

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



2018–2019 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

I am pleased to present EAGA's annual report for the 2018-19 year. 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.

A big development for us this year has been the emergence of Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUA) across Knox, Maroondah, Yarra Ranges and Monash. This was only possible in part due to EAGA's advocacy in the previous Council term which led to the introduction of EUA legislation across Victoria. In our region alone, EUAs will result in large reductions of emissions for many local businesses, including the largest solar EUA in Victoria, a \$1.4 million system installed at Tibaldi in Clayton. Our advocacy efforts continue in the hope that we will realise similar successes into the future.

The continuation and expansion of EAGA's joint energy performance contracting program has been another noteworthy success for the Alliance. The second tranche of councils will cut energy usage and operating costs in large council facilities through a delivery model widely viewed as best practice across the sector. This work has leveraged the outcomes of the first tranche of councils who are now verifying annual savings of over \$200,000 per year per member.

We've continued to lead a number of projects across the region and beyond, including advocacy on reducing emissions from major road lighting, the expansion of the Solar Savers program, exploring the feasibility of community-owned renewable energy infrastructure, and of course involvement in the Local Government Power Purchasing Agreement. This Agreement will help Victorian councils save money while reducing greenhouse gas emissions through their electricity contracting, procuring low cost energy from 2020/21 and helping many councils move to 100% renewable energy.

EAGA's successes have continued to grow over the last twelve months, due to the commitment and passion of our staff and committees. I have been extremely proud to Chair this exemplary organisation for another term, and I thank my colleagues for their support. I would particularly like to thank and commend our Executive Officer, Scott McKenry on another excellent year.

Cr Josh Fergeus

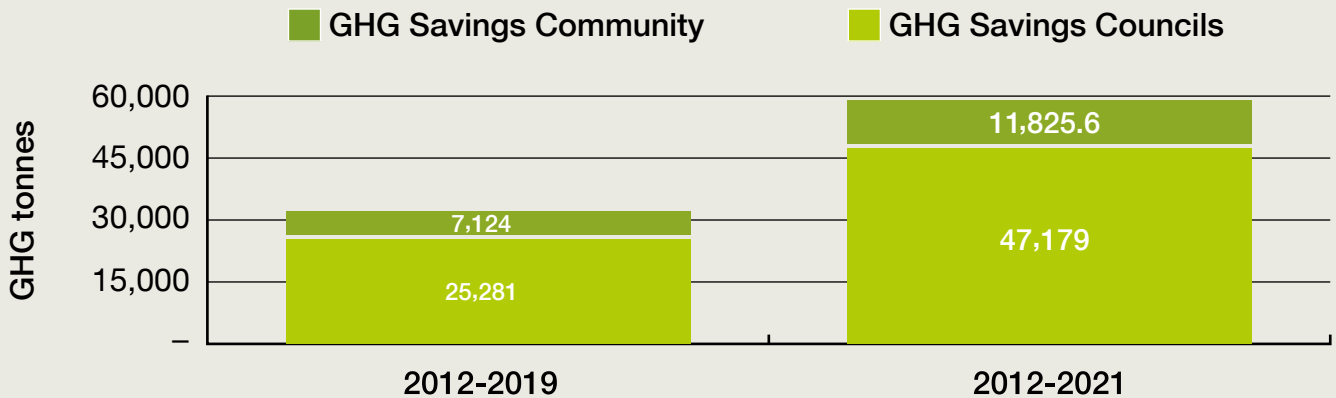
City of Monash, EAGA Executive Chair

SUMMARY OF 2018/19 OUTCOMES AGAINST STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Direction	Initiative	Outcomes
Mitigation and adaptation projects	Solar Savers	The program's grant funded pilot concluded in June 2019 and successfully delivered 434 solar systems installations, generating approximately 1.6 MWh of power and saving 1,749 t of CO ₂ -e emissions annually. Final evaluation data demonstrated a net benefit of \$292/year for each participating low-income household. Over 40% of all installations in the State were delivered in the EAGA region, leveraging an investment over \$1.1M in clean energy for the communities in Melbourne's East. A group of ten councils have committed to supporting the program in 2019/20, under a new business model independent of grant funding. The initiative is overseen by EAGA's Solar Savers Program Leader, Anna Imberger.
	Energy Performance Contract (EPC)	The scope of EAGA's joint EPC program has been extended to capture an additional 13 large council facilities, including energy intensive aquatic centres in Knox and Whitehorse. Both councils have engaged a specialist engineering provider to deliver the program through a joint procurement and shared service management model. The first tranche of councils (Boroondara, Maroondah, Yarra Ranges) each benefited from ~\$200K/yr in savings and 1,500 tonnes of abatement from energy conservation implemented in the previous financial year. It is anticipated that Whitehorse and Knox will secure similar savings in the coming financial period. The initiative is led by EAGA's Energy Projects Officer, Russell Boehm.
	Scaling Up Solar on Council Facilities	Five EAGA councils completed delivery of collaborative business cases for procuring and implementing behind the meter solar on council facilities. The project systemically assessed and prioritised 'second tier' sites (outside the EPC project), reviewed alternate contracting models (including leases) and developed a series of procurement templates and resources for use by all Victorian councils. The analysis has provided councils with an investment plan for the roll-out of 935kW of solar at 53 sites for the coming financial periods.
Capacity building and information exchange	Local Government Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA)	In collaboration with the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances and the City of Darebin, EAGA has continued its key role in the establishment of the LG PPA - a landmark initiative that will enable 48 Victorian councils to procure low cost renewable energy from 2020/21, at the conclusion of existing retail contracts. Once finalised, the initiative will be the largest ever emissions reduction initiative in the Australian Local Government sector. Seven EAGA members have committed between 40-100% of their annual electricity load towards the initiative.
	Major Road Lighting	EAGA has initiated a pilot 'metering' program aiming to ensure that savings generated through smart controls on public lighting infrastructure (i.e. dimming, trimming and other energy savings options) can be captured on energy bills. The project is being conducted in partnership with Ironbark Sustainability and the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) with this intent to progress changes to the National Electricity Rules.
	Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Conference	EAGA collaborated with the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances to deliver the third joint conference attended by over 300 local government (and other) representatives from across Victoria. The event was held at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre and featured a number of high-profile key note addresses and showcased the depth a sophistication of local government projects from across the country.
Advocacy	Submissions	Five 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 issue of rooftop solar where EAGA and its partners were successful in securing modifications to the State Government's solar rebate program to ensure its alignment with council led programs, such as Solar Savers.
	Engagement	EAGA and the Greenhouse Alliances have been providing an ongoing vehicle for councils to have a coordinated conversation with the State Government regarding the sector-based adaptation plans and Victoria's emission reduction targets. 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.

