

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

2016-2026



2022/23 Update



**CITY OF
MONASH**

Acknowledgement of Country

Monash Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Introduction

This 2022/23 update shows progress on the delivery of the seven key priorities set out in Monash Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026. The strategy sets Council's environmental goals for the future and proposes actions that will help to reach these goals, which will promote the development of a sustainable and resilient community and will reduce Council's impact on the environment.

Our Vision



An innovative and environmentally sustainable garden city: resilient, diverse and thriving.

Our Mission



Making a difference through environmental sustainability, commitment, expertise and leadership.

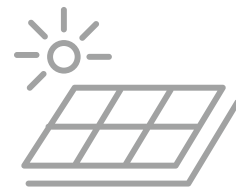
Our seven key priorities:



Built Environment



Urban Ecology



Climate Change



Waste and Resource Management



Integrated Water Management



Partnerships and Leadership



Education, Engagement and Reporting

Each year we highlight our key achievements and provide case studies for each priority.



Key Achievements

**\$5.4M
INVESTED
IN FOOTPATH AND
CYCLEWAY RENEWAL**



Solar In Community Buildings

Monash Council was fortunate to receive Sustainability Victoria grants for the installation of solar at three additional community sites:

- 9.6kW solar was installed at the Monash Men's Shed
- 32kW was installed at Scammel Reserve Pavillion
- 21kW Prince Hwy Reserve Pavillion.



Delivering on Environmental Sustainable Development

- In January 2022, Monash Council endorsed its Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy for Council buildings and infrastructure. Since then, over 12 Council projects have applied the new environmental sustainable guidelines.
- Developers can use the Built Environment Score Card (BESS) to assess how their developments are meeting the policy. In the six-month period from July to December 2022, there were (only figures currently available) 76 BESS submissions. In 2021/22, there were 113 BESS submissions for the entire financial year, mostly multi-unit dwellings (41) and non-residential development (23); 497 dwellings; 152,000 square metres of non-residential development; 249,000 square metres total building area.

Sustainable Design for Monash planning applications

A step-by-step guide on applying ESD principles into planning applications is now available on Council's website. This will support the incorporation of sustainable design into new developments in accordance with **Clause 22.13 Environmentally Sustainable Development** in the **Monash Planning Scheme**. There is also a range of fact sheets to provide guidance.



Key Achievements

89,894

**TREES,
SHRUBS
& GROWN
COVERS**



were planted in reserves,
plus 1,617 street trees

**CREATION OF
LUM RESERVE
BUSH KINDER
SPACE**



FIRST MICRO FOREST IN VICTORIA



WAS PLANTED

at Wellington Reserve, Mulgrave

600

**TOTAL
SEEDLINGS
WERE
PLANTED**



as part of two micro forest
community planting days



**OPEN GARDEN DAY
WITH WAVERLEY
GARDEN CLUB SAW**

400 VISITORS PER GARDEN





Key Achievements

Gardens For Wildlife Program

- 11 volunteers
- Corporate: Two visits to Monash businesses
- Schools: 19 visits to Monash schools – 940 seedlings redeemed (1,300 seedlings allocated)
- Residential:
 - 70 new member sign ups
 - 32 Garden Guide visits and reports written for residential properties
 - 115 vouchers (2,300 seedlings total allocated).

Conserving Our Environment Grant

- \$5,000 Conserving Our Urban Environment Council Grants for Friends of Damper Creek, Valley Reserve and Dandenong Valley Parklands groups in Monash.
- The grant has been used to purchase Indigenous seedlings and run community planting days:
 - Valley Reserve: \$300 towards seedlings
 - Dandenong Valley Parklands: \$150 towards seedlings
 - Approximately 300 seedlings were redeemed and planted.

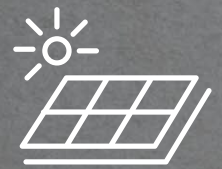
Nature Strip Planting Project Launched

- 230 member sign ups
- 34 permit approvals
- 1,550 Greenlink Nursery Box Hill seedlings redeemed
- Approximately \$1,200 Gardening Supply Ashwood vouchers redeemed.

Monash Seed Library

- The Monash Seed Library was established in March 2023 and encourages community members to grow their own vegetables, fruits, and herbs in their own gardens and then give back to keep the program growing.
- Seed Library members can take their choice of seeds each season from the collection, enjoy the growing season and their crops, then return any collected seeds from their harvest so they can be used for the next year's crop.
- The Seed Library is located at the Glen Waverley Library, with plans to extend to other libraries.





