



## Climate action update

# taking action on the climate emergency

We are committed to creating a Sustainable Port Phillip by focusing on five priorities:

- A water sensitive City
- A City with lower carbon emissions
- A City that is adapting and resilient to climate change
- A greener, cooler, more liveable City
- A sustained reduction in waste.

# Climate change and the environment

We are committed to immediate and urgent action to reduce emissions and respond to and prepare for the changing climate.



<sup>1</sup> Victoria's Climate Science Report 2019

<sup>2</sup> Climate-Ready Victoria, 'Greater Melbourne' November 2015

## Port Phillip is already experiencing the impacts of climate change

### Since 1950 globally<sup>1</sup>

Temperature increase

  1.2 - 1.4°C

Rainfall decrease

  10 - 20 cm

Sea level rise

  8 - 20 cm

### In 2019

Australia's hottest year on record

  1.52°C

Above the long-term average

Australia's driest year on record

  40 %

Less rain than the long-term average

## Looking ahead: climate change projections

### By 2050<sup>1</sup>

#### Temperature

Temperature increase and double the number of hot days<sup>2</sup>

  2.1°C

Leading to health impacts, fire risks and heat-related deaths

#### Extreme weather

More extreme storms and intense downpours with declining winter rainfall<sup>2</sup>

Leading to property and infrastructure damage, biodiversity loss, water shortages, disruption to services and safety issues

#### Rising sea levels

Increase by around 24 centimetres<sup>2</sup>

  24 cm

Leading to property damage, erosion, loss of open space and safety issues

# We've declared a climate emergency

Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, recognising that climate change is a global challenge, and everyone must play their part.

We are reducing our own emissions and preparing our City and community for a changing environment.

**Find out more about the climate emergency and the impacts on our City.**

[Q PORTPHILLIP.VIC.GOV.AU/SUSTAINABILITY](https://portphillip.vic.gov.au/sustainability)

<sup>1</sup> Port Phillip 2019/20 municipal emissions snapshot  
<https://snapshotclimate.com.au/locality/municipality/australia/victoria/port-phillip/>

We are striving to ensure a sustainable future for the City of Port Phillip where our environmentally aware and active community benefits from living in a bayside city that is greener, cooler, cleaner and climate resilient.

## What we are doing to meet the challenge



**Investing in our assets**

Designing, building and maintaining our roads, drains and buildings to reduce their environmental impact and to be resilient to extreme weather.



**Working with our community and partners**

Working together to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Supporting and empowering residents and businesses to reduce their emissions, waste and water.



**Changing how we deliver our services**

Reducing emissions, waste and water from Council's services and ensuring we can continue to deliver services for our community in the future climate.

## Net zero emissions

### Net zero for Council operations

'Net zero' refers to a balance between the emissions produced, and the emissions taken out of the atmosphere. We achieved net zero for Council operations in 2021.

### Our community goal by 2050

We are committed to helping our community reduce emissions and offset those they produce, and achieve net zero emissions for our City.

### Our community emissions<sup>1</sup>

Electricity	62 %
Gas	22 %
Transport	13 %
Waste and water	3 %



# A water sensitive City

We are committed to using water efficiently, reducing the impacts of flooding and collecting, cleaning and recycling water.

## What we have done



**200+ raingardens**

constructed in streets across the City to clean water before it enters Port Phillip Bay.



**95.14 megalitres**

of water used in Council parks and buildings between 2016 and 2021 was from alternative sources such as stormwater harvesting and rainwater tanks, avoiding the need for using drinking water.



**56 sites**

at parks and open spaces have upgraded irrigation infrastructure to help monitor and reduce water use.



1. Alma Park stormwater harvesting.
2. Raingardens cleaning stormwater before it enters Port Phillip Bay.
3. Stormwater inspection teams use robotic technology to monitor and maintain 236 km of stormwater channels.

## What we're doing

### Investing in our assets

- Increasing investment in maintenance, mapping, upgrades and modelling of our drainage network.
- Upgrading our irrigation infrastructure and buildings to maximise water efficiency.
- Constructing raingardens in our streets and parks.
- Increasing permeable surfaces that allow water to drain more easily in Council's streets and public spaces.
- Investigating new stormwater harvesting projects to clean water and reduce potable water use.

### Working with our community and partners

- Collaborating with Melbourne Water and partners to deliver the Elster Creek Flood Management Plan. This includes investigating drainage upgrades to reduce flooding in Elwood.
- Working with partners to deliver the Fishermans Bend Water Sensitive City Strategy to reduce flood risks, clean stormwater before it enters the Bay and provide a climate-resilient water supply.
- Partnering with and funding the EcoCentre to deliver projects and volunteering initiatives that protect and enhance the waterways that feed into the Bay.

### Changing how we deliver our services

- Introducing new requirements for developments to increase permeability and detain stormwater to reduce flooding and improve water quality.
- Minimising water used to maintain our public spaces, including using a new centralised irrigation control system and requiring reporting on water use.

