



How can cities lead a just and climate-resilient future?

Intercontinental Think Tank Asia-Oceania
11 January 2026, 3am UTC



Housekeeping



Use the chat line to ask questions and make comments

Use welcoming and inclusive language

Ask short, succinct questions

Answer questions or comment respectfully



Today's Journey



**Welcome
and framing**

**What is
Zonta Says
NOW?**

**What is a
C40 city?**



**C40 Cities
Huey Yoong**



**Cities and Heat
Krista Milne**



Discussion

**Key
takeaways**



Closing remarks

Virtual Art Gallery

Next Think Tank

Other news

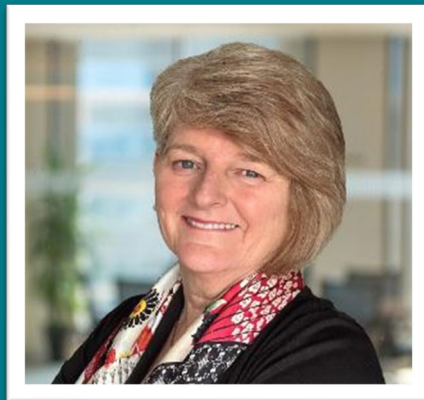


Our Think Tank Team Today

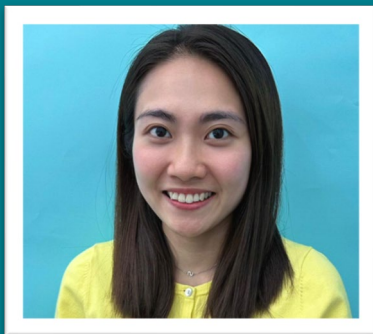
Hosting Team



Rendy Ng
Zonta Club of New Territories II,
Hong Kong



Carole Theobald
Zonta Club of Perth,
Western Australia

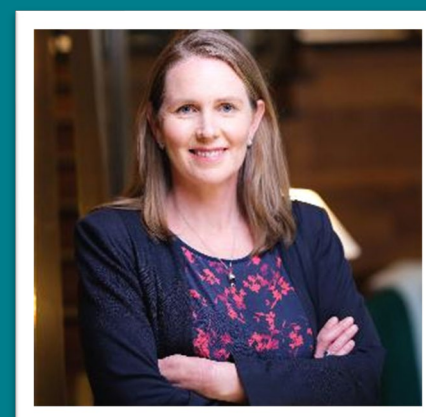


Sarah Wong
Technical Support
Hong Kong

Guest Speakers



Huey Yoong
Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia



Krista Milne
Melbourne
Australia



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The Train

Increased
carbon pollution

Causes global heating and
extreme weather events

Triggering social
disruption

Magnifying gender
inequality



Stops the train by taking **climate action** (Paris Agreement) and closing the gender gaps in **decision-making, education, economic opportunity, disaster preparedness, health and safety**





Zonta Says NOW seeks climate justice for women and girls

So women and girls can
prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from the
impacts of climate change on the same basis as men



What is a C40 City?

Cities generate over 70% of global CO2 emissions

C40
CITIES

97 Cities representing 920 million people and 23% of the world's economy.

C40 cities aim to:



Halve fossil fuel use by
2030



Build Climate-Resilient
Cities



Deliver a Fair, Inclusive
Transition



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Head of Implementation
for East, SEA and
Oceania at C40 Cities

C40
CITIES

Link to C40 Knowledge Hub

<https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/>

- Leads climate action across major cities including Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Quezon City, Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City
- Portfolio spans energy transition, net-zero buildings, climate adaptation and climate action
- Studied in London and Melbourne and is fluent in six languages

Mainstreaming Inclusive Climate Action at C40 Cities

Huey Y. Yoong

Head of Implementation - East, SEA & Oceania

C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

11 Jan 2026

What is Inclusive Climate Action and why does it matter?

