

HUME CITY COUNCIL

Climate Action Plan 2023-2028

Climate Action in Council Operations and
Supporting Climate Action in Hume City



hume.vic.gov.au



Acknowledgement of Traditional owners

Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, which includes the existing family members of the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung have a deep and enduring relationship with, connection and responsibility to – land, water and sky; a connection that is impacted by climate change.

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung have been managing land and water, and the effects of climate for more than 60,000 years. They continue to safely steward the diverse landscapes of Hume, reduce carbon emissions and manage climate risk through Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung land management practices.

Recognition of Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung customs, knowledge and expertise can bring new jobs and attract investment to communities.

It can also support place-based climate adaptation and resilience, whilst strengthening cultural connections to Country.

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people have a cultural obligation in preserving not just their cultural objects, but the natural landscapes of cultural importance. Significant cultural, community and environmental value require protection. This is essential to the identity and wellbeing of the Wurundjeri people.



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Part A

Introduction and Context



1.0 Overview – about Hume’s Climate Action Plan

Hume City Council’s Climate Action Plan is a key component of Hume’s leadership response to climate change and aims to enhance and expand action in response to the urgency and magnitude of the current climate situation. Council has three broad spheres of influence:

- **Council operations** – where Council has the highest level of control and responsibility for climate action. This relates to the emissions generated in delivering Council services.
- **Across Hume City** – Council can make a difference as a statutory authority, a service provider, facilitator, and advocate
- **Further afield** – as an advocate for climate action that also benefits other communities beyond Hume City and through hosting networks with a broader membership and remit such as the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action.

Climate Action can be summarised under three broad headings:

- **Reducing greenhouse gas emissions** – emission reductions are an urgent priority to avoid the worst impacts of climate change
- **Adaptation to climate impacts** – we are already experiencing the impacts of climate change and even if significant global emission reductions are achieved now, further impacts will occur. We need to plan for and mitigate the risks associated with these hazards and build organisational and community resilience
- **Lobbying and advocating for further climate action is also required** – experts advise that transformational change is required across all aspects of society to avoid climate crisis. This means all levels of government, industry, business, not for profits, organisations and citizens have a role to play in insisting on, and working together to achieve, the changes necessary to ensure a safe climate.



There are three main parts to this Plan:



Part A Introduction and Context



Part B Council Operations



Part C Supporting Climate Action in Hume City

Part B focusses on Council operations. It includes a carbon neutral target for Council operations by 2030 and identifies actions to progress towards this target. This is an ambitious undertaking for Council, particularly because Hume owns and operates the Sunbury Landfill which is a high source of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Council's current greenhouse emissions profile is outlined as are the additional emission sources that will be included in the profile prior to 2030 to ensure compliance with carbon neutral accreditation requirements. Actions to reduce emissions as much as possible prior to the purchase of offsets, are outlined in line with the guiding principles of the emissions reduction hierarchy and electrification.

Part C Supporting Climate Action in Hume City includes a range of actions to support business, industry, organisations and residents to take climate action. Many of these come from Council's other strategic plans and programs. This is a reflection that taking climate action returns many other community benefits. For example, the Household Energy Program helps Hume households, especially those vulnerable to bill stress, reduce emissions, reduce energy bills and improve health and wellbeing outcomes through better thermal comfort at home. Sustainable transport options improve liveability, reduce pollution and congestion and improve health and wellbeing outcomes as well as reducing emissions.



2.0 The Current Climate Situation

Climate change is caused by the increase in greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere that trap heat from the sun. This results in global warming – increasing average temperatures and disruption of weather systems.

Atmospheric greenhouse gases have increased significantly since the industrial revolution. The Earth is about 1.1°C warmer than it was in the 1800s. The main causes are: our heavy reliance on fossil fuels for most of our energy and transport needs; clearing of vegetation for development and agriculture; and reliance on large scale agriculture for much of our food and methane released from landfills.

The climate situation for our planet is now dire. Despite increasing awareness and community concern and international political commitment through the Paris Agreement (see S3.7.1 below), global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise.

The United Nation's Emissions Gap Report 2022 is titled *The Closing Window: climate crisis calls for rapid transformation of societies*. The report shows that we are far from the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C. Policies currently in place point to a 2.8°C temperature rise by the end of the century.

The report finds that:

- To get on track to meet the Paris Agreement goal, the world needs to **reduce greenhouse gases by unprecedented levels over the next eight years.**

It's important to note that even the targeted levels of average temperature increases of 1.5°C and 2°C will result in significant negative impacts for people, other species and ecosystems. These impacts are far more severe however at 2°C compared to 1.5°C (see <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/> for details).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change emphasizes that every bit of warming, every fraction of a degree matters. Limiting warming goes hand in hand with achieving other global goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals.



"Launching the transformation is necessary to move towards a carbon-neutral future that will allow us to limit global warming and deliver other social and environmental benefits, like clean air, green jobs and universal energy access."

United Nations

As the driest inhabited continent on Earth, Australia is particularly vulnerable to climate impacts. Our fragile ecosystems, including the Great Barrier Reef, are at risk.

Climate change has caused longer, more intense fire seasons across large parts of Australia and an increase in the average number of elevated fire weather days, as measured by the Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI). The 2019/2020 bushfire season (Black Summer) was horrific in Australia, starting early in some areas and lasting for nine months.

In 2022 the east coast of Australia was racked by high rainfall and devastating floods. Many communities were affected by not one, but multiple consecutive floods, with little or no time to recover after each one.

In addition to vulnerability to climate impacts, Australia has excellent renewable energy resources from sun and wind and the opportunity to transform industry and resource extraction to be a clean energy superpower.

"It is important not merely to foresee the future, but to bring it about."

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

"The new federal government has a once-in-a-century opportunity. Despite the very real challenges, the opportunity should be taken – the downside is too ugly to be contemplated, and the upside too great to be missed."

The Grattan Institute

(on Australia as a green energy superpower)

3.0 Inputs into this Plan

This section outlines key inputs into this Plan:

- Hume's previous Greenhouse Action Plan (2018-2022)
- Recommendations and input from Hume's Sustainability Taskforce
- The Hume *Climate Change Community Views* survey results of 2021
- Community engagement with key stakeholders
- The *Pathways to Carbon Neutrality* report
- The *Hume Emission Reduction Opportunities* report
- The Policy Context including the Paris Agreement, key commitments from other levels of government and other relevant Hume Plans and Strategies

Identifying the largest opportunities and priorities for reducing emissions has been informed by the current and future greenhouse gas emissions profile for Council's corporate emissions (see S5.1) and extrapolated greenhouse data for Hume City (S6.1). These breakdowns of emissions were shared with stakeholders during the engagement.

3.1 Hume's Greenhouse Action Plan 2018 -2022 and other initiatives

Hume's Greenhouse Action Plan 2018-2022 (GAP) resulted in some significant climate achievements within Council operations and working with the Hume community. The GAP had a strong emphasis on reducing emissions in Council operations and included actions for supporting community emission reductions and influencing positive change.

Key achievements of the GAP include:

- the move to 100 per cent accredited renewable energy (GreenPower) for all of Council's contestable electricity use reducing emissions by more than 16,500 tonnes per year
- the installation of more than 3 MW of solar on Council buildings to date
- expansion of the solar program to include Council facilities leased to community organisations, helping sports clubs and other community groups reduce running costs as well as emissions
- greenhouse reduction KPIs achieved and exceeded for four nominated large Council buildings (see Appendix 1 for details)
- new resourcing for the Household Energy Program that commenced in late 2020 and has supported around 1,500 Hume households (by December 2022), particularly those vulnerable to bill stress through:
 - the Hume Solar Roll-out program
 - the Energy Savvy Upgrades program that provided discounted energy efficiency upgrades to Hume households vulnerable to bill stress
 - regular Bring Your Bills events
 - support for residents to access the \$250 Victorian Government Power Saving Bonus
- Climate Action support for Hume schools including the introduction of the Flick the Switch program and the north west schools climate change conference in 2022.

Hume's Climate Pledge

At the Council meeting of 9 March 2021 Hume City Council endorsed a voluntary pledge under the *Victorian Climate Change Act 2017* including key actions Council would take by the end of 2025. In addition to key actions from the Greenhouse Action Plan summarised above, Hume's pledge also included the following:

- continuing to develop a trial and the phased roll-out of a municipal-wide organics service
- supporting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in new developments through the trial of the Sustainable Subdivisions tool with a view to incorporating in the planning scheme if successful and implementation of Council's ESD Policy in the Planning Scheme for new planning permit applications
- Continuing to support and work with the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action.

National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS)

The *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* establishes a single national framework for reporting and disseminating company information about greenhouse gas emissions, energy production, energy consumption and other information specified under NGER legislation.

Hume has been reporting annually under NGERS since the 2018/2019 financial year. The high emissions from the Sunbury Landfill means that Council triggers the reporting threshold (25ktCO₂e) for the Sunbury landfill as a discreet facility and the threshold for total entity emissions (50ktCO₂e).

Hume Household Energy Program





The Hume Sustainability Taskforce at work.

3.2 Hume's Sustainability Taskforce

Climate change action has been a key priority for Hume's Sustainability Taskforce – Council's environmental advisory committee consisting of community volunteers. The Taskforce has put a number of climate related recommendations to Council for consideration (see Appendix 2). These have included:

- advocate to the federal government for an Australian climate emergency declaration
- phasing out of gas in Council operations (and educating the broader Hume community)
- that Council considers a bold position in the Climate Action Plan reflecting community concerns
- develop information and incentives to promote electrification to new home buyers, developers and existing residents
- support for neighbourhood batteries.

A sub-group of Hume's Sustainability Taskforce also provided detailed input into recommended emission sources for inclusion or exclusion in Council's corporate emissions profile.

"I see climate action as the most critically important element of life for all of us."

Taskforce member

3.3 Climate Change Community Views

In early 2021 Council asked the Hume community about their views on climate change. More than 1300 Hume residents participated in the *Climate Change Community Views* survey that informed the community vision process.

- Close to four out of five respondents (80%) indicated they are concerned about climate change
- Close to two thirds (65.8%) indicated they have a 'good' or 'very good' understanding of climate change
- Close to four out of five respondents (79.3%) indicated they felt it was important that Hume City Council takes action on climate change
- More than three quarters indicated they thought it would be useful to describe the current challenges as a 'climate emergency'

"Concerned about the future – better future for our kids/next generations"

"I have my doubts about climate change – I don't know much about it – I am not concerned about it"

"It is not only the council responsibility, it is a responsibility on all of us"

"Council should lead by example and encourage more (or) educate about initiatives (e.g. recycling)"

"People in power (i.e., Governments and industries) not taking climate change seriously"

"It is very important to act now to address climate change – we need actions rather than words"

"It is the right thing to do – every action counts"

Quotes from the Hume community

Responding to the Climate Change Community Views survey



3.4 Further Community Engagement

Key stakeholders in the Climate Action Plan were identified as:

- **Young people** – because they will be significantly impacted
- **Those more vulnerable to climate impacts or bill stress** – lower socio-economic demographics, people with chronic illness or disability, very young people, old people etc
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders** – to share First Nations knowledge and wisdom; and due to vulnerability to climate impacts for some sections of the Aboriginal community
- New arrivals and people from diverse cultural backgrounds – vulnerability to impacts and changes in the supply, cost and use of energy and transport
- **The rural community** – climate impacts are affecting land use and productivity
- **Business and industry** – a large portion of Hume City's emissions comes from the use of electricity and gas by manufacturing industries.