Key Achievements

**CORPORATE EMISSIONS
ARE CURRENTLY
60.4% LESS**



**THAN 2018/19 BASELINE, WHICH IS 4.6% MORE THAN THE
2022/23 TARGET, AND A DROP BACK IN EMISSION REDUCTION
COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENT**

(See Zero Net Carbon Action Plan Progress report for more details)

THERE ARE NOW

10



**ELECTRIC
VEHICLE**

**charging stations for
corporate vehicles**

**IN 22/23, 12
INSTALLATIONS**



**COMPLETED
UNDER THE
SOLAR SAVERS
PROGRAM**

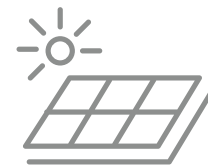
**which provides Monash residents
and businesses advice on rebates
and a pre-vetted provider for
solar installations**

MONASH COUNCIL
SAVED

\$1.44 M



**IN ELECTRICITY
COSTS TO
30 JUNE 2023**



Key Achievements

- Monash Council is one of 51 Victorian councils to have slashed their energy bills and reduced emissions through the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), a joint renewable electricity (Red Energy) contract.
- Council received a DEECA grant for a 60kW and dual 22kw electric vehicle chargers for council fleet to the value of \$37,500.
- Council fleet includes 25 Hybrid vehicles, one Plug In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PEVH), two Renault Kangoo and two Kona Electric vehicles in Council's fleet at 30 June 2023.
- Seven businesses now benefit from Environmental Upgrade finance (EUF) offered to improve their environmental performance and reduce upfront costs for tenants and building owners.
- Four public electric vehicle charging stations, in front of Mount Waverley Library and Community Centre, Monash Youth Services at Euneva Car Park and Glen Waverley Library on Kingsway, thanks to a \$25,000 Destination Charging Victoria Grant (Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action).

Energy Efficient Buildings

Several energy efficiency upgrades have now been completed and are operating under the Energy Performance Contract (EPC). Fine tuning is now underway to improve performance of our highest energy intensive buildings including the Monash Aquatic & Recreation Centre (MARC), Monash Operations Centre, Oakleigh Recreation Centre, Monash Civic Centre and Clayton Aquatic and Health Club.

Over the operational lifetime, the installation of approximately 600kW solar is projected to avoid 762 metric tons of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent) emissions per annum. In 2022/23, 65MW of solar energy was generated with the addition of solar panels on corporate buildings. MARC solar will reduce grid power needs by up to 20%. MARC is the biggest gas use site in Council's portfolio.

Following the upgrades and the move to electrifying some infrastructure and using renewal electricity (via solar and the VECO energy contract), a substantial amount of the MARC energy usage will be carbon neutral in 2023/24. On completion of the major energy efficiency projects linked to the current investment, significant additional savings in annual energy costs will be visible, based on the guaranteed 11.6% return on investment per annum.

Street Lighting Bulk Upgrade Works

As part of our commitment to the Zero Net Carbon Action Plan, Monash Council is undertaking an upgrade of its public lighting including the replacement of nearly 500 Mercury Vapour streetlights, and 1,570 inefficient standard lights to energy efficient LEDs.

The new LED luminaires are up to 82% more energy efficient and will help us minimise the generation of greenhouse gas emissions. Ninety eight per cent of the old lights will be recycled for reuse. This includes the glass which will be made into glass wool insulation for homes, distilling the mercury for reuse in the dental industry, and reuse of the aluminium, steel and copper into new products.





Key Achievements

MORE THAN TWICE



**THE
AMOUNT
OF FOOD IN
GREEN BINS**

(compared to before the change)

90% OF BINS

**HAD THE
CORRECT
ITEMS
INSIDE**



(sample of 21,000 green bins)

NO.1

PAIN'T RECYCLING COLLECTION POINT IN VICTORIA

for Paintback for the seventh year in a row, diverting 214,710kg of paint from landfill (#2 nationally)



67,757

TONNES OF WASTE

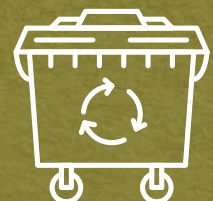
(garbage, recycling and green waste) collected



92,946

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

visited our Monash Recycling and Waste Centre





Waste and Resource Management

Key Achievements

- Zero Waste Kit for internal Council events displaced the purchase of 1,350 single use items at Council events, including events held in parks in six months.
- The community can now drop off their old golf balls to be repurposed in collection bins at the Glen Waverley Golf Course to be recycled by a local business.
- Monash Council opened two temporary collection points for soft plastics at Glen Waverley and Oakleigh Customer Service Centres for residents following halt of the RedCycle soft plastics recycling program at Coles and Woolworths.
- 1,397.72 tonnes of cardboard and paper recycled at the Monash Recycling and Waste Centre.
- #1 recycler in Victoria for Mobile Muster again, diverting 276.06 kg mobile phones from landfill.
- Since the introduction of weekly food and garden waste recycling, there has been an increase of 8,900 tonnes to our food and garden compost facility and decrease of 9,000 tonnes to landfill.

Recycled Content Infrastructure Project Funded by Sustainability Victoria

Council piloted the use of recycled materials in our roads and foot paths:

- Car park using Reconophalt– asphalt containing recycled plastics, glass and asphalt.
- Road treatment using recycled rubber and asphalt.
- Footpath using Ecolite – recycled concrete containing 98% recycled glass with good acoustic qualities.

Use of recycled content materials used in roads and footpaths has increased since this project and all asphalt used had between 10-30% recycled content.

Clayton Litter Prevention Project

The Clayton Litter Prevention Project is delivered in partnership with Monash University, employing students to provide peer-to-peer feedback to residents around Monash University Clayton Campus. Targeted feedback is provided on recycling and green waste bin contents, illegally dumped waste, overfilled bins, bins left out after collection, using bin tags, educational flyers and door knocks.

