

VICTORIA

POPULATION (2019): 6,566,170

2020 TARGET: 25% RE

& -15/20% OF GHGE (BASELINE 2005)

2025 TARGET: 40% RE

2050 TARGET: NET-ZERO GHG EMISSIONS



Placing actors' efforts at the core of policies

Climate policy governance and integration

Victoria is responsible for almost a quarter of Australia's total net emissions (21.7% in 2017). The [Climate Change Act 2017](#) acts as a legislative foundation to manage risks and reinforce resilience in the face of climate change. The Act requires [five-yearly sector-based Adaptation Action Plans](#) to be developed. Every 5 years, starting in 2020, Victoria will state interim targets to comply by 2050 with net-zero emissions; these targets are independently reviewed by a panel of experts. Having set a -15 to -20% GHG emissions reduction by 2020 (baseline: 2005), the current projection estimates the reduction to be of 18.2%: [Victoria is on track to meet its target](#).

Launched in 2016, [TAKE2](#) is Australia's first state government-led pledge initiative: individuals, businesses, local governments, community organisations, schools, and education centres can all take the pledge and commit to Victoria's 2050 targets. 13,000 actors are part of this network, and the programme lists all possible undertakings for each category of stakeholder.

The [Virtual Centre for Climate Change Innovation](#) (VCCCI) was established to foster the collaboration between businesses, industries, researchers, and the Victorian government. The VCCCI has a Climate Change Innovation Grants Programme providing \$4.3 million to support 24 projects that could drive greater investments, such as [increasing soil carbon sequestration in dryland grazing systems](#), or [self-sensing flood resilient smart roads](#).

Climate policy tracking

GHG emissions trends of Victoria have been inconsistent since 2005. However, between 2005 and 2016, emissions overall decreased by 14.1 MtCO₂e, and the state began improving its carbon sinks from 2011, reaching a sequestration of 9.7 MtCO₂e in 2016.

Energy - Supporting solar energy self-consumption

[Victoria's renewable energy action plan](#) sets forth a 2020 objective of 25% of renewable energy use, and 40% by 2025. To deliver on its 2020 and 2025 renewable energy targets, Victoria uses a [reverse auction mechanism](#) to fund renewable energy generation projects until 900 MW. The auction guarantees an output price for project developers via 15-year contracts for 2/3 of the capacity; the rest is exposed to the market.

Victoria's efforts to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency also include the [Greener Government Buildings programme](#) – a combination of lighting upgrades, solar panels, heating, ventilation, and cooling upgrades, and building automation and controls – which has abated 686,000 tonnes of GHG per year since 2009. Launched in August 2018, the state-level rebate scheme "[Solar Homes program](#)" hopes to increase the solar capacity of residential buildings (for households that have less than \$180,000 of taxable yearly income) to [2.6GW of solar power systems on 650 000 rooftops](#). The offer initially consisted in half-price rebates for small-scale PV installations (\$2,225 subsidies), and [monthly allocations were exhausted within hours](#), which showed the scheme's success (despite some [criticism](#)). The recent return to power of the Labour Party is enabling an extension of the offer with interest-free loans, half-price battery storage, and access to rooftop solar rebates for renters.

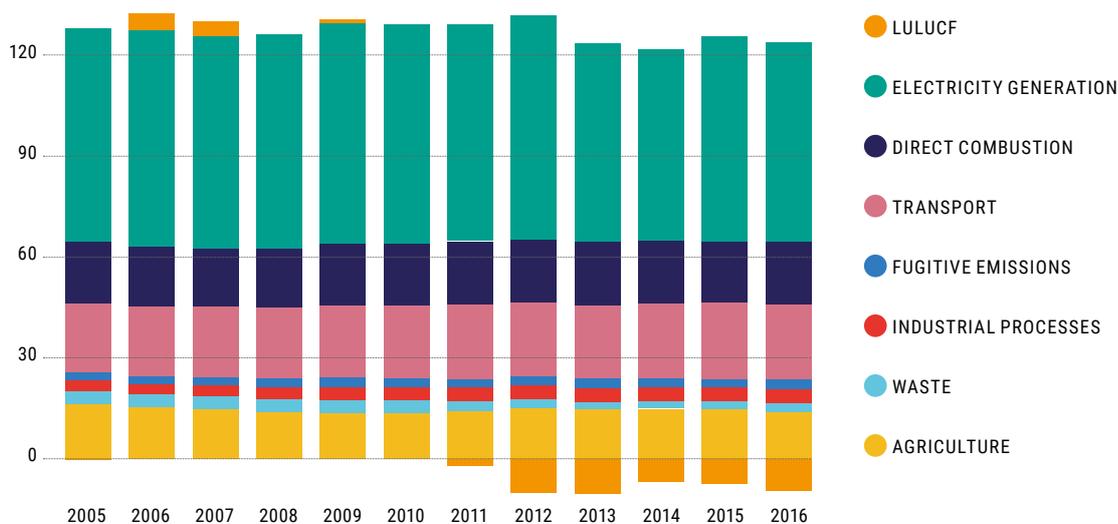
Mobility – Infrastructure investments for individual electric cars

