

Sustainability Snapshot 2021-22

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City of
STONNINGTON



Mayor's message



It's my pleasure to present to you our Sustainability Snapshot for 2021-22.

Sharing the many sustainability achievements made within Stonnington throughout the past year is an opportunity to celebrate the impressive progress we're all making and reflect on areas that need further attention.

With our Climate Emergency Action Plan charting our pathway towards net zero emissions by 2030, I'm delighted to share that our total emissions have been reduced to 4,847 tonnes of CO₂e, and we are on course to meet our ambitious 2030 target.

It's also pleasing to see the diverse range of sustainability projects and stakeholders which are creating positive change in this space.

The achievements highlighted in this annual update are not ours alone and demonstrate that when we all work together, Council, the community, schools, and businesses, we can create change and make a difference in tackling climate change and creating a more sustainable future for all of us.

Councillor Jami Klisaris
Mayor, City of Stonnington

Introduction

The Sustainability Snapshot is Council's annual report on how we are progressing towards achieving the priorities set out in our Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-2023.

Find more information on Council's environment and sustainability initiatives on our website stonnington.vic.gov.au/sustainability

Our environmental priority areas:

01 Climate change and energy



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

02 Resources and waste management

03 Integrated water management

04 Urban environment

05 Education, engagement and collaboration

Climate change and energy

Key achievements



Worked with expert consultants to develop an electrification roadmap for Council buildings

Reduced our total greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent compared to 2020-2021 levels.

Developed a net zero emissions pathway for Council.

Installed four new solar photovoltaic systems at Council-owned community buildings including Armadale Early Learning Centre, Brookville Kindergarten, Phoenix Park Children's Hub and Stonnington Children's Centre, adding an additional 137kW of solar capacity.



Finalised and endorsed our Sustainable Assets Policy

Finalised and endorsed our Climate Emergency Action Plan and established a community Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

Incorporated climate change vulnerability assessments into our annual building condition audit process.

Conducted a study investigating options for transitioning our corporate fleet to electric and hybrid vehicles and purchased four new electric vehicles.



Developed a Walking Action Plan to encourage walkability throughout the municipality

Developed a Walking Action Plan to encourage walkability throughout the municipality (adopted by Council in July 2022) and began work on a public electric vehicle charging policy.

Completed all-electric heating, ventilation, and cooling system upgrade designs for three Council facilities, including Phoenix Park Library, Phoenix Park Community Centre, and Grattan Gardens Community Centre.



Reduced by 71 per cent

We've reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 71 per cent below 2005 levels to 4,847 tonnes of CO2e.



Spotlight on:

Sustainable Assets Policy

Council manages a diverse portfolio of assets, including buildings, parks, roads, and drains, worth over \$2.3 billion. With this portfolio comes a responsibility to ensure a consistent and robust approach to managing our assets, so that we can continue to provide the services and infrastructure our community needs into the future under changing climatic conditions.

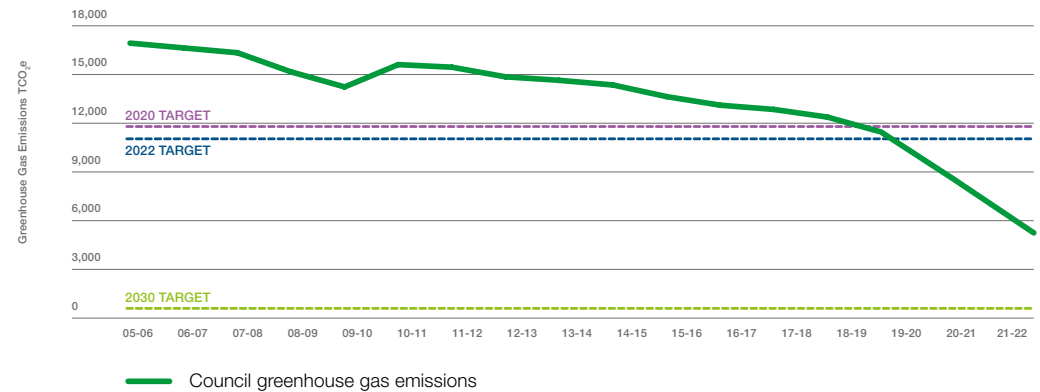
The Sustainable Assets Policy sets out expectations and requirements for Council building and infrastructure projects to integrate environmentally sustainable design standards, climate resilience and adaptation and other sustainability considerations, including taking a whole-of-life approach to developing, managing, renewing, and operating Council assets.

