


Transition Town Vincent


Strategic Plan

2017 - 2022



Agreed and signed by the following members of the Executive Committee:

Chairperson  Behrooz Eskandari Date 18/10/2017

Deputy Chairperson  KIM PRANKOWSKI Date 18/10/2017

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Table of contents

Background	3
Our Vision	3
Our Values	3
Our Focus Areas	3
Our Goals	4
Our Strategies	5
ACTIVE TRANSPORT	5
BIODIVERSITY	5
COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY	6
CREATIVITY	6
EDUCATION	7
ENERGY	7
FOOD PRODUCTION	8
GOVERNANCE	8
HOUSING	9
INNER TRANSITION	9
OTHER NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS	9
RELATIONSHIP WITH CITY OF VINCENT	10
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES	10
URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN	11
WASTE MINIMISATION	11
WATER USE	12

Background

Transition Town Vincent (TTV) began as Transition Town Mt Hawthorn in 2014. In 2017, the name was officially changed to Transition Town Vincent in recognition of the broad membership base from within the City of Vincent.

TTV is a not-for-profit, non-political community group aligned with the world-wide Transition Town movement, which assists communities to transition to a more sustainable and resilient way of live. Membership of TTV is made up of a diverse group of local Vincent community members who want to keep our community strong and connected to achieve our broad sustainability goals.

We are excited to develop and implement this Strategic Plan to demonstrate our commitment to assisting residents and business within Vincent to achieve a connected and sustainable lifestyle.

Our Vision

Strengthening our local community connections and empowering people to tread lightly on the earth.

Our Values

- Thinking globally, acting locally
- Respect for all living creatures, and self
- Sustainability at the core of all thinking
- Strong community connections
- Consensus based decision making

Our Focus Areas

- Active transport
- Biodiversity
- Community connectivity
- Creativity
- Education
- Energy
- Food production
- Governance
- Housing
- Inner transition
- Other non-for-profit organisations
- Relationship with City of Vincent
- Sustainable businesses
- Urban planning and design
- Waste minimisation

- Water use

Our Goals

#	Focus Area	Goals
1	Active transport	Vincent residents use active transport options.
2	Biodiversity	Vincent spaces are biodiverse.
3	Community connectivity	Vincent residents are connected to each other.
4	Creativity	Vincent residents lead a creative and happy life.
5	Education	Vincent residents are educated on sustainability issues.
6	Energy	Vincent residents reduce their energy consumption and use locally produced renewable energy.
7	Food production	Vincent residents grow and consume locally grown and sourced food.
8	Governance	TTVs governance systems and processes are efficient and effective.
9	Housing	Co-housing models are available in the City of Vincent.
10	Inner transition	Vincent residents live a happy minimalist lifestyle.
11	Other non-for-profit organisations	TTV maintains strong and mutually beneficial relationships with not-for-profit organisations based in City of Vincent.
12	Relationship with City of Vincent	TTV maintains a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with City of Vincent.
13	Sustainable business	Vincent businesses are sustainable and successful.
14	Urban planning and design	Urban planning and design is sustainable.
15	Waste minimisation	Vincent residents and businesses minimise their waste-to-landfill.
16	Water use	Vincent residents conserve and use water wisely.

Our Strategies

TTV has developed a set of strategies (or “to-do’s”) for each of our goals. Some strategies are short term actions that can immediately influence the achievement of the goal, while others are long term, or even perpetual strategies to achieve and/or influence our goals.

We will review our goals and strategies on a regular basis, and may amend our Strategic Plan to adapt to internal and external influences. This plan is a “living document” and will change over time.

ACTIVE TRANSPORT

Our Goal - Vincent residents use active transport options.

Active transport includes cycling, walking and other active means of travel. The terrain and weather within Vincent easily lends itself to active methods of transportation, however there is still a heavy reliance on motorised transportation. Footpaths and cycleways within Vincent exist and are generally good quality, but more could be done to encourage greater active transportation.

Transition Town Vincent’s strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Promote cycling and other active transport via TTV social media.
2. Establish connections with National, State and Local cycling advocacy groups.
3. Facilitate at least one (1) cycling related event each year.
4. Advocate for improved footpaths and cycleways within Vincent.
5. Encourage the installation of bike racks at shopping precincts within Vincent.

