

# Sustainability Snapshot 2018-19

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City of  
**STONNINGTON**

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## Mayor's message

Welcome to our 2018/19 Sustainability Snapshot, where we check in on how we are achieving the priorities set down in Council's Sustainable Environment Strategy.

Built over five key priority areas our Sustainable Environment Strategy, adopted in 2018, documents Council's vision of a healthy and sustainable city, with natural and urban environments enhanced and protected for future generations.

During the past year we have continued working with our community and stakeholders on initiatives to support a sustainable future for our city.



I look forward to another successful year of collaboration and action, as we continue to achieve the targets and objectives of this important Council Strategy.

Councillor Steve Stefanopoulos  
**Mayor**  
**City of Stonnington**

## Introduction

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

### Environmental priorities:

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 discuss our goals, objectives for improvement, key achievements from last year, and our focus for the next 12 months.

# Executive Summary

During 2018-19 significant progress has been made towards improving Council's organisational sustainability, as well as community education and engagement activities. We're looking forward to another busy year in 2019-20 as we continue to work towards a cleaner, safer and better environment for present and future generations.

## 01 Climate change and energy



- » Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 26 per cent since 2005.



402kW solar installation

- » Increased rooftop solar capacity by 402kW, adding 1,110 solar panels to Council buildings and facilities.



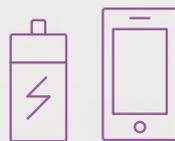
2,293 streetlights upgraded

- » Upgraded 2,293 street lights to energy efficient LEDs.

## 02 Resources and waste management

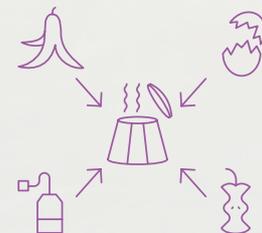


- » Diverted 7,699 kg of batteries, mobile phones and chargers, CDs, VHS tapes, cassette tapes and floppy disks from landfill.



Diverted 102 tonnes

- » Diverted 102 tonnes of electronic waste from landfill through the Stonnington Transfer Station and twice yearly hard waste collections.



- » Delivered 274 compost bins, worm farms and bokashi bins and 89,000 worms to Stonnington homes through Compost Revolution.

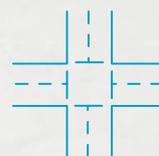
## 03 Integrated Water Management



- » Decreased Council's potable water consumption by 13 per cent.

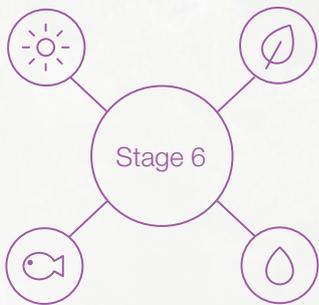


- » Installed water loggers to provide live water consumption data and identify irregularities in Council buildings and facilities.



- » Incorporated structural soils and permeable asphalt into road resurfacing projects to support stormwater filtration and passive watering of street trees.

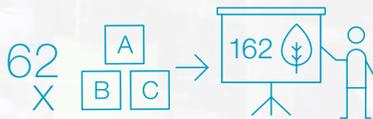
## 04 Urban environment



77,102

- » Completed Stage 6 of the Yarra River Biodiversity Project, enhancing the natural wildlife habitat and widening the shared path west of Grange Road.
- » Added 77,102 plants and trees across Stonnington gardens, parks and streets.
- » Began developing the Gardiners Creek masterplan, creating a vision for the habitat corridor from the Yarra River east along Gardiners Creek.

## 05 Education, engagement and collaboration



- » Delivered 17 local environmental events to over 1,120 attendees, with an additional 4,273 people engaged through the Spring into Gardening Festival, 114 through the Aussie Backyard Bird Count and 5 community groups involved in Clean Up Australia Day.
- » Delivered 162 Sustainable School program sessions to 62 local schools and early learning centres.
- » Delivered the 2019 Student Leadership Conference involving 140 students from 11 local primary schools, empowering the students to become future sustainability leaders.



PRIORITY AREA 01

# Climate change and energy

There is a strong imperative for Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for a changing climate. Climate change will have a significant impact on Council's strategic goals, operations, assets and areas of service delivery and it will also affect our urban environment and our community.

