



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 benefit of EAGA's work in the region is ~11 times the amount invested by its member councils in the form of membership fees and project costs.

2025–26 Impact

\$5.4M

Savings to councils and communities

73,415

Tonnes of emission reductions

8

Advocacy submissions

970+

Businesses engaged

501 kW

Community solar installed

Members



Chairperson's Statement

Last year I wrote that climate change is profoundly personal and undeniably local. Twelve months on, I've seen what that looks like in practice: a household finally replacing the old gas hot water system that was quietly draining the budget, a small business owner sitting down with an energy adviser for the first time, a council engineer working out what a hotter, wetter decade will do to the roads we all drive on. This is where the transition is actually happening – street by street, budget by budget. 2025-26 was our first full year of delivery under the 2025-30 Strategic Plan. Together we returned \$5.4 million in savings to our councils and communities and cut 73,415 tonnes of emissions in a single year.



Cr Kate Hely
City of Stonnington,
EAGA Executive Chair

Scale we could not reach alone

The Victorian Energy Collaboration remains the largest emissions reduction project ever undertaken in the local government sector. In 2025-26 EAGA councils cut 53,000 tonnes of emissions and \$0.88 million in costs through VECO, and I'm delighted that Knox City Council joined for the first time this year. Across the state, 61 councils have now avoided around 1.10 million tonnes and \$19 million since VECO began in 2021. No council could have negotiated that on its own.

Advocacy that pays for itself

After sustained engagement with the distributors and the Australian Energy Regulator, the final 2026-31 electricity distribution determination shifted the LED streetlight rollout so that it is now predominantly network-driven. For our councils, this has the potential to deliver an estimated \$49 million in avoided electricity costs over the life of those assets. This is a reminder that a patient, well-argued submission can be worth more than any grant round.

Helping households and businesses act

Solar Savers relaunched with a new online platform, a wider supplier panel and the products people are actually asking for: hot water, EV chargers, insulation. Almost 700 households went ahead, more than 890 people came along to our information sessions, and cumulative savings on household energy bills have now passed \$7.4 million.

Through Energy Savers, 971 businesses received practical advice, ahead of our target for the year.

