



Zero Net Carbon Action Plan 2020-2025



CITY OF
MONASH

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Foreword by Mayor Stuart James

At the February 2020 meeting, our Council committed to a number of actions in response to climate change.

A substantial amount of work over a number of years has gone into determining the best way forward for Monash to achieve carbon neutrality, to get our modelling right and to commit to strategies that will make a difference. Our view was always that it was not about just speaking words on climate change, but about investing in real actions and strategies that will reduce emissions.

Some of these actions include:

- Participating in the Local Government Power Purchase Agreement for up to 100% renewable energy for all electricity use
- Major roads street lighting changeover to LED lights
- Major infrastructure upgrades of high energy usage sites, including our aquatic centres, to reduce energy use
- Investment in solar panels at key sites
- Expanding the use of electric and hybrid vehicles in Council's fleet
- Increase the use of recycled content materials in council projects
- The purchase of carbon offsets, when required, from businesses located within the City of Monash, wherever possible
- A commitment to protecting and enhancing our green spaces and tree canopy
- The introduction of food waste in the green bin household recycling.

Our team at Monash has undertaken significant work to help us set ambitious targets that are also achievable. The modelling indicated that 2028 was the optimum time to target carbon neutrality, but Council has decided to adopt a target of 2025.

I want to acknowledge the outstanding work of our teams and the support of our community to reduce their carbon emissions and address climate change together.



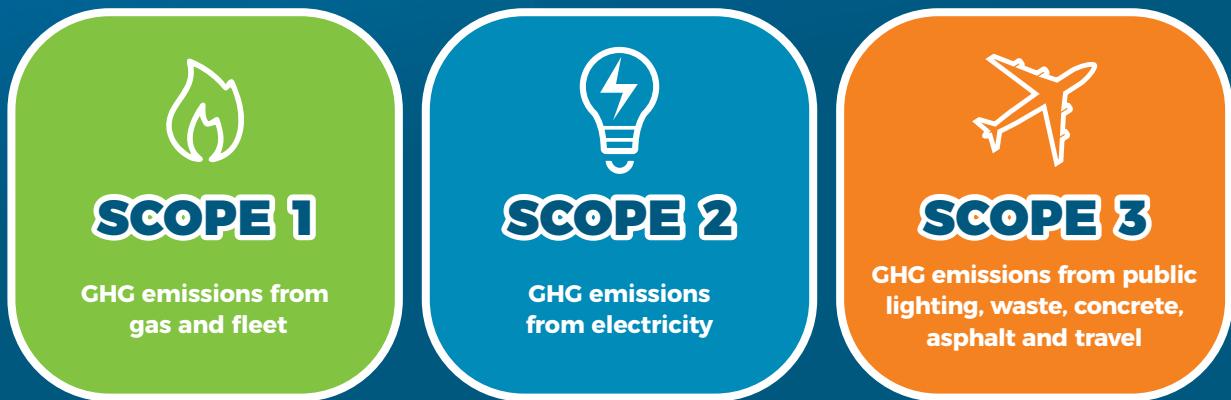
Acknowledgement

This work has been developed thanks to the research and reporting completed by IronBark Sustainability and CarbonetiX on behalf of the City of Monash. The Environmental Advisory Committee has also provided invaluable guidance and support in the development of target and this action plan.

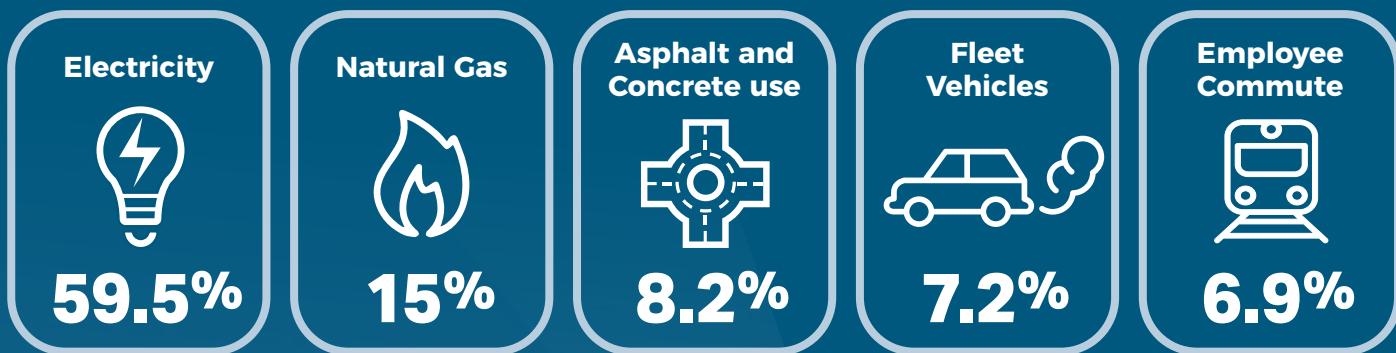
Zero Net Carbon Action Plan

In Summary

The goal of the Zero Net Carbon Action Plan is to provide a pathway for Council to become carbon neutral by 2025. Council's total baseline net GHG emissions for **2018-19** was **20,503 tCO₂e**, including:



The top five sources of GHG emissions are:



Key actions to reduce or avoid GHG emissions in the Zero Net Carbon Action Plan include:

- 1** **Sourcing 100% renewable electricity**
 - Council to purchase electricity from 100% renewable sources from July 2021.
- 2** **Street Lighting Changeover to LED**
 - Council will replace main road street lighting with LED lights
 - Consider smart lighting opportunities as part of the major road lighting upgrade to LED
 - Negotiate with United Energy to change residential street lights to LED in the next five years.
- 3** **Improving energy efficiency of our largest major buildings**
 - Set up an Energy Performance Contracts with priority energy conservation measures to reduce electricity, gas and water use and provide guaranteed savings to improve operation of Council's major buildings.

4

Energy efficiency and roof top solar for key community facilities

- Install solar on buildings which provide the best GHG emission reduction and return on investment
- Identify opportunities to reduce utility costs in community buildings through energy audits and implement efficiency activities such as LED lighting change over, insulation, and education.

5

Fleet optimisation to reduce fuel use and transition to electric

- Upgrade light fleet initially with hybrids and gradually introduce EVs in current replacement cycle (until 2026). Install at least 1 charging point per EV subject to available load on site, or consider locating offsite. Accelerate electrification as EV prices decrease post-2026
- Purchase heavy diesel vehicles with the latest Euro standard, and upgrade to hybrid/electric or more sustainable alternative fuels such as hydrogen and biodiesel as options become available
- To improve fuel economy, introduce driver training, install GPS tracking for route optimisation, and implement fleet booking system with utilisation data to increase staff carpooling
- Develop a staff green travel plan to encourage sustainable transport and commuting options
- Investigate opportunities to establish solar car parks to charge electric vehicle.

6

Sustainable Procurement

- Strengthen sustainable procurement and tender processes to preference the use of sustainable products, technologies and services, and minimising GHG emissions, including the impact of the supply chain
- Review of internal project development and procurement stages, and implement guidelines to increase the opportunity to use recycled content, carbon neutral and sustainable materials
- Source recycled content and carbon neutral paper, preferably from ethical sources, and move away from physical documents to reduce paper use. Extend approach to external printing
- Increase the use of recycled content and lower GHG emission asphalt and concrete by 2022, updating local government design standards/specifications, and undertake training
- Specify energy efficiency and GHG emission reduction standards to establish transparency on the purchase of energy equipment, particularly in major projects.

7

Environmental Sustainable Design for Council buildings and infrastructure

- Finalise and implement an Environmental Sustainable Design Policy for Buildings and Infrastructure
- Establish monitoring program to track the application of the policy to achieve minimum ESD requirements, reduce GHG emissions and lower building running costs. This may include the use of building benchmark tools such as NABERS or BESS.

To achieve carbon neutrality, where GHG emissions cannot be avoided, Council will:

Achieve Carbon Neutrality through Offsets

In consideration of the wider community expectations, Monash City Council's preference is to source offsets from local sources where possible. This may include:

- Sourcing offsets locally from Monash businesses or where it can provide a high social-economic benefit for our local community
- Maximising solar on Council and community buildings
- Utilising public or private roof space or land for solar through a share cost arrangement
- Investigate how to create offsets through tree planting and the creation of an Urban Forest

The balance of carbon offsets required will be sources from Australian and International accredited suppliers to achieve our Zero Net Carbon commitment. Publicly disclose how we have achieved and are maintaining our carbon neutral commitment from 2025.





In addition to meeting our Zero Net Carbon commitments, Monash Council will take on the role of:



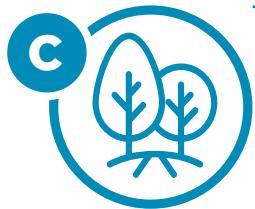
Leading in the Reduction of Municipal-wide GHG Emissions

- Review and expand on current programs to increase opportunities to further reduce Municipal GHG emissions, energy and costs, through advocacy and delivery
- Investigate establishment of a Zero Net Emission Foundation to facilitate community action
- Promote energy audits and environment upgrades for businesses and homes
- Investigate establishment of 100% renewable public electric vehicle charging stations
- Partnering on Zero Net Precincts and research collaborations with Monash University
- Establish business resilience programs to promote energy efficiency, and GHG emissions reduction actions
- Develop a climate adaptation strategy to minimise the impacts of a changing climate
- Update the Environmental Sustainable Development policy (Monash Planning Scheme), to address GHG emission reductions.