BIODIVERSITY

Our Goal - Vincent spaces are biodiverse.

Urban biodiversity refers to the variety of living organisms including native plants and animals found in a city and its ecological systems. Overall, urban biodiversity responds to a combination of local environmental and people interactions.

Transition Town Vincent’s strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Encourage the installation of native gardens to attract native animals.
2. Organise and lead native garden walks for local residents.
3. Undertake native garden blitzes.
4. Promote and participate in annual bird counts.
5. Establish connection with biodiversity-related academic groups working in the area.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY

Our Goal - Vincent residents are connected to each other.

A well connected community is one where you know and support your neighbours or people close by (locals) and local businesses. It's a safe, happy, supportive, cooperative and inclusive connection to members in our society. Contemporary urban life can lead to loss of community; we want it back, to have healthy neighbourhoods and social well being. We want to see locals responding to social, environment and economic issues and empowering each other to make a difference.

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Organise and hold at least one (1) Community Connect event each year.
2. Participate in the annual Mt Hawthorn Streets and Laneways Festival.
3. Participate in other Vincent festivals based on availability of TTV volunteers.
4. Maintain an active directory of Little Free Book and Seed Libraries.
5. Organise and hold at least two (2) Vincent Neighbourhood SOUP nights per year.
6. Investigate Transition Streets and their application in City of Vincent.

CREATIVITY

Our Goal - Vincent residents lead a creative and happy life.

We want people to be happy and healthy, and believe that a part of being healthy is being able to express yourself creatively and engage in creative activities.

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Establish a multimedia group within TTV to enable multimedia productions.
2. Establish connections with local arts groups.
3. Organise a community-painted mural activity in a laneway or side of public building.
4. Promote expressive and creative forms of art.
5. Support local musicians and artists.

EDUCATION

Our Goal - Vincent residents are educated on sustainability issues.

We want to increase community awareness of sustainability issues, so that people can get involved in creating solutions to such issues. Once they are aware of the issues, we believe it's important to then give people the skills, resources, confidence and networks they need in order to take the next step - to make changes.

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Create sustainability-related courses to educate members of the community.
2. Run a Living Smart course for Vincent residents.
3. Run hands-on workshops and events to educate Vincent residents on sustainability.
4. Publish regular newsletters, blogs and social media posts.
5. Promote non-TTV sustainability-related educational event (e.g. Earth Carers).
6. Run monthly free movie nights showcasing sustainability-themed films.

ENERGY

Our Goal - Vincent residents reduce their energy consumption and use locally produced renewable energy.

Renewable energy provides lasting and sustainable energy solutions. Renewable energy choices are improving every day, by method and price. TTV aims to encourage local residents to embrace renewable energy options. This includes exploring new financing options and community ownership models.

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Investigate a "group buy" of renewable energy for Vincent residents.
2. Undertake a feasibility study for community owned renewable energy generation.
3. Conduct demonstrations of energy efficient activities (eg, cooking with a solar oven).
4. Support organisations that produce local renewable energy.

FOOD PRODUCTION

Our Goal - Vincent residents grow and consume locally grown and sourced food.

Growing our own food and supporting local growers will ensure we know what we consume. We support locally grown vegetables and fruit, organically produced as this holds benefits to both the environment and our health. This reduces dependency on fossil fuel (transport, fertilisers) and brings the community together

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Promote and support local community gardens and farmers markets.
2. Advocate for City of Vincent to use fruit and nut trees for verges and parks.
3. Advocate for City of Vincent to amend the "verge policy" to permit raised garden beds on verges and in parks.
4. Hold, promote and support food swap initiatives in Vincent.
5. Promote sharing of locally sourced seeds.
6. Support residents in raising chickens.

GOVERNANCE

Our Goal - TTVs governance systems and processes are efficient and effective.

Good governance systems and processes enable TTV to run its operations smoothly. As a major source of funding for TTV is grants, the minimum expectation is that efficient and effective governance systems and processes are in place.

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Establish a Learning Management System to deploy and track training for TTV members and Vincent residents.
2. Create induction material for new TTV members.
3. Develop and implement a mechanism to deal with grievances.
4. Implement a financial management system with annual report on time.
5. Acquit grants within timeframes and scope.
6. Maintain an up-to-date webpage.
7. Conduct our affairs within our Constitution.
8. Develop and implement a risk management plan.

