

Attachment E

**Green Report (Annual Environmental
Report) 2024/25**

Green Report



Annual Environmental Report
2024/25

The City of Sydney acknowledges the Gadigal of the
Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area.

CITY OF SYDNEY 

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Message from the CEO

This year's green report provides the results for the final year of the City of Sydney's environmental strategy 2021-2025. In that strategy we set a target to reduce our operational emissions by 80% against our 2006 baseline. We were at 31% in 2019/20 and this year we achieved 78%. We reached our operational potable water target and resource recovery targets. These results are due to the dedication of the people who work for this organisation.

Two projects at Victoria Park Pool show this dedication. This year we replaced all fossil gas equipment as part of a program to electrify our pools. This project reduced our emissions and our energy use, freeing up money for other services. The electrification of Victoria Park Pool won the Gold award in the National Sustainable Project category of the 2025 Swimming Pool & Spa Association awards. We also fixed a large leak in a pipe that supplies the pool. Not only did this save precious drinking water, it was also completed in a way that protected the trees and garden beds in the park.

Carbon emissions in our local area decreased in the period covered by the strategy. At the same time our population and employment increased, meaning fewer emissions per person living or working in our area.

While we don't directly control these emissions, we can support the changes that allow our communities live more sustainably. After many years of advocating on the benefits of public transport, I'm delighted the new Metro line opened. This quick, efficient means of travel is very popular. Transport for NSW's choice to purchase 100% renewable electricity means this is a zero emissions way to travel into and out of the city.

We know the future is challenging, but every positive action tips the balance. Another tree planted, an additional metre of cycleway, another electric vehicle charging point, it all makes a difference. We also know it's better in partnership, when we work together and collaborate.

In June we launched our new Environmental Strategy 2025-2030. This strategy builds on the work of the last 20 years and sets us up to continue to be a leading environmental performer. We've committed to targets in energy, emissions, water use and water quality in our own operations and for our local area. Results for the new targets will be reported in our next green report.

This year Council endorsed a comprehensive update to our planning framework, including a wide range of sustainability improvements. Council also passed important resolutions to provide a food organics service to all residents by 2030. These resolutions ensure the right systems are in place to support the environmental goals of our communities.

We also launched the new Resilient Sydney strategy in partnership with the 33 councils of the Greater Sydney Area. We're going to face increased resilience challenges and the actions in this strategy will help all of us be prepared and work together.

I'm delighted by the many examples in this year's report that show how we care for this place, putting our purpose into practice.



Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

Year in review

Operational highlights

Our operational emissions have dropped 78% since 2005/06 (baseline year), close to our target of 80% reduction by 2025. We've made significant changes to our properties and fleet to lock in this reduction.

This year we changed 4 gas hot water systems to heat pumps or electric units, making Victoria Park Pool in Camperdown our first fully electric aquatic facility. As we complete building electrification projects, we disconnect the gas supply, and if practical, abolish the gas meter. In 2024/25, 3 gas meters were removed across the portfolio. We upgraded 8 lighting systems in properties to LEDs and replaced 4 air conditioning systems with low global warming potential refrigerants. A further 21 electric vehicle charge points were installed across 4 operational sites to support our fleet transition plan.

To reduce transport emissions associated with our road works we streamlined the program into a much shorter timeframe, completing 47,000m² of roads in just over one month. This saved more than 30 heavy freight vehicle movements, 900km of travel with 50 tonnes of machinery in and out of our area. We estimate this saved 10 tonnes of CO₂-e, in addition to the benefits of using circular materials in these roads.

We achieved all but one of our waste targets. We achieved our recycling and landfill diversion targets, with 92% of the waste from properties, 97% from construction projects and 54% from public places diverted from landfill. We did not achieve our target to reduce waste generation from the properties we own and manage, showing an increase of 6% against our 2019 baseline. This is because of our larger portfolio and increased renovation activity.

To support our circular materials ambitions we trialled products with recycled content in our parks. We installed composite timber decking made from a blend of recycled wood fibre and recycled plastic in Sydney Park. We renewed a soft fall area in Wentworth Park with a product made from at least 85% recycled plastic from items such as old traffic cones and deflated pool toys.

We ensured office furniture from the renewal of 343 George Street found a second home at Town Hall House, saving us more than \$250,000 compared to purchasing new items and \$6,500 in landfill fees.

To support biodiversity we installed a new floating island in the constructed wetlands in Sydney Park and completed an understorey revegetation project in Beaconsfield.

We continue to meet our potable water target and improve our water harvesting systems. These systems supplied 49 megalitres of recycled water for irrigation, a capacity increase of 4%. This is enough to meet 85% of irrigation demand for the parks supplied by these systems. We fixed a major leak at Victoria Park Pool providing yearly savings of 20 million litres of water and around \$55,000.

Local area highlights

Greenhouse gas emissions for our local area have decreased year on year. In June 2024 they were 45% below 2006 levels despite growth in local economic activity over the same period.

Two key links in the bike network were completed: the Glebe to Ultimo cycleway (along Mary Ann and Kelly streets) and the Castlereagh Street cycleway in the city centre. These projects support our greening goals with space for more trees and new garden beds.

We're taking steps to support our communities during increasingly hot summer days. In the 2024/25 summer, we trialled several projects to help people prepare for and cope with extreme heat. We held community workshops to help people plan for emergencies such as heatwaves and power outages. Our digital screens across the city centre display warnings and practical tips to help people stay safe and avoid heat-related illness. We partnered with St Vincents Hospital and the University of Sydney to set up mobile cooling tents in parks, providing a cool space with misters and fans, and an opportunity to consult with a health practitioner.

To understand our future climate and how best to prepare and adapt to increasing urban heat, we studied the microclimates in our area for 4 months. The study showed we have a varied climate across our area, with a temperature variation of up to 10°C from north to south. Overall, the hottest areas are in the south and west including Alexandria, Rosebery, Glebe and Camperdown. This information helps us identify the best ways to adapt in each suburb and understand what support is needed in communities most affected by climate change.

Our residential waste landfill diversion rate was 52%, with a recycling rate of 32%. We continue to provide a range of services and accept a wide range of materials for recycling, making it easier for residents to keep waste out of the red lid bin. We're trialling a local option for up to 600 tonnes of food scraps we collect from local residences. The food scraps are fed to black soldier fly larvae in a secure, temperature-controlled processing module about the size of a shipping container in Alexandria. This is a sustainable and circular solution which avoids emissions created by the food scraps decomposing in landfill and reduces transport emissions. We introduced new collection streams for pharmaceutical packaging and textiles in bad condition, and we're trialling a used furniture drop-off service with charity partners.

A wide range of sustainability improvements were included in the revisions to our Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) that were endorsed by Council this year. These improvements include making it easier to install EV charging in apartment buildings and to install solar panels in heritage areas, restricting indoor gas appliances in new homes, supporting biodiversity, green roofs and food production in commercial buildings and improvements to onsite rainwater collection.

This year volunteers contributed 3,200 hours of work at Sydney City Farm, producing 753kg of fresh food for local charities. Our crop diversity increased with more than 270 different types of fruit, vegetable, herbs and flowers grown this year. More than 200 people from 14 businesses have worked at the farm in team building and wellbeing programs.

Overall potable water use in the local area decreased by 3.8% in 2023/24 compared to the year before. Residential daily water use per person decreased by 12% from 221 litres/person/day to 194 litres/person/day. Non-residential water use in 2023/24 was 1.86 litres/m²/day, a 20% reduction from our 2019 baseline.

This year we completed a significant restoration of the Beare Park seawall in Elizabeth Bay. This project had the potential to disturb protected sensitive marine habitats or damage a series of artificial rock pools on the lower wall beneath the works. The project team used a cantilevered scaffold system that extended over the seawall from the footpath, avoiding the need to construct supports on the seabed.

We've identified a new series of gross pollutant traps that will further improve the cleanliness of our stormwater and we're starting to build them. The first one was completed in Glebe in June. It is expected to prevent another 26 tonnes per year of solid waste pollution from entering Blackwattle Bay.

Operational targets

Target		Latest result	
<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>CO₂</div></div><div></div></div><div>Carbon</div></div></div> <div><div>80%</div><div>reduction in emissions generation by end June 2025, from 2006 baseline</div></div> <div><div>78%</div><div>reduction against baseline (June 2025)</div></div>			
<div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Maintain emissions from the City's fleet below 2014 levels, and aim to achieve zero fleet emissions by 2035 or sooner</div></div>		<div><div>12%</div><div>reduction against baseline (June 2025) Target achieved</div></div>	
<div><div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Water</div></div></div> <div><div>zero increase</div><div>in potable water use annually until 2025, from 2006 baseline</div></div> <div><div>13%</div><div>reduction against baseline (June 2025) Target achieved</div></div>			
<div><div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Waste</div></div></div> <div><div>90%</div><div>diversion from landfill, with 50% source separated recycling, from City-managed properties by end June 2025</div></div> <div><div>91%</div><div>diverted from landfill (June 2025) Target achieved</div></div> <div><div>56%</div><div>source separated recycling (June 2025)</div></div>			
<div><div>15%</div><div>reduction in total waste generated from City-managed properties by end of June 2025, from 2019 baseline</div></div>		<div><div>6%</div><div>increase in total waste generated against baseline (June 2025)</div></div>	
<div><div>70%</div><div>resource recovery of waste from office strip out and fit out by end of June 2025</div></div>		<div><div></div><div>Data is not available for this reporting period. A measurement process is still being established</div></div>	
<div><div>90%</div><div>resource recovery of construction and demolition waste generated and managed by City operations by end June 2025</div></div>		<div><div>97%</div><div>recovery of construction and demolition waste (June 2025) Target achieved</div></div>	
<div><div>50%</div><div>resource recovery of waste from City parks, streets and public places by end June 2025</div></div>		<div><div>54%</div><div>resource recovery from City parks, streets and other public places (June 2025) Target achieved</div></div>	

Local area targets

Target

Latest result

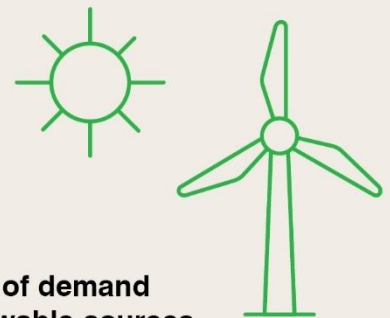


Carbon

70% reduction in emissions generation by 2030, from 2006 baseline

net zero emissions by **2035**

45% reduction against baseline (June 2024)



50% of **electricity** demand met by renewable sources by 2030

35% of demand met by renewable sources (NSW average, June 2025)



Water



Reduce residential **potable water use to 170 litres** per person per day by 2030

194 litres per person per day (June 2024)



10% reduction in non-residential **potable water use** per m² by 2030, from 2019 baseline

20% reduction against baseline (June 2024)
Target achieved

50% reduction in the annual **solid pollution load** discharged to waterways via stormwater by 2030

Gross pollutants reduced by **21%**
Total suspended solids reduced by **15%** against 2006 baseline (2025)

15% reduction in the annual **nutrient load** discharged to waterways via stormwater by 2030

Total phosphorous reduced by **9%**
Total nitrogen reduced by **5%** against 2006 baseline (2025)

Local area targets continued

Target

Latest result



Increase overall **green cover** to across the local area, including **27% tree canopy** by 2050

40%



Greening

33.2% green cover (2024)
20.9% canopy (2024)



Waste



90%

diversion from landfill of **residential waste**, with 35% as source-separated recycling by 2030

Diversion from landfill **52%**
(June 2025)

Source separated recycling **32%**
(June 2025)

90%

diversion from landfill of **commercial and industrial waste** by 2030

55%

diversion from landfill
(estimate, 2025)

90%

diversion from landfill of **construction and demolition waste** by 2030

78%

diversion from landfill
(NSW average, June 2023)

15%

reduction in **residential waste** generation per capita by 2030, from a 2015 baseline

17%

per capita reduction in waste since 2015
(June 2025)
Target achieved

Climate action



Climate change affects all of us. Bold **action** in this critical decade will help to avoid its worst impacts.

We continue to lead with **ambitious** targets and **decisive** action to meet them.

Our operations

The world needs to limit average temperatures as close as possible to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. This is why we've set an ambitious target to reduce our operational greenhouse gas emissions. To reach this target we're electrifying our buildings, fleet and equipment, managing our waste and purchasing 100% renewable electricity.

Our results

Our operational emissions have dropped 78% since 2005/06 (baseline year). In 2024/25 our emissions decreased from 12,554 tonnes CO₂ equivalent (CO₂-e) to 11,720 tonnes CO₂-e.

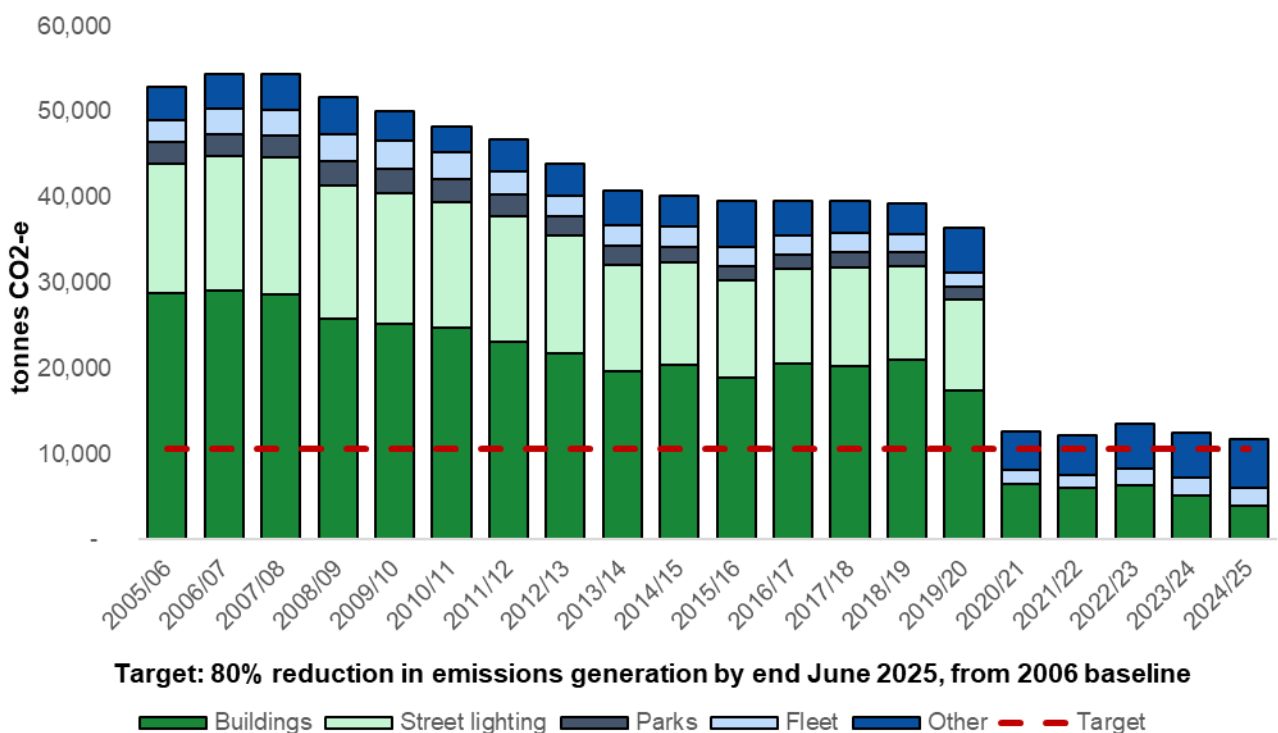


Figure 1: Operational carbon emissions

The City of Sydney became the first government authority to achieve carbon neutral certification from the Australian Government in 2011. To maintain this certification, we purchase high integrity carbon credits for our remaining emissions. Since the 2019/20 certification year we have purchased an increasing share of high quality Australian carbon credits which support Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander fire and land management projects.