Reducing waste generation and diverting waste from landfill (zero waste)

- Council will require contractors to separate corporate waste data from community waste, including waste generated by leased sites such as childcare centres and scout halls
- Deliver on the targets of the Monash Waste Management Strategy and implement measures to improve waste monitoring and reporting, and moving to zero waste in landfill
- Provide incentives such as grants, workshops and guidance to help the community and businesses to minimise waste, reuse materials and practice sustainable procurement
- Develop business case for a Circular Economy shop to divert suitable items from landfill, sell recycled content and low emission products, and facilitate repair of goods
- Investigate the opportunity to create a local solar farm at the Clayton Landfill or similar suitable site.



Urban Carbon Forest - creating a tree canopy to provide local storage of carbon, improve community amenity and benefit biodiversity

Create an Urban Carbon Forest in Monash (30% coverage) through the following activities:

- Increased canopy cover revegetation works on Council land to provide social and environmental benefit to the community, improving air quality and reducing summer air temperatures
- Strengthen planning scheme controls to increase planting, retention and protection of trees on private and public land
- Consider stronger penalties for tree removal, support for tree bonds and development contributions, to fund vegetation maintenance and resource tree removal investigations
- Investigate the development of a Nature Trust to secure and expand land available for vegetation, including understory and biodiversity
- Encourage business, residents and schools to grow native plants on their own land
- Undertake investigation to understand if suitable carbon offsets can be created through our tree planting program in Monash
- Tree education to building awareness of their value to the community amenity and biodiversity
- Consider partnering with Universities to identify urban heat island reduction opportunities.

Council will report annually on its corporate GHG emissions, progress to achieving carbon neutrality, through the above actions. Council will utilise innovative investment options and appoint dedicated staff (1.8FTE) to fast track our approach to being Zero Net Carbon by 2025.

Background

In February 2020, Council committed to a target of zero net corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 2025, with the focus toward on-ground action using a proactive and cost effective methodology. This commitment was based on detailed independent modelling by CarbonetiX, which determined the annual corporate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions generated for Council, and identified actions required for Council to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 and minimise our impact on the environment.¹

Research was also completed by IronBark Sustainability to establish a science-based target (or carbon budget) for Council and for the community to reach at least a 30% reduction by 2030.² Science-based targets considers GHG emissions reduction measures required to keep global temperature increase below 2°C compared to pre-industrial temperatures which is consistent with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change target under the Paris Agreement.³

Australia is one of 185 nations to have ratified the Paris Agreement and the *Victorian Climate Change Act 2017* framework has been established to fulfil the Paris Agreement's objectives. Victoria's has set a net zero emissions target for the State by 2050 and also passed Victorian Renewable Energy Target of 50% by 2030. Council's *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021*, is also aligned with the *Victorian Climate Change Act 2017*, as per government expectations, and considers community adaptation to address public health risks associated with climate change.

Taking action to mitigate and address impacts of climate change, and improve energy efficiency in Council addresses the key objectives of Climate change priorities of Council's *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-26*.



In addition to the corporate GHG emission target, the following objectives were proposed:

- Leadership and support to the Monash community and businesses to reduce energy costs and GHG emissions across the municipality and be resilient in a changing climate
- Sustainable procurement to increase the use of recycled content materials to reduce embodied energy, reduce waste to landfill and deliver on Monash's *Waste Management Strategy*
- Focus on retaining trees and increasing tree planting to store carbon, improve community amenity, and support biodiversity, which also aligns with the vision of the *Urban Biodiversity Strategy*, *Monash Urban Landscape and Vegetation Canopy Strategy*, *Street Tree Strategy*, and the *Open Space Strategy*.

References: 1. CarbonetiX, Trajectory to Carbon Neutrality for Council's Corporate Emissions – Carbon modelling internal report, 2020. 2. Ironbark Sustainability, Emissions Profiles and Reduction Targets – Final report – internal report, 2018. 3. Paris Agreement, December 2015, available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf 4. CarbonetiX, Further Emission Reduction Strategies for Monash City Council- internal report, 2020.

Corporate GHG Emissions Baseline

In accordance with the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) for Organisations and National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS) standard for carbon accounting, Council needs to account for all GHG Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions to be carbon neutral. This includes emissions that

Council generates directly, indirectly and up and down our supply chain as part of our operation control. Operational control is defined as any property or asset where Council has the authority to develop operating, environmental, or health and safety policies.

TOTAL



The total 2018-19 corporate net emissions including all Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions (see Figure 1) which Council has influence over was:

20,503 tCO₂e



SCOPE 1

GHG emissions are generated as a direct result of activities in Council owned facilities and assets – includes Gas, Fuel for Fleet and refrigerants.

**4,427 tCO₂e
(21.6%)**



SCOPE 2

GHG emissions – indirect emissions generated via consumption of energy in Council-owned facilities and assets (mainly Electricity).

**7,872 tCO₂e
(38.4%)**



SCOPE 3

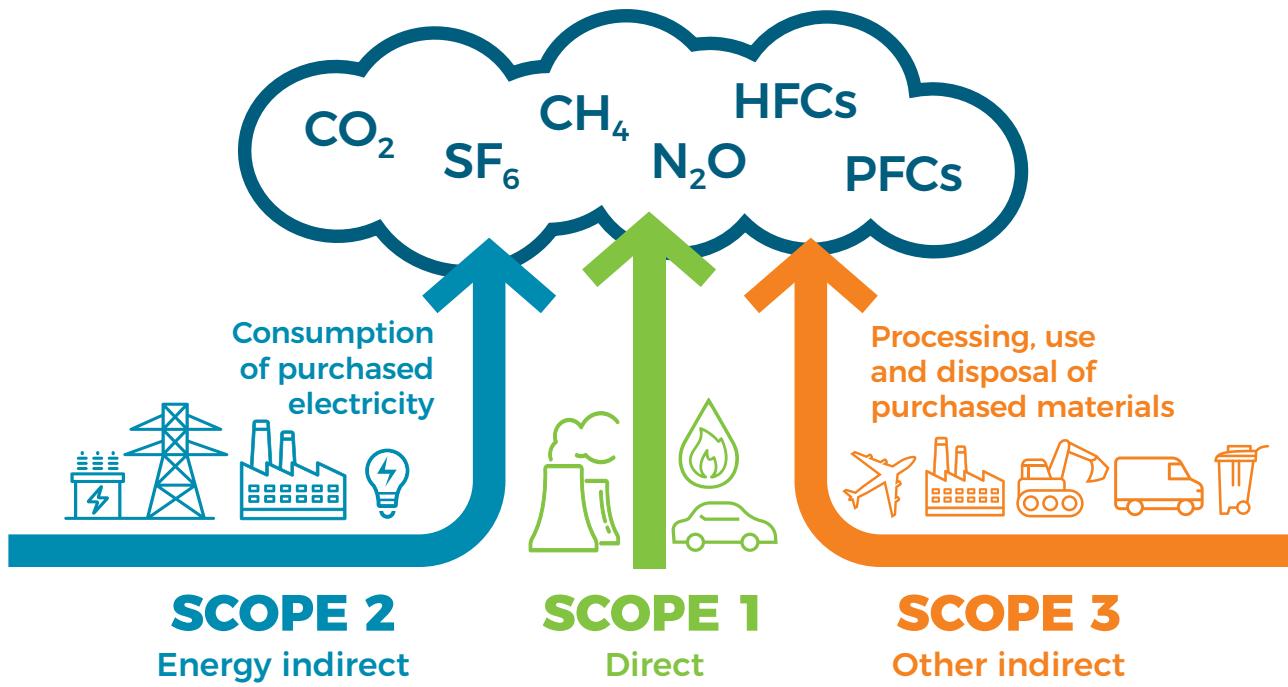
GHG emissions are indirect emissions generated both up and down the supply chain of an organisation – including public lighting, transmission losses, leased assets, waste, paper use, asphalt, concrete and travel.

**8,204 tCO₂e
(40%)**

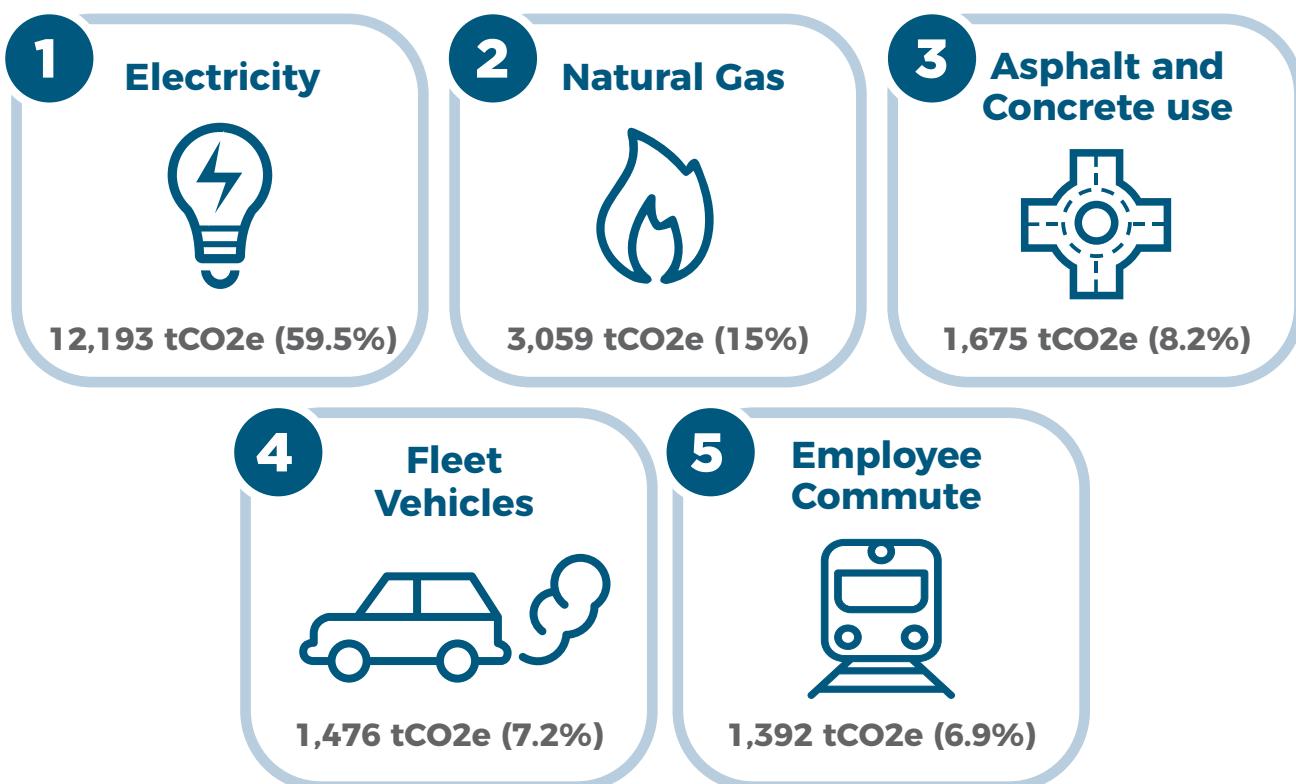
Note that there is a diversity of sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions generated but to make it easy to quantify, they are interpreted as a unit of tonne of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) equivalent.