Input from the community was also sought via meetings and online submissions from the Participate Hume website with input from the following:

- Young people via the Climate Adaptation Requires Youth Action (CARYA) program run by Banksia Gardens, the Youth Action Committee and the north west schools climate change conference
- Traditional Owners via a meeting with Wurundjeri Elders and subsequent engagement of the Wurundjeri corporation to provide guidance and input into the plan and a meeting with the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group
- Hume's Interfaith Network
- Hume's rural community
- Hume community members.

Consultants Hip V. Hype also ran focus groups with representatives from:

- manufacturing industry
- developers
- volume builders
- Hume Interfaith members
- Council staff.

Tree planting in Hume



3.5 Pathways to Carbon Neutrality

WSP consultants prepared the Pathways to Carbon Neutrality report in early 2021. They were asked to explore three pathways for Hume City Council to achieve carbon neutrality within Council operations by 2030 and to identify emission reduction measures. WSP also investigated which emissions sources Council needs to include in its corporate greenhouse profile to achieve Carbon Neutral certification. The report identifies and investigates the costs and opportunities associated with three different pathways to carbon neutrality compared to the baseline:

- **Minimal investment** – capital investment in emissions reductions is kept at a minimum
- **Balanced approach** – a middle path in between the other two
- **Most impact** – most impact emission reductions (higher capital investment).

The WSP report indicates that the most environmentally responsible approach (Most Impact Pathway) is also the most financially responsible. For the Balanced and Most Impact pathways the cost savings achieved through continuing to invest in emission reductions (particularly via energy efficiency and solar) covers the cost of renewable energy and offset purchases in 2030. The minimal investment approach would result in additional net costs in future years when offsets are purchased for carbon neutrality.

The emission reduction measures identified by WSP are included in Part B of the Plan. Emission Reduction Measures from the Most Impact approach are prioritised unless these are not feasible to implement (e.g. methane to energy at the Sunbury Landfill may not be technically possible due to gas pressures etc in which case flaring will be pursued).

3.6 Hume Emission Reduction Opportunities

Hip V. Hype consultants prepared the *Hume Emissions Reductions Opportunities* report in mid 2021. They were engaged to scope, evaluate and engage with stakeholders to identify the highest priority actions that Council could take to support emissions reductions across Hume City. A multi-criteria analysis with twelve criteria were used to shortlist actions with the highest priority given to the following three criteria: emissions reduction impact; level of Council control or influence; strategic alignment with Council priorities.

The priority emission reduction opportunities identified in the *Hume Emissions Reductions Opportunities* report are a combination of new and existing actions and are included in Part C of the Climate Action Plan.

*"Hope doesn't come from words.
Hope only comes from actions."*

Greta Thunberg

Climate activist and young person

Cr Haweil with solar panels in Broadmeadows





3.7 Policy Context

3.7.1 The Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement (2016) was a significant step forward in global agreement to tackle climate change – it marked the beginning of a shift towards a net-zero emissions world. The Agreement sets long-term goals to guide all nations to:

- substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2 degrees Celsius while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees

- review countries' commitments every five years
- provide financing to developing countries to mitigate climate change, strengthen resilience and enhance abilities to adapt to climate impacts.

The key mechanism for achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement are nationally determined contributions (NDCs). NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. NDCs are updated every five years with an expectation of enhanced action.

3.7.2 Australian Government Climate Commitments

Key climate change commitments of the Australian Government include:

- The Australian *Climate Change Act 2022* embeds Australia's commitment to the Paris Agreement by outlining targets, nationally determined contributions and greenhouse assessments methods
 - Australia's Paris Agreement target is 43% emissions reduction on 2005 levels by 2030 and zero emissions by 2050
 - The Act indicates that Australia's NDC to the Paris Agreement can only be increased by successive governments (not decreased)
 - An Australian annual climate change statement including progress and risks will be prepared and published
 - Australian Commonwealth Government agencies (excluding defence and security agencies) will be net zero by 2030
- A National Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy will include increased investment in charging infrastructure
 - Zero or low emission vehicles (EVs, plug-in hybrids and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles) costing below the luxury car threshold will be exempt from Fringe Benefits Tax and customs duty
 - An EV target of 75% by 2025 for the federal government's fleet
 - Funding for community batteries and 'solar banks' will support access to solar for renters and apartment dwellers
 - 'Rewiring the Nation' program to support the transformation of Australia's electricity grid to accelerate its decarbonisation
 - National Reconstruction Fund to support renewables manufacturing and the deployment of low emissions technologies
 - The National Construction Code will require 7-star new homes as a minimum from October 2023
 - Support for households to transition to electric appliances.



3.7.3 Victorian Government Climate Commitments

Key climate change commitments of the Victorian Government include:

- The Victorian *Climate Change Act 2017* establishes a long-term net zero target for the state with 5 yearly interim targets. A climate change strategy is developed every five years to set out actions to achieve the targets and adapt to climate impacts.
- The Victorian target for Net Zero emissions is now 2045 (brought forward from 2050) and a 75-80% reduction by 2035
- Victoria's renewable energy generation target has been increased to 65% by 2030 and 95% by 2035
- Re-establish the State Electricity Commission to become an energy market proponent investing in renewables.
- Legislated energy storage targets of at least 2.6GW of storage capacity by 2030 and 6.3GW by 2035
- 100 neighbourhood batteries installed across Victoria with Hume City identified as one of the initial neighbourhood battery locations
- TAFE training for renewable energy jobs
- An electric vehicle target of 50% of Victorian car purchases to be EVs by 2030
- *Victoria's Gas Substitution Roadmap* – new homes no longer required to connect to the gas network; and
 - phasing out of fossil gas appliances in the Victorian Energy Upgrade program by 2023
- The Big Housing Build program with thousands of new energy efficiency public housing units to be built and upgrades of 35,000 social housing units underway with all-electric specified where possible.
- Solar and battery rebates via Solar Victoria and virtual power plants to be trialled.

3.7.4 Local Government

The Victorian *Local Government Act 2020* requires councils to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks.

Other relevant overarching principles in the *Local Government Act 2020*:

- priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.
- Regional, state, and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making.
- the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.
- collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought.
- The transparency of Council decisions, actions, and information is to be ensured.

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* requires councils to prepare a four-year municipal health and wellbeing plan following each council election and to take into consideration climate impacts both in terms of mitigation and adaptation.

The Victorian *Climate Change Act 2017* invites local governments to make a voluntary pledge under the Act to outline targets and key commitments. Hume City Council endorsed a voluntary pledge in March 2021 (see S3.1).

3.7.5 Hume Council Plans and Strategies

Community Vision

Hume's community vision was developed with input from more than 8,500 residents and groups and overseen by a deliberative panel of people who live, work, visit or own a business or residence in Hume. The *Climate Change Community Views* survey results were included in the information pack provided to the panel.

Hume's Community Vision is:

'A sustainable and thriving community with great health, education, employment, infrastructure, and a strong sense of belonging'

The Vision is supported by three themes that guide what Council and the community can do together to achieve its long-term aspirations:

- **A community that is resilient, inclusive, and thriving.**
- **A city that cares about our planet, is appealing and connected.**
- **A Council that inspires leadership, is accountable, and puts the community first.**

The vision played a key role in the development of the *Council Plan 2021-2025*.

The Council Plan

The *Council Plan 2021–2025* sets the strategic direction of Council in helping support the delivery of the Community Vision and outlines the themes, strategic objectives and strategies/actions that Council will be undertaking during their four-year term – and has been developed with the guiding principles of Social Justice and Sustainability. The Council Plan also incorporates the *Disability Action Plan*, the *Community Safety Action Plan* and *Pathways to Sustainability* (see below). The Council Plan is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that actions remain current and meet any changes in priorities.

The Council Plan includes the following action for 2022/23:

2.23 Enhance Council's response to climate change including the development of a climate action plan to cover actions within Council operations and to support the Hume community and businesses adapt to climate change.

This Plan aims to deliver on that action.





Pathways to Sustainability

The *Pathways to Sustainability* strategy is Council's high-level commitment to the environment and is integrated within the Council Plan with objectives or 'pathways' outlined in the Council Plan Addendum 3.

Pathway 5 is *Respond to the Climate Emergency* and includes the following:

- Actions are science-based and aim to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- Actions are inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the need for a just transition.
- All Council operations, planning, and decision-making will address the climate emergency (by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate impacts).

- Advocate and influence other levels of government, business, and the community.
- Support and empower the Hume community and businesses to take positive climate actions.
- Council staff are accountable for embedding climate emergency response into their everyday actions, strategies, policies, and act as champions of change.

Other Strategies

There are other Council strategies, plans and programs that support climate change action both internally and across Hume City. These are summarised in Appendix 3.

4.0 Guiding Principles

The overarching principles of Hume's Council Plan are Sustainability and Social Justice. These inform and are integrated within the guiding principles of Hume's Climate Action Plan:

4.1 Acknowledge the role of First Nations People and Caring for Country

Hume City Council acknowledges the long and deep connection First Nations Peoples have with Country (which includes land, water, air and all living beings). The transformation required to all aspects of society to tackle climate change can benefit from the wisdom, knowledge and perspectives of First Nations people.

Commitment: Hume City Council will continue to work and partner with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Corporation and the Narrap Team to undertake a range of Caring for Country activities including restoration and revegetation of the landscape, and ecological cultural burns and protection of cultural heritage sites.

4.2 Social Justice

The guiding principles of Hume's *Social Justice Charter* are: access and inclusion; equity and fairness; engagement and participation; rights and accountability.

Social justice considerations are increasingly important for climate action because the impacts of climate change are experienced disproportionately by vulnerable members of the community and the transformational change that we need to achieve to tackle climate change will impact some industries and workers, and some people and families, more than others.

Hume City's demographic shows a high proportion of residents who are vulnerable to direct climate impacts like severe weather events such as heatwaves or storms, and indirect climate impacts like cost of living increases due to rising energy and fuel costs and impacts on food growing. Vulnerability is affected by financial situation; educational background; health and well-being; social connectedness; and cultural and communication differences.

Hume's businesses and industry are also impacted by direct and indirect climate impacts and may be further impacted by climate related supply chain issues, changing technologies, energy sources or consumer preferences as we transition to a carbon neutral society and a circular economy.