The comprehensive approach and education material and face to face engagement was found to encourage behaviour change, and more positive results (reduced contamination).

The Best Practice Reusable Nappy Program

Monash Council worked with 13 Melbourne Councils to develop a targeted education program that will increase the use of reusable nappies and reduce waste to landfill. The Best Practice Reusable Nappy Program – led by Glen Eira City Council – was awarded \$128,000 from Sustainability Victoria, through the Victorian Government’s Circular Economy Councils Fund.

It will offer families and expectant parents more support to learn about and use modern reusable options.





Key Achievements

\$3.8M INVESTED

IN THE RENEWAL AND UPGRADE OF COUNCIL'S STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

(including local drainage and rehabilitation programs)



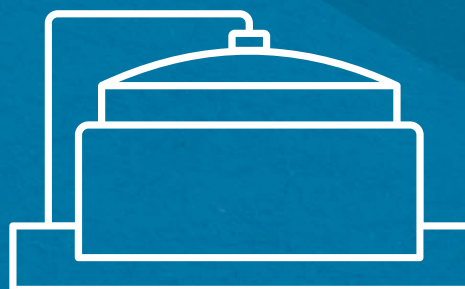
UNDER THE SMART CITY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

71 SMART STORMWATER SENSORS

have been installed in various locations around Glen Waverley, Mount Waverley and Clayton



AUDITED 21 RAINWATER TANKS



ON COUNCIL PAVILIONS WITHIN RESERVES

that are used to provide water for toilet flushing or other uses were assessed for system performance and maintenance requirement to improve effectiveness

CONTRIBUTED TO THE MELBOURNE WATER

Integrated Water Management Transition Assessment Plan





Key Achievements

- Initiated monthly blue green infrastructure working group meetings, a cross council collaboration to share knowledge and improve outcomes in water sensitive urban design.
- Presentation to students at Monash University on water and ecology.
- Water Sensitive Urban Design training for the Statutory Planning Team.
- Water Sensitive Urban Design review of development applications.
- Waterbugs incursion at Brine Street Kindergarten and Childcare.
- Advocacy and review in relation to Water Sensitive Urban Design and Integrated Water Management of the Suburban Rail Loop project.
- Contribution to the Dandenong Creek and Yarra River Catchment Forums and the action plans.



Council Commits To Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration

Gardiners Creek is an urban waterway originating near Blackburn and flowing through Burwood and Malvern East before following the Monash Freeway to the Yarra River. It plays an important role in providing open space, offering highly valued active and passive recreational opportunities, as well as water and biodiversity values. Council signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate with 22 organisations on environmental and recreation improvements of the Gardiners Creek catchment (which includes Valley Reserve and Damper Creek Conservation Reserve). The collaboration was launched in March 2023.

Wetlands Water And Sediment Management Program Commenced

A new program to maintain the healthy functioning of our wetlands and pond ecosystems through vegetation management commenced and will include other projects, such as sediment removal, in the future. Opportunities Plan for Valley Conservation Reserve was developed, identifying issues and scoping solutions to storm water runoff and sediment issues.



Partnerships and Leadership



Key Achievements



RECEIVED NEARLY
\$1.7M
IN GRANT FUNDS



to support low emissions projects, WSUD officer, and circular economy projects

Eastern Alliance For Greenhouse Action And Energy Savers

Monash Council is currently delivering the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) Energy Savers program providing small to medium enterprise (SME) businesses with energy efficiency advice and linking them to grants and rebates to upgrade equipment and install renewable energy. Council runs this program on behalf of the EAGA and its eight member councils. The program has directly engaged with more than 2,700 businesses since its inception in 2021 and has now accumulated a database of more than 5,000 businesses (1,476 in Monash) that it communicates with on a regular basis. EAGA is a key partner in our deliverables for the Zero Net Carbon Action Plan for Council and community. Council also assisted 26 Businesses in EAGA to receive federal Energy Efficiency Grant Funding, totalling over \$500k. Of these, nine were in Monash, worth over \$200k and hosted an event for businesses about financing environmental upgrades.

What's Your Jam?

What's Your Jam? was a community campaign during May and June 2023 to promote participation in environmental volunteering by showcasing the activities and events of our local community organisations and friends' groups. Activities included a micro forest planting day, a repair café, a workshop on starting your zero waste journey, Monash op shop bus tour, Olives to Oil Festival event, clean ups, and planting days, and various environmental events for local bushland and park areas.

City Nature Challenge

In April and May 2023, Monash Council again took part in the worldwide City Nature Challenge. We ran two nature walks as part of the event along Damper Creek and through Shepherds Bush. In overall participation, Greater Melbourne made 19,206 observations by 924 observers.

Other Collaborations

- Collaboration continues with Monash University Monash Zero Net Emissions Precinct, engaging with industry and community engagement on promoting Zero Net Carbon concept, and hosting and advising PhD students.
- Encouraged improved state and federal planning, energy and climate change policy through the collaborative advocacy by EAGA and the greenhouse alliances.
- In partnership with GSEM, SEMMA and SECCCA, developed a Zero Net Roadmap for the South East Region of Greater Melbourne.
- Partner in the WAGA-led Victorian Climate Resilient Council program to improve adaptation.
- Partner in the new Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration to restore its natural beauty.
- Oversees the Environmental Advisory Committee, how advise on council sustainability programs.
- Hosted over 10 student interns from Monash University.



