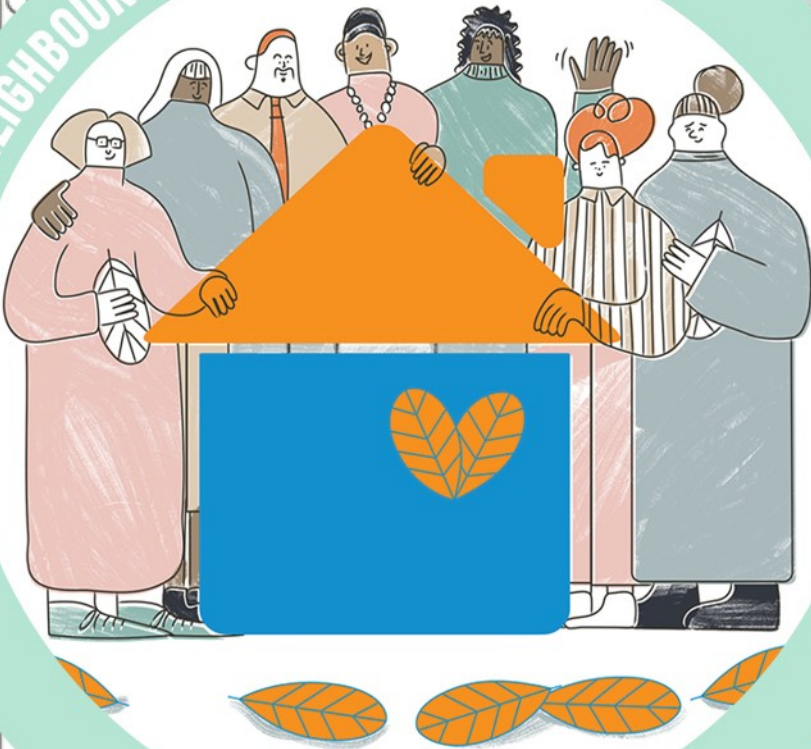


DAREBIN NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE NETWORK



CLIMATE ACTION & RESILIENCE PLAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have protected Country for millennia and have survived dramatic climatic shifts. We are intimately connected to Country and our knowledges and cultural practices hold solutions to the climate crisis.”

Lowitja Institute, 2021

The Darebin Neighbourhood House Network acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people of the Kulin Nations as the traditional custodians of the unceded lands on which we work and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and to all First Nations people.

We acknowledge that the climate crisis affects the human rights of First Nations people disproportionately, here in Australia and around the world, including rights to health, water, food, housing, self-determination and life itself. The network also recognises that equal and equitable access to solutions are often unavailable to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities due to structural and systemic racism.

Our network endeavours to value First Nations’ knowledge and rights, to learn from and elevate the wisdom of Elders, and to follow the path being forged by young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“The only way we’ll heal Country is by walking together”

Uncle Dave Wandin, Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Elder



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Neighbourhood houses are community-based organisations that support the specific priorities and needs of local neighbourhoods' and look out for the most vulnerable in the community. They are more than just physical spaces that provide material support; they are places that inherently build community resilience.

The Darebin Neighbourhood House Network's core work includes the promotion of social and emotional wellbeing, delivery of physical wellness programs, respect and protection of the natural environment, and economic and educational inclusion. Our houses present significant value to their local community. In monetary terms, on any typical day, it is estimated that the Darebin Neighbourhood House Network provides approximately \$42,000 in services and support to the residents of Darebin.

Climate change and biodiversity loss is already being felt in Darebin. Everyone is impacted by extreme weather, such as heatwaves and bushfire smoke, but we know that some people are impacted more than others. This is for a variety of reasons such as differences in age, ability, income, language barriers and quality of housing.

In 2022, our network came together to identify clear objectives to build sustainable and resilient neighbourhood houses and local communities, based on our strengths and our community's needs. Our deep, diverse and long standing connections within and across the municipality and resultant unique knowledge, mean we are well-placed to play a meaningful role in building local climate action, resilience and sustainability.

This plan recognises the work already being undertaken by our individual houses to address and respond to the impacts of climate change and it outlines our commitment to work together towards new shared objectives.

"It's easy to be daunted by the magnitude of the climate crisis and to think, there's not much my small organisation can do to make a meaningful difference... we want to change that thought process because there are many opportunities for our houses to influence change.

