

Toward Zero



Sustainable Environment Strategy



The unprecedented and urgent challenge that faces us all is human-induced climate change. As greenhouse gas emissions levels exceed that known so far in human history, global temperatures are rising and our local climate is changing. For south-eastern Australia, extreme weather patterns and decreasing water availability pose particular challenges, from what we grow and manufacture to where and how we live.

We value our coastline, significant sites, reserves, visiting native fauna, heritage parks and trees.

Human induced climate change is a critical challenge demanding an urgent, responsible and clear response.

What is Toward Zero?

Toward Zero is the City of Port Phillip's strategy for responding to climate change.

The strategy has been developed in response to community feedback and research that a sustainable environment, city, community and future is an important issue for both the local community and the council. It sets targets for both the community and council against nine key challenges.

The City of Port Phillip has been committed to building environmental sustainability since 1996. In implementing this commitment, council recognises the many roles it plays in the community and other sectors.

These include: good governance and leadership; community capacity building and empowerment; strategic and relevant policy; equitable and efficient planning and infrastructure development outcomes; and regional advocacy to leverage local sustainability outcomes.

Our Vision

To develop a healthy and liveable city and region with the smallest possible ecological footprint that is vibrant, viable and nourishes the living aspects we love and depend on.

In order to have liveable cities, active and resilient communities and healthy environments, the City of Port Phillip acknowledges the following:

- There are changes required to how we both perceive and sustain growth.
- We need to find sustainable alternatives to the overuse of finite resources and resources that cause climate change.
- We need to balance and maintain local and regional natural systems.
- We need to balance the impacts of our built environment and consumption patterns on our living systems.

Our sustainability vision aims to develop abundance and equity in natural and social resources. This aim is driven by both the challenges facing our planet and ways of living, as well as our prevailing belief that we can find and embrace local and global solutions to these challenges.

We seek to develop a healthy and liveable city and a region that is vibrant, viable and nourishes the living aspects we love and depend on. We will maintain and enhance our municipality with good urban design and built form; healthy living systems; amenable open spaces and transport routes; adaptable and resource efficient industrial, commercial, retail and residential sectors; and a capable and healthy community.

We aim to enable and create a city and region with the smallest possible ecological footprint.

We will cultivate living and consumption patterns that use resources efficiently and without pollution. We will also work toward a future that is as sustainable as possible through the use of low or no emissions energy and fuel sources, and wise water and materials use and reuse.

How will we achieve our aims?

We will achieve our aims by taking more holistic, life cycle approaches to how we plan, build and operate. The City also recognises the need for long-term, sustained actions and solutions, which will not yield quick results.



The Nine Challenges

Toward Zero sets key performance approaches and targets to guide the City of Port Phillip's sustainability vision through nine key sustainability challenges until 2020. Each challenge has a set of strategies for implementation. Each of these sets is enacted through a variety of existing and emerging environment policies, strategies, plans and their resulting projects and actions.

Toward Zero will also identify and link to all non-environmental strategies, plans, contracts or projects that relevantly and strategically contribute to achieving sustainability in council operations.

1. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Council

The City of Port Phillip is committed to achieving zero greenhouse gas emissions in council operations and services by 2020.

Community

The City is committed to achieving and sustaining a 50% reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 (based on 2006 levels) in collaboration with regional, state and federal partners.

2. Potable Water Use

Council

The City of Port Phillip is committed to minimising potable (ie drinking) water use to achieve and sustain a 70% reduction in council's potable water use by 2020 (based on 2000 levels of water use).

Community

The City is committed to enabling and advocating for a water wise community to achieve and sustain a 50% reduction in community potable water use by 2020.

3. Waste

Council

The City of Port Phillip is committed to minimising council's waste to achieve and sustain an 80% reduction in council waste to landfill by 2020 (based on 1999 levels of waste).

Community

The City is committed to enabling and advocating for a waste wise community to achieve a 75% reduction in community waste to landfill by 2020, in collaboration with regional, state and federal partners.

4. Contamination & Pollution

Council

The City of Port Phillip is committed to maintaining and increasing the health and quality of its natural assets.

Community

The City will work with all sectors of the community, regional, state and federal partners to maintain the health and quality of our natural assets through:

- good planning policy and urban design; particularly with regard to healthy and non-polluting forms of transport and site development
- the use of water sensitive urban design to improve the quality of water discharging to the bays
- active reduction in the use of substances or materials that reduce water quality (including stormwater and recycled water), air quality or soil quality.

5. Sustainable Transport

Council

The City of Port Phillip is committed to ensuring that it achieves a low emissions fleet.

Community

The City of Port Phillip is committed to significantly increasing infrastructure and types of travel that encourage community use of low emissions vehicles by 2020.

Note: The targets for sustainable transport are embedded within the targets for Challenge: 1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

6. Sustainable Urban Design & Development

Council

The City of Port Phillip is committed to ensuring that all council buildings and facilities have minimal environmental impacts.

