



University of
South Australia

Living Lightly Locally for Regenerative Regions



ALCN Learning Forum

Climate resilience, sustainability and regeneration -
community education and action

Dr Keri Hopeward
University of South Australia

RACE for
2030
RELIABLE
AFFORDABLE
CLEAN
ENERGY

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that this project takes place on the lands of the Kurna, Peramangk and Ngarrindjeri people and extend our respect to Elders past, present and emerging, as well as to any First Nations people joining us today.

As we think about what it means to 'Live Lightly Locally', we acknowledge the role played by First Nations people in caring for country since time immemorial.

I invite us all to reflect on our own roles in contributing to processes of decolonisation as we embark on this discussion together.



Living **Lightly** Locally



Introducing Our Research Team:



Dr Keri Hopeward
Lead Researcher
Social Science &
Education for
Sustainability



A/Prof James Hopeward
Project Leader
Environmental
Engineering



Prof Delene Weber
Human Dimensions of
the Environment



Matilda Raynes
Masters Student: Changing the World for Good



Dr Martin Freney
Earthship
Ecohomes



Adjunct Prof John Boland
Environmental Mathematics &
Modelling



Prof Anne Sharp
Sustainable Marketing &
Behaviour Change

Living Lightly Locally



Current Context

Phase 1 (2021-2024)

- *Living Lightly Locally: SMARTer and Stronger through Citizen Science (already funded)*
- Core educational materials
- Trial research data gathering mechanism
- Delivery of first two local pilots

Existing project

Phase 2 (2024-2027)

- *Living Lightly Locally for Regenerative Regions (this proposal)*
- Scaling up to state level
- Co-delivery model with Partners
- Co-creation of research-informed policy

Current proposal

Phase 3 (2027-2030)

- *Living Lightly Locally: RACE for 2030 (future funding)*
- Scale up co-delivery model with interstate partners
- Curriculum development and pursuing pathways for formal qualifications (potentially through the emerging 'University of the Future')

Potential future funding



Living Lightly Locally

What is Living Lightly Locally?

- A **12-month free adult research & education program** designed to encourage people to live more sustainably and regeneratively, while **creating more resilient and regenerative regions...**



What our participants do:

- Commence by **envisioning** a local future they want
- **Learn** about (via monthly documentary films) and **discuss** (via live interactive sessions – **online** and **in person**) interconnected social and environmental issues and related actions
- Set **goals** to bring about change at individual, household and community / system change levels
- **Contribute data** from their own journey via surveys, self-audits, diaries & goals set for each topic

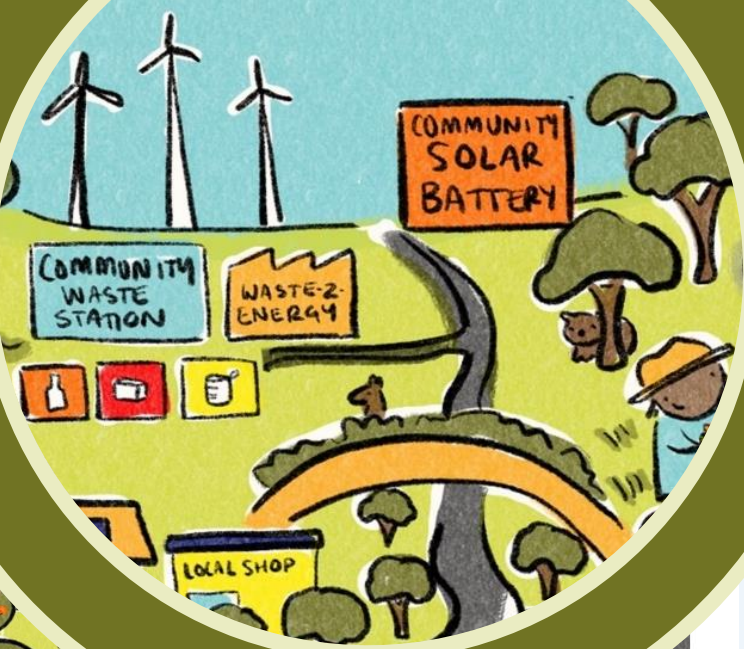


Living Lightly Locally

SMARTer and Stronger through Citizen Science



Each artwork is drawn from the participants discussing their vision of a local future!



