

State of Sustainability Report 2025

Overview for
Victorian Councils

Tues., March 2026

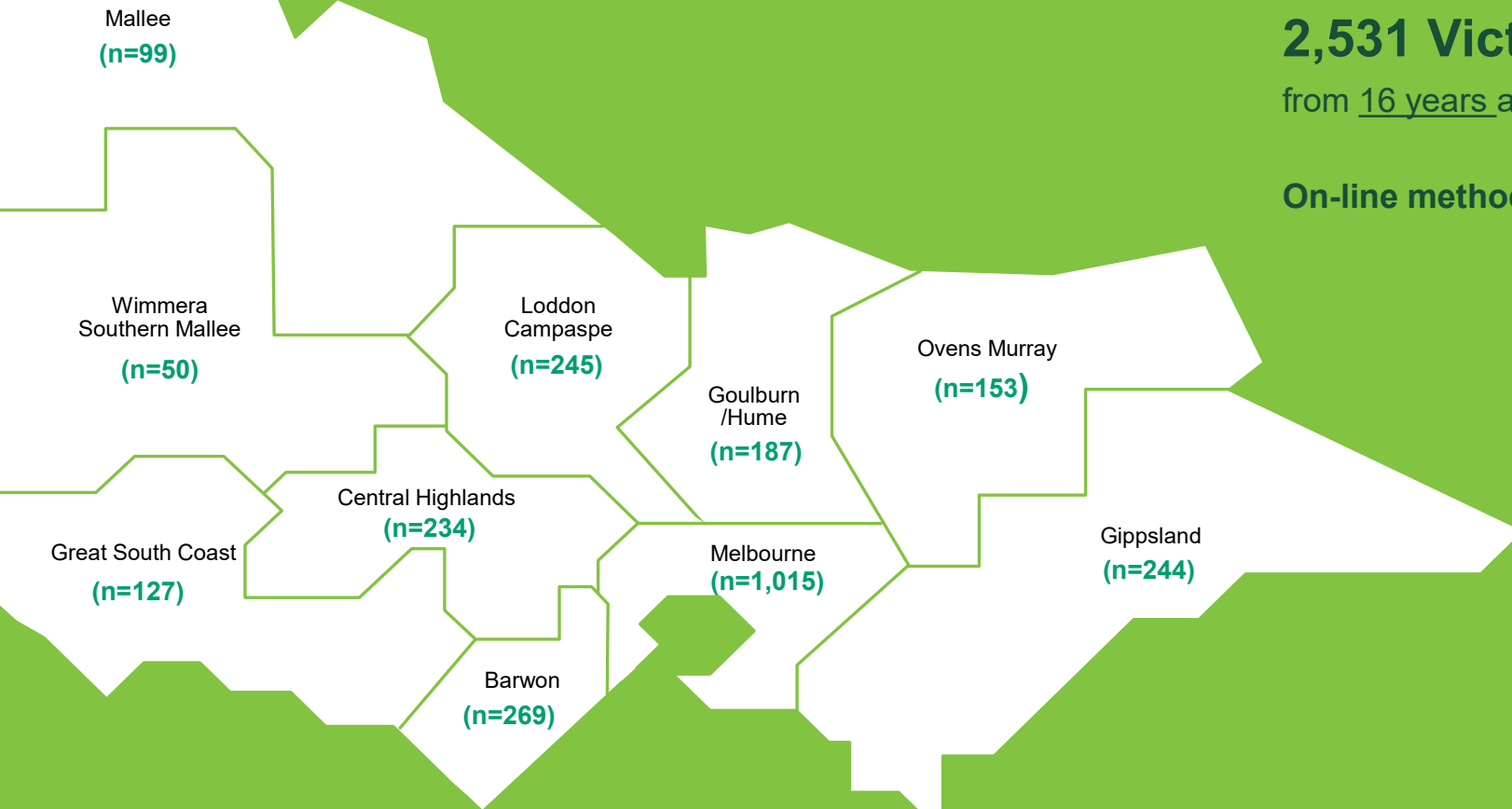


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Representative sample
A state-wide sample of
2,531 Victorians
from 16 years and over

On-line methodology



The State of Sustainability Report provides insights on community attitudes and actions

Survey topics 2025



Climate change

Attitudes, level of concern

Impacts – health conditions

Health services used



Sustainable living and circular economy

Understanding of circular economy

Attitudes & behaviours

Repairs deep dive



Urban greening

Access to open space

Support for nature regeneration

Perceived benefits

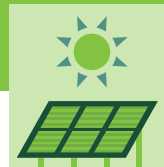


Gas usage, electricity

Replacement behaviour

Barriers & beliefs

Information sources & influences



Renewable energy

Household uptake

Social licence for infrastructure



Expectations from government



Respondent demographics

Age; Sex;
Location;
Education level;
Own-home/ renters;
Employment;
income; IRSD scale;
Bill-stress indicator

Summary of key insights –



Prioritisation of climate change slips further - yet the majority of Victorians still concerned about climate change and support ongoing action



Use of shared services is growing, with young Victorians using these types of services at double the rate of older Victorians



88% of homes still use gas but heating behaviours and figures for 'actual' replacement of gas appliances looks promising



Support for renewable energy infrastructure remains around 60% but the attitudinal gap between young and older generations widens



82% of Victorians see urban green spaces as "essential infrastructure", and there is strong social licence to regenerate and repair environmental damage.

Climate change

- Climate change prioritisation continues to slip
- Almost half of Victorians have recorded a health condition linked to climate change

Almost one-quarter of Victorians rank climate change in the top three priority issues

19%

Victorians

ranked climate change in the top three issues of importance

26% in 2023

23% in 2024

8%

Victorians

ranked climate change as the top priority issue

11% in 2023

8% in 2024

The cost of living is too high, too many problems to worry about climate change



1 cost of living



2 Housing cost



3 Healthcare



4 Roads & transport



5 The job market/employment



6 Climate change

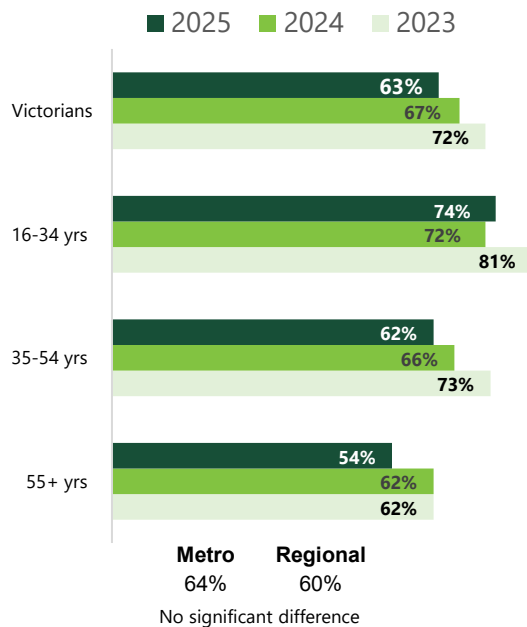


7 Education

63% of Victorians are concerned about climate change

Concern about climate change

(fairly or very concerned)



Say that their concern has increased over the last year

Higher among 16-34 year, 39%

31%

Victorians

35% in 2024



Reasons for increasing concern:



Catastrophic climate events



Changing weather patterns



Lack of local and international government action

"The lack of action by our government (in fact they have gone backwards by continuing to fund gas projects) and the return of Trump"

"...our climate is changing quite dramatically and especially the way it has become warmer and with more catastrophic climate events such as floods, fires, cyclones, hurricanes and extreme heat waves."

A4. How concerned, if at all, are you about climate change?

Base: All respondents 2023 n=2,510, 2024 n=2,552

A5. Which of the following best describes your attitude to climate change over the past year?