## TARGETS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

30% below 2005 levels by 2020 

35% below 2005 levels by 2022 

60% below 2005 levels by 2030 

## Key achievements ☆

### Council

- » Upgraded 2,293 street lights to energy efficient LEDs, reducing Council's total electricity consumption by seven per cent.
- » Upgraded lighting to LEDs across a range of Council sites including Brookville Kinder, Como Park pavilion, Drysdale Street car park, Malvern Tennis Centre, Toorak South Yarra Library and Winter Street Toy Library.
- » Installed new energy efficient LED lights in the redevelopments of Dunlop Pavilion, Gardiner Park Pavilion, Malvern Valley Golf Course Hub and Valetta Street U3A Centre.
- » Upgraded floodlighting to LED lights at Como Park, Gardiner Park and Malvern Tennis Centre.
- » Installed or expanded 17 rooftop solar PV systems on Council buildings.
- » Carried out a detailed audit of Harold Holt Swim Centre to develop a program of works to reduce energy and water consumption.
- » Installed pool blankets on pools and spas at Harold Holt Swim Centre and Prahran Aquatic Centre.
- » Added six hybrid cars to the Council fleet and invested in new trucks with improved fuel-efficiency.
- » Added four pedal-assist electric bicycles to the Council fleet to increase sustainable transport options for staff work trips.
- » Encouraged Council employees to choose sustainable transport resulting in staff taking 840 trips on public transport for work trips.
- » Began development of a new **Integrated Transport Plan** and updated **Cycling Strategy**.



### Community

- » Continued to support the uptake of solar in Stonnington through the **Making Solar Simple** program resulting in 76kW of solar installed on 16 Stonnington homes.
- » Celebrated 250 cyclists at our annual Ride to Work Day breakfast event at Prahran Town Hall.
- » Supported 39 participants to gain cycling confidence through four bike maintenance and cycling skills sessions.
- » Engaged with local schools on Ride to School Day, Walk Safely to School Day and active transport through education programs and events.
- » Upgraded shared pedestrian and cycling path connections on Williams Road and in Peverill Park.
- » Installed 29 new bike parking stations throughout Stonnington.

## Focus for 2019-20 🔍

### Council

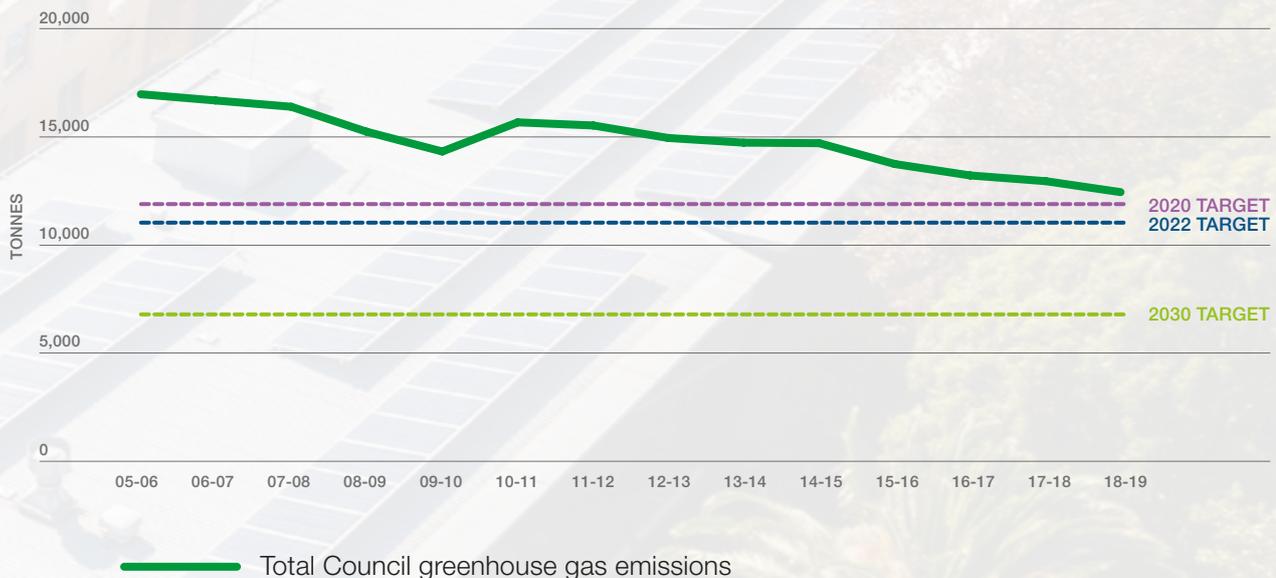
- » Maximise Council's energy efficiency through further street lighting upgrades and implementing energy-saving initiatives at Harold Holt Swim Centre.
- » Investigate large scale renewable energy procurement opportunities for Council electricity use.
- » Improve fleet efficiency by exploring opportunities for alternative fuel vehicles.

### Community

- » Explore opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of local businesses.
- » Continue to support and facilitate the community's uptake of solar.
- » Investigate ways to support the community to choose sustainable transport options over car use.

## Council greenhouse gas emissions

Over the last year our greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by 4 per cent and are now 26 per cent below 2005 emissions. This year's improvement is credited to reduced electricity use through street lighting upgrades, combined with the installation of solar PV systems on Council buildings and facilities.