Sources of GHG in Council

Figure 1: Source of Scope 1, 2 and 3 GHG emissions



Based on the inventory (Table 1) the **top five sources** of GHG emissions (tCO₂e) are:



A source of GHG emissions is material (and needs to be included) if it accounts for over 1% of the total organisational emissions. Any sources under 1% are able to be excluded, but the combination of excluded emissions cannot exceed 5%. All emissions within the measurement boundary have been included assuming the emissions are material.

Table 1: Summary of 2018/19 GHG emission inventory

Scope	Category	Source	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Percentage of Scope
SCOPE 1	Transport Fuel Combustion	Fleet Vehicles	1,404	32%
	Stationary Fuel Combustion	Natural Gas	2,844	64%
	Fugitive Emissions	Refrigerants	179	4%
	Scope 1 Total			4,427
SCOPE 2	Grid-Sourced Electricity	Electricity	7,872	100%
	Scope 2 Total			7,872
SCOPE 3	Grid-Sourced Electricity	Public Lighting	3,612	44%
	Grid-Sourced Electricity	Leased Assets	148	2%
	Grid-Sourced Electricity	Transmission Losses	561	7%
	Natural Gas	Transmission Losses	215	3%
	Fugitive Emissions	Waste	428	5%
	Materials	Asphalt and Concrete	1,675	20%
	Materials	Paper	87	1%
	Transport Fuel Combustion	Employee Commute	1,392	17%
	Fleet Vehicles	Transmission Losses	72	1%
	Transport Fuel Combustion	Business Travel	14	0.1%
	Scope 3 Total			8,204
TOTAL			20,503	

Note that both the large market and public lighting contracts include 20% Green Power, so this amount has been removed from the electricity totals to show the net value. The gross value of emissions from large markets and public lighting is 14,359 tCO₂e without Green Power.

Current Achievements

This Action plan will help to fast-track our approach to achieving zero net carbon by 2025, and is builds on the delivery of these current programs for Council and community.

1. **Food Organics** in the Green Bin service began in July 2020 will provide up to 50% reduction in GHG emissions by diverting food waste from landfill, and in to composting.
2. Participating in collaborative tender for advanced waste processing to divert community waste from landfill by 2025 leading to **zero emissions waste**.
3. Participating in a collaborative tender with 47 other Councils to source **100% renewable electricity** for all our sites.
4. Six building owners in Monash have taken up **Environmental Upgrade Finance**, and have collectively invested over \$2 million and installed nearly 1500kW of solar and other efficiency measures to reduce costs and GHG emissions.
5. **Integrating divestment in fossil fuels** into Council's investment policy, sending a message to financial institutions to seek alternative investments and maintain credit rating.
6. **Solar Savers service** offered to residents, including low income households, providing online and phone support, a preapproved supplier, access to a low interest loan, and support to access the state government Solar Homes rebates to install solar and save costs.
7. Since 2016, the **Monash Planning Scheme** has included an ESD policy for private development, with 3 or more units.
8. Sustainability Hub at Wellington Road Community Centre and workshops to demonstrate, educate and empower the community to take their own **climate change actions**.
9. Participating in the **Greenhouse Alliances'** 'How well are we adapting' project to track and improve our ability to adapt in a changing climate for the benefit of our residents and businesses.
10. Partnering with Monash University on **Zero Net emission** and **Zero Net Precincts** ARC Linkage project to collaborate on GHG emission reduction across the municipality.
11. Our new **waste collection contract** successfully negotiated and will offset all the GHG emissions from their truck fleet by 200% for the next 8 years. Their GHG emissions to the amount of 200%, meaning there will be no fuel consumption emission concerns for waste contractors from the commencement of the new contract for the next eight years.
12. Delivery of the actions under the **Monash Integrated Transport Strategy** 2017 which includes the more bicycle and rail infrastructure, green travel and flexible working.

Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) is a collaboration of eight Councils in Melbourne's east including Monash, working together on regional programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support renewables and facilitate adaptation. With economies of scale, the alliance

leads joint successful initiatives on behalf of members typically beyond the reach of individual Councils. Collaboration with stakeholders and partners is crucial to the success of our current activities and well help fast track our goal to be carbon neutral.



Photo by Antonia Donna Woolrich
Chadstone Food Forest

Victoria's has set a net zero emissions target for the State by 2050 and also passed the Victorian Renewable Energy Target of 50% by 2030

Zero Net Carbon Action Plan - Getting to Zero Net Emissions in Council

In Detail

To be Carbon Neutral at 2025, modelling showed that Council needs to focus on the following key actions which avoid or reduce emissions, including:



Sourcing 100% renewable electricity

Utility services such as electricity require significant investment, therefore local governments will often utilise collaborative tendering to achieve the best value contract. On behalf of 47 Councils, the City of Darebin and Victorian Greenhouse Alliances collaborated to undertake research and business case development to create the **Local Government Power Purchase Agreement** (LGPPA) with the goal to procure 100% renewable electricity sourced from wind or solar farms in Victoria through a retailer. The LGPPA business case modelling showed that a PPA would result in equal or lower annual costs compared to business as usual.

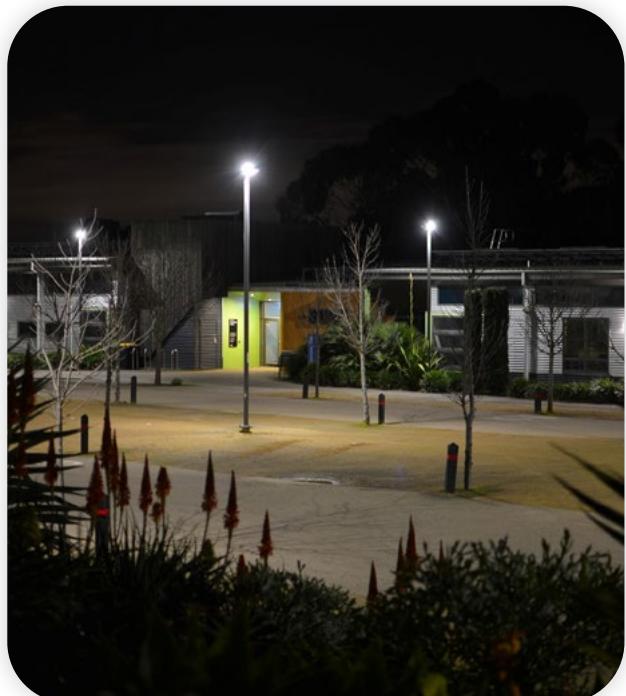
In July 2020, Council agreed to participate in the LGPPA and committed 90-100% of its corporate electricity load to this tender process. This includes 100% of large market sites, 100% of public lighting and up to 90-100% of small market sites (depending on availability of meter data). The LGPPA tender process will be finalised before the end of 2020.

The LGPPA will provide 100% renewable energy through the purchasing of Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) and can effectively reduce our net corporate **GHG emissions up to 60% from July 2021**. This will fast track our journey to zero net emissions by 2025, and provide a quick win with minimal cost differential to current services over the next 10 years.

Council will undertake regular audits to ensure all Council sites and electricity accounts are covered by the LGPPA agreement, and that new electricity accounts are correctly setup within the LGPPA agreement. As energy efficiency projects are delivered there may also be capacity to invite our tenants to join us in the LGPPA to share benefit and bring them along on our carbon neutral journey.

ACTION

Council to purchase electricity from 100% renewable sources from July 2021.



2

Street Lighting Changeover to LED



Major Roads

Public lighting generates **17.6%** of all the GHG emissions in Council. Sourcing 100% renewable electricity through the LGPPA will offset these emissions, it is still important to avoid these emissions and overall energy costs through improvement of technology such as changeover to LED.

Major road street lights are a shared responsibility and are co-funded with the Department of Transport (DoT – formerly VicRoads). The VicRoads Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2015-2020 initiative 3.2 Reduce Energy Consumption states that “VicRoads will also seek to partner with local Councils to replace all cost shared lighting to further reduce energy consumption.” The initiation and duration of this project is dependent on suitable cost sharing agreement with DoT.

A panel of suitable lighting suppliers has been set up by the Municipal Association of Victoria on behalf of Victorian Councils. This project will also require a significant investment, so Councils are partnering to negotiate options with DoT and United Energy, with the support of MAV, Greenhouse Alliances and Ironbark Sustainability.

