



Greener Living Information Book

Local program directory to help you live more sustainably



Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges councils have partnered to develop and deliver an Energy and Water Saver Kit that's available for loan through the local library system, managed by the Your Library Group.

This book has been created as an additional resource to help you live more sustainably by connecting you with local programs, groups and community resources.



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri and Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work on. We pay respect to all Aboriginal community Elders, past and present and emerging.

The following symbols can be used as a guide to the services that may be available to you.



Maroondah Council



Yarra Ranges Council



Knox Council



Businesses only



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Energy

Compare Energy

Victorian Energy Compare helps you to check for a better deal on energy costs and find companies that offer 100% green power.

For more information visit
compare.energy.vic.gov.au



Powerpal

With Powerpal you can instantly see how your energy use changes when you turn home appliances on and off, enabling you to take control of how you use energy in your home.

Visit powerpal.net to claim your free Powerpal.



Solar Savers for Households

Solar Savers is a local government initiative helping households to install quality and affordable rooftop solar, batteries, split system air conditioners and heat pumps. They provide free advice about solar products, government rebates and how to reduce your energy bill. Solar Savers has done the hard work for you by evaluating and selecting a trusted installer with quality products and workmanship.

By installing rooftop solar through Solar Savers, residents can reduce energy bills and future-proof against increasing energy costs while supporting a transition to clean, renewable energy.

Find out more at
solarsavers.org.au



Solar Savers for Business

Businesses located in select Victorian council areas are now able to reduce their electricity bills and carbon footprint by installing solar, batteries, split system air conditioners and heat pumps through the Solar Savers Business program.

The benefits of this program are:

- council supported
- free advice
- trustworthy installers

Find out more at
solarsavers.org.au/business





Victorian Energy Upgrades Program

The Victorian Government is offering incentives to upgrade equipment to more energy efficient products. There are offers and discounts available for households and businesses for the following:

- Lighting
- Water efficiency products
- Hot water system
- Appliances
- Induction cooktops
- Heating and cooling
- and more...

Visit energy.vic.gov.au/victorian-energy-upgrades for more information.



Electrify Everything

For information on transitioning from gas to electric Renew provides expert, independent advice on sustainable solutions on the following:

- Heating and cooling
- Heat pump hot water
- Induction cooking
- Electric vehicles

Find out more at
renew.org.au/resources/how-we-can-help





Electric Vehicles

My Electric Car

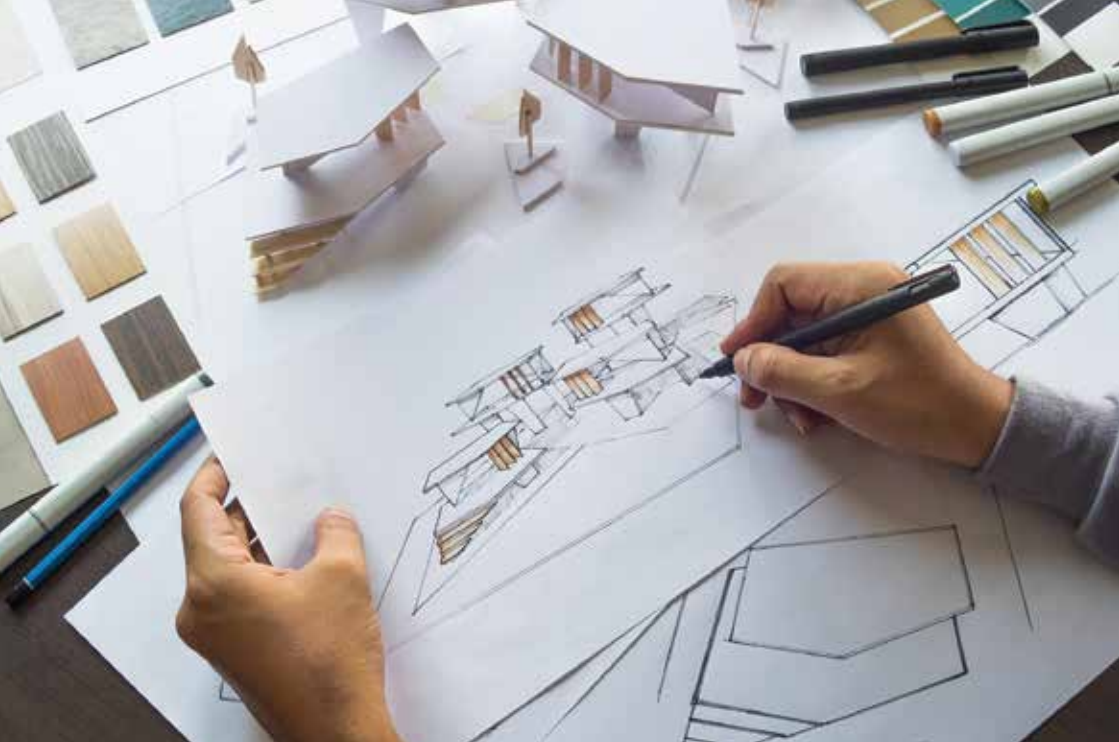
Community information resource for electric cars and vehicles in Australia. Find out more at myelectriccar.com.au

