



About

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) is a formal collaboration of eight councils in Melbourne's east. Our mission is to unite and empower our region to forge a climate resilient, genuine net zero future for all. The alliance implements joint initiatives with a focus on driving the region to genuine net zero and building climate resilience and adaptive capacity. This work provides economies of scale and enables projects typically beyond the reach of individual councils. We work to empower councils and communities through knowledge and information sharing and seek to drive systemic change through evidence-based advocacy.

Impact

Since its inception in 2012, the net financial benefits of EAGA's work in the region have amounted to approximately 12 times the amount invested by its member councils in the form of membership fees and project costs.

2024–25 Impact

\$6.4M

**Savings to councils
and communities**

9

**Advocacy
submissions**

64,000+

**Tonnes of
CO₂e emission
reductions**

1,200+

**Businesses
engaged**

Totals for 2021–25 MOU Period

\$19.7M

Savings

34

**Advocacy
submissions**

253,000

**Tonnes of
CO₂e emission
reductions**

Members



Chair Person's Statement

It's clear that the global challenge of climate change is profoundly personal and undeniably local. While the headlines usually speak of international agreements and national policies, the true impacts resonate right here in our communities, affecting our families, our homes, our budgets, our health, our businesses, our streets and drains, our sporting teams, and ultimately, our future generations. It's in this deeply local context that each Council's work, empowered with EAGA becomes not just important, but essential.



Cr Kate Hely
City of Stonnington,
EAGA Executive Chair

Renewed Commitment and Strategic Direction

In 2024-25, EAGA has continued to foster vital collaboration among our member councils, delivering impactful projects and leading shared advocacy that drives regional climate action. A significant highlight has been the reaffirmation of commitment from all eight member councils for the next four years, cemented by new Memorandums of Understanding and the finalisation of our 2025-30 Strategic Plan. This renewed dedication underscores the strong partnership and shared resolve to confront climate change in our region head-on.

Key Achievements from the Past Year

This year saw considerable progress across our initiatives:

- **Expanded Solar Savers Program:** Reaching even more residents and businesses, this program has resulted in an estimated 18,098 tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions saved. The program is also continuing to expand, now involving twenty participating councils in the 2025-26 period, including all eight EAGA members. In 2025, the program expanded to include a wide range of products to support the electrification goals of councils, such as hot water systems, EV chargers and insulation.
- **'Reporting FOGO Impacts' Project:** This project demonstrated the substantial emissions savings achieved by our food waste programs. Findings showed that

the total emissions reduction impact of FOGO programs across the EAGA region was an impressive 44,046 tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2023-24 alone.

