

Changing the world one street at a time

- **World premiere:** Geelong film launch event on 27 September
- **Youtube channel:** 'Show me how' provides a unique insight into Geelong's peaceful ecological revolution among neighbours
- **Growing movement:** Geelong now has more than 20 Transition Streets groups



While Councillors and shock jocks discuss the relevance of councils declaring a climate emergency, the community is already onto it. Meet some of the innovators, change-makers and doers who are redefining the Australian way of life as they stop flying, change their habits, retrofit their houses, rearrange and rethink how to reduce their ecological footprint to a sustainable level.

There is something growing in the streets of Geelong, and in this case we are not talking about the increasing amount of vegetables growing on the nature strips. It is a new movement of neighbours coming together and establishing what is called a '*Transition Street*'.

The Transition Streets movement connects people with others living nearby who are interested in reducing their energy, water, waste and consumption, using more sustainable transport and eating locally grown food.

“This is about making a difference globally by acting locally on the climate crisis by reducing our ecological footprint,” said Monica Winston.

If everyone in the world used as many of the planet’s resources as Australians do, we would need on average five planets. The Transition Streets movement looks at ways to change that situation, and it is not only connecting like-minded neighbours with one another, it is also linking its members with a global movement of active change-makers and innovators.

Everyone ideally lives within walking distance, even if they’re in neighbouring streets. That is the geographical criteria that has been set up.



Mik Aidt started the radio show The Sustainable Hour on 94.7 The Pulse in 2013

‘Show me how’ video series

In a series of 10 videos supported by the City of Greater Geelong and South Barwon Community Centre, community radio host Mik Aidt shows us how - and why - this is all happening.

We see locals who are taking charge and making friends in this series called ‘Show me how’, which aims to inspire more people to take similar small steps to gradually but definitely change the culture of our city.

Inspired by the 1,000 councils that have declared a climate emergency, Mik declared a climate emergency for himself in January 2019. “The movement of regions and local councils declaring a climate emergency is taking power away from central government. This not to say central authorities do not have a responsibility to support action, but this is much more agile and faster acting. And the same can be said when businesses, schools and families starts to follow their Council’s example,” he says.

Mik owns and runs the website www.climateemergencydeclaration.org, and in this video series he has created an unusual way of explaining the truth about humanity’s large scale problems with the solutions at hand for each of us at the individual level.

Launch event

The 10 videos are launched as a feature-length documentary on Friday **27 September 2019** at **7:00pm** at Eastern Hub in East Geelong.

A special shout-out and thank you to Jan from South Barwon Community Centre whose ongoing support has been highly valuable.

Film evening program

Watch the 10 very entertaining short videos with a potluck dinner in the middle. Come and meet the filmmaker Mik Aidt who is an inspiring and informed journalist from Copenhagen, who moved to Geelong six years ago - and you will also be able to meet some of the people who are featured in the films:

Introduction by the filmmaker - 5 minutes

First five episodes in a row - 50 minutes

Pot luck dinner - 20 minutes

Five more episodes in a row - 50 minutes

Feedback and chat - 15 minutes

Interview opportunity

Contact filmmaker **Mik Aidt** directly on mikaidt@gmail.com to make interview appointment

Or call **Monica Winston**, Transition Streets Geelong Coordinator, on tel: 0439 390 557
info@transitionstreetsgeelong.org



High resolution photos for print

Send your request to tsh@climatesafety.info

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More information

- ‘Show me how’ YouTube channel: www.youtube.com
- Learn more about the Transition Streets movement in Geelong on www.transitionstreetgeelong.org
- Download the [Transition Streets Workbook](#)
- See guides and videos on www.transitionaustralia.net
- More about The Sustainable Hour on www.podcast.climatesafety.info
- Read more about the ‘Show me how’ series on Mik’s blogpage www.climatesafety.info/showmehow

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Film credits

This film was produced by Geelong Media – www.geelongmedia.com.au – with assistance from The Sustainable Hour crew at [94.7 The Pulse](#).

We acknowledge that Transition Streets Geelong operates on the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung, and also that the Transition Streets workbook was created by Transition Newcastle in New South Wales.

The project was supported financially by the City of Greater Geelong through its Environment & Sustainability Program and by South Barwon Community Centre.

Transition Streets Geelong is a recipient of Pick My Project, Victorian State Government funding and also a recipient of funding from the City of Greater Geelong, calling Transition Streets Geelong a “flagship project of the City of Greater Geelong” in its Community Zero Carbon Action Plan.

Transition Streets Geelong *Growing sustainable neighbourhoods in Geelong*

www.transitionstreetsgeelong.org

Tel: 0439 390 557



BACKGROUND

How the 'Show me how' series came about

Entering 2019, Mik made a new years resolution to become carbon-neutral by 2025. He started working on retrofitting his home, and his personal journey of discoveries and experiences is very much a part of this story.



Mik is a 56-year-old radio journalist and dad to three children and an immigrant from the land of bikes and windmills, Denmark. Together with his family, he moved into an old, leaking and uninsulated house in central Geelong in 2015.

Drafts through leakages in thin walls and single-glass windows make the house freezing cold in the winter and sweating hot in the summer. As a local community radio host, Mik had been talking with hundreds of Geelong residents about transitioning to more environment-conscious and carbon-free lifestyle in accordance with the need to act on the climate emergency. But getting started is the tricky part. There are so many choices and options – it can be overwhelming and confusing.

Radio with pictures

“Lots of people in our community have come far with the process and they can inspire you how to get started,” Monica Winston, coordinator of Transition Street Geelong, told him as she was being interviewed in a live radio interview on The Sustainable Hour. She left Mik with a copy of the *‘Transition Streets workbook’*, which is full of suggestions and advice as well.

With an ambition to pick up knowledge and ideas about what works and what doesn’t work when it comes to topics such as saving water and energy, reducing waste, composting, growing food, and using zero-carbon modes of transport, Mik picked up his smartphone and started using it as a video camera.

“I’m hoping to be able to inspire others to start similar footprint-reduction quests, and when it comes to explaining about practical experiences, it is good to have the images. This is radio with pictures,” said Mik.

During the ten episodes, we follow Mik’s discovery of a whole new world of action that strengthens his conviction that as a society, we actually do have the capacity to turn our current climate-wrecking and polluting old habits into something that is both better, safer and cheaper. He discovers an outline in the horizon of what a sustainable and ecological civilisation eventually could look like.

Inspired by this discovery, Mik has recently started a new series of podcasts he calls *The Regenerative Hour* - the first episode was launched on 29 August 2019.



The latest Sustainable Hour podcast - on www.climatesafety.info/thesustainablehour282



The first Regenerative Hour podcast - on www.climatesafety.info/theregenerativehour1