Social justice in terms of climate change action also means equity and fairness for future generations and protection of other species and ecosystems.

Hume has a strong tradition in investing in biodiversity protection in Hume City. Enhancing climate change action is a necessary component of protection for our highly valued wildlife, conservation areas and waterways.

Commitment: We will use our best endeavours to take climate action in the interests of protecting and supporting our diverse community, sustainable local jobs, future generations, other species and ecosystems.



4.3 Environmental Sustainability

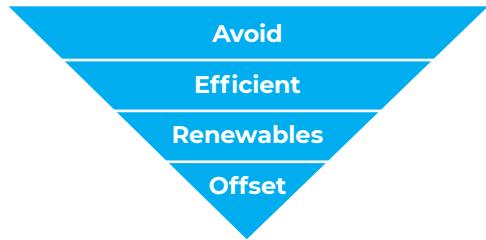
Climate change action is urgent and necessary for environmental, economic, and social sustainability. The environmentally sustainable approach Hume will take to climate action will be informed by the emissions reduction hierarchy and electrification.

The Emissions Reduction Hierarchy

As per the Emissions Reduction Hierarchy, emissions will be avoided where possible; reduced as much as possible through efficiency and use of renewable, carbon-neutral energy, while offsetting will be used for remaining emissions that are hard to avoid.

The *Pathways to Carbon Neutrality* report identified that investing in high impact emission reductions makes financial sense as well as environmental sense, as annual savings in utility and fuel costs will cover the cost of annual offset purchases.

Emissions Reductions Hierarchy



"Whereas with COVID we needed to act 20 days ahead of the virus, with climate change we need to act 20 years ahead."

Saul Griffith

Electrification

Electrification is a logical component of the Emissions Reduction Hierarchy above as moving to fully electric options enables carbon neutral electricity and reduces reliance on offsetting fossil fuel use.

Electrification supports:

- the move away from fossil fuels
- carbon neutrality for new Council buildings
- cost savings on connection fees and supply charges
- cost savings on running costs
- futureproofing against rising fossil fuel prices and redundancy of plant and infrastructure
- futureproofing against reputational risks associated with fossil fuel use
- reduces the need for and costs of future offset purchases
- for households and businesses in Hume City, even if renewable energy is not purchased (e.g. via GreenPower) or generated locally (e.g. with a solar system), grid-based electricity emissions are reducing as a higher proportion of our electricity is produced from renewables, so in the medium term, emissions are expected to decrease with electrification.

Commitment: Council will embrace the Emissions Reduction Hierarchy and electrification in Council operations and in engaging and supporting the Hume community.

4.4 Climate Action Leadership

Leadership involves sharing the reality of the current situation with the Hume community, taking action, advocating on behalf of the Hume community and working in partnership to inspire others. Sharing the multiple benefits of climate action and creating a shared vision for a sustainable future are important parts of a leadership response.

"I hold a vision of this blue green planet, safe and in balance. At the end of the Fossil Fuel Era, we are emerging to a new reality. We are ready to make the next leap – as momentous as abolishing slavery or giving women the vote."

Elizabeth May

Canadian Politician and Environmentalist

Council will show leadership in taking climate action where opportunities present beyond the immediate emissions that Council is technically responsible for in its greenhouse emissions profile.

Council also acknowledges the leadership role it plays in facilitating climate action across Hume City. Hume's program of actions to support a Circular Economy is likely to facilitate better use of current waste streams and reduce the embedded greenhouse emissions in products and materials.

Council is open to collaborating on and delivering on leadership projects that trial new technologies, processes or models to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to the transformational change required in all aspects of society.

"What humans do over the next 50 years will determine the fate of all life on the planet."

David Attenborough

Council will show leadership by advocating for climate action on behalf of the Hume community and with our partners.

Commitment: We will demonstrate leadership in climate action through sharing the reality of the current situation; taking climate action beyond our immediate sphere of responsibility; supporting climate action across Hume City; undertaking innovative climate action projects; and advocating for climate action on behalf of the Hume community.

4.5 A Climate Lens

To enhance our climate action, achieve the organisational carbon-neutral target and support emission reductions across Hume City, climate action cannot be the responsibility of one or two people or a small team but needs to be integrated across the whole organisation and in our work with partners and the community. We need to consider climate impacts and opportunities in all decisions, programs, strategies, and plans. This is often referred to as applying the 'climate lens' to all we do. While the scientific evidence base for climate change and emission reductions is extensive and clear, applying the climate lens requires a change in individual mindsets.

Commitment: We will rely on scientific evidence and projections, a strategic and evidence-based approach to taking climate action and we'll make well informed decisions to innovate for leadership. Hume City Council will build the capacity of Councillors and staff to apply the climate lens in their roles so that climate action is integrated across the organisation, our decisions, strategies and plans and through our partnerships and service provision.



Part B

Council Operations



5.0 Council operations emission profile

5.1 Council's current and future greenhouse profile

As indicated in section 3.1 Hume reports on annual greenhouse gas emissions and energy use to the Clean Energy Regulator in line with the requirements of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS). NGERS reporting includes Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions only (see inset) and considers all grid-based electricity use (based on state emissions factors) to have the same emissions intensity, regardless of whether GreenPower is purchased. This is necessary to get a nationwide overview and avoid double counting emissions or emissions savings. GreenPower is carbon-neutral electricity from renewable sources that is purchased voluntarily through the national GreenPower accreditation program, when a customer purchases GreenPower their retailer has to purchase the same amount of electricity that they use from an accredited renewable energy generator. Figure 1 shows Hume City Council's 2021/22 greenhouse gas emissions profile as reported to NGERs.

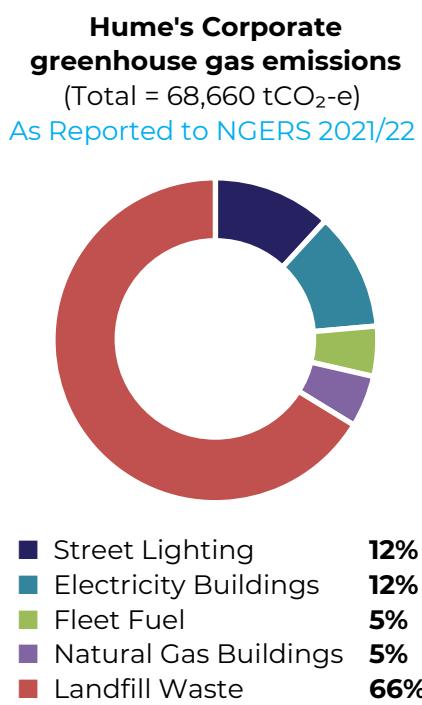


Figure 1 Hume's 2021/22 corporate emissions as reported to the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme.

Scope 1, 2 and 3 greenhouse emissions

- **Scope 1** greenhouse gas emissions occur directly within an organisation's physical premises or boundary – for example greenhouse gas emissions resulting from natural gas consumption or fuel consumption
- **Scope 2** emissions refer to greenhouse gas emissions that occur due to electricity generation purchased from the grid. While the consumption of electricity occurs at an organisation's physical premises, the actual greenhouse gas emissions occur off-site – at the power station often several hundred kilometres away
- **Scope 3** emissions refer to greenhouse gas emissions that occur due to an organisation's operations but that do not actually occur within the theoretical boundary of the organisation. Scope 3 emissions can often not be completely managed by the reporting organisation as they are under the operational control of other entities. Scope 3 sources include greenhouse gas emissions from contractors, flights or taxi use, paper use and other purchased goods

Figure 2 shows the difference in Council's greenhouse profile when Council's GreenPower use is treated as carbon neutral. Total emissions are reduced by 23 per cent and just over 16,000 tonnes. This is a significant reduction equivalent to the annual emissions of more than 1,000 Australian homes. The proportion of emissions from the Sunbury Landfill increases to 86 per cent and the use of fleet fuel and gas in buildings are both 7 per cent. The difference in these two pie charts shows the potential of renewable energy, electrification and waste avoidance and improved waste management practices to make substantial cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

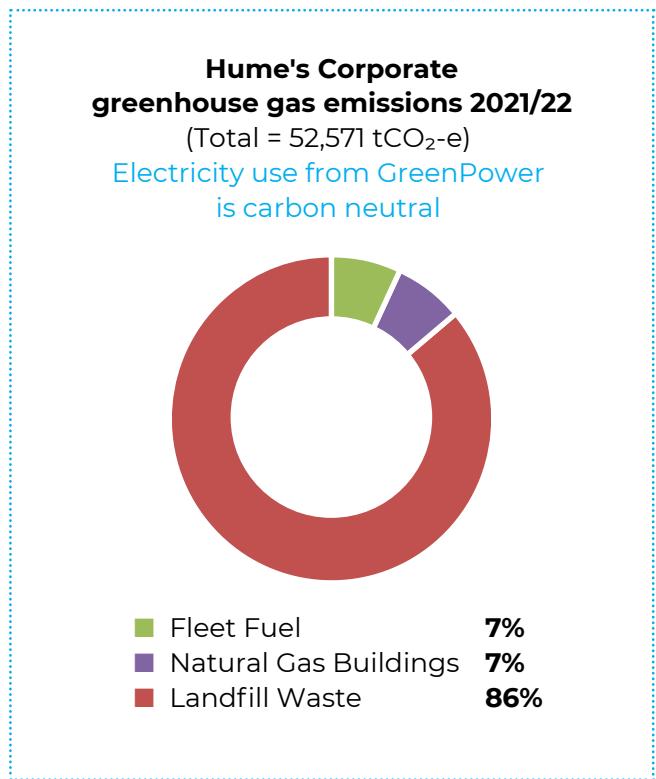


Figure 2 Hume's 2021/22 corporate emissions with GreenPower purchase factored in.

While NGERs reporting is based on Scope 1 and 2 emissions only, carbon neutral accreditation by the Australian Government's Climate Active program requires participating organisations to consider and take responsibility for a range of Scope 3 emission sources as well as Scope 1 and 2. As outlined in section 3.5 WSP consultants were engaged to review the emission sources that Council will include in its emissions profile to set and achieve a carbon neutral target. This review also included stakeholder input from a sub-group of the Sustainability Taskforce.

The new emissions sources to be included in Council's profile are:

- Council's use of asphalt and concrete
- waste generated through Council's operations
- emissions from staff commuting to and from work
- refrigerants
- oil and grease
- transport emissions for recycling contracts
- business travel
- paper use
- water pumping
- transmission and transport of energy, and
- other purchased goods and services..