Facing what's coming

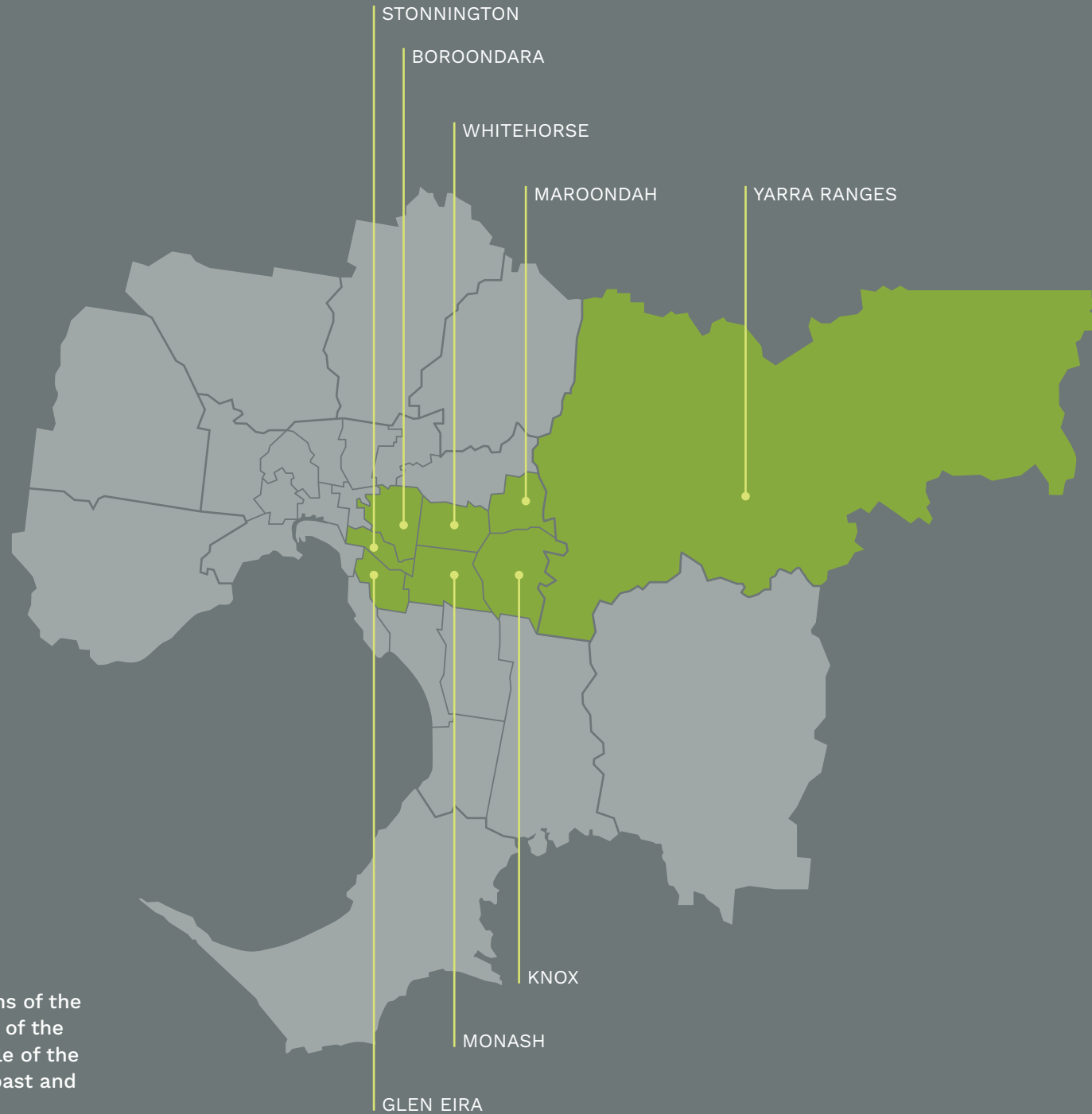
Phase 3 of the Adaptive Community Assets project put a number on something councils have long sensed. Climate damage to roads already costs greater Melbourne's councils between \$120 and \$260 million a year, and without proactive adaptation that could triple by the end of the century. It is confronting reading and exactly the kind of evidence that moves resilience from an aspiration to a line in a long-term financial plan.

Forging a resilient future together

Behind all of this is the simple arithmetic of collaboration: since 2012, EAGA has returned around eleven times what member councils have invested. That is the promise in our mission: uniting and empowering our region to forge a climate resilient, genuine net zero future for all.

My sincere thanks to my fellow representatives on the Executive Committee, the officers on the Steering Committee, and the small EAGA team who carry so much of this work. You make eight councils behave like one, and our communities are better for it.

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 2025–26 Outcomes Against Strategic Plan

