



CITY OF
MONASH

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

2016-2026 Annual Report
2017/18



Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026 (ESS) explores the current and emerging sustainability issues facing the City of Monash and its residents. It sets Council's environmental goals for the future and proposes actions that will help to reach these goals.

The aim of this Strategy is to assist the City of Monash achieve the following:

- Planning and implementing a sustainable future
- Protecting and enhancing our natural environment
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Reducing waste, litter, resource consumption and energy use
- Integrating and saving water
- Influencing behaviour
- Demonstrating leadership and environmental innovation.

The strategy addresses seven main priorities that promote the development of a sustainable and resilient community and to reduce Council's impact on the environment. This report highlights achievements across the priority areas during 2017/18.

Strategic Alignment

- Council Plan 2017-2021
 - A Liveable and Sustainable City
 - Inviting Open and Urban Spaces
 - An Inclusive Community
 - Responsive and Efficient Services

Our Priority Areas

The Environmental Sustainable Strategy 2016-2026 focuses on seven broad strategic priorities. These reflect the key areas that Council and the community have identified as issues within the city.

Priority 1 - Built Environment

Priority 2 - Urban Ecology

Priority 3 - Climate Change

Priority 4 - Waste and Resource Management

Priority 5 - Integrated Water Management

Priority 6 - Partnerships and Leadership

Priority 7 - Education, Engagement and Reporting

1 Built Environment

Context

The way that a city, its suburbs, its buildings and transport are designed, built and managed can have a large impact on long-term environmental sustainability, how its inhabitants live, work, commute, participate in recreational activities and their overall quality of life.

Objectives

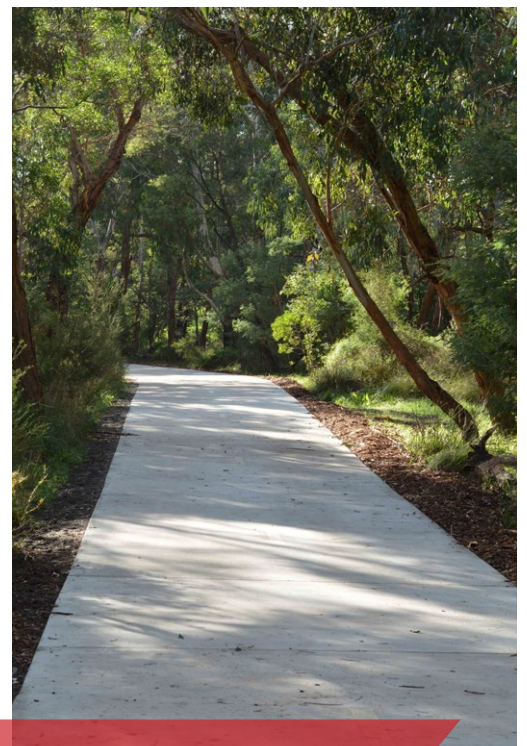
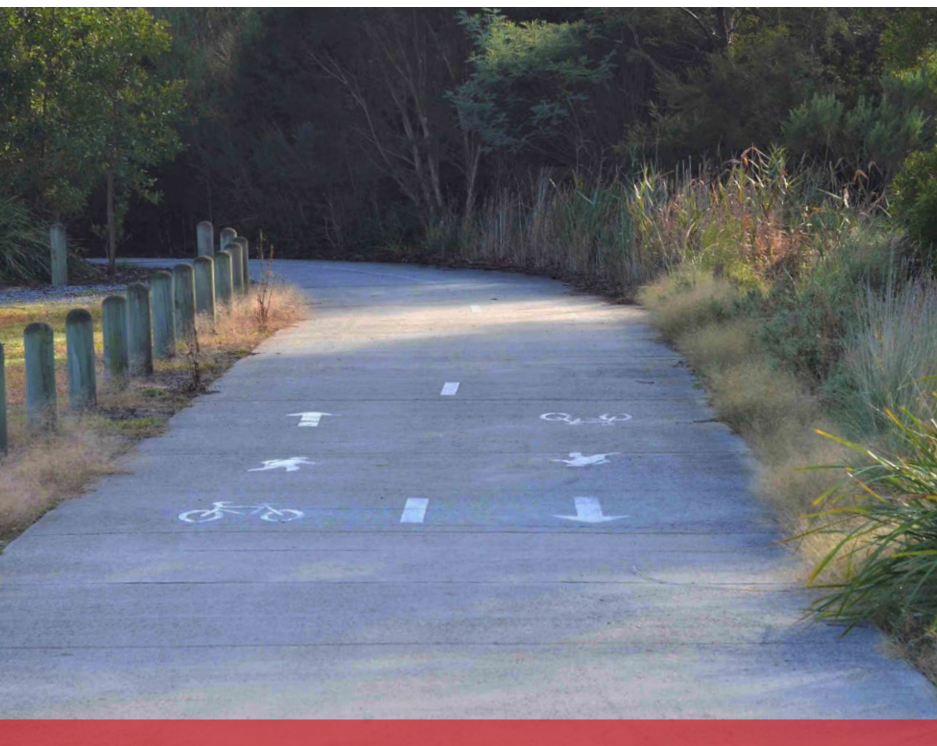
1. The garden city character of Monash is retained and improved.
2. Development is designed along Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles.
3. Urban environments are designed and planned to promote and encourage integrated and active transport.

Key achievements

Investment in cycling and walking paths

Significant investment was made into walking and cycling paths with the Victorian Government's \$100 million Safer Cyclists and Pedestrians Fund. Detailed design for these works was undertaken in 2017/18 with construction to occur in future years. The works include:

- On-road bicycle provisions between the Waverley Rail Trail and Scotchmans Creek Trail including traffic control devices along the following local streets:
 - Dorgan Street
 - Morshead Avenue
 - Vasey Avenue
 - Tarroona Avenue
 - Lawrence Road.
- Off-road cycle provisions along Forster Road and Gardiner Road between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Monash University.