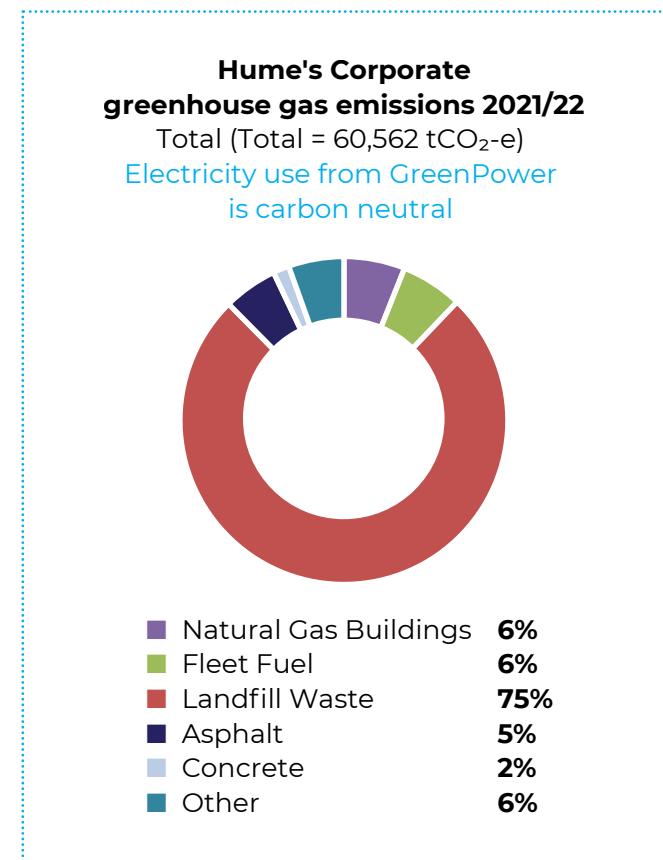


Figure 3 Projection of Hume's 2021/22 emission profile with new emission sources factored in.

These additional emission sources were estimated in the *Pathways to Carbon Neutral* report based on extrapolation of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data. They are estimated to increase Council's total emissions by 7,991 tonnes or 15 per cent. These emissions sources will be integrated into Council's annual greenhouse profile and wherever feasible actual data will be sought. Emission reduction opportunities for these sources will also be pursued. Hume's breakdown of emissions for 2021/22 with these additional emission sources included was estimated to be as shown in Figure 3. The emissions of many of the new categories indicated above, are relatively small and, except for asphalt and concrete use, they are grouped together as in the category called 'other'.

6.0 Council operations emission reductions

The *Pathways to Carbon Neutrality* report indicated that the ‘Most Impact’ emission reduction pathway was the most financially responsible as well as the most environmentally responsible option for achieving carbon neutrality.

The annual cost savings in electricity, gas and fuel use will more than cover the cost of purchasing offsets under this pathway. Hume will pursue the High Impact pathway wherever this is feasible, in some instances the balanced pathway option (which is also cost positive) may be pursued due to technical constraints.

Treating methane emissions at the Sunbury Landfill is critical to responsible management of Hume’s corporate greenhouse emissions and Hume’s highest priority for climate action. Investigations for the potential to capture methane and convert it to energy use (high impact pathway) or to flare methane to convert it to carbon dioxide (balanced approach) are currently underway. Flaring methane to convert it to carbon dioxide still reduces emissions because methane is far more potent than CO₂ in terms of its warming potential.

While theoretical emission reductions for the Sunbury landfill are very positive through converting methane to energy (92 per cent reduction in emissions), there are many practical constraints that could reduce emission reductions and conversion to energy may not be possible. Flaring could theoretically reduce emissions by as much as 77 per cent if 95 per cent of methane gas could be captured. Even the best-case scenario will require the purchase of offsets for remaining emissions. If Hume closes the Sunbury landfill, as indicated a possibility in Hume’s *Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy*, due to the time take for waste to break down and emit methane, untreated emissions will continue to be high. In 2021/22 just over 75 per cent of the emissions from the landfill were ‘legacy emissions’ from waste deposited in previous years.

“Cutting methane is the strongest lever we have to slow climate change over the next 25 years”

Inger Anderson
Executive director of the UN’s Environment Programme.

Solar system on Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows





Hume will be delivering a city-wide Food Organics Green Organics (FOGO) service to Hume residents by July 2024. Introduction of the service is required by Recycling Victoria. Support of the new service delivery with good education, communications and engagement of the Hume community will be important to achieve high levels of use and compliance with the service (high impact pathway). This in turn will influence the magnitude of the emissions reduced by preventing organic material going to landfill where it breaks down into methane, a very potent greenhouse gas.

Although all of Council's contestable electricity purchase is from 100 per cent GreenPower, continuing to reduce our electricity use, use electricity as efficiently as possible and installing solar generation and batteries continues to be a high priority. This is the most responsible way to reduce emissions, is necessary for achieving carbon neutrality accreditation and optimises cost savings. In addition to improving efficiency in Council buildings, the opportunity for significant energy use reductions and costs savings through upgrading major road street lighting to LEDs will be pursued.

Electrification will be pursued in new facilities and upgrades from gas to electricity undertaken at end of life for gas plant and where opportunities for creating gas free facilities are strong. Unfortunately, some retrofitting of gas to electricity is costly and logistically difficult and can be best undertaken when facilities are redeveloped.

The aim will be to continue to reduce emissions from gas and transition away from the use of this fossil fuel.

The aim for Council fleet will be to transition to Electric Vehicles as passenger vehicles reach their end of life and expanding to other areas of the fleet as supply of EVs becomes available. While plug in hybrids may be considered, they need to be supported with strong education and behaviour change programs to result in emission reductions. While a small number of councils are trialling EV trucks for tip truck purposes, there are currently no feasible EV options to replace heavy vehicles such as the waste collection fleet. The EV transition will occur rapidly however over the next decade and technology, recharging facilities, supply and costs of vehicles will continue to improve. Council aims to demonstrate leadership in its move to EVs.

Options for reducing emissions from asphalt, concrete and other sources exist through purchasing preferable products with reduced embedded emissions e.g. products that include fly ash, a waste material in concrete. Working from home or meeting online instead of travelling long distances for meetings will reduce emissions from staff commuting and business travel. Promoting and supporting sustainable transport options is also important. Capturing emissions from contractor use can be the first step in including emission reduction measures in contracts and work specifications.

Target: To achieve carbon neutrality for Council operations by 2030.

6.1 Action Plan for Council Operations

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Timeframe
Tackling emissions from landfills and waste			
<p>Undertake methane treatment risk assessment at Sunbury Landfill.</p> <p>Trial methane treatment.</p> <p>Consider the ownership and treatment of carbon credits as part of the business case.</p> <p>Implement longer term methane treatment for Sunbury Landfill.</p>	\$3.4M Waste Capital Works budget	Lead: Waste and Sustainability Support (internal): Climate Action Integration	High Early 2023 for risk assessment Trial completed by late 2023 Ongoing implementation 2024
<p>As per the <i>Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a universal Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service and support high use and compliance with the service with communications and education. Reduce organic materials going to landfill by 50% between 2020 and 2030, with a 20% reduction target by 2025. Continue to promote and encourage home composting and worm farms. Continue to promote and encourage waste avoidance and minimisation particularly food waste avoidance. <p>This action also appears in Part C for Hume City as in addition to reducing emissions in Council operations it will reduce waste emissions across Hume City.</p>	\$2.7M Waste budget	Lead: Waste and Sustainability Support (internal): Strategic Communications and Advocacy	High Universal FOGO service introduced by 1 July 2024
Continue to facilitate treatment of greenhouse gas emissions from former landfills on Council land.	Within current budgets	Lead: Waste and Sustainability Support (external): Environmental Consultants, Contractors, EPA Victoria	Medium Ongoing

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Timeframe
Tackling emissions and achieving cost savings from energy use			
Continue to deliver the solar, solar storage and energy efficiency program for Council buildings. Higher energy use buildings will continue to be prioritised. Scope and implement the best/largest opportunities (with a simple payback of 10 years or gas to electricity of 20 years).	CAP Capital Works budget	Lead: Climate Action Integration Support (internal): Infrastructure Delivery, Building Maintenance Team, City Life, Property and Leasing Support (external): Panel of suppliers: solar; mechanical; ESD; electrical	High Ongoing until 2028
Undertake a design process and implement street-lighting upgrades to LED as outlined in the business case. Major Road Lighting to be upgraded. Other upgrade options to be further considered.	Street Lighting Upgrade Capital Works budget	Lead: Assets Support (internal): Climate Action Integration, Infrastructure Delivery Support (external): MAV Procurement Streetlighting panel, Jemena	High Design/consultation process in 2024 Implementation staged and complete by 2029.
Investigate and implement an Energy Performance Contract for emission reductions and cost savings in large Council facilities.	CAP Capital Works budget	Lead: Climate Action Integration Support (internal): City Life Support (external): State Purchase Contract	High Investigate for implementation in 25/26
Replace end of life gas appliances with electric options wherever budget allows. Document circumstances where this is too expensive for further investigations and consultation.	Within current budgets	Lead: Building Maintenance Team Support (internal): Climate Action Integration Team, Facility users	Medium Commencing 2023

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Timeframe
Creating carbon neutral new facilities			
<p>Ensure new Council buildings are zero carbon, climate resilient and sustainable.</p> <p>All new Council buildings to be fully electric.¹</p> <p>Medium sized new buildings (\$5M - \$20M) to aim for Excellence via BESS (Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard) rating tool (with a minimum score of 60).</p> <p>Energy use of medium – large new buildings a 25% improvement (in Design stage) on Section J requirements achieved from improvements in both building fabric and services.</p> <p>GreenStar accreditation for major facilities >\$20Million.</p> <p>Circular design principles to be applied to new Council buildings along with the use of recycled and remanufactured materials.</p> <p>NABERS ratings or equivalent green lease standards to be achieved for commercially leased Council properties (new and existing).</p>	Capital works program budgets	<p>Lead: Director Infrastructure and Assets</p> <p>Support (internal): Strategic Projects and Places, Infrastructure Delivery, City Design, Climate Action Integration, Economic Development, Project Management Office</p> <p>Support (external): Appointed Design Teams; Panel of suppliers: solar; mechanical; ESD; electrical</p>	<p>High</p> <p>2023 and ongoing</p>
<p>Appoint a design team to pursue Passivhaus principles for a new Hume Community Centre and ESD consultants to document costs and benefits and create template specifications for implementation in future projects with a view to achieving accreditation in a later building.</p>	<p>Additional budget for Craigieburn West Northern Community hub (or alternative) to be referred to the 24/25 capital works budget</p> <p>Documentation project from Climate Action Plan capital works budget</p>	<p>Lead: City Design.</p> <p>Support (internal): Climate Action Integration, Project Management Office, Infrastructure Delivery, City Life</p>	<p>High</p> <p>2024 and ongoing</p>

¹ All electric new aquatic centres may not be feasible (due to technical constraints and/or cost issues). Technology options will continue to improve over time. This will be investigated when Hume City Council commences planning for a new aquatic centre to ensure environmental sustainability..