Community

The City of Port Phillip is committed to significantly increasing the percentage of buildings and facilities in the municipality that incorporate sustainable design principles.

Note: The targets for Sustainable Urban Design & Development are embedded within the following challenges: 1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions; 2 Potable Water Use; 3 Waste.

7. Net Loss of Natural Heritage

Council

The City is committed to maintaining and enhancing its natural heritage values, significant sites, and regional biodiversity and habitats (accepting that our environment does not end at our municipal boundaries).

Community

The City will work with the community, regional, state and federal partners in the active management and stewardship of our natural heritage and regional habitats.

8. Sustainable Purchasing & Procurement

The City of Port Phillip is committed to ensuring the sustainability of council purchasing for its operations and services, to achieve and maintain a 70% reduction in the use of unsustainable products by 2020 (based on 2007 levels).

9. Climate Change

Council

The City of Port Phillip recognises this critical global challenge and effort, and is committed to preventing further climate change and actively reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions.

Community

The City recognises the need for climate change adaptation in the future design and development of the municipality.

The targets for Toward Zero Climate Change are embedded within challenges: 1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions; 2 Potable Water Use.



Delivering the Nine Challenges

Sustainability Challenges	Progress Targets by 2020	Strategies
Climate Change	<p>Prevent further climate change through active greenhouse gas abatement & climate change adaptation in planning & development policy.</p> <p>(Note: Greenhouse abatement & water conservation addressed below).</p>	<p>Climate Change in the City of Port Phillip – An Initial Perspective</p> <p>Initial research (NATCLIM report) local climate impacts study and key greenhouse gas abatement and climate change adaptation directions.</p> <p>Climate change adaptation assessment</p> <p>Comprehensive council assessment to determine climate adaptation needs followed by community consultation and development of action plan.</p>
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)	<p>Council – Zero GHG emissions.</p> <p>Community – 50% reduction in per capita GHG emissions.</p>	<p>Greenhouse Action Plan</p> <p>Four year plan (2008 – 2012) to reduce council's GHG emissions by 50% & community GHG emissions by 25%.</p>
Water	<p>Council – 70% reduction in potable water use.</p> <p>Community – 50% reduction in per capita potable water use.</p>	<p>Water Action Plan</p> <p>Four year plan (2009 – 2013) to reduce council's potable water use by 50% & community potable water use by 35%. Also covers water quality & water sensitive urban design.</p>
Waste	<p>Council – 80% reduction in waste to landfill.</p> <p>Community – 75% reduction in waste to landfill.</p>	<p>Toward Zero Waste – Regional waste strategy with other Metropolitan Waste Board councils.</p> <p>WasteWise Strategy (2006 – 09) – Council's waste strategy to be reviewed and updated in 2009.</p>
Contamination & Pollution	Maintain & increase the health & quality of our natural assets.	Water Quality Statement (to be developed over 2009 – 10). A five year plan to maintain and increase the health of our water assets.
Sustainable Transport	Please see Greenhouse Gas Emissions challenge for embedded progress targets.	<p>Integrated Transport Strategy 2002</p> <p>Walking Strategy 2005 – 2010</p> <p>Cycling Plan 2005 – 2010</p> <p>Public Transport Strategy 2002</p> <p>Parking Plan – Towards 2010</p> <p>Road User Safety Strategy 2002 – 2007</p> <p>Motor Vehicle Fleet Policy 2008</p>
Urban Design & Development	Council – all buildings & facilities to be environmentally rateable for best practice.	<p>Sustainable Design Policy & Strategy</p> <p>Three year plan to continue fostering sustainable built form across the municipality.</p>
Natural Heritage	Maintain & enhance our natural heritage values, significant sites & regional habitats.	The City works with community and regional, state and federal stakeholders in the active management and stewardship of our natural heritage and regional habitats.
Purchasing & Procurement	Council – 70% reduction in the purchase and use of unsustainable products and materials.	<p>Procurement Policy</p> <p>The City will utilise life cycle analysis and environmental accounting tools to assess its products, services, development and maintenance regimes.</p>

This is a living document updated annually.

Our Approach

We will take a six-pronged approach to achieving our vision:

1. Leading by example
2. Ensuring local relevance
3. Influencing and supporting behaviour change
4. Embracing innovation and technical advances
5. Strong advocacy and regional collaboration
6. Evaluating and reporting on our progress

Evaluation

The City's Sustainable Environment Unit will collect and evaluate data and information annually to report on progress on the key sustainability challenges in *Toward Zero – Sustainable Environment Strategy*.

The *Toward Zero – Sustainable Environment Strategy* will be reviewed in 2010.



Who should I talk to if I want to know more?

To find out more about climate change, *Toward Zero*,
or any of our programs, contact:

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