## Strategic objectives

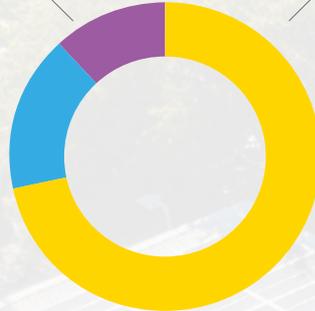
### Council will:

- 1.1** maximise energy efficiency in Council buildings and facilities through design, technology, innovation and engagement,
- 1.2** maximise renewable energy generation opportunities across all Council buildings and facilities,
- 1.3** achieve minimum Environmentally Sustainable Design standards for Council building projects,
- 1.4** support development to meet minimum Environmentally Sustainable Design standards,
- 1.5** address climate risks to Council assets, operations and service delivery responsibilities, and
- 1.6** improve fleet efficiency through innovation and engagement.

### Council will support the community to:

- 1.7** improve the energy efficiency of homes, schools and businesses,
- 1.8** reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
- 1.9** transition to renewable energy,
- 1.10** prepare for the impacts of a changing climate, and
- 1.11** transition to more sustainable modes of transport including alternative fuel, and fuel efficient vehicles, cycling and public transport.

## Breakdown of Council's emissions



### Fuel

Council's fuel consumption remains stable, despite the increasing demand on Council's fleet for services such as street-cleaning and waste collection. Council continues to invest in fleet efficiency through the addition of hybrid vehicles and electric bicycles. Council is committed to ongoing upgrades of its vehicle fleet, targeting a reduction in the least fuel-efficient vehicles.



### Natural Gas

Natural gas consumption has increased over the past year due to Council's two aquatic centres, which are responsible for over 90 per cent of total corporate gas consumption. Reducing natural gas use will be a key focus over the next year. Council has undertaken a comprehensive energy audit of Harold Holt Swim Centre and is developing a program of works for the site in 2019-20. An energy audit of Prahran Aquatic Centre is also planned for the next year.



### Electricity

Electricity consumption has dropped almost seven per cent over the last year through street lighting upgrades and the installation of solar on Council buildings and facilities. This reduction has had a significant impact on Council's greenhouse gas emissions, as electricity consumption accounts for 71 per cent of Council's emissions.

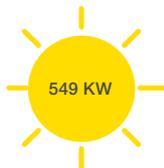
## Council solar installations in 2018-19



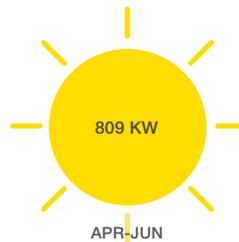
JULY-AUG



SEPT-DEC



JAN-MAR



APR-JUN



In 2018-19 Council added 1,110 solar panels by installing new solar system and expanding existing systems at 17 sites.



More than 2,600 solar panels have now been installed across 30 Council buildings and facilities with a total generation capacity of 809kW. This is enough to power 172 average Australian homes for a year!



On top of the work to increase Council's own solar generation capacity, 634kW of solar has been installed on 163 Stonnington homes through the **Making Solar Simple** program.



CASE STUDY 

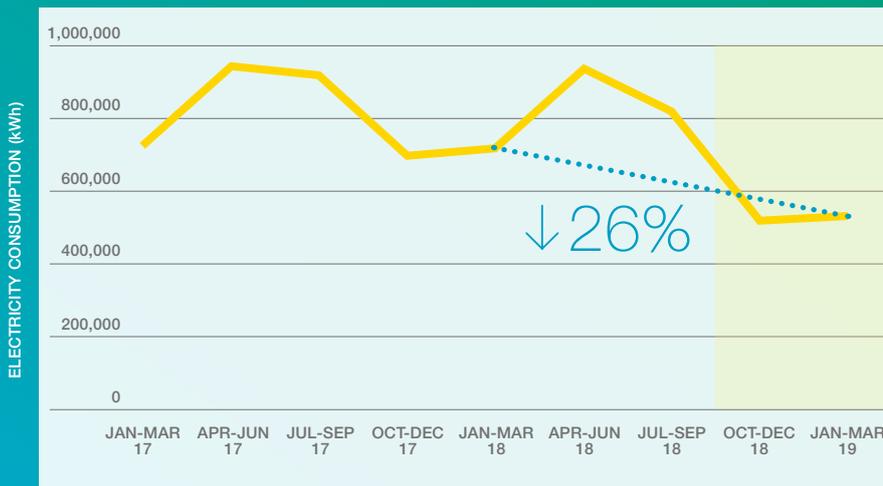
## Lighting the way

Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology is a huge step forward for lighting efficiency. An average LED light uses 50 to 70 per cent less electricity than the globe it replaces.