HOUSING

Our Goal - Co-housing models are available in the City of Vincent.

Over the years the average household size has become smaller, not only in the City of Vincent. House prices in Vincent are still not affordable for single or low income families. Alternative living models of co-sharing in existing dwellings, co-housing and the purpose built development of land is the preferred direction of TTV to reduce our footprint on the earth and to facilitate new communities of choice living together, especially for single older women.

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Raise awareness of co-housing models with Vincent residents.
2. Establish connections with existing co-housing models.

INNER TRANSITION

Our Goal - Vincent residents live a happy minimalist lifestyle.

TTV supports the reduction in excessive consumerism, which promises happiness but rarely delivers. Important steps include working towards less debt, less environmental impact, and less pressure to impress with material possessions. Instead we promote more generosity, giving, resourcefulness, mindfulness and contentment.

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Promote and communicate the Transition ethos.
2. Tell our personal stories of Transition.

OTHER NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

Our Goal - TTV maintains strong and mutually beneficial relationships with other not-for-profit organisations based in Vincent.

It takes a village to raise a child. We aim to strengthen community connections through strengthening the links with other community organisations, including clubs and schools who share our vision. We want to learn from each other, connect and develop strong links and inspire each other in developing solutions that meet our local needs.

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Establish and maintain connections with other not for profit organisations in Vincent (including clubs, schools and other associations) who share our values and work towards our vision.

2. Auspice grant opportunities for non-incorporated community groups who work towards our vision.

RELATIONSHIP WITH CITY OF VINCENT

Our Goal - TTV maintains a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with City of Vincent.

The City of Vincent (CoV) is the Local Government Area in which TTV operates, and has provided invaluable support for the establishment of the group. TTV has the capacity to undertake activities that align with the desires of the CoV and that benefit the community. CoV provides support and funding to TTV to achieve our Vision.

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Ensure at least one (1) member of TTV sits on the Environmental Advisory Group of the City of Vincent.
2. Invite the CoV Mayor and Councillors to attend TTV's Annual General Meetings.
3. Share (via TTV social media) City of Vincent events and activities that align with our Vision.

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES

Our Goal - Vincent businesses are sustainable and successful.

Sustainable businesses have minimal negative impact on the global or local environment, community, society, or economy. TTV supports businesses that incorporate principles of sustainability into their business decisions, that supply environmentally friendly products or services and that make an enduring commitment to environmental principles in its business operations.

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Identify and promote local sustainable businesses.
2. Create strong relationships with local sustainable businesses.
3. Develop an app that allows local business to distribute their marketing material electronically (rather than via paper, or "junk mail").
4. Promote sustainability initiatives (like the Responsible Cafe program) to local businesses.

URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN

Our Goal - Urban planning and design is sustainable.

TTV supports urban development guided by a sustainable planning and management vision that promotes interconnected green spaces, a multi-modal transportation system, and mixed-use development. TTV promotes placemaking initiatives for the town centres in Vincent that capitalise local community assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well being.

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Identify key planning documents and make submissions during consultation periods.
2. Identify what the next steps are for "Imagine Vincent" so we can continue to contribute.

WASTE MINIMISATION

Our Goal - Vincent residents and businesses minimise their waste-to-landfill.

Recycling of residential and business organic waste material is an easy step to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Recycled organic waste can provide a benefit to the community by improving soils and increasing plant growth, leading to a greener community. Reducing waste by repairing or repurposing old equipment improves the resilience of a community by educating people about consumerism and material lifecycles.

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Provide education to Vincent residents and businesses for recycling organic waste material (eg, composting, worm farming, Bokashi, etc).
2. Establish composting hubs for Vincent residents and businesses to recycle their organic kitchen waste.
3. Develop and establish a "repair cafe".
4. Work with City of Vincent to educate residents on recycling and waste management.
5. Implement Boomerang Bag initiatives in Vincent shopping locations.

WATER USE

Our Goal - Vincent residents conserve and use water wisely.

Fresh water is embedded in most of the things we consume. TTV pays respect towards this precious life-giving resource. TTV works towards reducing freshwater use in our homes and conserving fresh water elsewhere.

Transition Town Vincent's strategies to achieve our goal are:

1. Investigate a "group buy" of rainwater and greywater systems.
2. Promote water wise gardens.