The next step for Council is to upgrade major category street lighting (2500 lights) on main roads to low energy LED technology, which will lead to significant reductions in energy use and carbon emissions for Council. Other benefits include improving community safety and have a long life cycle. Old lighting and fittings will be disposed of responsibly.

ACTION

Council will replace main road street lighting with LED lights.



Zero Net Carbon Action Plan - Getting to Zero Net Emissions in Council



Street Lighting Changeover to LED (cont'd)

Smart Lighting

Smart lighting will be trialled in Oakleigh utilising the occupancy and temperature sensing features for data collection. Smart lighting technology enables Council to adjust lighting to account for changing lighting levels and traffic flows, and monitor performance which can reduce maintenance requirements, and provide both environmental and financial benefits for Council, though is unquantifiable at this point. Council will be able to quantify these savings as the technology matures, and by capturing data.

The LED Major Road Lighting Replacement initiative may also support the implementation of smart lighting as new and/or upgraded lights will be connected to Council's Smart Lighting network.

ACTION

Consider smart lighting opportunities as part of the major road lighting upgrade to LED.



LED Residential Street Lighting Replacement

In 2014-15, Council changed over all residential street lights (up to 8000 lights) to T5 energy efficient lighting. The changeover reduced GHG emissions by 37% and electricity costs by 39% for Council. LEDs were not suitable at the time of installation for residential lights.

Currently, there are plans to install LED lights in newly developed areas and United Energy has an agreement with Council to replace existing residential lights with LED at each light's end of life.

However, upgrading residential street lighting with low energy LED technology will be considered to help accelerate Council towards carbon neutrality. This will result in a significant and direct reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and lower electrical usage and demand as lighting is the greatest contributor of electrical usage and carbon emissions for Council.



ACTION

Negotiate with United Energy to change residential street lights to LED in the next five years.





Improving energy efficiency of our largest major buildings



Energy Performance Contract

Our seven largest corporate buildings utilise over 50% of the total electricity, and a significant quantity of gas and water. This includes the following sites: Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre, Clayton Community Centre, Oakleigh Recreation Centre, Civic Centre Building, Monash Operations Centre, Glen Waverley Library and Monash Gallery of Art.

A detailed facility study was completed in 2018-2019 for each site to identify Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) to improve their energy efficiency, amenity and performance. An investment of \$6.5 million can avoid 2583 tCO₂e of GHG emissions and provide a return on investment of 11.6% per annum. This initiative is scheduled to run for 2-3 years, but the sooner the ECMs are implemented the sooner Council can benefit from the savings.

Upgrading our heating and cooling systems (HVAC) and improving building controls (Building Management Systems or BMS), were identified as key Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) in the detailed facility study. Many of these have also already been identified in Council renewal and upgrade programs, due to aging equipment.

Rather than the traditional replacement of "like for like" under our renewal program, the preferred approach to implementing the ECM opportunities is through an Energy Performance Contract (EPC).

An EPC guarantees GHG emission reduction, cost and energy savings, which are verified and quantified by Certified Measurement & Verification Professionals (CMVP). EPCs can also support improved energy efficiency by upgrading aging facilities, installation of solar panels, gas usage reduction and improvement of buildings amenity for the benefit of our tenants and community.

Renewal or upgrade projects require significant investment and it is important to do it right. An EPC provides a good business approach to implementing energy efficiency, insulation, access to natural lighting, roof top solar and LED installations, by reducing GHG emissions locally and reducing overall running costs. Even when sourcing 100% renewable electricity.

Zero Net Carbon Action Plan - Getting to Zero Net Emissions in Council



3

Improving energy efficiency of our largest major buildings (cont'd)

Reducing gas use by electrifying gas appliances

Natural gas was, until very recently, an inexpensive and efficient source of energy, with lower GHG emissions than electricity sourced from black coal. Gas usage is the second highest source of GHG emissions for Council after electricity. With the implementation of the LG PPA providing Council with 100% renewable electricity, there is an excellent opportunity for Council to convert gas heating systems and appliances to electric equipment. Removing or even upgrading gas intensive equipment at Council's facilities would drastically reduce its scope 1 and 3 gas emissions. ECMs will be selected so they assist us to reduce gas use through the electrification of appliances and equipment. This may also include installing industrial electric heat pumps to replace gas boilers for water and space heating.

Facility Water Efficiency

Emissions generated by water retailers are presently being offset by Melbourne Water. Lowering electricity and gas consumption used in water heating and pumping will also reduce water usage and indirectly reduce GHG emission from water use.

Council has also completed a Water Feasibility Study to obtain a picture of how to optimise their water usage. Council may achieve additional GHG (and water) reductions by moving to more efficient mixer type model showers and taps and less water intensive equipment where applicable.

Phasing out refrigerants

Australia has a commitment to phase out hydrofluorocarbons (HCFCs) as part of its commitment under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Under the Montreal Protocol, no new systems will be able to use R22 by 2020, and by 2030 existing systems will only be able to use R22 which has been reclaimed. Council is currently in the process of replacing R22 systems with R32 systems to meet its requirements under the Montreal Protocol, and to reducing fugitive emissions. R32 has a much lower global warming potential than R22, however it requires Council to upgrade to new equipment. Council has the option to replace R22 refrigerants in current equipment or upgrade to new equipment to tackle this issue. This could also be achieved under the EPC as HVAC equipment is upgraded.

ACTION

Set up an Energy Performance Contracts with priority energy conservation measures to reduce electricity, gas and water use and provide guaranteed savings to improve operation of Council's major buildings.



4

Energy efficiency and roof top solar for key community facilities

Solar for community buildings

Monash has around 300 community buildings and sites. Utility costs may be paid by Council (181), shared with the tenant, or paid fully by the tenant, as per their lease or licence agreement for use of building. Regardless of responsibility of the utility bill, Council's corporate baseline emissions still includes all Council buildings.

Small scale solar installed in community buildings may not provide direct cost saving to Council but will reduce dependence on grid source electricity and it may benefit the tenant and the community by reducing their overheads.

With the support of EAGA, Council undertook a project called Scaling Up Solar. This project included a review of nine representative buildings, to understand suitability for solar installation, and investigating different funding options to support

installation from direct investment, to power purchase agreements and behind the meter solar.

All selected sites chosen also need to be assessed to ensure there is suitable roof space, roof condition is suitable and determine if battery storage is feasible. Accessing billing data for those sites where the utilities are not paid by Council will need to be sources to understand energy requirements and prioritise suitable sites.

ACTION



Install solar on buildings which provide the best GHG emission reduction and return on investment.

Energy Efficiency Initiatives

In addition to installing solar, it also makes sense to achieve significant carbon reduction through ongoing energy efficiency projects for smaller facilities.

Reviewing billing data, and maybe energy audits need to be conducted for smaller sites to understand the energy profiles of these facilities, and identify cost and energy saving opportunities upon which a business case can be made. Energy audits should be conducted to the Standard AS/NZS 3958:2014.

Energy efficiency activities may include installation of LED lighting and sensors, insulation, draft proofing, and update of appliances. Some actions

can be inexpensive to implement and can provide a quick return on investment. It is also important to provide education, guidelines and training to facility managers and tenants on how to maximise their savings through energy conservation and energy efficiency.

ACTION



Identify opportunities to reduce utility costs in community buildings through energy audits and implement efficiency activities such as LED lighting change over, insulation, and education.

Zero Net Carbon Action Plan - Getting to Zero Net Emissions in Council



5

Fleet optimisation to reduce fuel use and transition to electric

Fleet optimisation

The corporate fleet owns and maintains 156 light vehicle class cars, renewed every seven years and equating to approximately 23 new vehicles per year. There are currently four electric (EV) and nine hybrid vehicles in the fleet, with the balance being internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. Council intends to gradually replace all light fleet ICE vehicles initially with hybrids followed by Electric Vehicles (EVs), to achieve complete electrification by 2035, and the installation of additional EV charging stations as the number of EVs increases within Council's fleet.

The Green Vehicle Guide (Australian Government) state that compared with ICE vehicles, hybrid vehicles can produce 50% less fuel emissions, and EVs produce 35% less fuel emissions. EVs lifecycle emissions are still 20% better than ICE vehicles when sourcing non-renewable fuel. However, the overall emissions could be reduced to zero for EVs once

the LGPPA is in place and when charged at Council facilities with 100% renewable energy.

Council's transition to hybrids and EVs is part of an internal policy to completely electrify the light fleet by 2035. At present, the high capital costs of purchasing EVs over standard ICE vehicles as well cost to installing charging stations, leads to an infeasible business case for Council to completely electrify their light fleet by 2025, as this will require several million dollars of annual investments. However, Council has a plan to upgrade their fleet to hybrid vehicles first (plus 1-2 electric vehicles per year) which will significantly reduce Council's fleet emissions with much lower added costs. As prices for EVs become more competitive, the number purchased per year can increase. To encourage uptake of EVs in the Council fleet, charging stations may be located offsite on eligible staff personal property.



5

Fleet optimisation to reduce fuel use and transition to electric (cont'd)

Council's fleet also includes various commercial heavy vehicles (such as vehicles over 4.5 tonnes and specialised equipment). Heavy diesel vehicles generally have better fuel economy and efficiency compared with petrol vehicles, and hybrid or electric equivalents are still in relatively early stages of development. Modern diesel vehicles are equipped with diesel particulate filters (DPF) in their exhaust systems to remove particulate matters to further treat exhaust gases and remove harmful pollutants, such as NOx (oxides of nitrogen). Council regularly maintains all vehicles to manufacturer's specifications and DPFs are regularly refreshed. All diesel vehicles purchased are selected to conform to the latest European emission standards (Euro 6 as of January 2020), and Council is actively seeking to replace the diesel fleet as hybrid/electric options become available to the market.

