

About Us

ClimateClever is a social enterprise made up of a team of passionate sustainability and climate professionals with backgrounds in research, policy, industry, education and infrastructure. We bring a unique set of skills combining academic action-based research with industry best practice, to empower schools and organisations to achieve measurable sustainability and climate goals.

The ClimateClever Initiative is a partnership between Curtin University, the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Low Carbon Living and ClimateClever.

The Program

The ClimateClever Initiative is a new and engaging program designed specifically to help schools measure, monitor and reduce their carbon footprint, and become leaders in sustainability and climate action in their community.

Developed following years of research and successful pilots and demonstration projects, the 2018 ClimateClever program has distilled the most effective components of these pilots to create a new data-driven web App, consisting of three interactive online tools. The App enables schools around Australia to easily calculate and track their carbon footprint, conduct an audit of their school buildings, and create a personalised action plan to reduce consumption, costs, and carbon emissions across all utilities.

The program is also supported by curriculum materials to enable teachers to use the App in the classroom to ensure the program is primarily student-led. We also hold quarterly in-person meet-ups with groups of participating schools to help keep them accountable and enable them to share experiences.



Tree planting in Yarloop
Credit: David Baylis and Community Newspapers

The Online Tools



Measure

Our online **Carbon Calculator** helps schools calculate their carbon emissions, providing benchmarks and baselines to allow the school to track emissions and costs annually and compare results with schools across the country.



Audit

Our online **Building Audit Tool** allows students to record and understand how their school buildings and facilities consume resources and impact their overall carbon footprint. This can be tracked annually and assets can be compared with other schools.



Action

The personalised online **Climate Action Plan** provides advice on how to systematically reduce schools' carbon footprint. It enables schools to assign tasks and actions, set deadlines, track monitor progress and share experiences.

Why Schools?

Buildings contribute about 11% of Australia's energy consumption and represent some of the most cost effective carbon reduction opportunities. There are over 1130 schools in WA, many of which are ageing and becoming increasingly inefficient. Our program is demonstrating how simple, low cost actions can massively reduce energy, water and waste consumption within schools.

Furthermore, as schools form a pivotal role in society, connecting many people, they provide an ideal opportunity for councils to engage with their local community and have a real and quantifiable impact.

Why Councils

Australia currently ranks fourth last out of 57 countries in global climate change action, and yet research and engagement consistently shows local communities' rate a healthy environment and strong action on climate change as top priorities. Many local governments already have strong climate and carbon reduction targets and KPI's. As the level of government closest to the community, local councils are more agile and can affect change quickly and more effectively than other levels of government. However, they often lack the resources or capacity to deliver programs that deliver significant, measurable results, or at a wide enough scale.

Together, we can make a huge difference!



How Councils Benefit from the Program

There are numerous ways your council can benefit from a partnership with ClimateClever including:

A concrete and measurable way to meet your own carbon reduction commitments and sustainability goals

Our program is a cost effective, wide-reaching initiative that delivers results in an area that's often hard to target and measure by councils. Many LGAs have climate commitments and KPIs in their strategic plans but councils often lack the resources or momentum to introduce new programs or measure the results of existing ones. Partnering with us means you will be able to use the school's annual reports – which quantify the carbon reduction, as well as low carbon initiatives implemented – to measure and monitor the impact of the program. These results can ultimately count towards your own targets. There is no need for expensive consultants or complicated technical carbon accounting – we do all the work for you and the results and success is shared!

Support a low cost, high impact program

For a relatively small investment, we are seeing significant results. Schools are making deep cuts to the amount of energy, water and waste they're using, which translates to low cost emissions abatement.

Genuine community engagement around sustainability and low carbon living

Many strategic plans include the goal to increase awareness and education on sustainability and climate change in the community. This program provides a way to upskill a large and engaged audience of students and school staff. And, as students bring knowledge home to their families, they create intergenerational change and engage your wider community **for** you!

The opportunity for urban greening and tree planting in your local government area

One of the most inspiring parts of our program has been the creation of a tree planting program where participating schools volunteer to plant trees to offset their annual emissions. To date, over 50,000 trees have been planted across Perth and regional WA. The program could be adapted to enhance your urban forest or greening strategy and help progress your goals in a shorter amount of time.

Become true leaders

By joining the ClimateClever Initiative you are showing leadership in sustainability and climate action. You are helping to engage, educate and up-skill students – our future leaders – around climate change and in an effective and fun way. By doing so, we are essentially future-proofing ourselves.

Help schools make significant savings on their utility bills

In an age of budget cuts and resource scarcity, this is a concrete way you can help schools make significant savings on their utility bills, money they can inject back into learning (or further sustainability actions). Based on early results, schools who create and implement ambitious action plans are likely to save at least 10% on their water and energy costs.



What we'll deliver

Councils supporting the program will be provided with:



Updates and reports tracking the progress and results of the low carbon initiatives adopted by the school and the associated reductions in carbon and costs for energy, gas, water and waste, which you can use to help meet your own KPI's and in reports and strategies.



Tailored presentations for your council meetings, events or for professional development for staff.



Branding and formal recognition on our website and publications.



Opportunities to participate in events we organise such as tree plantings and workshops.



Quarterly facilitated meet-ups – Councillors and staff are welcome to attend our facilitated and inspiring quarterly meet-ups where participating schools share experiences and progress with other schools on the journey.



De-identified comparison data against other schools to compare your progress.



Joint media opportunities to celebrate what we are collectively achieving.



Council Support

As a partner, you would commit to:

Subsidising the cost for schools in your LGA to participate in the program. The cost for schools in 2018 is \$8 per student, with fees capped at \$6,500. We know for some schools this can be prohibitive, which is why council support is much appreciated! However, we recommend a subsidy of no more than 50% per school, to ensure maximum buy-in for all parties. It's completely up to you how many schools you would like to assist.

Additional ways to support the program:

- Provide an introduction to schools in your area;
- Promote our program through your newsletters and other communications with your ratepayers, residents and schools;
- Facilitate media opportunities to communication our joint success;
- Provide local advice on suppliers and service providers for schools;
- Invite ClimateClever to speak at your events or professional development, or for a briefing to your council or sustainability officers;
- Attend quarterly group meet-ups with schools where possible;
- Join collaborative applications for grants available at the local, state or federal level for sustainability, climate change and/or innovation;
- A financial or in-kind contribution such as a branded sponsorship.





What participants are saying about the program

"As a local government, there is always a need to reach your community and support them in their sustainability journey. This is not always easy to do for a local government, and finding creative ways to get the community engaged in carbon reduction and sustainability initiatives can prove challenging. Working with a great team like SimplyCarbon [now ClimateClever]...just seemed like a great fit and an engaging way to best amplify the allocation of sustainability funding across the wider community. Given the aggregated potential of this program across the state, and the country, we feel that the funds that the City of Fremantle contributed to initially subsidising schools in the program...were immensely well spent and we hope the program continues to grow and develop into the future."

– **Melanie Bainbridge**
former Sustainability Officer City of Fremantle

Based on results so far, and having received overwhelmingly positive feedback from schools, we're excited to be expanding our program to achieve greater carbon reduction. We are looking for more local governments interested to join us on this exciting and rewarding journey. Together, we can help lead the nation in action on climate change.

**There's been
no better time for
local governments
to step up.**

**Will you
join us?**

With the proud support of:



Curtin University



**LOW CARBON LIVING
CRC**