Focus for 2022-23:

Progressing our electrification roadmap.



Council greenhouse gas emissions



Note: While we have continued to reduce electricity use and install rooftop solar, there was an additional reduction in 2020-21 due to COVID lockdowns.

Resources and waste management

Key achievements



Diverted 88 tonnes of electronic waste

Developed our Towards a Circular Economy: Our Future Waste Strategy 2022-2025 (endorsed September 2022).

Created a new Waste Strategy and Engagement Unit to drive Council's implementation of State and Federal Government waste reform agendas, lead our waste transformation and guide our progress towards a circular economy.



Delivered 154 compost bins, worm farms and bokashi units

Diverted 380 tonnes of green waste and scrap metal and 3,572 mattresses from landfill as part of our hard waste service.

Diverted 88 tonnes of electronic waste from landfill through Council's hard waste service and purple e-waste eater at the Waste Transfer Station.



Diverted a total of 4,776 tonnes food and green waste from landfill

Expanded Council's food and green waste service to an additional 546 households, diverting a total of 4,776 tonnes from landfill. This brings the total to 13,658 households participating in the service plus 342 shared bins at apartment buildings.

Delivered 154 discounted compost bins, worm farms and bokashi units to Stonnington homes through our partnership with Compost Revolution.

Diverted 10,036 kilograms of batteries, mobile phones, chargers and accessories, CDs and DVDs, VHS tapes, x-rays, and office supplies from landfill through our recycling stations in Council libraries, pools and service centres.

Finalised and endorsed a Council Plastic Free Policy.

Collaborated with seven other councils to identify suitable materials and strategies to increase the use of recycled content in council building and infrastructure projects.

Installed a huge range of fencing and park furniture made from recycled plastic in parks and gardens across Stonnington.

Spotlight on:

Apartment Composting Program

Council is supporting residents living in apartments to recycle their food waste at home!

Food waste releases harmful greenhouse gases when it goes to landfill but it is a valuable resource when recovered.

Our Apartment Composting Program provides up to three worm farms or solar composters (plus a workshop!) to eligible apartment blocks. To date, Council has supported 11 apartment blocks to recycle their food waste onsite and in doing so, supported community connectedness, increased knowledge and skills, and helped participants create nutritious compost for their gardens.

This program is part of our commitment to keep food scraps out of landfill and improve Stonnington's soil health.

Focus for 2022-23:

Commence delivery of the priority actions identified in our Towards a Circular Economy: Our Future Waste Strategy 2022-2025.



Integrated water management

Key achievements



Restored optimal functioning and habitat at Percy Trevaud Wetlands

Conducted repairs at Waverley Oval to reinstate the onsite stormwater harvesting system, a fix which is estimated to save 2,100,000 Litres of potable water per year.

Connected a 5,000 Litre water tank to the laundry at Princes Close Child Care Centre.

Began mapping future small flood events (annual to 1 in 10-year floods) to predict flood conditions and potential impacts for the Chapel precinct.

Initiated a study investigating the ability of various Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) solutions to provide flood calming and cooling benefits across the city.

Restored optimal functioning and habitat at Percy Trevaud Wetlands through cleaning out excess sediment and vegetation.

Successfully applied for a grant to clean out Grange Road Wetlands (project to be delivered in 2022-23).

Successfully applied for a grant to prepare detailed designs to convert irrigation at three sports ovals from potable water to alternative water sources, a project that is estimated to have potential water savings of 26,000,000 Litres.

Began development of an Integrated Water Management Plan.

Spotlight on:

WSUD flood calming and cooling study

A Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) for cooling and flood calming study was completed which investigates fit-for-purpose assets in the city landscape.

Examples of WSUD assets include raingardens, swales and wetlands.

The study projected a water balance to 2050 predicting two alternate climate scenarios - one being hot-dry and the other cool-wet. The cool-wet future model only produces a slight (2.5 per cent) increase in rainfall, while hot-dry model showed a 25.5 per cent reduction. WSUD assets can play a major role in absorbing and retaining stormwater in the landscape which can assist in flood-calming, combatting the urban heat-island and helping to grow tree canopy coverage.

