel system on their home. A program like this would usually take a significant amount of staff time and cost to establish, were it not for our participation in the Alliance”

**Cr John Mortimore**, Knox City Council

“Glen Eira City Council joined EAGA in 2017. We have found that being part of the Alliance has tapped us into invaluable expertise and shared learnings and advocacy. In particular it has helped inform and guide us on energy procurement options and strengthened our advocacy position in seeking co-funding from the state government on our major road street lighting upgrade.”

**Cr Nina Taylor**, Glen Eira City Council

“EAGA has provided the City of Boroondara with a great opportunity to collaborate with three other councils in running a joint procurement process for services and works under an Energy Performance Contract. Knowledge and support gained through our participation in EAGA has really helped simplify the process, and improved information sharing and resource efficiency. This has allowed for a larger scale of works and achieved the most competitive procurement outcome for all involved.”

**Adam Hall**, City of Boroondara

“Maroondah is incredibly proud to be a part of EAGA because we can see the practical gains and benefits to the environment, our community and Council’s bottom line.

The innovative Solar Savers has been a particularly popular project and we’ve been thrilled to lead this initiative. Through Solar Savers, some of our lowest income households have been able to have solar panels installed so they can be financially better off and reduce their carbon footprint. We’re looking forward to scaling the initiative up in coming months so more households in the east can save money and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.”

**Cr Marijke Graham**, Maroondah City Council

“EAGA membership has provided further opportunities for Whitehorse Council to explore and participate in a range of energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction projects. EAGA’s expertise, scale of projects and advocacy work are assisting Whitehorse with better sustainability outcomes.”

**Cr Tina Liu**, Whitehorse City Council

“Through EAGA, the City of Stonnington has the opportunity to actively collaborate with local councils to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the region. The Annual Report demonstrates the success of a coordinated response to the challenges of climate change.”

**Simon Holloway**, Stonnington City Council

“Yarra Ranges Council is hosting the Officer for the Energy Performance Contracts, representing 3 Councils within EAGA. This has enabled vast economies of scale in procuring energy saving measures such as LED lighting, the realisation of greenhouse gas reduction along with enhanced working relationships across the Alliance.

**Cr Mike Clarke**, Yarra Ranges Council





## OUR REGION

## CONTACT

Scott McKenry  
EAGA Executive Officer  
03 9298 4250  
[scott.mckenry@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:scott.mckenry@maroondah.vic.gov.au)  
[www.eaga.com.au](http://www.eaga.com.au)