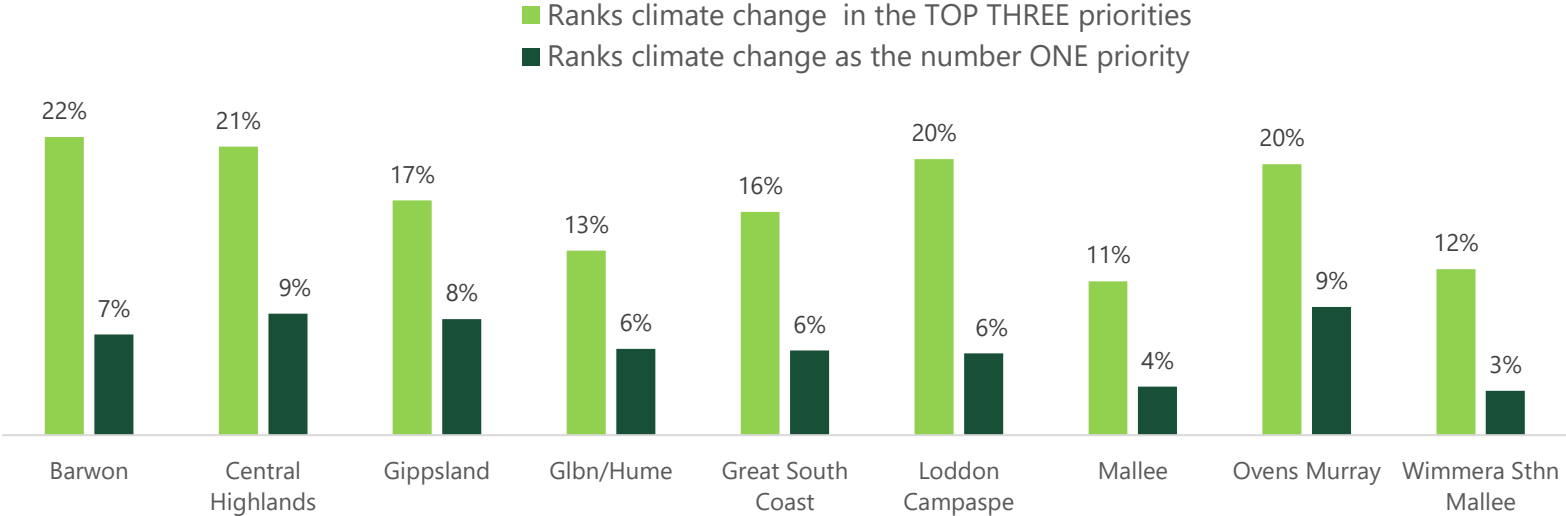
Base: All respondents 2024 n=2,552

A6. What is the main reason for the change in your attitude to climate change?

Base: all who registered a change in attitude

Priority and concern about climate change, by region

(2025 similar to 2024)



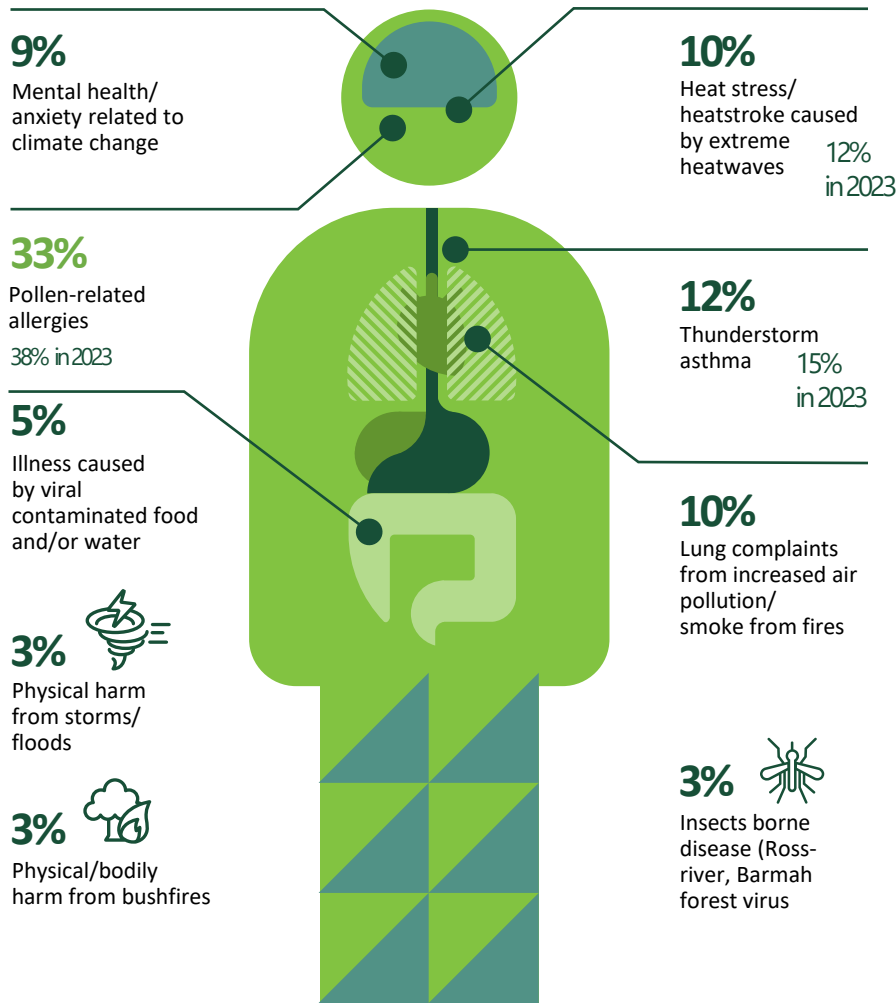
CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CH	64%	67%	54%	54%	71%	64%	59%	57%	61%
CONCERN HAS INCREASED	29%	36%	29%	27%	35%	32%	22%	26%	25%

Almost half of Victorians have experienced a health condition linked to climate change

Self or family member has had health condition linked to climate change

Total
48% (Experienced at least 1 condition)

- Higher for young people: 60% of 16-34 year-olds
- Higher among those with bill stress: 62%
- Higher among women: 51% vs 45% men
- No differences across Melbourne and regional Vic



Health conditions linked to climate change, by region

	Barwon	Central Highlands	Gippsland	Goulburn/Hume	Great South Coast	Loddon Campaspe	Mallee	Ovens Murray	Wimmera Southern Mallee
Pollen-related allergies	29%	37%	33%	35%	29%	39%	28%	34%	23%
Thunderstorm asthma	10%	16%	13%	15%	12%	13%	12%	14%	12%
Heat stress or heatstroke caused by ext heatwaves	8%	13%	11%	13%	10%	13%	13%	8%	12%
Lung complaints air pollution /smoke from fires	7%	14%	11%	14%	11%	11%	6%	15%	7%
Mental illness such as depression or severe anxiety related to climate change / climate-anxiety	10%	10%	10%	15%	10%	7%	7%	5%	3%
Illness caused by food and/or water contaminated by harmful bacteria or viruses	5%	6%	5%	6%	8%	6%	7%	5%	4%
Physical / bodily harm from severe storms and/or flooding	6%	1%	3%	8%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%
Diseases carried by insects (Ross-river, Barmah forest virus, Buruli ulcer)	1%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	8%	2%	2%
Physical /bodily harm from bushfires	3%	2%	1%	2%	6%	1%	2%	2%	1%
None of these	53%	49%	51%	52%	41%	45%	54%	51%	65%
NET - Impacted	47%	51%	49%	48%	59%	55%	46%	49%	35%
Column n	269	234	244	187	127	245	99	153	50

Most went to the pharmacist for pollen-related impacts

HEALTH IMPACT		SOURCE OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE EXPERIENCED THE HEALTH IMPACTS - 2025				
		 GP/LOCAL MEDICAL CENTRE	 PHARMACISTS	 HOSPITALS	 AMBULANCE	 DIDN'T SEEK MEDICAL HELP
Pollen-related allergies	33%	24%	41%	6%	3%	40%
Thunderstorm asthma	12%	29%	21%	17%	7%	41%
Heat stress or heatstroke caused by extreme heatwaves	10%	25%	12%	19%	8%	56%
Lung complaints (e.g.: asthma, lung disease)	10%	43%	20%	23%	8%	25%
Mental illness /depression or severe anxiety related to climate change / climate-anxiety	9%	50%	18%	18%	9%	34%
Illness caused by food and/or water contaminated by harmful bacteria or viruses	5%	50%	28%	26%	5%	19%
Physical / bodily harm from severe storms and/or flooding	3%	24%	25%	18%	15%	34%
Diseases carried by insects (Ross-river, Barmah forest virus, Buruli ulcer)	3%	39%	23%	40%	23%	17%
Physical /bodily harm from bushfires	3%	25%	18%	32%	29%	40%
None of these	52%					

I1. Have you or any of your family been directly affected by any of the following over the past few years (or currently)?

