City of STONNINGTON

DRAFT

Climate Positive Stonnington

Action Plan 2026-2029

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Statement of commitment to Australia's First Peoples

Council acknowledges that the people of the Kulin Nations are the Traditional Custodians of the land now known as Stonnington, and that they have strived to retain their identity and cultures through more than two hundred years of dispossession and colonisation.

We recognise and accept our responsibility to learn from, and promote the intrinsic value of, First Peoples cultural values, knowledges, heritage, and contemporary aspirations to the wider Stonnington community. We understand that doing so will enrich our shared heritage, culture, and the health of community and Country.

Council respects the special relationship the people of the Kulin Nations have to Country in Stonnington, and we recognise and commit to protecting sacred sites and significant places.

Why are we planning for a climate positive Stonnington?

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is one of the most important actions we can take to limit climate change and create a healthier, more sustainable future for Stonnington.

Everyday activities such as heating and cooling our buildings, travelling, constructing infrastructure, producing and consuming goods, and disposing of waste release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, act like a blanket around the Earth, trapping heat that would otherwise escape into space. While this natural process has made life on Earth possible, human activities are adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere at an unprecedented rate, causing the planet to warm and the climate to change.

The impacts of climate change are already being felt in Stonnington and around the world through more frequent and severe heatwaves, storms, droughts and other extreme weather events. These events damage our homes, places of work, facilities and infrastructure, impact service delivery, raise costs and insurance premiums, and, ultimately, threaten lives and liveability. Without rapid and sustained emissions reductions, these impacts will continue to intensify.

Reducing emissions means using energy and resources more efficiently, reducing consumption, transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, and choosing materials, products and services with lower life-cycle emissions. It also means reducing waste.

Council declared a climate emergency in 2020 and committed to achieving net zero emissions from our own operations by 2030, alongside an aspiration for net zero community emissions. We are continuing to lead by reducing emissions across our operations while supporting businesses, institutions, households and community organisations to do the same. Achieving significant community-wide emissions reductions, however, will require coordinated action from all levels of government and every sector of society.

Reaching net zero is a critical milestone because it stops adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere overall. However, it is not the finish line. Greenhouse gases released in the past will continue to influence the climate for many years. To help restore a safer and more stable climate, we must ultimately remove more greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than we emit. This is why our long-term ambition is for Stonnington to become climate positive.

Sustainable Stonnington 2040 sets out our long-term direction for a climate positive Stonnington. This Action Plan sets out the steps we will take over the next three years to reduce emissions from Council operations and assets, support community action, and lay the foundations for a climate positive future.



Delivering Sustainable Stonnington 2040

This Action Plan is one of five that support delivery of our environment strategy, Sustainable Stonnington 2040.

Alongside this Action Plan, the suite includes:

- Resilient, Adaptable and Empowered Stonnington 2026-2029
- Water Sensitive and Flood Ready Stonnington 2026-2029
- Biodiverse, Green and Connected Stonnington 2026-2029
- Circular and Resource-Conscious Stonnington 2026-2029

These five action plans are designed to work together – actions delivered through one will often support the outcomes in others.

Carbon neutral, net zero, climate positive: What's the difference?

The total greenhouse gas emissions generated by an organisation, community, person, product or activity are known as a 'carbon footprint'. There are two main ways to reduce a carbon footprint:

Emissions reduction

Prevent or reduce greenhouse gases being released

This is the most effective and important action. It can include using less energy and fewer materials, improving efficiency, switching to renewable electricity, electrifying buildings and vehicles, reducing waste, and choosing lower-emissions products and services.

Carbon removal or sequestration

Take greenhouse gases that are already in the atmosphere and remove or store them

This can include planting and protecting trees and vegetation, restoring ecosystems, increasing the carbon stored in soils, or using specialised technologies to capture and store carbon or other greenhouse gases.

While both reduction and removal are important, reducing carbon emissions at the source should always be prioritised. Carbon removal then helps address the emissions that cannot yet be fully eliminated, contributing to restore a safer climate over time. Council's approach prioritises reduction activities noting opportunities or technologies to remove or sequester carbon (for example, through extensive tree planting or carbon capture and storage schemes) can be limited.

Where an entity cannot directly achieve full emissions reduction or carbon removals through processes it controls, it may utilise verified projects elsewhere. These reduction of removal programs that compensate for emissions within a carbon footprint, are known as **carbon offsets**. However, the quality of offset schemes and associated verification processes can vary significantly. Extensive due diligence is required before adoption of any offset scheme. The balance between emissions, removals and offsets determines whether a carbon footprint is considered carbon neutral, net zero or climate positive.

Carbon neutral

Emissions are balanced with equivalent removal or avoidance, often through offsets.

Net zero

Emissions are reduced as far as possible, then residual amounts are balanced through direct removal or high-quality offsets.

Climate positive

Emissions are reduced as far as possible, and more carbon is removed from the atmosphere than is being generated.

GREATER EMPHASIS ON REDUCING EMISSIONS AND REMOVING GREENHOUSE GASES

What does this mean for Stonnington?

Council has committed to reducing emissions from our operations, from a 2005 baseline, to reach net zero by 2030. This target reflects advice from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change about the need to limit global warming to 1.5°C and the pace and scale of action required to do so.

Our aspiration is for community emissions across Stonnington to also reach net zero. While Council cannot deliver this outcome alone, we can support and accelerate change through our services, planning decisions, partnerships and advocacy, and by helping households and businesses reduce their emissions.

Responding to the pace of climate change and related impacts will ultimately require not only minimising future emissions but also to take action to reduce existing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere through removal or sequestration. Therefore, our longer-term ambition is for Stonnington to become climate positive. Sustainable Stonnington 2040 sets our commitment to moving beyond net zero and becoming a climate positive organisation by 2040.

Who contributes to reducing emissions in Stonnington?

Reducing emissions is a shared responsibility. No single individual, household, organisation, business, level of government, or even country can tackle emissions reduction alone. Different groups influence Stonnington's emissions in different ways.

