

# Sustainability Snapshot 2019-20

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City of  
**STONNINGTON**



# Mayor's message



Welcome to the City of Stonnington's 2019-20 Sustainability Snapshot, a chance to highlight our sustainability achievements in partnership with the community over the last 12 months.

On 17 February, I was proud to be part of the City of Stonnington's declaration of a climate change emergency. We saw over summer the devastation climate change is causing across our state and country and we're committed to working with our community to take action.

During the past year we committed to purchasing 100% of our electricity supply from renewable sources from July 2021, installed electric vehicle chargers in our Prahran Square car park, saved 1,600,000 litres of water through more efficient taps at our Prahran Aquatic Centre, planted 1,981 trees and 23,660 plants across Stonnington, trialled innovative permeable paving in our Kingston Street car park in Malvern East that allows water captured to irrigate nearby Central Park, expanded our kerbside waste service to include food waste and hosted Melbourne's biggest clothes swap event.

That's just a summary of what we've achieved, there's more in this document and we're only just getting started! I look forward to continue working alongside our community to ensure a sustainable future for Stonnington.

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

battery  
ver cord?  
waste.

## Introduction

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

### Our environmental priority areas:

01 Climate change and energy



Reporting on each area we highlight our key 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 emergency declaration

On 17 February 2020, the City of Stonnington declared a climate emergency.

Climate change is already impacting our environment, human health and local economy, and it requires an immediate and urgent response.

We all need to work together—Council, the community, schools and businesses—to take action to address the impacts of climate change and work towards a more sustainable future. Business as usual cannot continue, we need transformational change.

While Council has been working for some time to reduce its own emissions and support the community to live more sustainably, it's time to accelerate our emissions reductions, ramp up the ways we support our community and prepare for changes to our city and community.

To do this, we're developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan, which will include actions that Council will take to respond to the climate emergency, as well as the support we will provide for our local community.

By working together to respond to the climate emergency, we can create a sustainable future for all.



TAKE  
**YOUR E-WASTE**  
TO A  
**BETTER PLACE**





# Climate change and energy

## Key achievements



880kW  
solar capacity

Committed to purchase renewable energy for 100% of Council's electricity supply from 1 July 2021.

Installed three new rooftop solar PV systems on Council buildings, bringing the total amount of rooftop solar capacity to 880 kW. That's enough to power 300 Stonnington homes.



1,310  
street lights  
upgraded  
to LED

Upgraded 1,310 street lights to LEDs. 97% of street lights wholly-paid by Council are now energy-efficient.

Commissioned detailed plans for energy efficiency works at Harold Holt Swim Centre, including lighting, pumps, solar and controls. Works are to be carried out in 2020-21 and are estimated to save over 700 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per year.



22 hybrid  
fleet vehicles

Added 12 hybrid cars to Council's fleet, bringing the total number of hybrid vehicles to 22. On average these vehicles are twice as fuel-efficient as other fleet cars.

Installed cycle counters on Chapel Street, the Main Yarra Trail and Scotchmans Creek Trail. A better understanding of traffic helps Council design infrastructure to support cycling.

Installed two electric vehicle chargers in the Prahran Square car park.

## Case study

### Solar savings

Over the last year, Council installed 50 kW of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems across three sites (equivalent to 10 residential solar PV systems). A new system was installed at Grosvenor Street Childcare Centre and existing systems were expanded at Malvern Library and Orrong Romanis Recreation Centre.

These solar PV installations are predicted to generate 66 MWh per year, saving 70 tonnes of greenhouse gases and up to \$16,000 in electricity costs.

In total, Council has installed 880 kW of solar on 32 buildings and facilities, reducing Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions and electricity bills.

### Focus for 2020-21:

Develop a Climate Emergency Action Plan.