Note: I1 was asked to all respondents in 2025, while only to a partial sample in 2023. Base: 2023 n=623, 2025 n=2,531

I1A. And thinking about the most recent time you were affected by [SELECTED AT I1], did you seek medical assistance from any other following services? Note: new question added in 2025

Base: Respondents have impacted or have family members being impacted by health issues 2025 n varies from 64 to 827



Significantly higher/lower than previous year at 95% CI

Sustainable living and the circular economy

- Positive attitude to living sustainably is consistently held across demographic groups and regions
- Participation in circular behaviours continues to increase

Victorians continue to value living sustainably



69%

Believe that living sustainably is important and

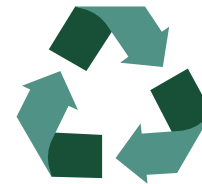
- 68% in 2024
- 70% in 2023

58%

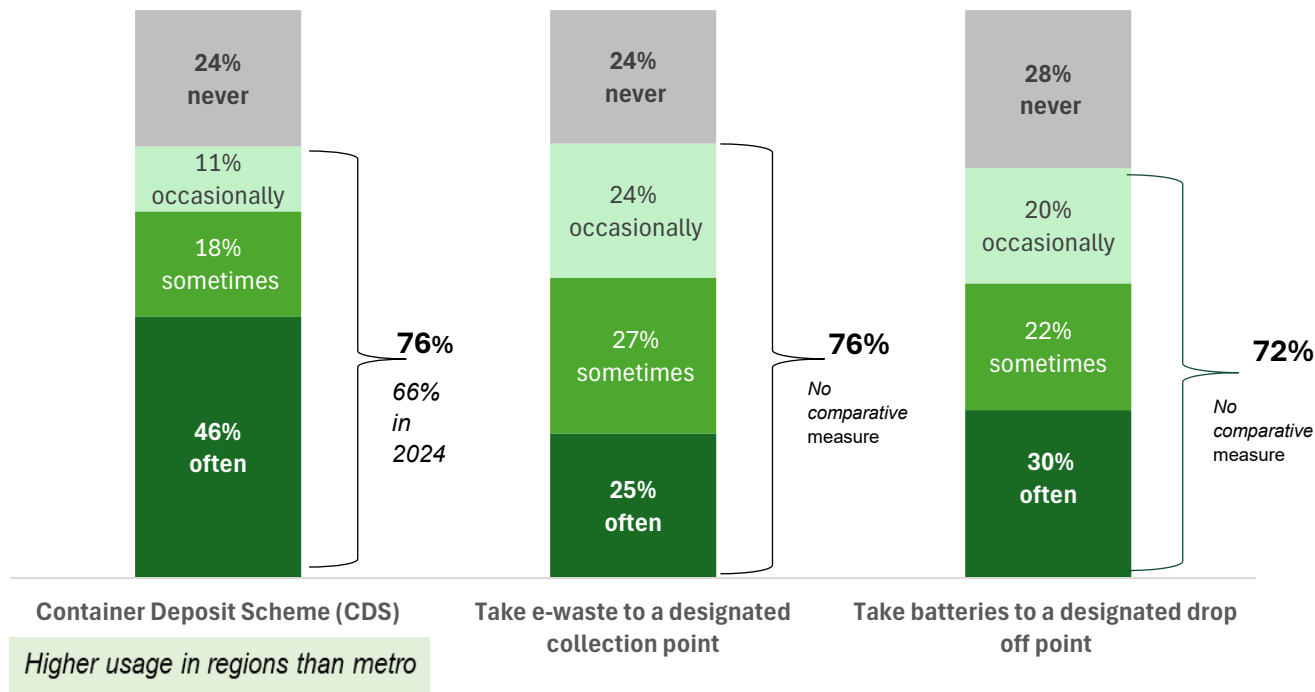
Trying to buy less to reduce their impact on the environment

Behaviours	Total Vic	Believe it's important to live sustainably	Have been trying to buy less	Experiencing bill stress
Re-use / buying less / using sharing services				
Buy/sell /donate second hand items	87%	91%	92%	91%
Used a repair centre, local repair café or professional repair service	31%	34%	38%	31%
Buy repaired/ refurbished electronic devices, rather than buying new ones	28%	31%	35%	37%
Borrow toys from a toy library	20%	25%	26%	13%
Hire or lease baby clothes, nappies kids' equipment	16%	20%	24%	22%
I use a car share scheme	15%	17%	20%	15%
Borrow tools from a tool library	14%	17%	21%	14%
Recycling, extending life				
Has returned containers/have used CDS	76%	79%	80%	76%
Has taken e-waste to a designated collection point	76%	84%	85%	75%
Takes batteries to a designated collection point	72%	79%	79%	65%
Choose products that contain recycled content	63%	71%	75%	68%

Most Victorians use government-initiated recycling programs



Participation in recycling initiatives



CDS usage

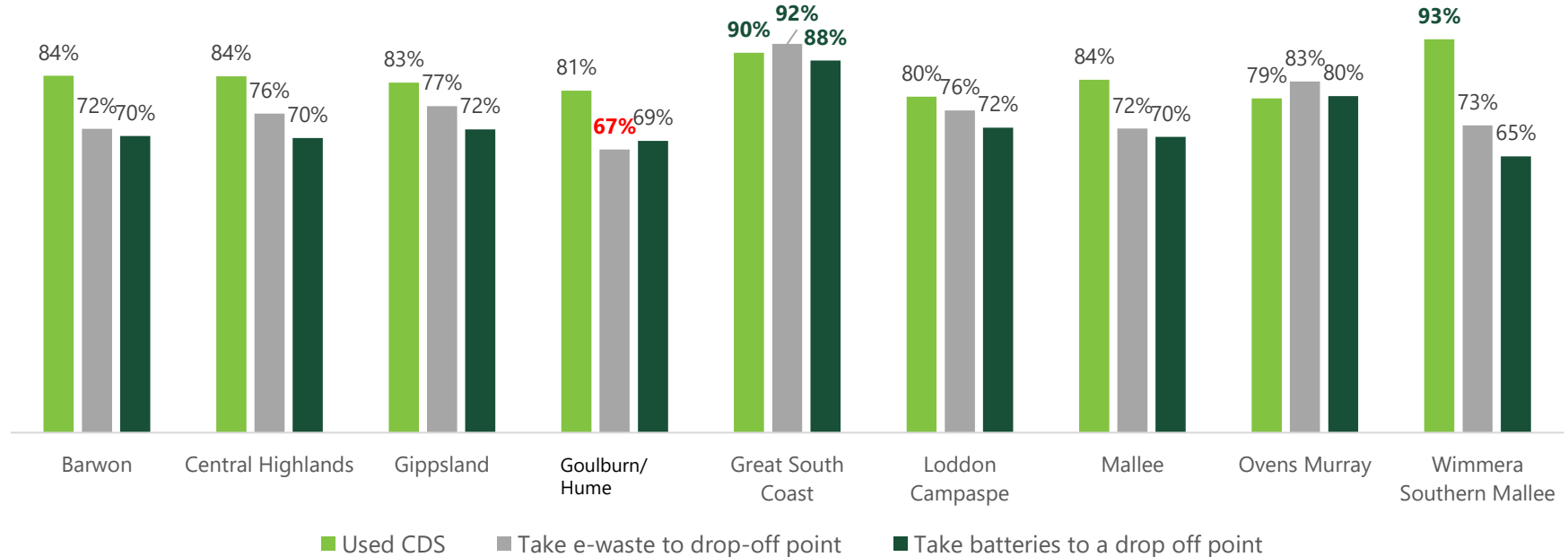
*No correlation w/
kerb side glass bin
availability*

E-waste and battery drop-off

*Higher usage among
the over 55-years*

Use of government-initiated recycling programs, by region

- Great South Coast had higher use
- Goulburn/Hume had lower use of e-waste drop off
- Wimmera Southern Mallee and Great South Coast had higher use of CDS



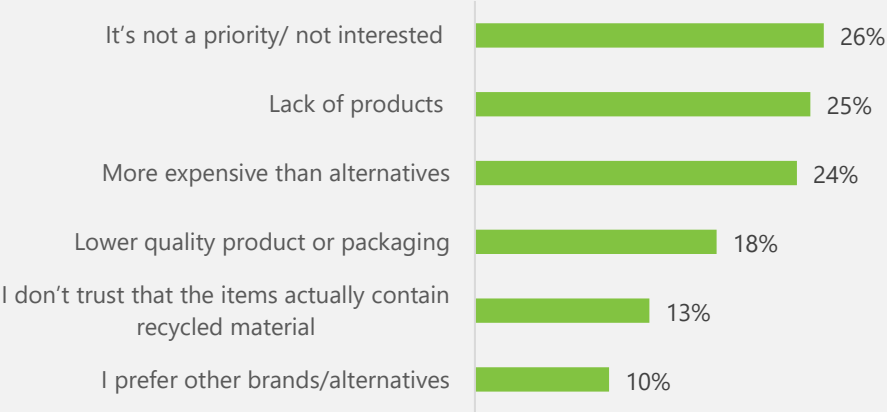
For a circular economy to grow, there needs be a healthy demand for products made from the materials and resources that are recycled

63%

“Often/sometimes buy products that contain recycled content

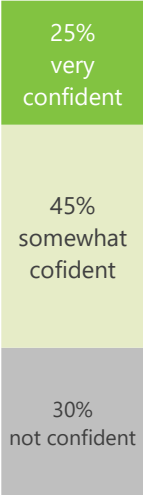
72% in 2023

Reasons for not buying



Confidence in recycling systems

70%
confident in
recycling system



The materials put in the recycling bin are recycled into new materials

Consistent across the regions

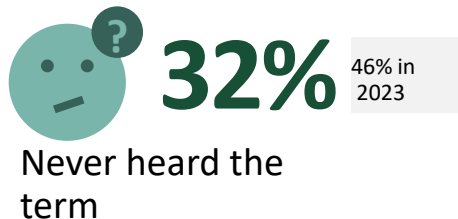
82%
confident in
“recycled content” labels