Australian Government

Leads and coordinates Australia's national response to climate change, including setting national targets and shaping policy, regulation and investment across energy, transport, industry and the economy. As of 2026, the Australian Government has an emissions reduction target of 43% by 2030 (compared to 2005 levels), and net zero emissions by 2050.

Victorian Government

Sets Victoria's emissions reduction targets and leads the transition of statewide systems including electricity, gas, transport, planning, buildings and waste. Victoria aims to achieve a statewide emissions reduction target of 75-80% by 2035 (compared to 2005 levels) and net zero by 2040.

Local government

Reduces emissions from their own operations and assets, supports community-wide change through local programs, planning and partnerships, and advocates for action in areas beyond their direct control. Under Victorian legislation, local governments must consider climate change in their planning, risk management and decision-making, including both mitigation and adaptation.

Developers

Influence the long-term emissions performance of buildings through decisions about design, construction, energy efficiency, electrification, renewable energy and ongoing management.

Local businesses

Reduce emissions through the way they operate buildings, deliver services, move goods and people, purchase materials and manage supply chains.

Community

Community organisations, groups, households and individuals can contribute through choices about home energy, transport, food, products and waste, as well as through community initiatives and advocacy for broader change.



Where we are now

Stonnington's emissions are measured at two levels: emissions from Council's operations and assets, and emissions from the wider community. These footprints differ significantly in their scale, sources and the extent to which Council can directly control them.

Council emissions

When Council set a target of net zero emissions from our operations by 2030, we knew it would require major changes to the way we power our buildings, operate our facilities and deliver services.

Since then, we have reduced our annual operational emissions by approximately 80% since 2005 levels. This has been achieved primarily by purchasing 100% renewable electricity, supported by sustained investment in energy efficiency, onsite renewable energy, electrification and lower-emissions vehicles and equipment.

Our remaining operational emissions are approximately 3,000 t CO_2e per year. While this is a significant reduction, the emissions that remain are the most complex and costly to address. These include natural gas used to heat pools and provide hot water at major facilities, and fuel consumed by fleet and heavy vehicles, plant and equipment.

CLIMATE SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT

Why are emissions units in CO_2e?

Multiple different gasses contribute to the greenhouse effect. Carbon dioxide accounts for the largest share, while other important greenhouse gases include methane, nitrous oxide and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are commonly used as refrigerants.

Each gas has a different warming effect and remains in the atmosphere for a different length of time. Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) presents these effects into a single, common measure. This allows emissions from different gases and activities such as using electricity, burning gas, driving vehicles, sending waste to landfill or leaking refrigerants to be added together and compared.

For example, 1 tonne of methane is equivalent to about 23 tonnes of CO_2 and breaks down in approximately 10 years, whereas CO_2 stays in the atmosphere for decades to centuries.

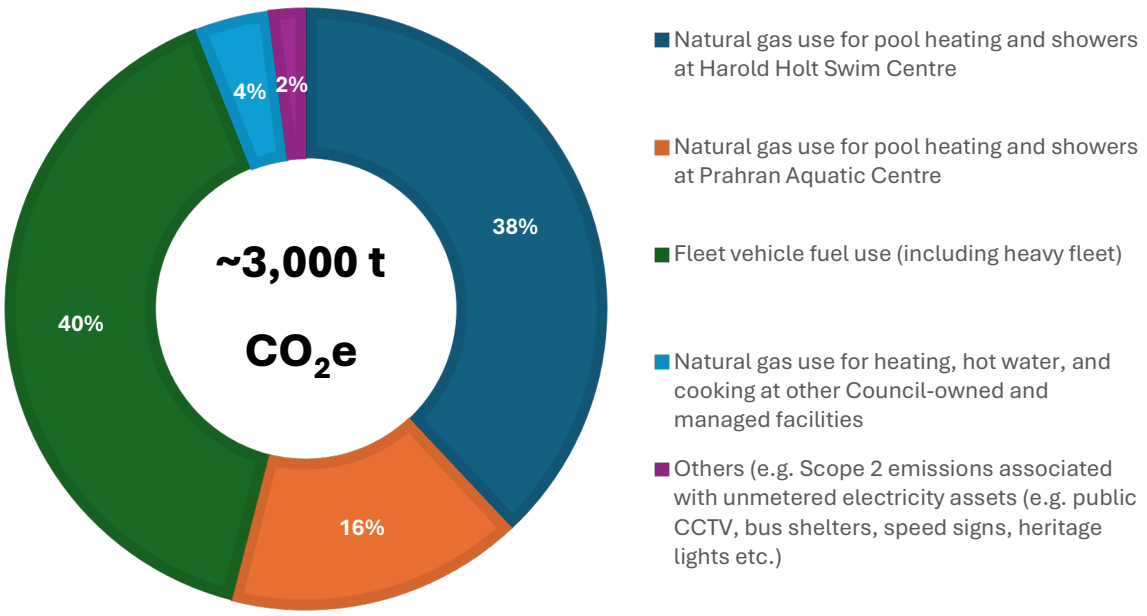


Figure 1. *Council's corporate emissions, June 2026.*

Many of these emissions are associated with long-lived assets and systems that require substantial investment to replace. Rising construction, energy and asset-replacement costs add to this challenge. Further progress will depend on coordinating works that provide emissions reduction timed with replacing assets as they approach the ends of their useful life taking advantage of advances in technology and securing additional funding and investment where possible.

How we have reduced our emissions

Our progress has been achieved through a combination of installing more energy efficient appliances and systems, choosing renewable electricity, and progressively replacing gas powered systems with highly efficient heat pump and HVAC technology, as well as reducing and replacing suitable fleet vehicles with electric and hybrid alternatives at end of life.

Improving energy efficiency and switching to renewable electricity

Purchasing 100% renewable electricity for Council's owned and managed facilities has delivered the largest reduction in our reported corporate operational emissions. We have also expanded onsite renewable energy and storage, such as solar power systems at many of our facilities including Stonnington Sports Centre and Toorak Park Pavilion, and batteries at Dunlop Pavilion and Gardiner Park Pavilion.