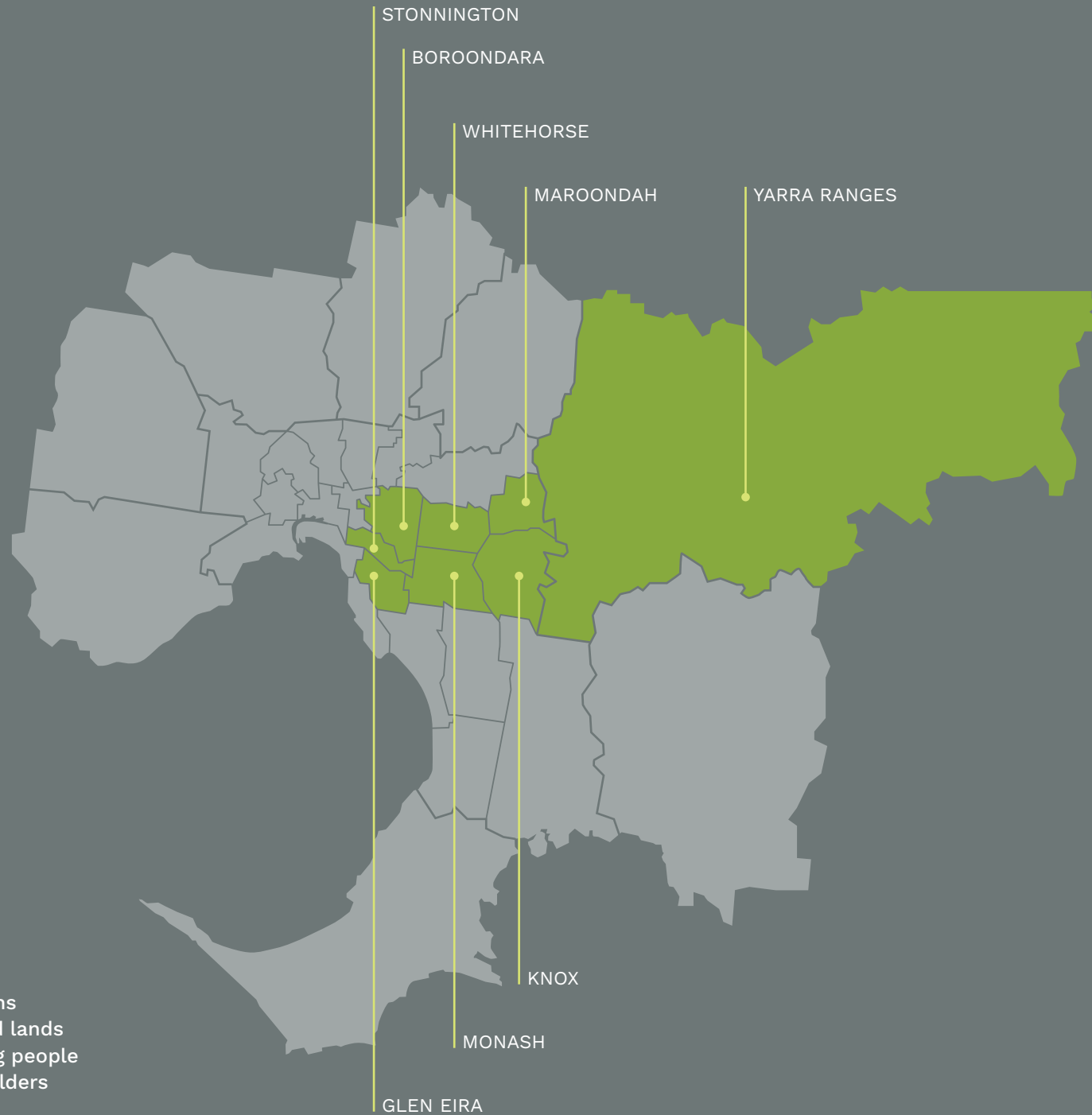
- **Collaborative Advocacy:** We continued our advocacy efforts, making nine submissions to state and federal governments and electricity distribution businesses, covering issues related to planning, electrification, infrastructure, electricity pricing, household energy upgrades and more. EAGA is also an active member of the Renew Australia for All campaign which demonstrated huge collective impact in the lead up to the 2024 federal election by securing the \$2.3B funding commitment for the Cheaper Home Batteries Program.

Forging a Resilient Future Together

These achievements demonstrate the power of working together as a region. They embody our newly articulated mission, which underpins our 2025-30 Strategic Plan: "Uniting and empowering our region to forge a climate resilient, genuine net zero future for all."

I extend my sincere gratitude to my fellow representatives on the Executive Committee, the council officers on the Steering Committee, and our dedicated staff for their unwavering hard work. Their commitment is paving the way for a more sustainable and resilient future for all in Melbourne's east.

Our Region



EAGA acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land that we work from – the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong people of the Kulin Nations. We pay our respect to elders past and present.