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Timeframe
Continue to ensure that all new Council buildings have roof space well designed for solar and the largest possible solar system is installed via Council's solar specifications and panel of solar suppliers.	Project capital works budgets	Lead: City Design, City Life, Major Projects Support (internal): Climate Action Integration Team, Infrastructure Delivery Support (external): Panel of suppliers: Solar	High Ongoing
Develop guidelines to identify in which circumstances (energy use profiles, return on investment etc) solar storage should be integrated into new Council buildings.	Within current budgets	Lead: Climate Action Integration Support (internal): City Design, Infrastructure Delivery	Medium 2025
Major redevelopments to investigate and move to fully electric whenever feasible.	Costs to be scoped as part of redevelopment projects	Lead: Director Infrastructure and Assets Support (internal): Infrastructure Delivery, Strategic Projects and Places, Climate Action Integration, Project Management Office Support (external): Design Teams and consultants	High Ongoing
Use the further development of strategic projects as case-studies of best practice in environmentally sustainable development and climate resilience. Pursue grants for sustainability leadership and to share learnings with others.	Additional budget to be scoped if required	Lead: Strategic Projects and Places. Support (internal): Climate Action Integration, Project Management Office Support (external): Appointed Design Teams; Panel of suppliers	High Ongoing
Integrate climate and ESD requirements for new Council buildings into Hume's new Design Guidelines and Project Management framework.	Within current budgets	Lead: Project Management Office Support (internal): Climate Action Integration	High Commencing 2023

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Timeframe
Transitioning the fleet to electric vehicles and promoting sustainable transport.			
Transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs) for fleet passenger vehicles and light commercial vehicles at the end of their replacement cycle. Continue to monitor and upgrade other vehicle types to EV as availability of options increases.	Within program budget	Lead: Fleet Team Support (internal): Climate Action Integration Support (external): Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	High 2023 and ongoing
Fringe benefit tax incentives for electric vehicles to be promoted to staff.	Within current budgets	Lead: Strategic Communications and Advocacy Support (external): Finance, Fleet team, Climate Action Integration	Medium 2023
Investigate options to facilitate EV transition for operational vehicles that may need recharging at home.	Costs to be scoped	Lead: Fleet Team to scope costs and benefits of options Support (internal): People and Culture (OHS and payroll), Finance Support (external): Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	Medium 2024
Investigate options for supporting sustainable staff travel through the Hume Central project.	Within current budget with the potential for cost savings	Lead: Strategic Places and Projects Support: People and Culture	Medium 2024
Investigate options for ongoing support for sustainable staff travel through the development of the Transport Strategy.	Within current budget	Lead: City Strategy Support: Climate Action Integration, People and Culture	Medium By 2024

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Timeframe
Tackling emissions through sustainable procurement			
Support sustainable procurement, electrification and the Circular Economy by embedding these considerations across Council purchasing decisions. Additional cost will not necessarily be a barrier to implementation – service areas to review specific business cases. Continue to purchase carbon neutral office paper and high efficiency appliances.	Within procurement budgets	Lead: Department responsible for the purchase Support (internal): Procurement, Climate Action Integration, Waste and Sustainability, Assets, Economic Development	High 2023 and ongoing
Engage consultants to consider sustainable product options and review embedded emissions and circularity of key products like asphalt and concrete. If feasible, develop a methodology for assessing new products inhouse. Develop approved Sustainable Procurement guidelines and specifications for key materials for internal use. Support with staff education.	Within Current budget	Lead: Climate Action Integration Support (internal): Procurement, Waste and Sustainability, Economic Development and Assets	High 2024
Consider and reduce embedded emissions especially for high emission materials including asphalt, concrete based on good quality data.	Within project budgets	Lead: Department responsible for the purchase Support (internal): Procurement, Climate Action Integration, Waste and Sustainability, Assets, Economic Development	High 2024 and ongoing

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Timeframe
Embedding and progressing climate action			
<p>Continue to report annually to the NGER program and commence data collection and inclusion of a revised greenhouse profile for carbon neutrality.</p> <p>Continue to investigate and implement where possible, improved data management systems and processes.</p> <p>Investigate metering options for capturing gas, electricity and water data from all Council facilities.</p> <p>Investigate and collect data for greenhouse emissions sources required for carbon neutral accreditation.</p>	<p>Within operating budget.</p> <p>Costs of full metering to be scoped.</p>	<p>Lead: Climate Action Integration</p> <p>Support (internal): Organisational Performance and Engagement: Fleet Team, Waste and Sustainability</p> <p>Support (external): Utility companies, Clean Energy Regulator</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Investigate with a view to increasing Council's financial investments with environmentally responsible options.</p> <p>Following investigations discuss with Councillors as part of Council's Investment Policy.</p>	<p>Investigations within current resourcing.</p>	<p>Lead: Finance.</p> <p>Support (internal): Climate Action Integration</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Investigations for Council consideration in 2023</p>
<p>Review and update Council on Hume's emission profile, offset options and costs in order to achieve Hume's carbon neutral target in 2030. Develop guidelines for the purchase of offsets.</p> <p>Ensure data and requirements for Carbon Active accreditation are in place.</p> <p>Review the business case and report to Council for consideration of bringing the carbon neutral target forward if the Sunbury Landfill is closed or if there are other material changes to Council's emissions profile.</p>	<p>Within current budgets.</p>	<p>Lead: Climate Action Integration</p> <p>Support (internal): Landfill team, Fleet Team, other areas across Council.</p> <p>Support (external): Consultants if required. Climate Active</p>	<p>High</p> <p>2028</p>

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Timeframe
Continue to deliver the Sustainability and Climate Change Community of Practice to get input from staff and build staff engagement on sustainability and climate change action.	Within current budget	Lead: Community Health and Wellbeing Support (internal): Climate Action Integration	Medium Ongoing
Build capacity of staff and Councillors to apply a climate lens. This action is repeated in Part C supporting Hume City to reduce emissions as it is also relevant there.	Within current budget	Lead: Climate Action Integration Support (internal): People and Culture, Organisational Performance and Engagement	High Ongoing
Investigate and benchmark Strategic Performance Objectives (SPOs) re climate action for senior staff.	Within current resourcing	Lead: People and Culture Support (internal): Climate Action Integration Team	High 2023





Part C

Supporting Climate Action in Hume City



7.0 Hume City emission profile

The Snapshot online tool (snapshotclimate.com.au), developed by Ironbark Sustainability and Beyond Zero Emissions provides greenhouse gas emission profiles at the municipal, federal electorate, and state level.

Snapshot profiles have been developed in accordance with the Greenhouse gas Global Protocol (GPC) for community-scale greenhouse gas emission inventories. Snapshot is usually generated from Tier 1 'top down' or state level data (including for Hume City) or Tier 2 local data where available. The purpose of Snapshot emissions profiles is to enable informed decisions about opportunities for emission reductions.

Figure 4 below shows Hume City emissions profile based on the Snapshot tool for 2020/21. Despite reduced air travel due to the pandemic, emissions from aviation are still high at 18 per cent. In 2019, prior to the pandemic, aviation emissions made up 38 per cent of the Snapshot greenhouse emissions profile for Hume City. While located in Hume City, Melbourne Airport is a Commonwealth jurisdiction and aviation emissions reflected here are the result of Melbournians and Victorians travelling and Australian and international visitors flying into and out of Melbourne.

Emissions from electricity use by industry is a large proportion of Hume City emissions in 2020/21 at 29 per cent, and this proportion increases significantly if aviation emissions are excluded from the Hume City profile (see Figure 5, based on 2019/2020 Snapshot data). Gas and electricity use by Hume businesses (commercial and industry) contributions 75 per cent of Hume City emissions (excluding aviation). Business and industry are a vital component of Hume City creating economic benefits and local jobs. Supporting a transition to low or zero carbon business and industry is a high priority for climate action.

Hip V. Hype were engaged to further break down emissions from gas and electricity by various industry classifications. See Figures 6 and 7. Metal product manufacturing (e.g. caravan industry) and petroleum and chemical manufacturing (e.g. plastics) are the largest sources of emissions within the manufacturing segment.

Residential emissions from gas and electricity use at home are also significant, as is road transport.

Snapshot Report



Hume

2020/21 municipal emissions snapshot

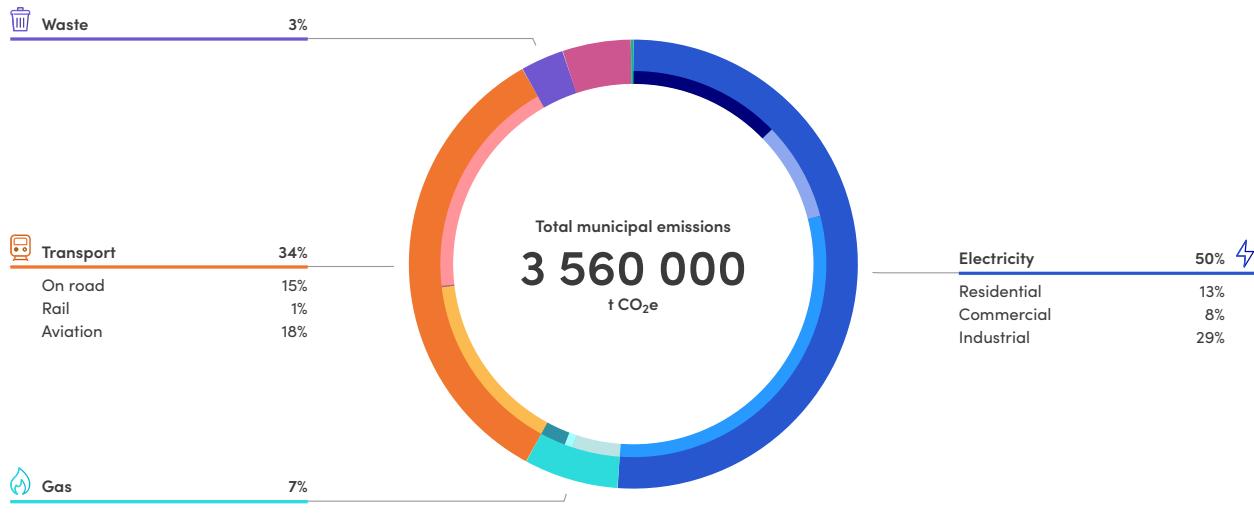


Figure 4 Hume City 2020/21 Emissions profile from Snapshot including aviation emissions from Melbourne Airport.