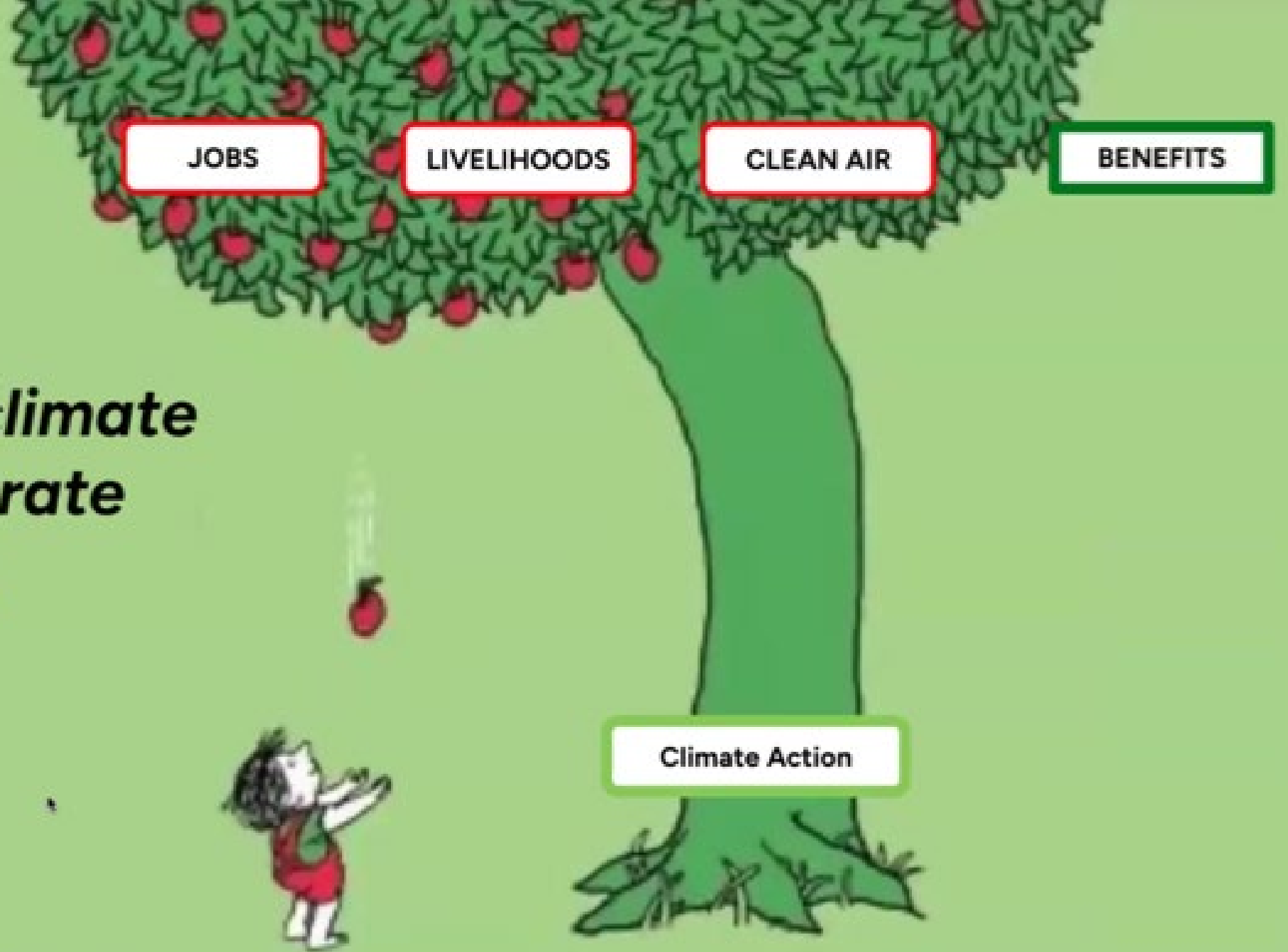
When we implement climate action, inclusivity and equity must be prioritised.