- Bicycle provisions between Monash University and Clayton Railway Station including traffic control devices along the following local streets:
 - Cobain Street
 - Princes Highway service road
 - Browns Road
 - Lantana Street
 - Kanooka Grove.
- Traffic control devices and changes to priority along Scotchmans Creek Trail at the following local street crossings:
 - Drummond Street
 - Park Road
 - Estelle Street
 - Stanley Avenue
 - Anthony Drive
 - Crosby Drive.

As part of the above works, and additional works along Gardiners Creek Trail, the following intersections will be upgraded to signalised crossings:

- Highbury Road at the Melbourne Water Pipe Track
- High Street Road at the Melbourne Water Pipe Track
- Princess Highway and Cobain Street
- Carinish Road west of Kanooka Grove
- Atkinsons Street at the Scotchmans Creek Trail
- Waverley Road and Scotchmans Creek Trail
- Forster Road at Scotchmans Creek Trail
- High Street Road at Gardiners Creek Trail.

Upgrades to improve pedestrian safety at numerous locations within the Oakleigh Activity Centre were also designed with construction to occur in the near future.

Bicycle education trailer

Constructed in 2017/18, the bicycle education trailer is hired out to schools to run bicycle education programs, a way to increase awareness in children of active and sustainable transport options.

Council also participated in the ‘Bike It’ challenge in collaboration with Casey and Knox Councils, which saw local schools compete against each other in an aim to improve bicycle skills and safety for Primary School Students. Outcomes from the ‘Bike It’ day include:

- Improved bicycle handling skills and awareness of road rules around bikes which greatly increases safety for students riding around roads
- Students had their bikes checked for issues and learned about the importance of checking their breaks which improved safety for students riding bikes
- Increased desire for students to use a sustainable mode of transport to travel to and from school.

Sustainable building tour

To celebrate Sustainable House Day in September, 50 community members visited the Eastern Innovation Business Centre (EIBC) to see its many sustainable design features. Built in 2015, the EIBC was designed with environmentally sustainable design principles at the forefront, including a 60kW solar PV system, deciduous green facades, a grey water treatment system including raingardens, use of recycled content materials and end-of-trip bicycle facilities.

The features at EIBC allowed attendees to gain a better understanding of sustainable design and provide inspiration for making future renovations or builds more sustainable.



Urban Ecology

Context

Protecting biodiversity is vital to life on earth. It helps sustain the earth's life support systems (ecosystem services) that provide us with clean air and water, fertile soils and food. Biodiversity provides an important source of scientific information and gives us natural places to explore and enjoy, which may be of cultural and spiritual significance.

Objectives

1. A strategic approach to landscape planning is established which recognises biodiversity, habitat connectivity and builds ecosystem resilience.
2. Long-term biodiversity outcomes are achieved on Council owned and managed conservation reserves.
3. Increased community understanding of and participation in urban ecology and local biodiversity stewardship is achieved.
4. Roles, responsibilities and involvement relating to community food gardens are defined and implemented.

Key achievements

Tree planting

1,500 street trees were replaced well above the target of 1,000. A combined total of 70,828 trees, shrubs and groundcovers have been planted also above the target of 70,000.

Corridor of Green funding

Council received \$17,000 from Melbourne Water to help reduce weeds and improve vegetation in parts of Napier Reserve and Shepherds Bush. The latter is next to the golf course and will help to expand the biodiversity corridors in this area. Shepherd bush is known to be home to the Powerful Owl.

Bush kinder

In April 2018, Monash in partnership with Boroondara Council hosted a bush kinder workshop with over 200 kindergarten and preschool teachers. The professional development event offered an introduction to nature play and bush kinder and its many benefits to children, ranging from physical health and wellbeing to social skills and environmental knowledge.



Living Links funding and events

Monash received funding of \$90,000 over 3 years, provided by Living links as part of the Our Corridors Our Community grant. The aim of the funding is to help improve the quality of bushland and connections for the community. This includes revegetation, weed management and community engagement focused on Mulgrave, Napier and Drummies Bridge Reserves.

Skink Link Project

In April, 68 passionate community members including children came to hear about the Southern Water Skinks in Scotchmans Creek and how they can be involved in creating habitat for wildlife. This event was the first in what is planned to be the Skink Link Project, a habitat rehabilitation program along Scotchmans Creek to encourage more Southern Water Skinks and other wildlife to the habitat corridor.

Schools Gardens for Wildlife program

Monash's Gardens for Wildlife program encourages residents to garden using native plants to create habitat for local wildlife. The first steps to extending the program to schools was undertaken with a pilot in two schools to create habitat patches on school grounds. The success of the pilot will support the expansion of biodiversity and planting activities in schools across Monash.

Bird watching

To celebrate National Bird Week and the Aussie Backyard Bird Count, 25 residents attended a walk through Mount Waverley's Valley Reserve to explore the diversity of birdlife found in Monash. Attendees learned tips for identifying various species and their calls, and more about indigenous habitat and biodiversity.



Draft Biodiversity strategy

Work commenced to develop a 10 year plan to guide Council's biodiversity management directions. Once complete, the plan will provide a long term approach to protect and maintain our rich natural environment and enhance our local bushlands, supported by an implementation plan which will be reviewed every three years. Biodiversity assessments of bushland reserves were undertaken and through working closely with the Environmental Advisory Committee the strategy will be ready for community consultation in 2018/19. Development of the strategy has built strong links with the Horticulture team and led to new initiatives such as Bush Kinder and the Skink Link project. The strategy is expected to be completed in late 2018.

New Domestic Animal Management Plan

The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021 was adopted in October. One measure of the plan is a night-time cat curfew which will be implemented in 2020, giving residents time to prepare for these changes. Council will look to educate the community to help better understand the benefits of keeping cats in at night which includes helping precious native wildlife flourish.