Lastly, where electric options are not available for heavy fleet, research will be undertaken to consider alternative fuels such as hydrogen sourced from renewable sources or biodiesel options.

ACTION



Upgrade light fleet initially with hybrids and gradually introduce EVs in current replacement cycle (until 2026). Install at least one charging point per EV subject to available load on site, or consider locating offsite. Accelerate electrification as EV prices decrease post-2026.

ACTION



Purchase heavy diesel vehicles with the latest Euro standard, and upgrade to hybrid/electric or more sustainable alternative fuels such as hydrogen and biodiesel, as options become available.

Efficient driving behaviour and technology

Council's fleet use could be further optimised through driver training, fleet-wide GPS tracking, and an improved fleet booking system. Driver education can assist staff to understand how they might drive to reduce fuel use. Council has already implemented GPS tracking to monitor its waste fleet, and this could be further expanded fleet-wide to optimise fleet operations. Updating the fleet booking system with detailed utilisation data can help to increase staff car-pooling and reduce number of vehicles required. These programs and platforms are projected to be introduced through a five-year period, beginning in 2020.

ACTION



To improve fuel economy, introduce driver training, install GPS tracking for route optimisation, and implement fleet booking system with utilisation data to increase staff carpooling.

Zero Net Carbon Action Plan - Getting to Zero Net Emissions in Council



5

Fleet optimisation to reduce fuel use and transition to electric (cont'd)

Improving commuter and business travel emissions

Staff travel to and from the workplace is the fifth highest source of GHG emissions in Council. A staff travel survey conducted in late 2019 (n=300) showed that 92% of staff drive to work. However there is also a strong interest from staff in options to improve more sustainable travel such as flexible working, MYKI club (discounted/salary sacrifice public transport), e-bikes, end of bike trip facilities, and carpooling opportunities.

Some of the sustainable travel options may not be suitable at this time, but others such as walking or bike riding could be promoted as both a sustainability and wellbeing activity. Staff could be incentivised to walk or cycle to work by hosting raffles and awarding prizes to staff who consistently choose alternative commuting options.

Working from home can reduce staff commuting. Due to COVID in 2020, many staff have been able to pivot to working from home without loss of productivity. However this is not suitable for all roles, and does require technology support. In comparison, there were not significant GHG emissions generated through business travel (taxis and domestic/international flights) taken by Council workers for business purposes.

ACTION

Develop a staff green travel plan to encourage sustainable transport and commuting options.



Solar car park

Solar car parks are gaining momentum as Councils and businesses, like the Nillumbik Shire Council and Yarra Valley Water, introduce them to shade cars and also power electric car charging stations for corporate and community use with 100% renewable electricity. Other benefits include offsetting additional power load requirements of charging stations linked to the grid. The carparks may be installed in a Council car park or adjacent to one of Council's major buildings.

ACTION

Investigate opportunities to establish solar car parks to charge electric vehicles.



6



Sustainable Procurement



Council has been tracking its environmental spend for more than 10 years and is currently spending about 4-7% on sustainable products but there is definitely room for improvement and stronger environmental spend will assist in reducing our overall environmental impact. The sustainability of the procurement supply chain also need to be considered.

Asphalt and concrete have been identified as the third highest source of GHG emissions after electricity and gas. Paper use is also identified as a key source of GHG emissions for Council. Planning and research can ensure that a sustainable procurement decision is implemented and GHG emissions sources are minimised. This is also true for the procurement of electricity as per action 1. Reducing waste through planning also supports procurement processes which are more sustainable.

Recycled content products generally have a lower GHG emissions over virgin materials, but choice of product will determine the level of reduction. Where a suitable recycled content product is not available, preference should be given to certified Carbon Neutral products.

ACTION

Strengthen sustainable procurement and tender processes to preference the use of sustainable products, technologies and services, and minimising GHG emissions, including the impact of the supply chain.



ACTION

Review of internal project development and procurement stages, and implement guidelines to increase the opportunity to use recycled content, carbon neutral and sustainable materials.



Zero Net Carbon Action Plan - Getting to Zero Net Emissions in Council



Sustainable Procurement (cont'd)

Reducing paper use and carbon neutral paper

In mid-2019, 50 new multifunction printers were installed, providing a secure follow-me print system which reduced paper waste by requiring staff to log in to retrieve documents, thus avoiding mistake or forgotten printouts. In six months, Council avoided printing 9,000 sheets of paper – saving trees, energy and over \$1,200. Print default is double sided, black and white.

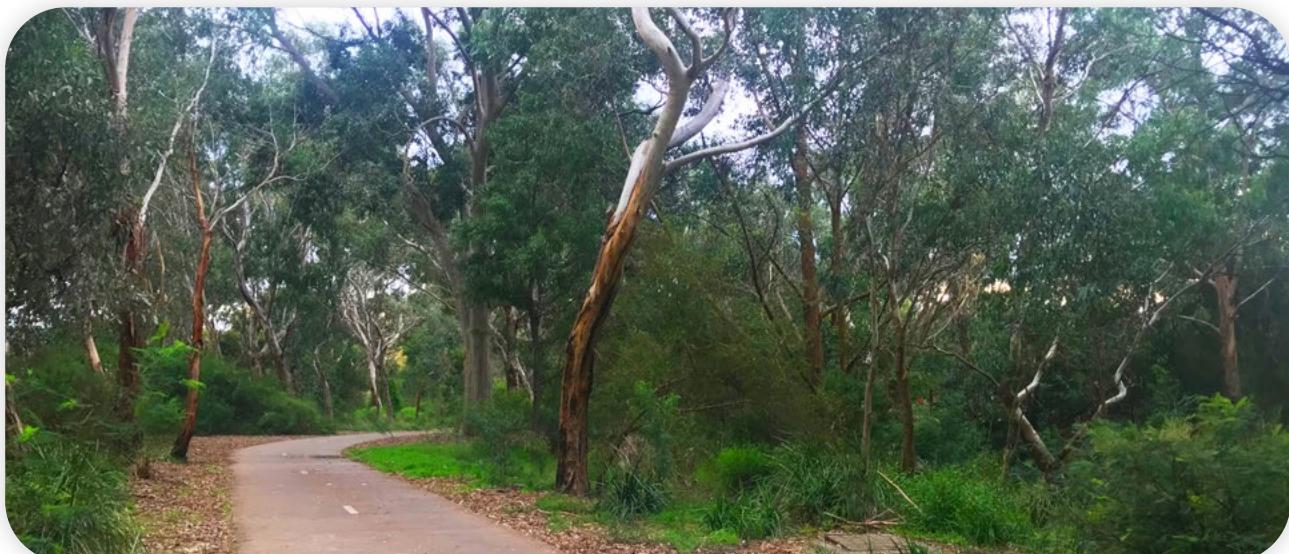
Monash is moving staff from desktops and paper forms, to laptops and tablets, online forms and one drive/cloud-based server which help to avoid the use of paper. Our planners now complete digital planning approvals, which further reduces the need to print documents.

All office paper (A4 and A3) purchased within Council is now 100% recycled content and carbon neutral. Council's Digital Strategy and Asset Management Strategy (Confirm) support the move towards a paperless office. Purchasing paper from ethical sources should also be considered, where the paper or supplier is FSC certified or does not source paper from native forests.

The next step is to consider that all externally printed documents are using carbon neutral paper, and/or on 100% recycled content paper. This requirement should be included in any new contracts for printing contractors where possible, or seek to offset resulting GHG emissions. Staff awareness education may be required to support this.

ACTION

Source recycled content and carbon neutral paper, preferably from ethical sources, and move away from physical documents to reduce paper use. Extend approach to external printing.



Sustainable Procurement (cont'd)

Recycled Content in Asphalt and Concrete

Council currently spends up to \$5million on road infrastructure. The production of asphalt and concrete create significant emissions but there are alternative products available with a lower emissions profile, often also have recycled content, and perform as good or better than virgin products. The challenge is that products can perform differently, and may even outperform virgin source products. However current specification for roads, are designed for virgin material and it is difficult to meet the requirements for recycled content products. The industry is also not appropriately skilled to use these alternative materials. In October 2019, Monash completed a successful trial using asphalt containing significant recycled content.

Council is considering the use of geopolymers concrete for use in roads and footpaths. Geopolymer concrete includes fly ash, a by-product of coal fired energy production, which replaces lime and reduces the GHG emissions intensity of the concrete mix.

Recycled materials which can be included in road base can include rubber, slag, plastic film, toner, and glass sand. In addition to reducing GHG emissions, use of recycled content materials also reduced this waste going to landfill and helps to create a circular economy. Training is key to supporting the use of these lower GHG emission products, both internally and for our contractors.

ACTION

Increase the use of recycled content and lower GHG emission asphalt and concrete by 2022, updating local government design standards/specifications, and undertake training.



Energy Equipment Procurement Policy

Monash's current procurement policy has guidelines for Council to consider sustainability in its processes, but could be further developed by setting specific energy efficiency/GHG emission objectives and standards that can be applied to a range of standard equipment and material purchases.

An updated energy equipment policy should address both consumer level appliances as well as other commercial and industrial equipment utilised by Council.

ACTION

Specify energy efficiency and GHG emission reduction standards to establish transparency on the purchase of energy equipment, particularly in major projects.



Zero Net Carbon Action Plan - Getting to Zero Net Emissions in Council



Environmental Sustainable Design (ESD) for Council buildings and infrastructure



Monash Council has been working with Council members of Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) to facilitate the development of improved ESD policy template and guidelines, and to integrate environmental sustainable design standards into Council buildings and infrastructure. These standards can be linked to existing energy rating tools, such as Built Environment Sustainability Score Card (BESS) and NABERS assessments, which provides comprehensive guides on creating sustainable buildings. It will ensure all new builds are constructed with consideration given to all aspects of sustainability.