This is not just true for lights in our houses, but also for Stonnington's 8,000 street lights. As well as saving electricity, LEDs last longer than traditional lights, which means lower maintenance costs.

Since April 2018 Council has upgraded 2,600 street lights on residential streets to energy-efficient LEDs. This is expected to reduce Council's street light electricity consumption by around 15 per cent a year. The drop in consumption saves 700 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year, equivalent to travelling two and a half million kilometres in an average car – that's more than three trips to the moon and back!

Street lights consume the most electricity in winter, when days are shorter and less in summer, when days are longer. We have already seen a large drop in the electricity consumed by street lights since October 2018, after many were upgraded to LEDs.



In the future, Council hopes to partner with VicRoads, who share the responsibility for the street lights along our main arterial roads, to upgrade another 900 to 1,180 street lights to LEDs. Street lights on main roads have higher wattage (use more electricity) than those along residential streets, which means even greater energy and greenhouse savings per light!



PRIORITY AREA 02

# Resources and waste management

Council is committed to minimising waste and maximising resource recovery. Shifting waste from a problem to an opportunity is an important element of Council's strategic approach to waste management.



## Key achievements ☆

### Council

- » Completed two road resurfacing projects using 'Reconophalt', an asphalt product containing recycled plastic bags and toner from recycled printer cartridges at Ralston Street in South Yarra and May Road car park in Toorak.
- » Installed 170 metres of post and rail fencing using recycled plastic bollards.
- » Installed park benches and regulatory signs made out of recycled plastic in gardens and parks across Stonnington.
- » Integrated sustainable purchasing and product use into contract specifications in Council's cleaning and barbecue and toilet cleaning contracts.
- » Trialed food waste recycling through Council's kerbside garden waste service with 700 Stonnington households.

- » Installed 56 new public place recycling (PPR) bins in Stonnington shopping areas. There are now 121 PPR bins installed across Stonnington.
- » Recycled 68 tonnes of garden waste, 101 tonnes of scrap metal, 48 tonnes of electronic waste and 3,864 mattresses through Council's annual autumn and spring hard waste services.
- » Reduced corporate paper use by 28 per cent since 2015.

### Community

- » Updated waste and recycling signage, including posters, bin stickers and corflute signs to encourage residents, particularly those in apartment buildings, improve waste management.



- » Delivered waste-related education and engagement sessions to residents and community groups to reduce waste to landfill and improve recycling practices.
- » Supported schools and community groups to participate in Clean Up Australia Day.
- » Delivered a campaign to promote the state-wide e-waste ban which came into effect on 1 July 2019.
- » Supported an additional three apartment buildings to recycle food waste on site using communal worm farms through the Apartment Composting Program.
- » Began developing tailored waste education and engagement programs for sports clubs and the Horace Petty Housing Estate.

## Focus for 2019-20 🔍

### Council

- » Explore ways to support the reduction of single use plastics in Stonnington.
- » Close the loop by exploring further opportunities to use recycled materials, including soft plastics, in infrastructure projects.

### Community

- » Develop an education program to reduce the amount of non-recyclables in the kerbside recycling bin.
- » Finalise Council's food waste recycling trial and develop a program to support the Stonnington community to recycle food waste.





7,699kg

» 7,699kg of batteries, mobile phones and chargers, CDs, VHS tapes, cassette tapes and floppy disks diverted from landfill through recycling stations located at Council service centres, pools and libraries.



» 102 tonnes of electronic waste diverted from landfill through Council's Waste Transfer Station and Council's spring and autumn hard waste collection.



» 274 compost bins, worm farms and bokashi bins and 89,000 worms ordered through *Compost Revolution*.



» 3,864 mattresses collected and recycled through Council's hard waste service.



## Strategic objectives

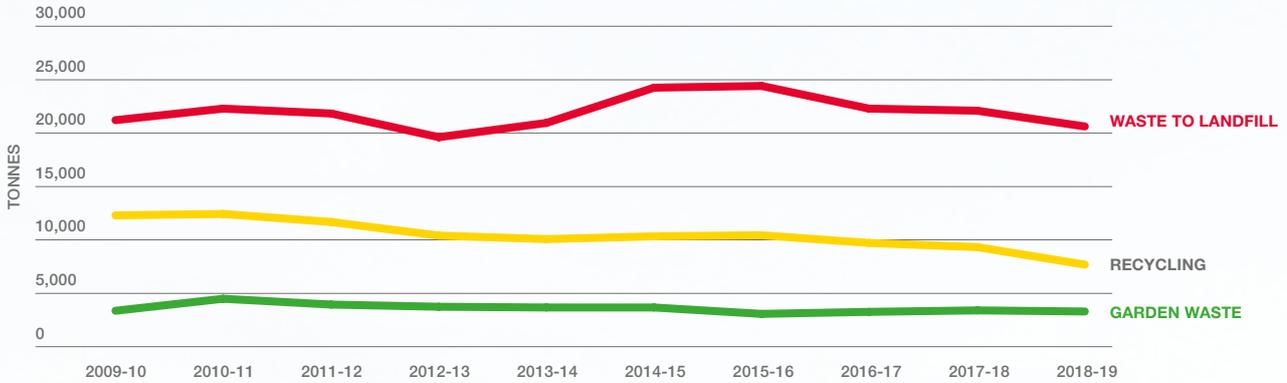
### Council will:

- 2.1 provide best practice waste management services,
- 2.2 avoid the production of waste and increase resource recovery,
- 2.3 support the reduction of single use plastics in Stonnington,
- 2.4 close the loop by purchasing materials and services with minimal environmental impact, and
- 2.5 advocate for improved waste management infrastructure and programs.

### Council will support the community to:

- 2.6 reduce the level of contamination in kerbside recycling to be less than the metropolitan Melbourne average,
- 2.7 avoid the production of waste and increase the diversion of materials from landfill,
- 2.8 increase the diversion of food waste from landfill,
- 2.9 choose materials, goods and services that have minimal environmental impact, and
- 2.10 engage with waste management programs and services, local to Stonnington.

## Household waste services



### General waste

While there has been an ongoing reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill since 2015, current volumes are similar to 2009 levels even though there are an additional 10,000 properties accessing Council's kerbside waste service.

This reduction in waste is likely due to a range of factors including economic activity and growing community awareness and interest in waste.

The decrease in waste collected over the last year is despite a 10 week period in early 2019 when kerbside recyclables went to landfill following SKM recycling facility closures.



### Recycling

The decrease in the volume of recyclables diverted from landfill is primarily due to kerbside recyclables being sent to landfill for a 10 week period in early 2019 following the closure of SKM recycling facilities.

Stonnington residents can be confident their recycling will continue to be sent for processing, following Council's recycling contractor, Cleanaway, appointing Visy as their resource recovery operator in August 2019.



### Garden waste

Council's garden waste service collected 3,309 tonnes of garden waste in 2018-19, a slight reduction from the previous year. This reduction in garden waste collected is likely due to seasonal changes including longer, hotter summers. Despite this, an additional 242 properties subscribed to the garden waste service over the past year bringing the total number of participating properties to 12,263.

## Kerbside waste service breakdown

25%

RECYCLED MATERIALS



10%

RECYCLED GARDEN WASTE



65%  
WASTE SENT TO  
LANDFILL



Just over one third of all waste collected through Council's kerbside collection services is recycled. Most of this is sent to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where it is sorted into materials such as glass, aluminium, paper and plastic. It is then sent on for reprocessing into materials including aluminium cans and glass containers. The remainder is garden waste, recycled through Council's kerbside garden waste collection service. These materials are taken to a garden waste processor and turned into garden mulch and compost products.

## Kerbside waste audits

Audits of Stonnington household garbage and recycling bins are undertaken every two years. These audits help Council better understand waste practices and identify areas to improve waste education and engagement. The most recent kerbside audit was completed in 2019.

The audits highlight that only 37 per cent of the material collected through Council's kerbside general waste bin is true waste. The remaining 37 per cent could be recovered through Council's kerbside recycling and garden waste services, the Stonnington Waste Transfer Station and Council waste reduction initiatives.



### CASE STUDY

## Paving the way for recycled roads

This year, Council rolled out its first sustainable road surface, using 'Reconophalt', an asphalt containing recycled plastic bags and toner cartridge ink.

Ralston Street in South Yarra and the May Road car park in Toorak were selected for the Reconophalt trial.

Around 310 tonnes of asphalt was used, containing 250,000 plastic bags and toner from 20,000 recycled printer cartridges. The soft plastics came from REDcycle, an organisation that collects soft plastics from supermarkets, and the toner was sourced from Close the Loop, who collect used toner cartridges from across Australia.

Choosing Reconophalt over traditional asphalt has no impact on the resurfacing process, the appearance of the road or road performance.

This project demonstrates Council's commitment to sustainable alternatives to traditional road resurfacing products. It also supports a local market for recyclables.

Using products such as Reconophalt is an excellent opportunity for Council to maintain Stonnington's 325km of streets and roads and 'close the loop', improving resource recovery and reducing Council's environmental impact.



PRIORITY AREA 03

# Integrated water management

Water is a valuable, finite resource, vital for life and a healthy environment. Council takes an holistic approach to managing water. We recognise the supply, storage, use and reuse of water needs to be considered as a whole system, to have the greatest effect and support a sustainable and liveable community.