We acknowledge that the 'Living Lightly Locally: SMARTer and Stronger through Citizen Science' project takes place on the lands of the Peramangk, Kaurna and Ngarrindjeri people and extend our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

This image was created from the visions of the 'Living Lightly Locals' in the Mt Barker cohort of Living Lightly Locally, following our 'Envisaging Ecotopia' workshop.

We are grateful for your input and hope Living Lightly Locally helps you bring this vision to life.

To find out more visit: www.livinglightlylocally.com.au



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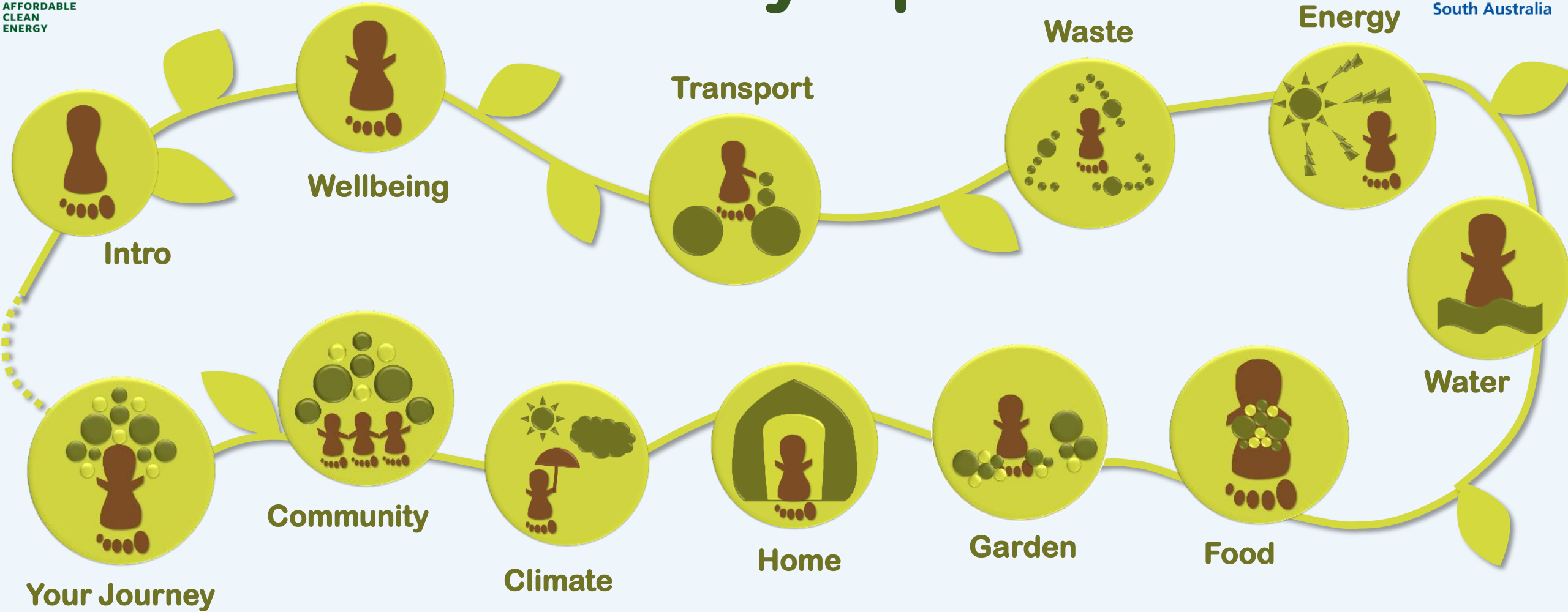
This image was created from the visions of the 'Living Lightly Locals' in the Burnside cohort of Living Lightly Locally, following our 'Envisaging Ecotopia' workshop.

