

Carbon Crunching Councils Summary Report

April 2019

1 Introduction

Carbon Crunching Councils is a collaborative program between Benalla Rural City, Murrindindi Shire, Strathbogie Shire and Towong Shire. The program aims to improve the management of utilities and ultimately provide a strong foundation on which to progress carbon management across the participating Councils. CarbonetiX to commence a Utilities Management project as part of the Carbon Crunching Councils program, starting in November 2018.

2 Baseline Energy Cost

The table below outlines the 2018 baseline energy cost, consumption and emissions figures, which were quantified as part of this project.

Table 1. 2018 Baseline Energy Figures Across Each Council

Council	Consumption (GJ)	Annual Cost (\$)	Emissions (tCO ₂ -e)
Strathbogie	2,850	205,983	855
Murrindindi	3,503	220,972	1,051
Benalla	8,370	397,732	1,967
Towong	1,226	107,274	357
Total	15,260 GJ	\$885,059	4,023

3 Issues

The most common issues encountered across all councils:

- Electricity accounts on a sub-optimal retail tariff
- SRO rebates not applied to eligible water accounts
- Incorrect or misleading supply addresses
- Accounts with zero consumption
- Potential water leaks

4 Cost Recovery

Table 2 summarises the cost savings for each council, including forecasted and actual recovered savings, and annual avoided costs.

Table 2. Cost Savings Across Each Council

Council	Forecasted Saving Per Annum	Actual Recovered	Actual Annual Avoided Costs
Strathbogie	\$ 16,612.00	\$ 780.00	\$ 4,709.00
Murrindindi	\$ 10,802.00	\$ 1,755.00	\$ 7,690.50
Benalla	\$ 33,996.00	-	-
Towong	\$ 34,000.00	-	-
Total	\$ 95,410.00	\$ 2,535.00	\$ 12,399.50

5 Recommendations Summary

- Incorporate robust utility invoice validation and issue investigation processes into standard utilities management procedures to ensure billing issues are identified and resolved effectively.
- Implement an auto-bill verification process to reduce reliance and pressures on staff and to save time.
- Implement a leak management plan to ensure leaks are quickly detected and repaired quickly.
- Consider GIS mapping meters to help identify meter locations and what each meter supplies.
- Continue to undertake energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to further reduce energy costs and emissions.
- Improve data management & environmental reporting to aid in setting emissions reduction targets and identifying key sites to focus improvements on.
- Ensure Council has robust and collaborative energy contract procurement processes in place to ensure they stay informed on energy contract matters and can be proactive to developments in energy markets.
- Incorporate leased accounts onto Council contracts to help reduce utility costs for facility tenants, by giving them access to Councils greater buying power.