## Key achievements ☆

### Council

- » Reduced Council's potable water consumption by 13 per cent through targeted water efficiency programs.
- » Installed water efficient fittings in the redevelopments of Dunlop Pavilion, Gardiner Park Pavilion, Malvern Valley Golf Course Hub and Valetta Street U3A Centre, and the refurbishments of Harold Holt Swim Centre outdoor change-rooms and Toorak South Yarra Library toilets.
- » Installed rain water harvesting systems in the redevelopments of Dunlop Pavilion, Gardiner Park Pavilion and Malvern Valley Golf Course Hub.
- » Undertook a comprehensive review of water consumption in parks and sports grounds to better understand use and work towards greater efficiency.

- » Completed a review of irrigation monitoring and control systems to efficiently manage Council's irrigation systems in parks and sports grounds.
- » Installed water loggers to monitor water use and help detect leaks at Council sites including Phoenix Park Community Centre, Prahran Aquatic Centre and Prahran Town Hall.
- » Commenced maintenance works at Glen Iris wetlands to ensure storm water run-off is being effectively treated.
- » Audited 21 rainwater collection systems installed in Council's building and facilities to assess performance and identify maintenance and upgrade opportunities.
- » Incorporated structural soils and permeable asphalt into road resurfacing in Trianian Street and Mt Pleasant Street, for storm water filtration and passive watering of street trees.

### Community

- » Delivered water-related school and early learning sessions on the water cycle, stormwater quality, water sensitive urban design and aquatic environments in partnership with Yarra River Keepers, Melbourne Water and Port Phillip EcoCentre.
- » Guided early learning centres, schools and community groups on tours of the Glen Iris wetlands focussing on the services the wetlands provide for stormwater treatment and aquatic ecosystems.



## Focus for 2019-20

### Council

- » Maximise water efficiency in Council buildings and facilities.
- » Continue to identify opportunities to incorporate water sensitive urban design elements into urban and infrastructure projects.
- » Increase the collection and use of non-potable water in Council buildings, facilities and open space.

### Community

- » Support the community to reduce potable water use through education and engagement.
- » Support the community to improve the health of local waterways through education and engagement.



## Potable water consumption 2018-19



In total, Council has reduced water use by 50 per cent below 2000 levels and by 13 per cent over the last year. This reduction is due to a targeted program to identify leaks and irregularities in Council buildings.



The majority of Council water use is required for maintaining sports ovals, parks, gardens and our swimming pools. Community spaces are a significant feature of the municipality and their management and maintenance responds to community demand for high quality parks and gardens, particularly during the warmer months.

Overall water consumption has decreased across all facilities since 2017-18, except for Stonnington's two aquatic centres, Harold Holt Swim Centre and Prahran Aquatic Centre. Improving water efficiency at these facilities will be a key focus for 2019-20.

## CASE STUDY

# Water Sensitive Urban Design

Stormwater falls in the city onto 'hard' or impervious urban surfaces like paths and roads, flushing litter and other pollutants into stormwater drains, into our creeks, the Yarra River and eventually Port Phillip Bay.

Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) includes a range of treatments that filter pollutants from the stormwater before it enters local waterways. There are even elements that use the stormwater to passively water trees and plants in our urban forests.

In Stonnington streets, car parks and gardens there are over 100 WSUD assets that look like ordinary garden beds, street trees or road surfaces, but are actually rain gardens, tree pits, permeable surfaces, swales and other treatments designed to filter pollutants and slow the path of stormwater.

Stonnington also has three wetlands that can clean stormwater from large catchment areas. These wetlands, located at Glen Iris Park, Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park and at Grange Road, treat stormwater from the Monash Freeway, Chadstone Shopping Centre and Alexandra Avenue. Stormwater spends up to three days flowing through the wetlands, where litter, sediments and pollutants settle to the bottom and are filtered by microorganisms and algae growing on the aquatic plants.

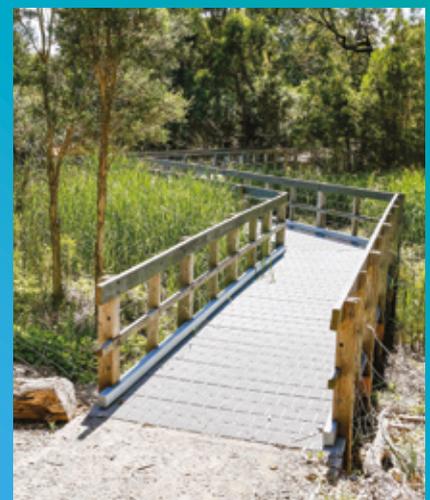
## Strategic objectives

### Council will:

- 3.1 maximise water efficiency in Council buildings, facilities, sporting complexes and open space through design, technology and innovation,
- 3.2 install and maintain water sensitive urban design treatments throughout the city,
- 3.3 achieve minimum WSUD standards for Council building projects,
- 3.4 support development to meet minimum WSUD standards,
- 3.5 increase the collection and use of non potable water, and
- 3.6 improve the health of local waterways.

