



HUME CITY COUNCIL

Live Green

Sustainability Newsletter

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hume.vic.gov.au/environment



Hume's Household Energy Program

Hume's Household Energy Program aims to help residents to save money on their energy bills, improve the comfort of their homes and to protect our environment.

We partner with the Victorian Government and other providers to deliver and promote a range of programs that make energy efficiency and renewable energy at home easier and more affordable.

Home Heating and Cooling Upgrades Program

The Victorian Government's Home Heating and Cooling Upgrades Program can help you access more efficient heating and cooling appliances – such as upgrading gas heaters, electric heaters and wood heaters to energy-efficient reverse-cycle air conditioners. Those with no heating may also be eligible.

Under the program, eligible households can receive:

- \$1,000 towards the cost of an energy-efficient reverse-cycle air conditioner.
- \$200 towards the cost of decommissioning their outdated gas heater (if an existing gas heater is being replaced).
- \$500 towards the cost of upgrading their switchboard (if an upgrade is required to install the rebated reverse-cycle air conditioner).

To be eligible for this program households must:

1. Replace an existing reverse-cycle air-conditioner (more than seven years old), gas or fixed electric heater, wood heating or no heating with an energy-efficient reverse-cycle air conditioner.

2. Install a reverse-cycle air conditioner from the Home Heating and Cooling Upgrades Program approved products list by an approved Home Heating and Cooling Program supplier.
3. Be an owner-occupier household with an approved concession card, or with a combined household income of less than \$90,000.

To find out more visit heatingupgrades.vic.gov.au

Energy Savvy Home Upgrades

The Energy Savvy Home Upgrades program could help you make energy-saving upgrades to your home. This could include insulation, new hot water system and/or draught proofing. The program is for Hume households struggling to pay energy bills.

Contact Draught Busters on 1300 130 364 to see if you are eligible for the Energy Savvy program.

Hume's Solar Roll-out

Hume's Solar Roll-out makes it easier to take advantage of government rebates and loans for installing home solar.

Go to humesolarprogram.org.au to find out more.

If you'd like to hear more about these programs or if you have questions about opportunities to make your home more comfortable and/or reduce your energy bills, contact Hume's Household Energy Officer on **0447 772 429**.



\$250 Power Saving Bonus extended until 30 June

The Victorian government is extending its \$250 Power Saving Bonus payment until 30 June 2022 to support more vulnerable households doing it tough with energy bills.

Households receiving payments through the Pensioner Concession, JobSeeker, Austudy, ABSTUDY or Youth Allowance programs, or those who hold a Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card, are eligible for the payment.

It is important to note that only one payment is available per eligible household. Eligible concession card holders who have already claimed the bonus cannot claim it again.

To apply for the one-off \$250 Power Saving Bonus, go to compare.energy.vic.gov.au or if you do not have access to a computer or need assistance with your application, please contact Council's Household Energy Officer on **0447 772 429**.

Let's Grow Hume update

Workshops and giveaways

The Let's Grow Hume edible gardening series has been in full swing over the last five months and continues to go strong into Autumn.

With more and more gardening events/workshops and seedling giveaways planned for the upcoming months, now is the best time to get out and into your garden.

Attendees to Let's Grow Hume events can also submit an Expression of Interest form to go into the running for a Ready to Grow gardening kit, valued at over \$500. Households that are struggling from pandemic impacts will be prioritised. The kit has everything you need to get growing including seeds, seedlings, a raised garden bed, soil, compost, mulch, gloves and a watering can!

The best way to keep up to date with upcoming sustainability events is to sign up to our monthly Live Green eNewsletter at hume.vic.gov.au/livegreennews



A lucky recipient of one of Hume City Council's Ready to Grow kits!



Making sturdy newspaper seedling pots at Newbury Community Centre.

Edible gardening events for kids

We're hosting a range of free, hands-on gardening workshops for children throughout 2022.

Workshops include making newspaper seedling boxes, exploring worm farms, sowing seeds and making mini greenhouses from recycled containers.

These activities are suitable for kids aged from two to 18 years old, parents and guardians are welcome to join in on the fun too!

Sessions will run from 10am to 11.30am at community centres across the municipality and are facilitated by a qualified teacher and environmental science specialist.