Vegetable gardening and composting workshops

Vegetable gardening and composting workshops were held to help equip residents with the skills to produce their own locally grown food and compost any unavoidable waste. Support was also provided to a number of preschools and kindergartens to establish worm farms or composting systems.



Climate Change

Context

In Victoria, we are becoming increasingly aware of our community's vulnerability to climate change. Melbourne's east is expected to experience hotter and drier conditions with more frequent extreme weather events. These events not only impact our natural and built environments they have an impact on health and resilience of individuals and communities.

Objectives

1. Best practice climate change thinking is integrated into Council's corporate and operational functions.
2. A strategic approach to reducing Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions is established.
3. Increased community preparedness for the likely impacts of climate change.

Key achievements

Solar Savers

In November 2017, Council supported Monash's involvement in the Solar Savers program, which helps low income home owners including pensioners to access low interest loans to install solar on their home. This program is a multi-council state wide initiative and will be implemented in early 2019.

Environmental Upgrade Finance

Council now offers access to an Environmental Upgrade Finance program to assist Monash businesses to save money and improve their economic and environmental performance.

Environmental Upgrade Finance (EUF) is a type of long-term low interest loan that helps commercial building or property owners fund upgrades to improve their buildings environmental performance. With EUF you can finance water and energy efficiency projects, and install renewable energy systems such as solar.



Positive Charge workshops

Over 200 residents attended two information sessions about solar panels and energy efficiency in the home, with the chance to speak face to face with an energy expert from Positive Charge.

The program will offer recommendations on energy efficiency solutions and renewable energy technologies like solar panels and battery storage options, along with referrals to vetted suppliers and products.

The events kicked off a campaign to provide an opportunity for households to purchase solar power systems through a carefully selected supplier at a discounted cost.

Adoption of responsible investment principles

In June, Council adopted responsible investment principles for the organisation. As significant customers of financial institutions, Monash Council has the potential to influence our level of investment in fossil fuels and responsible funding practices.

An adopted amendment to Council's investment policy will allow for long-term investments in financial institutions receiving a 'BBB' credit rating or above. Council will be advocating to financial institutions with fossil-free investments to improve their credit rating, financial rate of return and interest rates to increase the opportunities our organisation has to more responsibly invest. Further advocacy will be for the diversification of investment portfolios with a greater emphasis on fossil-free and responsible investments.

Utility tracking

In order to undertake a feasibility study to determine an achievable greenhouse gas reduction target for Council operations, Council has adopted a new utility tracking system to monitor and evaluate energy data. The new system will help to better quantify Council's greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, fleet and operations. The system will also allow the evaluation of water and waste data. Work will commence in 2018/19 to develop an emissions reduction target.



Waste and Resource Management

Context

Waste management has rapidly evolved from a singular focus upon protection of public health into a highly mechanised and progressive industry committed to waste minimisation and resource management. Community expectations for environmental sustainability and the efficient use of resources have driven and supported this transformation.

Objectives

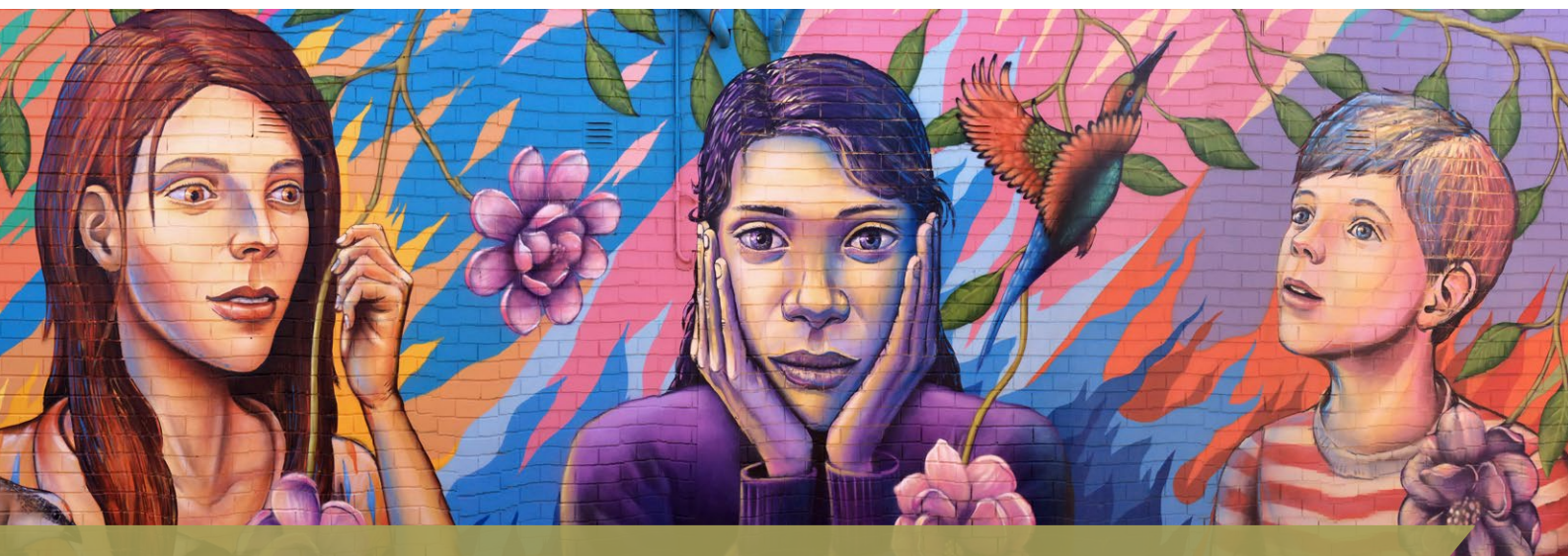
1. Best practice waste and recycling collection and litter reduction services are delivered in a strategic municipal-wide approach.
2. A strategic approach to reducing Council's corporate waste and environmental impacts is established which recognises the waste hierarchy, life cycle analysis and has sustainable procurement integrity.
3. Reduced community consumption of resources and improved recycling is achieved.