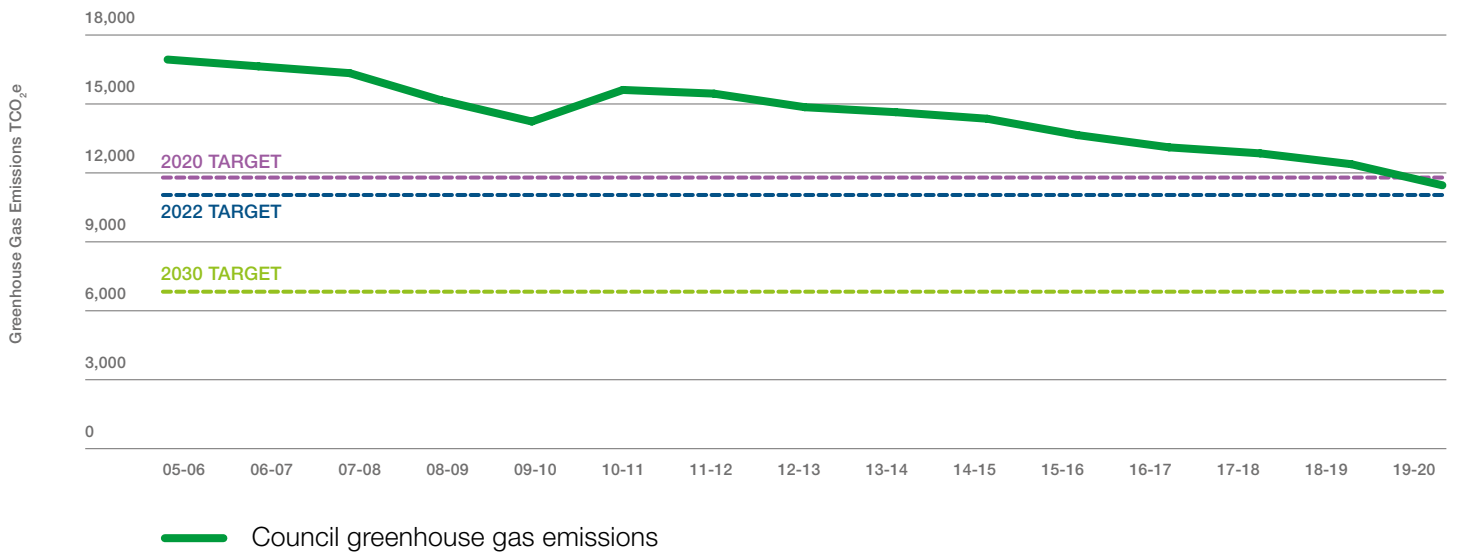




Reduced by 32%

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 32%, successfully meeting our 2020 target.

## Council greenhouse gas emissions





# Resources and waste management

## Key achievements



4,300 kitchen caddies

Diverted 135 tonnes of electronic waste from landfill through Council's hard waste service and purple e-waste monster at the Stonnington Transfer Station.



Diverted 8,430kg

Expanded Council's kerbside garden waste service to include food waste and provided 4,300 kitchen caddies to participating households to help support the diversion of valuable nutrients from landfill to make compost.

Visited local schools during National Recycling Week with Council's purple e-waste monster, collecting over 100 items of e-waste and engaging school communities on the e-waste landfill ban.



Delivered 442 compost bins

Laid 3,000 tonnes of asphalt containing recycled plastic and 1,000 tonnes of asphalt containing recycled crumb rubber on 21 local roads.

Delivered 442 compost bins, worm farms and bokashi units to Stonnington residents through our Compost Revolution program.

Diverted 8,430kg 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 posts, bollards and screens made out of recycled plastic in gardens and parks across Stonnington.



## Case study

### New smart solar bins

Council has installed smart litter and recycling bins in Ardrie Park and Prahran Square. These smart bins use solar compacting technology to hold up to eight times the capacity of a traditional bin, including sensors to alert Council's waste team when bins are almost full. This means that bins are emptied less often, which can help reduce traffic, fuel use and associated greenhouse gas emissions as well as remove litter overflow issues.

The smart bins will allow Council to collect data and improve rubbish collections over time and are the latest of a number of 'smart city' initiatives to use technology and data to better manage energy, resources and services.

The installation of the bins also form part of Council's public place recycling (PPR) program which has installed over 150 public recycling bins in shopping precincts and public open space throughout the city.

### Focus for 2020-21:

Develop a plan to introduce a four-bin waste and recycling system.





# Integrated water management

## Key achievements



1,600,000 L saved

Saved 1,600,000 litres of water by installing water efficient taps at Prahran Aquatic Centre and repairing 4 rainwater systems.



Consumption ↓ 8%

Reduced consumption of drinking water by 8% compared to the previous year.

Upgraded nine irrigation systems, including Victory Square, Princes Gardens and Windsor Siding, to ensure best practice water efficiency and management.