New Year's Eve fireworks

The carbon emissions from our role in New Year's Eve are included in our total operational carbon reporting, with 865 tonnes estimated for the 2024 event. This is a conservative (high) estimate using mostly expenditure-based emissions calculations. The combustion of fireworks contributed 2.7 tonnes – only 0.3% of the event's emissions.

Fleet emissions

Emissions from our vehicle fleet were 2,116 tonnes CO₂-e, a 12% decrease compared to our 2014 baseline.

Fleet emissions are expected to decline as we invest in more electric vehicles. As of June 2025, 18% of our fleet was fully electric. To complement our road registered electric fleet, we continue to increase the use of electric bikes, with more than 9,592km travelled in the year.

The chart below shows an increase from 2022/23. This is largely a result of changes made in 2023 by the Australian Government to the emissions factors used for diesel and petrol. These fuel types are now more carbon intensive as production has moved overseas.

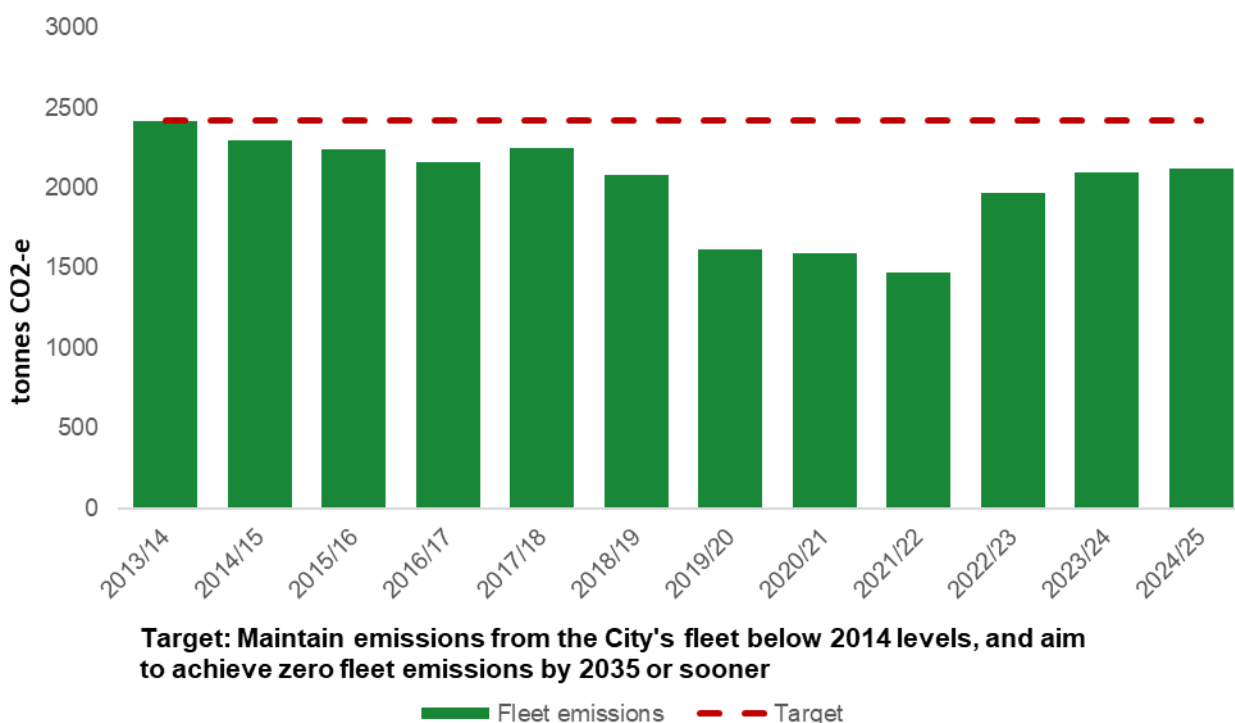


Figure 2: Operational fleet emissions

Working towards our emissions targets

Our goal in the environmental strategy 2021-2025 was to reduce emissions by 80% from 2006 levels by 2025. We've reset our ambition in the new environmental strategy with a target of 85% reduction in emissions from 2006 levels by 2030. These targets are absolute and do not include offsets.

We're focused on meeting this target by electrifying our properties, fleet, plant and equipment. We're reducing the use of our cogeneration and trigeneration systems. Where available, we'll use lower global warming potential refrigerants in our heating and cooling systems and all our new buildings will be fully electric with no new fossil fuel connections. Actions to reduce emissions from our waste are detailed in the [waste and materials](#) section.

We have allocated funds in the long-term financial plan to our net zero buildings goal. This year we changed 4 gas hot water systems to heat pumps or electric units, upgraded 8 lighting systems in properties to LEDs and replaced 4 air conditioning systems with low global warming potential refrigerants.

As we complete building electrification projects, we disconnect the gas supply, and if practical, abolish the gas meter. During the year 3 gas meters were removed across the portfolio.

Instead of refuelling at petrol stations, fleet vehicles are charged at our facilities between shifts or overnight. This year a further 21 electric vehicle charge points were installed across 4 operational sites to support this transition.

In 2021 we began using battery-powered equipment in our parks and open spaces by replacing petrol blowers with fully electric alternatives. Since then, we've made the move to 100% battery powered hedgers and brush cutters.

Viable electric heavy vehicle options are starting to emerge. Replacing our tipper trucks is being considered for our first significant step forward. We've completed analysis on the charging infrastructure and electrical capacity required to support this shift as more suitable vehicles become available.

While our long-term agreement to purchase 100% renewable electricity contributes to environmental savings, it also protected us from electricity price increases. We saved \$5 million in the first 5 years.

How we do it

Measure and report

By monitoring our energy use, we identify ways to cut consumption and lower emissions.

Each year we prepare a detailed emissions inventory and verify it independently to ensure accuracy. Our emissions and activities are reported yearly in [Climate Active public disclosure statements](#) and in this report.

Avoid and reduce

We achieve energy and emissions savings in our buildings, plant and equipment, and public lighting through efficiency upgrades and electrification.

We set up a dedicated fund for facility and equipment upgrades, and we're transitioning our parks maintenance equipment to electric options.

We're starting to focus on carbon intensive materials in our roads and buildings. We prioritise renovating and reusing structures rather than demolishing them. We consider ways to reduce the amount of concrete we use and choose low carbon options where available. We continue to include recycled content in our asphalt.

Reducing travel-related emissions

Our travel policy requires employees to prioritise walking, cycling and public transport for work trips.

Employees use our fleet of e-bikes, e-cargo bikes and pedal bikes at Town Hall House and Alexandra Canal Depot. We offer training to build confidence and improve safety.

We prioritise use of our electric vehicles when employees require a car.

Trials of new electric heavy vehicles are underway, with close market monitoring to support future fleet transitions. We encourage our contractors to do the same.

Renewable energy

We've installed more than 2 megawatts of solar panels, supplying electricity directly where it's used. We purchase 100% renewable electricity through a power purchase agreement.

Offset

We offset unavoidable emissions, purchasing carbon credits from quality Australian and international projects. These projects support regional efforts, regenerating ecosystems and supporting biodiversity.

Victoria Park pool electrifies its future

Sydney's oldest inground swimming pool, Victoria Park Pool in Camperdown, is our first fully electric aquatic facility.

This year we replaced the gas heating systems with highly efficient electric heat pumps. The project replaced an old gas boiler, instant gas hot water units and 3 outdated heat pumps with state-of-the-art electric heat pumps and supporting infrastructure. This approach is up to 4 times more efficient and helps keep the pool at a consistent and comfortable temperature.

Converting our fossil gas-using plant and equipment to electricity is an important action to meet our carbon emissions reduction targets. Since the change the site has consumed zero gas and reduced its electricity use, leading to lower running expenses.

We also installed a sophisticated building management system that continuously monitors system performance and allows real-time adjustments. The system ensures issues are quickly identified and resolved, reducing downtime and maintenance costs. The project

team worked closely with the pool operators and maintenance teams to ensure the installed systems could be reliably serviced by local maintenance providers.

Efficient heat pumps will be introduced at all 6 aquatic centres as we progress towards full electrification of our operations by 2030.

Smart planning reduces emissions

Our road maintenance program uses large and heavy civil machinery brought onsite from western Sydney.

To reduce the transport emissions associated with our road works, last year we streamlined the program into a much shorter timeframe than the usual 10 to 12 months. It also greatly reduced overall disruption to our communities.

Well-coordinated scheduling with our contractors, utility providers and traffic



The new equipment and project team at Victoria Park Pool. Image: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

authorities allowed us to complete 47,000m² of roads in just over one month.

This saved more than 30 heavy freight vehicle movements, 900km of travel with 50 tonnes of machinery in and out of our area. We estimate this saved 10 tonnes of CO₂-e. By selecting a product with 20% recycled asphalt and 2.5% recycled crushed glass, the project supported our commitment to circular materials.



Road renewal in Millers Point. Image: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Action for our city

While we can't tackle the climate crisis alone, we can lead and encourage others to do the same. This is why we set a net zero target for the local area.

Our programs, grants and partnerships support building owners, residents and businesses to improve energy efficiency and switch to renewable energy. We support and campaign for zero emissions transport, buildings and energy supplies. In our local area we encourage the use of transport with no or reduced emissions.

Our results

Greenhouse gas emissions for our local area have decreased year on year. In June 2024 they were 45% below 2006 levels.

From 2005/06 to 2023/24, gross regional product, a measure of local economic activity, grew by 79%¹ even as total emissions have significantly reduced.

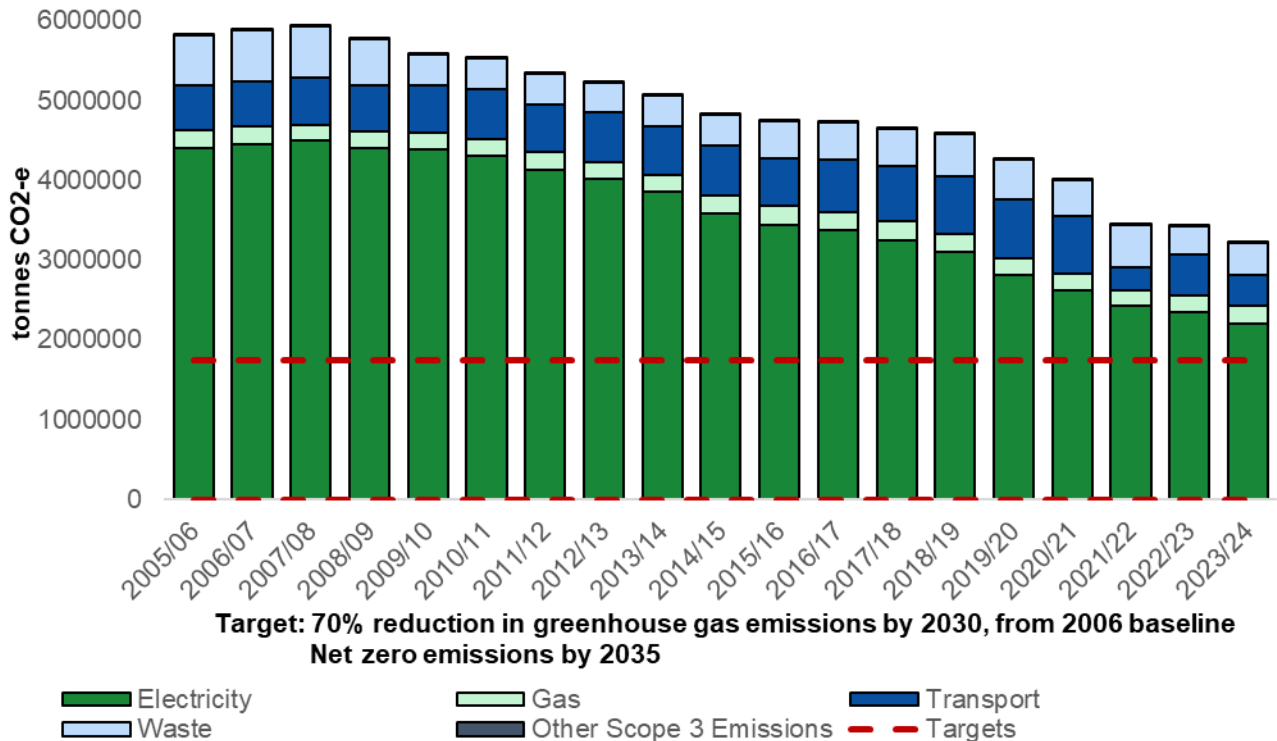


Figure 3: City of Sydney local area emissions

¹ Economy.id, National Economics (NIEIR). Modelled series, not adjusted for inflation

Air quality

The NSW Government operates 2 air quality monitoring stations in our area, one in Alexandria and another at Cook + Phillip Park. During the reporting period, local air quality was consistently reported as good, which is the best rating. Real-time air quality data is available online from the [NSW Government](#).