This is to avoid exacerbating impact on marginalised groups, normally bearing the brunt of climate change.



©Timothy Chua - TSIC C40

***Policy and climate
action generate
benefits.....***



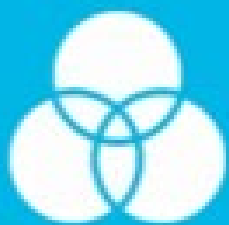
**But, benefits
generated are not
necessarily equal**

Inequality

Unequal access to
opportunities

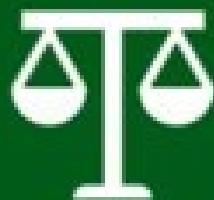


Inclusive Climate Action Pillars



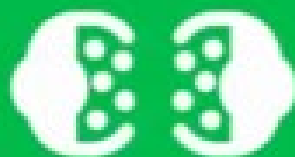
Inclusive Process

Engagement of a wide set of communities and stakeholders, with particular attention to increasing the participation and ownership of populations negatively affected by inequality.



Equitable and inclusive policy

Design to ensure equity and accessibility of climate programs, actions and policies.



Equitable impacts

Design to ensure equity and accessibility of climate programs, actions and policies.

What do we mean by **mainstreaming**



- ✓ Make climate considerations the norm, the everyday, the routine
- ✓ Should be institutionally sustainable, transformational, and ultimately change the way an administration delivers services
- ✗ An exception or one-off project
- ✗ Climate action as the responsibility of only one department

ICA tools are crucial for application

The ICA wheel is a tool we use to help cities in identifying groups, as well as their needs in order to ensure design and solutions are tailored.

This is because issues are often cross-cutting = **intersectionality** matters!

Example:

A migrant, woman of colour that is facing poverty working as a waste picker in a tropical climate.

What would be some applicable intersectionalities?



C40 Cities' ICA Wheel

Summary

With more inequity and resulting unrest (politically, economically and socially) - ICA is no longer an option for cities.

Prosperity, inclusivity and equitable growth would not be possible without it.

The issues facing each group in our society are varied and nuanced.

Understanding the local context is crucial to ensure solutioning is effective.

This means equipping practitioners with tools to apply ICA meaningfully.

Crucially, ICA isn't a one-off stakeholder engagement and design exercise.

If the resulting benefits are not equitably distributed or tracked, it will only exacerbate the trust deficit that is growing.

Transparent, continuous and recursive MER allows for course correction and hence, long term results.



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Director Climate
Change and City
Resilience at the City of
Melbourne



Link to the City of
Melbourne's
[Sustainability and
Climate Action page](#)