Trialed innovative permeable paving at Kingston St carpark, allowing water from the carpark to irrigate adjacent park and trees.

## Case study

### Kingston Street car park

Council was awarded a grant by Melbourne Water to trial innovative permeable paving containing recycled tyres in the Kingston Street car park in Malvern East.

This is the first Victorian trial site for this treatment, which will support our water sensitive city by filtering stormwater and passively watering the adjoining Central Park and eight new tree pits. The project also supports recycling and reuse as well as diverting waste from landfill.

The \$200,000 grant supported the construction of the car park as well as site monitoring over a 12 month period. It is anticipated that the site will act as a case study for the use of the product under inner Melbourne conditions, serving to increase industry knowledge and acceptability of the product.

### Focus for 2020-21:

Develop an integrated water management plan for Council to transition to a water sensitive city.





# Urban environment

## Key achievements



Planted 1,981 trees and 23,600 plants

Planted 1,981 trees and 23,600 plants in Stonnington streets, gardens, parks and reserves.

Planted 145,000 plants and trees since 2018, and well on track to meet its target of 250,000 by 2023.



280 observations of local plants and wildlife

280 observations of local plants and wildlife by 80 participants through Stonnington's Backyard Biodiversity Blitz, our new citizen-led science project



## Case study

### National Tree Day

To celebrate National Tree Day in 2019, 10,100 indigenous plants were planted by local schools, the community and Council staff across some of Stonnington's biodiversity hotspots.

Schools Tree Day was celebrated by 300 students from seven local primary schools and Melbourne High School by planting 6,000 indigenous plants at the Glen Iris wetlands, the Urban Forest and Darling Park.

Council staff also had an opportunity to join in the fun by planting 1,000 indigenous plants at Ivanhoe Grove. A record 191 community members spent National Tree Day on Sunday 28 July planting 3,100 indigenous plants, making new friends and enjoying the sun and nature along Gardiners Creek.

The work completed helps to improve biodiversity, create habitat and provide food sources for wildlife such as the Pobble Bonk Frog, Superb Fairy Wren, Kookaburra and Tawny Frog Mouth.

### Focus for 2020-21:

Finalise the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) masterplan and begin its implementation.





# Education, engagement and collaboration

## Key achievements



72 sessions x  
28 schools

Delivered 72 environmental education sessions to 28 schools and early learning centres through the Stonnington Sustainable Schools program.



2 Youth  
Sustainability  
Ambassadors  
appointed

Supported four Stonnington schools to complete the Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability Program, which included student sustainability leaders implementing school recycling programs, composting systems and planting Indigenous and edible gardens.

Appointed two Youth Sustainability Ambassadors to promote and participate in community sustainability initiatives.



825 attendees  
1,800 items  
swapped

Developed Safe Routes to School maps for Windsor Primary School, St Roch's Primary School and Korowa Anglican Girls' School, promoting sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and scooting.

Hosted Melbourne's biggest clothes swap with 825 attendees and 1,800 items swapped. This event also included talks on decluttering and conscious consumerism, sustainable fashion and op shopping.

105 kW of rooftop solar installed by 23 Stonnington homes through Council's solar engagement program.



7 webinars x  
937 attendees

Delivered 24 environmental events to 2,307 people including a clothes swap, tree planting and a range of sustainable living sessions.

Partnered with the cities of Glen Eira, Port Phillip and Yarra to deliver a series of 19 sustainable living webinars. Stonnington hosted seven webinars to an audience of 937 attendees with recordings viewed more than 1,400 times.



## Case study

### Online sustainable living series

Throughout May and June 2020, Council delivered a series of online events to support the community to learn new skills and take climate action. The series, a partnership with the cities of Yarra, Port Phillip and Glen Eira, was in response to people spending more time at home due to the pandemic.

The series featured 19 webinars and covered topics including growing food, propagating plants, energy efficiency and draught proofing, citizen science, climate conversations and renewable energy.

Stonnington hosted 7 webinars with a total 941 people tuning in to watch live. The recorded sessions have also been popular – Stonnington webinars have been accessed 1,400 times (and counting). Most of the webinars will be permanently hosted on our website as a resource for our community.

### Focus for 2020-21:

Develop an education and engagement program to build community resilience to the impacts of climate change.





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