How we do it

Measure

We use the [greenhouse gas protocol](#) to measure the emissions for our local area.

Flagship programs

Our targeted programs enable our communities to reduce their carbon emissions. Flagship programs include the Better Buildings Partnership, Sustainable Destination Partnership, CitySwitch and Smart Green Apartments.

Promote renewable energy sources

We provide information for residents, businesses and other organisations to switch to GreenPower electricity plans.

Food waste collection

Reducing the amount of food waste being sent to landfill not only helps manage waste, it also cuts carbon emissions by preventing food from turning into methane.

Promote active, renewable transport

We encourage people to move away from private vehicles and towards walking, cycling and public transport.

As well as setting 40km/h speed zones in residential areas, we've added shared zones to make walking a safer and more pleasant experience.

We provide on-street charging locations to encourage a shift to electric vehicles.

Planning requirements

Our development controls and associated guidelines help improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy power sources in new buildings and major redevelopment.

Support for green tech

We support the Greenhouse Climate Tech Hub through an accommodation grant and rental subsidy. The hub provides coworking areas, meeting rooms and event spaces to more than 850 innovators driving climate action, fostering a dynamic environment for collaboration. The hub also runs year-round programming, including industry events and capacity-building workshops for founders.

Advocacy

We advocate to state and federal governments on a wide range of issues. Our focus spans from building performance improvements, ratings and disclosure to national energy and emissions targets, electric vehicle support, improving fuel standards and climate justice.

External factors

The electricity grid is rapidly greening. The NSW grid was 35.3% renewable in the year to June 2025, up from 31.6% the previous year.

Preparing for the heat

Knowing our heat risks

We're already experiencing more hotter days, higher humidity and longer heatwaves in our local area.

To understand our future climate and how best to prepare and adapt to increasing urban heat, we studied the microclimates in our area for 4 months. A microclimate is the climate of a small area that differs from the surrounding region, for example, a cluster of hotter streets within a cooler suburb.

The study showed we have a varied climate across our area, with a temperature variation of up to 10°C from north to south.

Overall, the hottest areas are in the south and west including Alexandria, Rosebery, Glebe and Camperdown. These areas tend to have lower canopy cover and high amounts of materials, such as concrete, that absorb and store heat during the day and release it in the evening. In these hotter areas, communities may experience hotter days and less cooling in the evenings during heatwaves, also having impacts on people's health and what they can do to cool down.

This study, together with new climate modelling data provided by the NSW State government, NARClIM 2.0, means we can better understand how increased heat, more intense rainfall and water inundation may impact our local area.

This information helps us identify the best ways to adapt in each suburb and understand what support is needed in communities most affected by climate change.

Building climate resilience into our operations, providing climate information and helping people to prepare are all important activities to be ready for summer.

Be aware and have a plan

We're taking steps to support our communities during increasingly hot summer days. In the 2024/25 summer, we trialled several projects to help people prepare for and cope with extreme heat.

When the Bureau of Meteorology issues a heat alert, our digital screens across the city centre display warnings and practical tips to help people stay safe and avoid heat-related illness.



Hanging sensors to collect microclimate data. Image: Abril Felman / City of Sydney

To support people experiencing homelessness, the most at risk in our communities, we partner with St Vincents Hospital and the University of Sydney to set up mobile cooling tents in parks. These tents provide a cool space with misters, fans and an opportunity to consult with a health practitioner. The tents also support people living in social housing and others who need a break from the heat.

We held community workshops to help people plan for emergencies such as heatwaves, power outages and knowing where to go – and how to get there – if conditions become too hot.

Transport improvements

Sydney Metro City and Southwest opened in August 2024 providing a frequent and fast service connecting our area to Sydenham in the south, the north shore and north-west. As the first new city centre railway and stations to open since 1979, this is a major milestone for public transport.

We were early advocates for the Metro network as a solution for increased public transport to

connect Sydney. To support the success of the new stations, we created high quality public spaces for the new stations at Waterloo, Central, Gadigal, Martin Place and Barangaroo.

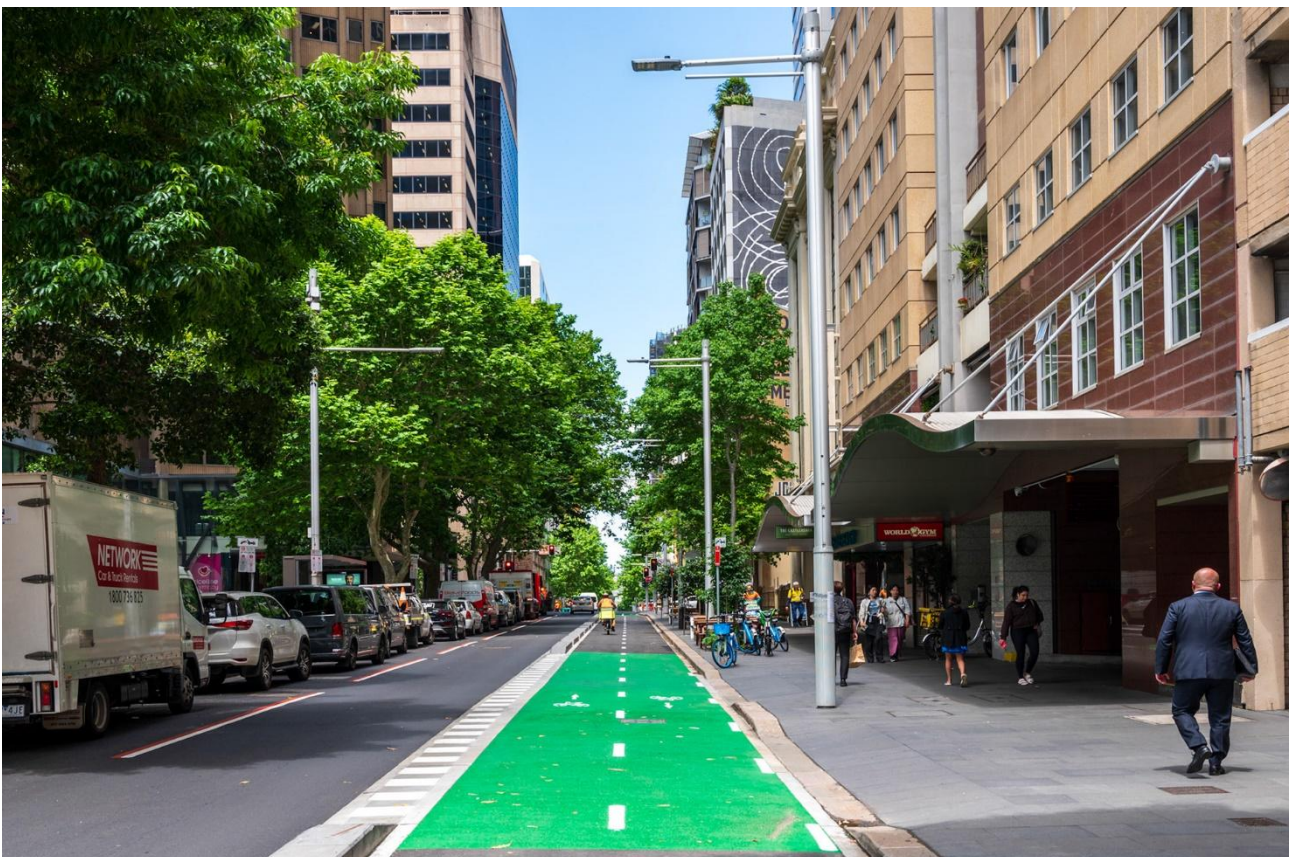
More cycleways make Sydney safer, greener and more connected

We continue to make Sydney an even more attractive place for people to ride. This year 2 key links in the bike network were completed: the Glebe to Ultimo cycleway (along Mary Ann and Kelly streets) and the Castlereagh Street cycleway in the city centre.

By connecting the network we're creating a city where riding is a safe, quick and viable alternative to cars or public transport.

These cycleway projects don't just benefit people riding. We include improvements to our streets such as more trees and garden beds, making it our footpaths more attractive for socialising and alfresco dining.

These improvements help calm traffic, improve safety for people walking and create streets that encourage people to linger for longer, which supports businesses.



Castlereagh Street cycleway. Image: Will Jones / City of Sydney

Share bike bays reduce clutter and support people riding

Share bikes are an increasingly popular mode of transport in our area with 60,000 weekly trips consistently recorded.

We have long supported this mode of transport as it encourages people to get active while travelling and frees up space on congested roads and public transport.

But with its popularity comes clutter and safety risks when bikes block footpaths. With no regulation from the state government in place, we trialled on-street parking for share bikes in sections of kerbside not being used.

Our first parking bay was in Haymarket with the trial expanded to 16 locations by June 2025, with capacity for up to 228 dedicated parking spaces.

Share bike companies are encouraging people to park here and distributing bikes to these locations.

Climate-focused events

CityTalks: the climate and nature crisis – what Australia does matters!

Our CityTalks are free events that feature high profile international or national keynote speakers and a discussion panel of local and international experts. On 2 April 2025 at Sydney Town Hall, speakers and panellists discussed why strong and decisive climate action was needed now more than ever.

Over 800 attendees heard from 13 speakers on the new frontlines for climate action and unpacked the levers of change for tackling the climate crisis in the challenging years ahead. The event featured two internationally renowned leaders on global climate action and climate justice: Christiana Figueres, Founding Partner, Global Optimism and former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Jennifer Robinson, human rights barrister.

This CityTalk launched our draft environmental strategy 2025-2030 for public comment and



Speakers and panellists at CityTalks: the climate and nature crisis - what Australia does matters! (Image: Katherine Griffiths/City of Sydney)

highlighted outcomes from our sustainability partnership programs.

Through these events we aim to inspire, inform, educate and engage the community in an international dialogue to realise Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision. The [full recording of the event](#) is available.

Australian Sustainable Finance Summit

On 31 October 2024, the Australian Sustainable Finance Summit brought together more than 400 leaders, experts and changemakers from across finance, government, not for profits and human rights groups.

Centred on the theme Catalysing Ambition into Action, the summit showcased bold ideas, practical strategies and cross-sector collaboration to accelerate progress in sustainable finance.

The event was the first of 3 years of summits we supported with a business sector support grant.

Climate Action Week

Climate Action Week Sydney (CAW.SYD) was successfully held in March with nearly 300 community-led events, more than doubling the size of the inaugural 2024 year.

There were keynote panels, workshops, exhibitions, tours and networking sessions covering themes such as biodiversity, green industries, regenerative economies and empowering youth.

We're supporting the first 3 years of the event with an innovation and ideas grant. The next Climate Action Week Sydney will run from 9 to 15 March 2026.

Influencing for change

Climate action

We advocated to federal and state governments for environmentally, economically, and socially just policies and programs. Our submissions included expanding the Commercial Building Disclosure program, home energy ratings disclosure, gas network pricing and priorities for the NSW Net Zero Commission.

We also supported minimum rental standards, incentives for electrification, and safe and equitable decommissioning of the gas network, with targeted support for people who are renting, live in apartments or on low incomes.

Transport

We had a strong focus on e-micromobility, including the need for NSW Government to regulate share bikes, support share bike parking and provide clarity on its proposed legalisation of electric scooters. We provided the NSW Inquiry into the use of e-scooters, e-bikes and related mobility options with a comprehensive submission and provided evidence at a hearing.

We advocated to state and federal governments about the key steps to achieve net zero transport emissions.

Environmentally responsible investment

We have directed our investment funds towards environmentally and socially responsible investments since 2015. These investments fund emissions and waste reduction and efficient use of finite resources through recycling and use of environmentally responsible products, subject to the constraints of legislative requirements and market demand for such products.

In 2024/25 we invested \$50 million into Westpac Green Term Deposit products, with the funds allocated to a range of emissions reduction projects. 64% of the funds were directed to low carbon buildings, 25% to renewable energy projects and 11% to low carbon transport and infrastructure projects.

Our [investment policy](#) outlines how we will continue to prioritise investments in environmentally and socially responsible products.

We don't directly or knowingly invest in activities that add carbon emissions and toxins into the environment or lead to the degradation or destruction of land and marine habitats.

Our strata and business programs

To improve sustainability and resilience in our local area and beyond, we partner with building owners, operators and tenants to achieve our environmental targets and resilience goals, accelerating our progress to net zero by 2035 and a more circular economy.

Program results

Smart Green Apartments

Since 2016 around 228 apartment buildings, have participated in the program². This represents more than 18,000 apartments.

Participating owners corporations have collectively:

- saved \$11 million in running costs
- avoided 65,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions
- invested over \$4 million in upgrades.

[Smart Green Apartments annual report](#)

Better Buildings Partnership

The partnership captures 50% of commercial office space and 88 buildings in our local area.

Since 2005/06, program partners have collectively:

- reduced stationary emissions intensity by 95%³
- reduced energy intensity by 58%
- reduced water use intensity by 64%.

Partners are buying 88% of base building electricity from renewable sources.

[Better Building Partnerships annual report](#)

Sustainable Destination Partnership

The program's 33 partners operate 73 buildings, representing more than half the hotel rooms in our local area.

Since 2018, program partners have collectively:

- reduced emissions by 31%
- reduced potable water use by 21%
- achieved 69% waste diversion from landfill
- purchased 12% renewable electricity.

[Sustainable Destination Partnership annual report](#)

CitySwitch Sydney

The program provided tailored decarbonisation support to 73 businesses, representing 107 tenancies in our local area.

Collective results for tenancies in the Sydney program indicate:

- average emissions intensity is 17kg CO2-e per square metre
- average electricity intensity is 68 kWh per square metre
- 70% have switched to purchasing renewable electricity
- average NABERS energy rating of 5 stars.

[CitySwitch program annual report](#)

² The 2023/24 SGA annual report recorded 279 buildings which represents the number of owners corporations including pilot participants. The data in this report has been adjusted to align with investment and impact figures.

³ This reflects Scope 1 and 2 emissions, includes base building electricity and gas consumption. See BBP annual report for details

Working with our strata communities

This year we helped owners corporations improve sustainability of their buildings, supporting them to explore upgrades including domestic hot water heat pumps, EV charging infrastructure and rooftop solar.

We published a series of case studies on how apartment buildings have taken part in the program. In these case studies owners corporations share their experiences and the benefits they've achieved from sustainability infrastructure.