Items labelled "made with recycled products" really do contain recycled materials

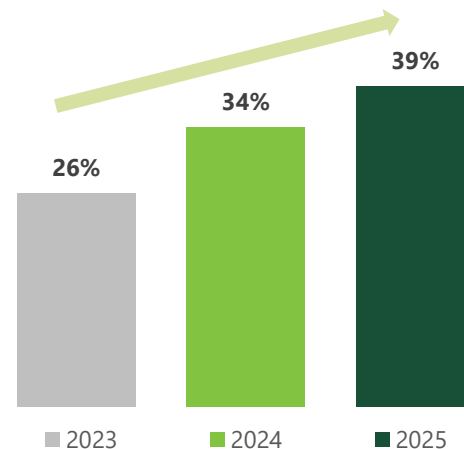
39% of Victorians are familiar with the term circular economy and have some understanding

(13% increase from 2023)



"CIRCULAR ECONOMY"

Familiar with term and has some understanding, by year



Awareness higher among:

- males
- those in metro locations
- those with a degree

No differences across age groups

Participation in 'circular' behaviours increasing year on year

Buying/selling second-hand is well embedded

87% buy /sell/donate second-hand

Shop fronts (82%) and online (68%) used by majority

28% buy repaired/ refurbished electronic devices

42% among 16-34 yrs

31% used repair services

19% participated in the sharing economy

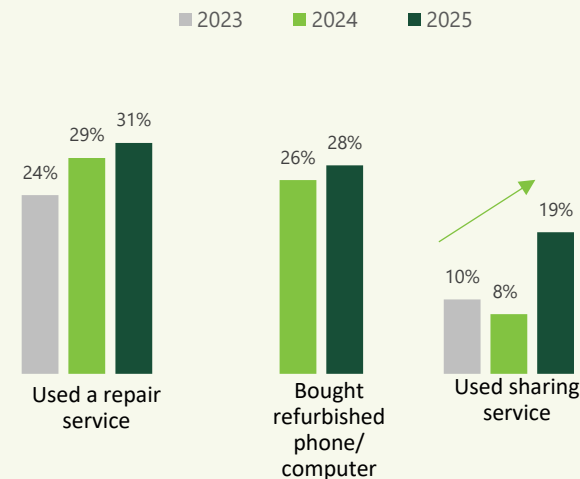
Buying second-hand clothes means buying fewer new clothes (72%)

73% of Victorians would support a brand that let you drop off unwanted clothes for re-use /recycling.

Opportunity



Increasing year on year

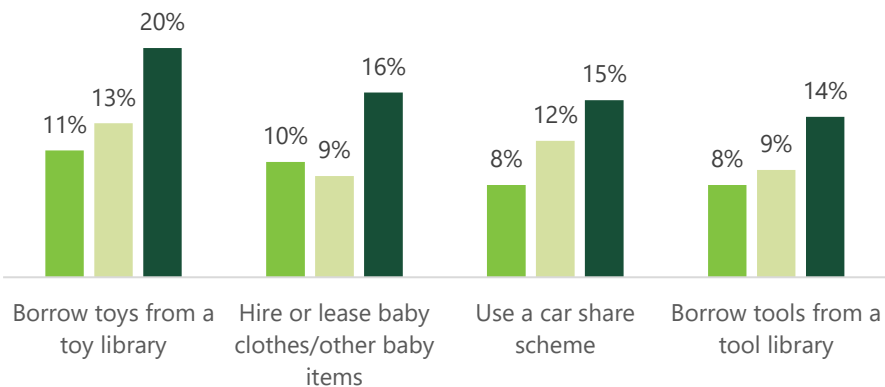


Shared services: tool libraries; car share; toy library; lease children's items

Younger people leading in participation of the sharing economy

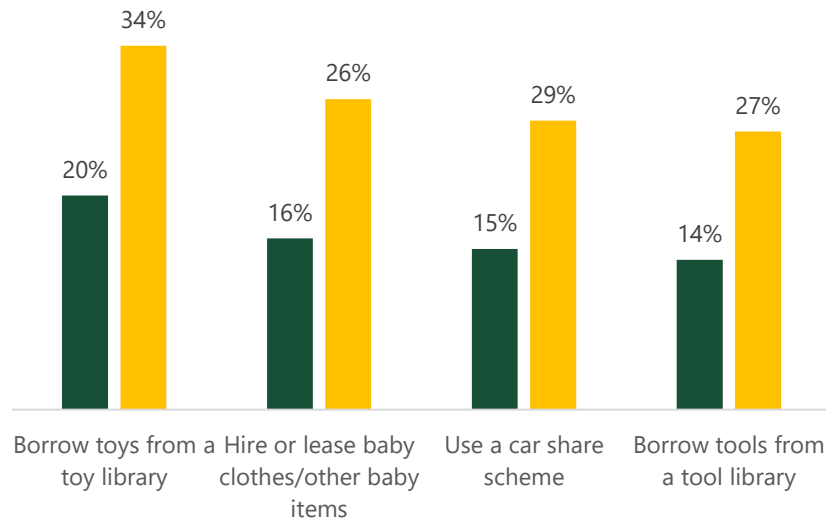
Increased participation in sharing economy

■ 2023 ■ 2024 ■ 2025



Increased participation led by 16-34 years

■ All Victorians ■ 16-34 years



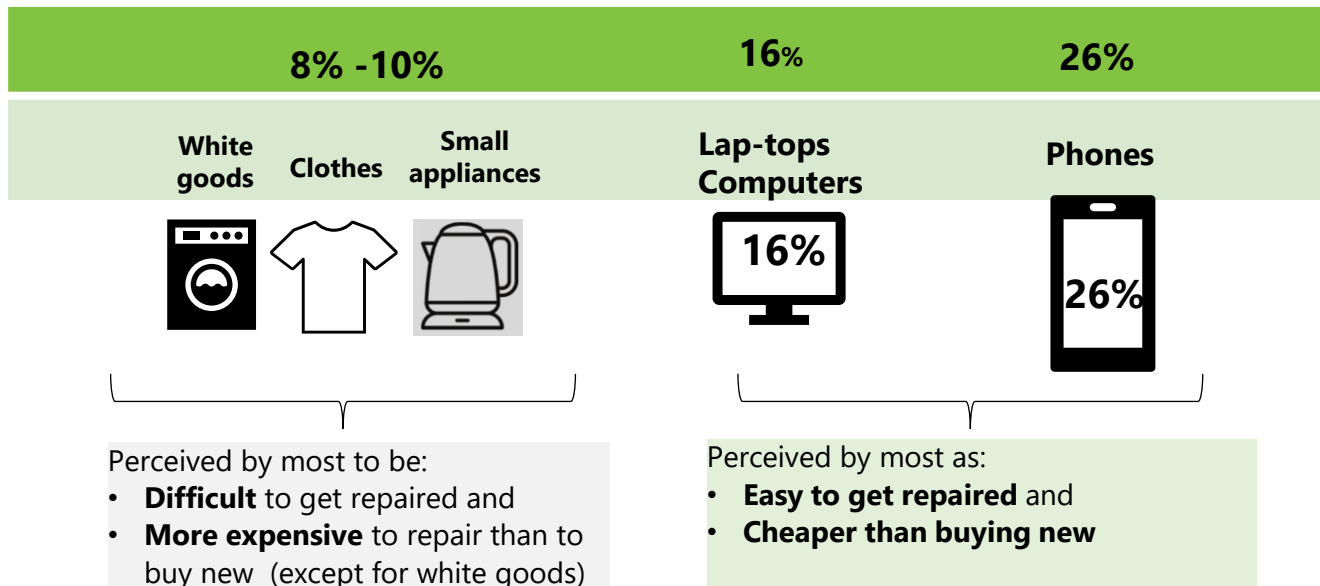
Repairs – deep dive

31% use a repair service often/sometimes

Type of repair service used

- 43% used an independent repair service
- 27% used a repair café/community repair service
- 23% used a service linked to manufacturer

Items repaired



Cost was the main motivation for using repairs

(cheaper to repair than buy new)

84% said cost of repair was cheaper than buying new

If item was not repaired, many would have thrown it in the bin/ for landfill.