Key achievements

Litter Action Plan 2018-2022

The Litter Action Plan 2018-22 (the Plan) provides the strategic directions and specific actions Council will undertake to reduce illegal dumping and litter for the next four years. The Plan builds on and continues the actions of Council's 2009 Litter Prevention Strategy.

The plan has 26 actions based on three key and interdependent elements of education, infrastructure and enforcement, as per the Best Practice Litter Prevention model.



Murals

Council was awarded \$25,000 from the Department of Justice Graffiti Prevention Grant program to complete a mural project in the Village Walk Laneway, Glen Waverley.

Consultation with the community and local primary and secondary schools on the design of the mural was undertaken, with workshops held with students from Glen Waverley Secondary College as part of their ACE Program. This program is an Active Community Engagement Program to help students learn skills while engaging with their local community and in turn connecting with their local responsibilities. Council also liaised with traders in the Glen Waverley precinct the Glen Waverley Monash Pride Crew to develop the artist's brief for the Village Walk Laneway.

Artist Scottie Neoh (aka Bonsai) was engaged to complete murals along the west rear walls of the Village Walk laneway. This is Council's sixth graffiti prevention mural grant, creating positive change in the perception of safety at graffiti hotspots.

Recycling crisis

At the beginning of 2018, China introduced new trade measures that limited the import of recyclable materials with a contamination rate greater than 0.5 per cent. This had a significant impact on global recycling markets and specifically Victoria's recycling industry, where significant quantities are exported to China for processing.

The policy most directly impacted kerbside recycling services, as recyclables from households are usually on-sold in a mixed form, with many recycling processors in Australia increasing pricing for accepting such recycling.

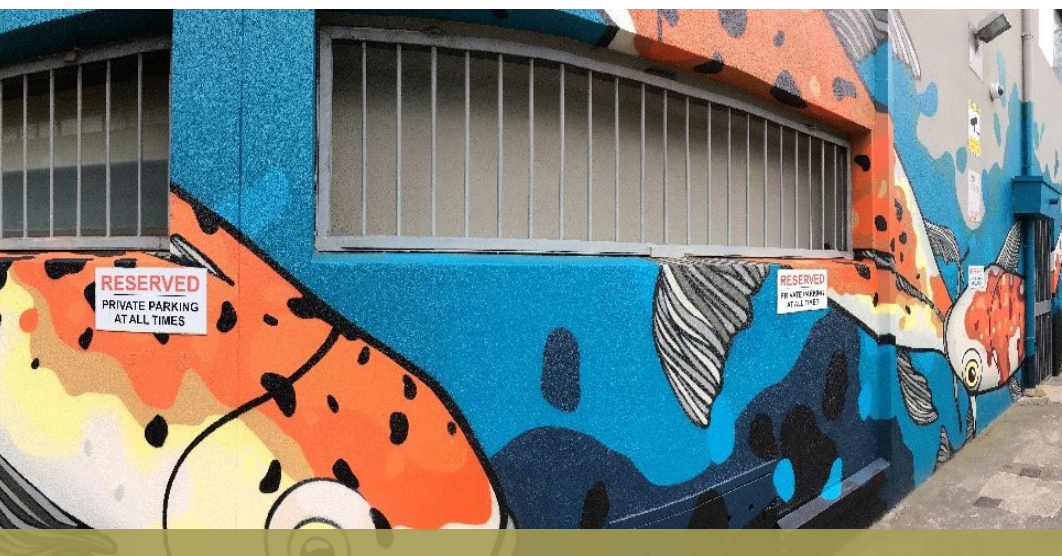
The impact of altered contractual arrangements with Visy from April 2018 resulted in a charge for recyclables replacing the original rebate. However, despite significant upheaval in the recycling industry, the City of Monash has certainty of service for a further two years.

Residents are reminded that one of the most important ways to keep resources out of landfill is to ensure they continue recycling as normal and to buy products with recycled content to help close the recycling loop.

Waste Management Strategy

The new Waste Management Strategy 2017-2027 was adopted with the objective of preparing for the future of the waste industry and delivering a sustainable and effective service to the community. Council identified five goals that will underpin Council's commitment to waste management and the community. They are:

- To increase waste diversion from landfill
- To minimise waste generation
- Leading the way
- Serving our customers
- Pride in our city.



In developing this strategy, there was significant consultation sought with the community and stakeholders to identify areas of importance, improvements and feedback and actions to include in the Strategy. Some of the key actions identified are:

- Introduce a food organics recovery scheme
- Consider implementing a separate Waste Charge in the future should costs rise at an unsustainable level
- Introduce a user pays at-call hard waste collection
- Support innovation and new technology in the waste industry and collection methods
- Introduce a range of education programs to improve resource recovery and waste minimisation within the community.

Commitment to reducing single use plastics in council

Council passed a motion in 2016/17 to eliminate the use of single use plastic including plastic bags and other items such as cups and containers, reducing the use of these across Council business and events.

To achieve this objective, in 2017/18 a Council-wide survey was conducted with different departments to identify single use plastic consumption to help work towards finding alternative options. Other actions include integrating this commitment into the Procurement Policy, stallholder guidelines, leasing agreements and in the completion of a waste audit.