Registrations are essential. For all the details, visit hume.vic.gov.au/letsgrowhume or call Hume City Council's Sustainable Engagement Officer on **0477 021 301**.

Date	Location
Term 1	
Wednesday 13 April (School holidays)	Kalkallo Community Centre 33 Toyon Rd, Kalkallo
Wednesday 20 April (School holidays)	Homestead Community and Learning Centre 30 Whiltshire Rd, Roxburgh Park
Term 2	
Wednesday 29 June (School holidays)	Mickleham North Community Centre Corner of St George's Boulevard and Blackmore Rd, Mickleham
Wednesday 6 July (School holidays)	Greenvale West Community Centre 7 Ventura Way, Greenvale
Term 3	
Wednesday 20 July	Newbury Child and Community Centre 440 Grand Blvd, Craigieburn
Wednesday 21 September (School holidays)	Kalkallo Community Centre 33 Toyon Rd, Kalkallo
Wednesday 28 September (School holidays)	Broadmeadows Community Hub 182 Widford St, Broadmeadows
Term 4	
Wednesday 19 October	Homestead Community and Learning Centre 30 Whiltshire Rd, Roxburgh Park
Wednesday 16 November	Mickleham North Community Centre Corner St George's Blvd and Blackmore Rd, Mickleham
Wednesday 21 December (School holidays)	Greenvale West Community Centre 7 Ventura Way, Greenvale

Subscribe to Live Green eNews

Are you signed up to Live Green eNews? Our monthly newsletter is the best way to get up-to-date sustainability and environment news, straight to your inbox.

Live Green eNews is sent out at the start of each month. It's a great way to stay on top of our calendar of events and activities as well as hear about seasonal grants programs and other sustainability news.

Sign up at hume.vic.gov.au/livegreennews



Get to know your local environment with Nature Stewards

The Nature Stewards program is a 10-week environmental education course designed and delivered by Outdoors Victoria in collaboration with local Councils.

Hume City Council has partnered with City of Melton and Macedon Ranges Shire Council to form the North West Hub, offering a unique Nature Stewards program that will take you to locations across the three municipalities - showcasing some of the wonderful nature our region has to offer.

The 2022 North West Hub Nature Stewards program will run between March to June and will include four field trips across three municipalities to compliment the learnings from classroom sessions. Places are limited, and the program costs \$175 full fee or \$45 concession for residents of the municipalities (healthcare card holder, pensioner or full-time student).

Council offers Environmental Scholarships that could cover up to 80 per cent of the course fee. Information regarding environmental scholarships can be found online at hume.vic.gov.au/enviroscholarships.

Find out more at hume.vic.gov.au/naturestewards or contact the Sustainable Environment Team on 0455 091 999 for assistance.

Have you had your garden visit yet?

The Gardens for Wildlife program supports people to create homes for native wildlife in their gardens.



This service is free and open to all households, schools and businesses within Hume City.

To participate in the program, simply organise a garden visit and a pair of friendly Garden Guides will visit with you in your garden.

They will talk with you about what wildlife you would like to attract and the things you could do in your space. Every patch of wildlife habitat is important whether it's a few pots, part of a small courtyard, the whole garden, or even your nature-strip.

You will receive a report prepared by the Garden Guides with the information you are interested in. We're confident you will be inspired to create wildlife habitat, but there is no obligation to take any further action.

If you have questions about the Gardens for Wildlife program, visit hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife or contact Council's Urban Biodiversity Officer on 9205 2466 or gardensforwildlife@hume.vic.gov.au