Summary of 2024–25 Outcomes Against Strategic Plan

Strategy Direction	Initiatives	Outcomes
Mitigation and adaptation projects	Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO)	VECO is the largest emissions reduction project ever undertaken within the Australian local government sector. Since commencing in 2021, 60 councils across Victoria have saved ~750,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and ~\$16M in cost savings. EAGA councils have cut their emissions by 87,000 tonnes and reduced costs by \$1.4M over the 2024–25 period.
	Solar Savers	The scope of Solar Savers expanded to include additional upgrade options including air conditioning, hot water heat pumps, induction cooktops, insulation, EV charging and home energy assessments. A new panel of vetted installers were engaged and an online platform was launched which provides tailored information to householders on the cost and benefits of each upgrade option. As of June 2025, Solar Savers membership has grown to 20 councils, including all 8 EAGA members. A strategic partnership was established with the State Electricity Commission (SEC) including the execution of an MOU between the parties to collaboratively deliver a number of small ‘one-stop-shop’ pilots. Solar Savers recently celebrated the installation of the 1000th solar PV system and has saved the community over \$5.4M on energy bills since the program began.
	Business Renewables Buying Group (BRBG)	The second buying group of businesses from across Victoria was finalised in late 2024, representing a total of 81,957 MWh of electricity use over the five-year contract. This will result in 65,566 tonnes of emission savings over five years. The formation of a third buying group is well underway and due to be finalised in the second half of 2025.
Capacity building and information exchange	Reporting FOGO Impacts (Phase 2)	The Reporting FOGO Impacts project was developed to assist councils to quantify the impact of their programs via a consistent and robust methodology. Project outputs included the creation of an emissions calculator tool that allows any Australian council to track and report on the emissions reduction impact of their FOGO program. Project findings provided a number of insights, including the impact of bin collection frequency and universal roll-out.
	Victorian Greenhouse Alliances Conference	EAGA officers played a key organisational role in the conference, held on 30 August 2024. The event attracted over 400 attendees – the majority from local government – for a day of learning and networking. The 2025 conference on 22 August will include session topics such as climate risk management, decarbonising construction and First Nations climate knowledge.
Advocacy	Federal Advocacy	In August 2024, EAGA signed up to the Renew Australia For All campaign with approximately 70 other civil society organisations. The campaign was instrumental in winning the \$2.3B home battery storage package – the second largest financial commitment made by Labor in the lead up to the election. Significant advocacy efforts were made this year, including numerous meetings with government ministers and advisors on seeking federal government investment to scale home upgrades programs such as Solar Savers, particularly for vulnerable and low-income households.
		On behalf of the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances, EAGA has also led a call for the establishment of a Multi-Level Governance pilot for climate action. The intent of the pilot is to create a replicable and scalable framework that will demonstrate how Australia’s three tiers of government can work together in partnership to identify shared objectives and actions to strengthen climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience.
	Submissions and Engagement	In 2024–25, EAGA collaborated with other Victorian Greenhouse Alliances on 9 advocacy submissions. These included a focus on electrification with submissions to the Victorian Government on both the Building Electrification Regulatory Impact Statement and Victorian Energy Upgrades Strategic Review. Collaboration with the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) continued, with a shared response to the draft Ministerial Direction on Climate Change Consideration in the planning system.

Testimonials From Our Members

“Glen Eira City Council is committed to taking action in response to the climate emergency — and our membership of the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) has been instrumental in supporting this work. Since declaring a climate emergency in 2020, we have taken significant strides in working with our community to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change through the work of Our Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2021–25 | Dhumbali Wurrungi-biik Parbin-ata. EAGA has helped facilitate our membership of the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), helping Council source 100 per cent of our electricity from renewable sources. It has also played an instrumental role in supporting residents and businesses through programs such as the Business Renewables Buying Group, Solar Savers and Energy Savers, and amplifying Glen Eira’s voice through EAGA’s tireless efforts to advocate for greater climate action. As we embark on our new Climate Emergency Response Strategy, our partnership with EAGA will be invaluable to help us deliver on our goals and work together to achieve real change for our climate and our community.

Cr Arabella Daniel,
Glen Eira City Council

“EAGA and its member councils are an important asset to Knox City Council. The alliance helps to greatly amplify our efforts and provide significant strategic and operational support to assist with the implementation of Knox’s Climate Response Plan. One key aspect of our Climate Response Plan has been to replace streetlights with energy efficient LEDs. The advocacy efforts of EAGA have greatly assisted Knox City Council in receiving close to \$600,000 in rebates from our local energy distributor. As an EAGA member, Knox has also had the opportunity to host the Business Energy Savers program this year, as part of our collaborative effort with other energy savers Councils. EAGA also plays an instrumental role in a range of advocacy efforts that represent the interests of Knox City Council and our Climate Response Plan goals, as well as facilitating and/or supporting the ongoing success of various priority projects including the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils program and Adaptive Community Assets project. We are confident that our ongoing collaboration through EAGA on these important strategic issues and projects will greatly help meet the needs of Council and the community in striving for net zero and climate resilience.”

Cr Paige Kennett, Knox City Council

“In 2024–25, our EAGA membership continued to provide significant emissions and cost savings across Council’s operations and the Maroondah community. Through EAGA, Council has access to valuable resources, expertise, and collaborative opportunities, supporting the outcomes of our Sustainability Strategy 2022–31. Maroondah continues to benefit from the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), transitioning our street lighting onto 100% renewable electricity from January 2025, delivering further emissions and costs savings. Climate change adaptation and resilience building has also been a key priority. Projects including Adaptive Community Assets – Phase 3: Costs and benefits of adaptation options for roads, and the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils (VCRC) project, will support the ongoing work to embed climate change into long term risk and financial planning.