And that's not just me being an optimist - we have many houses already doing the work.

The aim... is to expand those efforts and to make climate action a real priority across the sector."

CEO Neighbourhood Houses Victoria



We actively reduce our environmental footprint and look after our ecosystem.

OBJECTIVE 1
Sustainable Houses



We work to build our resilience to extreme weather and adapt to the changing climate.

OBJECTIVE 2
Resilient Houses



We help our community to reduce their environmental footprint and look after our ecosystem.

OBJECTIVE 3
Sustainable Communities



We help our community build resilience to extreme weather and adapt to the changing climate.

OBJECTIVE 4
Resilient Communities



CLIMATE ACTION & RESILIENCE

OBJECTIVE 1 — SUSTAINABLE HOUSES

We actively reduce our environmental footprint and look after our ecosystem.

- Reduced waste and carbon emissions at our houses through energy, water, transport, waste minimisation and the food system.
- A thriving natural environment that supports biodiversity at our houses.
- Staff, volunteers and participants are informed and empowered to act on climate change and sustainability goals.

	Action	Resourcing	Aligned SDGs
A1.1	Strengthen a unified network voice to have input to Council's climate change planning.	Existing budget	11. 13. 16.
A1.2	Continue to embed sustainability principles into strategic plans, policies, programs and services.	Existing budget	12. 13.
A1.3	Action opportunities to reduce our energy, water, food, waste and transport footprint.	Requires additional funding	6. 11. 12. 13.
A1.4	Action opportunities to improve how our outdoor spaces contribute to the flora and fauna biodiversity of our neighbourhood.	Requires additional funding	3. 11. 13. 15.

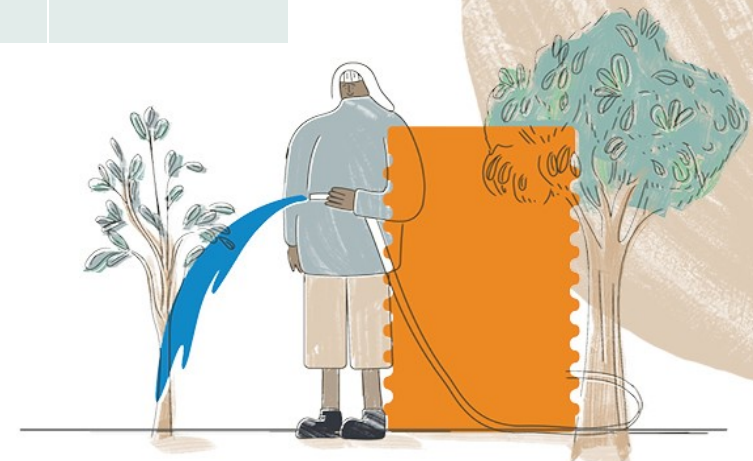


OBJECTIVE 2 — RESILIENT HOUSES

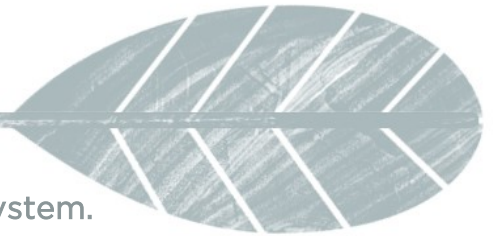
We work to build our resilience to extreme weather and adapt to the changing climate.

- Our houses provide a safe and comfortable environment for staff, volunteers and participants during extreme weather events.
- Our houses are enabled to serve the community during periods of disruption.
- Our houses are informed, connected, and empowered to adapt to a changing climate and respond to the needs of the community.

	Action	Resourcing	Aligned SDGs
A2.1	Strengthen the capacity of the network to communicate, collaborate and effectively share resources during periods of disruption.	Requires additional funding	11. 12. 17.
A2.2	Incorporate climate change adaptation actions into strategic plans, risk management frameworks and policies to help minimise service disruption (e.g. heatwave preparedness and response policy for each house) taking into consideration different scenarios.	Existing budget	11. 12. 17.