Key Achievements

SUSTAINABILITY RAN

84

ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING
WORKSHOPS,
WEBINARS,
INCURSIONS,
EVENTS AND
STALLS WITH



6,800

ATTENDEES

SUSTAINABLE MONASH ENEWS IS SENT TO

1,450

READERS

EACH MONTH



- Other events included: City Nature Challenge walks, Connecting to Country, Green, Cool & Healthy Communities: The Multiple Benefits of Water Sensitive Urban Design in Monash, Habitat for Home Gardens, Repair Café, Monash University O-week and Sustainability Week, Sustainable House Day, Starting Your Zero Waste Journey, numerous incursions to schools and preschools, environmental upgrade finance event, ongoing education on solar, and energy efficiency and sustainable homes workshops.
- This was a particularly busy year with a focus on supporting the community with the changed food recycling bin frequency and on how to reduce waste.
- We held three Boosting Bike Confidence sessions for underrepresented groups – two women-friendly and one LGBTIQ+ friendly. We ran a free Bike Safety Check Day and we installed a bike repair station at the Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre. Participants in the bike training and bike safety check reported increases in confidence and knowledge.
- The inaugural Monash Repair Café was hosted at the Waverley Woodworkers and the Gem Club in Central Reserve Glen Waverley. Six volunteers helped keep a total weight of 12.8kgs of items in use and diverted from landfill due to the repair of the items.



1.1 The garden city character of Monash is retained and improved.

Action		Status	Implementation Comments
1.1.1	Planning of future strategic growth, especially Structure Plans, is to consider garden city character principles.	a. Consider, and include, where practical, the garden city characteristic principles within Structure Plans and development proposals.	Ongoing This is being addressed under the development and implementation of the Open Space Strategy.
		b. Assessment of planning applications is to continue to consider the garden city characteristic principles of Monash as expressed within the Planning Scheme.	Ongoing This has been addressed under the development and implementation of the Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy. Awaiting final approval for an update of the Monash Planning Scheme.
1.1.2	Pursue opportunities for sustainable strategic plans and policies to be incorporated within the Monash Planning Scheme including the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS).	a. Consider environmental sustainability, landscape criteria and enhanced garden city character principles within all future Planning Scheme and MSS reviews where applicable.	Ongoing Council has requested amendments to the Monash Planning Scheme to support retention of trees on private property.
		b. Include environmental sustainability principles within residential zone schedules including permeability, site coverage, rear set back and landscaping requirements.	Ongoing This has been addressed under the Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy and C125.
		c. Ensure Monash's planning policies and processes consider and implement environmental protection and, where possible, enhancement principles.	Ongoing ESD Policy Amendment 113 has been approved by the Minister (9/2016) under the Monash Planning Scheme for Council to encourage Sustainable Development in the planning process.
1.1.3	Build community and staff understanding of garden city character.	a. Develop and implement education and advocacy activities that increase the capacity of staff and community to better understand and deliver on Monash's garden city principles.	In progress Council has membership to CASBE and BESS tool to support assessments. Online training is available to all planning staff. Monash planners have access to the IMAP fact sheets and can provide to developers.

1.2 Development is designed along Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles.

Action		Status	Implementation Comments
1.2.1	All development assessed against best practice Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles.	a. Implement the ESD assessments and referrals through the planning scheme and develop the ESD skills and knowledge of Council staff.	Ongoing Statutory Planning staff are using BESS reports provided by applicants to determine how they are addressing ESD.
		b. Ensure public and private spaces deliver connectivity, liveability and sustainability outcomes at the catchment scale.	In progress Supported by delivery of Biodiversity Strategy, Open Space Strategy and Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy.



1.2 Development is designed along Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles (continued).

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
1.2.2 Council buildings and infrastructure are to be designed, built, operated and maintained to reflect Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles.	Completed	ESD policy was adopted by Council in 2021 and is currently being used to guide capital works projects.
	Ongoing	ESD policy was adopted by Council in 2021 and is currently being used to guide capital works projects.
	Ongoing	ESD policy was adopted by council in 2021 and is currently being used to guide capital works projects.
1.2.3 Build industry and staff understanding of Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD), Urban Heat Island (UHI) and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles.	Complete	Guidance on sustainable development in the planning process is now on the Monash website including fact sheets and background information.
	Ongoing	Education has been provided and guidance is ongoing with new developments.
	Ongoing	Education has been provided and guidance is ongoing with new developments.

1.3 Urban environments are designed and planned to promote and encourage integrated and active transport.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
1.3.1 Integrated and active transport principles are implemented throughout the municipality.	Ongoing	Engineering is continuing to implement this strategy.
	Ongoing	Existing strategy was developed in 2017 but expired at June 2023. Progresses reviewed in preparation for development of a new strategy. New bike track between Scotchmans Creek and Monash University along Foster Road and upgrades along Djerring Trail.
1.3.2 Build community and staff understanding of integrated and active transport principles.	Initiated	A number of bike confidence education sessions run in partnership with Active Monash as well as installation of new bike repair station.