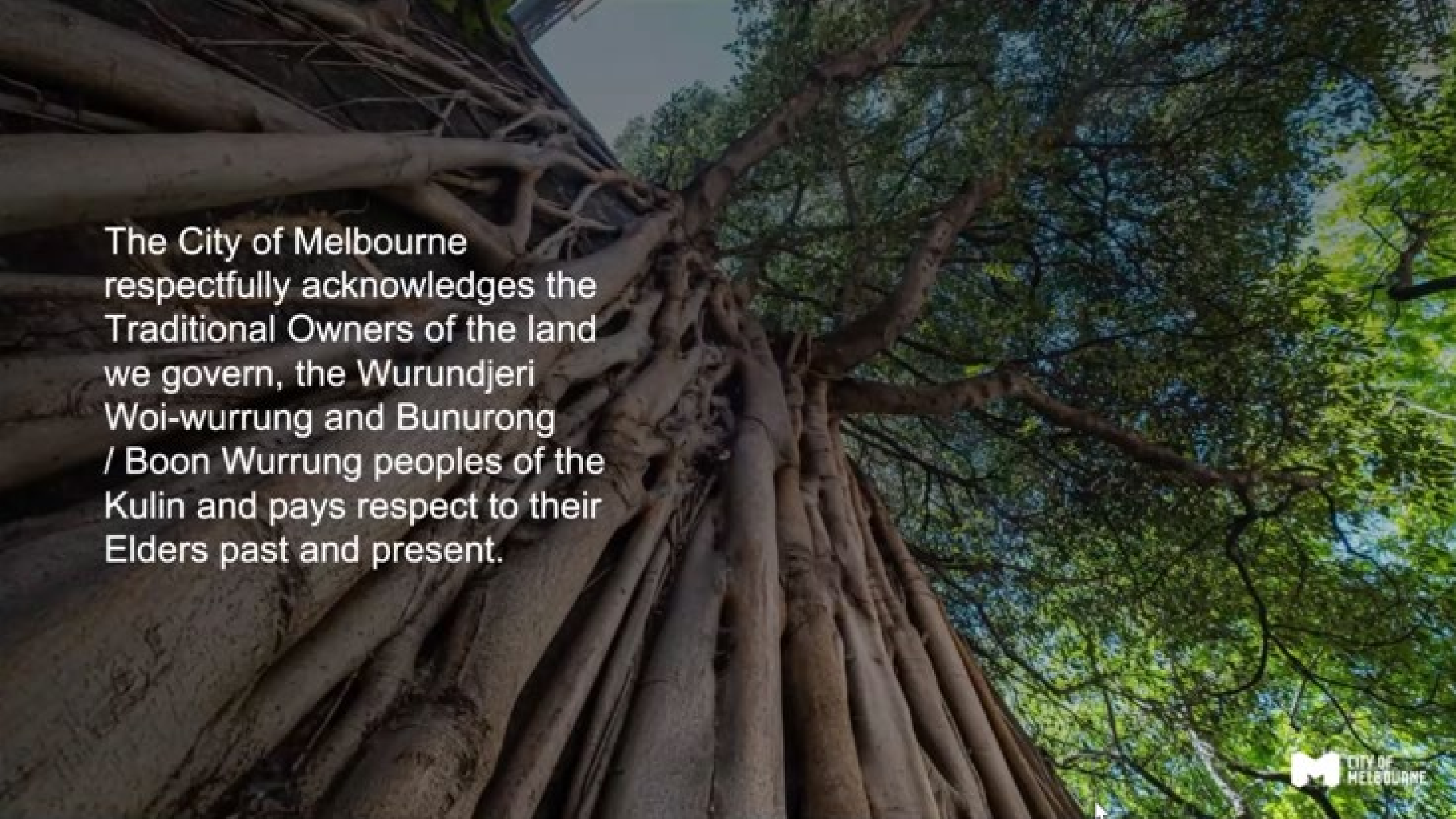
- Co-Chief Heat Officer
 - Only 8 in the world
- Develops strategies to cool and heat-proof cities
- Co-leads Melbourne's net-zero by 2040 agenda and climate adaptation efforts.





Climate-ready Melbourne: Ambitious action across our liveable city





The City of Melbourne
respectfully acknowledges the
Traditional Owners of the land
we govern, the Wurundjeri
Woi-wurrung and Bunurong
/ Boon Wurrung peoples of the
Kulin and pays respect to their
Elders past and present.



Climate change is the single biggest challenge of our time. It impacts our lives on every level, and we all have a role to play in helping forge a climate-ready future.

