



BEAM Mitchell Environment Group

Our vision, principles and plan

June 2023

About BEAM Mitchell Environment Group

BEAM Mitchell Environment Group is an independent, membership-based and volunteer-driven environment group based in the Mitchell Shire, on Taungurung and Wurundjeri lands.

Our vision is of a thriving community that is locally active for a healthy environment. BEAM supports a wide-range of skills, life stories and areas of expertise.

Our members are engaged in supporting sustainable outcomes in government projects, advocating for our local region, supporting green initiatives and generally causing a fuss about protecting the environment. BEAM volunteers are active in our community: we host a weekly community radio program 'EarthChat' on Seymour FM, and we regularly get out in the community holding stalls at farmers' markets and community festivals.

About this plan

The committee of BEAM Mitchell Environment Group resolved at the end of 2022 to revise our priorities and goals for the coming years.

We surveyed our wider membership for their input, and held a facilitated planning day to review our vision, principles and goals. We then held a final workshop to bring all the threads together. The outcome of this process is this plan and its six goals that provide focus for our group's work.

The timeframe of this plan is five years, from 2023-2028. We will review the plan during this period, with the aim to revise on (at least) an annual basis.

Our vision

A thriving community that is locally active for a healthy environment.

Our principles

- Advocate and act to protect natural systems and ecologies
- Respect First Nations' connection to this Country and be informed by their wisdom and knowledge
- Recognise our place and responsibilities in local and wider ecosystems
- Support each other and collaborate with others
- Respect each other and celebrate diversity and difference
- Be accountable for what we say and do
- Respect for every living being and their communities

Our goals

1. Double BEAM's membership and increase member commitment and action
2. Build an ongoing relationship with Taungurung and Wurundjeri
3. Protect, expand and restore natural habitat in our region
4. Champion renewable energy and emissions reduction in our region
5. Improve waste management and recycling in the Shire
6. Support local food systems



BEAM members and supporters getting active: wildlife surveying, forest walks, and community stalls.

How we'll do it

In each of our goal areas, our actions will include (but not be limited to!) the following:

Goal 1: Double BEAM's membership and increase member commitment and action

We will:

- Create opportunities in all our work to increase member actions and commitment.
- Streamline member sign-up, renewals and payment systems.
- Deliver engaging communications with members and supporters, including sharing our achievements, through channels including email, social media, and EarthChat radio.
- Hold three or more events per year that are fun, inspiring and engaging.
- Seek opportunities to recruit members through Bulk Foods scheme and EarthChat radio.

Goal 2: Build an ongoing relationship with Taungurung and Wurundjeri

We will:

- Organise a meeting with TLaWC to explore mutual interest in an ongoing relationship.
- Develop a plan to educate ourselves about Indigenous people, their connection to land and culture.
- Explore a Taungurung voice and a Wurundjeri voice on BEAM.
- Strengthen Taungurung presence in our forest campaigns.

Goal 3: Protect, expand and restore natural habitat in our region

We will:

- Conduct an ecological review of the entire Mitchell Shire.
- Protect, restore, and expand our public forests.
- Advocate jointly with Landcare for the preservation and legal protection of habitat land in the Shire.
- Be active in targeted tree planting and habitat restoration works both in our own right (e.g. with PermaCroft), or in partnership with other groups (e.g. Urban Landcare in Seymour).
- Develop a network of walking trails throughout public forests.

Goal 4: Champion renewable energy and emissions reduction in our region

We will:

- Partner with Mitchell Community Energy to advance renewables in the Shire.
- Support ecologically responsible renewable energy developments.
- Champion energy equity, such as renewables for renters.
- Collaborate with and amplify other groups' work to local contexts and audiences.

Goal 5: Improve waste management and recycling in the Shire

We will:

- Maintain a strong working relationship with Mitchell Shire in support and extension of their waste minimisation, plastics reduction and recycling strategies.
- Create advertisements on local radio to encourage people to recycle the right way.
- Monthly on EarthChat radio - discuss waste and recycling topics.
- Collaborate with and amplify other groups' work to local contexts and audiences.

Goal 6: Support local food systems

We will:

- Support and promote local food production, including Landcare groups and events, farmers' markets, and bulk food groups.
- Use local radio as a forum for conversations on smarter agriculture and food production.
- Support and co-promote other groups' initiatives in our region (e.g. Farmers for Climate Action).

Get involved

BEAM Mitchell Environment Group runs on the energy and passion of our volunteer members! Are you keen to get involved and contribute to bringing this plan to life?

Now's a great time to join BEAM: www.beam.org.au/get-involved

Membership is between \$10-\$30 per year. We are non-profit and volunteer-run, so all membership fees go toward powering our work.

Check out www.beam.org.au/events and join us at one of our local events or activities

Got other ideas or questions? Contact us: beam.inc18@gmail.com