Incorporating ESD into building standards policy will allow for optimum GHG emissions reductions measures to be considered and costed at the earliest planning stages rather than being added in later. A well designed building will also result in reduced running costs which will be a benefit for our community tenants in the long term. The Policy will assist in further reducing our GHG emission generation in future buildings and infrastructure. Consideration of WSUD features and best practice management of existing and new vegetation will be included to enhance sustainability of building or infrastructure.

This policy will also support our selection of materials and construction choices for infrastructure projects including roads and paving, supporting the use of recycled content, to reduce their impact during its lifecycle. To finalise the policy, it will be trialled in real time through a number of new projects and be used to prepare tender specifications. Staff training or guidelines in sustainable building and the use of sustainable material will form part of the implementation of the ESD policy.

ACTION

Finalise and Implement the Environmental Sustainable Design Policy for Buildings and Infrastructure.



ACTION

Establish monitoring program to track the application of the policy to achieve minimum ESD requirements, reduce GHG emissions and lower building running costs. This may include the use of building benchmark tools such as NABERS or BESS.





Achieving Carbon Neutrality through Offsets

To achieve carbon neutrality, Council will need to source carbon offsets where emissions cannot be avoided. It is Council's preference to source carbon offsets or credits from local businesses or those that provide a high social-economic benefit, where possible.

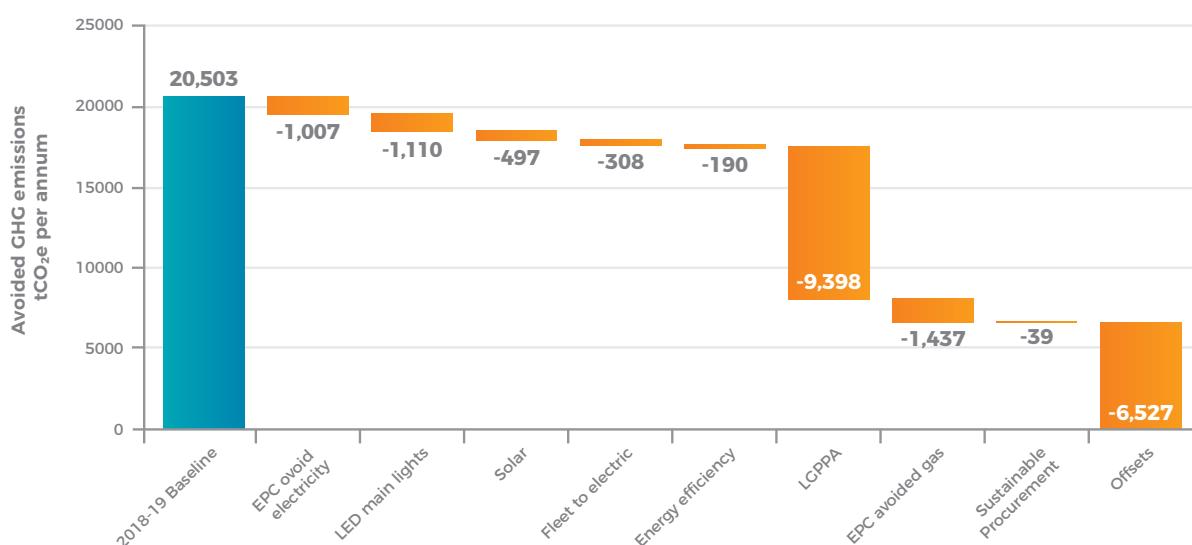
The National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) provides a standard for Australian organisations who want to voluntarily become carbon neutral and also allow them to certify their carbon neutral claim under the NCOS Carbon Neutral Program. The certification comes with an official logo, and can add credibility of the claim through independent verification of Council's carbon management work.

City of Melbourne, City of Sydney, City of Yarra and Moreland City Council are the only four Australian Councils who have become certified under the standard. Council will need to consider the opportunities, resources and costs of becoming certified in the lead up to 2025.

Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions may be able to be reduced significantly through the emissions reduction initiatives set out in this action plan (by over 70%). Scope 3 GHG emissions are not directly within Council's control, and are more difficult to avoid. So there may still be residual GHG emissions that may need to be offset through carbon credits to achieve Zero Net Carbon by 2025. Therefore, carbon offsets may be required to supplement the implementation of carbon reduction initiatives and reach Zero Net Carbon by 2025.

Carbon offsets are generated from activities that prevent, reduce or remove current GHG emissions from the atmosphere, and are used to compensate for emissions occurring elsewhere. These may include tree planting which reduce or remove greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere and would not have occurred without the offset program.

Getting to Carbon Neutral by 2025



Zero Net Carbon Action Plan - Getting to Zero Net Emissions in Council



Achieving Carbon Neutrality through Offsets (cont'd)

CarbonetiX modelling estimated that Council would need to purchase \$87,300-\$103,500 in offsets per annum from a certified financial provider after 2025 (at approximately \$14 per tCO2e). Carbon offsets costs will be highest in the target year and gradually decrease as more efficiencies opportunities are realised from the other actions.

Carbon offsets can be purchased from either local or international organisations – costs can vary from \$6.50 per tonne of GHG emissions offset (International source) to \$22 per tonne from an Australian company (as per January 2020). The best approach may be to use a combination of local and international offsets to save costs, with combined offsets costing approximately \$14 per tonne.



ACTION

In consideration of the wider community expectations, Monash City Council's preference is to source offsets from local sources where possible. This may include:

- Sourcing offsets locally from Monash businesses or where it can provide a high social-economic benefit for our local community
- Maximising solar on Council and community buildings
- Utilising public or private roof space or land for solar through a share cost arrangement
- Investigate how to create offsets through tree planting and the creation of an Urban Forest.

The balance of carbon offsets required will be sourced from Australian and International accredited suppliers to achieve our Zero Net Carbon commitment.



ACTION

Publicly disclose how we have achieved and are maintaining our carbon neutral commitment from 2025.





Zero Net Carbon Action Plan - Getting to Zero Net Emissions in Council



Leading in the Reduction of Municipal-wide GHG Emissions

While the focus of this plan is to reach corporate net zero GHG emissions by 2025, Council also has a responsibility to deliver programs for community and business to reduce energy, costs and GHG emissions for the whole municipality.

In 2018/19, the Community GHG emissions generated in Monash (by residents and businesses) were determined by Iron Bark Sustainability to be 2,903,000 tCO2-e, and include:



**Electricity used
by buildings
and facilities**

65%



**Energy
from gas**

12%



Solid Waste

2%



**Waste
Water** **1%**



**Road
Transport**

21%

Monash is ranked sixth highest in Greater Melbourne for Community GHG Emissions, due to being the highest employer outside of the CBD and a significant location for industry and corporate head offices. Council corporate emissions contribute less than 1% of the total, and highlights the need to also facilitate GHG emissions reduction activities in the municipality, through our services and programs such as environmental upgrade agreements and solar savers.

The Community or Municipal carbon budget has been set at 57,380ktCO2e, which require a 38% reduction in Municipal GHG emissions by 2030, and aligns with the State and Federal targets. Actions proposed will seek to reduce emissions by 2% per year to meet the 38% reduction by 2030.

Expanding on our current programs like Solar Savers, workshops and learning from other leading Councils and State Government directives, will help us to partner with our community to reduce GHG emissions for the whole of Monash.

ACTION

Review and expand on current programs to increase opportunities to further reduce Municipal GHG emissions, energy and costs, through advocacy and delivery.





Leading in the Reduction of Municipal-wide GHG Emissions (cont'd)

The establishment of a **Zero Net Emissions Foundation** (based on the Yarra Energy Foundation – Yarra Project Zero model) could be one way to accelerate meaningful emissions reduction action and change across the municipality. Support may include climate change think tank and green business networks, energy consultation and energy assessments, advice to community members, awareness of state and federal government programs, encouraging Zero Net Emission Pledges, and facilitating bulk buy energy efficiency products.

In partnership with Sustainable Australia Fund and Better Building Finance, **Environmental Upgrade Finance (or agreement/EUA)** is available to building owners to install solar and other energy and water efficiency measures. Uptake has been good, but could be further activated through promotional activities to encourage more businesses and building owners to access. With the update of the Local Government Act 2020, the EUA process has been

Transport is a major source of community GHG emissions. The provision of **charging stations for electric vehicles** are being considered to encourage uptake and can provide emergency charging for residents and visitors in key areas across the municipality. These can either be sourced using 100% renewable energy via Council contract or solar charged, to provide zero emissions fuel sources. The Victorian Alliances are currently leading the Charging the Regions project to identify the most suitable options for public electric vehicle charging stations. This could

Information and services would need to be able to support economically disadvantaged groups and be accessible to all demographics.

ACTION

Investigate establishment of a Zero Net Emission Foundation to facilitate community action.



simplified and Councils are now able to EUAs to residential home owners through their rates.

ACTION

Promote energy audits and environment upgrades for businesses and homes.



be supported by update green travel maps to make it easier to choose more sustainable transport options.



ACTION

Investigate establishment of 100% renewable public electric vehicle charging stations.



Zero Net Carbon Action Plan - Getting to Zero Net Emissions in Council



Leading in the Reduction of Municipal-wide GHG Emissions (cont'd)

Monash University has committed to be carbon neutral by 2030 and has already undertaken a range of measures including the establishment of an on-site Microgrid. Monash University is one of the biggest energy users within the Monash municipality and are looking to reduce their emissions through energy efficiency upgrades, electrification of all gas equipment, and through the installation of solar PV. They are also running several research programs aimed at addressing future challenges – growth, transport, current building stock, social environmental and economic risks.