We have also reduced the energy required to operate Council facilities through lighting and space heating upgrades, more efficient equipment and improved energy management using smart technology. Recent examples include halogen or metal halide to LED sports lighting upgrade at Central Park, Malvern Cricket Ground and St Andrew Gardiner Tennis Club.

Electrifying facilities

Council has progressively replaced gas appliances with efficient electric alternatives as existing systems reach the end of their useful life. This has included HVAC upgrade at Malvern Community Arts Centre, Grattan Gardens Community Centre and Phoenix Park Community Centre, domestic hot water system upgrade to efficient heat pump technology at Central Park Maternal Child Health Centre and Prahran RSL, and more.

Some of Council's largest remaining emissions come from facilities with significant heating and hot water needs. We are preparing for electrification across 29 Council facilities; we have prepared designs for the full electrification of Harold Holt Swim Centre and commenced designs to replace gas hot-water systems at selected sports pavilions.

This planning means projects can be coordinated with programmed asset renewals or unexpected system replacements as well as external funding opportunities such as grants. and avoids the need to replace or install new gas equipment that would remain in use for many years.

ENERGY SPOTLIGHT

What is the electricity grid?

Victoria's electricity grid is the interconnected network that carries electricity from generators to homes, businesses and other users. Electricity from renewable and fossil-fuel sources flows through the same network.

Although Council purchases 100% renewable electricity for our buildings and facilities, reducing the amount we use still matters.

Using energy more efficiently and installing solar and batteries helps to create capacity for the additional electricity needed as buildings, vehicles and equipment are electrified.

It also reduces operating costs and eases demand on Victoria's wider electricity system as it transitions away from fossil fuels.



Transitioning our fleet and equipment

Council has begun transitioning passenger, light and medium vehicles to electric and hybrid alternatives and has developed an initial roadmap to guide future fleet replacement. We are also introducing lower-emission plant and equipment where practical.

This shift is more difficult for heavy and specialised vehicles.

Council's fleet transition progress

Light and medium fleet vehicles	Heavy and specialised fleet vehicles
	
22.2% electric or hybrid	**3.2%** electric or hybrid

While there are demonstration vehicles in use across Australia, electric vehicles suitable for all Council operations are not yet fit for purpose. Replacement also needs to be timed with the end of each vehicle's useful life to make responsible use of existing assets.

Understanding our wider footprint

Council's emissions reduction work to date has focused mainly on the resources we use directly and the electricity we purchase. The majority of the emissions associated with these are classed to as Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions - they are the emissions over which are within our direct control or ownership.

However, like all organisations, we also have an indirect emissions footprint associated with the goods, materials and services we buy, the projects we construct and the services we deliver via contracts. These are known as Scope 3 emissions.

THE FULL PICTURE

Where do our emissions come from?



SCOPE 1 EMISSIONS

Emissions from sources we own or control

- Natural gas used for heating, hot water and cooking
- Fuel used by vehicle fleet

SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS

Emissions from the electricity we buy and use

- Electricity used in our buildings and facilities
- Electricity used by streetlights

SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS

Other indirect emissions from our supply chain

- Products we purchase
- Construction materials and transport
- Delivery of services
- Staff travel

While we have some information about individual sources of Scope 3 emissions, we do not yet have a complete picture of them. Part of this knowledge gap is because our providers and supply chains still have incomplete information about their emissions, and the complexity in defining our Scope 3 emissions given the breadth of services that Council operates and manages. Improving our understanding will help identify where Council's purchasing, construction, contracting and other organisational decisions could achieve the greatest reductions.

Reducing our Scope 3 emissions will be important to moving beyond net zero, allowing Council to use its purchasing power to drive wider change across our supply chain and contribute to reductions beyond our own operations.

Community emissions

According to available data on Scope 1 and 2 emissions, a significant portion of Stonnington's community emissions come from energy use in homes and businesses, followed by the ways people and goods move around within the city.

A much larger but unmeasured proportion is Scope 3 emissions – the emissions associated with the things we buy, the construction of our homes and buildings, the services we use, and travel beyond Stonnington.

Community emissions are substantially larger than Council's own operational emissions. They result from the combined activities and decisions of households, businesses, property owners, developers, governments and service providers. While Council cannot directly control these emissions, we can help make lower and zero-emissions choices easier, more affordable and more accessible for our community.

There are positive signs of progress. As of 2023-2024, Stonnington's annual community emissions had reduced by 14% compared with 2018-2019, when data collection began. his has been supported by Victoria's transition towards renewable electricity, alongside households and businesses installing solar, improving energy efficiency and moving away from fossil fuels.

Stonnington's current average annual community emissions are approximately 1,019,100 t CO_2e.

HOW ARE WE PLANNING FOR Sustainable Transport

Transport accounts for approximately 19% of Stonnington's community emissions, making it the second largest source after energy use in buildings.

The **Transport Strategy 2040** and its **Sustainable Transport Action Plan** set out how Council will support more walking, cycling and public transport, alongside the transition to electric vehicles and expanded access to charging.

This Action Plan therefore focuses primarily on reducing emissions from energy use, fuel and supply chains.