2.1 A strategic approach to landscape planning is established which recognises biodiversity, habitat connectivity and builds ecosystem resilience.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
2.1.1 Planning processes are to protect and enhance Monash's biodiversity and landscape character.	Complete	This included the adoption of C125 Amendment in the planning scheme and development of the Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy.
	Ongoing	More arborists have been appointed and are working closely with our Statutory Planning team. They have been successful in a number of prosecutions.
	Ongoing	Continuing to implement Council's Street Tree Strategy and developing an Urban Forest Strategy to increase canopy.
	Adapted and ongoing	Open Space Strategy, Urban Biodiversity Strategy, Street Tree Strategy and the Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy form the framework of our Urban Forest Strategy. Monash is also a key member of the Resilient Melbourne's Living Melbourne Strategy for wider Melbourne.
	Ongoing	Open Space Strategy was endorsed by Council in October 2018, implementation underway to try and increase tree canopy from 19% to 30% by 2040 – City Design working with Horticulture.
2.1.2 Enhance biodiversity values and habitat connectivity across the municipality.	Complete	Completed in 2018 in 42 reserves including detailed assessment in 15 high priority conservation sites. Conservation status is being considered for some high priority sites.
	Complete	An Urban Biodiversity Strategy has been developed and endorsed by Council in October 2018, following the detailed assessment and background desktop review of species in Monash.
	Ongoing	Promotion has been completed as part of our Gardens for Wildlife program and some demonstration sites have been implemented. Guidelines and permit conditions updated on the website, and indigenous seedlings and mulch provided with guidance to support nature strip planting.



2.2 Long-term biodiversity outcomes are achieved on Council owned and managed conservation reserves.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
2.2.1 Continue to manage Council's conservation reserves in accordance with best practice conservation and land management principles.	Ongoing	Bushland Team manages this which includes planting at least 100,000 trees, shrubs and grasses each year. Conservation Plans and ecological assessments undertaken for Damper Creek and Valley Reserve.
	When opportunity arises	Baseline completed as part of Biodiversity Strategy development. Created an iNaturalist site (citizen science) for the Skink link project and running City Nature Challenge each year.
	Ongoing	Recommended in the Biodiversity Strategy and is managed by Bushland Team.
	Ongoing	Understory planting can reduce problems with pest birds, and we encourage this as a key strategy. New dog off lease areas have been created but restricted in bushland areas. Collaborated with Eastern region council on a Pest Management Strategy with approaches to managing deer, cats, myna birds, rabbits and foxes. Now in implementation phase.

2.3 Increased community understanding of and participation in urban ecology and local biodiversity stewardship is achieved.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
2.3.1 Raise local knowledge and appreciation of biodiversity and urban ecology.	Excellent progress	Green Shoots was developed to support the delivery of actions under the Urban Biodiversity Strategy and create more opportunities for the community to connect with nature. Skink link and wetland wonders events have been some of the success stories. Now have volunteer Garden Guides in place to support Gardens for Wildlife program.
	Ongoing	Conducted by Community Amenity at festivals. The Domestic Animal Management Plan was updated in 2022. Cat curfew was rolled out in 2021, providing information to cat owners about the benefits of keeping cats in at night and stencils on footpaths to remind dog owners to clean-up after their dogs.



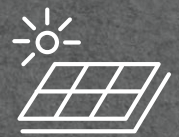
2.3 Increased community understanding of and participation in urban ecology and local biodiversity stewardship is achieved (continued).

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
2.3.2 Continue to support the activities of existing local environment and similar groups.	Initiated	Informally promoted through community groups.
	To be confirmed	Many neighbourhood houses and the Men's Sheds already have community gardens which they managed themselves. On their own property and gardens not leased through Council. Lions Club adopted a garden bed at Shepherds Bush.

2.4 Roles, responsibilities and involvement relating to community food gardens are defined and implemented.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
2.4.1 Understand Council's role relating to community gardens.	Underway	Sustainability is now the service manager for community gardens. There are two licensed gardens in Monash. No new gardens proposed at this stage. The Environmental Advisory Committee has reviewed other council policies and draft guidelines developed.
2.4.2 Raise local awareness, knowledge and appreciation of growing food and the sustainability and wellbeing issues relating to food.	Ongoing	Regular workshops on vegetable growing and preserving undertaken as part of community workshop program. Grant received to undertake 'Love Food, Hate Waste' series of workshops. Adapted and released the Gardens for Harvest Booklet to support community education.

Priority 3: Climate Change



3.1 Best practice climate change thinking is integrated into Council’s corporate and operational functions.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
3.1.1 Establish a whole of organisation approach for effective and efficient climate change action.	Complete	The Zero Net Carbon Action Plan was endorsed by council in August 2020 and we are well on the way to delivering a zero net commitment by 2025.
	Ongoing	As a member of the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, Monash is involved in collaborative delivery of projects such as Energy performance contracts and Solar Savers and also with the other Greenhouse Alliances, development of an ESD policy, building vulnerability assessments and emission reduction initiatives. This includes membership to the Victorian Climate Resilience Councils program led by WAGA and development of a Climate Response Plan.
3.1.2 Build staff understanding of climate change and the potential impacts and opportunities.	Underway	Working closely with Strategic Asset Management, Capital Works, City Design and Procurement to integrate sustainability and energy efficiency into our building projects.
	Underway	Membership with EAGA and the Greenhouse alliances keeps our teams up to date with current technology. EAGA also provide advocacy on members behalf and drive innovation in government.