Partnership snapshot

Zenix, a 224-apartment residential building in Erskineville, installed 170 rooftop solar panels in November 2024. The owners corporation made this investment after receiving their first NABERS energy rating, an action plan and a solar feasibility study funded by our green building grant.

Each panel can generate up to 580 watts, giving the system a total capacity of 99 kilowatts to power common areas. In its first 2 months, the system produced 27 megawatt-hours of electricity, enough to charge an electric vehicle for 160,000km.

Looking to the future, the strata committee will monitor savings and consider if battery storage is feasible.



Zenix's new solar panels. Image: Michelle Tan/City of Sydney

Supporting a sustainable destination

This year Sydney ranked 10th out of more than 100 cities in the Global Sustainable Destination Index. The Sustainable Destination Partnership, a collaboration of Sydney's accommodation and entertainment venues and cultural institutions, worked together to improve environmental performance and achieve our best ever score in the index.

Partners focussed on upskilling their teams in avoiding food waste, renewable electricity procurement and electrification of buildings. Together the partnership has co-designed a pathway to net zero emissions.

Partnership snapshot

At Opera Bar and House Canteen sustainability starts with culture.

Executive chef Fernando Sanchez embeds sustainability into everyday operations. From onboarding to daily operations, his team is constantly reminded of the importance of reducing food waste.

In the kitchen, colour-coded bins with photo guides streamline organic waste separation. This simple but strategic system, refined over time, has enabled Opera Bar to divert 96% of its waste from landfill.

With systems and culture in place, the team is now working further up the food waste hierarchy, adjusting portion sizes, conducting waste audits, and measuring impact to reduce waste before it begins.

This commitment extends beyond the kitchen. Fernando has created relationships with local suppliers to tackle waste together. When a supplier had surplus zucchini flowers that didn't meet cosmetic standards, Fernando turned them into a featured menu item. These partnerships allow flexibility, innovation, and ultimately, less waste.

Through passion, persistence and strong leadership, Fernando has turned Opera Bar and House Canteen into a shining example of how to reduce food waste.



Opera Bar CEO Fernando Sanchez showing the KITRO system which tracks waste using image recognition and AI technology. Image: Michael Matthews /City of Sydney

Improving sustainability in Australian businesses

This year the Better Buildings Partnership published the circular economy procurement best practice guideline. It brings together experiences from industry, key peak bodies and sustainability consultancy Thinkstep-ANZ on how organisations use their procurement power to achieve greater sustainability and gain a competitive edge in tender processes.

The guideline supports property owners, managers and tenants to understand how to meet sustainability expectations, improving the performance of their buildings by embedding circularity principles in procurement.

CitySwitch continues to support commercial office tenants with sustainability and their journey to net zero emissions. This year one of our focus areas was supporting businesses to understand the new mandatory climate reporting requirements, the Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards (ASRS).

Partnership snapshot

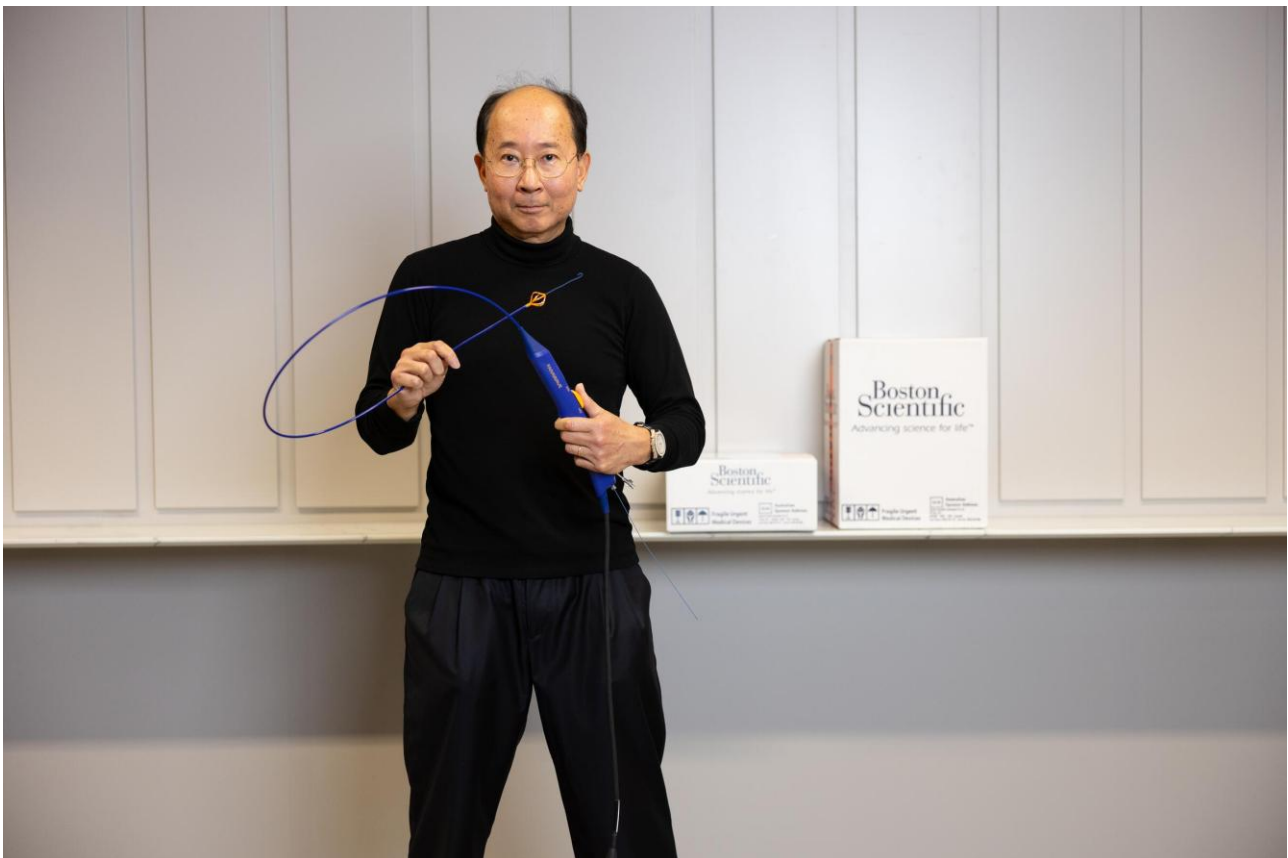
Boston Scientific's Australian and New Zealand operations are committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Through CitySwitch, the company gained a structured framework to identify high-impact emission sources across their operations and supply chain.

They decided to focus on freight, a major but often overlooked contributor to emissions in the healthcare industry.

Boston Scientific shifted their endoscopic product shipments from air to sea freight. Since January 2025, 6.83 tonnes of product have arrived by sea freight, cutting an estimated 100 tonnes of CO2-e, a 99% reduction in freight emissions.

The company also adopted a carbon-neutral domestic freight provider and introduced a once-daily ordering system for major customers. This change reduced emissions by 25% year-on-year and delivered cost savings.

Boston Scientific ANZ is a leading example of how multinational companies can turn net-zero targets into local tangible action.



Harry Chiam from Boston Scientific. Image: Abril Felman/City of Sydney

Waste and materials



We promote **responsible** material management, encouraging reduced consumption, waste minimisation and resource sharing.

Goods and materials used in our city create environmental impacts locally and where they're sourced.

Our operations

We focus on reducing our waste and maximising resource recovery to ensure materials aren't used just once and discarded. We've set targets to reduce waste creation, increase recycling and resource recovery and dramatically reduce how much waste goes to landfill.

We're responsible for managing waste and recycling from our buildings, construction and asset management projects, and the parks and public spaces we look after.

Our results

We have separate targets for waste from our properties and the public spaces we manage. We have more control over waste management in our properties, offering greater recycling opportunities compared to public spaces. The 2 graphs below show these differentiated targets and results. [Attachment 1: Understanding our waste data](#) explains the terms used to report waste and recycling results.

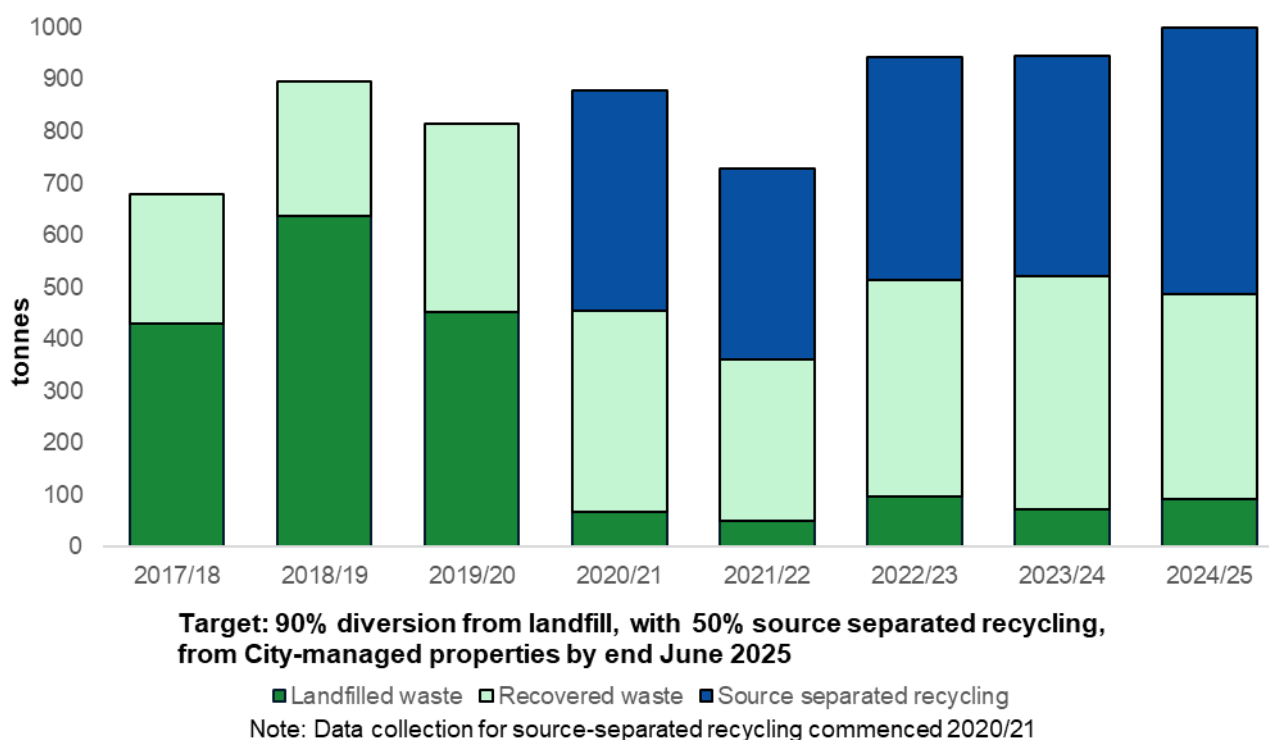


Figure 4: Operational waste from our properties

Total waste generated from our properties was 998 tonnes in 2024/25, an increase of 6% against our 2019 baseline. This is because of our larger portfolio and increased renovation activity. Since 2019 the number of properties we service has grown from 65 to 76. There has also been a recent increase in strip-outs and renovations which has generated a significant amount of waste.

In 2024/25, 8535 tonnes of waste were generated from our parks, streets and public places.

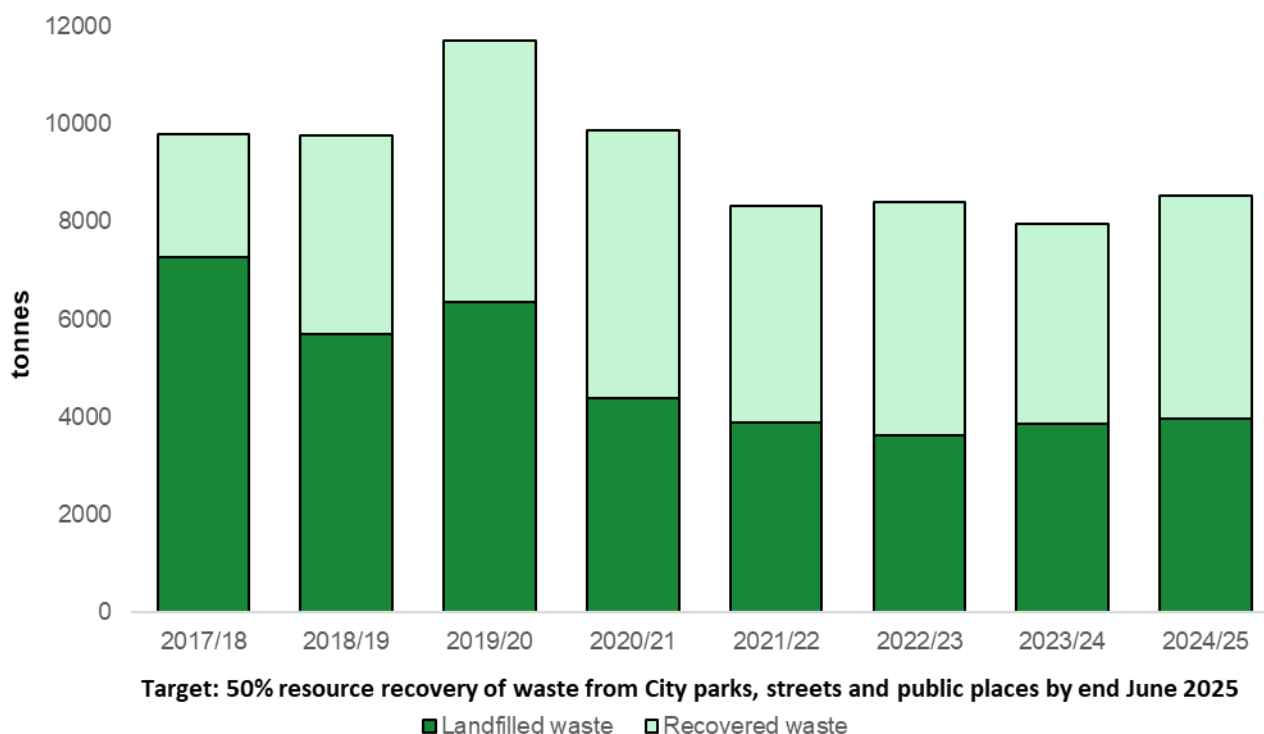


Figure 5: Waste from public spaces that we manage

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Landfill diversion rate, City of Sydney properties	37%	29%	44%	92%	93%	90%	92%	92%
Source separated rate, City of Sydney properties				52%	54%	51%	49%	55%
Resource recovery rate, parks, streets and public places	26%	42%	46%	55%	53%	57%	51%	54%