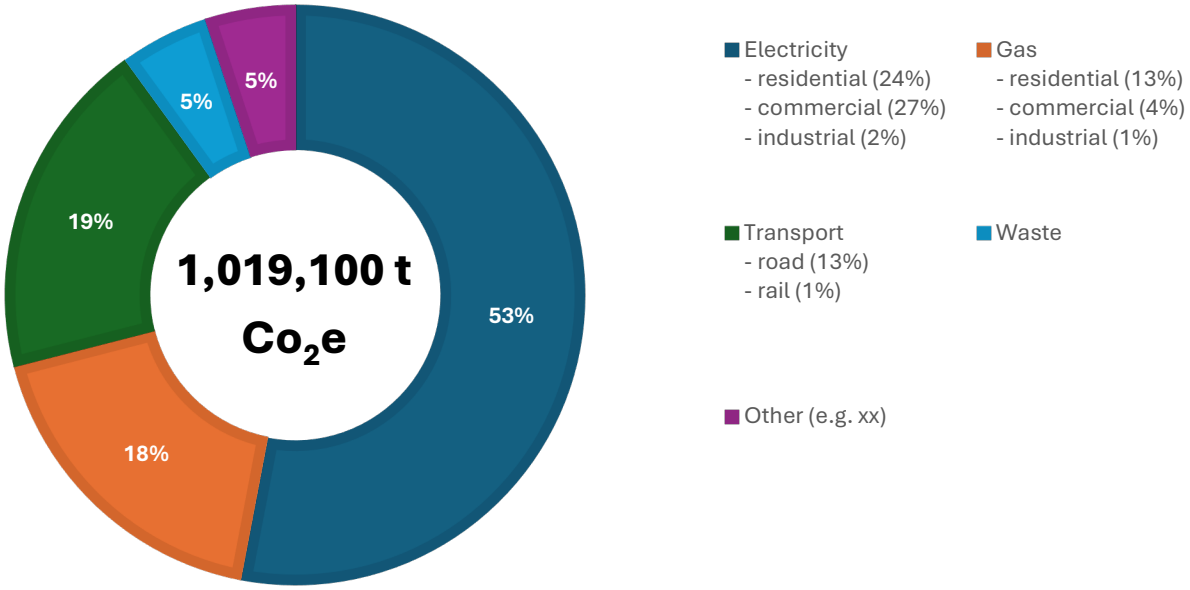


Figure 2. *The City of Stonnington's community emissions, 2024 (Source: Snapshot Climate)*

Energy use in buildings

Electricity and natural gas used in homes and businesses account for approximately 71% of Stonnington's community Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Energy is used to heat and cool buildings, provide hot water, cook, light spaces and power appliances and equipment. Heating and cooling also account for up to 50% of businesses energy use and around 40% of household energy use, while hot water uses up to 30%, cooking 6% and lighting only 5% on average. Therefore, making buildings more thermally efficient is particularly important to reduce energy use and associated emissions and costs.

The good news is that emissions from building energy use have been declining in recent years and are expected to continue falling as:

- Victoria's electricity supply increasingly shifts towards renewable energy
- Building fabrics become and better insulated
- Appliances and systems become more energy efficient
- Households and businesses replace gas-powered systems with efficient electric alternatives
- Stronger minimum energy-efficiency standards are introduced for rental homes in Victoria

The changes to rental standards are particularly relevant in Stonnington, where approximately 43% of our households rent.

REGIONAL ACTION SNAPSHOT

Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action

Stonnington is a member of the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA), a partnership of eight councils in Melbourne's eastern suburbs working together on regional climate action. The alliance enables councils to share knowledge, undertake joint research and advocacy, and deliver collaborative initiatives that are more effective when approached across municipal boundaries.

Current priorities include developing low carbon procurement standards, public EV charging policy alignment, partnering with the State Electricity Commission's new Easy Electric program, staff and Councillor capacity building, and advocacy to the state and federal governments to support councils and communities with local climate adaptation, residential and community infrastructure electrification programs.

Rooftop solar

Uptake of rooftop solar remains relatively low in Stonnington. As of December 2025, approximately 15.8% of Stonnington households had installed a rooftop solar system, which is an increase from 9% in 2021. This rate of uptake is similar to neighbouring inner-city municipalities such as Port Phillip and Yarra, but lower than Glen Eira, Bayside or Boroondara.

Solar uptake is particularly low in Toorak, Prahran and Windsor.

Stonnington's high proportion of apartments and rental homes is likely to be an important factor, as many residents lack the authority to make significant changes to their building, or do not have suitable roof space.

Homes with a heritage overlay also face additional barriers to installing solar, where planning controls and heritage character may limit the placement of panels.

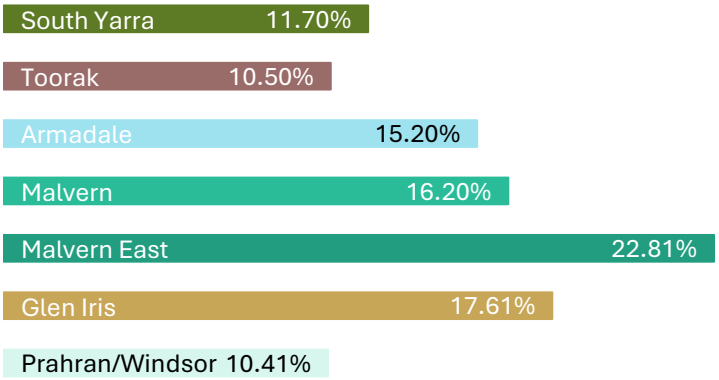


Figure 3. *Stonnington solar uptake by suburb, December 2025 (Source: APVI Solar Map)*

Malvern East and Glen Iris have the highest percent of rooftop solar. Homes in these suburbs are more likely to be free standing homes that are owner occupied. Both factors contribute to increased uptake through ownership of decision making and control of installation processes.

What we heard from you

Through the Sustainable Stonnington 2040 engagement process, community members and local stakeholders shared what matters to the steps they are already taking to reduce emissions, the barriers they face and the kinds of support they would like Council to provide.

While we heard many consistent messages, priorities varied between groups.

Apartment residents and renters repeatedly identified structural barriers to electrification of homes and installation of solar, batteries and EV chargers, including limited access to suitable space and the need for support from landlords or owners corporations. Homeowners generally requested more support with accelerate changes they were already considering. Younger cohorts and families tended to prioritise active and sustainable transport and renewable energy uptake, whereas older residents placed greater emphasis on affordability and energy security.

All groups wanted clear, practical information, financial support and stronger advocacy on the energy, transport and building systems beyond Council's direct control.