# A City with lower carbon emissions

We will work with our community and partners to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## What we have done



**85% reduction**

in Council's gross carbon emissions between 2011 and 2021. Net zero emissions achieved for Council operations in 2021.



**359 megawatts**

of solar panels installed on Council buildings.



**40 electric and hybrid vehicles**

in the Council fleet, saving an estimated 50.52 tonnes of carbon emissions over the past two years (2020 to 2021).



**9,945 participants**

in our sustainability programs, including school travel programs, in 2020/21.



1. An 88 gigawatt wind farm was constructed as part of our involvement in the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project.
2. Solar panels have been installed on many Council buildings.
3. Electric vehicle charging stations are available at the South Melbourne Market rooftop carpark.

## What we're doing

### Investing in our assets

- Upgrading Council buildings to increase energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, including changing from gas to electricity where feasible.
- Transitioning our fleet to zero emissions vehicles, including purchasing our first electric truck.
- Replacing approximately 1,800 streetlights with energy efficient LEDs.
- Continuing to plan for an extended bike network. This includes the recently completed Garden City Bike Corridor with safer crossings and a separated bike path along Beacon Road and Swallow Street.

### Working with our community and partners

- Partnering with providers to install electric vehicle chargers on Council land, issuing permits to residents to install chargers for personal use and encouraging developers to include electric vehicle charging in new developments.
- Engaging with businesses to support and facilitate their actions to reduce emissions, water and waste.
- Partnering with other inner Melbourne councils to explore options that may facilitate greater access and awareness to renewable energy options for renters, apartment dwellers and businesses.

### Changing how we deliver our services

- Participating in the Victorian Government shared eScooter trial to begin in early 2022.
- Reducing emissions from Council services, leasing, procurement and investment.

# A City that is adapting and resilient to climate change

We will work with our community and partners to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

## What we have done

### 18 schools

in Port Phillip learnt more about the environment and sustainability by participating in programs delivered by the Port Phillip EcoCentre in 2020/21.

### 389 assessments

of planning applications against sustainable design standards in 2020/21.

### 5,991 road segments

224 buildings, 27,458 drainage pits and pipes and 494 open spaces reviewed as part of our 2020-21 Asset Vulnerability Assessment.



1. The Environmental Leaders course has been running since 2017.
2. Fishermans Bend precinct is being developed as a leading example of Australia's largest urban renewal Green Star Community.
3. The EcoCentre delivers sustainability programs that educate and empower our environmentally aware community.

## What we're doing

### Investing in our assets

- Develop new standards to make Council's assets, including roads and buildings, more resilient to climate change.
- Planning for the future of our foreshore to be resilient to climate change, including updating our Foreshore Management Plan.

### Working with our community and partners

- Working with the Victorian Government to develop a Coastal Hazard Assessment to understand the impact of climate change on the Bay and foreshore areas.
- Working with Melbourne Water, other councils and the Victorian Government to update modelling and flood overlays to ensure we use the best available science on climate change in decisions about infrastructure planning.
- Leading the EcoCentre building redevelopment and continuing to invest in EcoCentre programs that deliver community outreach and education.
- Collaborating with Victorian Government and other partners develop the Fishermans Bend precinct as a leading example of environmental sustainability.
- Delivering the 'Environmental Leaders' program to support community members develop and lead their own sustainability action projects.

### Changing how we deliver our services

- Partnering with the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance to deliver the 'Resilient Communities Program' aimed at understanding climate change risk to local communities and building community resilience (funded by the Minderoo Foundation).



# A greener, cooler, more liveable City

We are working to reduce the impacts of heat, protect and enhance biodiversity and improve enjoyment of our public space.

## What we have done



**894 trees**

planted through the Greening Port Phillip Program in 2020/21. Tree diversity included 118 species from 67 genus.



**Approx. 35,000 indigenous plants**

planted along the foreshore in 2020/21.



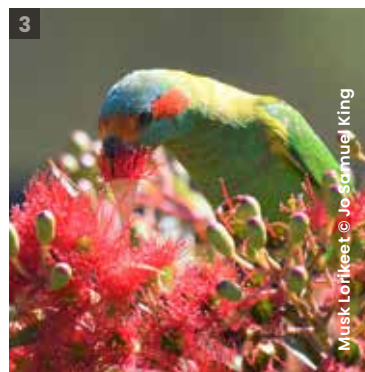
**Trial first woody meadow**

This cost-effective way of managing complex open space plantings requires little maintenance or watering.



**397 citizen science**

activities conducted by the EcoCentre and local experts as part of Council's Biodiversity Study and NatureSpot Program.



1. In 2021 we partnered with University of Melbourne to create a Woody Meadow in Balaclava.
2. Improving maintenance practices in our public spaces to protect and enhance native vegetation and habitat.
3. Photo taken through the EcoCentre NatureSpot program.