Monash University Hard Waste Collection program

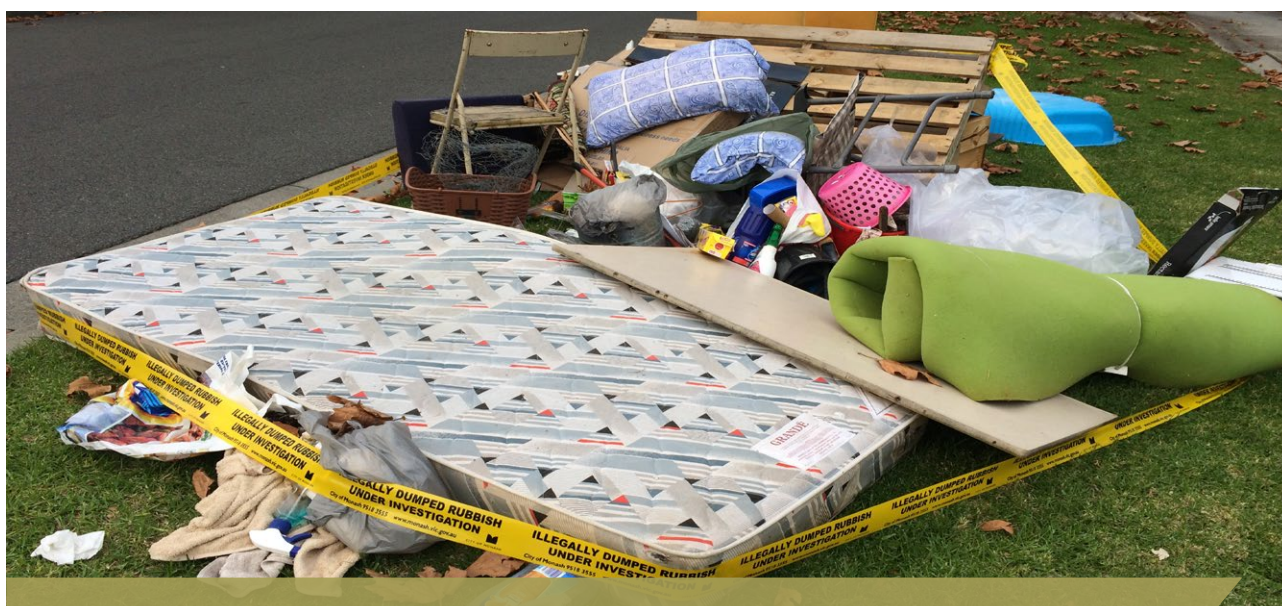
Through a Sustainability Victoria Litter Innovation Fund project, Monash facilitated hard waste collections for international students moving out of their rental accommodation. With 75 collections in November and December and 71 in June over three week periods, the program was welcomed by students and Monash University staff.

Aimed at students who finished up their courses at the end of semester, The Monash International Students Group partnered with Monash Council to promote the program, which was also supported by the Monash off campus accommodation and international services units of the university.

Following the success of this program, Council is discussing with Monash University on how we can partner together to reduce the incidents of dumped rubbish, particularly around the Clayton area. We will also collaborate with students on solutions guided by students, due to the success of the student led education campaign for this project.

Recycling station

To make it easier for residents to recycle more household items such as batteries, mobile phones, light globes, x-rays, CDs and DVDs, a new recycling station was installed at the Civic Centre in Glen Waverley. All the material collected will be responsibly recycled by Council.



Sustainable procurement

Given Council's spend on goods and services, there is opportunity to choose more sustainable purchasing alternatives. In 2017/18, Council's spend on environmentally preferred or socially responsible goods and services was approximately 4 per cent.

A recent purchasing change by Council includes moving to A4 copy paper which is 100 per cent recycled content, doubling the amount of recycled content in paper previously used in house by Council. In addition to being recycled, the paper is also Australian-made and Carbon Neutral.

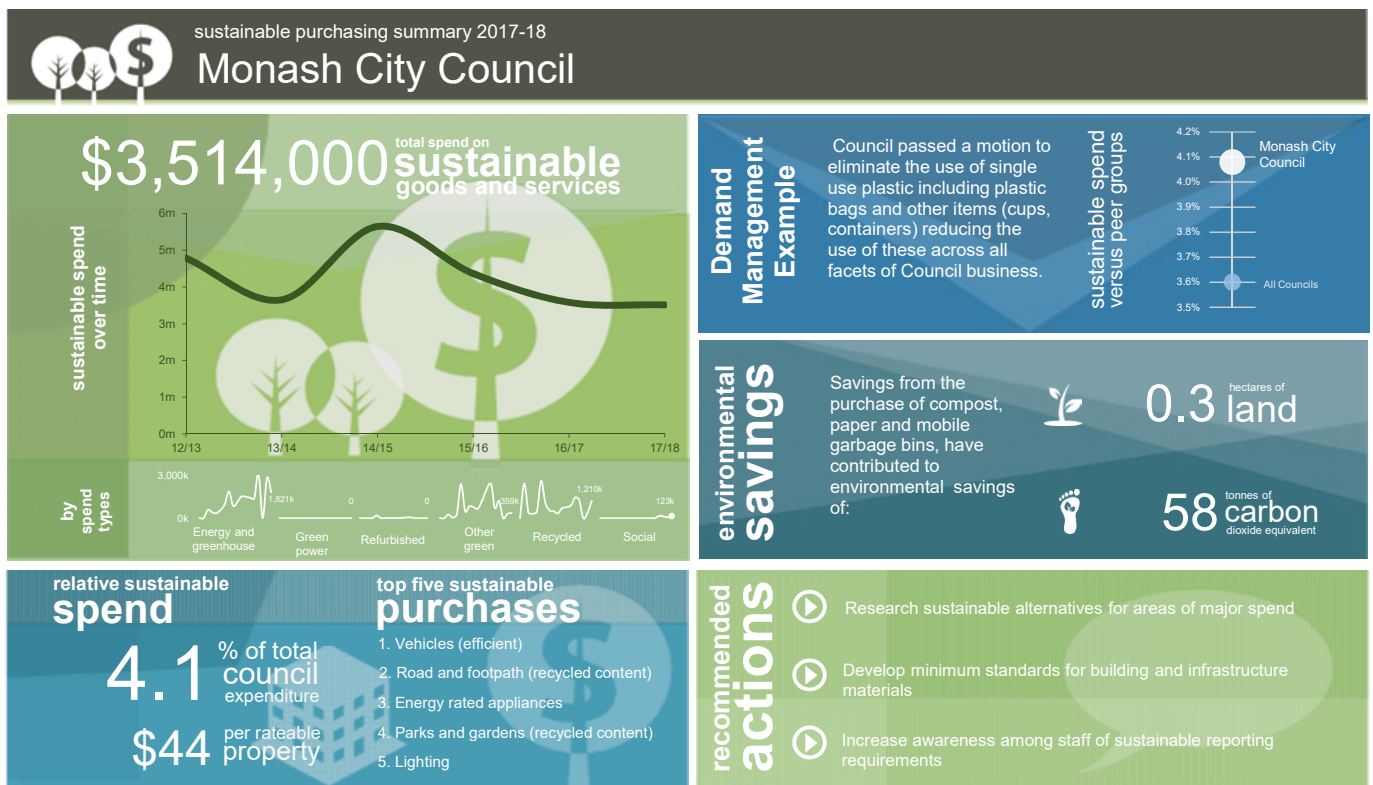
Monash also contributed to a submission by the Municipal Association of Victoria to the Victorian Government review of the Product Stewardship Act 2011 to help improve resource recovery and increase responsibility for the environmental impacts of products.