- **Clothes, 41%**
- White goods, 20%
- Phones and laptops, 13%
- Small appliances, 17%

Impactful actions

2023	2025	Behaviour	16-34 years	I haven't but I'd like to
13%	18%	Did environment volunteering (tree planting, wildlife rescue etc.)	27%	41%
Not asked	10%	Taken part in a citizen science project (Backyard Bird Count, iNaturalist, Biosecurity Quest etc.)	16%	35%
9%	12%	Switched their bank or super fund to a more environmentally /climate friendly business	21%	25%
9%	11%	Contacted their local MP about an environmental issue	16%	25%
Not asked	22%	Looked into getting off gas and going all electric	30%	30%

Impactful actions, by region

- Great South Coast have higher take- up of:
- **environmental volunteering;**
 - **citizen science** and
 - **looking into going all electric**

	Barwon	Central Highlands	Gippsland	Goulburn	Great South Coast	Loddon Campaspe	Mallee	Ovens Murray	Wimmera Southern Mallee
Did environmental volunteering	13%	14%	15%	15%	29%	17%	20%	15%	30%
Switched finances to a more pro-environment business	10%	15%	7%	11%	13%	11%	16%	11%	13%
Contacted my local MP about an environmental issue	10%	8%	7%	8%	13%	13%	14%	11%	19%
Took part in a citizen science project	9%	8%	8%	10%	19%	11%	12%	12%	9%
Looked in to going all electric / getting off gas	28%	27%	22%	21%	46%	31%	26%	21%	30%

Gas and electricity use

- Figures for gas appliances haven't changed – still high usage of gas
- We see positive shifts in replacement behaviours and around heating

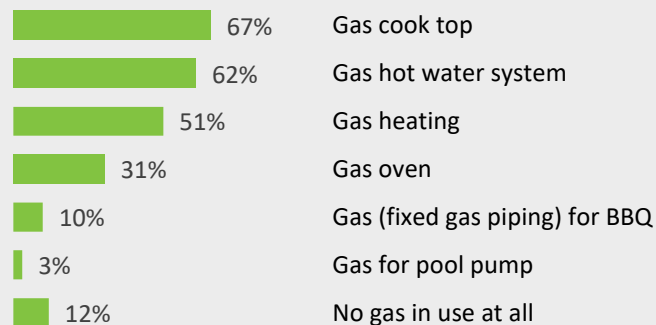
Victoria is the state with the highest gas usage – 88% of respondents use gas

Most have more than one gas appliance in use

40% All gas or mostly gas (same as 2023 and 2024)

Category	Description	% of homes
All gas	All gas appliances - Gas heating - Gas hot water - Gas cook top - Gas oven	13%
Mostly gas	Heating AND hot water is gas	26%
Partly gas	Heating OR hot water is gas (with or without gas cooking)	35%
Low level gas	Only cooking is gas	13%
No gas in use	No gas appliances in use	12%

Appliances in use (no real change over last 2 years)



Gas use higher in Melb than regions

Each gas appliance is 5-10 percentage points higher in Melbourne compared to regional Vic.

D12. In your home, do you have any of the following gas appliances?
Gas cook top; Gas oven; Gas heating; Gas hot water system; Gas for pool pump
Gas (fixed gas piping) for BBQ; Other gas feature (please specify)
No gas at all in use
Bases: 2552



Gas usage – across regions

Gippsland, Mallee and Wimmera southern Mallee have a higher proportion of homes classified as low or no gas.

	Barwon	Central Highlands	Gippsland	Goulburn	Great South Coast	Loddon Campaspe	Mallee	Ovens Murray	Wimmera Southern Mallee
NET: ALL / MOSTLY GAS	41%	38%	26%	30%	30%	30%	12%	32%	18%
NET: LOW / NO GAS	24%	22%	44%	31%	29%	32%	41%	27%	41%
All gas appliances	13%	12%	9%	11%	7%	7%	4%	11%	4%
Mostly gas - (heating + hot water)	28%	27%	17%	19%	23%	23%	7%	21%	14%
Partly gas - (heating or hot water)	35%	40%	30%	39%	41%	38%	47%	41%	41%
Low - Only cooking gas	10%	12%	15%	14%	12%	15%	14%	15%	10%
No gas appliances	14%	10%	29%	17%	17%	17%	27%	12%	32%
n=	262	228	230	185	125	240	96	150	48

Gas connection type – across regions

D.15 Which of the following describe your gas connection?

Column %	Barwon	Central Highlands	Gippsland	Goulburn/ Hume	Great South Coast	Loddon Campaspe	Mallee	Ovens Murray	Wimmera Southern Mallee
Main gas connection	92%	89%	72%	72%	77%	81%	61%	79%	80%
Bottled gas	7%	9%	27%	25%	23%	16%	35%	21%	17%
Not sure	3%	3%	1%	4%	1%	4%	4%	1%	4%

Red text = lower than state average

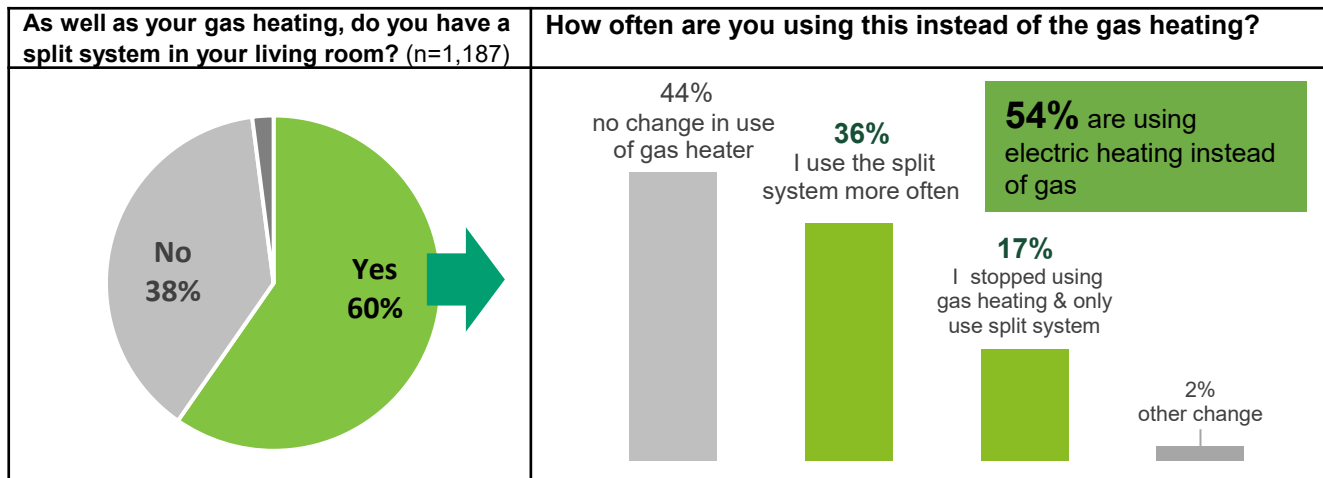
Blue text= higher than state average

Behavioural insight for heating

Although gas fixtures haven't changed – there is change

60% With as heating **also have an electric split system** in the living room

54% Are choosing to use the electric heating more than /instead of gas



Willingness to switch away from gas, is lower among the over 55's, but they have most gas

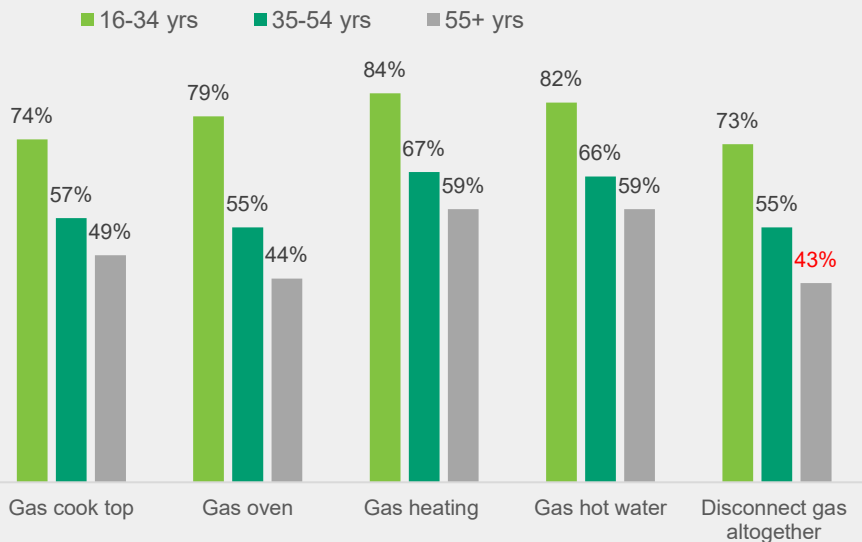
Younger people are more willing to consider changing from gas, and over 55 years less willing.