## What we're doing

### Investing in our assets

- Planting trees and vegetation in our streets and parks and increasing biodiverse and climate resilient species, including the Danks Street biodiversity corridor in Albert Park.
- Trialling heat reducing materials in footpaths and laneways.

### Working with our community and partners

- Developing an updated Greening Port Phillip Strategy and identifying new ways to improve greening outcomes.
- Continuing to partner with and fund the EcoCentre to deliver community programs about biodiversity and volunteering initiatives to protect and restore native vegetation and habitats.
- Working with the Victorian Government to maximise the number of trees retained as part of the Metro Tunnel works and support their target to 'double canopy cover by 2040' around the new Anzac train station.
- Working with the Victorian Government, City of Melbourne developers and the community to create a biodiverse urban forest in Fishermans Bend including designing public spaces and buildings to increase vegetation and create habitat.

### Changing how we deliver our services

- Trialling the Green Factor green infrastructure tool, in partnership with the City of Melbourne, to assess vegetation coverage through the planning process.
- Developing controls and guidance to protect and enhance trees and vegetation on private property.

# A sustained reduction in waste

We are committed to improving the way we manage waste to reduce landfill

## What we have done



**70% of rubbish**

from hard and dumped rubbish collections diverted from landfill in 2020/21.



**37 tonnes of food waste**

diverted from landfill between May and December 2021 at communal food organics recycling hubs.



**173 tonnes of food waste**

diverted by 407 Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bins in the Elwood FOGO service, operating since August 2020.



**436,255 litres of glass**

collected through glass recycling trials from March 2020 to December 2021.



1. The 2020-21 Recycling Reset program data showed a 25 per cent reduction in kerbside recycling contamination rates.
2. Solar bins that reduce waste by compacting it are one of the many waste and recycling initiatives at the South Melbourne Market.
3. The communal food organics recycling hubs trial.

## What we're doing

### Investing in our assets

- Operating communal food organics recycling hubs, expanding from three to six locations in 2022.
- Converting the Elwood Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) trial to an ongoing service.
- Providing communal glass recycling bins at seven locations across the City. Recycled glass is used in construction or turned into other glass materials.

### Working with our community and partners

- Evaluating and revising the Don't Waste It! Waste Management Strategy 2018-28 to guide and inform Council's future actions and targets.
- Continuing to partner with others to divert waste from landfill at South Melbourne Market, including green waste collected by the Vermicompost Worm Farm Project and oyster, mussel and scallop shells recycled in a partnership with The Nature Conservancy.

### Changing how we deliver our services

- Planning for Victoria's four-service waste and recycling model under the Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria policy. The new system will standardise accepted items for each recycling stream and bin lid colours across the state. As part of this, we're planning to roll out communal glass recycling hubs and a FOGO service (combination of kerbside bins and communal hubs) across the City in 2023.
- Increasing data collection and audits to evaluate waste diverted from landfill, volumes of recycled materials and contamination rates. The 2020-21 Recycling Reset program demonstrated a 25 per cent reduction in kerbside recycling contamination rates over the six-month campaign.



# How you can take climate action

We all have a part to play as we continue to  
prioritise a more sustainable Port Phillip.

# Keep up to date about sustainability

Sign up to our Sustainability e-news for the latest news, events and information

**Q SUSTAINABILITY E-NEWS**

Business owners, join the Port Phillip Sustainable Business Network

**Q SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS NETWORK**

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## Take action today by following these nine sustainability steps.

### 1 Purchase certified GreenPower

Your electricity use is a big part of your emissions. Switch from fossil-fuel powered energy to clean renewable energy by buying GreenPower. This also helps support the renewable energy industry.

### 2 Divest from financial institutions which invest your money in the fossil fuel industry

Find out where your bank, superannuation fund and insurance company invests your money and check it aligns with your values.

### 3 Support Council's advocacy efforts

By encouraging other levels of government to declare a climate emergency and take action to drastically reduce warming emissions in Australia and across the world.

### 4 Eat less resource-intensive foods

Our ecological footprint report was written to help you understand your footprint and the ways you can reduce your environmental impact. Eating less meat is one of the key actions identified.

### 5 Make your property more sustainable

Find out how to make changes and take sustainable actions at your home, including planting trees, installing solar and rainwater tanks and insulating and draught-proofing.

### 6 Walk, ride and use public transport more

Fly and drive less. There are many ways to get around our City.

### 7 Buy fewer disposable products, reduce waste and recycle right

Everything you buy needs land, water and energy to be made and transported to you. You have power in every dollar you spend – use it wisely.

### 8 Join local environmental groups

While personal action is important, you can also help change the larger system by supporting a climate action group. You can also train to become an environmental leader and launch your own project in the community.

### 9 Plan for increased extreme weather events

Read our guide on how to prepare for storms, flooding and heatwaves.

Find out more information about these steps and more ways to take action

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## City of Port Phillip

99a Carlisle Street, St Kilda, VIC 3182

📞 ASSIST 03 9209 6777

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