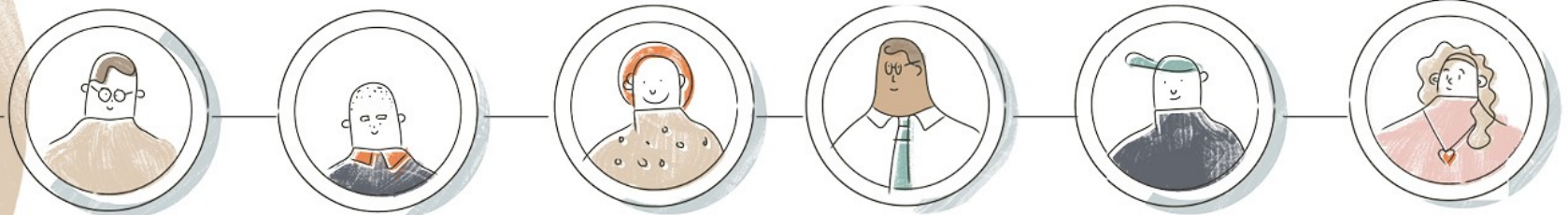
OBJECTIVE 3 — SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



We help our community to reduce their environmental footprint and look after our ecosystem.

- Improved sustainability and reduced carbon emissions in Darebin in energy, waste and the food system.
- A community informed and empowered to act on climate change and sustainability.

	Action	Resourcing	Aligned SDGs
A3.1	Share information about climate action initiatives within and across our community to build knowledge and ensure all of the community is engaged and empowered.	Existing budget	4. 11. 13.
A3.2	Support other organisations and community groups to deliver sustainability programs.	Requires additional funding	16. 17.
A3.3	Enable households to reduce emissions within the food system, including food miles and waste.	Requires additional funding	2. 9. 12.
A3.4	Lead by example by introducing reduce-reuse-recycle principles across all programs and activities, including for third parties hiring our venues.	Existing budget	9. 12.

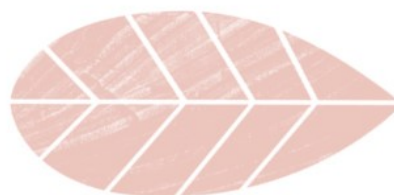


OBJECTIVE 4 — RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

We help our community build resilience to extreme weather and adapt to the changing climate.

- Our community is socially connected and healthy through more frequent and extreme weather events.
- Our community is prepared, informed and empowered, with the capacity to respond and adapt to a changing climate.
- Vulnerable communities have equitable access to the opportunities in the transition to a low-emissions economy, including green jobs and climate appropriate housing.

	Action	Resourcing	Aligned SDGs
A4.1	Continue to develop programs to ensure those most at-risk of social isolation and loneliness in our community are well connected so that they can be supported during periods of forced isolation (e.g. heatwaves).	Existing budget	3. 5. 10.
A4.2	Continue to strengthen community connections between generations, neighbours and cultures to build climate resilience.	Existing budget	13. 17.
A4.3	Expand access to information and resources, and provide pathways to existing support programs that help our community to be more resilient to extreme weather and adapt to the changing climate.	Requires additional funding	1. 3. 4.
A4.4	Investigate best practice to maintain neighbourhood house databases of contacts, networks, and organisations, to enable effective & efficient communications and support for the Darebin community during periods of disruption.	Requires additional funding	13. 16.