The results of 10+ years of climate action



Cutting
council
emissions
by 79%



Purchasing
100%
renewable
energy



Planting
over
30,000
trees



Investing in six
stormwater harvesting
systems, providing
23% of our water use



Boosting biodiversity by
increasing understory
habitat by 37%, or 14
hectares, since 2017

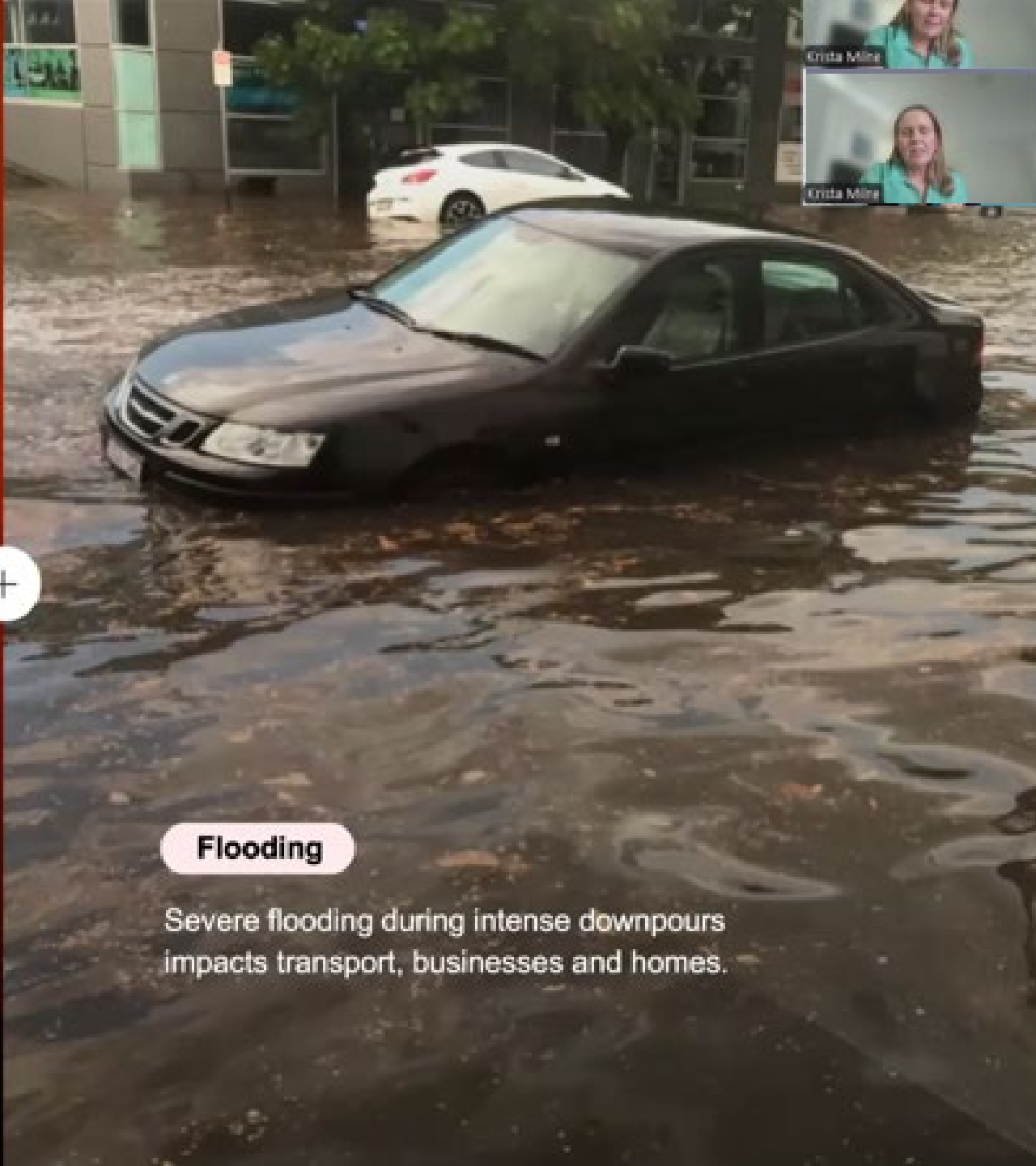


Diverting 6,000
tonnes of waste
from landfill
since 2021



Heatwaves

Hotter temperatures and more frequent heatwaves are increasing the risk of heat-related deaths.