Common priorities and action ideas

- **Reduce household energy use and improve energy efficiency**
- **Replace gas heating, hot water and cooking with efficient electric alternatives**
- **Install rooftop solar and home batteries**
- **Walk, cycle and use public transport more often.**
- **Transition to electric vehicles and expand access to charging**
- **Improve the environmental performance of new and existing buildings**
- **Purchase Greenpower or renewable electricity**
- **Make energy upgrades more accessible for renters and apartment residents**
- **Advocate for broader changes to energy, transport and building systems**

Barriers	How Council can help
Limited decision-making authority for renters and apartment residents	▶ Provide tailored information and support, including guidance for working with landlords and owners corporations. ▶ Advocate for stronger standards and fewer structural barriers.
Unsure where to start or where to find trusted information	▶ Provide clear, practical and accessible information, including step-by-step advice, decision-support tools and simple actions. ▶ Connect people with established programs, trusted suppliers and services, and reliable sources of technical advice.
Affordability	▶ Promote existing financial support pathways. ▶ Advocate for increased rebates and subsidies from other levels of government. ▶ Provide free or low-cost programs, resources and incentives.
Limited time and competing priorities	▶ Make information and programs simple, flexible and easy to access, including through online resources that can be used at any time.
Lack of confidence that actions will make a difference	▶ Share local success stories and practical examples of community action. ▶ Monitor and report on outcomes of Council action and community efforts.

Where we're headed

A climate positive Stonnington is one where emissions from Council operations and across the community are rapidly reduced, and more carbon is ultimately removed from the atmosphere than released.

Sustainable Stonnington 2040 sets our long-term direction for how we will care for our environment and support a sustainable, resilient Stonnington. Over the next three years, we will focus on reducing Council's remaining operational emissions, helping households and businesses make lower-emissions choices, improving our understanding of our wider organisational footprint and laying the foundations for a climate positive organisation by 2040.

Reaching our goals will require sustained investment and changes beyond Council's direct control. We will integrate emissions reduction into asset renewal and capital planning, prepare major facilities and assets for electrification, build the evidence and business cases needed for larger investments, and pursue grants and co-investment opportunities. We will also advocate for the policies, standards, infrastructure and investment needed to accelerate change across Stonnington and beyond.

Some initiatives in this Action Plan are expected to provide direct benefits within its three-year timeframe. Others will strengthen the evidence, planning, processes and partnerships needed to guide future investment and ensure our response becomes more targeted and effective over time. Both are important.

Part of a bigger picture

A climate positive Stonnington relies on work being delivered through the wider Sustainable Stonnington 2040 suite.

- Our **Resilient, Adaptable and Empowered Action Plan** tackles how we will respond to the changes to our climate we know are already locked in.
- Our **Biodiverse, Green and Connected Action Plan** guides how we will protect and care for nature and grow Stonnington's urban forest.
- Our **Circular and Resource Conscious Action Plan** set out how we'll reduce waste, unnecessary consumption and the environmental impacts of our resource use.

Delivered together, the actions in these plans reinforce one another, and their benefits will be shared across the suite.

Our approach

Our approach is guided by a modified version of the **Emissions Reduction Framework**. It prioritises avoiding and reducing emissions at their source, then switching to renewable energy and lower or zero-emissions alternatives.

Carbon removal and credible offsets are considered as a pathway for balancing residual emissions that cannot reasonably be eliminated, while also being a key solution for achieving a climate positive future where more greenhouses gases are removed from the atmosphere than are generated.

The three focus areas in this Action Plan apply this thinking across Council operations, Stonnington's homes and businesses, and the wider systems that shape our collective emissions.

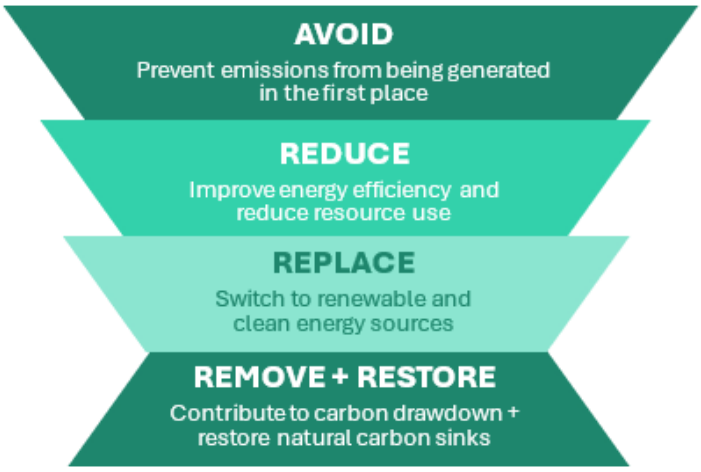


Figure 4. *Adapted Emissions Reduction Framework.*

Ongoing activities

Emissions reduction is already embedded across a range of Council services, projects, and programs. The activities below reflect work we already deliver as part of our core business. They provide an important foundation for the new actions in this Action Plan and will continue alongside them.



Energy efficient and low carbon assets

We maintain, renew and replace Council assets, infrastructure community facilities so that they are energy efficient and contribute less emissions over their lifecycles.

Through asset and building renewal programs, we are continually upgrading our roads, buildings, and corporate and community facilities so that they can provide high quality services with reduced environmental impact.

Council buildings are powered by 100% renewable electricity as part of a collaborative contract with 60 Victorian councils.



Sustainable transport

We support the Stonnington community to travel using more sustainable and healthier transport options through actions including enhancing cycling infrastructure, supporting access to EV charging and car sharing services and working with public transport operators to improve accessibility.

For more information on our sustainable transport actions and priorities, see our Transport Strategy 2040 and Sustainable Transport Action Plan.



Encouraging low carbon development

We consider emissions and lifecycle carbon when making decisions about the use and development of land. This includes promoting building and precinct design with energy efficient appliances, solar, and good thermal performance.

Through participation in collaborations such as Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) we share knowledge and resources and collectively advocate for stronger planning and building requirements where controls sit with the Victorian Government.



Working with partners to extend our influence

We are an active member of the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) group of councils.