For every dollar invested in EAGA's membership fees and projects, the region's councils and communities capture \$2.30 in financial savings.

Cumulative GHG savings-current & forecast



TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR MEMBERS

“The City of Boroondara continues to realise the significant benefits of our EAGA membership. Collaborative initiatives such as the Local Government Power Purchasing Agreement, Scaling Up Solar on Council Facilities and Boroondara’s Energy Performance Contract continue to assist us in delivering on Council’s Our Low Carbon Future Strategy actions. We look forward to being involved in future projects that provide clear financial and greenhouse savings for Council and our community”.

Adam Hall, City of Boroondara

“As the urgency for climate action intensifies, we see our participation in EAGA as a key alliance for our ability to advocate on behalf of the Knox community for stronger adaptation and mitigation efforts from all levels of government. Also, our participation in EAGA allows Knox to deliver on our own energy and greenhouse projects and programs through an efficient shared services model (e.g. Energy Performance Contract, Scaling Up Solar).”

Cr John Mortimore, Knox City Council

“Glen Eira City Council is proud to be a member of the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action. Community-focused projects such as Solar Savers enable households to access affordable and quality solar systems. The Smart Lighting Trial is delivering significant reductions in energy use and carbon emissions from our street lights. Collaborative initiatives such as the Local Government Power Purchase Agreement will be an important way for us to achieve our target of zero net carbon emissions from Council operations by 2030. Our EAGA membership is helping us deliver the corporate and community strategic goals in our Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021. We look forward to being involved in future projects that provide environment, economic and social benefits for Council and the Glen Eira community.”

Cr Tony Athanasopoulos, Glen Eira City Council

“Maroondah City Council is thrilled to be a part of the largest PPA in LG history in Australia. As with so many of the EAGA projects and initiatives, local government is again leading the way in making significant reductions to our carbon emissions and taking tangible action on climate change. Whilst we acknowledge that this initiative is not due to be finalised until 2020 we are all very hopeful for a positive outcome for all councils involved. Our residents in the East expect nothing less from their councils than to be progressive and proactive by taking real climate action whilst simultaneously freeing up Council funds for other key initiatives and service delivery. Thank you to all of the staff from the EAGA Councils and our EAGA staff for their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality”

Cr Marijke Graham, Maroondah City Council

“Whitehorse Council is proud to continue working collaboratively with its neighbouring councils to deliver high calibre and meaningful projects that achieve energy efficiencies and reduce local greenhouse gas emissions. Not only has EAGA’s advocacy work provided a regional voice towards climate action, but it has allowed this common voice across other Victorian Greenhouse Alliances to come together and advocate for change towards State, Federal and authority bodies.”

Cr Tina Liu, Whitehorse City Council

“The City of Stonnington recognises the important role of collaboration in supporting Council to meet its sustainability objectives. EAGA provides an excellent opportunity to work in partnership with local councils in the region to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition our communities to a more sustainable future. The latest annual report highlights EAGA’s achievements over the past year, including the combined alliances conference and work to set up the Local Government Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA). We’re looking forward to another productive year.”

Simon Holloway, Stonnington City Council

“With the outstanding support from EAGA, Yarra Ranges Council is on track to achieve its 2020 target of 30% reduction of energy related emissions from the 2000 baseline, thanks to solar PV on most buildings, Energy Performance Contracts and street light conversions to LED. The significant cost savings achieve full support for these programs throughout our council and from all councillors. Our acknowledgement of a Climate Emergency, with EAGA support and guidance, has led to carbon reduction initiatives throughout our council and into the community with the uptake of Environmental Upgrade Agreements with businesses and programs such as Solar Savers.

Our goal to achieve over 100% renewable energy by 2025 is underpinned by plans for solar farms on old landfill sites - work pioneered by EAGA. Our commitment the LG PPA has been secured through the outstanding skills and efforts of our EAGA Team. Clearly EAGA is an essential part of our success in reducing both emissions and costs for which we are extremely grateful and thank all involved for their efforts including our partner councils for their excellent collaboration.

Cr Mike Clarke, Yarra Ranges Council





OUR REGION

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