Green Vehicle Guide

The Green Vehicle Guide provides data and tools to help you understand a vehicle's environmental impact. Find out more at greenvehicleguide.gov.au

EV Charging Locations

Plan your journey by finding charging locations at plugshare.com



Sustainable House Day

Sustainable House Day provides the opportunity to explore some of Australia's most unique and inspiring homes, and learn from the people who designed them, built them, and live in them.

Find out more at
sustainablehouseday.com

Guide to Environmentally Sustainable Homes

An independent guide to designing, building and renovating homes to ensure they are energy efficient, comfortable, affordable and adaptable for the future.

Find out more at
yourhome.gov.au



My Energy and Water Saver Kit

Yarra Ranges Council, Knox Council and Maroondah Council partnered to make energy and water saver kits available for residents to borrow free of charge from local libraries.

The kits provide users with the information and tools needed to understand where they are using power and water, to measure usage and identify how they might increase usage efficiency. Waste is also covered in the instruction booklet.

Visit yourlibrary.com.au to book your kit.



Business Edition

Yarra Ranges businesses have the opportunity to borrow the Business Energy and Water Saver Kit by visiting bit.ly/ycrbewsk

Environmental Upgrade Agreements for Businesses

Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUA) lets you, as building owners, access financing to specifically fund environmental building upgrades. Achieved through a partnership with the Sustainable Australia Fund, an EUA allows you to access funds, with the repayments administered by Council. Financing options are available to help you access environmental upgrades including:

- Solar panels
- Energy efficient lighting
- Improved heating and cooling (HVAC) equipment
- Water conservation and wastewater management

Find out more at sustainableaustraliafund.com.au



Energy Saver Program for Business

Businesses located in participating Council areas can register with Energy Savers to receive free advice about how to become more energy efficient and take advantage of the Victorian Government's Energy Upgrade initiative.

What's on offer?

- Upgrade to reverse cycle air-conditioners
- Retrofit to LED Lighting
- Replace inefficient gas hot water systems
- Install energy efficient fridges, freezers, ventilation fans and motors and more

Find out more at businessenergysavers.org





Y

Community-Run Energy Groups

Healesville Community Renewable Energy Inc (Healesville CoRE)

A group of passionate local volunteers whose goal is to transition Healesville into a net-zero town by 2027. They provide a range of services for the community that help improve home energy efficiency and provide education in renewable energy.

healesvillecore.org.au

Repower the Dandenongs

A group dedicated to renewable energy projects in the area who provide residents with practical advice to reduce their carbon footprint and offer resident home energy assessments.

repowerthedandenongs.org.au

Upper Yarra Community Power Ltd

A community group supported by the Warburton and Yarra Junction Community Banks. In 2018 they launched the Warburton Community Hydro system that includes a 100kW turbine that generates power from the water flow in Ythan Creek.

upperyarra.net.au/upper-yarra-community-power



Waste & Recycling

eWaste

eWaste contains potentially hazardous and valuable materials and is banned from going into your rubbish bin (landfill).

Any item with a plug, battery or power cord that's no longer working or wanted is considered eWaste.

To find out how to dispose of your e-waste check your council's website or visit recyclingnearyou.com.au



Detox Your Home

Highly toxic items such as chemicals, should never be put in your rubbish bins or poured down the drain.

You can drop off household chemicals at free Detox Your Home events which are regularly held around Victoria.

Find out more at sustainability.vic.gov.au/DetoxYourHome



Home Composting

Composting is great for your garden and beneficial to the environment and it all takes very little effort! There are now composting solutions to suit a variety of needs and yard sizes. These include:

- bokashi bin
- worm farm
- tumbler
- garden compost bin
- pet poo composters
- homemade composters

Most Councils offer a rebate or purchasing solution to assist residents in buying composting items. Check your Council's website to find out how you can start composting or expand your existing setup.