As a significant energy user, a partnership with Monash University may assist to fast track municipal-wide GHG emission reduction initiatives. Monash University has established several innovative research programs, including ClimateWorks Australia, the Monash Energy Institute, and the Monash Sustainable

Development Institute, to conduct research and develop solutions to a wide range of energy and sustainability problems. Partnering with such an innovative organisation could provide Monash City Council with access to state-of-the-art technologies and resources to aid in Council's emissions reduction programs. Monash Council has nominated to be an advisory member to the proposed Australian Research Corporation (ARC) Linkage Project for **Net Zero Precinct Transitions**, in partnership with Monash University.

ACTION

Partnering on Zero Net Precincts and research collaborations with Monash University.



Reducing costs is a priority for businesses, and improved energy efficiency is a key way to achieve cost savings and reduce GHG emissions. EAGA Councils current developing a business resilience program assist local businesses to improve energy efficiency and source renewable energy, while reducing their operating costs. Activities in the business resilience program may include solar bulk buys, LED lighting retrofits, providing guidance and templates, access Environmental Upgrade Finance and brokering Power Purchase Agreements.

Monash University created its Microgrid to reduce dependence on the electricity grid and better control on how energy is used on site. In a similar way, Monash building owners use their roof space to install solar equipment to supply energy for their own use,

and sell their excess energy generation to the grid or other businesses. This may be desirable in locations where the energy network is constrained, such as Clayton, Mount Waverley and Mulgrave. Microgrid or solar sharing program would also allow businesses to support one another to reduce their GHG emissions. Installation could be supported through the environmental upgrade finance.

ACTION

Establish business resilience programs to promote energy efficiency, and GHG emissions reduction actions.





Leading in the Reduction of Municipal-wide GHG Emissions (cont'd)

Our priority is to reduce GHG emissions and minimise the impacts of climate change through mitigation actions described in this action plan such as energy efficiency, solar and offsets. However Council may still need to consider how we may need to adapt our buildings and infrastructure in Monash to adapt to changes in climate. Monash Council is currently involved in the development of the How Well Are We Adapting tool to collate climate and resilience data. This will inform an education program and develop approaches on how we can adapt to minimise impact of a changing

climate. Council will seek to align adaptation approaches with our zero net emission approach, including the development of an urban forest which can help reduce heat island effects.

ACTION

Develop a climate adaptation strategy to minimise the impacts of a changing climate.



Since 2016, there has been an Environmental Sustainable Development policy in place as part of the Monash Planning Scheme. It applies to all developments of 3 or more units. Through our membership with the Council Alliance for Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), Council has access to the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard to help our planners assess planning applications. More education may be required to support planners and developers in meeting the policy requirements, particularly to reduce energy use and GHG emissions. CASBE and the City of Moreland are looking to further enhance the policy to further address GHG emission reduction.

ACTION



Update the Environmental Sustainable Development policy (Monash Planning Scheme), to address GHG emission reductions.



Zero Net Carbon Action Plan - Getting to Zero Net Emissions in Council



Reducing waste generation and diverting waste from landfill (zero waste)

As part of the commitment to be Carbon Neutral by 2025, Council is also committed to reinforcing best practice recycling and waste management. Waste to landfill is an increasingly important aspect of an organisation's scope 3 emissions, and a significant amount of fossil fuel is currently used to transport and manage waste. Currently only GHG emissions from corporate waste are included in Council's inventory.

One of Council's key roles is to provide waste collection services for the community. Fortunately our new collection contract stipulates that they will offset their transport GHG emissions by 200%, meaning there will be no fuel consumption emission concerns for waste contractors from the commencement of the new contract for the next eight years. However there are still emissions relating to material that ends up in landfill, so Council needs to take action to minimise on behalf of the municipality.

Over 30% of all recycling collected from Victorian households is exported. In 2018, China imposed strict contamination thresholds on its import of recycled materials, which caused widespread disruptions to global recycling markets as there are limited end markets and a lack recycling processors here in Victoria. So for Monash, the net cost is \$1.5 million per annum as now Council must pay for the materials to be recycled and no longer receive a rebate for the recyclables.

In February 2020, the State Government released the Recycling Victoria Policy which aims to:

- establish a new Waste Authority in 2021 to oversee the Waste and Recycling Act
- declare waste management as an essential service
- increase the landfill levy (from \$60 to \$125.30 per tonne per year by 2022/23)

ACTION

Council will require contractors to separate corporate waste data from community waste, including waste generated by leased sites such as childcare centres and scout halls.



- introduce a container deposit scheme (CDS) 2022/23
- support appropriate waste to energy industry
- require mandatory recycling separation by commercial sites, and
- introduce a 4th bin for glass (by 2027) and a food waste recycling service.

Recycling Victoria has four main goals:

- **Design to last, repair and recycle –** Reduce business waste through innovation, design and circular approach to materials use, increasing recycled content and life cycle impacts
- **Use products to create more value –** Help people make smart purchasing decisions and extend the life of products and support the reuse and repair economy
- **Recycle more resources –** improve separation of kerbside recyclable materials and markets for recovered materials; boost investment in recycling infrastructure; embed the waste hierarchy in material management; development of appropriate waste to energy facilities
- **Protect communities and the environment** from high-risk and hazardous wastes.



Reducing waste generation and diverting waste from landfill (zero waste) (cont'd)

The Monash **Waste Management Strategy 2017-2027** provides a good framework to help deliver on these waste objectives and support our Zero net carbon goal, including:

- Food waste recycling from July 2020, will divert up to 40% waste to composting
- Increase waste diversion from landfill to 60% and 75% by 2022 and 2027 respectively
- Reduce waste generated by Council operations
- Investigate environmental responsible alternate waste treatment such as waste to energy
- Advocating for a container deposit scheme (CDS) to reduce litter and improve collections.

Declaring waste service as an essential service is a positive initiative for our community. Delivery of waste management services provides an important service to provide the amenity and hygiene services to the community, and one we have been able to maintain through the current pandemic. Continued collection and processing of recyclables helps to meet Council commitment to reducing waste to landfill and avoiding GHG emissions.

Monash Council in partnership with 15 other SE Councils and the Metro Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) is part of a collective procurement to introduce Advanced Waste Processing. It is planned that this will be in place by 2025, and will support Council's 75% diversion of waste from landfill target by 2027.

Waste contributes 2% toward the total Municipality GHG emissions due to the large manufacturing sector in Monash. Actions to divert waste from landfill and improve recycling and reuse, will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions for Council and the community.

Monash is one of Victoria's leading metropolitan Councils, particularly regarding successful waste management and recycling initiatives such as Paintback, Mobile Muster and Planet Ark toner cartridge recycling and our transfer station is one of the most popular in metropolitan Melbourne. Council is keen to advocate for a circular economy which aims to reduce waste to landfill through resource efficiency, re-using and recycling resources as much as possible. The implementation of food waste in the green bin service has the potential to reduce residential waste to landfill by 50%, and significantly reduce resulting GHG emissions for the municipality.

ACTION



Deliver on the targets of Monash's Waste Management Strategy and implement measures to improve waste monitoring and reporting, and moving to zero waste in landfill.



Zero Net Carbon Action Plan - Getting to Zero Net Emissions in Council



Reducing waste generation and diverting waste from landfill (zero waste) (cont'd)

Monash could consider funding innovative recycling projects which are community led, to encourage new technologies and processes to reduce waste generation and reuse recycled products. This may involve providing grants or support for schools, resident groups (including multi-unit developments), community groups, small businesses and not-for profit organisations. There are also opportunities to promote the purchase of recycled content and low GHG emission products.

ACTION

Provide incentives such as grants, workshops and guidance to help the community and businesses to minimise waste, reuse materials and practice sustainable procurement.



A Circular Economy Shop or a 'Tip Shop' could be set up near the transfer station to rescue suitable items such as furniture and bikes for resale rather than ending up in landfill. This Shop could also sell recycled content and low GHG emission products and information and even provide a space to facilitate repair of goods, subject to funding and suitable partnerships. Partnerships may include charities or community groups to manage the shop and assess and clean up rescued items for sale on site or in Op Shops. This would need to have a clear operating procedures to minimise risk to Council and community.

ACTION

Develop business case for a Circular Economy shop to divert suitable items from landfill, sell recycled content and low emission products, and facilitate repair of goods.





Reducing waste generation and diverting waste from landfill (zero waste) (cont'd)



Monash is a joint venture partner in the Clayton Landfill which has recently been closed. Consideration has been given to utilise this site as a solar farm but more investigation is required.

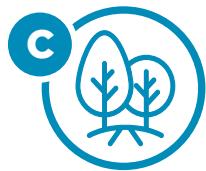
ACTION



Investigate the opportunity to create a local solar farm at the Clayton Landfill or similar suitable site.



Zero Net Carbon Action Plan - Getting to Zero Net Emissions in Council



Urban Carbon Forest - creating a tree canopy to provide local storage of carbon, improve community amenity and support biodiversity

In 2018, Monash adopted the *Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy*, which set a goal to increase percentage tree canopy cover from 19% to 30% by 2040. The *Monash Open Space Strategy*, *Biodiversity Strategy*, and *Street Tree Strategy*, as well as the Green Shoots program are also focused on increasing vegetation within Monash, in public and private land, to improve biodiversity and improve community amenity. Local vegetation canopy can also provide opportunities for increased local carbon storage or sequestration.

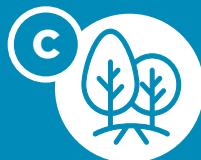
Creation of an urban forest (30% optimal canopy coverage) can mitigate the impacts of increased average temperatures and reduce the urban heat-island effect created by the built environment absorbing, trapping and, in some cases, directly emitting heat. These impacts can be mitigated by

creating an urban forest of trees, vegetation and wetlands on public and private land, lining transport corridors, and even on roofs, facades and walls.