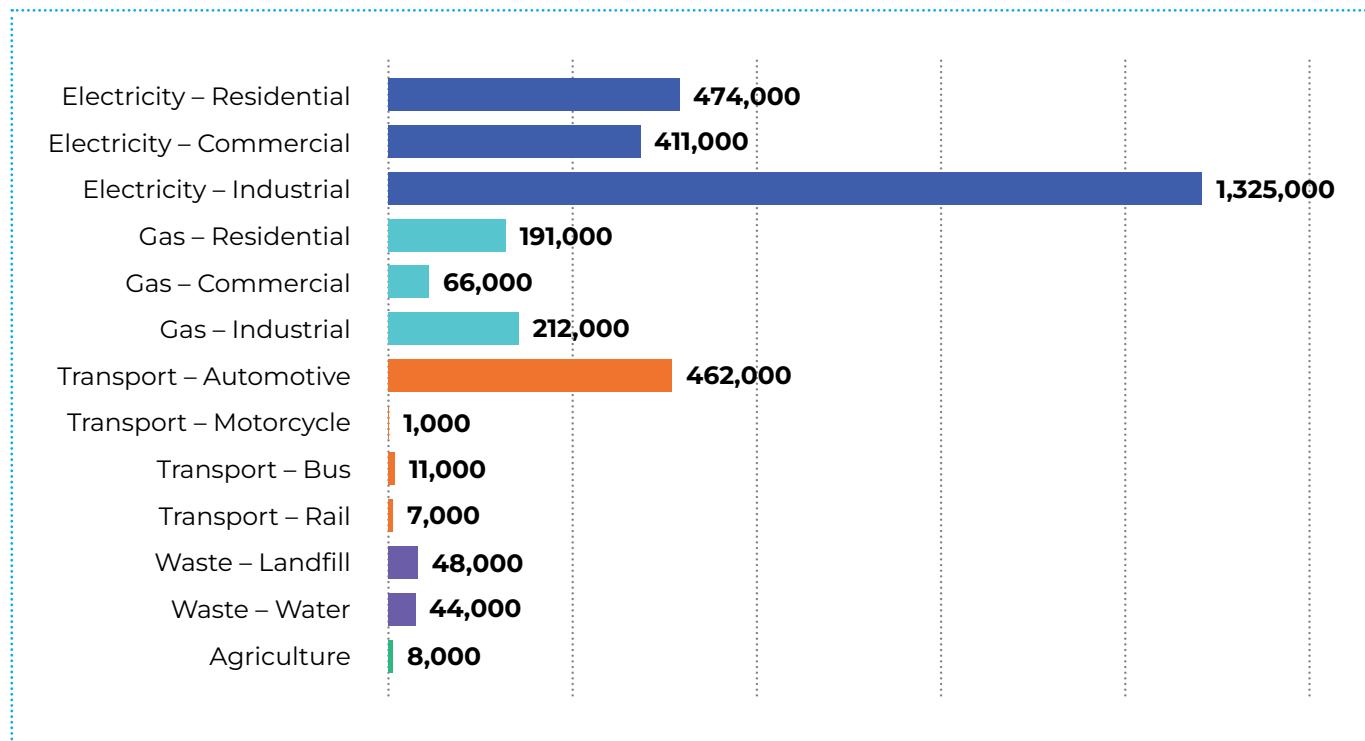


Figure 5 Hume City 2020/21 Emissions profile by source without aviation emissions from Melbourne Airport.

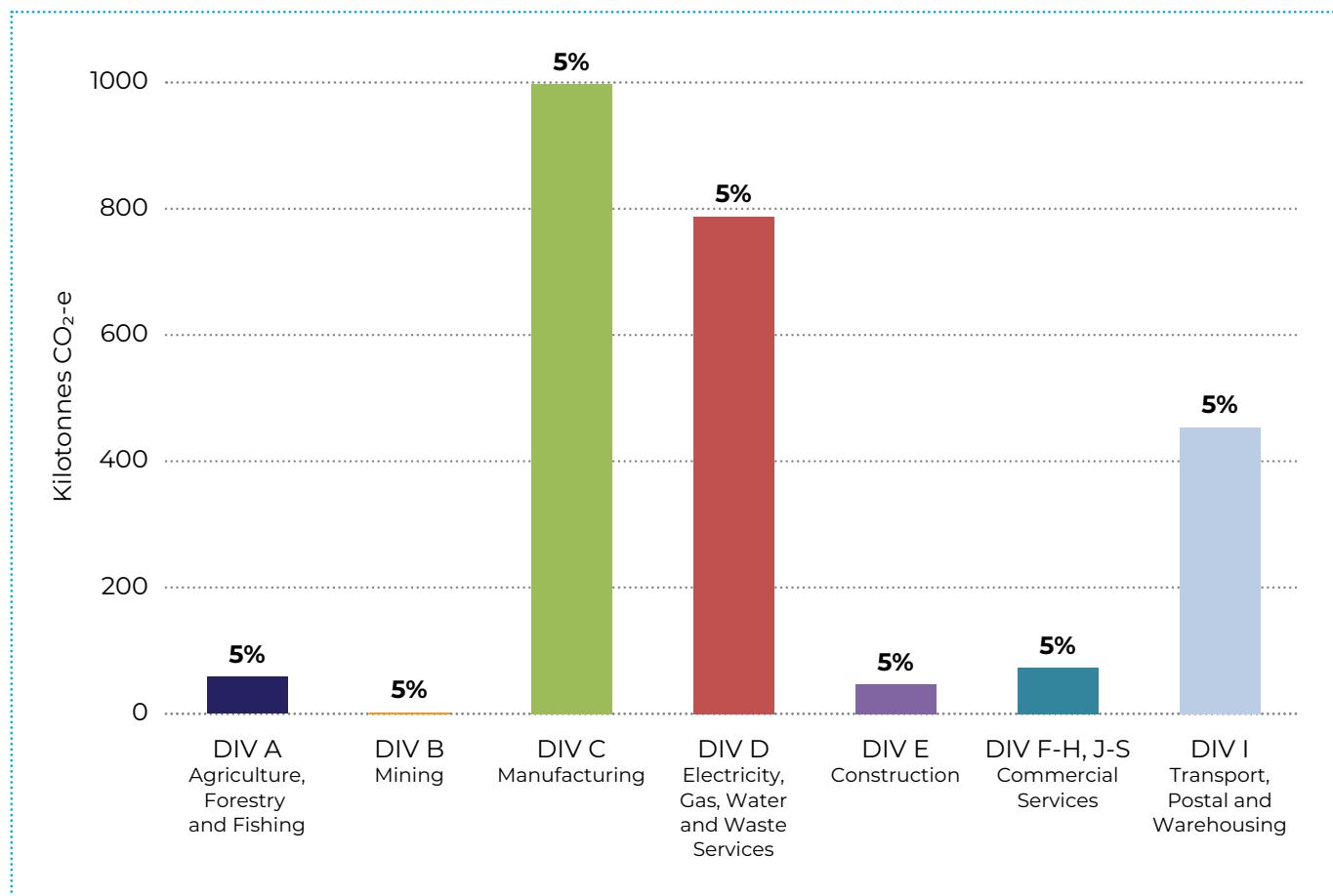


Figure 6 Hume City 2020/21 emissions from the industrial sector further broken down into industry types.

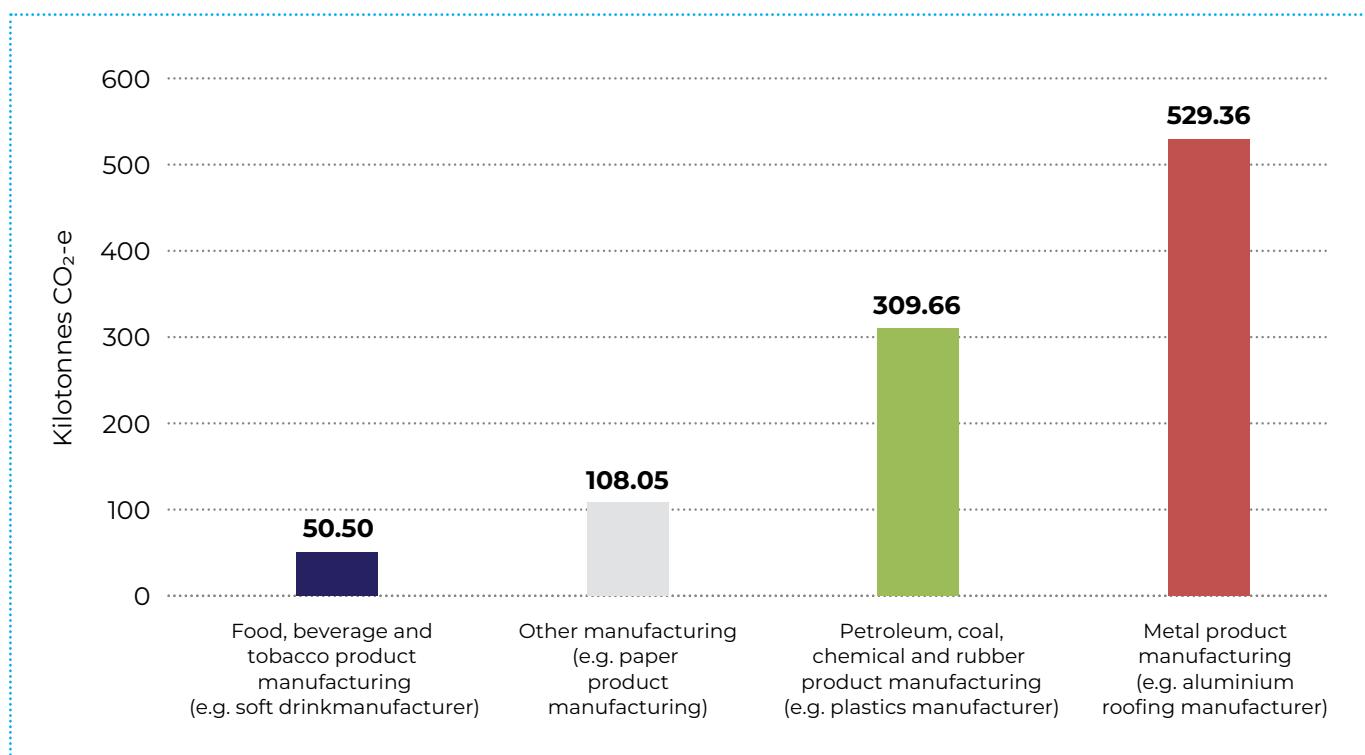


Figure 7 Hume City 2020/21 emissions from the manufacturing industry sector further broken down into industry types.

8.0 Supporting Emission Reductions across Hume City

This section outlines the priority areas where Council can add significant value to climate action across Hume City as identified by Hip V. Hype in their *Hume Emission Reductions Opportunities* report.

The Hip V. Hype work was particularly focussed on greenhouse gas emission reduction opportunities, although a range of criteria were used to short-list actions and these included criteria that reflect the other broad aspects of climate action: adapting to climate impacts; and advocating for change. This section identifies actions that Council will take to support climate action across Hume City.