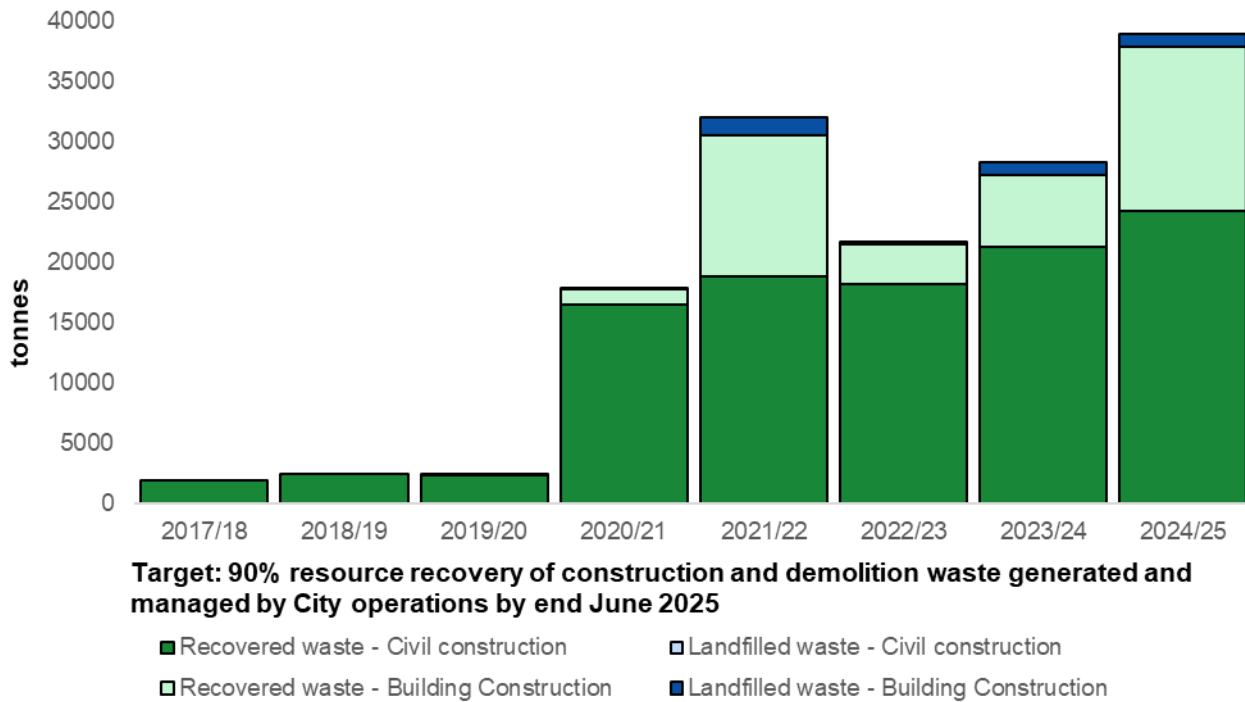
Table 1: Operational waste recovery rates

Food dehydrators across 3 locations processed 8.5 tonnes of food waste, generating 1.5 tonnes of soil conditioner.

After a successful trial, the City of Sydney uniforms recycling program is now a permanent service. This year 682kg of uniforms, shoes, hard hats and safety glasses were recycled and repurposed.

Construction and demolition waste

In 2024/25, we achieved a 97% resource recovery rate for our construction and demolition waste. This result is split into civil construction (roads and stormwater systems) and building construction. The building construction data was added in 2020/21.



Note: Improved data collection, including for building construction projects, commenced 2020/21

Figure 6: Construction and demolition waste from our operations

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Resource recovery rate, civil construction	100.0%	100.0%	95.0%	99.7%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%
Resource recovery rate, building construction	-	-	-	92.8%	88.4%	93.8%	84.7%	92.8%

Table 2: Construction and demolition waste recovery rates

How we do it

Measure

We're continually improving our reporting processes for our operational waste streams. Monthly reports from our waste contractors are in line with the Better Buildings Partnership guidelines for operational waste. This data lets us track and manage our waste performance.

Avoid and reduce

We aim to avoid creating waste.

We've substantially reduced the use of paper towels in buildings such as Town Hall House. Tap to print (release printing) is also in place. Paperless solutions are preferred for records management and Council business.

Our updated merchandise policy ensures we only produce branded items when there is a demonstrated benefit, and the item meets our single-use guidelines.

Employees at Town Hall House are encouraged to reuse coffee mugs, supported by a reusable cup library, and to take a container when visiting a local business to buy takeaway lunch.

Source separation

Mixed recycling, paper, secure paper and food scraps collections are available in all office locations. Specialised sites also have battery, textile, light bulb and metal recycling. We collect our uniforms for textile recovery.

Food scraps from Town Hall House, Eveleigh Early Learning and Preschool and Ultimo Community Centre are recycled onsite. This food waste is converted into a soil conditioner for our green spaces.

We run regular internal communication campaigns to ensure everyone is aware of what to do.

Promote sustainable events

We've developed guidelines to support our employees and communities to reduce waste at our own events and those using City of Sydney venues and outdoor spaces.

We maintain [guidelines for single-use items](#) to reduce waste from events and services.

Trialling circular solutions for our parks

We're continually looking at new products to support our circular economy ambitions. We have a strong history of collecting materials to be recycled and we are complementing this by choosing recycled content materials. Closing the loop is core to a circular economy and a thriving recycling industry in Australia.

This year we used 2 new recycled-content products in our parks.

At Sydney Park an existing timber boardwalk over a wetland had reached the end of its life. Instead of replacing it with virgin timber, we installed a new composite timber decking product made from a blend of recycled wood fibre and recycled plastic.

This decking product is better suited near water than natural timber. It is UV and moisture resistant and does not require staining, sanding, oiling, sealing or painting which can be challenging over water. In choosing this durable



Sydney Park deck. Image: Will Jones / City of Sydney

product we're aligning to the circular economy principle to keep products in use for as long as possible.

At Wentworth Park the existing rubber safety surfacing around the exercise equipment was also at the end of its life.

Safety surfacing has two layers, the soft fall surface and a rubber cushioning layer. Condition inspections showed the cushioning layer didn't need replacing. In these areas we chose to only replace the soft fall surface, allowing 60% of the existing material to be retained. This significantly reduced construction waste and prevented the rubber from prematurely ending up in landfill.

We also chose a circular option for the new soft fall surface. We used tiles made from at least 85% recycled plastic, often sourced from items such as old traffic cones and deflated pool toys.

Due to the modular nature of the safety tiles, individual pieces can be replaced in future if they are damaged or if the exercise equipment area is changed. The tiles don't use an adhesive, reduces the risk of the cushioning layer being removed if repairs are required.

This is a great example of the circular concept of design for disassembly supporting reduced costs for our community spaces.

This project supports our goal to reduce waste generation from our properties.

A second life for city colour

Once our colourful planter displays are finished for the season, they're given a second life by reusing and recycling their components.

We give perennial plants to the public, and plant them at Sydney City Farm, parks and open spaces.

Annual plants are taken back to the nursery, where they are composted to create new soil. The potting mix is recycled to create a new batch and the pots washed for reuse.

We also recycle our metal planters once they can no longer be repaired by sending them to be melted down and turned into new items.

Preservation goes deeper than a building's façade

343 George Street is steeped in history. Built in the 1920s, the heritage-listed building was once a bank headquarters. It's now a significant commercial space for retail and office use.

As part of our asset renewal program we completed a restoration and refreshed fit-out for some of the tenancy spaces. The existing fit-out had a large amount of furniture that was still in good condition. Rather than send it to landfill, we gave it another home at Town Hall House.

Among the items rehomed were workstations, chairs, pinboards, meeting room tables and arms for monitors. Almost everything we took from 343 George Street was in good condition and saved us more than \$250,000 to purchase new items and \$6,500 in landfill fees.

Action for our city

Our long-term waste objectives for our local area are to reduce waste, recycle as much as possible while retaining a material's highest value and treat what is left over in the most sustainable way.

We cannot achieve this alone. We require the support and partnership of industry, government and our communities.

Our results

In 2024/25 the total waste collected from residents was 65,533 tonnes, with 33,547 tonnes diverted from landfill.

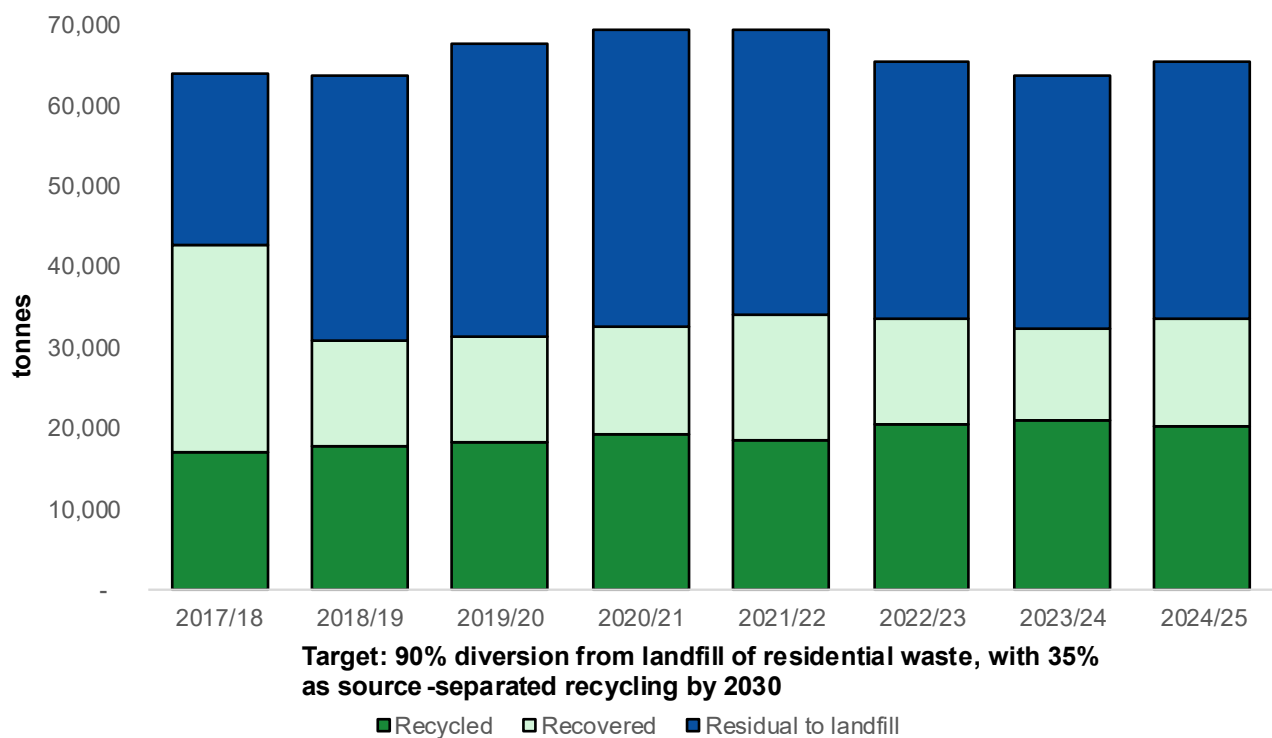


Figure 7: Residential waste generation

Attachment 1: Understanding our waste data explains the terms used to report waste and recycling results.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Landfill diversion rate	67%	48%	46%	47%	49%	51%	50%	52%
Source separated recycling rate	26%	28%	27%	28%	27%	31%	33%	32%

Table 3: Residential recycling and landfill diversion rates

To support our landfill diversion target we provide a range of services and accept a wide range of materials for recycling, making it easier for residents to keep waste out of the red lid bin.

Our Recycle It Saturday events were attended by 3,550 people who dropped off 71.4 tonnes of materials for reuse and recycling. The Ultimo recycling pop-up at Bay Street Depot saw 4,129 visits by residents and 25.5 tonnes of items collected. Our 20 recycling stations in community locations collected 3 tonnes of small tricky items for recycling. For residents who can't make it to our drop-off events or the pop-up service, we offer a doorstep recycling collection service. This year we collected 35.4 tonnes from 2,867 pickups directly from residents' homes.

Despite these efforts, we'll struggle to meet our 2030 landfill diversion targets due to external market challenges and the availability of recycling technology and infrastructure. This is a systemic issue, requiring a change in how governments, industry and communities value materials we use.

Waste generation by sector

We're responsible for managing waste and recycling from our own buildings, construction and asset management projects, parks and public spaces that we manage and homes. Landfill diversion and recycling targets are set for each of these areas, and we actively monitor and track waste and materials.

While we're not responsible for collecting and managing the remaining commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste in our local area, we recognise the significant impacts of these waste streams.

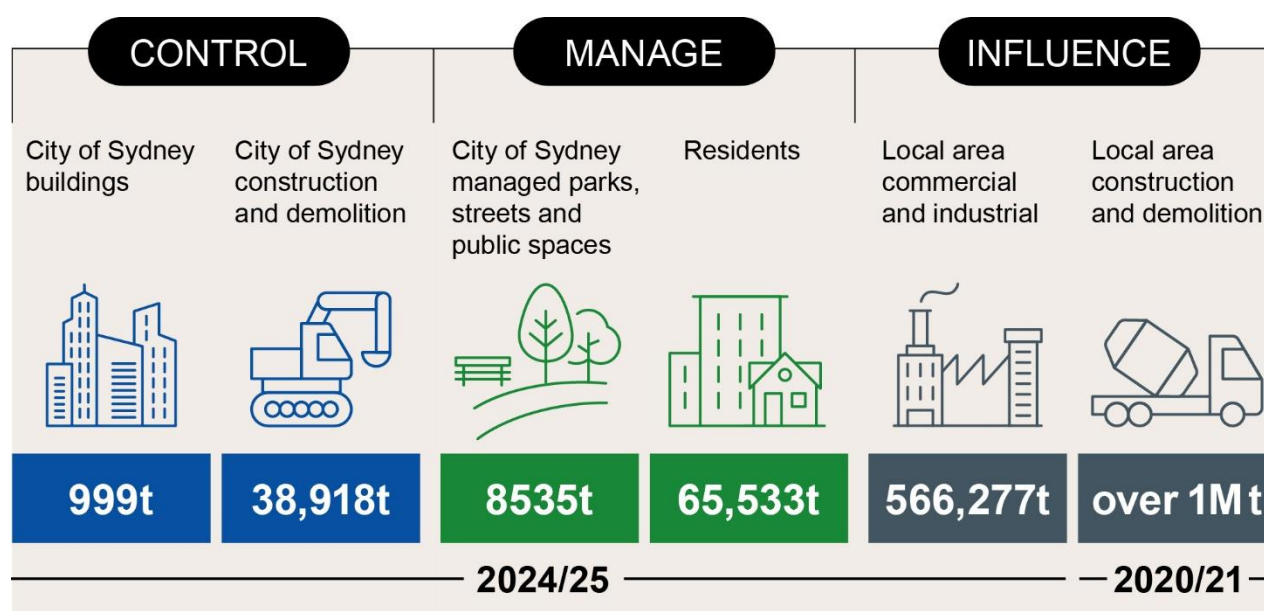


Figure 8: Waste generation by sector

How we do it

Measure

We measure residential material streams and we work with consultants and agencies to estimate commercial and construction waste generated in our area.