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To find out more visit: www.livinglightlylocally.com.au



Monthly topics



Living **Lightly** Locally



Phase 1: Key Outcomes

Curriculum / Platform

- 12x 30-minute professionally edited educational videos
 - In-depth local case studies
 - Renowned experts & activists
 - Theoretical explanations of complex interconnected topics
- 12 monthly data collection / survey & goal-setting tools
- Curated resources for extra reading & information for each topic

Delivery of first two pilots

- Mount Barker & Burnside, approx. 50 participants in total overall
- Smaller number of rich case studies of engaged participants showing real-world motivations, challenges and opportunities for synergistic solutions for wellbeing and environmental impact

Program evaluation tools

- Masters by Research Project '*Changing the World for Good: Mapping the Long-Term Impacts of Adult Community Environmental Education Programs in SA*' to inform program evaluation and development

Knowledge sharing

- Featured in local and national newspaper & magazine articles, local research forums, two national conferences (NENA 2022, APC 2023) and one international conference (EcoSummit 2023)
- Project also featured as an Australian localisation case study on a panel at the *Planet Local Summit* in the UK in Sept 2023
- *Sustainability Special Issue*



Changing the World for Good

Research Questions:

1. What are the long-term impacts of adult environmental education programs in South Australia (and beyond)? In relation to:
 - Individuals
 - Households
 - Communities
 - Broader society

2. What are the barriers and enablers to creating long-term impacts from adult environmental education programs, as experienced by participants and facilitators?

Main Case Study

Living Smart (Administered in SA by Green Adelaide)



- 2 expert interviews
- 11 participant/facilitator interviews
- 24 completed surveys

Informed by

Australian Red Cross Climate Ready Communities




- 1 expert interview
- 2 participant interviews

Key findings reviewed at Expert Panel

Summit Meeting

Findings inform LLL (and other programs)

Living Lightly Locally: SMARTer and Stronger through Citizen Science



Living Lightly Locally

LLL Phase 1: Preliminary Findings

- **The Tools**
 - The **visioning process** was inspirational for many participants common themes
 - **Mapping exercises** have potential to be even more useful in future phases
 - **Issues with well-established tools** and the different ways that people use them
 - People tend to **believe the 'quant'** tools despite grounding them in critique
- **The Goals**
 - Participants gravitate towards **direct** versus **indirect** impact
 - Participants keen to set goals at the **community and systems change level**
 - **Goal setting** worked for some but not for others
 - Stronger focus on **policy recommendations** for Phase 2
- **The Data**
 - Engagement from core cohort – need to **streamline mechanisms** (focus groups?)
 - **Story of change / community mapping** approaches will help unpack data and expose barriers and enablers in more detail
 - Building in **more open participation** and **longer-term evaluation** in Ethics
 - **Train participants in storytelling** from the outset (change the narrative)?



LLL Phase 1: Key Challenges/Lessons

• Recruitment

- Participation was strong for pilots but keen to grow in future
- How do we encourage more people to participate and deepen engagement?
- **How do we create more diverse participation beyond the usual suspects?**

• The Platform

- We created a variety of mechanisms for participants to share through with different levels of impact/exposure
- **How do we develop more intuitive platforms and open mechanisms for sharing stories at scale?**

• Funding

- Securing ongoing support and funding has taken longer and proven more difficult than we anticipated which created multiple challenges
- **How can we increase and improve funding for community climate education more broadly?**



Resources

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You have the power to bring about positive change. Every action makes a difference, so start today with the theme that inspires you most.

Climate-Ready Communities: a guide to getting started

Download our four-step guide to getting your community ready for climate change.

[Download](#)



South Australian Grassroots Ecosystem

Connection. Sharing. Resilience.

A community gathering for all folks who love and are concerned for the health and future of our planet and all its beings.



Thank you!



Living Lightly Locally

SMARTer and Stronger through Citizen Science

[INTRODUCTION](#)

[CITIZEN SCIENCE](#)

[WHAT'S INVOLVED](#)

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**MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Introducing Living Lightly Locally

Have you ever wondered why it sometimes seems so hard to make the changes we know we need to make, in order to live happier, healthier, simpler, more locally connected and regenerative lives?

Well, so have we!

Living Lightly Locally is a free education and research program aimed at helping individuals, households and communities contribute directly to our shared understanding of what types of change we want to make, and what obstacles or barriers we encounter when trying to make such change in our own lives.



Image credit: Green Adelaide



Living Lightly Locally