

Prepare your home

- Insulate ceilings, floors and walls to reduce cooling and heating bills
- Draft proof doors and windows
- Minimise heat gain in summer by shading the north and west sides of the house
- Decrease heat gain in summer and reduce heat loss in winter by using blinds and drapes
- Adjust thermostats, 1°C less when cooling can save you 10% in cooling costs
- Choose energy and water efficient fittings and appliances
- Turn off electrical appliances when not in use
- Only boil as much water as you need
- Only pre-heat the oven if necessary and avoid opening the oven door during cooking
- Only run the dishwasher with a full load
- Dry clothes out doors or use a clothes horse rather than the dryer
- Check the temperature of your refrigerator and freezer. Freezers should be between -15°C and -18°C, while fridge compartments should be around 2°C to 4°C
- Plant water efficient gardens
- Grow your own fruit and vegies

Prepare for extreme heat

- Prepare for heatwaves by having a cool room or planning to go to a cool place (e.g library, community centre, cinema)
- Drink plenty of water
- Avoid being outdoors during extreme heat
- Check on elderly and children, as they need particular care in heatwaves
- The Department of Health's "Staying Healthy in the Heat" brochure contains information on how to take care of yourself and others in times of heat. Visit www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/heatwaves-healthy-heat-brochure.htm

Prepare for flood

- Council has prepared a Flood Safe brochure to assist residents to prepare for flood events, it can be downloaded at www.benalla.vic.gov.au/Files/FloodSafe_Brochure.pdf
- For information about how to stay healthy during flood events see www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/floods.htm
- Visit www.ses.vic.gov.au for further flood preparation information and to download practical guides, fact sheets and planners on preparing and protecting your family and property.

Prepare for fire

- Be aware of your risk and during times of risk, monitor conditions and stay informed
- To understand your risks, prepare your property and develop a Bushfire Survival Plan visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667

Look out for your neighbours

Check on your neighbours, friends and family. The elderly and children need particular care in heatwaves and during emergency events.

Get involved

- Benalla Sustainable Future Group promotes a sustainable vision for Benalla. Contact details can be found at <http://ecoportal.net.au/organisations/benalla-sustainable-future-group>.
- Eco Portal is a guide to sustainability related activities and groups in our region. Visit www.ecoportal.net.au

Visit www.benalla.vic.gov.au for more information



BENALLA RURAL CITY COUNCIL
**CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION
ACTION PLAN**

**We live in
a changing climate...**

Let's prepare





Council is also a member of both the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance (www.gbga.org.au) and the North East Greenhouse Alliance (www.negha.org.au) which promote and support regional action on climate change and enables Council to work collaboratively with other councils in the region.

Benalla Rural City Council is planning for a future with greater climate variability and more extreme weather events. In the future it is likely that we will experience more heatwaves, intense and frequent fires, floods and storms. This fact sheet is designed to encourage you to think about how our future might be different and how you can be prepared for the change.

Our recreation is likely to occur in a hotter, drier environment. We may have to consider timing of events, shading and installing alternative playing surfaces.



Please visit our website to view further information on the actions Council is taking to prepare for greater climate variability and emergency events.
www.benalla.vic.gov.au

- www.saveandraise.com.au
- www.switchon.vic.gov.au
- www.sustainability.vic.gov.au
- www.livinggreener.gov.au
- www.nerwa.vic.gov.au