Together, we collaborate on research, community projects, programs, advocacy and more to deliver emissions reduction benefits for the Stonnington community and beyond.

By working at a regional scale, we can tackle shared challenges, influence policy and investment decisions, and deliver outcomes that would be difficult for individual councils to achieve alone.



Supporting our community

We support residents, households, businesses and community organisations to reduce emissions through educational events, resources and programs by providing information about topics such as solar and batteries, EV charging, energy efficiency, electrification and sustainable design, access to professional home energy assessments or Home Energy Kits available via our Libraries.

Our community can also access good value solar, batteries, energy efficiency and electrification solutions and more from trusted suppliers through our participation in the Solar Savers program.



Understanding our impact through data

We monitor and report on the greenhouse gas emissions associated with our operations and services so that we are publicly accountable and can track our progress.

Over time, this will expand to include monitoring and tracking emissions from our supply chain and the greenhouse gases we are able to capture and store through carbon drawdown initiatives.

What you can do

Alongside the work of governments and organisations, there are practical actions people can take in their homes, neighbourhoods and communities.

We recognise that while not every action is possible for every person, household or group, everyone can play a part in ways that work for their circumstances.



In your home

Everyday choices and larger household purchasing decisions can help reduce emissions. You can:

- Use less energy by adjusting heating and cooling, switching off unused equipment and making the most of natural light and ventilation
- Improve energy efficiency by draught-proofing, insulating and choosing efficient appliances. A home energy assessment can help identify and prioritise improvements.
- Replace gas heating, hot water and cooking appliances with efficient electric alternatives when they are due for replacement
- Purchase Greenpower or choose another 100% renewable electricity option
- Install rooftop solar and a battery where suitable
- Choose an electric vehicle when next buying a new car
- Reduce your meat intake and food waste and use your FOGO bin or compost food scraps
- Consider climate and sustainability commitments when choosing banking, investment and superannuation providers



In your neighbourhood

The way people travel, share information and work together can help make lower-emissions choices easier and more visible. You can:

- Walk, cycle and catch public transport for local trips where practical, or carpool to work, school and events
- Talk to your neighbours or owners corporation about opportunities for shared solar or electric vehicle charging
- Share practical information and experiences about renewable electricity, solar, electrification and energy efficiency with others



In your community

Community organisations, schools, workplaces and local businesses can influence emissions well beyond individual households. Collective action can also help build support for broader changes. You can:

- Join or support a local environmental, climate action or community organisation
- Support businesses taking meaningful steps to reduce emissions and encourage other businesses you regularly visit to adopt more sustainable practices.
- Support your school or workplace to set and work towards an emissions reduction target
- Start, invest in, or support community-owned renewable energy projects such as solar gardens, solar for community facilities, and community batteries
- Share your views on climate action with elected representatives and candidates at local, state and federal levels
- Advocate for energy efficient, zero emissions homes, infrastructure, public spaces and services that support the whole community

Our focus for the next three years

Reducing emissions in Stonnington requires action across our organisation and community. This Action Plan is organised around three connected focus areas that together guide how we will lead, influence and enable change.



Reading the action tables

Each focus area includes an action table setting out what we will deliver over the next three years. For each action:

TIMING shows when an action is expected to begin, progress or be completed during the Action Plan. Key:

- ● Active years
- ○ Years where the action is not yet underway or has been completed

Note: Years refers to financial years, with 'Year 1' of this plan being financial year 2026-27.

COST provides a high-level indication of the likely scale of investment required. Key:

- Deliverable within existing staff resources
- **$** Low - less than $50,000 per year
- **$$** Medium - approximately $50,000 to $250,000 per year
- **$$$** High - greater than $250,000 per year, generally associated with capital works or multi-site delivery programs

Note: Cost estimates are indicative and intended to guide planning. Funding decisions are considered through Council's annual budget process and actual costs may vary depending on scope, design, delivery timing and opportunities to secure external funding.

CO-BENEFITS identifies where an action is expected to also contribute to another priority of Sustainable Stonnington 2040. Actions have been assigned to the Action Plan where they are most directly delivered; however, environmental outcomes are interconnected, and many actions will support more than one priority at the same time. Key:

Resilient, Adaptable & Empowered | Water Sensitive & Flood Ready

Biodiverse, Green & Connected | Circular & Resource Conscious

Focus area 01: Reducing Council's direct emissions

Reducing the energy and fuel used to deliver Council facilities, services and operations.

We have made significant progress in reducing emission from Council operations through transitioning to renewable energy and improving the efficiency of our buildings and assets. The next stage will be more complex and costly, with remaining emissions largely associated with natural gas used at major facilities and fuel used by Council vehicles and equipment.

Over the next three years, we will continue the staged transition away from fossil fuels while improving energy efficiency across Council's buildings, infrastructure and operations. This includes electrifying smaller facilities, integrating electrification into planning for major assets, transitioning fleet vehicles and equipment as suitable alternatives become available, and expanding solar energy and battery storage.

Some projects can be delivered within the life of this Action Plan. However, larger projects, particularly the electrification of our aquatic facilities, will require longer-term planning, significant investment and external funding. We will undertake the design, investigation and business-case work needed to incorporate these projects into future asset renewal and capital planning and pursue opportunities to accelerate their delivery.