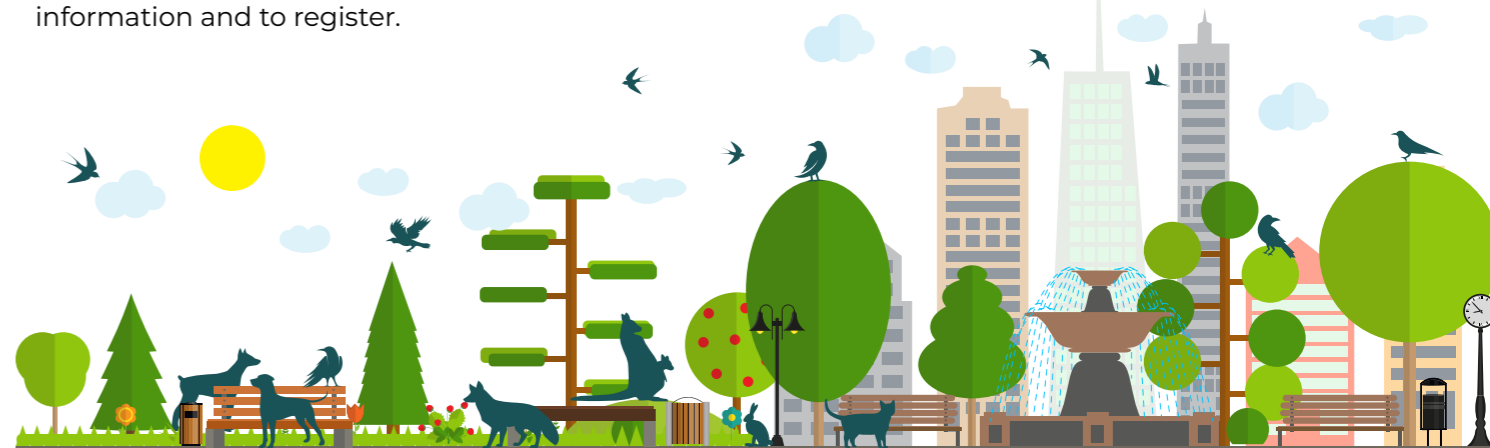
City Nature Challenge 2022

Get out and take photos of wildlife, plants and fungi to be part of City Nature Challenge between Friday 29 April and Wednesday 2 May!

This four-day biodiversity blitz is a global effort with 419 cities from 44 countries involved in last year's event. As friendly competition, cities aim to record as many species as possible and make the most observations by the biggest number of observers. Hume City is part of the Greater Melbourne project.

An online information session about City Nature Challenge and using the iNaturalist platform to upload your observations will be held on Wednesday 20 April, 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

Visit hume.vic.gov.au/citynaturechallenge for more information and to register.



Book review: Future-Steadying by Jade Miles.

Future-Steadying is a timely release. Author Jade Miles discusses and explores the ideas of protecting, nurturing, and preserving our natural ecosystems – not just for today, but for future generations.

Jade breaks down the how and the why we should seek to make changes in our daily interactions and engagement with the world around us. While the concept of sustainability can be a bit daunting when expanded to a broader, global context, *Future-Steadying* highlights the grounded steps we as individuals can take for the collective good of our communities, here and abroad.

With recipes, demonstrations and a wonderfully illustrated planting guide, there are activities for everyone to sink their teeth into. Her extensive references and appendices cover environmental resilience, insight into First Nations perspectives, regenerative food systems, and herbal medicine. They will leave you inspired to seek further means of interaction and engagement with our country and its biodiversity and natural systems.

Future Steading was published in 2021 and is a new addition to the Hume Libraries collection.



Community Gardens Summer/Autumn program



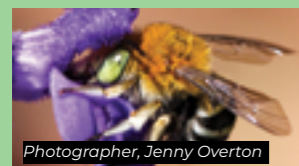
Craigieburn Community Garden

Hamilton Street, Craigieburn

Working Bee with Christie McIntosh Hume Seed Library

Discover the wonders of seed saving including collection, processing, and storage.

📅 Saturday 2 April
🕒 10am–11.30am



Photographer, Jenny Overton

Let's Grow Hume edible gardening

Face to face edible garden workshop.

📅 Saturday 14 May
🕒 2pm–3.30pm

Pruning with Hume Enviro Champ Christie McIntosh

Want to get the most out of your fruit trees? Discover the what, when, why and how of fruit tree pruning*.

📅 Saturday 4 June
🕒 10am–11.30am

*BYO secateurs, methylated spirits and a rag



Roxburgh Park Community Garden

30 Whitshire Drive, Roxburgh Park

Working Bee with Christie McIntosh Hume Seed Library

Discover the wonders of seed saving including collection, processing, and storage.

📅 Saturday 2 April
🕒 2pm–3.30pm

Let's Grow Hume edible gardening

Face to face edible garden workshop.