Flooding

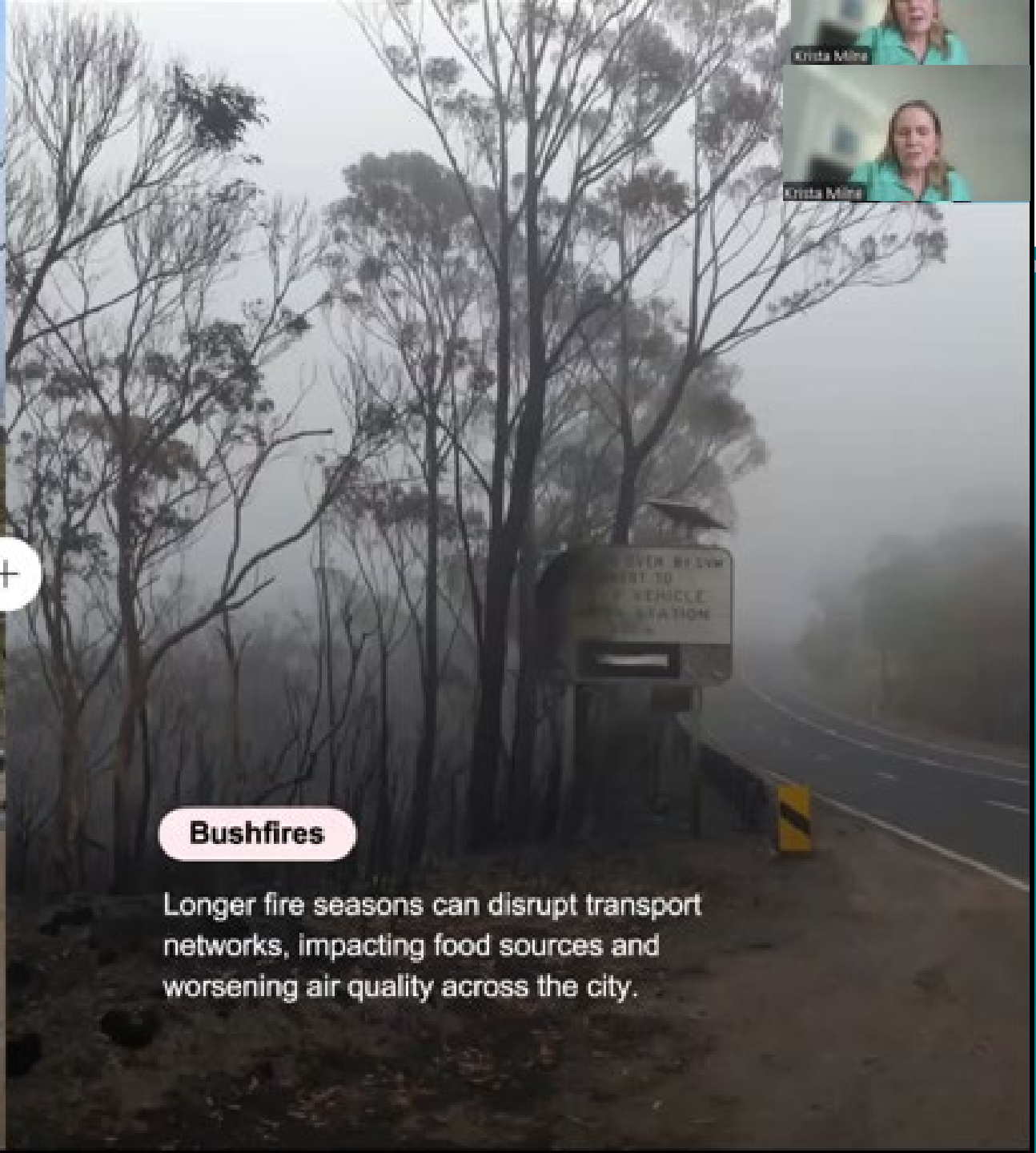
Severe flooding during intense downpours impacts transport, businesses and homes.