Waste audit of Council offices

An office bin audit was conducted to obtain data and provide a snapshot of disposal behaviours of staff at six Council buildings. The waste audit is intended to assist Council in:

- Understanding and tracking progress of waste practices over time
- Improving the diversion of recycling and possibly organic material from landfill
- Reducing overall disposal of material to landfill
- The development of recommendations and strategies to improve recycling and reduce waste.

Based on results across all sites, there was approximately an overall resource loss rate of 20 per cent (materials in the landfill stream which could be recycled). Additionally, 38 per cent of the landfill stream was composed of food waste. These results will help inform future waste reduction initiatives including education and awareness for increasing resource recovery in Council buildings.



Integrated Water Management

Context

Water is an essential resource for sustaining life. It is a renewable resource but its availability and quality is highly dependent on environmental influences, land use, human activities and consumption.

Objectives

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.
2. Best practice integrated water management, water reduction and water reuse principles are included in all Council corporate and operational functions.
3. Increased community understanding of and participation in waterway health, water conservation and water reduction is achieved.

Key achievements

Integrated Water Management Forums

To deliver outcomes from the state government's water plan, Water for Victoria (2016), Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forums are being held across Victoria. The forums provide an opportunity for water corporations, catchment management authorities (CMAs) and local government to share and develop opportunities for collaboration on projects that deliver shared benefits. In Metropolitan Melbourne the forums are arranged according to the five major catchments.

In preparation for involvement in the IWM Forum process, Council worked with consultants to identify opportunities to take to the IWM Forum. Priority opportunities identified include:

- Gardiners Creek naturalisation
- Mile Creek East flood mitigation
- Mile Creek naturalisation
- 'Police Academy' roof water harvesting
- De-Silting council wetlands – new approaches.

This preparation will help Council communicate potential projects which will contribute to Council's water objectives to the Forum.



Waterway and wetland management

Council is responsible for the management of a number of wetlands and riparian environments. Works and activities in 2017/18 included:

- Repair of Gardiners Reserve wetlands near Chandler Grove through the Capital Works program
- Slashing at Mulgrave Reserve wetlands with the aim of increasing native species diversity and cover, and reducing weed cover. This proved to be a great success and will be repeated in the future
- Ongoing bacterial dosing ongoing at Bogong Reserve wetlands to break down the fatty component of stormwater, and improve water quality and odour
- Ongoing weed control of wetland areas
- Discussions with Melbourne Water regarding the formation of a Gardiners Creek Friends Group and naturalising of the creek.

Additionally, through Melbourne Water's Watchwatch program, community volunteers help measure water quality of local waterway to give us a better understanding of our waterways' long-term health.

In 2017/18, Monash community members made over 565 observations of water quality parameters such as pH, turbidity and dissolved oxygen during 90 visits at seven sites within Monash.

To view the data collected, visit the [Waterwatch Victoria Data Portal](#). For information about improvements made to waterway health, see the [Melbourne Water Local Waterway Update](#).



Partnerships and Leadership

Context

Integrating sustainability across the organisation and fully utilising the resources available requires strong and consistent commitment from all staff. Leadership, cross-department collaboration and ongoing support is required to ensure staff have the awareness, information, capacity and confidence to deliver appropriate environmental outcomes through their daily work functions.

Objectives

1. Sustainability is integrated into Council decision-making processes.
2. Develop and strengthen partnerships that achieve Council's sustainability objectives.

Key achievements

Resilient Melbourne urban forest project

The 100 Resilient Cities network helps cities around the world prepare to meet the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. The Resilient Melbourne project is auspiced by the City of Melbourne in collaboration with the councils that make up Greater Melbourne, and many associated partners.

One of Resilient Melbourne's three flagship actions is a Metropolitan Urban Forest Strategy. The strategy will enable those involved to better understand how their efforts can best contribute to improving ecosystem health and services such as urban cooling and flood mitigation. It will achieve this by:

- Highlighting how and where existing initiatives can be expanded
- Enabling the sharing of resources and knowledge by linking together currently disparate efforts
- Providing councils better information about their existing tree canopy cover, making resources available for public and private entities

- Providing opportunities for utility providers and infrastructure owners to address implementation barriers and help make Melbourne greener and cooler.

Preliminary work including stakeholder workshops was undertaken to inform the development of a draft strategy.

