



Climate Action Burwood-Canada Bay Annual Report, 2024

Highlights:

- **Smart Energy Expo** attended by approximately 500 people
- **Speaking 4 The Planet** – second annual district high schools competition
- **Member Group Award** in the Nature Conservation Council’s annual Environment Awards

Leadership Team:

Climate Action Burwood-Canada Bay’s committee for 2023-24 was:

President: Ken Enderby

Vice-President: vacant

Treasurer: Rick Eyre

Secretary, Public Officer: Billie Ayling

Other members of Committee: Rosa Brown, Steven Du, James Enderby, Robin Smith.

Membership:

As at June 30, 2024 CABCB had 36 financial members, which made 2023-24 our biggest membership year to date. Our membership prior to the current AGM stands at 23, and we encourage lapsed members to renew their association with this organisation. Membership remains an important factor in the strength of our group.

Finances:

CABCB had revenue for the 2023-24 financial year of \$17,600 with a surplus of \$6,200. Both numbers are our biggest yet, but with a quieter year planned for 2024-25 our revenue will likely be smaller and much of our surplus neutralised. However, our bank balance is such that for the first time we are earning interest.

We now have regular donations of \$215 a month – up slightly on last year.

Over the last twelve months we have received the following grants:

- \$1,000 from Strathfield Council, for translation of flyers

- \$1,000 from CANA's Solutions for Climate program, to cover specific costs for the Smart Energy Expo
- \$3,000 from the City of Canada Bay Council, for induction cooking workshops and Speaking 4 The Planet
- \$1,325 from Burwood RSL, for the Stitch It Don't Ditch It workshops. This is the second year the RSL has provided funding for this program

CABCB has also received donations of free software licences under not-for-profit programs from Canva, Google and Microsoft.

Our last fundraising event was in November 2023 (Bunnings sausage sizzle). We have no plans for fundraisers in 2024-25 but intend to resume next year.

Governance:

CABCB has applied to the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission (ACNC) for registration as a charity.

Communication channels:

- Our weekly email newsletter is currently received by 351 subscribers, up from 327 at the same time last year. Available stats show that about half of our subscribers open our emails each week, which is an encouraging sign of continued support.
- Our Facebook page currently has 345 followers and has updated news and announcements regularly.
- Our Instagram account has 237 followers but has been quiet for the want of a volunteer to create suitable visual content for us.
- Our YouTube channel is a valuable archive of our guest speaker presentations.
- We have recently launched a LinkedIn page as an avenue to reach out to additional audiences and we encourage our supporters with LinkedIn accounts to follow us there.
- Our website climateactionbcb.org continues to be a valuable and respected resource.
- We have ceased posting to X (formerly Twitter) in light of global safety and misinformation concerns under its current ownership, and are experimenting with Threads and Bluesky as alternative channels.

Guest speakers:

Our program of high-profile guest speakers at our online members and supporters meetings continued in 2024, this year to date featuring:

- Dr Jenny Newell: Curator for Climate Change at the Australian Museum's Climate Solutions Centre
- Walter Batt: Business Director at Farmers for Climate Action
- Josh Dykgraaf: digital designer and presenter at our Speaking 4 the Planet schools competition
- Fiona Lee: NSW Coal Campaigner with Lock the Gate.

We have Cr Heidi Lee Douglas, CEO of Solar Citizens, booked for our next session on November 26.

Recordings of all these sessions are available on our YouTube channel.

Community outreach:

CABCB president Ken Enderby continued to deliver presentations in the local area and beyond.

- In May he ran a workshop at the Uniting Climate Action Network conference in Parramatta.
- That same month he served on a panel at a Wilderness Society forum on climate and the environment, held at the Burwood Community Hub.

Festivals, fairs and open days:

A key component of our community outreach program has been to participate in local fairs and festivals. This year, we had a stall at the following events:

- Everything Electric, at Sydney Olympic Park (February). 12 climate groups participated in the stall, with 45 volunteers over three days.
- The Smart Energy Council Conference and Exhibition at Darling Harbour (March).
- The Australian Catholic University Sustainability Day (April).
- The Strathfield Spring Festival (September). Rick was interviewed by community radio 2RDJ-FM at the Strathfield Festival about CABCB's activities.

Stitch it, Don't ditch it!

In March we ran a series of workshops entitled 'Stitch it, Don't ditch it!', where participants learned how to repair their clothes rather than throw them away. They also learned about the carbon footprint of the clothing industry, and why we need to cut our emissions.

The workshops were funded by Burwood RSL, and took place at the Woodstock Centre. They proved to be very popular, so Robin and her team ran them again in July/August. A dozen people participated.

Speaking 4 the Planet

In June, we staged our Speaking 4 the Planet competition for the second year running, on World Environment Day. 11 local high schools participated, with Domremy College acting as host. Last year we had just four categories – speaking, writing and art. This year we added digital art and drama.

Our keynote speakers were Sally Sitou, Jason Yat-Sen Li and Stephanie di Pasqua, who addressed the event from their respective parliamentary offices as it was a sitting day.

The quality of the work presented by the students was outstanding. Particularly impressive were the drama presentations, which were well written, well rehearsed and much enjoyed by the audience.

Support for Speaking 4 The Planet was provided by the City of Canada Bay, Burwood Council and Strathfield Council.

The Smart Energy Expo

The biggest event we have ever staged was the Smart Energy Expo (SEE), held on June 23rd this year. Our partners were MLC School (which provided the venue, plus help from staff and students), the Smart Energy Council, Burwood Council and the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA).

Dignitaries attending included Sally Sitou (Federal MP for Reid), Jason Yat-Sen Li (State MP for Strathfield), Burwood Mayor John Faker, Canada Bay Mayor Michael Megna and a host of council members. Dan Ilic performed the MC duties as a late replacement for Julia Zemiro who had Covid.