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
1.1	**Deliver a staged program to electrify Council facilities** Update Council's Gas Free Operations Roadmap and embed it in forward capital planning and asset renewal programs. Progress the replacement of remaining gas assets, develop detailed designs and costings for future projects, and review/undertake electrical infrastructure upgrades needed to support electrification. Initial priorities will include replacing gas hot water systems approaching end of life at sports pavilions and other facilities.	غ غ	$$$	
1.2	**Improve the energy performance of Council buildings and facilities** Identify and implement no- and low-cost energy improvements across Council buildings and facilities. This may include conducting detailed energy audits, improving insulation, glazing and external shading, optimising building management systems, settings and controls, and replacing appliances with more energy-efficient alternatives that use low-emissions refrigerants.	غ غ	$$	
1.3	**Plan for the electrification of Harold Holt Swim Centre and Prahran Aquatic Centre** Incorporate a staged approach to electrification into future planning for Harold Holt Swim Centre, informed by existing schematic designs and coordinated with future renewal and redevelopment planning. Investigate and pursue opportunities to progressively electrify Prahran Aquatic Centre, including through future asset renewals and targeted upgrades. Continue to pursue external funding for future delivery, including both staged and accelerated full implementation.	غ غ	$$	
1.4	**Upgrade heating and cooling systems across Council facilities** Plan and deliver heating, ventilation and air-conditioning upgrades that improve energy efficiency, thermal comfort and operational reliability. Initial priorities include upgrades at the Stonnington Depot and design and staged delivery at Stonnington City Centre.	غ غ	$$	

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
1.5	**Use smart technology to reduce energy use across Council facilities** Develop and begin implementing a prioritised program of building automation, monitoring and other smart-technology improvements that reduce energy use, strengthen environmental performance and inform future investment.	○ ◔	$$	
1.6	**Expand and improve solar energy systems across Council facilities** Develop a staged program to install solar panels at suitable facilities that do not yet have them and to renew or upgrade existing systems. Complete the designs, costings and return-on-investment analysis needed to incorporate priority projects into Council's forward capital program, while strengthening capability to design, operate, maintain and responsibly dispose of solar assets.	◔	$$$	
1.7	**Plan for battery storage at suitable Council facilities** Assess opportunities for battery storage at Council facilities with solar panels and significant night-time energy use, initially focusing on sports pavilions and Chapel Off Chapel. Develop business cases for suitable sites and pursue grants and other funding opportunities to support delivery.	◔	$	
1.8	**Upgrade sports floodlighting to energy efficient smart LED systems** Deliver staged upgrades to sports floodlighting infrastructure to improve energy efficiency, lighting quality and operational performance.	◔	$$$	
1.9	**Transition street lighting to energy efficient smart LEDs powered by renewable electricity** Work with Distribution Network Service Providers to accelerate upgrades to energy efficient smart LED street lighting and transition remaining unmetered streetlighting into Council's renewable electricity contract where possible.	◔	$-$$	
1.10	**Extend access to renewable electricity across Council-owned facilities** Support non-commercial tenants in Council-owned buildings and facilities to access Council's renewable electricity contract, helping to reduce emissions and energy costs.	◔		
1.11	**Explore new ways to fund major emissions-reduction projects** Investigate opportunities to secure external funding for major Council electrification, renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, including through grants, partnerships, sponsorship, philanthropic funding and green finance mechanisms.	◔		

Focus Area 02: Reducing community emissions

Supporting households, businesses and organisations to reduce their emissions.

Community emissions are shaped by thousands of individual decisions about buildings, energy, transport and consumption. While we cannot directly control these decisions, we can help households, businesses and community organisations understand their options and take practical action.

Energy used in homes and businesses is the largest source of Stonnington's community emissions. Over the next three years, we will focus on helping people improve energy efficiency, transition away from gas and access renewable electricity. We will expand practical information and advice, connect people with established programs and technical support, and help apartment buildings and local businesses navigate more complex projects. We will also trial targeted financial support and advocate for broader changes where the most significant barriers sit beyond Council's control.

An equitable energy transition

The transition to efficient, all-electric homes can reduce emissions, improve comfort and lower ongoing energy costs. However, the people who could benefit most may face the greatest barriers to participating.

Upfront costs can put improvements out of reach for households experiencing financial hardship. Renters generally depend on their landlord to approve or fund changes, while apartment residents often need agreement through their owners corporation. Some homes may also require electrical or building upgrades before electrification or solar can proceed.

An equitable transition means recognising these different starting points and directing additional support towards people who face the greatest barriers. It also requires governments, energy providers, landlords and owners corporations to help ensure the costs and benefits of the transition are shared fairly.

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
2.1	**Help households improve energy efficiency and move towards all-electric homes** Deliver practical information, activities, demonstrations and advice about reducing household energy use and replacing gas appliances with efficient electric alternatives. Consider making efficient appliances such as portable induction cooktops available to borrow through Council libraries.	غ غ .	$	
2.2	**Provide tailored energy guidance for renters and apartment residents** Develop practical resources outlining affordable actions within residents' control, ways to engage landlords and owners corporations about larger upgrades, and relevant rebates, programs and support services.	غ غ .	$	
2.3	**Help residents make informed choices about home energy technology** Provide trusted advice about rooftop solar, batteries, electric vehicle charging and efficient electrical appliances. Include guidance on system maintenance and the responsible disposal of solar panels and batteries, and connect residents with relevant rebates, programs and services.	غ غ .	$	

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
2.4	**Trial accessible home-energy upgrades with Solar Savers** Partner with regional networks to trial subsidised home energy assessments, efficiency and electrification upgrades, and shared rooftop solar initiatives for apartment buildings. Prioritise opportunities for people who face financial or practical barriers, including renters, concession card holders and apartment residents. *This action will be coordinated with the related home heat resilience action in the Resilient, Adaptable and Empowered Action Plan, providing an integrated approach to household comfort, resilience, energy use and emissions reduction.*		$$	
2.5	**Encourage greater uptake of renewable electricity** In partnership with regional networks, deliver promotions, behaviour change initiatives and advocacy to encourage more residents to choose accredited renewable electricity products such as Greenpower.			
2.6	**Help local businesses reduce energy use and emissions** Connect small and medium businesses with practical information, tools, incentives and support programs that support emissions reduction and energy efficiency outcomes. Integrate this assistance into Council's existing business support and environmental health activities wherever practical. *This action will be coordinated with related business support actions across the companion Action Plans, providing an integrated approach to local business sustainability.*			
2.7	**Advocate for stronger sustainability requirements in building and planning controls** Advocate to the Victorian and Australian governments for stronger building and planning requirements that improve the energy efficiency, lifecycle carbon and overall environmental performance of private developments and new construction. *This action will be coordinated with related advocacy actions across the companion Action Plans, providing an integrated approach to a sustainable built environment in Stonnington.*			
2.8	**Explore new ways to expand access to renewable energy** Work with public, private and community partners to investigate emerging technologies and delivery models that could give more households and businesses access to locally generated renewable energy, including shared energy systems and neighbourhood-scale microgrids.			

