



Minutes Banyule Environment Advisory Committee

9 September 2021

1. Present

Councillors

- Cr Peter Castaldo – Chair
- Cr Alida McKern – Co Chair
- Cr Tom Melican – Substitute

Council Officers

- Jonathan Risby – Manager Transport & Environment
- Ellie Hall - Sustainability Officer

BEAC Members

- Jacinta Humphrey
- Lynne Siejka
- Michelle Giovas
- Denise Fernando
- Alex Tzikas
- Linus Mayers
- Paul Gale Baker
- Trivess Moore
- Jack Ellis
- Kellie Watson
- Vicky Rowe

Apologies

N/A

2. BECAAC Introductions

- The Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee (BECAAC) (Formally BEAC) was established in December 1995 as a formal Council advisory committee to provide on-going community input to Council from residents committed to and concerned about a sustainable environment, particularly in relation to the development and implementation of strategic environmental documents and programs.
 - You have each been selected to join the committee because we believe you have a unique and relevant skill set, experience or community connection that will support us to ensure our environmental and climate action strategy is the best it can be.
 - BEAC have played a huge role over the years in ensuring the adoption of the Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan, the Community Climate Action Plan and the declaration of a Climate Emergency.
 - They have also supported the allocation of hundreds of thousands of dollars to community based environmental programs and initiatives through the Environment Grants.
 - Some of the things we'll be discussing over our term are;
 - Urban Forest Strategy
 - State of the Environment Report
 - New waste service implementation
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- Community Energy service
- And many more.

GETTING AN ISSUE ON THE AGENDA

- If you want something discussed at BECAAC you can email Ellie at least two weeks before the meeting. Not everything requested will be able to be included. And we will base the decision on the following criteria;
 - What is the desired outcome in raising the issue?
 - How will BECAAC be able to affect the issue.
 - Is the issue something Council has control over.

FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- The strongest tool available to BECAAC is a formal recommendation.
- A committee may decide to bring an action item to the attention of Council, for their consideration and possible adoption.
- The wording of the Recommendation will be developed with the assistance of the committee and the Executive Support Officer, voted on by the members (in a meeting with a quorum) and noted in the meeting minutes.
- A quorum of BECAAC is one Councillor and seven BECAAC members.
- Council staff and Councillors will ensure the Recommendation is presented to Council in a timely manner.
- Council will decide if they adopt the Recommendation or not.
- Council's decision will be communicated back to the Committee at the following meeting after the Council decision is made, by the Chair.

3. Urban Forest Strategy

PPT Presentation attached to email.

Q&A

Question	Answer
How many trees are there in Banyule? What should our target be for tree planting?	<i>Urban Forest generally talks about canopy cover rather than number of trees. There will be different uses for each tree, so instead of numbers the focus will be on retention and ensuring the best outcome for each tree planted. There are 76,000 street trees.</i>
Are there more trees in the public or private sphere?	<i>More in private</i>
Does Banyule have a heat island and extreme heat policy?	<i>Extreme heat is included in Emergency Management Plan and Heat Islands will be mentioned in certain strategic plans. The CAP sets out an initial action to develop a vulnerability assessment for Council to bring this data together.</i>

Why to involve people who object to trees on the group? Why do people object to trees?	<i>Elderly and worried about maintenance, don't want leaf mess, not enough car parking, worried about services underground, bin collection can be issue. Want to understand the reasons people do not want trees to be able to work around them and help community understand the benefit.</i>
Business groups and retailers to apply for community consultation – why?	<i>Want to understand and address concerns they may have.</i>

Discussion:

- Concern that canopy is vulnerable because of planning decisions would like to see advocacy there.
- Needs to be advocacy on intrinsic value of trees – build that value in the community.
- Developers need to be educated on value of trees – seeing too many fence to fence developments with no space for vegetation.
- Can we see 'protection of indigenous wildlife' as an objective in UFSP
- Seems to be opposing forces in Council with the loss of private trees and the gain of public trees.
- Trees not just being cut down, but being encroached on, leading to poor health and eventual decline.
- Need to address public canopy cover losses due to state gov initiatives, i.e. LXRA & NELP
- Building regulations need to change as many losses on private land are undertaken without permits, once they need a permit Banyule has strong controls.
- Banyule has strong controls but doesn't always use them effectively

4. Better Score Project

- Better Score Project background;
- The Better Score Project aims to improve thermal comfort, energy efficiency and uptake of renewable energy in Banyule households.