RecycleMate

RecycleMate is a free phone app that you can use to work out what to do with common and not-so-common items. Photograph or search for an item to find the best recycling or disposal options closest to your home.

The RecycleMate app will also help you determine which items can and can't go into your recycling, FOGO or rubbish bin.

Visit recyclemate.com.au





Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans and beautiful communities.

The Plastic Free July challenge provides resources and ideas to help participants reduce single-use plastic waste every day at home, work, school, and in the community. It can be as easy as picking one single-use plastic item to avoid or swap for a reusable alternative or to challenge yourself/ your family to eliminate all plastic during the month. Once you see how easy it is you'll be able to change life-long habits into more sustainable ones.

Find out more at plasticfreejuly.org

Upparel

Australia's leader in textile recovery and recycling aims to keep end-of-life clothing out of landfill.

All textiles that go to Upparel are reused, repurposed or recycled in some way.

Some councils now allow free textiles drop off at their depot eWaste collection days. Please check with your council.

upparel.com.au



Recycling Near You

When it comes to waste, what goes where isn't always clear and can vary from council to council.

To find out what can be placed in your household bins please check your council's website.

For items that aren't collected visit recyclingnearyou.com.au to discover your closest drop off point.

Container Deposit Scheme

Turn empty containers into cash by returning your empty bottles and cans to a refund point.

Visit cdsvic.org.au



Polystyrene

At Foamex, granulating machines reduce moulded expanded polystyrene into beads which are then reformed into new, sustainably produced expanded polystyrene products.

You can drop off polystyrene at Foamex in Bayswater or check with your council as some offer polystyrene drop off days.

Find out more about polystyrene recycling at foamex.com.au/sustainability/recycling



Repair, Gift, Sell



Sell

Consider selling items if you no longer need them. Facebook Marketplace, eBay, Gumtree and Cash Converters are all options for swapping your items for money.

Garage Sale Trail

Garage Sale Trail is Australia's festival of pre-loved stuff that takes place each November. From its humble beginnings of a handful of garage sales held on the same weekend, it's now held over three weekends and combines in-person and online sales.

Find out more at garagesaletrail.com.au

Repair Cafés

Repair cafés are free meeting places where people with broken items and volunteers come together to repair household items, saving them from landfill. Depending on who is volunteering when you visit you may have access to a highly skilled repairer and their tools. Alternatively, you may have a skill that is valued by your local community.

Items you might see bought to a repair café include clothes, small furniture items, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, toys, jewellery, tools, gardening equipment etc.

Local Repair Cafés

Ringwood Repair Café
30-32 Station St, Ringwood
facebook.com/RingwoodRepairCafe

Knox Repair Café
1010 Burwood Highway
Ferntree Gully
facebook.com/knoxcityrepaircafe

Chirnside Park Repair Café
33 Kimberley Drive, Chirnside Park
facebook.com/people/Chirnside-Park-Repair-Cafe/100091407493334

No repair cafe in your area?
Why not start one? Visit
repaircafe.org/en





Gifting Economy

Buy Nothing Project

The Buy Nothing Project offers people a way to give and receive, share, lend, and express gratitude through a worldwide gift economy network in which the true wealth is the web of connections formed between people.

To take part in a Buy Nothing group search Facebook for one near you or download the app to your phone. These groups operate in neighbourhood areas, therefore, you can only join the group that is in or nearest your suburb. If there isn't a group in your area, consider starting one.

Find out more at [buynothingproject.org](https://www.buynothingproject.org)



Freecycle

A non-profit movement of people who are giving and getting stuff for free in their own towns. Find out more at [freecycle.org](https://www.freecycle.org)



Op Shops

Local op shops will take homewares, clothes, toys and other items that are in good condition.



UpCycles Bicycle Hub

UpCycles is a bicycle maintenance and upcycling hub at ECOSS in Wesburn.

Discarded bicycles and unwanted bicycle parts are provided by local bike shops. Youth teams and community members of all abilities refurbish the bicycles for charity and for sale at ECOSS.

The proceeds of the sales of the bikes are reinvested into purchasing essential tools and parts to continue the program.

Yarra Valley ECOSS
711 Old Warburton Rd, Wesburn
ecoss.org.au



Water Saving Initiatives

As part of the Victorian Energy Upgrades, Victorian households and businesses can receive a rebate for changing a conventional shower head to a water-saving one.