Focus Area 03: Preparing for a climate positive future

Understanding and reducing Council's wider emissions and exploring ways to go beyond net zero.

Reducing the emissions from Council's energy and fuel use is essential, but it does not capture our full organisational footprint. Emissions are also generated through the goods and services we purchase, the materials used in Council projects, the activities of contractors and suppliers, and the eventual disposal of products and assets.

Over the next three years, we will build a clearer picture of these wider Scope 3 emissions and strengthen the systems used to measure, manage and report them. We will use this information to focus action where Council can have the greatest influence, including through procurement, contract management, material selection, financial arrangements and the responsible use of digital technologies.

Becoming climate positive will ultimately require us to go beyond reducing emissions to net zero. To prepare for this, we will improve our understanding of the carbon stored by Council-managed trees and vegetation and work with regional partners to investigate credible opportunities to remove more carbon from the atmosphere in future.

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
3.1	**Strengthen Council's sustainability reporting capability** Undertake a sustainability reporting maturity assessment to identify the improvements needed to support future anticipated climate-related financial disclosures and Scope 3 emissions reporting requirements.		$	
3.2	**Measure and monitor Council's Scope 3 emissions** Develop a framework to measure and report emissions associated with Council's supply chain and other indirect activities, including purchased materials and services, travel, contractor operations, freight, fuel and energy use, and end-of-life outcomes. Use this work to establish a baseline and identify priority sources for emissions reduction.		$	
3.3	**Reduce emissions through procurement and contract management** Integrate strengthened emissions-reduction considerations into procurement, contract management and supplier evaluation. Initial priorities will include developing a Service Contracts Emissions Reduction Policy and updating procurement guidelines.			
3.4	**Identify lower-carbon materials for Council projects and infrastructure** Identify and assess lower-carbon alternatives for commonly used materials with high lifecycle emissions. Options will need to meet engineering and operational requirements while supporting other environmental outcomes, such as increased use of recycled materials, improved permeability and water quality.		$	
3.5	**Optimise the positive environmental influence of Council's banking, investment and superannuation arrangements** Review Council's banking, investment and default superannuation offering and develop a roadmap towards alternatives with stronger climate and sustainability performance that allow Council to leverage our financial influence and purchasing power while remaining consistent with relevant financial management responsibilities and obligations.		$	

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
3.6	**Support environmentally responsible use of digital technologies** Develop internal guidance and staff awareness initiatives that encourage efficient and environmentally responsible use of digital technologies. This will include consideration of energy use, emissions and the appropriate application of artificial intelligence tools.			
3.7	**Measure the carbon stored by Council-managed trees and vegetation** Analyse existing information about tree species, age, size and condition to better understand and communicate how Council-managed trees and vegetation remove and store carbon across the municipality.		$	
3.8	**Investigate regional carbon sequestration opportunities** Work with other councils and regional partners to assess credible opportunities for larger-scale carbon removal or sequestration projects and other collaborative emissions reduction and carbon drawdown initiatives such as reforestation.		$	

How we'll measure progress

We will track progress at two levels, to monitor both the delivery of actions and the outcomes they are intended to influence.

Strategic indicators

This Action Plan contributes to the strategic emissions reduction outcomes established in Sustainable Stonnington 2040. The outcome indicators below will help us understand whether our organisation, assets, services and community are reducing emissions over time.

Some of these outcomes are influenced by many factors, including some outside Council's direct control. Change may also take time, with variable progress year to year, so we will consider the indicators together and monitor longer-term trends.

Strategic indicator	Baseline	2040 Target	Data source
Corporate scope 1 and 2 emissions Tonnes CO_2e (carbon dioxide equivalent) Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions generated from Council operations per year	~3,000 t CO_2e (June 2026)	Net zero by 2030 Climate positive by 2040	Council utility bills and fuel data
Corporate scope 3 emissions *Methodology to monitor Scope 3 emissions to be developed through delivery of Climate Positive Action Plan 2026-2029.*	To be established	Decrease	Council data (to be established)
Council solar PV (photovoltaic) capacity Kilowatts of solar PV capacity installed on Council buildings	1,171kW	Increase	Council assets data
Community solar uptake Percentage households with solar PV	15.8%	Increase	APVI Solar Map

While outside of Council's control, we will also be monitoring trends around community greenhouse gas emissions throughout the life of this strategy.

Delivery indicators

The following delivery indicators align with the broader outcomes set in Sustainable Stonnington 2040 but translate them into specific targets for 2026-2029 that are relevant to the actions outlined in this Action Plan.

Delivery indicator	Target (2029)
Actions delivered on schedule	85%
Note: additional delivery indicators will be confirmed based on final list of actions adopted	

Evaluating programs and trials: *Community programs, trials and training delivered through this Action Plan will be evaluated as they are developed and implemented. Evaluation will be proportionate to the scale and purpose of each initiative and may include participation and uptake, reach among priority communities, participant feedback or changes in knowledge or confidence following participation.*

Monitoring, review and reporting

Delivery will be monitored through an internal implementation plan, which will track progress against each action and capture relevant program outcomes. Progress will be reviewed internally each quarter to support accountability, identify barriers early and adjust delivery where required.

Progress against this Action Plan, along with progress across the other four companion Action Plans, will be reported publicly through an annual Sustainable Stonnington 2040 update.

This Action Plan reflects our priorities and commitments at the time of adoption. As delivery progresses, new evidence, partnerships, funding opportunities or emerging environmental risks may require us to adjust our approach. Any material additions or changes will be tracked through the internal implementation plan and reported through annual updates.

This Action Plan will be formally reviewed and updated in the final year of its three-year term, or sooner if circumstances require it.