Microgrid project

Monash University is working towards eliminating their dependence on coal-fired energy sources over the next 12 years by building an on-site microgrid at the Clayton campus.

The aim is to create a microgrid which will be versatile enough to receive and store energy from various renewable energy sources, with the ability to control when and how to use energy. The microgrid will also help stabilise the wider Melbourne grid which will benefit the broader community, making it more resilient especially during extreme weather events.

Council supported the project by seeking feedback from the community on interest in the microgrid and climate change, hosted students working on the project, and provided feedback to the research.

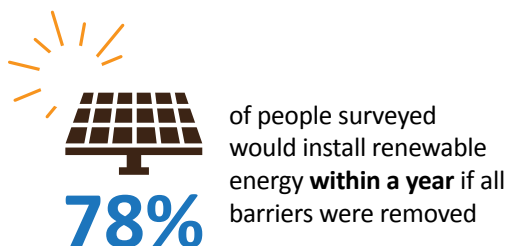
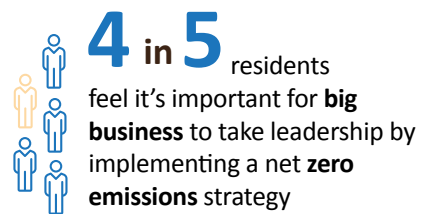
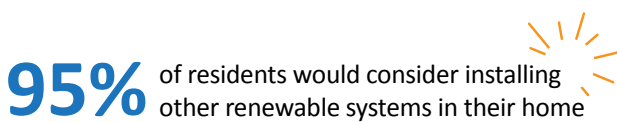
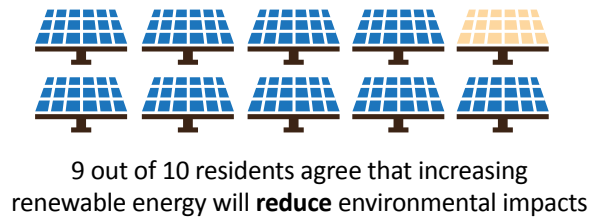
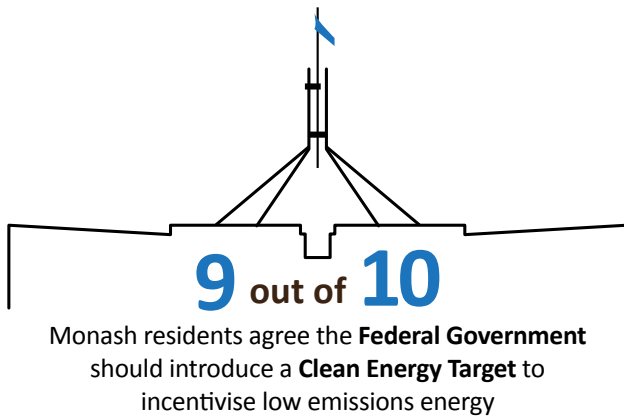
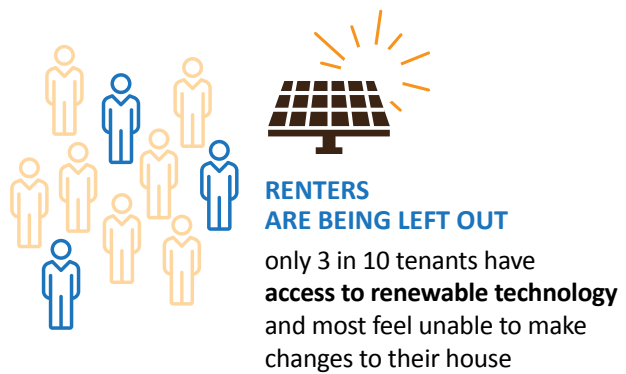
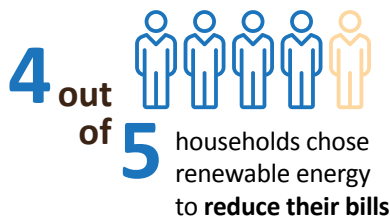
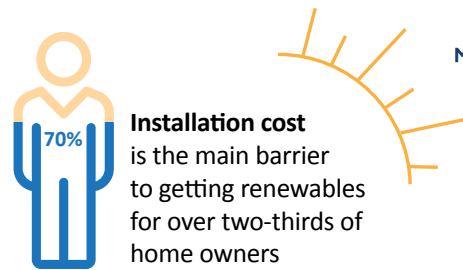
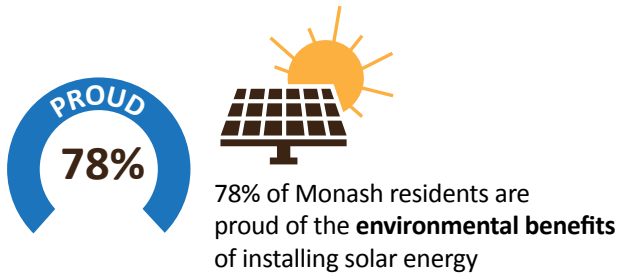
Climate change communication research

Monash University, in collaboration with Monash conducted a survey of 457 residents within the City of Monash primarily to understand the motivations and the barriers for households to install renewable energy in the home. Renewable energy technology includes rooftop solar, battery storage and solar hot water systems.

The survey found that top five reasons for choosing renewable energy technologies in the home were reducing bills, environmental reasons, sustainability reasons, reducing household carbon emissions and reducing air pollution.

The research also explored the most effective messaging approaches and communication channels for engaging the community on the topic of renewable energy. Below are some statistics about the Monash community and energy.

Climate Change



Installation cost is the **main reason** homeowners have **not** installed renewable technology

Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards 2018

Monash Council was a finalist for multiple categories in Keep Victoria Beautiful's Sustainable Cities Awards 2018. The Sustainable Cities Awards recognise and celebrate positive actions taken by communities in urban areas to protect and enhance their local environments.