Also as part of the Victorian Energy Upgrades, those with an inefficient electric water heater are eligible for rebates on installing a more energy efficient water heater. This can help save money, electricity, and water.

Find out more by visiting the Victorian Energy Saver website:
energy.vic.gov.au





River to the Bay Stencil Kits

Three large stencil kits featuring an image of a dolphin and a platypus along with rubbish are available to borrow from local libraries. The aim of the kits are to build awareness around the damage litter and pollution has on our creeks and rivers which then flows through to Port Phillip Bay affecting flora and fauna along the way.

In addition to the large kits, there are five small 'class set' style kits that have the dolphin and platypus stencils. These are intended for users to get creative and add their own waste-free messages to their designs.

The kits can be used to create permanent or temporary stencils and customised with an educational message about littering.

Find out more at yourlibrary.com.au



Platypus Education Group

The Platypus Education Group (PEG) began life with a grant from Yarra Ranges Council in 2015 and is made up of professional biologists, teachers, childcare workers, performers and environmentalists who combine their skills to create fun activities for children all ages to enjoy and learn from.

The group runs a Platypus Ambassador Program where children aged 8-12 are equipped with the knowledge and confidence to become stewards of their local natural environment and to educate their community and peers about ways to protect local platypus populations.

Find out more at platypuseducation.com



Schools/Early Years

Eastern Alliance for Sustainable Learning

The Eastern Alliance for Sustainable Learning (EASL) is an alliance between seven councils: Boroondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges.

EASL offers services and support to schools and early years to better incorporate sustainability into their curriculum, facilities and policies, with the wider goal of better incorporating sustainability into the community within its member councils.

The alliance works with schools to support and connect educators within these Councils and focus on promoting sustainability initiatives primarily through Professional Development (PD) and networking for schools and early years. This includes PD sessions each term and the annual Learning for Sustainability Teachers Conference.

EASL is the ResourceSmart Schools delivery partner for the Eastern Melbourne Metro region.

Find out more at easl.com.au





ResourceSmart Schools

ResourceSmart Schools (RSS) is funded by Victorian Government through Sustainability Victoria. It aims to embed sustainability into curriculum, campus and community and results in measurable environmental change.

Since 2008 more than 1,600 schools have participated in the program. Together, they have:

- saved more than \$60 million on bills
- planted 5.2 million trees
- saved more than 74,000 tonnes CO₂e greenhouse gas emissions
- diverted 168,000 cubic metres of waste from landfill
- saved 1.8 million kilolitres of water.

If you would like more information about EASL or the ResourceSmart Schools program visit sustainability.vic.gov.au/our-work/resourcesmart-schools or contact us via info@easl.com.au



Growing Programs

Gardens for Wildlife

The Gardens for Wildlife Program (gardensforwildlifevictoria.com) is a network of community members and councils who work together to assist residents to develop a garden (or an area within their garden) to support local wildlife.

The program is free to join and open to residents who live within a Council that offers the program. Local volunteers are engaged to visit new member's gardens and to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for wildlife.

Currently offered by Knox Council and Yarra Ranges Council – please visit the relevant Council website for more information.



Gardens for Harvest

The Gardens for Harvest Program provides advice on growing your own fresh fruit and veggies and maintaining your food garden. Benefits of joining the program include invitations to gardening workshops and events, access to a monthly newsletter and a Gardens for Harvest e-booklet.

Currently offered by Knox Council and Yarra Ranges Council – please visit the relevant Council website for more information.





Permaculture Yarra Valley

Permaculture Yarra Valley (PYV) is a not-for-profit association, incorporated in Victoria under the Association's Incorporation Reform Act of 2012. We have a bio-regional focus on the Yarra Valley, with our membership spread throughout the Yarra Valley and adjoining areas.

Find out more at permacultureyarravalley.org

Mountain Districts Permaculture Group

Mountain Districts Permaculture Group (MDPG) consists of around 80 members who live in and around the beautiful Dandenong Ranges. MDPG is a sub group of Permaculture Victoria.

Find out more at permaculturevictoria.org.au/groups/mountain-districts-permaculture-group



Ribbons of Green

Yarra Ranges Council offers free native plants for private properties over 1 hectare, schools and community groups through its Ribbons of Green program. The program aims to plant 60,000 natives each year to provide habitat for native birds and animals. Certain conditions must be met to be eligible for this program.