The report recommends that to deliver maximum community and environmental benefits while reducing costs and resource use, climate change should be considered across all elements of water cycle and in all water-related projects across multiple stages. The report also included a decision matrix to help Council Officers select the appropriate WSUD assets for their project context as well as a climate resilient tree species list.

Focus for 2022-23:

Finalise and begin implementing our Integrated Water Management Plan.



Urban environment

Key achievements



Planted over 1,800 trees and 29,000 plants in Stonnington streets, gardens, parks, and reserves.

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Supported eight community working bees in Stonnington parks, gardens, and reserves.

As part of the implementation of the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Masterplan, developed a Light and Dark strategic for the corridor.



91 Stonnington residents participated in the City Nature Challenge 2021

Participated in the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) collaboration forums, aimed at achieving water, biodiversity, open space, and active/passive recreational goals as well as stronger cultural connection and beneficial outcomes for the creek. The collaboration group is made up of local stakeholders including water, road and transport authorities, Traditional Owners, State Government representatives, and community groups – in addition to the Councils within the catchment area.



234

Stonnington residents participated in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count

234 Stonnington residents participated in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count, recording 7,427 observations and 79 bird species.

91 Stonnington residents participated in the City Nature Challenge 2022 through observations and events, recording 168 observations and 83 species.

Ran four Lost Lands Found tours with 30 Stonnington residents, showcasing the growth of our eco-art installation at Central Park which aims to build community understanding of local species and Indigenous ecological history.



Planted 187,500 plants and trees since 2018, and well on track to meet our target of 250,000 by 2023.

Spotlight on:

Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Light and Dark Strategy

As part of the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Masterplan implementation, we developed a lighting strategy for the corridor which incorporated wildlife sensitive and energy efficient lighting recommendations.

The strategy was made up of four parts:

- An assessment of current lighting conditions along the corridor, including categorising different location types and their lighting needs and recommendations for improvement.
- Recommendations for lighting approaches to use in different location types
- Guidance around when to use different power sources to ensure the highest energy efficiency.
- Information on specific lighting types for the corridor.

Council is committed to balancing outcomes for wildlife, user safety and accessibility as part of our lighting projects. Limiting light pollution and protecting darkness at night is an essential component of providing safe and comfortable habitat for nocturnal animals.

Focus for 2022-23:

Develop and begin implementing an Urban Biodiversity Action Plan.



Education, engagement and collaboration

Key achievements



Launched our new Sustainable Schools Program

Delivered the second year of our Environmental Champions Program with 19 passionate community-members who have gone onto launch three new environmental initiatives.

Delivered a broad range of environmental events including online sustainable living sessions, home energy efficiency and electric vehicle information sessions, working bees and community consultation discussions.



675

Stonnington residents are signed up to My Smart Garden program

Collaborated with Zero Waste Victoria to deliver an online Zero Waste Festival, which reached over 1,200 attendees. The festival featured panel discussions, a zero-waste cooking lesson, and Q&As.

Worked with seven neighbouring councils to continue to deliver the My Smart Garden program, a free sustainable gardening program aimed at helping residents grow food and transform their outdoor spaces – big or small.



Grew the readership of our monthly sustainability newsletter from 361 to 2,985

Collaborated with 11 other Victorian councils to conduct a feasibility study into reusable nappy programs.

Collaborated with Council's Festivals and Events team to run Green Screen, a free, sustainability-focussed outdoor film series over the summer months.

Spotlight on:

Sustainable Schools Program

Council is excited to have partnered with the Port Phillip EcoCentre to commence our revamped Sustainable Schools and ELCs Program.

After a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council decided to shift focus from previous years to include a significant capacity-building component for students and educators. Schools can now complete a 10-week 'Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability' (TLfS) student leadership program, while ELCs can take part in a Biodiversity Professional Development and Incursion package.

Focus for 2022-23:

Develop a revised communications and engagement strategy to increase our reach and influence with the Stonnington community on environmental issues.



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Stonnington Services and Visitor Centre
Prahran Square, corner Chatham and
Izett streets, Prahran

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