A range of Council projects and programs were recognised in the following award categories:

- Community Government Partnership
- Cultural Heritage Community
- Environmental Sustainability
- Litter Prevention.

Monash was announced as winners of the Environmental Sustainability Award for the Eastern Innovation Business Centre Water Filtration project and the Cultural Heritage Award for Council's extensive events and engagement celebrating cultural diversity.

Council was also highly commended for the Community Government Partnership Award for the Valley Reserve Ted Mason Education Hub project, and a finalist for the title of Sustainable Council of the Year.

Environmental Advisory Committee

The Environment Advisory Committee advises Council on environmental and sustainability issues to help improve the Monash environment. This is achieved by providing input on policies and strategies, advising on environmental projects and advocating for the benefit of the Monash environment.

Community members sit on the reference group for two year terms, with the most recent cohort providing value contribution until the end of 2017/18. The Environmental Advisory Committee actions over the past two years have included input and feedback into the:

- Implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026
- Domestic Animal Management Strategy, including the introduction of a cat curfew from 2020
- Street Tree Strategy
- Implementation of the ESD local planning policy
- Open Space Strategy and Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy
- Preparation for the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Feasibility Study
- Urban Biodiversity Strategy
- Waste Management Strategy
- Development of the council paper for the introduction of a Fossil Fuel Divestment.

Thirteen members have been approved to participate on the Environmental Advisory Committee 2018-2020.



Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) is a formal collaboration of eight Councils in Melbourne's east including Monash, working together on regional programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate regional adaptation. The Alliance implements joint initiatives that provide economies of scale and enable projects typically beyond the reach of individual Councils. EAGA's project work is complemented by advocacy, capacity building and regional partnerships.

Some benefits of this partnership and highlights from 2017/18 include:

- For every dollar contributed in membership fees, approximately \$2.41 is returned to EAGA councils through project-based savings
- The joint Energy Performance Contract program has expanded from four to six councils. A number of major energy conservation measures have been implemented that are expected to deliver approximately \$200,00 per year in savings and 1,500 tonnes of abatement for each council
- EAGA has continued its leadership of Solar Savers, rolling out the program across 25 councils, with interim evaluation data demonstrating a net benefit of \$292/year per household
- EAGA has collaborated with the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances to initiate a sector-wide renewable energy Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) project
- Eleven formal advocacy submissions were developed over the course of the year covering key federal and state issues including energy market reform and climate change policy.

Sustainable Leadership award

The Sir John Monash Awards recognise the Monash community's achievements to improve the lives of others and celebrate the outstanding work of volunteers in Monash. Winner of the Sustainability Leadership award was Venkata Kalva, teacher and Sustainability Coordinator at Brentwood Secondary College. Some of the achievements for the college under Venkata's leadership include:

- Installation of a large 30 kilowatt solar system for the college as part of the Visy Sustainability Grants and co-funded by the school
- Coordination of the Clean Up Australia Day school site
- Implementation of a vegetable garden and composting systems
- The school becoming a finalist in the Secondary School of the Year 2017 ResourceSmart Schools Awards for its focus on improving waste practices and reducing waste by improving facilities for waste management and waste education.

Venkata is always actively seeking new ideas to improve the sustainability on campus with the support of the students and school community.



Education, Engagement and Reporting

Context

Many opportunities exist for everyone in the community to change daily behaviours that will reduce their lifestyle impacts. The City of Monash supports such behaviour change through ongoing targeted environmental education and initiatives.

Objectives

1. Environmental education and behaviour change programs relating to all priority areas are developed, delivered, monitored and evaluated.
2. Sustainability outcomes and targets are monitored, evaluated and reported using best practice sustainability indicators and accounting processes.

Key achievements

Community workshops and festivals

The Sustainable Monash team held a series of community events to engage and educate residents on sustainability topics such as solar power and battery storage, gardening with native plants and food waste reduction. With a total of 24 workshops, Council had 1,300 interactions with the community, as well as engagement during Clayton and Chinese New Year festivals and Ashwood Family Fun Day.

Monash Council developed an education campaign called 'Scrap Food Waste in Monash' to raise awareness about avoidable household food waste. The campaign included a series of workshops on cooking with leftovers, fruit and vegetable preserving and composting. Residents also had the opportunity to view a food waste documentary and enter a short story competition. The campaign was supported by a Love Food Hate Waste Local Activity Grant from Sustainability Victoria.



Schools education

Council delivered 30 education sessions at local schools on a range of sustainability topics such as biodiversity and recycling. The sessions results in engagement with nearly 1,000 students and teachers.

Sustainability Hub business case

The development of a Sustainability Hub for Monash is a councillor initiative to provide demonstrations and information to the community on how they can be more sustainable in their home and help to reduce their utility bills. It has been proposed that the Sustainability Hub be located at the Wellington Reserve Community Centre to help activate the Mulgrave residential community which may include small business.

Vegetable planter boxes

To help raise awareness in both staff and the community about food production, wicking bed planter boxes were installed outside Glen Waverley Library. Additionally, worm farms were set up at Glen Waverley and Mount Waverley libraries to process staff food waste.

The planter boxes use a 'wicking bed' design meaning that plants take up water through the soil from a supply below. Wicking beds use less water than traditional garden beds because less water is lost through evaporation.

Herbs and plants were added to the boxes by staff to the delight of many children and their guardians who had gathered earlier for a garden-themed story time.





CITY OF MONASH

Monash Civic Centre

293 Springvale Road
Glen Waverley, 3150
Hours: 8.30am to 5pm
Monday to Friday

Oakleigh Service Centre

3 Atherton Road
Oakleigh, 3166
Hours: 8.45am to 5pm
Monday to Friday

Telephone 9518 3555 Facsimile 9518 3444

National Relay Service
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