

# Sustainability Snapshot 2020-21

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City of  
**STONNINGTON**



# Mayor's message



While helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for a more sustainable future, we also know that sustainability initiatives can save us money and resources to invest elsewhere. An example of this is our green power initiative in partnership with 45 other Councils across Victoria which saved us \$340,000 in our 2021-22 budget. This money will be invested into a spring cleaning and upkeep blitz across our shopping precincts as well as increased waste education programs.

These achievements belong to everyone in Stonnington. And I look forward to continue working alongside our community, businesses, residents and other levels of government to work towards a more sustainable Stonnington.

Councillor Kate Hely  
**Mayor, City of Stonnington**

Welcome to our Sustainability Snapshot for 2020-21.

Our community is passionate about taking action to address the impacts of climate change, and we're proud of the work we're doing alongside our residents, businesses and community groups.

This update is a chance for us to celebrate our sustainability achievements over the past year.

## Introduction

The Sustainability Snapshot is Council's annual report on how we are progressing towards achieving priorities set out in our Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-23.

Find more information on Council's environment and sustainability initiatives on our website [stonnington.vic.gov.au/sustainability](https://stonnington.vic.gov.au/sustainability)

### Our environmental priority areas:

01 Climate change and energy

02 Resources and waste management

03 Integrated water management

04 Urban environment

05 Education, engagement and collaboration



Reporting on each area we highlight our key achievements from last year, and our focus for the next 12 months.

# Climate change and energy

## Key achievements



Secured agreement to purchase 100% renewable energy for all Council electricity

Secured agreement to purchase 100% renewable energy for all Council electricity from 1 July 2021 alongside 45 other Victorian councils through VECO - the Victorian Energy Collaboration.

Began development of our Climate Emergency Action Plan, outlining our pathway to a zero carbon future, including a comprehensive community consultation program.

Completed energy efficiency upgrades at Harold Holt Swim Centre including replacing internal lighting with LEDs, water heater upgrade and a new Building Management System to control heating, ventilation, cooling and plant equipment more efficiently.

Purchased battery powered brush cutters, hedgers and blowers to support parks maintenance, shifting away from fossil fuels and ensuring quieter operation.

Designated streets in Prahran, Windsor and Toorak as local cycling routes, including new line marking treatment to identify them as safe cycling streets.

Began development of our new Walking strategy, which will support and further increase walking trips and ensure walking is accessible and inclusive to all in our community.

Facilitated sustainability outcomes in new developments through our local Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy.

Partnered with the Australian Energy Foundation (AEF) to support Stonnington households reduce energy use and increase rooftop solar uptake.

Delivered online Climate Emergency forums for Stonnington primary and secondary students to learn about our commitment to a safe climate in Stonnington.

## Spotlight on:

### VECO- the Victorian Energy Collaboration

We're excited to be one of 46 Victorian Councils to sign on to VECO, the Victorian Energy Collaboration, the largest ever emissions reduction project by local government in Australia.

VECO will provide 45 per cent of all Victorian Councils' electricity requirements with 100 per cent renewables, reducing emissions by 260,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e every year. This is the equivalent of powering 48,000 homes with renewables or removing the emissions from 90,000 cars every year.

The groundbreaking project will reduce Council's current energy bills and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 78% on 2005 levels.

### Focus for 2021-22:

Finalise our Climate Emergency Action Plan.