Find out more at yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Environment



Yarra Valley Bee Group

The Yarra Valley Bee group is a not-for-profit community group with an emphasis on sustainable and natural beekeeping. We support local beekeepers by facilitating monthly educational talks, workshops, field trips, mentor programs, book and equipment libraries and the Yarra Valley Honey co op, which makes local backyard honey available for our community.

yarravalleybeegroup.org.au

Indigenous Plant Nurseries

Indigenous plants are those that grew naturally in a specific area before other flora species were introduced. The plants are well suited to the climate and should require minimum care. The nursery's listed below are typically volunteer run and offer cost-effective indigenous plants.

Candlebark Community Nursery

Corner of Hull Rd and Taylor Rd
Mooroolbark
candlebark.org.au

Crisp Nursery

17 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood
crispnursery.org.au

ECOSS Native Nursery*

711 Old Warburton Road, Wesburn
ecoss.org.au

Kuranga Nursery*

118 York Rd, Mount Evelyn
kuranga.com.au/native-nursery

Southern Dandenongs Community Nursery

271 Mt Morton Rd, Belgrave Heights
sdcn.org.au

Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Nursery

1217 Macclesfield Rd, Yellingbo
helmetedhoneyeater.org.au/nursery

Knox Environment Society Nursery

1010 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully
kes.org.au

*also sells native plants



Farmers Markets

Healesville Organic Farmers Market

Coronation Park, Healesville

Every Saturday morning

facebook.com/healesvilleorganicmarket

Heathmont Farmers Market

Great Ryrie St, Heathmont

4th Sunday of the month

facebook.com/rfmheathmont

Lilydale Craft and Produce Market

Bellbird Park, Akarana Rd, Lilydale

1st Sunday of the month

facebook.com/LilydaleCraftandProduceMarket

Seeds of Life Farmers Market

34 Main Street Upwey

4th Sunday of the month

facebook.com/solfarmersmarket

Wantirna Farmers and Makers Market

120 Mountain Hwy, Wantirna

3rd Sunday of the month

facebook.com/wantirnafarmersandmakersmarket

Yarra Valley Farmers Market

10 St Huberts Rd, Coldstream

3rd Sunday of the month

yarravalleyfood.com.au

The Valley Market at ECOSS

711 Old Warburton Road, Wesburn

Every Friday 3.30pm to 6pm

valleymarket.com.au





Community Gardens

Community gardens are places where people come together to grow fresh food, to learn, relax and make new friends.

Bedford Park Community Garden

Rosewarne Lane, Ringwood

facebook.com/BedfordParkCommunityGarden

Belgrave Food Garden

1624 Burwood Hwy, Belgrave

bfg.earth

Croydon Community Garden

5 Trawalla Road, Croydon

localfoodconnect.org.au/community-gardening/croydon-community-garden

Eastland Multicultural Community Garden

Warrandyte Road, Ringwood

localfoodconnect.org.au/community-gardening/eastland-multicultural-community-garden

ECOSS Community Garden

711 Old Warburton Road, Wesburn

ecoss.org.au

Edible Warburton Community Garden

3394 Warburton Hwy, Warburton

facebook.com/EdibleWarburton

Glen Park Oaks Community Garden

30 Glen Park Road, Bayswater North

facebook.com/Glenparkoakscommunitygarden

Healesville Community Garden

River Street, Healesville

facebook.com/HealesvilleCommunitygarden

Hills Community Garden

75 Pakenham Rd, Cockatoo

facebook.com/HillsCommunityGardens

Knox Community Gardens Society Inc.

254 Scoresby Road, Boronia

knoxcommunitygardens.org.au

Lilydale Community Garden

118 Main St, Lilydale

facebook.com/p/Lilydale-Community-Gardens-100064403693094

Mooroolbark Community Garden

8 Station St, Mooroolbark

facebook.com/mooroolbarkocg

Ringwood Community Garden

Selkirk Avenue, Wantirna

facebook.com/Ringwood-Community-Garden-Inc-353160374796916

Tables Community Garden

78 Cuthbert Street, Heathmont

facebook.com/tablescommunitygarden

Tecoma Community Garden

3 Campbell Street, Tecoma

Tecoma Flame Garden

1566 Burwood Highway, Tecoma

facebook.com/groups/539055269540892

The Basin Food is Free and Community Garden

The Basin

facebook.com/groups/thebasinfoodisfreeproject

Yarra Glen Community Garden

12-14 Anzac Ave, Yarra Glen

yarraglen.com/livingandlearning



For more information about
community gardening visit
communitygarden.org.au

For more information about this book contact
sustainability@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