Strategy Direction	Initiatives	Outcomes
Driving the Region to Net Zero	Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO)	VECO is the largest emissions reduction project ever undertaken within the local government sector. Since commencing in 2021, 61 councils across Victoria have saved ~1.10M tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and ~\$19M in cost savings. EAGA councils have cut their emissions by 53,000 tonnes and reduced costs by \$0.88M over the 2025-26 period. 2025-26 was the first year of membership for Knox City Council.
	Solar Savers	Early in the year saw implementation of the new online platform and expanded supplier panel with extended product and service offerings. The community response to the expanded program was very promising. In total in 2025-26 there were 701 jobs won from 3,078 enquiries. This is a 23% conversion rate with a total installation value of \$5.5 million (total out of pocket for customer \$3.7m). Subsidies across multiple councils were also delivered, with significant uptake. Total household savings across the program in 2025-26 were \$445,844 (of which \$317,918 were attributed to EAGA councils). A total \$7.4 million (\$3 million for EAGA councils) has been saved from household energy bills since the program began in 2019. The Solar Savers team attended over 35 information sessions and events, with over 890 participants. Significant work progressed with SEC on system design and marketing toward formalising a collaboration.
	Energy Savers	In 2025-26, 971 business engagements occurred (against a target of 960). A pilot was implemented with 1Circle to provide additional energy advisory services to businesses. Finalisation of pilot is expected in early 2026-27 and followed by a review process.
Building climate resilience and adaptive capacity	Adaptative community assets	Delivered Phase 3 of the project, which delivered high-level estimates of the costs and benefits of adapting the roads owned by the 32 Greater Melbourne councils involved. This project found that the 'Average Annual Damages' that councils face for their road infrastructure are already in the range of \$120-260 million. Without proactive adaptation, this is projected to increase to between \$180-\$370 million in the nearer future (~2050) and to between \$360-\$750 million in the more distant future (~2100). This is an increase in AADs of about 50% in the nearer future and 200% in the more distant future from present day.
Empowering councils and communities	Victorian Greenhouse Alliances Conference	EAGA officers played a key organisational role in the conference, held on 22 August 2025. The event attracted over 400 attendees – the majority from local government – for a day of learning and networking, with 16% of attendees from EAGA members councils. The 2026 conference on 28 August will include session topics such as managing the data centre boom, council climate reporting – emerging requirements and current tools, and strengthening climate resilience links between council and community.
	Electricity Distribution Price Review 2026-31	Multi-stage engagement was completed with councils, distributors and the Australian Energy Regulator, including consultations, submissions and follow-up meetings. The Final 2026-31 determination was issued on 31 April 2026, which saw the culmination of ongoing advocacy for energy efficiency significantly influence a change in approach where investment in LED rollout is predominantly being driven by distributors. Total estimated electricity cost savings for EAGA councils from LED rollout and smart lighting is ~ \$49m over the 20-year life of assets (includes savings requiring substantial council planning and design activities).
Driving Systemic Change	Submissions and Engagement	In 2025-26, EAGA collaborated with other Victorian Greenhouse Alliances on 8 advocacy submissions. These included a focus on electrification with submissions to the Victorian Government Inquiry into both Electricity Supply for Electric Vehicles, and the Inquiry into Renewable and Affordable Energy for Apartments. Further submissions were made to the Essential Services Commission Review of the Public Lighting Code and Productivity Commission Inquiry into "Investing in cheaper, cleaner energy and the net zero transformation". Final reports reflected strong recognition of VGA input.

Testimonials From Our Members

“Boroondara highly values its involvement in the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) and the opportunities it provides to collaborate with neighbouring councils on shared climate and sustainability priorities. Through EAGA, Boroondara has supported community electrification and energy efficiency through initiatives such as the Solar Savers program. The program, branded BooST in Boroondara, has delivered strong outcomes for residents and demonstrated the benefits of regional collaboration. The Nation Partners emissions analysis project, commissioned by Boroondara, has provided valuable opportunities for collaboration with other Greenhouse Alliances, and we look forward to sharing key learnings and successes at the VGA Conference. EAGA’s advocacy and program development continue to support councils through the energy transition. Recent improvements to the Energy Savers program have been welcomed, and Boroondara’s participation in the pole-mounted EV charger trial is providing valuable insights into innovative charging solutions. The support provided through the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils (VCRC) has also been invaluable, and we are excited to build on this work in the coming months. Overall, EAGA plays an important role in enabling collaboration, innovation, and shared learning across the region, helping councils like Boroondara deliver meaningful emissions reduction and cost reduction outcomes for their communities.” **Cr Michael Nolan, City of Boroondara**

“In 2026 Maroondah City Council adopted our Climate Adaptation Plan 2026-31 to further address climate change adaptation across Council operations and services. It includes a new and ambitious emissions reduction target. EAGA’s support has been key as it continues to play an important role in shaping Council’s climate response. This has been through initiatives such as the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils program supporting knowledge sharing, process improvement and the integration of Council’s climate risk assessment into business as usual. Engaging with councils at a similar stage in the climate risk assessment process has proven essential to ensuring Maroondah is in a strong position in this space. In 2025-26, EAGA has again played a pivotal role in advocacy leading to tangible and shared outcomes for EAGA councils. In particular, the work of EAGA and the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances in the outcomes of the 5-year Distribution Network Service Providers streetlighting price review 2026-31 has resulted in long term cost and emissions savings. This was achieved only through collaboration and knowledge and resource sharing.”

