

Sustainability Victoria
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NORTHERN
ALLIANCE FOR
GREENHOUSE
ACTION

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Submission to the Draft Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Strategic Plan

The **Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA)**, which began operating in 2002, is a network of 9 Councils spanning the northern region of Melbourne from the CBD to the rural/urban fringe (see footnote) and Moreland Energy Foundation. The Alliance shares information, coordinates and implements community based emission reduction activities, undertakes research into reducing carbon emissions across the NAGA region, and cooperates on the research and development of innovative corporate emissions projects. NAGA also establishes partnerships and linkages with state and federal government agencies and departments, local government and industry associations, community groups and consultants to facilitate climate change action in the Northern Metro region. Over the last 2 years, NAGA has attracted more than \$1,000,000 in cash and in-kind contributions to implement climate action projects in the NAGA region, demonstrating significant emission reduction innovation at the local government and regional level.

One of NAGA's current strategic priorities is the *Towards Zero Net Emissions* project, funded through the Sustainability Accord. The project will include the establishment of baseline greenhouse emissions data for the region and identify actions and opportunities to progress towards a Zero Net Emissions target.

The waste sector contributes 3.3% to Victoria's greenhouse emissions (based on 2005 figures). Ensuring that our waste reduction, education, collection and processing systems into the future not only achieve zero waste but also contribute to zero greenhouse emissions will be a necessary component of greenhouse reduction targets (including the ever increasing number of Councils who are setting Carbon Neutral community targets) and an urgent environmental priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Review. We note and support that one of the key drivers of the Strategic Plan is:

A need to manage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as energy and water consumption in response to climate change.

NAGA's key concerns and recommendations related to the draft Strategic Plan are:

- management and reduction of greenhouse emissions in the waste sector need to be of the significant magnitude required to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. This should be made explicit through greenhouse reduction targets in the plan;
- State funding and incentives should adequately support and enable local government to make waste management choices that meet significant greenhouse reduction targets and return the best overall environmental outcome (eg higher grade products from treatment of organic waste);
- waste reduction and education needs a higher emphasis and priority in the plan - while difficult to tackle and achieve, this is clearly the outcome we need for sustainability;
- Product Stewardship should be an integral part of waste reduction strategies. There needs to be stronger encouragement from Government for companies to take more responsibility for the waste they are creating through their products/packaging.

I look forward to your consideration of these comments and the release of the final Strategic Plan.

Yours sincerely

Judy Bush
NAGA Coordinator

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL, DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL, HUME CITY COUNCIL, MANNINGHAM CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF MELBOURNE,
MORELAND CITY COUNCIL, MORELAND ENERGY FOUNDATION LIMITED, NILLUMBIK SHIRE COUNCIL, CITY OF WHITTLESEA, CITY OF YARRA