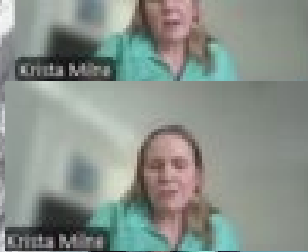
Drought

Average daily temperatures are rising and rainfall is decreasing. These conditions lead to water shortages and the decline of our trees and green spaces.



Bushfires

Longer fire seasons can disrupt transport networks, impacting food sources and worsening air quality across the city.



While the changing climate has negative impacts on all of us, the impacts are felt most severely by more vulnerable members of society.

When temperatures reach 35 degrees or higher, older Melbournians who cannot afford to turn on their air conditioners are most at risk.

+

People experiencing homelessness feel the effects of extreme weather conditions hardest.

+

As food costs rise due to climate events, it's Melbournians in vulnerable situations who find it hardest to feed themselves and their families.



Melbourne is a liveable city
because we strive to be fair
and equitable.

**These values underpin our
work and make us stronger
together.**



Our targets for the next 5-15 years



Be 100% renewable by 2030



Achieve net zero emissions by 2040



Achieve 40% canopy cover by 2040



Source 50% of council water from alternative sources by 2030



Have 20% permeable surfaces in each catchment by 2030



Divert 90% of waste from landfill by 2030

People



Emissions

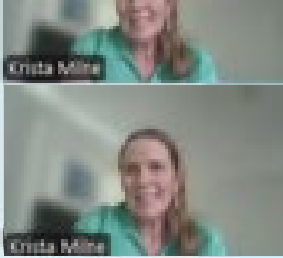


Bringing all
of our climate
action work
together

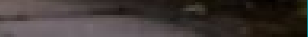
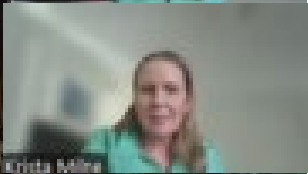
Nature



**Built
environment**



**We're coordinating
our efforts and working
together, viewing every
individual action as
part of a bigger story**





People

Our community will be connected and prepared for extreme weather.

People are at the heart of our city. Melbournians are diverse, creative and passionate about equity. Our work in this area draws on First Peoples' knowledge and empowers all corners of our community to be resilient in response to climate change.

Targets and Commitments



Enable community preparedness and disaster resilience



Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters



Project Case Study

Community Cool Places

We're partnering to make Melbourne a Heat Safe City, providing funding for the operation of facilities and services designed to keep communities cool during times of extreme heat.



Project Case Study

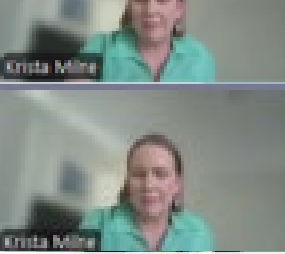
Fair Energy Futures

We're partnering to identify communities experiencing energy hardship, uncover its root causes, and identify scalable intervention models, while engaging impacted communities in the research process and measuring the impact of their involvement.



Krista Milne

Krista Milne



Emissions

Our city will be powered by renewables, use active transport and have a circular economy.

From dedicated bike lanes to investing with industry in wind farms, we are setting our city up to be net zero by 2040.

Targets and Commitments

▼
100% renewable energy

▼
Zero emissions buildings and precincts

▼
Zero emissions transport

▼
50% reduction in waste produced

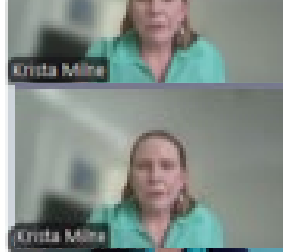
Project Case Study

Melbourne Renewable Energy Project

The City of Melbourne has facilitated a power purchase agreement for businesses across the city, as part of the second wave of the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project.