Cr Chris Jones, Maroondah City Council

“Glen Eira City Council is continuing its commitment to responding to the climate emergency, which includes our partnership with the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA). In 2025, Glen Eira Council released its second Climate Emergency Response Strategy (2025-29), which underpins and strengthens our focus on tackling Council and community emissions. EAGA played a pivotal role in supporting Council to identify, prioritise and advocate for the changes required in our second Climate Emergency Response Strategy. Central to this is a shift towards supporting our community to understand and accelerate its response to the climate emergency, through leading community emission studies, air quality research and climate vulnerability studies to understand who is more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change over time. EAGA continue to facilitate valuable collaborative program adoption across all its member Councils and play a key role in advocating to State and Federal governments on behalf of all its member Councils to amplify our voices and create a platform for Councils to be heard on the state and national stage.” **Cr Arabella Daniel, Glen Eira City Council**

“Whitehorse City Council continues to value its participation in the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA). Through regional collaboration, EAGA provides member councils with access to shared expertise, technical knowledge and advocacy to drive meaningful benefits for our communities. For Whitehorse, EAGA provides opportunities to participate in collaborative projects and access resources that would be more difficult to achieve independently. Projects such as the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) have supported Council’s transition to renewable electricity, while EAGA’s work on electricity distribution pricing and network planning has provided valuable advocacy outcomes. In addition, the knowledge sharing between councils has continued to support officers and councillors stay informed about emerging issues and practical responses. Whitehorse looks forward to continuing to work with EAGA and fellow member councils to deliver positive environmental, financial and community outcomes.” **Cr Andrew Davenport, Whitehorse City Council**

Testimonials From Our Members

CONTINUED

“Monash’s ongoing membership of the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) continues to deliver measurable benefits for our community and strengthen our response to climate change. Through EAGA, councils can collaborate on complex energy and sustainability challenges, delivering outcomes that would be difficult to achieve individually. This year, EAGA has continued to demonstrate the value of regional cooperation. Through the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), the largest emissions reduction project ever undertaken by local government, EAGA councils reduced emissions by 53,000 tonnes and achieved \$0.885 million in energy cost savings in 2025-26 alone. EAGA’s Solar Savers and Energy Savers programs have also helped households and businesses lower energy costs, reduce emissions and access trusted advice on energy efficiency and electrification.

EAGA’s high-quality submissions to state and federal consultations on energy and climate policy ensure that local governments have a strong voice in shaping the transition to a low-carbon future. EAGA’s advocacy has also contributed to significant projected savings from LED street lighting and smart lighting upgrades across member councils. As climate impacts become increasingly evident, EAGA’s work on climate adaptation and resilience is more important than ever. EAGA continues to provide sound advice, strong regional leadership and valuable opportunities for collaboration. Our partnership with the Alliance remains central to achieving Monash’s sustainability ambitions and building a more climate resilient future for our community.”

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 the development of our emerging Climate and Environment Strategy 2026-2036. 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 Climate Resilient Councils program and Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO). Likewise, we appreciate the alliances’ 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

“Knox City Council is committed to climate action, as outlined in our Climate Response Plan, and EAGA assists us to achieve these goals. This year was the first year Knox has purchased 100% renewable energy for all Council buildings through the VECO (Victorian Energy Collaboration) power purchase agreement, which has led to an approximate 35% reduction in overall Council emissions.

Knox has also continued to host the Business Energy Savers program this year, supporting businesses across 8 Councils to improve their efficiency and reduce emissions, with this program supported by EAGA. Knox also continues to participate through EAGA with Solar Savers, supporting our residents to learn about electrification in their homes and seek connection with trusted suppliers. We have also built on our knowledge and collaboration opportunities through the EAGA Adaptive Community Assets project.

I believe that Knox’s continued partnership through EAGA on key strategic priorities and initiatives will play an important role as we keep working towards net zero emissions and strengthening organisational and community climate resilience.” **Mayor Paige Kennett, Knox City Council**



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