3.2 A strategic approach to reducing Council’s corporate greenhouse gas emissions is established.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
3.2.1 Pursue new strategic plans and policies to reduce Council’s operational emissions.	Complete	Completed as part of the Emission Reduction Study which identified projects to support delivery of the proposed reduction target and led to the development of the Zero Net Carbon Action Plan which has corporate and community science-based targets and a commitment to being carbon neutral by 2025.
	Complete	Completed as part of the Emission Reduction Study which identified projects to support delivery of the proposed reduction target and led to the development of the Zero Net Carbon Action Plan. Monash is also a member of the Victorian Energy Collaboration which sources 100% renewable energy electricity for 51 councils until 2030. Saving council \$700K in electricity per annum.
	Complete and being delivered	Delivered under the Zero Net Carbon Action Plan with a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2025.

3.3 Increase community preparedness for the likely impacts of climate change.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
3.3.1 Support community’s preparedness for the likely impacts of climate change.	Ongoing	Participation in Greenhouse Alliances and EAGA activities such as ESD policy development, Advocating for electric vehicle (EV) charging, and Climate vulnerability assessments.
	Underway	Created and hosted the Business Energy Savers Program on behalf of EAGA councils – first year attracted Sustainability Victoria funding. Around 2,500 businesses engaged to date to understand savings through energy efficiency and solar.
3.3.2 Encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources.	Underway	Monash offers access to Environmental Upgrade Finance for businesses to take on environmental and energy efficiency measures and have seven building owners signed up. We also offer Solar Savers for residents and businesses.

Priority 4: Waste & Resource Management



4.1 Best practice waste and recycling collection and litter reduction services are delivered in a strategic municipal-wide approach.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
4.1.1 Establish a best practice, business case approach for waste and recycling management and collection.	Complete	New kerbside collection contract was initiated in 2019 to be started in April 2020, which includes the introduction of food waste in the green bin service. An 'at call' hard waste service was introduced in 2018 in addition to the annual collection.
	Complete	Food waste collection was rolled out in 2020 and moved to weekly collection in 2022. Landfill bin is now collected fortnightly.
	Ongoing	Guidelines have been completed to support waste services in MUDs and an officer works closely with Planning Team to implement. Commercial and industrial developments typically have private services or paid services from council.
	Ongoing	Working with Recycling Victoria on collaborative procurement of collection contracts for organics. Also awarded a contract for advanced waste processing.
4.1.2 Implement a strategic approach to litter prevention.	Ongoing	Litter Prevention Plan updated to the Litter Action Plan (2018-2028). The Clayton Project is a key initiative under this plan. Working with Monash University to combat issues, including students monitoring bins and educating residents. A dedicated Litter Prevention Officer is now in place to deliver program.

Priority 4: Waste & Resource Management



4.2 A strategic approach to reducing Council’s corporate waste and environmental impacts is established which recognises the waste hierarchy, life cycle analysis and has sustainable procurement integrity.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
4.2.1 Reduce waste to landfill from Council’s corporate operations. a. Develop and implement a waste and recycling audit, management and monitoring program for identified Council buildings with staff offices and for office retrofits.	Ongoing	Audit completed in 2019 for offices. Introduced a food waste collection to all corporate offices which is managed by the cleaning team.
4.2.2 Build the understanding of staff and cleaners about the impacts of waste generation and improve recycling. a. Implement education and behaviour change programs to increase the capacity of staff and cleaners to reduce waste and paper usage and to improve recycling.	Ongoing	Council moved to 100% recycled and carbon neutral paper from April 2019 and on demand printing. Outsourced mailing processes which also use carbon neutral paper. There is also a preference to use more electronic communications.
4.2.3 Complete a strategic asset and procurement whole of Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) business case. a. Research and develop the business case to incorporate LCA into the strategic asset and procurement financial assessment processes with a view to setting realistic targets.	Complete	Fact sheets on this developed by Eco Buy for buying recycled and life cycle assessments. Sustainability Victoria also has a new recycled products directory.
4.2.4 Improve staff understanding of their procurement responsibilities. a. Implement education and behaviour change programs to increase staff awareness and understanding of the environmental sustainability, corporate social responsibility, ethical consideration and life cycle analysis (LCA) responsibilities of Council’s Procurement Policy.	Ongoing	Internal working group formed including members from Capital Works, City Design, Asset Management and Procurement to discuss how to increase sustainable procurement and educate staff with a focus on minimising GHG emissions and bringing in a circular economy approach in the capital works areas.
	Ongoing	Ongoing review and update of the tender documents to improve best practice social, sustainable and ethical procurement clauses at each review period.
	Ongoing	Trialed the use of recycled content products in capital works (road and footpath projects) under a grant project. All asphalt projects now contains some recycled content.