Tailored services

Our resident services focus on maximising resource recovery in the most efficient and convenient way.

Residents have access to many separate collection or drop-off services for recycling. We always seek to provide services that will maintain the value of the materials we collect.

We design our services to consider materials people generate as waste and seek the most appropriate processing solutions available.

Waste avoidance events and activities

Our waste avoidance events and activities encourage our communities to avoid, reuse and reduce waste. Events include clothing and toy swaps, sewing repair workshops, school education programs, online recycling masterclasses and community pop-up stalls.

We provide Ask a Waste Expert, an online service to answer questions from residents about recycling.

We use our waste collection trucks and street cleansing vehicles as highly visible, moving message boards to communicate our waste and recycling services to residents and visitors.

Planning requirements

Our development controls and associated waste guidelines enable good design of waste management and source separation in new buildings.

Grant funding

We provide funding to support new and innovative resource recovery and circular economy solutions for positive change across our local area.

Advocacy

We consistently advocate for systemic and legislative changes that require businesses that make and sell products to take greater responsibility for managing them at the end of their life, rather than leaving it solely to local government. Our partnership with the South Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils and Resilient Sydney member councils is a core element in our advocacy efforts.

Using maggots to turn household food scraps into animal feed

Food scraps make up around one-third of the waste in red lid household rubbish bins and when it reaches landfill, the organic material decomposes, emitting methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gases on the planet.

We're trialling the use of black soldier fly larvae as a sustainable and circular solution for up to 600 tonnes of food scraps we collect from local residences. This is the first time a council in NSW has investigated the system.

The larvae are housed in a secure, temperature-controlled processing module about the size of a shipping container in Alexandria. By processing food waste locally, we reduce emissions and fuel costs.

Manure from the larvae is processed into natural, low impact fertiliser. The maggots

themselves are processed into protein, rich in vitamins and minerals. This larvae protein can be fed to fish and poultry or even turned into pet food, replacing high-carbon emission protein sources such as soy beans, animal protein and fish meal. Unlike other insects, the black soldier fly doesn't carry or spread disease and its larvae breaks down bacteria in the food scraps they eat.

Using maggots to eat our food waste means we're reducing emissions and creating a true circular system.



Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore AO visits the Alexandria food scraps facility. Image: Phoebe Pratt / City of Sydney

Tricky items now easier to recycle

Giving preloved furniture a new home

In February and May, we trialled the collection of good quality household furniture as a new reuse stream at our Recycle It Saturday events. These items often end up on the kerbside when they could have a second life.

153 items of good quality furniture were dropped off by 100 residents. These included chairs, ottomans, bedside tables and bookshelves.

The trial, to be evaluated in 2025/26, is testing how we can partner with local charities to resell the items in their stores or to rehome the furniture to communities in need.

Recycling tatty sheets and stained shirts

This year we introduced an unwearable textiles collection at our Ultimo recycling pop-up and Recycle It Saturday events.

There are few recovery solutions for clothes, shoes, bedding and other textiles in bad condition. They're not collected in yellow lid kerbside recycling bins and can't be donated for reuse. This means a lot of unwearable clothing is ending up in landfill.

Textiles collected through this service are sorted at a dedicated facility in Cranebrook and then sent to a recycling partner in India.

Any buttons and zippers are removed for reuse or recycling and the textiles are sorted, graded (based on their fibre type), shredded into smaller pieces and turned into recycled yarn or felts used in insulation, rugs and blankets.

We recovered 8.2 tonnes of unwearable textiles since collections started in February 2024.

Empty blister pack recycling

We added a new recycling stream to collect empty blister packs – the plastic and foil sheets used to store pharmaceutical capsules and tablets.



Blister pack recycling at a recycling station. Image: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

These packs are made of valuable materials but are not collected in kerbside recycling bins. To address this gap, we are now collecting them through our recycling services including doorstep recycling, our 20 recycling stations, the Ultimo recycling pop-up and Recycle It Saturday events.

Once dropped off, the blister packs are taken to a dedicated facility in Silverwater. Special machinery is used to shred, grind and split the blister packs into their component parts using air-density and electrostatic separation. The salvaged plastic is provided to a Victorian company to make decking products. The foil is sent to a NSW factory and turned into aluminium pucks used in steel-making.

Influencing for change

We're working to influence change in the waste management system through strategic policy

submissions and advocacy to the NSW Government.

Local governments should be viewed as key partners in shaping state-wide policy to achieve better environmental outcomes when it comes to managing waste and resource recovery.

Through our submissions, we challenge the NSW Government's limited reinvestment of waste levy revenue. The levy is applied to waste sent to landfill with a stated goal to reduce the amount of waste being landfilled and promote recycling and resource recovery⁴. With more than \$850 million raised each year but less than 10% reinvested in waste and recycling, we argue this has slowed local government's ability to introduce new services and limits infrastructure development.

Comprehensive infrastructure planning that treats waste as essential infrastructure, transparent community engagement and strategic protection of waste facilities from urban development are crucial.

⁴ <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/Your-environment/Waste/waste-levy>

After years of advocacy in this space, dwindling landfill space and need for new infrastructure became the focus of a 2024 NSW Circular Economy Summit, hosted by NSW Environment Minister Penny Sharpe and NSW Environment Protection Authority CEO Tony Chappel⁵.

We are also focusing on promoting circular economy principles over simple waste processing. We are advocating for reusable systems and product stewardship programs that make manufacturers responsible for entire product lifecycles.

Stronger action on plastic reduction is needed, along with support for reuse-only precincts and mandatory reusable options in food service establishments.

⁵ <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/minns-labor-government-taking-action-so-sydney-doesnt-run-out-of-landfill>

New planning controls

In 2024/25, Council endorsed the final stages of a comprehensive update to our planning framework, including revisions to our Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP).

This sort of major update to our planning controls occurs every 5 to 7 years and is a chance to include a wide range of sustainability improvements. Once these changes come into force, the new requirements will be applied when developments are assessed, ensuring new development contributes to better sustainability.

Reducing emissions in our area

EV charging in apartment buildings

The ability to charge at home is one of the biggest considerations for people purchasing an electric vehicle. Updates to Sydney DCP 2012 will ensure private parking bays in new apartment developments can be easily retrofitted to install EV chargers. Some shared parking bays, such as visitor and customer parking, will require EV chargers to be fitted as part of the development.

Other updates make it easier to provide publicly accessible EV charging locations in new development, to serve those who live nearby and don't have their own charging option at home. Fast chargers with dedicated parking spaces can be provided in new development without planning barriers, as long as they meet some strict criteria including being powered by 100% renewable energy and not having advertising.

Better bike parking in new apartment buildings

We know that better facilities for storing bikes makes owning and using them easier and will encourage an increase in active transport.

Updates to our planning controls will require bike parking in new apartment buildings to be provided as lockable rooms on the ground floor, near to the building entrance and main lift.

Making solar panels easier in heritage areas

More local households in heritage conservation areas will now be able to take advantage of rooftop solar power without the need for a development application.

For highly visible locations where a development application is still required, new and more detailed guidance sets out how rooftop solar can be provided in a sensitive way and be easily approved, saving time, money and giving certainty for homeowners.

Converting basement areas to urban agriculture

Much of the food consumed in local restaurants, bars and cafes is shipped long distances, adding to emissions and our carbon footprint. Building owners told us they want to explore growing food locally, using innovative approaches to grow fresh salad, greens, mushrooms and other produce in

their unused car parking and basement areas. This would be a great hyper-local, low carbon and super fresh option.

Changes to Sydney LEP 2012 will give a special exemption from the floor space ratio controls for basement agriculture, enabling the conversion of unused basement areas to a more productive purpose without running into planning barriers.

Restricting indoor gas appliances in new homes

There is an established and growing body of evidence demonstrating negative health impacts from indoor gas appliances. The Climate Council estimates gas cooking in the home contributes to up to 12% of the childhood asthma burden in Australia, creating a risk comparable to household smoking.⁶

New homes are typically constructed and sold with basic appliances installed – an oven, cooktop, hot water system and potentially a heating and cooling system. The decision of which fuel to use informs calculations about how much electrical power and/or gas infrastructure utility companies need to supply to the development site. This can make converting gas appliances to electric alternatives in future problematic if a large development site has not factored capacity for electric appliance use.

A new provision in the Sydney DCP 2012 will require any indoor appliance installed in new homes to be electric rather than gas. The aim of this provision is to improve indoor air quality and promote healthier living environments by eliminating exposure to harmful emissions from gas appliances.

Requiring these appliances to be all-electric at the planning stage ensures that when new homes are built, there will be enough electrical capacity to cover all electric appliances.

Contributing to a greener city

Supporting biodiversity corridors

We've completed work to map our biodiversity corridors. These corridors run across privately-owned land and connect our major parks and green spaces, extend habitat areas and improve resilience in our ecological systems.

Our planning controls will for the first time require development in these corridors to consider their biodiversity function and support urban ecology including dense understorey planting and habitat features in landscaped areas.

Buildings in key bird habitat areas including near water bodies and large parks will also be required to have window treatments that reduce bird strike.

Encouraging green and social roofs

We will encourage new development to provide rooftop spaces with gardens, rooftop planting and space for social gathering. Green roofs help reduce the urban heat island effect and provide small areas of habitat. Any structures used for green and social roofs will have a special exemption: features including lift and stair access, shade structures, planter boxes, vine climbing structures and gazebos do not need to fit within the approved height limit. This makes it much more appealing for buildings to use their rooftops in a way that benefits the whole city.

⁶ <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/gas-habit-how-gas-harming-health/>

Maximising tree canopy and deep soil

Changes to existing requirements for deep soil areas and tree canopy cover on development sites will promote increased greenery on private land, complementing our actions in streets and parks and helping towards the canopy target in our urban forest strategy. Making sufficient space for landscaping and tree planting will help reduce the urban heat island effect, absorb heavy rainfall and provide habitat for biodiversity.

Rather than setting a site-specific canopy cover target, the updated controls specify the amount of deep soil – earth with no basement or built form beneath it – that needs to be provided for trees and the number of trees of different sizes that should be planted. This means developers will have to think about where to provide deep soil and trees early in the project. The controls also include a conversion rate to green roof area, if deep soil and in-ground trees cannot be provided due to site constraints.

Improving water use

We will introduce new NABERS Water requirements for large office, hotel and retail developments. This will ensure new developments will be built with water efficient fixtures and achieve high levels of water efficiency.

Rainwater tanks will be encouraged in more development types. Rainwater tanks can replace the use of potable water for things such as watering gardens and reduce localised flooding and demand on the stormwater system during major rainfall. The update sets out clearer requirements for tank size and rainfall collection area, and developments will need to provide plumbing to ensure the collected rainwater can be used easily.

Besides rainwater collection, the updated controls require greater consideration of stormwater runoff treatment, ensuring more rainwater is detained onsite and filtered before being discharged into stormwater system. This reduces stormwater pollutant loads and peak demand on the network during major rainfall.

Greening our city



Our communities value a green city with trees and nature, and access to **quality** outdoor spaces for rest and play.

Restoring our natural **environment** and increasing our green **infrastructure** supports the health and wellbeing of all of us and helps our climate resilience.

Our operations

Green streets, parks and open spaces are essential to the liveability of our city. They soften the effects of a dense urban environment, reduce the effects of climate change and provide places for our communities to connect with nature, rest, play and thrive.

Trees play a vital role in these environments by naturally cooling the air, reducing the urban heat island effect and enhancing resilience against climate change. They improve air quality, support biodiversity and improve community health and wellbeing.

Our results

Since 2008/09, our parks and green spaces have increased from 188 hectares to 218 hectares. This includes 15.68 hectares of land managed for bush restoration, up from 4.2 hectares on the 2012 baseline.

Each year we aim to plant 700 street and 50 park trees. In 2024/25, we planted 731 street trees and 116 trees in parks. We also planted 79,707 new plants in our parks and street gardens.

