



CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITY – FOOD PROJECT

PROJECT BACKGROUND- FOOD SUSTAINABILITY: A community resilience building action research project managed by the Rural City of Wangaratta funded by the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning. The overall project goal is to assist agencies and organisations to work with individuals to build skills, knowledge and capacity to prepare for impacts of climate change on food issues.

PROJECT PARTNERS: The COMMUNITY FOOD FOR ALL NETWORK (CFFA) is a network of people, agencies and groups who are interested in improving access to healthy and affordable food in Wangaratta, and the surrounding rural communities. The network is represented by the following sectors: health services, welfare services, community services, service clubs, education, government, neighborhood houses, local producers and general community. The objective of the CFFA initiative is to assist in the sharing of information and resources as well as to improve partnerships. The goal is to strengthen and sustain our local food system.

OUTCOMES: Through the Community Food for All forums the community is more aware of the impacts of climate change on food issues. With the support of the CFFA, 'Cooking circles' have been introduced to the community and are developing throughout the network. 'Cooking circles' encourage preserving and cooking with local seasonal food whilst also encouraging food waste reduction. The project has contributed to a Community Food for All Food hub: including a kitchen garden and kitchen library for organisations and individuals to access kitchen equipment to continue 'Cooking circles'. A printable resource has been produced: A Community Food For all publication: 'Seasonal cooking' (including local seasonal food availability, tips for food waste reduction and food preservation)

PROJECT OUTCOMES SUMMARY:

- Introduction and promotion of 'Cooking Circle' concept through the CFFA network to encourage preparation and preservation of local seasonal food and encourage reducing food waste as well.
- CFFA Food hub: including kitchen garden and kitchen library equipment for community cooking circle access-based on CFFA requests
- CFFA forum 'Seasonal Food: Seasonal changes' presentations on impacts of climate change on food issues.
- CFFA forum 'Future Food Sustainability': Wangaratta Food security report presentation and focus group discussion and feedback for consideration in development of council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing plan.
- CFFA publication of Seasonal cooking (including local seasonal food availability, and tips for food waste reduction and food preservation).
- DEWLP project movie published on website.

For further information contact Wangaratta Council's Sustainability team on (03) 5722 0888

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CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITY – RENT SAVERS

PROJECT BACKGROUND-RENTERS SAVE: A community resilience building action research project managed by the Rural City of Wangaratta, funded by the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water, & Planning. The overall project goal is to assist agencies and organisations to work with individuals to build skills, knowledge and capacity to prepare for impacts of climate change on rental homes.

PROJECT PARTNER: Rural Housing Network (RHN) are an organisation with a commitment to addressing housing affordability, tackling homelessness, and fostering housing stability. Rural Housing are the largest social and community housing organisation within the Hume region of Victoria, providing housing to over 950 people in the community. RHN own or manage over 700 properties including long term community housing and transitional housing. They are the main entry point for the homelessness system and provide a range of supports for people at homeless or at risk of homelessness. Each year they see over 4000 people in need of assistance to secure or maintain their housing. They have over 50 staff supporting offices in Wodonga, Wangaratta, Shepparton and Seymour. They also provide outreach to Wallan, Broadford, Kilmore, Alexandra, Yea, Myrtleford, Yarrawonga, Cobram and Benalla. Rural Housing is registered with the Victorian Registrar for Housing agencies and have achieved accreditation for the Department of Human Services Standards. The Transitional Housing Program provides secure, partially furnished short-term housing for people experiencing homelessness. While in this housing, clients work with a support agency towards a long term housing outcome that is suitable. The program assists in understanding rights and responsibilities when renting a property so clients can move on to a long term tenancy. Transitional Housing is managed under the [Opening Doors Framework](#). The RENTERS SAVE project especially targets transitional housing clients.

PROJECT OUTCOMES: After climate change discussion workshops, Rural Housing Network staff are more informed and prepared for climate change issues that impact on their clients' home living. Clients have the option of being provided with any or all of the following to support energy and water efficiency in the home: A box of four energy efficient light globes, a 'green' re-usable shopping bag, four minute shower timers, and house thermometers. (The thermometers include recommended winter heating and summer cooling temperatures as well as both fridge and freezer temperatures.) Each new client receives heatwave and storm tips, as well as home energy and water saving tips when they sign up. These simple tips can help clients save on their bills. RHN also include this information on their website and client newsletters. Staff also have energy monitors to check appliance energy use, which clients are welcome to borrow as well. Staff have window insulation options which can be used as required for client homes. RHN also have a more detailed and comprehensive booklet 'HOME SAVERS- Energy and water saving tips for the home'.

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