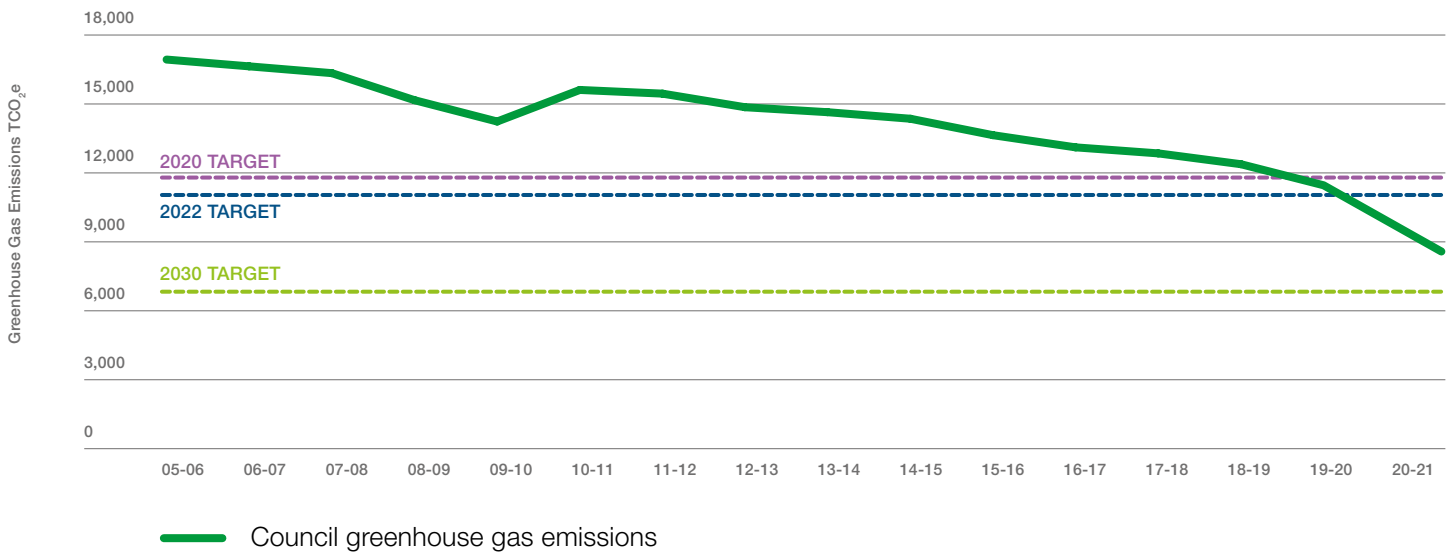


Reduced by 48%

We've reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 48% below 2005 levels.

Note: while we have continued to reduce energy use and install rooftop solar, a large proportion of this reduction in 2019-20 and 2020-21 is due to COVID lockdowns.

## Council greenhouse gas emissions



# Resources and waste management

## Key achievements



Diverted 150 tonnes of electronic waste

Diverted 150 tonnes of electronic waste from landfill through Council's hard waste service and purple e-waste eater at the Stonnington Transfer Station.



Delivered 187 compost bins, worm farms and bokashi units

Expanded Council's food and green waste service to an additional 486 households. This brings the total to 13,112 households participating in the service plus 248 shared bins at apartment buildings.

Delivered 187 discounted compost bins, worm farms and bokashi units to Stonnington homes through our Compost Revolution program.



Installed two new solar compacting bins

Diverted 9,080kg of batteries, mobile phones and chargers, CDs and DVDs, VHS tapes, x-rays and office supplies from landfill through recycling stations in Council libraries and service centres.

Installed two new solar compacting bins at Union Street gardens.

Laid 4,571 tonnes of asphalt containing recycled content, over 96% of the asphalt used in 2020-21 contained recycled content.

Trialled a new 'green' concrete on a footpath along Glenferrie Road in Malvern.

Installed a huge range of materials made out of recycled plastic in gardens and parks across Stonnington.

## Spotlight on:

### Green concrete trial

We're taking your soft plastics and turning them into footpaths! While we've been using soft plastics in the asphalt used in our road resurfacing program for a few years, we've now turned our attention to a concrete footpath upgrades along Glenferrie Road in Malvern.

Around 350,000 pieces of plastic collected through soft plastics recycling stations in supermarkets have been used in the concrete mixture.

Polyrok, the 'green concrete' we've used, is totally encapsulated in the cement/sand in standard finished concrete, which means it is never exposed to the external environment. It's also recyclable.

Finding new life for unwanted materials is a key focus for Council and our circular economy future.

### Focus for 2021-22:

Begin work on our Zero Waste and Circular Economy Strategy.



# Integrated water management

## Key achievements



21,485 L saved

Saved 21,485 litres of water over the past year through water efficiency upgrades and rainwater tank repairs, reducing water use by 6.4%



Consumption ↓6.4%

Completed a Water Savings Study to identify opportunities to reduce pressure on drinking water supplies and increase alternative water use in open spaces.

Upgraded irrigation systems at Union St Gardens, Princes Gardens, Argo Reserve, Toorak Park and Ferrie Oval.