Priority 4: Waste & Resource Management



4.3 Reduced community consumption of resources and improved recycling is achieved.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
4.3.1 Encourage correct use of bins and avoid contamination of recycling.	Ongoing	The kerbside bin inspection program is ongoing to reinforce good recycling habits. There is additional focus on high litter prone areas.
	Ongoing	Weekly food and green bin collections were introduced in August 2022, and was supported with an extensive engagement program to support residents with the changeover and to minimise contamination. This engagement and education program is led by the Zero Waste Champion.
4.3.2 Educate and support community to implement correct waste disposal and improve resource recovery practices including reducing consumption of resources.	Underway	Litter Prevention Project provides students inspecting bins and providing education materials and face to face feedback to residents is ongoing and been funded by Monash University.
	Ongoing	Waste and recycling signage and internal waste bins have been provided to a number of halls, Council buildings, aquatic centres and libraries. Drop off recycling hubs have been installed at the Civic Centre, Oakleigh Service Centre, Clayton Community Centre and libraries. Also reviewing bin and waste management on sites.
	Ongoing	New purpose built 240L public place recycling and waste bins surrounds have been introduced in reserves and activity areas.
	Ongoing	Waste audit are conducted every 12 months to review contamination.
	Ongoing	The Love Our Street 3150 litter campaign (community led program) is supported through the free disposal of the community litter collected each month, on Clean Up Australia Day and any time during the year.
4.3.3 Advocate for reduced product packaging, improved resource recovery and improved litter management.	Ongoing	Council has advocated to state and federal governments for product stewardship improvements, a Container Deposit Scheme (introduced Nov 2023) and the circular economy policy on behalf of residents.



5.1 A strategic approach to integrated water management is established and implemented which recognises and values the health of waterways, wetlands and catchments, water conservation, water reuse and water sensitive landscapes.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
5.1.1 Utilise a full range of planning scheme and compliance tools to protect waterways, wetlands and catchments and conserve water resources.	Ongoing	All relevant applications are assessed according to Melbourne Water guidelines and tools (such as STORM tool) where suitable. Principles are included in structure plans like the current Glen Waverley and the Major Activity Centre Structure Plan.
	Not started	No formal policy in place at present but may be developed to address the recommendation from the water-saving feasibility study.
	Ongoing	The BESS tool also provides guidance and assessment to developers on managing water on their property.
	Ongoing	Information is only provided in relation to the developer's planning application.
	Ongoing	Engineering recommend that a detention system is required for hard surface area (roof area concrete areas etc.) of apartment buildings when it exceeds two thirds of the total site area to minimise flooding issues within the municipality.

5.2 Best practice integrated water management, water reduction and water reuse principles are included in all Council's corporate and operational functions.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
5.2.1 Embed integrated water cycle management and water sensitive urban design throughout Council's operations and policies.	Ongoing	Recommended actions from the Water Feasibility Study has led to the appointment of a WSUD officer (funded by Melbourne Water) and will investigate the development of a new Integrated Water Management Plan in 2024/25.
	Ongoing	The WSUD officer has worked closely with Planning and Engineering teams to build knowledge on water management and improving WSUD assets. A review on wetland management was completed.
	Ongoing	Stormwater Management Plan has been updated by Strategic Asset Management.



5.2 Best practice integrated water management, water reduction and water reuse principles are included in all Council's corporate and operational functions (continued).

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
5.2.2 Reduce Council's water use supplied from potable water sources and increase water from non-potable water sources.	a. Complete a water saving feasibility study that identifies water saving and non-potable water recommendations for Council's facilities and operations with a view to setting targets.	Ongoing Water Feasibility Study complete and led to the appointment of a WSUD officer to deliver water management programs in line with the study.
	b. Develop and implement a Sustainable Water Use Plan (SWUP) that incorporates the analysis and recommendations from 5.2.2(a).	Ongoing Have a dedicated WSUD officer and will investigate the development of a new Integrated Water Management Plan.
5.2.3 Maintain waterway quality and health.	a. Implement water quality actions from the Integrated Water Management Plan.	Ongoing Current IWMP has expired. Water Saving Feasibility Study has led to review and maintenance of WSUD treatments.
	b. Investigate and, where relevant, implement other local and state government approaches to reducing debris and litter entering waterways and wetlands via stormwater system.	Ongoing Partnership with the other councils in the Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration will focus on litter reduction. Keeping Kingsway Clean trader education program completed to reduce stormwater pollution.
5.2.4 Build staff understanding of integrated water cycle management, water sensitive urban design and water conservation principles.	a. Implement staff education and behaviour change programs that improve understanding of integrated water cycle management, water sensitive urban design and water conservation principles.	Ongoing Water Sensitive Cities benchmarking completed. The project was a collaboration between City Design and Sustainability teams and involved representatives from across Council.
	b. Ensure Council keeps abreast of and communicates to staff current integrated water cycle management science, technology, research and monitoring and delivery of best practice outcomes.	Ongoing Authentic collaboration between Engineering, Horticultural, City Design and Sustainability keep up to date with integrated water management networks, including with neighbouring councils and water authorities.