The expo had four discussion panels, 8 mini presentations, 20 exhibitors, 5 home energy experts offering 15-minute consultations and a team demonstrating induction cooking all day. In addition, there was an extensive EV display, with BYD and MG offering free test drives and Fonz offering free test rides on its electric motorbikes and motor scooters.

Even with intermittent rain all day, over 500 people attend the expo, which was outstanding. Had it been fine, we would have had hundreds more. Best of all, most of those who came unknown to us prior to the event.

Submissions and feedback to politicians:

We made a submission to the Federal government with regard to the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard. We sent submissions to Federal parliamentary enquiries on Future Gas Strategy, Middle Arm Development, Environmental Protection and Conservation Act reform, and to the State Legislative Council Enquiry into the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Bill 2023. In the coming weeks we will be forwarding a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Nuclear Energy.

This year we wrote to the following politicians:

- Anthony Albanese (Prime Minister),
- Sally Sitou (Federal MP for Reid),
- Peter Dutton (Federal Leader of the Opposition),
- Chris Bowen (Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy),
- Ted O'Brien (Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy),
- Senator Simon Birmingham (Leader of the Opposition in the Senate),
- Jason Yat-Sen Li (State MP for Strathfield),
- Stephanie di Pasqua (State MP for Drummoyne).

We sent emails to following councillors at the City of Canada Bay: Michael Megna (mayor), Anthony Bazouni, Joe Cordaro, Andrew Ferguson, Julia Little and Charles Jago. This was to lobby them about the proposed ban on new gas connections in the LGA.

Letters to Newspapers:

CABCB president Ken Enderby also commenced a campaign of writing to the mainstream newspapers on matters relating to climate change, renewable energy, nuclear power and EVs. Between mid-December 2023 and the end of October 2024, he had 94 letters published: 21 in *The Australian*, 27 in the *Financial Review*, 28 in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 in the *Daily Telegraph*, 5 in the *Canberra Times*, 2 in the *Illawarra Mercury* and 1 in the *Newcastle Herald*. 7 of these were syndicated in the *Brisbane Times*, *WA Today* and *The Age*, bringing the total to 101.

Elections:

For the local government elections on September 14 we surveyed candidates in each of our three LGAs (Burwood, City of Canada Bay, Strathfield) on local climate and environmental policy matters. Responses were published on our website.

Meeting with politicians and councillors:

Meeting with politicians and councillors has continued to be high priority for CABCB.

- Committee members have had meetings with our three local MPs: Sally Sitou, Jason Yat-Sen Li and Stephanie di Pasqua.
- In November, Ken and Billie were part of a delegation that met with Federal Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Josh Wilson, in Sally Sitou's office.

- Ken has attended Liberal Party functions at the invitation of Stephanie di Pasqua, where he spread the word about climate change and renewable energy.
- Ken has also had informal discussions with Burwood mayor John Faker, with Canada Bay mayor Michael Megna and with a host of Canada Bay councillors. Billie has also had informal talks with John Faker, Burwood mayor on local matters.
- In May, Rick addressed the People’s Forum at Burwood Council in support of a Greens motion to exclude gas installations from future development approvals.
- Billie was appointed in 2023-24 to the Burwood Council Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Working with councils:

Working with our local councils has also been a high priority.

- Burwood Council partnered us in organising the Smart Energy Expo. It advertised the event via its weekly newsletter. In addition, Mayor John Faker formally opened the expo.
- Burwood provided a grant to allow us to produce flyers about the fossil fuel industry and fast fashion.
- Strathfield Council provided a grant to allow us to translate our energy saving flyers into Chinese and Korean.
- Canada Bay Council is funding five induction cooking demonstrations, the first of which will be in December 2024.
- Submissions made to Burwood Council on development plans.

Working with other climate organisations:

CABCB is a financial member of the following organisations:

- Climate Action Network Australia (CANA).
- Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC).

We send delegates to sub-groups of both organisations.

We are a member of the following alliances:

- The Inner West Alliance for Climate (IWAC).
- The Coalition for Climate Ambition.

We have a close relationship with the following local groups:

- Canada Bay Zero Carbon Community (CBZCC)
- The Greater Western Sydney branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF-GWS).
- Inner West Community Energy (IWCE)

Through members of our committee, we have relationships with:

- Solar Citizens.
- Rewiring Australia.
- Renew.

- Lock The Gate
- Climate for Change
- The Climate Reality Project
- The Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA).
- Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC)
- Uniting Climate Action Network (UCAN)

CABCB is also a signatory to Renew Australia for All, a multi-agency movement that is advocating to federal politicians for fundamental change to the way we produce, use and share power as we join the global shift to clean energy.

Awards:

Climate Action Burwood-Canada Bay was the recipient of this year's NCC Member Group Award, presented at the Nature Conservation Council's Environment Awards night at the Teachers Federation in Sydney on March 27.

The NCC Members Group Award is given to a member group which has "demonstrated outstanding commitment and success in the conservation of the NSW environment". According to the citation, CABCB's "commitment to creative solutions and community engagement is truly commendable".

The other outstanding finalists for this award, which was presented by media personality Wendy Harmer, were: Gloucester Environment Group, Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee, Hunter Wildlife Rescue, Coastwatchers NSW, North Coast Environment Council, and Manyana Matters.

Billie Ayling was named "Environment Citizen of the Year" by Burwood Council in January.

CABCB was also a finalist in the City of Canada Bay's Sustainability Awards this year.

Conclusion:

Overall, 2024 has been an outstanding year for CABCB. We consolidated our position in the community and pressed hard for greater action on emissions reductions, through renewable energy and electric vehicles and on environmental protection.