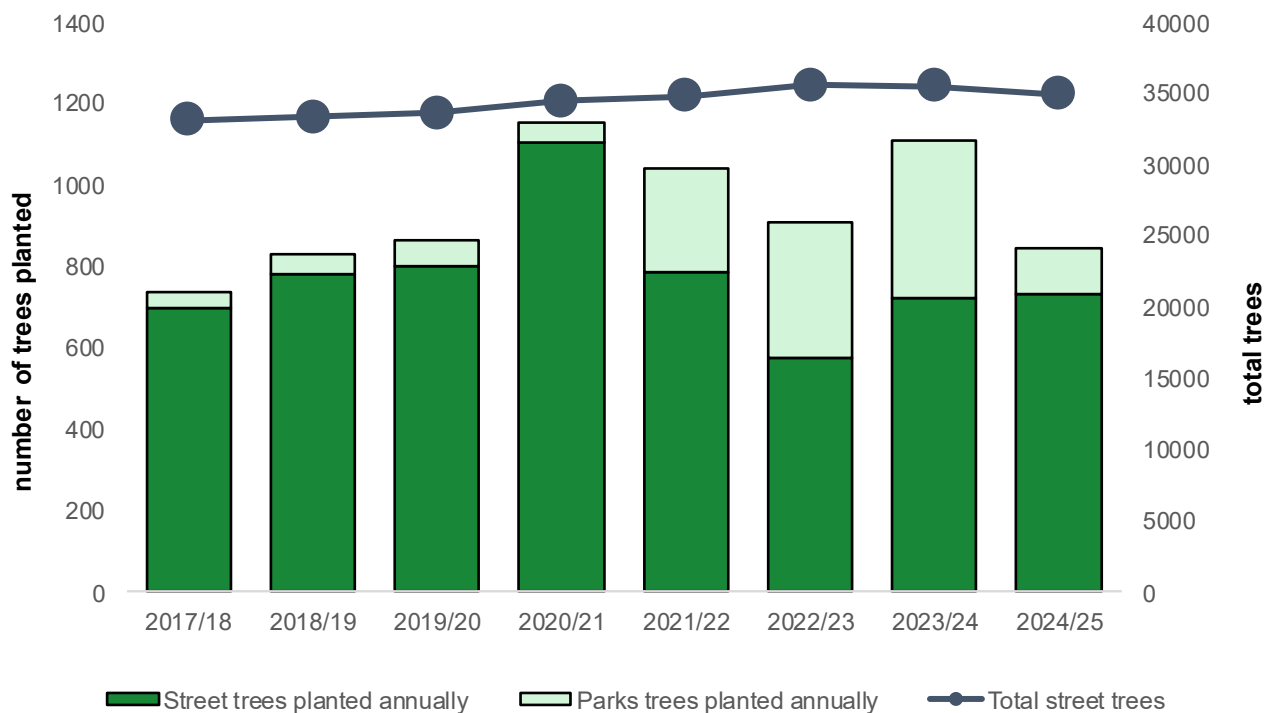


Figure 9: Trees planted on streets and in parks

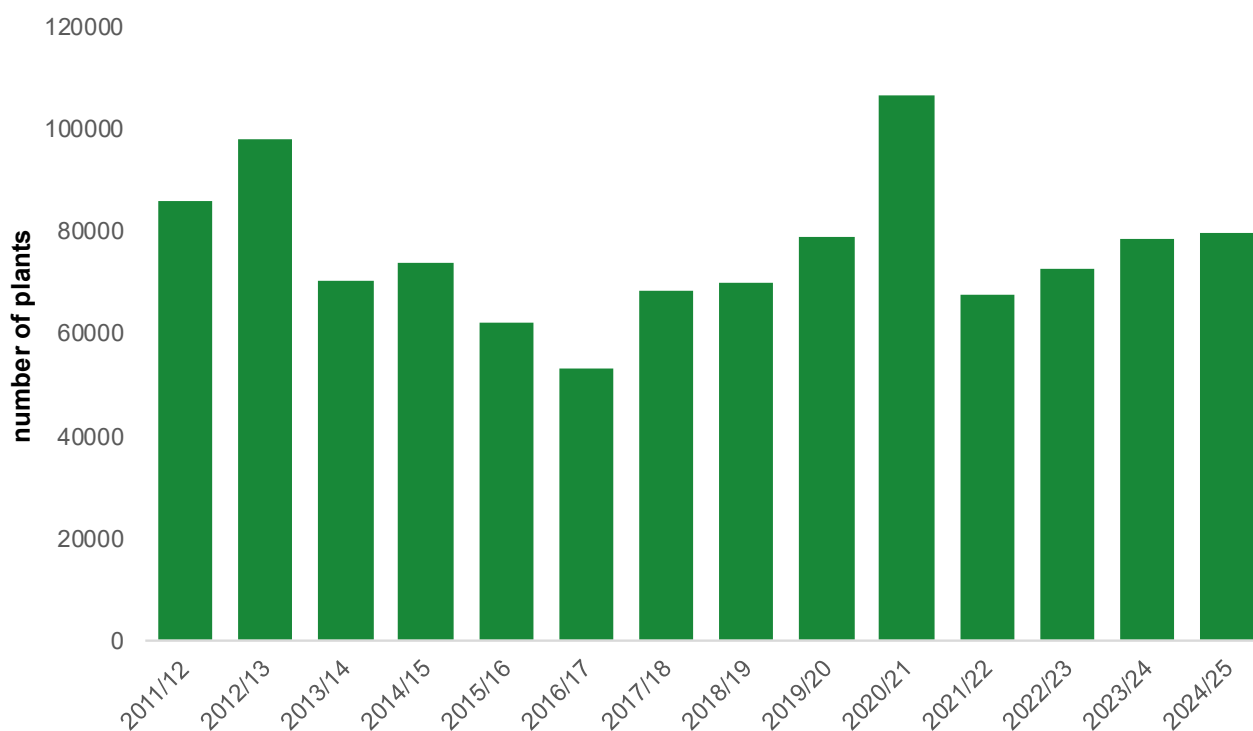


Figure 10: New plants in parks and street gardens

How we do it

Planting

We plant trees in our streets, parks and properties.

Our qualified arborists select trees with the objective of planting the right tree, in the right place, at the right time. This includes selecting appropriate planting sites and species, ensuring quality tree supply and establishing the trees with frequent maintenance in the first 2 years.

We plant shrubs, grasses and understorey plantings in parks and streetscapes.

We increase our green areas by converting previously paved areas to new garden beds and infill planting in existing garden beds.

Parks and open space

Park assets are vital for community health and wellbeing and improve the quality of the urban environment.

Our parks and open spaces are designed for play, nature conservation and outdoor enjoyment. They include parks and reserves, playgrounds, streetscapes, verges, community

food gardens, and bush restoration and habitat spaces.

With our increasing population we aim to increase the area of parks and open space in line with the open space, sports and recreational needs study.

Restoring native bush

We protect, expand and improve the condition of bush restoration areas. These areas improve the biodiversity of native plants and animals.

Our qualified bush regenerators work to establish structurally complex bush areas, improve plant growth, suppress weeds and create habitat.

Creating habitat

Artificial habitats are important for shelter, nesting and roosting of local native wildlife. Many Australian species use natural tree hollows for breeding, but these are generally limited in urban areas. Nest boxes have been installed across our parks and standing dead trees left in place (stag trees) to provide more habitat for local urban wildlife.

Restoring habitat

New floating islands in Sydney Park

Sydney Park has 4 connected constructed wetlands that are part of the local storm water collection and reuse system.

This year we installed a 15 square metre floating island in Gilbanung, one of the constructed wetlands, to provide habitat and a safe space for local wildlife.

The floating island is made from recycled PET plastic planters with a mesh bottom. It is planted with species we use in bush restoration including jointed twig-rush, tall saw-sedge, spiny-head mat-rush and hop goodenia. The plants provide seeds and pollen to support native invertebrates and little birds.

Native waterbirds including white faced herons and water hens have been spotted perching on the island.

As the plant roots grow into the water and host biofilms, they help trap and digest organic matter and nutrients. This helps maintain balance in the wetlands and reduces the

chance of blooms of algae and surface weed growth due to the inflow of nutrient-loaded stormwater.

Beaconsfield understory revegetation

McConville Reserve in Beaconsfield has been transformed through an understory revegetation project.

The reserve has a well-established canopy of native trees including paperbarks, red gums and tallowwood. However, the understory layer was limited to patches of exotic grasses and annual weeds.

A First Nations business prepared a design for the reserve considering cultural and practical principles to help integrate people with Country.

10,000 locally endemic shrub, groundcover and grass species were planted. Many of these plants were sourced from a First Nations nursery.

This has increased the plant species diversity, structural complexity and habitat value of the area.



Installing the floating island. Image: Phoebe Pratt / City of Sydney

Improving parks

We're constantly renewing and upgrading parks to make even better spaces for people to gather, play, rest and connect with nature.

Our ongoing park renewal program ensures parks are safe, well maintained, attractive and meet community needs.

Renewal works include new playgrounds, refreshed landscaping and park furniture, new garden beds and tree plantings.

In the past year we completed renewal works at:

- James Watkinson Reserve, Pyrmont
- Wattle Lane Park Playground, Ultimo
- Arthur Street Playground, Surry Hills
- Douglas Street Park and Playground, Redfern
- Woolloomooloo Playground, Woolloomooloo
- Sydney Park, Alexandria
- Macquarie Place Park, Sydney
- McConville Reserve, Beaconsfield
- Gadigal Avenue Streetscape, Zetland
- Arthur Reserve, Darlinghurst
- Observatory Hill Fitness, Millers Point
- Darghan Street Steps, Glebe
- Fanny Place Playground, Surry Hills



James Watkinson Reserve Image: Will Jones / City of Sydney

Action for our city

Our vision is for a greener Sydney that will help improve everyone's health and wellbeing, reduce urban heat impacts and bring nature into the city. We're committed to providing everyone with access to quality green spaces and supporting the biodiversity of our city as part of a healthy ecosystem.

Experts forecast that by 2050 Sydney will be hotter and more susceptible to extreme or prolonged drought, as well as high rainfall periods. We're focused on ensuring our tree canopy is resilient – planting the right kinds of trees at the right time and in the right places has never been more important.

Our results

Every 2 years we measure how green our city is by using specialised high-resolution aerial imagery to measure tree canopy cover (trees over 3m) and overall green cover (trees, plants and grass). The latest measurement in February 2024 showed our canopy is at 20.9%, an increase on our 2008 baseline of 15.5%, while total green cover is 33.2%.

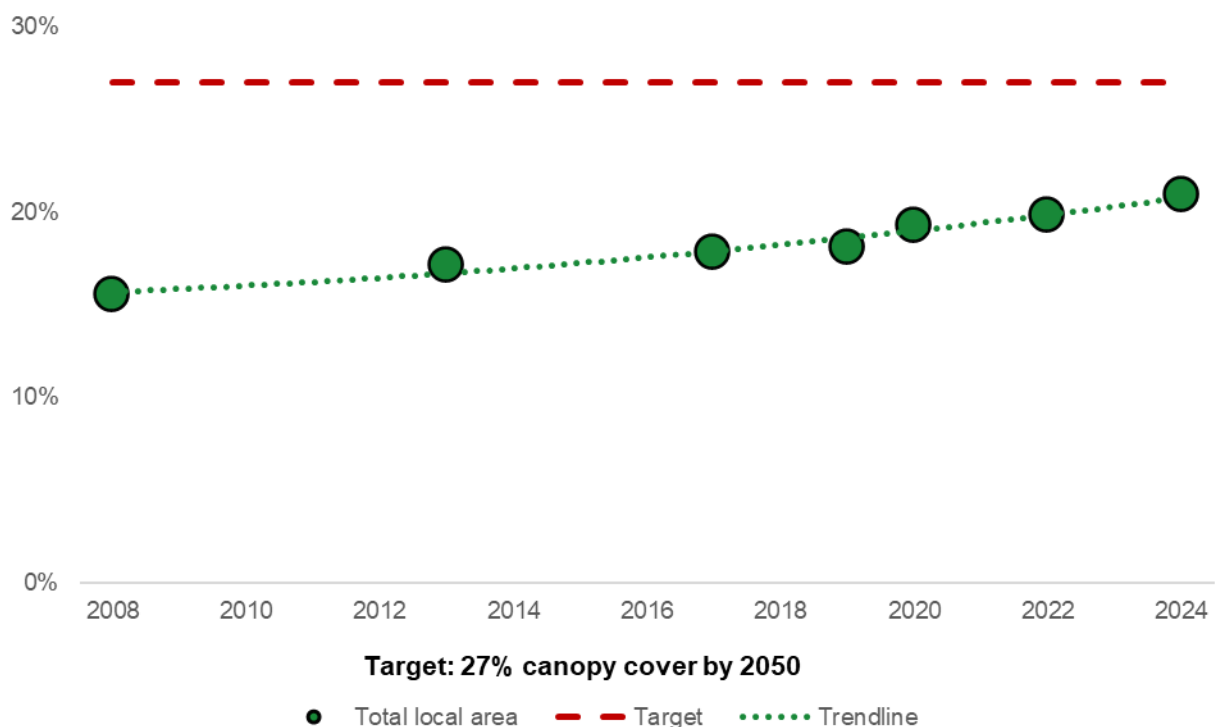


Figure 11: Local area canopy cover

The analysis extends to canopy cover in the 3 broad land uses: streets, parks and property. Each has specific targets to ensure comprehensive urban forest benefits.

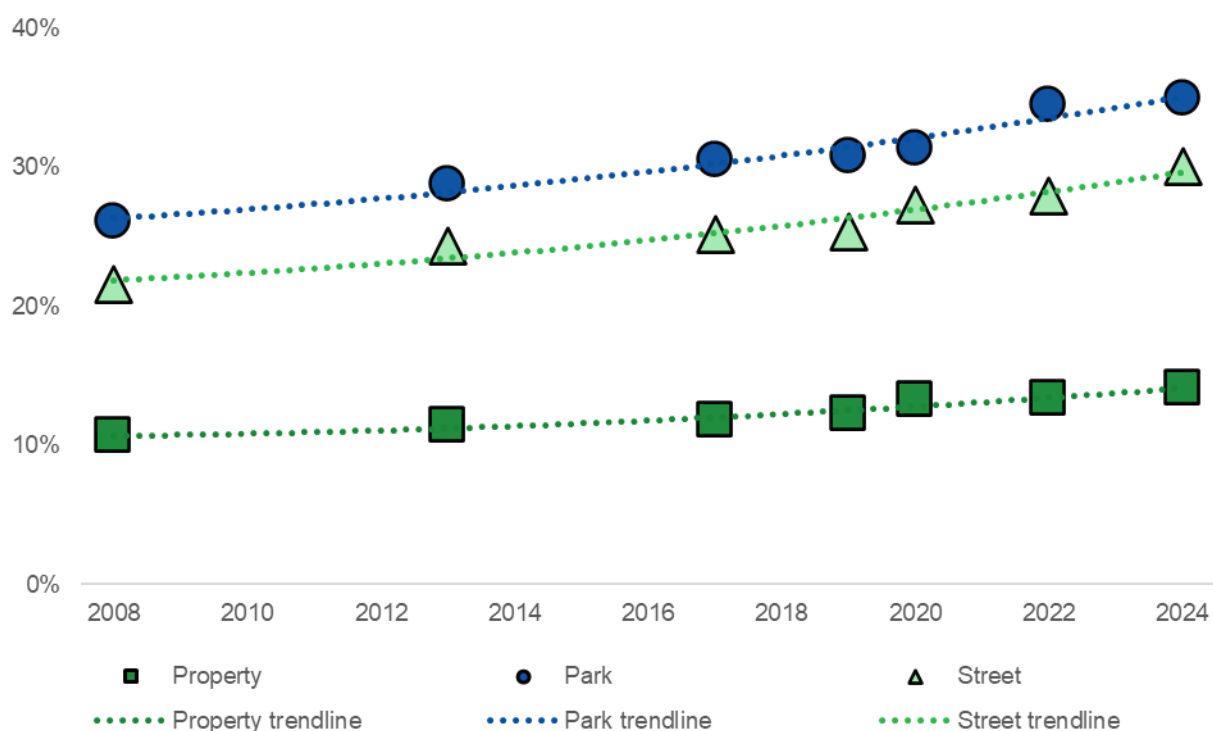


Figure 12: Canopy cover by location type

	2008 canopy cover result	2024 canopy cover result	2030 canopy cover target	2050 canopy cover target
Streets	21.5%	30.1%	31%	34%
Parks	26.1%	35%	39%	46%
Property	10.7%	14.1%	16%	20%

Table 3: Tree canopy cover results by land use type

These results show we're steadily advancing towards our 2030 and 2050 canopy cover targets through a shared commitment to a greener, cooler and calmer city. From residents caring for their trees and gardens, and planners and developers protecting and planting new trees, to many professions in our organisation who help with planning, management and care of our city.