5.3 Increased community understanding of and participation in waterway health, water conservation and water reduction is achieved.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
5.3.1 Encourage integrated and efficient water usage and improved waterway quality and health.	a. Participate in and advocate for initiatives and programs that assist local government, residents and businesses to conserve water, provide alternative water sources and building community and environmental resilience.	Underway Sustainability collaborates with Horticulture and Engineering to improve storm water management at key reserves. Engaged with water authorities on water efficiency and also facilitating more use of recycled water.
	b. Continue to support local water conservation and waterway initiatives, community groups and activities including Waterwatch.	Ongoing Two key Friends groups provide reporting to Melbourne Water on water quality along Dampers Creek and Scotchmans Creek.
5.3.2 Raise local awareness, knowledge and appreciation of water quality and stream condition.	a. Implement in partnership, community education and behaviour change programs that improve understanding of integrated water cycle management, water sensitive urban design and water conservation principles relating to households and businesses through specific educational programs and activities.	Progressing Presentations have been provided to Friends groups, students and government organisations (SRLA).

Priority 6: Partnerships & Leadership



6.1 Sustainability is integrated into Council decision-making processes.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
6.1.1 Establish a whole of organisation approach to environmental sustainable leadership.	a. Establish an internal cross-directorate Sustainability Advisory Group to guide the implementation of this strategy and actions.	Re-considered It was determined more value to work in smaller project driven teams on key issues rather than one overarching program.
	b. Continue to coordinate Monash's community Environmental Advisory Committee.	Ongoing Fourteen community representatives and one councilor provide guidance on sustainability programs over 10 meetings per year.
	c. Continue to implement and build capacity of Council's internal Green Team.	Ongoing Educational competition has been completed to build internal knowledge such as reusable cup program and zero waste event kits.
	d. Integrate environmental criteria, leadership and partnership considerations into Council's policies and priorities including Community Plan, Corporate Plan, departmental plans, staff appraisal processes and individual work plans at all levels.	Ongoing Environmental criteria have been provided for contract management, events leasing and licensing and procurement schedules and documents. Input has also been provided for e-learning procurement. There is also a key environmental risk in the risk profile register.
	e. Demonstrate leadership and commitment to sustainability by ensuring Council reports and decisions consider environmental impacts.	Ongoing Regular Council papers have been presented to discuss and support environmental issues. A sustainability consideration has been recommended but not yet adopted.

6.2 Develop and strengthen partnerships that achieve Council's sustainability objectives.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
6.2.1 Establish successful sustainability partnerships.	a. Implement partnership and leadership outcomes from the built environment, urban ecology, climate change, waste and resource management and integrated water management priority areas.	Ongoing Our team works across the organisation to support delivery and integration of sustainability into Council activities and encourages other Council staff to attend workshops to help embed sustainability in their work. (e.g. Procurement, Planning, Engineering and Horticulture).
	b. Strengthen partnerships that lead to sustainability networking, capacity building, innovation, research and monitoring outcomes and opportunities.	Ongoing The team is active members of EAGA, Living Links, Gardiner Creek Regional Collaboration, EASL, food waste working groups, and the Greenhouse Alliances.
	c. Provide staff with ongoing support, capacity building and information to assist them to deliver sustainability outcomes.	Ongoing Staff attend regular conferences, professional workshops, such as Common Cause, and training to build their knowledge and capabilities in this field.
	d. Develop and strengthen relationships with local universities, TAFEs, innovation and research organisations to deliver evidence-based sustainability outcomes and research across the priority areas.	Ongoing Partnership developed with Monash University to take on student interns – six to 10 per annum which support program delivery. Collaborated with Monash University on the Zero Net Precinct Project.



7.1 Environmental education and behaviour change programs relating to all priority areas are developed, delivered, monitored, and evaluated.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
7.1.1 Design and deliver sustainability education and behaviour change programs and services that are culturally inclusive and cater for different demographics.	a. Develop and implement an Environmental Education Plan.	Ongoing Annual workshop calendars prepared each year with key themes for workshops and major Council festivals including Clayton Festival and Family Fun Day.
	b. Investigate best practice sustainability and environmental educational approaches being delivered by other organisations.	Ongoing Regular attendance at behaviour change workshops and state government and Council networking (LGPro) to share and build knowledge.
	c. Implement the education and engagement objectives from the built environment, urban ecology, climate change, waste and resource management and integrated water management priority areas.	Underway This has been integrated into workshop program for community and website resources. Educational activity booklets, guidelines and collateral.

7.2 Sustainability outcomes and targets are monitored, evaluated and reported using best practice sustainability indicators and accounting processes.

Action	Status	Implementation Comments
7.2.1 Monitor, evaluate and report on the goals and actions within this strategy.	a. Develop and implement sustainability indicators, targets and processes for the purpose of monitoring and reporting on Council's progress in delivering the built environment, urban ecology, climate change, waste and resource management and integrated water management priority areas.	Ongoing Annual reports are prepared each year. Monthly meetings are held with team to track program over the year. Priorities are tracked in annual action plans on a monthly basis and results are reported in CEO Quarterly Report, in Pulse and in the Council e-Bulletin. Progress is also reported at the EAC meetings 10 times a year.

Monash Civic Centre

 293 Springvale Road,
Glen Waverley
8.30am-5pm

Oakleigh Service Centre

 3 Atherton Road, Oakleigh
8.30am-5pm

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(for people with hearing or speech impairments)

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