### Council will support the community to:

- 3.7 use water more efficiently, and
- 3.8 help improve the health of local waterways.



PRIORITY AREA 04

# Urban environment

To support city cooling, community health and wellbeing and to provide food and habitat for local wildlife, Council focuses on growing and maintaining the urban forest and protecting and enhancing biodiversity throughout the municipality. Despite our highly modified and urbanised landscape, the city contains a ‘web’ of natural environmental areas that provide important habitat for local wildlife as well as places for the community to interact with nature.



## Key achievements ☆

### Council

- » Completed Stage 6 of the Yarra River Biodiversity Project, which included enhancing natural wildlife habitat, planting 39,307 indigenous plants and 59 indigenous trees, and widening the shared path west of Grange Road.
- » Began development of the Gardiners Creek masterplan, extending the habitat corridor from the Yarra River east along Gardiners Creek extending all the way to the municipal boundary at Warrigal Road.
- » Endorsed Living Melbourne: our metropolitan urban forest – a metropolitan-wide strategy for a greener, more liveable Melbourne.
- » Introduced a tree ‘bond’ to protect street trees through the planning system.

- » Undertook an assessment of boulevard trees in Stonnington to develop a planting program that will create identifiable gateways to the city and grow the urban forest.

### Community

- » Partnered with the Friends of Gardiners Creek Valley, Holmesglen TAFE and Chadstone and East Malvern Rotary clubs for a National Tree Day planting event, with 60 community members planting 2,350 indigenous plants.
- » Celebrated Schools Tree Day with 274 students from nine schools adding 7,000 plants into the ground at the Urban Forest, Darling Park and the Glen Iris Wetlands.
- » Continued to encourage residents to participate in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count. In 2018, 100 observers recorded 3,064 individual birds from 56 different species in Stonnington.

## Strategic objectives ✓

### Council will:

- 4.1 protect, maintain and enhance areas of natural environment throughout the city,
- 4.2 manage the urban forest to ensure a cool, healthy and liveable city,
- 4.3 integrate green infrastructure throughout the municipality, and
- 4.4 grow the urban forest by planting 250,000 plants and trees throughout the municipality over the next five years.

### Council will support the community to:

- 4.5 integrate green infrastructure in developments,
- 4.6 increase connection and engagement in Council’s natural environment, and
- 4.7 improve habitat on private land for native wildlife.

## Focus for 2019-20 🔍

### Council

- » Enhance biodiversity across Stonnington including key biodiversity sites and parks and gardens.
- » Continue to support, enhance and manage Stonnington’s urban forest.

- » Continue to explore ways to incorporate green infrastructure into development projects across the municipality.

### Community

- » Increase connection and engagement with the natural environment.
- » Improve habitat on private land by working with private landholders to enhance key biodiversity corridors and improve biodiversity connectivity.





2,248 trees  
planted in Stonnington streets, parks and reserves as part of Council's annual tree planting program



10,828 plants  
planted in city streetscape projects



10,000 indigenous plants  
planted by students, the community and Council staff for National Tree Day



10,000 indigenous plants  
planted in parks and reserves



44,026 native plants and trees  
planted along the Yarra River, Scotchmans Creek and Gardiners Creek



**Total of 77,102**  
plants and trees planted across Stonnington



26,200 herbs, vegetables, succulents and indigenous tubestock given away at the Spring into Gardening festival



Target: Plant 250,000 plants and trees throughout the municipality over five years

**CASE STUDY**

## The Yarra River Biodiversity Project

The Yarra River is an iconic landmark of Melbourne, providing an important wildlife corridor in a heavily urbanised environment.

In 2010 Council began the Yarra River Biodiversity Project to increase habitat connectivity, improve water quality, grow the urban forest and provide recreational and educational opportunities for the community to engage with the river and its surrounding environment. In early 2019, planting for the final stage of the project was completed.

The project has included extensive native revegetation with the planting of over 5,000 trees and 159,364 indigenous plants from Punt Road to Grange Road.

Stormwater run-off is filtered before entering the river by two new bioretention ponds and a constructed wetland system, which also provides important habitat for local wildlife. To help the community engage with the river, shared path have been upgraded, pedestrian boardwalks constructed and rest areas and other amenities for cyclists and pedestrians installed.

In 2018 the project won the 2018 Keep Victoria Beautiful Sustainable Cities Award for Protection of the Environment. The award recognises and celebrates 'positive actions taken by communities in urban areas to protect and enhance their local environments'.

Council is extremely proud of the Yarra River Biodiversity Project and is excited to commence to develop a vision for Gardiners Creek and surrounding area, extending the biodiversity corridor east along Gardiners Creek all the way to Warrigal Road in East Malvern.