📅 Saturday 7 May
🕒 10am–11.30am

Working Bee with garden member Ali Yesilyurt and family

Three generations of the Yesilyurt family will show us how to prune the fruit trees, with assistance from Christie McIntosh

📅 Saturday 4 June
🕒 2pm–3.30pm



Sunbury Community Garden

2 Highgrove Drive, Sunbury

Working Bee with Hume Enviro Champ Christie McIntosh

Want to get the most out of your fruit trees? Discover the what, when, why and how of fruit tree pruning*.

📅 Saturday 30 April
🕒 10am–11.30am

*BYO secateurs, methylated spirits and a rag

Understanding Soil Workshop

3000 acres will educate and inspire through an understanding soil workshop to set you up for your gardening journey.

📅 Saturday 28 May
🕒 10am–11.30am

Let's Grow Hume edible gardening

Face to face edible garden workshop.

📅 Saturday 25 June
🕒 10.30am–12pm



Westmeadows Indigenous Community Garden

Corner Toora Drive and Redan Court, Westmeadows

Citizen Science

Hume City Council invites community to take part in the City Nature Challenge 2022 with Greater Melbourne iNaturalist.

📅 Thursday 17 March
🕒 6pm–7pm

Working Bee with Hume Enviro Champ Christie McIntosh

Want to get the most out of your fruit trees? Discover the what, when, why and how of fruit tree pruning*.

📅 Saturday 30 April
🕒 2pm–3.30pm

*BYO secateurs, methylated spirits and a rag

Let's Grow Hume edible gardening

Face to face edible garden workshop.

📅 Saturday 7 May
🕒 2pm–3.30pm

Garden Opening and Planting Day

Garden open day seedling pick up and indigenous planting day with a difference.

📅 Saturday 18 June
🕒 10am–1pm



Become a community gardens member

Community gardens are a great way to experience gardening and meet like-minded locals in a space that promotes health, wellbeing, sustainability and friendships.

A limited number of plots are available at our Roxburgh Park, Westmeadows, Sunbury and Craigieburn community gardens. At times of high demand, priority will be given to applicants who live closest to the garden, have been on the waitlist the longest, have limited garden space and/or are low-income earners.

Fill out the Expression of Interest form available at hume.vic.gov.au/communitygardens

For further information regarding how you can become a member of a community garden please contact the Community Development Officer on **9205 2533** or email communitygardens@hume.vic.gov.au



What to bring to ALL garden events:

- garden equipment
- garden gloves
- portable chair
- food and drinks
- hand sanitiser



Be COVID Safe: Check in on arrival. Social distance 1.5 meters. Wear a mask if you are not able to social distance. *Bookings required for all events to ensure COVID-safe capacity limits.

To book visit hume.vic.gov.au/upcomingevents

Welcome to our 2022 Hume Enviro Champions

The 2022 Hume Enviro Champions program began on Sunday 20 February with a warm Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony performed by Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Bill Nicholson.

The Hume Enviro Champions program is a free, 10-week training program that helps community members bring environmental projects to life.

Our 2022 Champions heard Uncle Bill talk of Indigenous Australian culture and their stewardship of the land. Participants walked through the Eucalyptus leaf smoke to cleanse the spirit while he played clapsticks and answered questions. This was followed by a bush tucker 'walk and talk' around The Nook in Sunbury – delivered by former Enviro Champion Jo Russell.

The launch provided fantastic opportunity to get the conversation started about participants' passions and project ideas.

While the program has launched, there are still opportunities to participate in the Enviro Champions program.

For more information contact Hume City Council's Environmental Community Development Officer on **0455 091 999** or email **envirochampions@hume.vic.gov.au**

You can learn more about the program and watch an inspiring video to hear from past participants at **hume.vic.gov.au/envirochamps**



Visit us at Marnong Market

Come and say hello to find out about the Live Green workshops and programs, energy efficiency at home and meet staff from the new Community Centres in the area.

There will also be kids colouring and a lucky dip for vegetable seeds to grow in your garden!

Saturday 26 March, 9am-1pm
2335 Mickleham Rd, Mickleham



COVID-19 vaccines now available for all ages (5+)

Get your dose now to help protect yourself and your loved ones.



For more information, scan the QR code or visit **hume.vic.gov.au/coronavirus**

Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, which includes the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and to Elders past, present and future.

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