The key focus areas identified in the Hip V. Hype report were as follows:

- community education and communications campaigns including: new home buyers campaign; 100% renewable Hume campaign; electrify your home; support the FOGO roll-out with good communications and education
- low and zero carbon businesses: further investigation to support energy efficiency and renewable programs; support for Power Purchase Agreements for large industry to move to cost effective renewable electricity; solar for business program
- low and zero carbon households: continue the Household Energy Program; continue and expand a subsidised energy efficiency upgrade program for vulnerable residents
- low and zero carbon new developments: consideration for how to support environmental outcomes in planning; advocate for zero carbon new developments
- low and zero carbon organisations: solar program for independent schools and community organisations
- sustainable transport: develop a new Sustainable Transport Strategy
- investigate draw down opportunities
- progress the Circular Economy in Hume City.

Solar farm example



8.1 Action Plan for supporting Climate Action across Hume City

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Action Completed
Communications, engagement and programs for residents			
<p>Develop communications campaigns for residents to take well informed climate action and integrate communications into relevant services and programs.</p> <p>Campaigns for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New home buyers • 100% renewable campaign • Electrify your home • Supporting the FOGO service to achieve high success rates • Being prepared and adapting to climate impacts • Benefits of Electric Vehicles charged with renewable energy. 	Within current budget and staff resourcing	<p>Lead: Strategic Communications and Advocacy</p> <p>Support (internal): Climate Action Integration, Waste and Sustainability, Community Health and Wellbeing, Emergency Response Team, other Departments across Council</p> <p>Support (external): Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, Electrify Everything Council network, other organisations</p>	Medium Commencing 2023 and ongoing
<p>As per the Live Green Plan, deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one climate change advocacy and capacity building events per year • Energy and climate workshops • Continue to deliver the schools energy saving program 'Flick the Switch' • Sponsor schools/ young people to attend climate related conferences and events for education and action <p>Continue to integrate climate action into: Environmental Scholarships, Environmental Champions, Teachers Environment Network and other Live Green programs, activities and publications.</p>	Within current budget	<p>Lead: Community Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Support (internal): Climate Action Integration, Waste and Sustainability, Family, Youth and Children, City Life, other Departments across Council</p> <p>Support (external): Hume schools, CERES, Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, Electrify Everything Council network, other organisations</p>	Medium Commencing 2023 and ongoing

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Action Completed
<p>Continue to deliver the Household Energy Program including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hume Solar roll-out with Council rebates for concession card holders • Bring Your Bills Days • Workshops and information about energy efficiency in the home • Support for Hume residents to access the Victorian Government's Power Saving Bonus and other relevant rebates and programs. 	Within current budget	<p>Lead: Climate Action Integration Team</p> <p>Support (internal): Community Health and Wellbeing, City Life</p> <p>Support (external): Yarra Energy Foundation, Green Home Green Planet solar suppliers, Essential Services Commission, Jemena, Uniting, Anglicare, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, Yarra Valley Water, Greater Western Water, Environment and Climate Action, Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action and others</p>	High 2023 and ongoing
Develop and implement an energy efficiency program with rebates for Hume households vulnerable to bill stress, building on Victorian and Australian Government rebates where possible.	Within current budget	<p>Lead: Climate Action Integration Team</p> <p>Support (internal): Community Health and Wellbeing, City Life</p> <p>Support (external): Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action and other Councils, suppliers</p>	High 2023-2024

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Action Completed
Working with business, industry and other organisations			
<p>Investigate and prepare a business case for Council consideration for resourcing a low or no carbon program for business, particularly industry.</p> <p>The business case will identify gaps and opportunities and explore cost and benefits of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A solar for business program (similar to the successful Hume Solar Roll-out for households) • An energy efficiency program • Support for large industry to purchase renewable electricity via a Power Purchase Agreement. • Identify linkages to Towards Hume as a Circular City program and the Circular Advantage program for businesses. 	Investigations within current budget with implementation budget to be costed	Lead: Climate Action Integration Team Support (internal): Economic Development Support (external): Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	High Ongoing To inform 2024/25 Financial year Delivery of Circular Advantage program to be reviewed in 2023
<p>Continue to progress Towards Hume as a Circular City program.</p> <p>Review materials flow analysis in Hume City to identify opportunities for business and industry to reuse current waste streams.</p>	Within current budget Additional funding to be scoped	Lead: Economic Development Support (internal): Procurement team, Climate Action Integration, Waste and Sustainability Support (external): Victoria University, RMIT Circular Activator, KPMG, Recycling Victoria	High ongoing Review of materials flow 2024
<p>Promote solar opportunities for not-for-profit organisations through the Hume Solar Roll-out (a free 10kW system) and from Solar Victoria.</p> <p>Promote to the Hume Interfaith Network and other community networks including Aboriginal communities and those that speak languages other than English.</p>	Within current budgets and resourcing	Lead: Climate Action Integration Team Support (internal): Community Health and Wellbeing Support (external): Yarra Energy Foundation, Green Home Green Planet, Solar Victoria	Medium Commencing 2023

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Action Completed
Supporting sustainable development through the planning process			
Continue to deliver the Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Local Policy (S22.21 of the Planning Scheme) for planning permit applicants.	Within current budget	Lead: Planning and Development Support (internal): City Strategy Support (external): Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment	High Ongoing
Support Statutory Planners with additional training as required for reviewing ESD considerations in planning applications.			
Continue to integrate ESD considerations into Masterplans, Precinct Structure Plans, Urban Development Plans and subdivisions as per the Municipal Strategic Statement (S21.04-02).	Within current budget	Lead: City Strategy, Strategic Projects and Places, City Design Support (internal): Planning and Development Support (external): Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment	High Ongoing
Continue to implement the Sustainable Subdivisions Framework with support from a new part-time position funded through a Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) Grant.	Additional support via VPA grant	Lead: Planning and Development Support (internal): City Strategy Support (external): Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment	High 2023 and ongoing
Continue Hume's membership of the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment. Keep a watching brief on the Elevating ESD targets Planning Policy Amendment and participate in progressing or implementing the amendment when approved.	Within current budgets	Lead: Planning and Development, City Strategy Support (external): Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment.	Medium Ongoing
Discuss and explore with developers the opportunities for best practice low carbon development in Clovertown estate.	External budgets	Lead: City Strategy Support (internal): Planning and Development Support (external): Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment	High Ongoing

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Action Completed
Supporting the reduction of emissions from waste			
<p>As per the <i>Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a universal Food Organics and Green Organics service by June 2024 • Continue to promote and encourage home composting and worm farms • Continue to promote and encourage waste avoidance and minimisation <p>This action also appears in Part B for Council Operations as in addition to reducing emissions across Hume City it will reduce Council's corporate emissions at the Sunbury Landfill.</p>	Within current budgets	<p>Lead: Waste and Sustainability</p> <p>Support (internal): Strategic Communications and Advocacy</p> <p>Support (external): Recycling Victoria</p>	<p>High</p> <p>June 2024</p> <p>Ongoing</p>



Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Action Completed
Supporting the reduction of emissions from transport			
Develop and implement a new Transport Strategy for Hume City with a view to encouraging and facilitating more sustainable travel.	Within current budget	Lead: City Strategy Support (internal): Assets Support (external): Department of Transport and Planning, consultants.	Draft for Council consideration in 2024
Facilitate the transition to Electric Vehicles across Hume City by facilitating recharging infrastructure on Council owned land in the first instance. Also encourage and facilitate Electric Vehicle recharging on private land where opportunities present.	Within current budgets	Lead: Climate Action Integration, Property and Leasing Support (internal): City Strategy, Planning and Development, Economic Development, Strategic Places and Projects	High 2023 and ongoing

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Action Completed
Reducing the heat island effect and supporting biodiversity			
Continue to implement Conservation Management Plans for conservation reserves.	Within current budgets	Lead: Parks and Open Space Support (external): Wurundjeri Corporation and Narrap Team	High ongoing
Investigate and seek resourcing for the development of a strategic plan for building climate resilience in Hume's conservation areas.	Costs to be scoped	Lead: Parks and Open Space	High 2023/24
As per Hume's Urban Forest Principles, Open Space Strategy and Street and Reserve Tree policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to increase the canopy cover of trees across Hume City to address the urban heat island effect. In addition to the Open Space Strategy and Street and Reserve Tree policy, council programs that support the increase of canopy cover on Council land, schools and private property include: Conserving our Rural Environment grant, Greening events, Seedlings for Schools and Gardens for Wildlife. 	Within current budgets	Lead: Parks and Open Space, Community Health and Wellbeing Support (internal): City Design Support (external):	High Ongoing
Continue to support University of NSW and Melbourne University's study into tree suitability and resilience through the arboretum project.	Within current budget	Lead: Parks and Open Space	High Arboretum installation completed in 2022 and research over the next ten years

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Action Completed
Investigate and prepare a business case for data analytics on tree canopy coverage and related metrics for heat island effects.	Investigations within current budget – cost implications to be advised	Lead: Parks and Open Space Support (internal): GIS Team	Medium 2023/2024
As per the Integrated Water Management Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek external funding and implement storm water harvesting projects at priority locations.• Progress integrated water management across Hume City to support alternative water use; build resilience of Hume's green assets in hotter drier conditions; and protect waterways from urban run-off.	IWM Capital works budget and grant funding for storm water harvesting projects	Lead: Climate Action Integration Support (internal): Infrastructure Delivery, Assets, Parks and Open Space	High 2023-2025

Hume Household Energy Program



Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Action Completed
Advocacy and collaboration			
<p>Advocate to other levels of government for enhanced climate action on behalf of the Hume community including business and industry.</p> <p>Key advocacy issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully electric new developments • New housing estates and suburbs are designed for sustainability and climate resilience • Support for residents vulnerable to bill stress and climate impacts • Support for business and industry and retraining of workers to transition to low or no carbon operations and adopt Circular Economy principles • Extend bans on non-recyclable materials • Facilitate transition to Electric Vehicles 	Within current budgets	<p>Lead: Strategic Communications and Advocacy</p> <p>Support (internal): Climate Action Integration</p> <p>Support (external): Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment, other networks and alliances</p>	High 2023 and ongoing
Investigate opportunities for Council to support the draw down of emissions from the atmosphere, including opportunities to support rural landowners and Traditional Owners.	Investigations within current budgets	<p>Lead: Climate Action Integration, Community Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Support (external): NAGA</p>	Medium 2025
Continue to host and participate in the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action.	Within current budget	<p>Lead: Climate action integration team</p> <p>Support (internal): Finance, People and Culture, Economic Development other Departments across Council</p> <p>Support (external): Member Councils</p>	High Ongoing

Action / Activity	Budget	Responsibility	Level of Priority Action Completed
Continue to provide hosting support and participate in the Climate Emergency Australia network.	Within current budget	Lead: Climate action integration team Support (internal): Finance, People and Culture, other Departments across Council Support (external): Member Councils	Medium Ongoing
Join and participate in the Cities Power Partnership.	Within current budget	Lead: Climate action integration team Support (internal): Strategic Communications and Advocacy	Medium 2023 and ongoing
Support the delivery of Neighbourhood Batteries in Hume City via Victorian and Australian Government programs and/or community led initiatives. Hume is one of 28 Local Government areas nominated for a neighbourhood battery installation via the Victorian Government program. The Australian Government have also committed to a program to support community batteries and 'solar banking'.	Within current budget and to the extent feasible within existing staff resourcing (to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis)	Lead: Climate action integration team Support (internal): Community Health and Wellbeing, Property & Leasing Support (external): Community Organisations, Hume Sustainability Taskforce, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Power to the People program, Jemena, NAGA, Yarra Energy Foundation	Medium Ongoing



Appendices



Appendix 1

Results against Energy Efficiency Key Performance Indicators Greenhouse Action Plan 2018- 2022

Data excludes the purchase of GreenPower.