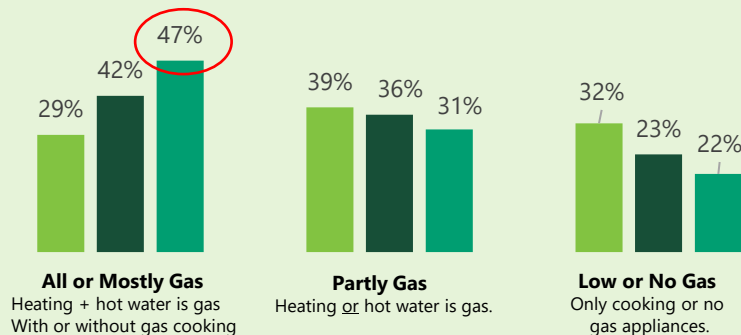
Scale of gas appliances in home

But the over 55's have more gas appliances.
47% are classified as "all or mostly" gas

Willing* to consider switching appliance from gas, by age



16-34 35-54 55+



* "Yes" or "maybe" combined
Overall willingness to switch is similar to last year

"No gas" was similar across age group between 12-14%.

Recent replacement behaviours – a positive breakthrough?

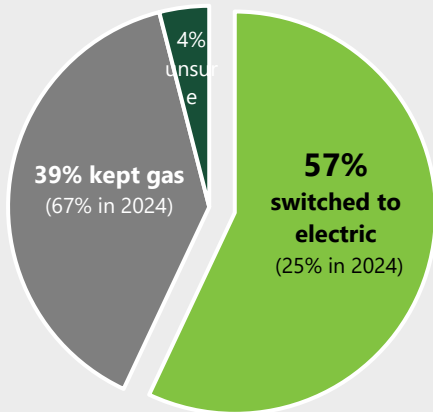
Significant shifts have occurred in replacement behaviours in the past year

- 57% who replaced gas hot water went to electric (compared to 25% last year)
- 65% who changed heating went to electric (compared to 52% last year)

Drivers?

- Rebate schemes allow “double dipping”
- Running costs
- Safety and environment considerations
- Technological improvements

Replacement behaviour for GAS HOT WATER system (n=257)



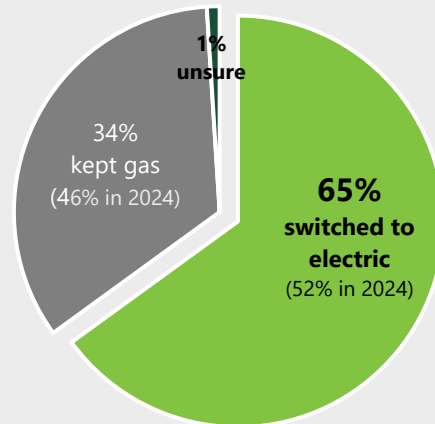
Over the last 2 years:

- 16% of Victorians replaced their **hot water system**;
- 9% replaced their **heating**
- 8% replaced both

Of those 125 people who replaced an **electric hot water system**:

- 76% kept electric
- 21% went to gas
- 3% went to something else

Replacement behaviour for GAS HEATING (n=202)



Of the 80 people who replaced **electric heating**:

- 73% kept electric
- 20% went to gas
- 7% went to something else

Rebates encourage many to switch

Reasons for deciding to choose electric

(in order of % who gave as top reason)

1. **Lower costs / more efficient/ cheaper to run /gas too expensive**
2. **Government rebates**
3. **Better for the environment /cleaner**
4. **I had solar panels**
5. Want to go all electric
6. Healthier /safer
7. More convenient /easy to use

"Electric heating appliances produce no direct emissions, which helps to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions"

*Bottled gas is expensive
....Also feel it is safer and better for the environment*

There was an initiative from the government to upgrade."

It's safer

Government rebate and switching from gas to electric"

Cost!

Lower running costs with electricity influenced my decision."

Save money /power

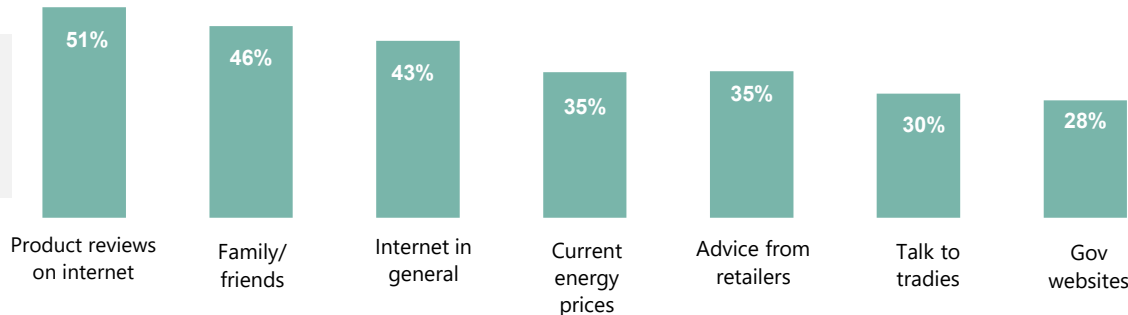
"Switching to an electric heat appliance made sense. It's better for the environment and pairs well with my rooftop solar panels."



Where do they get their information?

Sources of information used by *sole decision makers* (48% of pop'n)

Sole decision makers
are usually younger (four-fifths of them are 16-34 years)

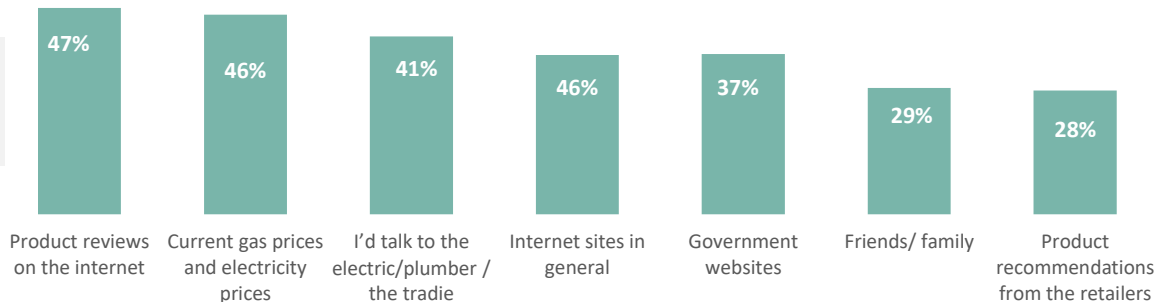


Most influential source?

- Current energy prices
- Tradies recommendations
- Friends /family
- Government websites

Sources of information used by *joint decision makers* (51% of pop'n)

Joint decision making
is most common among those aged 55+ years



Most influential source?

- Current energy prices
- Tradies recommendations
- Retailer recommendations
- Government websites

Renewable energy

- 4 in 10 using renewable energy
- Support for renewable energy infrastructure decreasing most for transmission lines

4 in 10 Victorian households use renewable energy

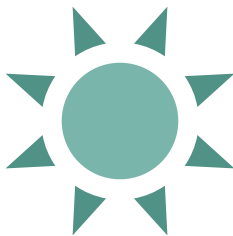
34%

have solar panels
31% in 2023; 29% in 2024

5%

who don't have solar
panels but buy renewable
energy from energy
provider.

*(9% of those with solar panels
also bought renewable energy
but were not double-counted.)*



