

## Growing Habitat for Net-Zero in Central Victoria

A new Central Victorian carbon offset project is aimed at helping local councils reach their net-zero emission goals, while providing private landholders all the benefits from growing trees and shrubs on their properties.

The Community Carbon Project is a partnership between the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA), the City of Greater Bendigo, Macedon Ranges, Hepburn, and Mount Alexander shire councils.

North Central CMA Business Development Manager Matt Dawson said restoring critical habitats and connecting fragmented landscapes in the region is a key focus of all project partners.

“However, government organisations and private landowners are always faced with the significant challenge of the high cost of large-scale revegetation works.

“Many landholders find it difficult to justify the expenses and time commitments involved.”

Community Carbon is aiming to address this by leveraging the carbon offset needs of local councils to provide financial support to deliver revegetation efforts.

The carbon sequestered by these trees will then offset residual emissions of the participating councils.

“We are excited to be trialling this innovative approach. There are wins for the landholder, the community and local wildlife,” Mr Dawson said.

“The benefits of undertaking revegetation work on private properties are clear.

“It attracts diverse wildlife, improves the aesthetic appeal of properties, reduces soil erosion, improves soil health, and enhances water quality.

“This is a great opportunity for landholders to not only leave their property in a better condition for future generations but help in the fight against climate change.

“We are keen to hear from local landholders interested in participating by planting trees and shrubs on their properties.”

While prioritising sites where a cumulative area of 10 hectares or more can be planted, the project will also consider smaller, high-value areas for revegetation.

“The commitment of all partners to reducing emissions will continue, but inevitable residual emissions by 2030 will require offsets,” Mr Dawson said.




“This project helps ensure the integrity of the offsets and keeps the financial, ecological, and lifestyle benefits in the region, which is great news for everyone.”

Expressions of interest close 30 September 2023.

To find out more, go to [www.nccma.vic.gov.au/climatechange/community-carbon](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/climatechange/community-carbon)

## ENDS –

For further information please contact  
Anthony Radford, Communications Coordinator  
North Central Catchment Management Authority  
t: 03 5440 1884  
m: 0409 720 610  
e: [anthony.radford@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:anthony.radford@nccma.vic.gov.au)

 @northcentral\_cma  @northcentralcma  northccma

## For more information

Telephone 03 5448 7124 or visit  
[www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au)