The Victorian Government [fosters low-emissions transport](#): for instance, it has provided funding to support a commercial electric and hydrogen vehicle manufacturing facility, and offered [registration discounts](#) for hybrid and electric passenger vehicles (although only \$100 per registered car).

[Australia's fastest electric vehicle charging station](#) is currently being developed in Victoria. The State Government initially gave \$1 million to Chargefox (the business constructing two sites and multiple charging stations on them, operational before 2019) which the company promised to match. Their success

GHG EMISSIONS AND ABSORPTIONS VICTORIA 2005 TO 2016 (IN MTCO2E)

Source: Victoria emissions by sector, retrieved from [Victorian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2018](#)



led the state government to give another \$2 million to develop 5 additional charging stations. The [Australian Renewable Energy Agency \(ARENA\)](#) also weighed in with \$6 million, out of the project's \$15 million total costs. Charging time is to be dramatically reduced: 15 minutes should be enough for a 400-kilometre drive. Electricity is [100% sourced from renewable sources](#), sometimes from [on-site solar electricity](#) (coupled with battery storage). The hope is that this technology will [boost tourism opportunities](#) by facilitating interstate travel.

Land Uses – Native forests at risk

Victoria's forests are [among the world's most carbon-dense forests](#). In 2016, they provided [net sequestration of 9.7 MtCO₂e](#) representing -8.5% of net emissions. Land is set to remain a carbon sink at least until 2020, but it is expected that the sector's sequestration capacity will be reduced by 25.3% because of the harvesting activities of commercial plantations.

For this purpose, [VicForests](#), the Victorian government's logging business, is allocated 1.82 million ha out of Victoria's 7.6 million ha of native forests. But logging advocates argue that only 450,000 ha (5.7%) of the state's native forest estate are [suitable for harvesting](#). They also argue that buildings and furniture issued from logging store carbon, although most logging products are bound to short-term uses. These short-lived wood products issued from native forests quickly end up in landfills where they decompose and release the carbon they were storing back into the atmosphere. [Illegal logging outside of allocation zones](#) and at hundreds of locations across the state is suspected – meanwhile, the Victorian government does not exclude the [possibility of allowing more logging](#) in its national parks.

ADAPTATION

TOUCHES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

After collaborating on climate adaptation from 2013 to 2016 with all 79 local councils through [the Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability Partnership](#), the State government developed [its Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020](#): it includes a commitment to [6-monthly implementation monitoring, 18-month reviews and 3-year reviews](#).

The [Supporting our Regions to Adapt](#) programme, costing \$9.3 million and funded over 3 years through the Sustainability Fund, focuses on collaborative action between the Victorian government and regional communities. In 2017-18, all 6 DELWP regional offices provided Regional Adaptation Snapshot Reports to help shape state-level policies. The Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability Partnership notably funds [The Rural People: Resilient Futures Project](#) that aims to reduce the vulnerability of Southern Grampians Shire inhabitants whose health and wellbeing may be affected by climate-enhanced phenomena such as heatwaves, fires, and droughts.

The [Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning \(DELWP\)](#) is improving Victoria's flood warning systems notably with [FloodZoom](#) (which brings together forecasts, mapping, real-time river height gauges and property data).

[Indigenous cultural burning](#) has been reintroduced in Victoria in the hope of revitalising the land and reducing risks of forest fires: 27 cultural burns, undertaken by Forest Management Victoria in collaboration with Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, are planned from 2019 to 2021.