**More likely
to have solar:**

40% in stand-alone houses

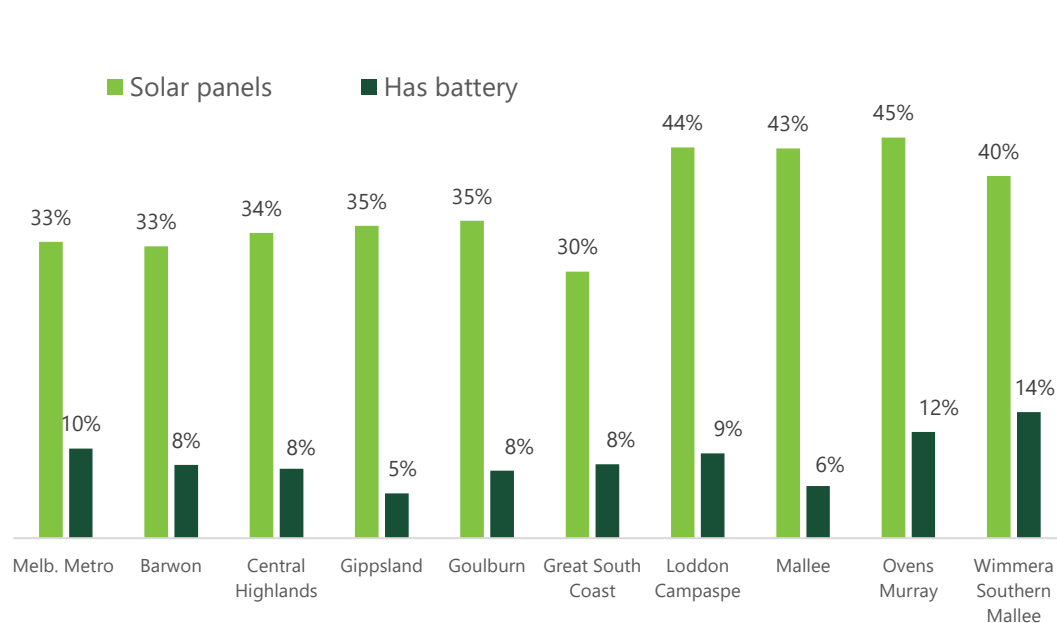
44% homeowners v **9%** renters

9%

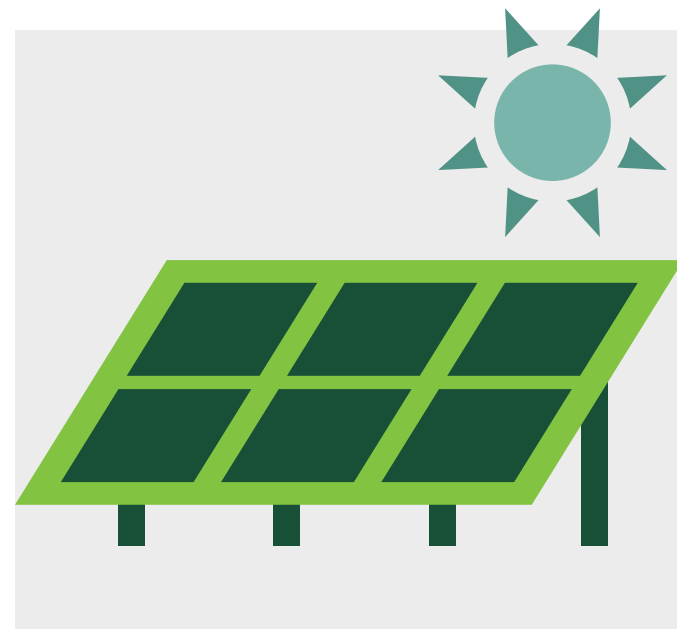
of those with solar
also have a battery

Solar take-up is higher in the regions

Solar panel and battery take-up, by region



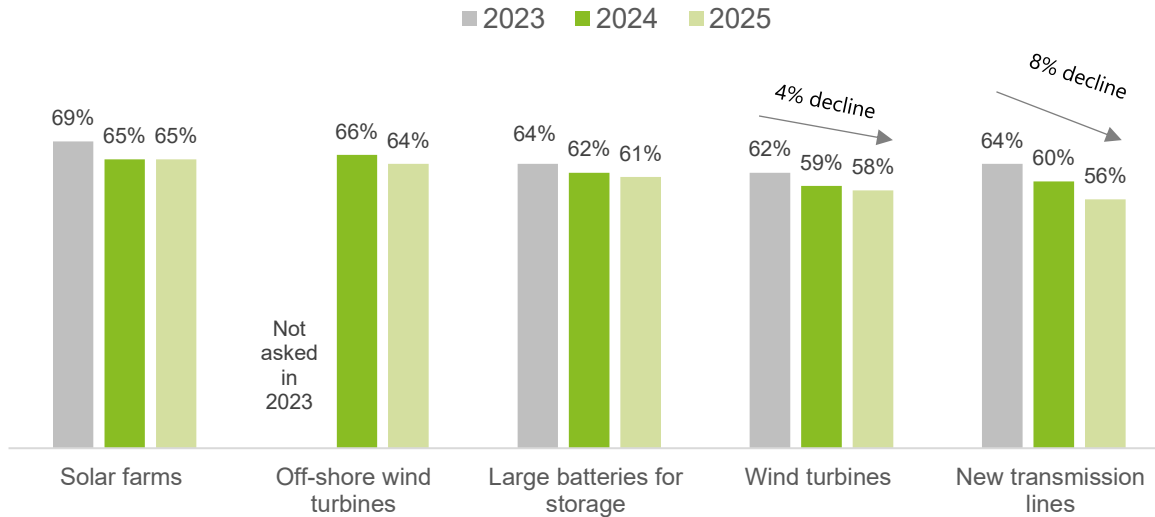
Note: smaller sample sizes in the regions means a lower confidence interval (+/-) and figures will jump a little year on year



The majority of Victorians support renewable energy infrastructure

Support is consistently higher among 16 to 34 year-olds and lower among the 55+ years.

- Older people more likely to have concern about property values (CSIRO) and overall lower pro-environment attitudes compared to younger people



Beliefs about renewable energy / climate change:

41%

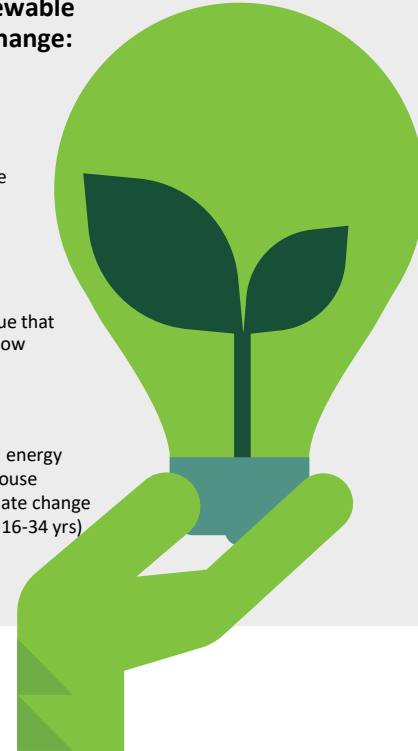
Acting on climate change costs too much

64% 67% 2023

Climate change is an issue that requires urgent action now

60%

The move to renewable energy helps Vic. lower greenhouse emissions and stop climate change getting worse (74% for 16-34 yrs)



D10. For each of the following, please indicate if you already have this in your home, or if you plan to have this within the next two years:

*Solar (or PV) panels to generate electricity

Renewable energy, such as GreenPower, purchased from your electricity retailer

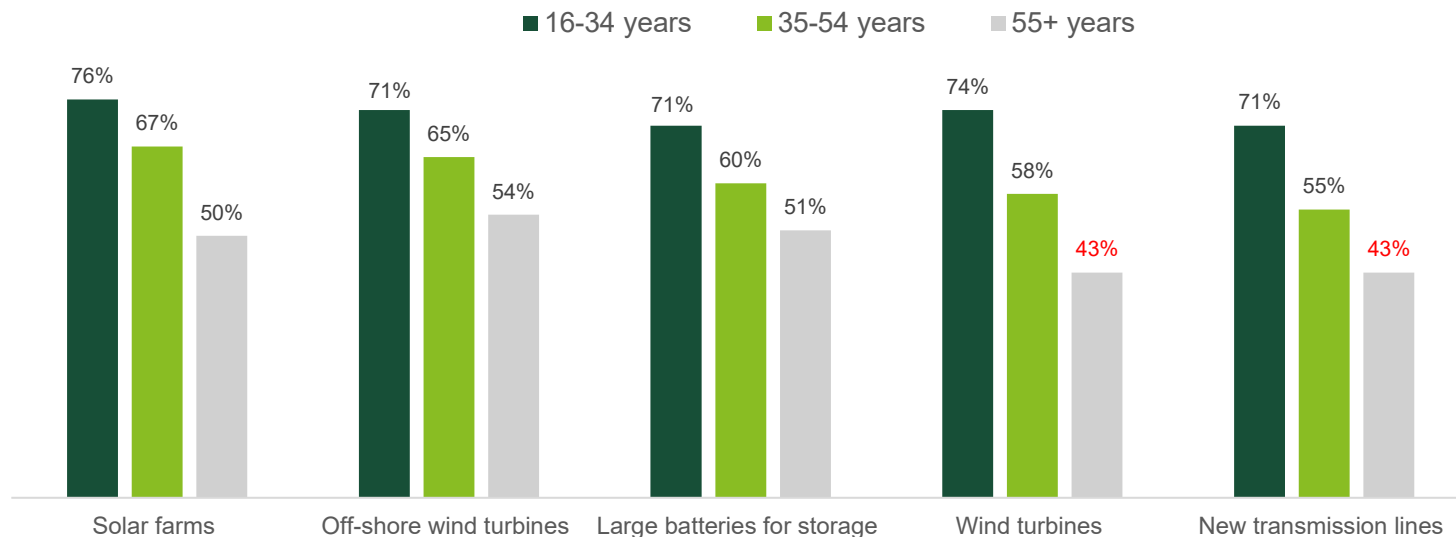
Base: n=2552

D10a. And do you have a home solar battery system connected to your solar panels? Base: (those with solar panels)

Support for renewable energy infrastructure differs across age groups – over 55's less supporting



Willingness to support renewable energy infrastructure, by age



Other differences

Other differences:

Men and more supportive than women:

- off-shore wind, 68% v 61%)
- new transmission lines, 60% v 53%

No differences between metro and regional

No differences between those living in a renewable energy zone and others

Reasons for low support of renewable energy infrastructure

Reasons that were common across all types of infrastructure included:

- negative visual impacts /aesthetic concerns
- loss of agricultural land/natural land
- environmental harms/negative impacts
- non-recyclable waste was also mentioned

Specific to infrastructure type:

- Safety concerns were specific to batteries

Off-shore wind turbines



The whales need the ocean. The turbines emit sonar that causes whales to get disorientated. The turbines leak dangerous chemicals into the ocean.