Greening the city by increasing the tree canopy can provide cooling benefits and increase the community's resilience to extreme heat events, reduce building energy requirements for air conditioning and can even extend the life of road infrastructure.

A key approach to increasing our vegetation across Monash is through the Green Shoots and Gardens for Wildlife programs, which educate residents on the importance of retaining trees and establishing habitat in their private gardens to support local biodiversity. Workshops, booklets, demonstrations on planting and maintenance, and the provision of free native seedlings, all support these programs.





Urban Carbon Forest – creating a tree canopy to provide local storage of carbon, improve community amenity and support biodiversity (cont'd)



While it is technically possible to gain offset credits for revegetation, we are not aware of other local metropolitan Councils currently undertaking this process and further investigation is needed to address eligibility requirements, and partnerships required to implement. To obtain offsets, Council would be required to surrender Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) under the Federal Government Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF). Where trees are planted to generate offsets, they would need to be protected and retained for a long time.

Even if urban forests cannot be used to generate carbon offsets, trees and vegetation still enhance the local environment with the benefits listed above and need to be protected. Stronger vegetation protection overlays may need to be incorporated in the *Monash Planning Scheme* to retain established trees on private and public land. Where trees need to be removed, they are mulched and reused in our reserves and gardens, avoiding emissions by being diverted for landfill, however uncertain if this can be counted as carbon offsets.

ACTION



Create an Urban Carbon Forest in Monash (30% coverage) through the following activities:

- Increased canopy cover revegetation works on Council land to provide social and environmental benefit to the community, improving air quality and reducing summer air temperatures
- Strengthen planning scheme controls to increase planting, retention and protection of trees on private and public land
- Consider stronger penalties for tree removal, support for tree bonds and development contributions to fund vegetation maintenance and resource tree removal investigations
- Investigate the development of a Nature Trust to secure and expand land available for vegetation, including understory and biodiversity
- Encourage business, residents and schools to grow native plants on their own land
- Undertake investigation to understand if suitable carbon offsets can be created through our tree planting program in Monash
- Tree education to building awareness of their value to the community amenity and biodiversity
- Consider partnering with Universities to identify urban heat island reduction opportunities.

Investment in Zero Net Carbon

Carbon modelling showed that a \$9.7 million investment in key action over the next five years (less than \$2 million per year) could enable Council to significantly reduce our GHG emissions and improve our key facilities and amenities by 2025, and provide a cost saving in **\$6.4 million** during this time. So the net cost to Council to be carbon neutral at 2025 could be about **\$3.3 million**, which includes the purchase of offsets. The modelling also showed that delivery of the key initiatives outlined in this plan would be cost neutral by 2028, and provide a total net saving of **\$16.5 million by 2040**.

Investment in these key actions may be sourced from business as usual activities including electricity tendering and renewal or refurbishment of end of life infrastructure with more energy efficient solutions.

Where upfront investment may still be challenging, there are alternative funding opportunities available, such as low interest loans or energy service agreements to fast track the large scale energy efficiency and solar installations projects. The Energy Performance projects identified can collectively provide 11.6% per annum return on investment, making it very attractive. However, to achieve Zero Net Emissions by 2025, major energy efficiency projects need to commence as soon as possible to maximise the savings for Council.

The actions can be funded upfront, through a loan or through an Energy service approach (ESA). Under an energy service agreement approach, Council would pay management fee for the energy services provided rather than the paying for the equipment. Under the agreement, the savings are guaranteed and the Council is not responsible for the equipment maintenance during the agreement. If the savings are more than set in the contract, Council only pays for 25% of total additional saving. **ESA upgrades will remain off the balance sheet**, so the monthly payments can be funded from your operational budgets, right where the savings are being made, and ESA can be structured to be cash flow positive and provide savings to Council immediately.

ACTION

Source upfront funding through loans or service agreements early on to fast track projects.



This cost savings resulting from major energy efficiency activities and improvements in utility management could be put aside in a Revolving Sustainability Fund, to allow the savings to be invested in to implement smaller scale projects, such as solar on community buildings.

ACTION

Set up a revolving sustainability fund as a budget line item to reinvest savings from major energy efficiency projects.



Beyond the infrastructure projects, most of the other activities required dedicated staff time and 1.8 additional staff resources would be needed to facilitate emission reduction projects and deliver many aspects of the action plan:

- Technical expertise to project manage the infrastructure upgrades, and educate staff so they understand the impact of climate change and how they can help become carbon neutral
- Community engagement, behaviour change and education for residents and businesses to reduce of municipal emissions.

ACTION

Appoint 1.8 FTE staff to support the delivery of the Zero Net Action Plan and fast track Council's approach to being carbon neutral by 2025.



Reporting and Monitoring process

An annual report for Council will be prepared on the progress to achieving Zero Net Carbon by 2025, an inventory of our annual GHG emission generation, and provide transparency on how it will be maintained it beyond this target. The Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) carbon management principles can guide Council's carbon management and reduction program.

The annual report will document project implementation, financial investment, energy savings and GHG emission reduction, and may need to address social environmental and economic risks and impact of changes in growth, transport, and current building stock.

Other key approaches to support the completion of the annual report include:

- Use of building rating tools (NABERS and BESS) to measure ongoing performance of buildings, or set internal benchmarks to measure and verify a building's energy performance. The latter may be useful for buildings with less standardised energy consumption footprints

- Developing Building Energy Management Plan and training to facilitate adoption of Sustainable Building Policy and enable facility managers to undertake ongoing monitoring and optimisation of energy consumption at Council facilities (may be supported through Confirm)
- Utility management portal such as CarbonMetrix
- Installation of sub-metering to better understand utility use, particular for multi-tenanted sites
- Utilising Certified Measurement & Verification Professionals (CMVPs) under the Energy Performance Contract, to have confidence in assessing building energy performance
- Consider public disclosure of carbon neutrality after 2025.

Council will seek to report annually and communicate the results of the progress to achieving carbon neutrality for Council, as well as highlight the outcomes of the community based activities, waste reductions actions, and urban forest implementation.



Relevant Reports and Strategies

- Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026
- Monash Integrated Transport Strategy 2017
- Monash Urban Biodiversity Strategy 2018
- Monash Urban Landscape and Vegetation Canopy Strategy 2018
- Street Tree Strategy 2016
- Open Space Strategy 2018
- Waste Management Strategy 2017
- Digital Strategy 2019
- Healthy and Resilient Monash (the Integrated Health and Wellbeing Plan) 2017-2021
- CarbonetiX, Trajectory to Carbon Neutrality for Council's Corporate Emissions – Carbon modelling internal report, 2020
- CarbonetiX, Further Emission Reduction Strategies for Monash City Council – internal report, 2020
- Ironbark Sustainability, Emissions Profiles and Reduction Targets – Final report – internal report, 2018
- Living Melbourne Framework (the Resilient Melbourne Urban Forest Strategy) 2019
- Victorian Government Climate Change Act 2017
- National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) for Organisations and National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS)
- Paris Agreement, December 2015, available at
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf
- Recycling Victoria Policy Act 2020



Budget to Achieve Zero net Carbon by 2025

Upfront investment decisions are required but actions that will result in financial and environmental savings (August 2020).

No.	Summary of quantifiable investment to get to Zero Net carbon by 2025	Overall costs until 2025 (5.5 years)	Net Cost (less CEC and avoided cost)
1	100% Renewable Electricity for 90-100% of electricity (LGPPA)	\$25,000	NIL
2	Changeover of major street lights to LED	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000
3	Energy Performance Contract – including 700kW of Solar, energy efficiency lighting, HVAC upgrades and energy efficiency measures in our highest energy intensive facilities (also avoids 25,927 GJ gas)	\$6,476,443	\$4,279,386
4	a) Roof top solar for key community facilities	\$520,000	\$520,000
	b) Energy efficiency- audits, insulation, small scale lighting	\$400,000	\$400,000
5	Fleet optimisation to reduce fuel use and transition to electric	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
6	Sustainable Procurement – Transition to recycled content and carbon neutral purchasing including asphalt, concrete and paper (internal and external printing)	\$160,000	\$160,000
7	Environmental Sustainable Design for buildings and infrastructure including implementation	Staff time	
	Investment in Carbon Offset which provide a high social-economic benefit, sourced from local businesses or alternatives	\$100,000	\$100,000
Subtotal Investment		\$10,456,443	\$8,259,386
Net cost (less estimated savings of following actions – 2,4,5,6) up to		\$4,939,386	
Other costs – Staff time resourcing (1.8 FTE) to manage delivery of on ground projects and facilitate community and business education plus supporting materials			\$900,000

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Avoided GHG emissions CO ₂ e per annum	Annual Cost savings (on completion)	Payback (years)
					12,193	–	<1
\$400,000	\$800,000	\$400,000			1,100	\$300,000	5.34
\$855,877	\$855,877	\$855,877	\$855,877	\$855,877	1,007 avoided electricity 1,437 avoided gas	\$496,686	8.61
\$30,000	\$40,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	497	\$87,000	5.98
\$20,000	\$60,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$100,000	190	\$86,000	4.65
\$240,000	\$240,000	\$240,000	\$240,000	\$240,000	308	\$120,000	10
\$20,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$20,000	39	\$40,000	4
\$1,565,877	\$2,035,877	\$1,795,877	\$1,395,877	\$1,465,877	20,503	\$1,129,686	7.31
\$100,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000			



Monash Civic Centre

293 Springvale Road,
Glen Waverley, 3150

Oakleigh Service Centre

3 Atherton Road
Oakleigh, 3166

9518 3555

National Relay Service
(for the hearing and speech impaired)
1800 555 660

mail@monash.vic.gov.au

www.monash.vic.gov.au

Language Assist

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	廣東話	9321 5481
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