eastern community legal centre

# CLIMATE JUSTICE AND DISASTER RECOVERY

***Advancing climate resilience through legal support, advocacy, partnerships and collaborative action.***

eclc.org.au/climatejustice

Climate Justice

# Climate Justice Program

Since the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires to more recent extreme weather events, ECLC has been supporting disaster recovery activities in the East. The Centre provides free legal help, information, referral and education to support communities to recover, with the help of volunteers and partners.

As climate change has intensified, and extreme weather events become more frequent, ECLC has expanded its work. It recognised further efforts are needed to support the capacity of communities to cope with increases in climate-induced extreme weather impacts,  particularly for people already experiencing disadvantage and complex life challenges.

ECLC takes an approach that works across the prevention continuum; continuing to respond to disasters while also working with community to build resilience and increase preparedness to manage future shocks and hazards.

The Centre also works to address systemic drivers that lead to an increased risk of climate impacts - recognising that communities experiencing marginalisation continue to be disproportionately impacted. This is the work of **Climate Justice**.

**Common legal issues after extreme weather:**

- ✓Insurance
- ✓Tenancy/Housing
- ✓Family violence
- ✓Family Law
- ✓Consumer law
- ✓Social security
- ✓Planning law

*"Climate Justice is the connection between social justice and climate change. Climate justice seeks to ensure community and government responses are driven by equitable, fair, and inclusive interventions, and that those in power address existing systemic issues and the drivers that create and perpetuate inequity and environmental harm."*

- Federation of Community Legal Centres Victoria

## Disaster Recovery & Response

Working in close collaboration with Eastern region partners, ECLC stands up a team of legal and related professionals to provide timely legal help, information and referral to impacted communities and community members.

This includes:

- attending on-site at recovery hubs for initial legal advice and ensuring appropriate referrals.
- providing legal information sessions on issues identified by community and partners.
- supporting partner organisations to facilitate legal health checks.

## Climate Justice

ECLC's climate justice program supports community resilience and legal preparedness while addressing systemic inequities.

Activities include:

- Community engagement and collaborative partnership.
- Community Legal Education.
- Professional development.
- Systemic policy, advocacy, and law reform - view submissions https://eclc.org.au/law-reform-policy/

## Collaborative Partnerships

The **Climate Partnerships Project** is a collaboration of ECLC, ARC Justice, Federation of Community Legal Centres Victoria and Jesuit Social Services - Centre for Just Places.

The project aims to strengthen place-based resilience through collaborative action in regions at increased risk of extreme weather events, particularly Yarra Ranges.

The **Climate and Disaster Legal Data Project,** funded by Victoria Law Foundation is a partnership project with Windemere and Each. It aims to understand climate and disaster induced legal and related need.

**Enabling Climate Resilient Development in the East** is a partnership project funded by the Greater Melbourne Foundation, to develop a climate resilient development framework for the east.

**Climate Justice Victoria - Embedded Model for Building Equitable Disaster (EMBED)** - Project Partner. This project aims to develop a climate-ready legal response model for disaster impacted communities.

Climate Justice

## Continuum Approach

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Addressing societal drivers of vulnerability | Building capacity & managaing climate risk impacts | Response & recovery support following extreme weather event |
| Activities and programs that seek to address the structural drivers of inequality at the population level. | Community legal education and engagement. | Legal advice, information, referral and casework |

PREVENTION → EARLY INTERVENTION → RESPONSE, RECOVERY

## What's Next?

- Developing integrated, holistic legal response to climate induced legal and related need
- Continuing to develop deeper, evidence informed understandings around climate change induced legal need and help seekers

### Eastern Communities Climate Resilience Advisory Group (ECCRAG)

Led by ECLC, this group comes together to guide climate justice and disaster resilience efforts in Melbourne's East. By fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing and capacity building, it seeks to deepen the region's understanding of climate-related challenges, develop innovative solutions and forge strategic partnerships. This collective action strengthens resilience efforts for a more equitable future for local communities.

**ECLC would like to thank:**

Victoria Law Foundation
Victorian Government
Australian Government
Greater Melbourne Foundation
Victorian Legal Services Board + Commissioner

ECLC acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land across ECLC's region. We pay our deep respects to Elders, both past and present.

ECLC is an inclusive multidisciplinary legal service.

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