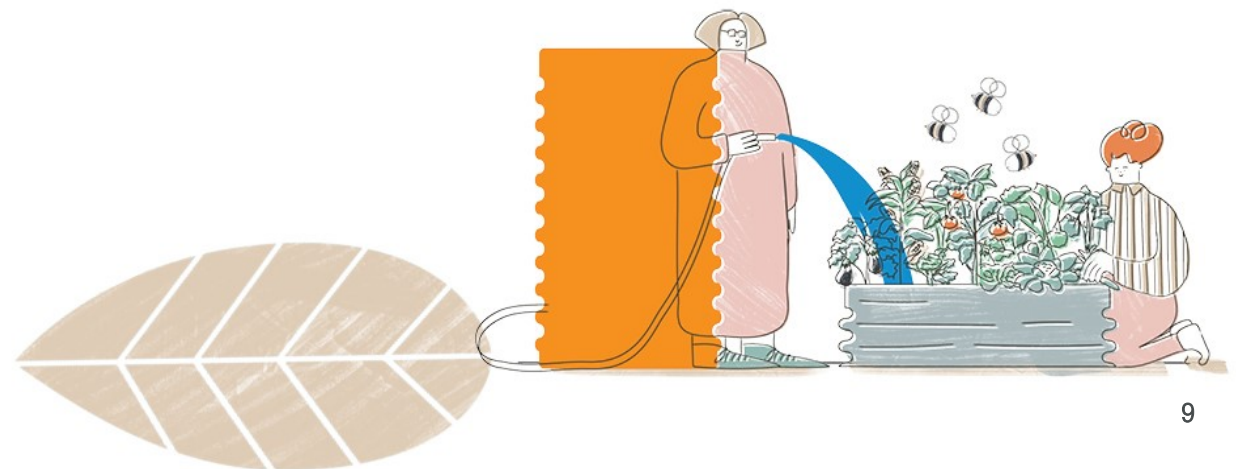


PRIORITY ACTIONS TO SUPPORT ALL OBJECTIVES

These priority actions cut across the actions in the objectives.

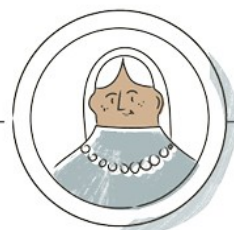
Our network is looking to build skills and partnerships within and beyond our neighbourhoods.

	Action	Resourcing
A5.1	Offer professional development for all team members across the network on sustainability, climate change adaptation and resilience.	Requires additional funding
A5.2	Strengthen partnerships and collaboration to enable collective action across Darebin to address climate change.	Existing budget
A5.3	Investigate how neighbourhood houses can be better enabled to support the climate action and community resilience objectives of federal, state and local governments, and articulate this role and contribution in public forums.	Existing budget
A5.4	Amplify First Nations leadership and knowledge to guide climate action planning.	Requires additional funding



ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

A6.1	We will advocate to improve the energy and water efficiency of all Council owned neighbourhood houses.
A6.2	We will advocate for governments to identify minimum requirements for all neighbourhood houses to be safe, efficient and resilient to climate related impacts.
A6.3	We will advocate that all future infrastructure upgrades to our buildings also help us improve our energy efficiency and build our resilience to climate change.
A6.4	In the face of climate uncertainty, we will advocate to Darebin Council to connect asset focused and health and well-being focused risk assessments and planning so that neighbourhood houses can themselves plan holistically for future scenarios.
A6.5	We will advocate for the physical and social infrastructure required to ensure the health and wellbeing of our community in a changing climate. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a clear shared understanding of what is required to create a safe and comfortable environment for different community cohorts through periods of extreme weather, and • Assessing the role of neighbourhood houses to provide community support under different scenarios.
A6.6	We will amplify and promote the role of neighbourhood houses in building climate resilience and advocate for adequate resourcing to do this important work.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

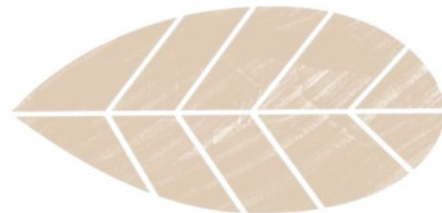
Sustainable development seeks to achieve equity across generations. A sustainable development perspective incorporates environmental, social, aspects of decision making.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015 by all United Nations member states as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These 17 goals are an urgent call to action to bring peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.



The SDGs recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must be coupled with health, education, equity and economic inclusion, whilst also promoting ecological and climate justice.

In shaping this action plan we have looked for these synergies, highlighting how our actions on climate and community resilience also address many of the SDGs.



THANK YOU

This Climate Action and Resilience Framework for Neighbourhood Houses was developed by Darebin Neighbourhood House Network and Jesuit Social Services' Centre for Just Places in 2022 with funding support from Darebin City Council and Melbourne's Climate Journey.

Melbourne's Climate Journey is a community-led project supporting Greater Melbourne communities to adapt to a changing climate, supported by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and funded through the Supporting Our Regions to Adapt program.

For more information and guidance on how your neighbourhood house can act on climate change contact just.places@jss.org.au



The houses in the Darebin Neighbourhood House Network include:

Alphington Community Centre
alphington.org.au
info@alphington.org.au

Bridge Darebin
bridgedarebin.org.au
connect@bridgedarebin.org.au

Jika Jika Community Centre
Jikajika.org.au
admin@jikajika.org.au

Reservoir Neighbourhood House
reservoirnh.org.au
admin@reservoirnh.org.au

Span Community House
spanhouse.org
info@spanhouse.org

Prace
prace.vic.edu.au
office@prace.vic.edu.au