The process

- The first step is an energy audit on the home, which produces a scorecard assessment. The Scorecard identifies energy efficiency upgrades that are relevant to the home – considering areas such as lighting, hot water systems, heating and cooling, insulation and solar systems.
- The Scorecard will give the resident a list of things to do to improve the energy efficiency of their house it also gives the house an 'energy score'.
- Householders can then get reimbursed up to \$1,500 to undertake those upgrades.
- After the upgrades, the original assessor undertakes a variation assessment based on the upgrades and revises the scorecard, getting the house a 'better score'.
- Some of the upgrades previously undertaken have been upgrading insulation, replacing inefficient appliances i.e. gas hot water for heat pumps, replacing windows, draught sealing and installing solar PV.

- This year the program had \$50,000 to allocate, which it did in 6 hours on the first day it was open. Obviously, this shows that there is great demand in the community for this type of program.
- For the next FY we will be looking to increase that allocation by 50% to \$75,000 to respond to that demand.
- The program responds to our Community Climate Action Plan in recognising that 28% of Banyule's emissions are coming from residential building energy, and one of the actions is to examine a range of economic levers to support the uptake of electrification and energy efficiency measures for residents and business owners.

Banyule Clean Energy Group – Paul Gale Baker

- BCEG has assisted seven residents on low incomes to access renewable energy and energy efficiency products.
- BCEG has installed solar PV on IDV building in Macleod through a Pick my Project grant from the State Government.
- BCEG has collected 25 residents' names for a waiting list for the Better Score Program.
- Recommendations from BCEG–
 - Council allocates additional funding to a new round of the Better Score Project ASAP
 - Council collaborates with BCEG on community engagement
 - Council opens talks with BCEG as a key delivery partner

Discussion

- Great to see the uptake this time round.
- \$500 of the \$1,500 goes to the pre/post check score carding, is there a way to lower this to put more towards upgrades.
- Should explore bulk buys as an option to help lower costs of installations. *(This is planned to happen in future rounds of the Better Score Project, the first rounds were about gauging demand for different products and then implementing different programs to deliver those)*
- Create a preferred suppliers list for residents *(Unfortunately, Council is not allowed to recommend specific suppliers, we have offered advice to residents about what to look for in a supplier and we can link residents to the State Governments website for a list of accredited suppliers)*
- Ensure links in with state gov funding. *(Already happening through the program)*
- Great program but need more education generally for energy efficiency measures. Then people can do some projects themselves without the program. i.e. draught proofing.
- Education fundamental.

5. Community Energy Innovation Grants

- The community energy innovation grants came out of an action in the CAP - support community led energy solutions.
 - These grants are aimed at projects that have a wider community benefit. The Better Score and Solar Savers programs cater to individual households and businesses, this grant is meant to expand those benefits.
 - The sorts of projects eligible for funding are;
 - Community Battery Storage – pre feasibility works
 - Renewable energy projects on social housing
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- Community PPA development
- Bulk buys

2021 Community Energy Innovation Grants Application Timeline	
Key Date	Items
2 August 2021 Monday	Grants open
30 September 2021 Thursday	Grants close at midnight
5 October 2021 Tuesday	BECAAC receive COI declaration form
12 October 2021 Tuesday	BECAAC send back signed Declaration Form no later than this date to Environment Grant Officer
19 October 2021 Tuesday (or week of)	BECAAC are delivered a presentation outlining the key components of each grant application.
20 October 2021 Wednesday	BECAAC receive SmartyGrants login detail and documents to commence assessment. BECAAC will make recommendation based on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • full grant application, • initial assessment and recommendations from Grant Officer BEAC has two weeks to complete the assessment.
3 November 2021 Wednesday	Deadline - please submit your assessment on SmartyGrants (Email environmentgrants@banyule.vic.gov.au to notify your submission)
17/18 November 2021	Announcement of the Community led Energy Grants successful applicants.

6. Community Climate Action Plan working group

- Banyule declared a climate emergency and we need to act like it. Be strategic and nimble
- Proposal is to form a community climate action working group
- Specialists speakers from abroad to come and speak to us in a working group.
- This could be to prioritise items for the budget process
- Could also work on targets – splitting actions between mitigation and adaptation

Process

- Approval of group by Director City Development

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee recommends that Banyule City Council allocates further funding to the Better Score project to ensure another round of funding can be implemented as soon as feasible.

Moved: Paul Gale Baker, supported unanimously.

- All supported an additional recommendation that Banyule City Council should join with BCEG on community engagement to work towards the delivery on better score.
- This recommendation will be investigated and raised once there is a better understanding of what this would look like.

7. Next meeting: December 9th 2021,

- Discussing waste service upgrade
- Request to talk about significant planning developments and NEL.
- In conversation around new waste service include discussion on how it relates to the CAP.

8. Council Reports

- a. **PPA** - From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2030, 100% of Council's electricity will be purchased through two power purchase agreements for renewably sourced electricity, reducing Council's 2018/19 baseline emissions by 56%.

Close. Next Meeting 9 December 2021