Image credit: Pacific Hydro



Nature

Our natural environment will be cared for to cool the city.

Melbourne is a world leader in greening our city to create a cooler, more walkable and healthier urban environment. We're harvesting and reusing our stormwater; reversing biodiversity trends; and doubling our green roofs as we encourage bugs and bees back to our city.

Targets and Commitments

▼
Increase in biodiversity, habitats and ecosystem health by 2027

▼
40% canopy cover by 2040

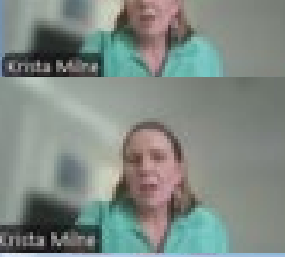
▼
Increase in tree species diversity

▼
Double the amount of green roofs and vertical greening

Project Case Study

Urban Forest Strategy

The City of Melbourne is facing the significant challenges of climate change, population growth and urban heating, placing pressure on the built fabric, services and people of the city. A healthy urban forest will play a critical role in maintaining the health and liveability of Melbourne.

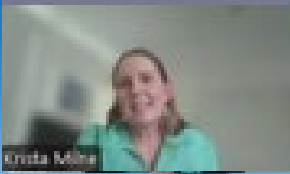
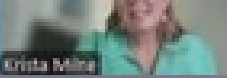


Project Case Study

Urban Forest Fund

Designed to support new greening projects on private property in the city.

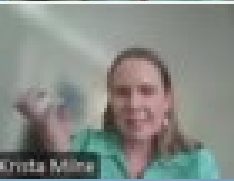
We're funding things like new green open spaces, tree planting, biodiversity projects, green roofs and vertical greening, and water sensitive urban design projects.



Project Case Study

Water Sensitive Urban Design

Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) aims to create urban environments that allow the water cycle to function as it would naturally, reducing the impact of development on the water cycle.



Project Case Study

Sustainable Building Design

Amendment C376: Sustainable Building Design seeks to make Melbourne a more liveable and climate-resilient city by promoting water, waste, and energy efficient buildings, gardens and greenery, and sustainable transport options through updated planning rules.



Project Case Study

Retrofit Melbourne

Retrofit Melbourne, developed in partnership with industry, is the City of Melbourne's comprehensive plan to support commercial building retrofits.



Join us in the
movement for
change





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DISCUSSION

- What insight from today most changed your thinking?
- How can cities prioritize to protect women from extreme heat?

10 minutes.

One spokesperson per group to report back



FEEDBACK AND KEY TAKEAWAYS



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Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery



...this abstract painting depicts the pollution and environmental concerns that I have due to my not believing what we are being told about the safety of their industry.

Entries received before 8 March (IWD)
will go into the
2026 Collection
that will be
launched on Earth Day (22 April)

www.zontasaysnowvirtualartgallery.org

Commerce City by Marta Lindrose
Zonta Foothills Club of Boulder County
D12, Colorado, USA



Climate change disproportionately impacts women and girls and has been described as a

[Link to the promotional video for the
Virtual Art Gallery](#)



March Think Tank = NGO CSW event

During
NGO
CSW

And
Sydney
Climate
Action
Week

- **Thursday 12 March**
 - 8.30 pm to 10 pm in New York
- **Friday 13 March**
 - 12.30 am UTC
- **Friday 13 March**
 - 11.30 am to 1.00 pm Sydney

*Theme: Women and Sustainable
Decision-Making*





Convention – 11-14 July



Zonta Says NOW Walk – 11 July



Applied to host a Zonta Says NOW Workshop 11 July





ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL

BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



Thank you.

Find out more about
Zonta Says NOW at
zonta.org/zontasaysnow
or email:

info@zontasaysnow.org.au