PRIORITY AREA 05

# Education, engagement and collaboration

The City of Stonnington is committed to improving its own environmental performance, developing staff awareness, information and capacity to deliver environmental outcomes through leadership, cross-departmental collaboration and ongoing support.

Council also plays a key leadership role supporting sustainability action within the community, working with a wide range of partners and stakeholders to maintain and enhance Stonnington's liveability now and into the future.



## Key achievements ☆

### Council

- » Supported Council staff participation in national environmental initiatives, including Plastic Free July, Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Day.
- » Delivered seven sustainability sessions to 113 Council staff and supported more than 30 'Green Team' members to promote sustainable practice, in the workplace and at home.
- » Received a Keep Victoria Beautiful Sustainable Cities Award for 'Community/Government partnership' with the Friends of Gardiners Creek Valley.
- » Continued to work in collaboration with local councils in the east through the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate regional adaptation.
- » Continued our membership with the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE).

### Community

- » Delivered 17 environmental events inspiring 1,120 attendees to adopt more sustainable practices. Events included The Great Summer Clothes Swap, Local Bird Discovery Tour, Armadale Open House and events delivered in partnership with other organisations including City of Port Phillip, Prahran Market and the Friends of Gardiners Creek Valley.
- » Delivered the 2019 Student Leadership Conference hosting 140 students from 11 local primary schools at a full day of activities, discussion and planning designed to empower the students to become future sustainability leaders.
- » Supported seven Stonnington schools to complete the Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability program, providing students with the knowledge and skills to become sustainability leaders of the future.
- » Delivered 162 Sustainable Schools program sessions to over 3,530 students from 62 local schools and early learning centres.

## Strategic objectives ✓

### Council will:

- 5.1 integrate sustainability into Council services, functions and decision-making processes,
- 5.2 monitor, evaluate and publicly report on Council's progress towards achieving its sustainability objectives and targets,
- 5.3 develop and strengthen partnerships with relevant external stakeholders to advance sustainability, and
- 5.4 support staff action and behaviour change through environmental education and engagement.

### Council will support the community to:

- 5.5 reduce its environmental impact through environmental education and engagement.

## Focus for 2019-20 🔍

### Council:

- » Continue to explore opportunities to develop and build partnerships with key stakeholders both within Stonnington and in the wider community.

- » Continue to ensure sustainability is integrated into Council services, functions and decision-making processes.

### Community

- » Continue to deliver engaging and educational events to inspire behaviour change within the community and support the adoption of sustainable living practices.
- » Continue to support local schools and early learning centres through the Sustainable Schools Program.



1,120 people

attended 17 environmental events, including a clothes swap, tree planting and energy efficient home and bird watching tours, with an additional 4,273 people engaged through the Spring into Gardening Festival, 114 through the Aussie Backyard Bird Count and five community groups through Clean Up Australia Day.



62

schools and early learning centres participated in 162 Sustainable Schools Program sessions.



140 students

from 11 schools participated in Council's annual Student Leadership Conference, designed to empower students to become the sustainability leaders of the future.

## 2018-19 Environmental Events Calendar

### 2018

- July » Open Book: Zero Waste Living with Erin Rhoads  
» Community Tree Planting  
» Photographing Victoria's old growth forests
- Aug » Upcycled Jewellery workshop
- Sept » Apartment Living: Making Change Happen  
» Terrarium Making Workshop
- Oct » Spring into Gardening  
» Aussie Backyard Bird Count  
» Local Bird Discovery  
» Ride to Work Day breakfast  
» Cycling Skills and Road Safety workshop  
» Bike Maintenance Workshop
- Nov » Cook Smart at Prahran Market

### 2019

- Feb » Great Summer Clothes Swap
- Mar » Clean Up Australia Day
- Apr » Winter in your patch  
» Nature play: art edition
- May » Armadale Open House  
» 2 x Bike maintenance workshops



## CASE STUDY

# Community partnership: Friends of Gardiners Creek Valley

Council is proud to have strong partnerships with local groups that are passionate about the environment and making a difference. In 2018, Council's important relationship with the Friends of Gardiners Creek Valley (FoGCV) was recognised with the 2018 Keep Victoria Beautiful Sustainable Cities Award for 'Community Government Partnership'.

Over the past three years, Council and FoGCV have partnered to deliver a number of annual planting and clean up events for the community.

In July 2018, Council and FoGCV celebrated National Tree Day by partnering to host a community tree planting event. More than 60 volunteers met at Glenburn Bend Park on a cold morning to plant over 2,350 indigenous plants. Through this event the community were able to get their hands dirty, connect to nature, improve their local park and learn about biodiversity and creating wildlife friendly gardens.



## City of Stonnington

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293 Tooronga Road, Malvern

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