Cr Chris Jones, Maroondah City Council

“Last year, the City of Boroondara adopted its updated Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Plan for 2025–26 and 2026–27. This plan reinforces our commitment to reducing emissions across our city and to building community resilience. Over the past year, EAGA has continued to be a vital partner in helping us achieve our climate action goals, through a range of programs and advocacy. The updated Solar Savers program, now offering a panel of vetted suppliers, will help Boroondara residents electrify their homes, while the Energy Savers program continues to help local businesses cut costs and emissions. This past year also saw the completion of EAGA’s FOGO project, providing councils with practical tools, including a Boroondara-specific emissions reduction calculator tool, to improve services and outcomes. A recent highlight was the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances Conference in August, (EAGA is an ongoing member), where hundreds of LGA practitioners and decision-makers came together to hear presentations from various councils and subject matter experts, and broaden our networking base.

In summary, Boroondara receives invaluable benefits from its EAGA membership. The EAGA alliance forums that allow effective knowledge and solution sharing, its collaborative projects, and its strong advocacy at all government levels, are essential to helping us efficiently deliver our Council’s climate action goals.”

Cr Michael Nolan, City of Boroondara

Testimonials From Our Members

CONTINUED

“Monash’s ongoing membership in the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action continues to deliver measurable benefits for our community. Our inclusion in the EAGA sponsored Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) scheme, delivering 100 per cent renewable electricity, has been a fundamental part of Monash achieving net zero emissions. I continue to be impressed with EAGA’s submissions to consultations and inquiries on a number of environmental and energy issues at both state and federal levels, that have been delivered with a level of technical professionalism that would be impossible for any single council. They continue to contribute to state and federal climate policy and ensure that Monash has a voice in these significant conversations. This year, the Neighbourhood Battery Initiative has contributed to Monash being successfully awarded a grant for a large neighbourhood battery at our Operations Centre, supporting local energy resilience and emissions reduction. This grant was awarded based on the GANBIM business case which EAGA led on behalf of member Councils. As we face the increasing impact of climate change, we must now focus on making our community as resilient as possible, and I see EAGA playing a significant role in providing sound advice and guidance, and a mechanism to collaborate with neighbouring councils. Overall, our partnership with the Alliance remains central to achieving our Net Zero goals, improves our ability to build resilience to climate change, provides a significant level of advocacy at state and federal levels, and reflects our commitment to a sustainable, low-carbon future for all who live and work in Monash. ”

Cr Brian Little, City of Monash

“At a time when leadership in the transition to zero emissions is increasingly needed, EAGA plays a significant role in providing the research, advocacy and collaborative capacity to assist councils in this critical task. By pooling resources, participating councils can achieve outcomes that would be difficult to deliver alone. The Shire faces severe challenges from climate change, but cooperation with EAGA can enable Council to make the most of the opportunities a green local economy can bring.

The research base that EAGA provides has informed our policy development in community-focused climate mitigation and adaptation, such as our Draft Energy Transition Plan and the Liveable Climate Action Plan 2020–30. Our officers are supported in this work by the opportunities that EAGA offers in knowledge exchange and shared experience across participating councils. Creating change is difficult and requires focus and courage, and so I am grateful and encouraged by the way EAGA assists our officers in their important work. EAGA has made a practical difference to councils’ operations and to our community through schemes like the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), Energy Savers, and Solar Savers. Likewise, we appreciate the organisation’s extensive networks across both public and private sectors that offer a ‘foot in the door’ when needed.

As we continue on the journey to zero emissions, we will continue to draw on the strategic insight that EAGA can provide for action within council and for advocacy to State and Federal Governments. We face a daunting challenge, but in collaboration we are most likely to achieve the goal of a sustainable future.

Cr Peter McIlwain, Yarra Ranges Council

“This year, Whitehorse City Council completed the transition of all services to the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), securing 100% renewable electricity for all of Council’s supply, delivering long-term cost savings and emissions reductions. Without EAGA’s involvement, this flagship initiative would not have been possible. EAGA’s coordinated advocacy has also influenced climate commitments and improved funding for local sustainability. A standout achievement was progress through the Electricity Distribution Price Review, with local energy distributors now seeking to undertake large scale, energy efficient public lighting upgrades including within the Whitehorse municipality.

Council is also excited to utilise the Food Organics Garden Organics Impacts Calculator that has been developed. This innovative and tailored tool will help councils quantify and communicate on emissions reduction benefits from organics diversion moving forward. These milestones highlight EAGA’s continued leadership in driving practical, collaborative climate action. Council looks forward to supporting this work through its renewed commitment for the 2025–29 MOU period.

Mayor Andrew Davenport, Whitehorse City Council



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