Installed a drinking fountain with dog bowl at Brookville Gardens in Toorak which is also helping to passively irrigate surrounding trees with its overflow.

Installed new drinking fountains at Winifred Reserve, the Urban Forest, Princes Gardens, Brookville Gardens and Toorak Park.

## Spotlight on:

### Saving water

With climate change impacting drinking water supplies, we have been progressively upgrading buildings, facilities and infrastructure to reduce potable water use and increase use of alternatives such as rainwater and stormwater.

Some of the key initiatives we've focused on have included upgrading our irrigation systems to use water more efficiently and a recently completed Water Savings Study. This study helped us identify options to increase alternative water use, including using water from Gardiners Creek, which has the added benefit of reducing flooding impacts and supporting a healthier waterway.

### Focus for 2021-22:

Finalise our Integrated Water Management Plan.



# Urban environment

## Key achievements



Planted 1,384 trees and 28,239 plants

Planted 1,384 trees and 28,239 plants in Stonnington streets, gardens, parks and reserves.



Stonnington residents participated in the City Nature Challenge 2021

Adopted the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Masterplan, outlining a vision to transform the Gardiners Creek corridor.

Removed woody weeds along Gardiners Creek to reintroduce native trees.

286 Stonnington residents participated in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count, recording 7,562 observations and 69 bird species.

125 Stonnington residents participated in the City Nature Challenge 2021, recording 406 observations of 193 species.



286 Stonnington residents participated in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count

Supported community volunteer groups through running biodiversity working bees at the Glen Iris Wetlands, Urban Forest and along the Yarra River.

Installed 'Lost Lands Found' at Central Park. This ecological, artistic educational installation project aims to help build community understanding of local species and Indigenous ecological history.



**Planted 175,000 plants and trees since 2018,** and well on track to meet our target of 250,000 by 2023.

## Spotlight on:

### Community biodiversity working bees

Recognising an increasing community interest in connecting with local nature and helping to enhance biodiversity in Stonnington, we have been supporting local working bees in some of our key biodiversity hotspots: the Urban Forest, Glen Iris Wetlands and along the Yarra River.

During the challenges of COVID-19, these working bees have also provided a great opportunity for our community to safely come together, get to know each other and spend some time in nature.

### Focus for 2021-22:

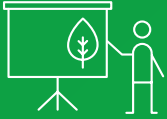
Begin implementation of the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Masterplan.





# Education, engagement and collaboration

## Key achievements



Delivered 26 environmental events to 2,317 attendees

Delivered our first Environmental Champions program with 25 passionate residents.

Installed interpretive signage along the Yarra River to educate the community about biodiversity, climate change and Traditional Owner knowledge.

Launched the Nature Play Handbook to integrate nature-based play into children's educational development.



Launched our new My Smart Garden program with 232 households

Began offering Environmental Upgrade Finance to support local businesses make sustainable upgrades to buildings.

Delivered 26 environmental events to 2,317 attendees including online sustainable living sessions, a panel discussion on self-sufficiency, working bees and community consultation discussions.



Began offering Environmental Upgrade Finance for local businesses

Launched our new My Smart Garden program with 232 households, a free sustainable gardening program to help residents grow food and transform their outdoor space.

Collaborated with eight neighbouring councils to deliver online sustainable living webinars during lockdowns, 54 webinars were delivered with 2,008 attendees.

## Spotlight on:

### Local Environmental Champions

Our inaugural Environmental Champions program supported 25 enthusiastic local community members.

The 12 week program offered training and support to build participants' confidence, skills and knowledge to become local environmental leaders and create positive change in our community through developing and delivering local projects.

One of the many projects included the creation of 'Rewilding Stonnington', which involves planting nature strips with indigenous species to improve biodiversity in the city.

The program also saw the creation of the sustainability event, 'Regenerating Kooyongkoot' which took place in March 2021 as part of NGV Melbourne Design Week.

### Focus for 2021-22:

Continue to develop partnerships to maximise our reach and engage our community on climate action.



## City of Stonnington

PO Box 58, Malvern Victoria 3144  
T 8290 1333  
F 9521 2255  
council@stonnington.vic.gov.au

### Service Centres

311 Glenferrie Road, Malvern

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