



What on Earth can I do about climate change?

Christobel Munson

Australia has the highest greenhouse gas emissions per person of any OECD country. Yes, we need governments and corporations to do more, but none of us are off the hook.

At Zero Emissions Byron (ZEB) our focus is to find activities each of us can do that can actually make a difference to reducing emissions.

How? Well, we bring public awareness to practical actions we can take. To inspire more action, we love to share and celebrate local stories of people pioneering the low-carbon life. And we monitor and track carbon emissions for our Shire.

To get the word out, we hold talks, expos, and forums, webinars, street stalls, and film nights, and put out regular e-newsletters, and post to social media. So in the past year, these are the sorts of activities we've organised:

'Fight for Planet A'

Our Community Engagement coordinator is Sasha

Mainsbridge. Inspired by the ABC TV series *Fight for Planet A*, she created a competition called *Fight for Planet A & Win!* Entrants are invited to share whatever it is they're doing that reduces their personal emissions. Winners happily choose from the exceptional prize bank donated from local sustainable businesses, then their stories are featured on the 'FFPA & WIN' social media page, and in the ZEB e-newsletter.

The EV revolution

ZEB promotes the uptake of electric vehicles. In 2019, we held the Northern Rivers EV Expo & Forum, displaying electric vehicles, e-bikes, electric-outboard motors, plus numerous relevant talks.

In 2020–21, we went online and held eight one-hour webinars, featuring Australia's key players in the EV industry. All now up on YouTube, and available at www.zerobyron.org/ webinars.

This year, come and find us live again – for our second Northern Rivers EV Expo & Forum being held at Habitat



Sasha and Sebastian out on the street helping people understand the actions they can take to reduce emissions.

on Sunday 22 August. (This year, we'll be offering test drives!) Details at www.zerobyron.org.

Replant Byron Alliance

Lowering greenhouse gas emissions is vital – but so is drawing down and sequestering in plants and soil the excess carbon dioxide in the air. ZEB's Replant Byron Alliance connects revegetation organisations, landholders, and professionals, aiming to amplify carbon sequestration through tree planting.

In essence, the Alliance: tallies tree planting across Byron Shire; calculates the carbon drawdown figures to find out their collective impact; shares success stories, to increase demand for native revegetation and regenerative agriculture; and supports and promotes the work of local regenerators, who are playing a key role in our transition to net zero while also increasing biodiversity, water quality, and soil stability.

Can you play a role in this too? Find out more from Wren McLean, our Alliance

coordinator at replant@zerobyron.org.

12-step action plan

We've put together a guide illustrating what anyone can do to reduce their emissions. It covers both changes you can make as well as ways to promote broader climate action and support the change makers.

1. Reduce your electricity use.
2. Go solar and save more than money.
3. Switch to ethical electricity.
4. Plant trees for our future.
5. Change how you eat and shop.
6. Consider switching to an electric vehicle and flying less.
7. Consume less and reduce waste.
8. Divest from fossil-fuel lenders.
9. Help stop more fossil-fuel projects.
10. Engage politically.
11. Talk about it more.
12. Stay informed.

Each step is detailed on our website on a downloadable flyer at www.zerobyron.org/what-can-i-do.

Build sustainably

There is a lot of new building and renovating going on in Byron Shire. The materials you choose in your reno or

new build can either 'cost the Earth' and/or cost you a heap in the running costs over the life of the building. We support sustainable building design and energy efficiency for a lighter carbon footprint.

On our new website, check out our Sustainable House Design Checklist. Also listed are useful building resources.

Zero Emissions Byron is an unfunded volunteer group registered as a charity, finding ways to deliver emissions-reduction strategies and projects for Byron Shire. As a not-for-profit community organisation with DGR status, we receive no regular funding and few grants, so we rely heavily on community goodwill and support. Find out more at: www.zerobyron.org.