*They **cost a fortune to build**, they don't last a long time, and the disposal costs are huge as well as to the environment"*

Wind turbines



Cost to maintain and replace

We live in an area that is highly populated by birdlife, large and small. Wind turbines would be disastrous for them."

Large battery storage



A waste of money. They consume natural resources to build, can't be recycled, and have to be thrown away in about 15 years after building

I don't mind roof top solar, But large battery storage - that is completely different. I do not want those around because they aren't safe. They can cause fires.

Solar farms



They don't last a long time

"I don't think such initiative should be in residential areas. I think they are fine if they are located away from the city

unsightly, drop in property values

"i dont want solar farms taking up valuable growing land and creating an eyesore in our beautiful country areas. we need space for animals and vegetation...Put them on buildings in the city, not in our tourist towns that rely on the scenery

Transmission lines



'They are an eyesore on what is supposed to be a beautiful environment. So you are trying to fix one environmental issue by creating two environmental issues.

I think they are ugly, and all transmission should be underground.

Fire risk with sagging lines

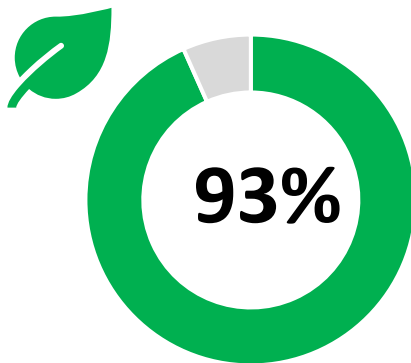
Urban Greening

- Most Victorians have easy access to green spaces
- There is strong social licence for **regenerating and repairing environmental damage** and **restoring** ecosystems, habitats and wildlife

Access to green space is high

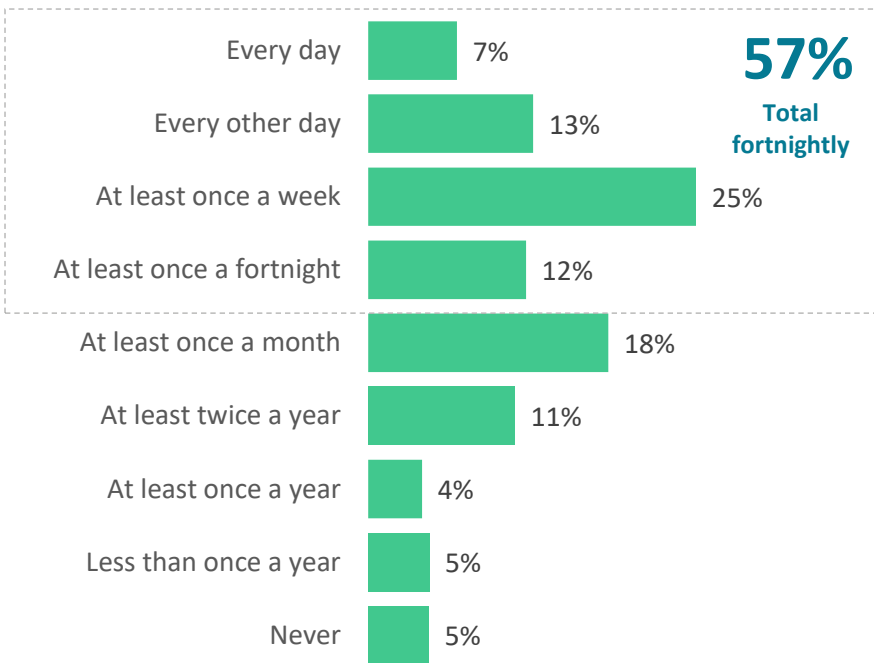
93%

have easy access to green open spaces, parks or gardens within a 15 min. walk from where they live.



Consistent across all demographics and locations

Frequency of spending time in nature



Access to green space is high

Victorians recognise the benefits green space provides, especially older people



Perceived benefits	% Victorians	% those aged 55+ yrs
Health benefits , places to exercise	76%	81% ↑
Mental health benefits – places to relax, unwind	74%	79% ↑
Improved air quality	66%	68%
Social gathering spaces	63%	68%
More beauty	60%	65% ↑
Ecological- habitat for animals / increasing biodiversity	57%	65% ↑
Reducing heat, providing cool, shady places in summer	47%	57% ↑
Reducing carbon from the air /reducing emissions	45%	53% ↑
Improved water quality	24%	22%

More than half gave recognition of these benefits



Women were more likely than men to mention mental health and social interactions

Strong social licence for urban greening and habitat regeneration

77% agree it is necessary to **regenerate and repair environmental damage** and to **restore** ecosystems, habitats and wildlife
- 82% among 16-34 years

83% agree that **urban green spaces** are an **essential infrastructure** to have in cities and towns

88% agree is important to **create and maintain healthy urban ecosystems and thriving biodiversity** in our cities and towns

Green spaces Victorians would like to see more of

Shade and cooling

- Shade trees along suburban streets
- Trees/urban forests for shade and cooling

Popular across all age groups, but most popular among those aged 55+ years

Spaces that support wild-life and insects

- More natural open spaces
- Habitats for urban wildlife
- Gardens for insects, bees and birds
- Native wildflowers and grass plantings
- Ponds /wetlands

Food

- Edible gardens/food in public spaces

Most popular among women

Functional spaces

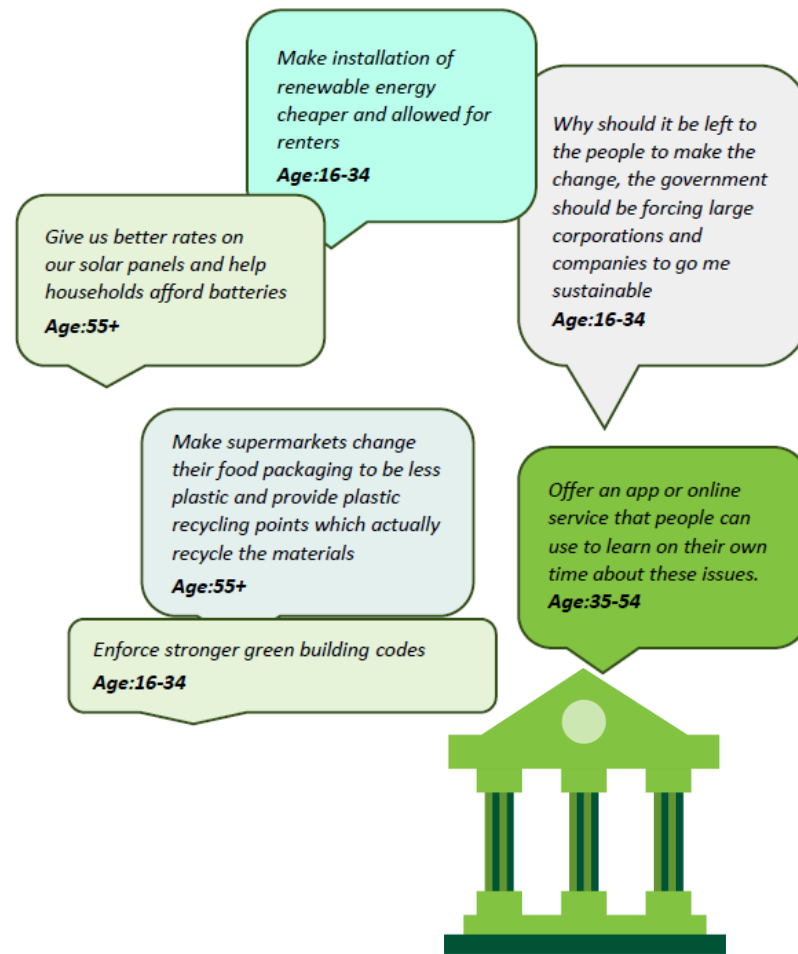
- Grasses/plants on roadside verges/nature strips
- Pocket parks / small parks between buildings
- Green walls /Roof gardens on public buildings
- Greenery around public transport hubs

Green walls, roof gardens on public buildings and greenery around transport hubs was more popular among 16-34 years

Expectations of Government

Common themes:

- Help with costs of sustainability options / Make sustainable options more affordable.
- Promote sustainability more and provide more information.
- Make big polluters pay not individuals.
- Strong building laws and regulations.
- Promote community gardens.



Request SV Resources





Thank you



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