*Note that while the original KPI compared a 2016 baseline year with 2020 results, for this exercise 2019 or earlier data was used to avoid pandemic impacts from reduced usage.

Facility	KPI – % greenhouse reduction by 2020* (from 2016 baseline year)	Achievement (emissions reduction with GreenPower purchase excluded)	Energy Efficiency Actions Implemented
Broadmeadows Aquatic and Leisure Centre	6%	8.5%	Commissioning of the cogeneration system, Building Management System optimisation and lighting upgrades for the gym and general areas. Energy efficient boilers, spa controls and pool hall lighting upgrades were integrated into the redevelopment that also included new services such as a steam room from December 2019. A 204kW solar system has now been installed for Broadmeadows Aquatic and Leisure Centre and the cogeneration system decommissioned.
Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows	18%	39%	Building Management System optimisation; 99kW solar installation; lighting upgrades and manual switching; push button controls for air-conditioning in meeting rooms.
Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn	24%	40%	Building Management System optimisation; 99kW solar installation; and lighting upgrade.
Hume Administration Building	3%	9%	This reduction is largely due to Building Management System optimisation. LED lighting upgrade for all lights was implemented in early 2020 resulting in further reductions.

Appendix 2

Sustainability Taskforce Recommendations to Council about Climate Action

Issue	Date	Recommendation	Status
Advocate for an Australian climate emergency declaration	6 August 2019	<p><i>... recommend that Council endorse Item 29 of the National Assembly of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) held 16-19 June 2019. The ALGA National Assembly passed a motion endorsing Item 29. The Item 29 motion states:</i></p> <p><i>That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Declare a Climate Emergency</i> <i>• Establish a \$10 billion-dollar national fund for councils to build the resilience of climate change vulnerable communities</i> <i>• Commit to providing maximum protection for all people, economies, species, ecosystems, and civilisations, and to fully restoring a safe climate</i> <i>• Mobilise the required resources and take effective action at the necessary scale and speed across Australia,</i> <i>• Transform the economy to zero emissions and make a fair contribution to drawing down the excess carbon dioxide in the air, and</i> <i>• Encourage all other governments around the world to take these same actions.</i> 	At the Council meeting of 10 March 2020 Hume City Council unanimously voted to endorse the June 2019 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) resolution regarding a climate emergency, and to write to the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reductions requesting further action commensurate with the magnitude of the challenge that climate change presents.

Issue	Date	Recommendation	Status
Electrification (moving away from gas)	22 June 2021	<p><i>That the Taskforce recommends that Council supports the phasing out of the use of natural gas for space and water heating purposes. In priority order this could include:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>gas free new Council facilities</i> 2. <i>investigation of retrofitting options for existing gas use in Council facilities</i> 3. <i>educating the broader Hume community and promoting and/or incentivising gas free options</i> 	<p>Referred to the development of this plan. Electrification is recommended as a guiding principle of this Plan and new Council buildings to be fully electric is included as an action.</p> <p>The energy efficiency program will include electrification upgrades with a longer financial pay-back in existing buildings.</p> <p>The Household Energy Program will recommend fully electric homes to new home buyers and educate existing households on priority energy efficiency options including electrification.</p>

Issue	Date	Recommendation	Status
A bold Climate Action Plan that takes fast action	3 August 2021	<p>(a) Through Council's own survey process in developing the Council Plan, rate payers and residents of Hume have clearly indicated that climate change is of high importance, with 80% of ... people surveyed indicating they are somewhat or extremely concerned about climate change. 79.3% of survey respondents stated they think it is somewhat or extremely important that Council takes action on climate change (Climate Change Community Views Survey (January–February 2021)).</p> <p>(b) As a consequence of this, Hume Sustainability Taskforce asks Sustainable Environment Department to put a bold position in developing the Climate Emergency Plan, including fast adoption of electric vehicles, going off gas and other areas where Council can create significant reductions of greenhouse emissions.</p>	<p>Referred to the development of this plan. The Climate Action Plan sets a carbon neutral target by 2030 for Council operations which is both bold and achievable. The target is a significant undertaking for Council due to the high emissions from Sunbury landfill and the cost of offsets that will be required to be purchased annually to achieve carbon neutrality.</p> <p>The Plan includes an action to investigate bringing this target forward if the Sunbury Landfill is closed or changes ownership.</p> <p>The pathway to carbon neutrality in 2030 is informed by consultancy work by WSP that indicates that the higher capital investment or balanced pathways are more financially responsible than the 'do little' approach'. The Plan recommends pursuit of the 'Most Impact' pathway wherever this is feasible.</p>

Issue	Date	Recommendation	Status
Promoting all electric options to new home buyers and developers	3 August 2021	<p><i>That Council:</i></p> <p>(a) develop information to be made available to residents, including potential future residents, on the benefits of house space heating with electric reverse cycle air conditioning and on other aspects of building an energy efficient home.</p> <p>(b) approach developers, builders and building designers operating in the municipality that design and/or build new homes and encourage them to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offer an electric reverse cycle air conditioning space heating option for all new homes, and an all electric house option for new homes that will be installing rooftop photo voltaic panels; and • provide their customers with access to the Council developed information on the benefits of house heating with electric reverse cycle air conditioning and the other aspects of building an energy efficient home. <p>(c) approach developers operating in the municipality that sell residential blocks and encourage them to provide their customers with access to the Council developed information on the benefits of house heating with electric reverse cycle air conditioning and the other aspects of building an energy efficient home.</p>	<p>Referred to the development of this plan. Discussions with developers and builders about all electric homes were undertaken as part of the consultation for this Plan.</p> <p>Information targeting new home buyers in Hume is under development.</p> <p>Options for promoting and incentivising split system upgrades will be explored through the Household Energy Program.</p>

Issue	Date	Recommendation	Status
Neighbourhood Batteries	10 May 2022	(a) <i>Council investigate opportunities for community batteries in the Hume municipality, in conjunction with possible State and Federal government community battery schemes.</i>	<p>Council endorsed the following recommendations:</p> <p>(a) That Council write to the incoming Federal government to welcome and/or encourage support for neighbourhood battery roll-out and express interest in participating in Power to the People – Community Batteries for Household Solar and other similar programs to benefit the Hume community. Complete.</p> <p>(c) That officers investigate the potential benefits and resource implications of future Neighbourhood Battery trials or grant programs on a case by case basis and pursue if warranted (action to be included in this Plan).</p>

Appendix 3

Other Hume Council Strategies or Plans relevant to Climate Action

Council document / program	Aim and Climate Relevance
Hume Social Justice Charter 2021	The Social Justice Charter defines Hume City Council's commitment to social justice and articulates the guiding social justice principles that influence all Council initiatives. The guiding principles are access and inclusion; equity and fairness; engagement and participation; rights and accountability. Social justice is one of the guiding principles of the Climate Action Plan.
Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2022	The Strategy outlines Council's waste management and resource recovery practices through to 2030 in accordance with state and national policy. Actions most relevant to Hume's climate response include: introduce a universal Food Organics and Garden Organics service for all residential properties by mid-2024; providing effective communications and education for waste services; and working towards closing Sunbury landfill and moving to a Resource Recovery Centre by 2030.
Live Green Action Plan (2021-2026)	Engages and educates the Hume community on environmental sustainability includes climate action events for Hume schools and the community and integrates climate consideration into general sustainability community engagement and support (e.g. Environmental Champions, Environmental Scholarships etc.)
Health and Wellbeing Plan (2021-2025)	Under Victoria's <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i> , local governments are required to develop public health and wellbeing plans every four years. These plans identify shared priorities for health and wellbeing across the municipal area, as well as local community needs, providing the basis for integrated planning and action. In Hume's Health and Wellbeing Plan 'A green environment, climate action and community resilience' is one of 8 priority areas identified in the Plan.
Integrated Water Management Plan 2020-2025	The Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plan seeks to respond to climate impacts especially hotter drier conditions, droughts and the urban heat island effect in open space, streetscapes and surrounding areas and protect waterways from urban run-off. The Plan aims to implement stormwater harvesting schemes and increase the use of alternative water, enhance the resilience of the City's green assets, reduce reliance on drinking water, implement water sensitive urban design for waterway protection.
Urban Forest Principles, Open Space Strategy (in development), Street and Reserve Tree Policy	Increasing canopy cover across Hume City in streetscapes and open space helps reduce the urban heat island effect and can help keep households and people cooler in heat waves.
Heat Health Plan (2019)	A sub-Plan of the Emergency Management Plan, the Heat Health Plan provides a framework for Council's response to heat health alerts and heatwaves.

Council document / program	Aim and Climate Relevance
Procurement Policy	Outlines the procurement principles for Council purchasing, including environmental sustainability principles around considering lifecycle costs and promoting a circular and climate resilient economy.
Towards Hume as a Circular City Program	Hume is supporting the move to a Circular Economy through a range of actions. A business case for a circular Hume has been developed; Hume is aiming to increase purchases of products with recycled materials for its own operations (e.g. Reconophalt); Council is working in partnership with Victoria University and Circular Economy Victoria on the Collaborate to Thrive program to explore and support circular economy opportunities across business, social enterprise, industry, residents and interest groups; and Hume facilitates and delivers seminars for the Hume Circular Business Network.
Municipal Strategy Statement	Section 21.04-02 of the Municipal Strategic Statement indicates the issues and strategies to facilitate Environmentally Sustainable Design and Development across Hume City including in Master Planning; subdivisions; and consideration of planning permit applications.
Hume's Local ESD Policy	To ensure environmentally sustainable design and development and respond to climate change, a new Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) local planning policy has been adopted into the Hume Planning Scheme. Planning permit applicants need to demonstrate their proposal achieves required ESD benchmarks including energy efficiency.
Climate Change Adaptation Policy	The Policy aims to ensure all of Council's work areas identify and manage climate risks on an ongoing basis. Climate risk management will be integrated into Hume's overall risk management framework.
Hume Transport Strategy (to be developed)	Hume will develop a new Transport Strategy that will facilitate more sustainable transport options across Hume City including: facilitating low and zero carbon vehicle options; advocating for improved public transport; and improving cycling and walking options in Hume to be included.
Asset Management Policy, Strategy and Plans/s	These plans enable efficient asset management which includes extending the life of existing assets to avoid unnecessary construction.

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