Our canopy will be measured again in summer 2025/26. Results will be reported in 2026.

Community volunteering

We continued to support 4 Landcare / Bushcare groups with around 50 volunteers who regularly work in bush restoration areas. Around 500 garden members participated in activities at 19 community gardens.

This year volunteers contributed 3,200 hours of work at Sydney City Farm, producing 753kg of fresh food for local charities, including culturally significant and interesting foods such as hops, sugar cane, babaco, plantain, taro and pandan. Our crop diversity increased with more than 270

different types of fruit, vegetable, herbs and flowers grown this year. More than 200 people from 14 businesses have worked at the farm in team building and wellbeing programs.

We held a community planting event in Sydney Park on National Tree Day in July 2024. 210 community volunteers planted 5,000 native grasses, groundcovers and flowering herbs, to create habitat for insects, small birds and lizards.

How we do it

Community programs

We improve gardening skills and confidence through programs at Sydney City Farm.

We run activities to promote understanding of the biodiversity in our city.

We have 19 approved community gardens that provide spaces to promote environmental education and sustainable food production. The gardens also provide opportunities for social and community development.

Planning requirements

Our development controls and associated guidelines require new development to provide areas of deep soil and trees to be planted, ensuring long-lasting and good-quality canopy cover on private land.

Bushcare volunteers

We support biodiversity volunteers who restore local bushland by weeding, growing native plants, and creating habitat for birds, lizards, insects and other species.

Biodiversity counts

Our plant and animal surveys and citizen science information help us monitor species. This identifies the presence and distribution of local biodiversity. We use this data to set benchmarks and tailor projects to protect and enhance habitats.

Events at the city farm

Sydney City Farm provides a place for our communities to learn about urban agriculture and sustainable food production. We host themed events each year to provide opportunities for our diverse local communities to gather, connect, celebrate, learn and share.

National Science Week 2024 was highlighted with a Wild About Food event attracting 170 people. Visitors went on farm tours, learnt how organic farms work with nature to grow food, created vegetable art prints and explored leaf litter tanks full of bugs. Aboriginal educators shared cultural knowledge and led a native pot a plant activity. Science academics from local

universities shared findings about their research on food, nutrition and health.

A total of 90 community volunteers got hands-on in July 2024, celebrating NAIDOC Week by helping plant a bush food and native habitat display in the farm orchard. 140 plants, many purchased from a First Nations-owned nursery, were planted including lemon myrtle, kangaroo grass, Geraldton wax and native guava.

Attendees took part in interactive guided walks facilitated by Aboriginal educators, explored a cultural touch table, sampled bush foods and potted up bush food seedlings to take home.

Resilient Sydney

Resilient Sydney is a collaboration of the 33 councils in Greater Sydney. It aims to reduce disaster risk through building the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of chronic stresses and acute shocks.

The collaboration is aligned with the global Resilient Cities Network and works with state and federal governments, business, academia and communities to strengthen the resilience of our city.

We host Resilient Sydney on behalf of all participating councils.

Program activities

Resilience ambassadors

This year the Resilience ambassadors program successfully hosted 4 quarterly meetings with representatives from the 33 Greater Sydney councils, sharing programs, tools and experiences to support resilience building with Sydney communities.

Data platform

The Resilient Sydney data platform is a foundational tool. It provides data to 358 council and state government users about greenhouse gas emissions, electricity, gas, water, waste, transport and solar energy generation. Enabling councils to make better decisions and ensuring information is comparable across local area boundaries.

During the reporting period electric vehicle registration data was added into the platform.

Masterclasses

Resilient Sydney hosted masterclasses and training sessions including:

- Greater Sydney's electric vehicle transition
- Seizing the Clean Energy Decade – Sydney's progress on renewables

The workshops were attended by 212 people, representing 493 training hours, with an average 4.5/5 satisfaction rating from participants.

A video resource hub was also built, with recordings from previous workshops and webinars provided to support platform users.

International partnerships

Resilient Sydney participates in the global Resilient Cities Network, which includes 100 member cities.

Resilient Sydney is also a member of the new global Community of Practice, focused on how cities address health and equity impacts from climate change.

Resilient Sydney strategy 2025-2030

On 29 April 2025, the new Resilient Sydney strategy 2025-2030 was launched by the Hon. Janelle Saffin, NSW Minister for Recovery with 11 mayors and 400 people attending.

The renewed strategy focuses on sustainability, equity, community connection, emergency preparedness and trusted governance. It identifies potential acute shocks Greater Sydney may face and current stresses that weaken the fabric of our city on a day-to-day basis. It identifies 30 flagship actions to address resilience challenges for Greater Sydney.

An updated resilience risk assessment coupled with extensive community and key partner feedback involving more than 2,000 individuals and 200 organisations informed the strategy. All 33 councils in Greater Sydney were involved in its development. This work was funded through a joint NSW and Australian Government Disaster Risk Reduction grant.

In June 2025, the strategy was presented to the Global Resilient Cities Network as part of the Navigating the Polycrisis series. The strategy was recognised for its depth, ambition and inclusive community engagement process. This presentation provided the global resilience network an opportunity to hear directly from Sydney about its approach, key lessons learned and how the city has navigated resilience challenges shared by other members.



Mayors, councillors, CEOs and speakers at the Resilient Sydney strategy 2025-2030. Image: Abril Fehlman / City of Sydney

Greater Sydney Heat Smart City Plan

Heatwaves are a significant and growing risk for Sydney. Historically, heat has killed more Australians than fire, flood and storms combined and has been responsible for over 70% of extreme weather hospitalisations in the last decade. Beyond health, heat has a range of complex and cascading impacts on city systems including infrastructure, the economy, environment and community wellbeing.

In response to this risk, the pioneering 5-year multi sector Greater Sydney Heat Smart City Plan was released in December 2024. The plan is a joint initiative of the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) and Resilient Sydney.

It was developed with the guidance of the Greater Sydney Heat Taskforce, a collaboration of leaders across government, industry and the community sector. Contributors included 373 people from 50 organisations across health, planning, infrastructure, emergency management, community and corporate sectors.

Taskforce members have started acting on the recommendations in the plan.

The plan was funded through the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund supported by the Australian and NSW governments.



Mel Dewsnap, Chief Resilience Officer speaks at the Heat Smart Sydney launch event. Image: Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC)

Water stewardship



Water is crucial to the social, economic and environmental **wellbeing** of our city.

Our efforts create a **sustainable, liveable** city with healthy waterways, resilient green spaces and the resource valued by our communities.

Our operations

How we manage water plays an important role in adapting to some of the big challenges our city will face in the future. We need to manage water as efficiently as possible and secure access to drought-resilient water sources to support greening and cooling across the city.

We're committed to responsible water management. We've set a target of no increase in potable water use compared to our 2006 baseline, even as we increase our parks and open spaces and add new buildings and community facilities. We focus on efficient practices by using rainwater, stormwater, bore water and water recycling methods.

Our results

In 2024/25 we met our target of zero increase in potable water use against the 2006 baseline, using 375 megalitres, a 13% decrease from the 2006 baseline.

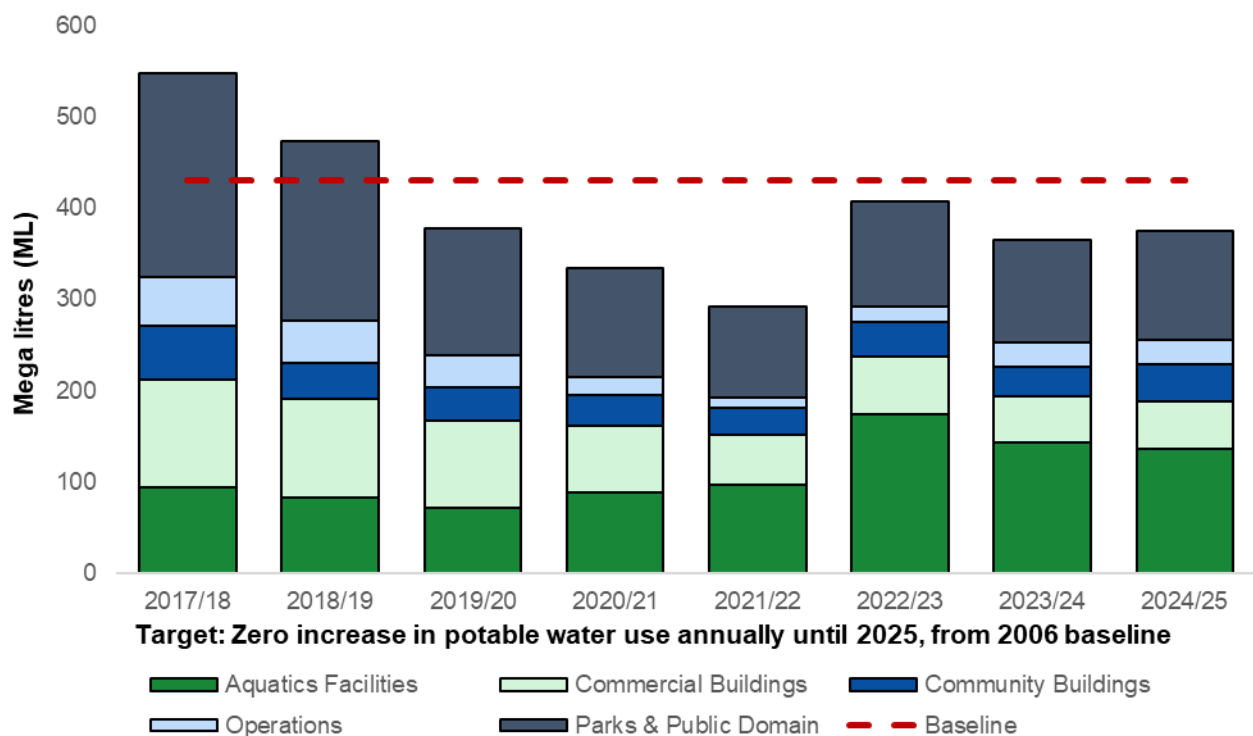


Figure 13: Annual water consumption against baseline, by use category

Our water recycling systems in parks supplied 49 megalitres of recycled water for irrigation in 2024/25. This is a capacity increase of 4% on the previous year, enough to meet 85% of irrigation demand for the parks supplied by these systems and 27% for parks overall. Since 2006 we've

increased the irrigated area in parks by more than 50% while continuing to reduce potable water use. We're now using less water for every square metre of green space we manage.

How we do it

Measuring and detecting leaks

We monitor water use through 177 smart water meters installed in our parks and buildings. This data allows us to identify leaks and efficiency improvements.

Efficient fixtures

We install water efficient taps and toilets in our facilities when building or upgrading a site.

Water efficiency in our parks

We use water efficiently to keep our parks green and healthy. We manage water planning when and how irrigation is used. Employees receive efficiency training and we set specific service levels for best practice water management.

Irrigation

We make sure our irrigation systems are efficient with best practice management throughout the asset lifecycle.

Remote irrigation management helps us schedule and monitor irrigation and quickly respond to weather conditions. We're trialling a system that uses real-time soil and weather conditions to determine the best time to irrigate our parks and sports fields.

Water harvesting

We have 20 water recycling systems that supply recycled water to our parks and open spaces. These systems source water from ponds and bores, harvested rainwater and stormwater drainage.

More than 40 rainwater reuse systems are installed in our properties, including 4 for community gardens. Water from these systems is used for irrigation, to flush toilets, wash vehicles, top up our swimming pools and clean our streets.

A splash of success at Victoria Park Pool

Our focus on managing water yielded another success this year. We identified and repaired a substantial leak at Victoria Park Pool.

Using data from our advanced water meter system, we identified a loss of 38 litres per minute.

The leak was eventually located outside the building and was caused by a corroded ductile iron pipe installed in 1953.

The project presented unique complexities.

The corrosion was at the stage where there was a risk of pipe rupture and potential damage to the building and the park, requiring a quick response.

Initial scans identified 10 possible pipe junctions where leaks could occur, requiring 18 hours of careful excavation with a hydro vacuum truck, including some sections running under trees and densely planted garden beds.

We also ensured the new water supply pipeline connected to the park's irrigation tank.

Replacing this piece of critical infrastructure secures a reliable water supply for this cherished community facility and adjacent green space into the next century.

This project shows the benefits of good data analysis, as this leak was undetected by initial industry-standard site inspections and thermal imaging.



Victoria Park Pool. Image: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Action for our city

We want to manage water responsibly and sustainably while meeting local needs and enhancing liveability and resilience. As our local area grows and the climate changes, more water will be needed for drinking, to green the city and combat the effects of increased heat.

Lack of consistent rainfall and longer periods of hotter days because of climate change puts Sydney's water storage dams under pressure. Supporting the use of less potable water means better water security for all of us.

Our area is surrounded by Sydney Harbour (Warrane), one of the most iconic waterways in the world. As a steward of our local area, our services impact the health and beauty of this waterway and the Cooks River which flows into Botany Bay (Kamay). Action to improve the quality of these waterways is an ongoing effort, with constant improvement year on year.

Our results

Overall potable water use in the local area decreased by 3.8% in 2023/24 compared to the year before.

Residential daily water use per person decreased by 12% from 221 litres/person/day to 194 litres/person/day.

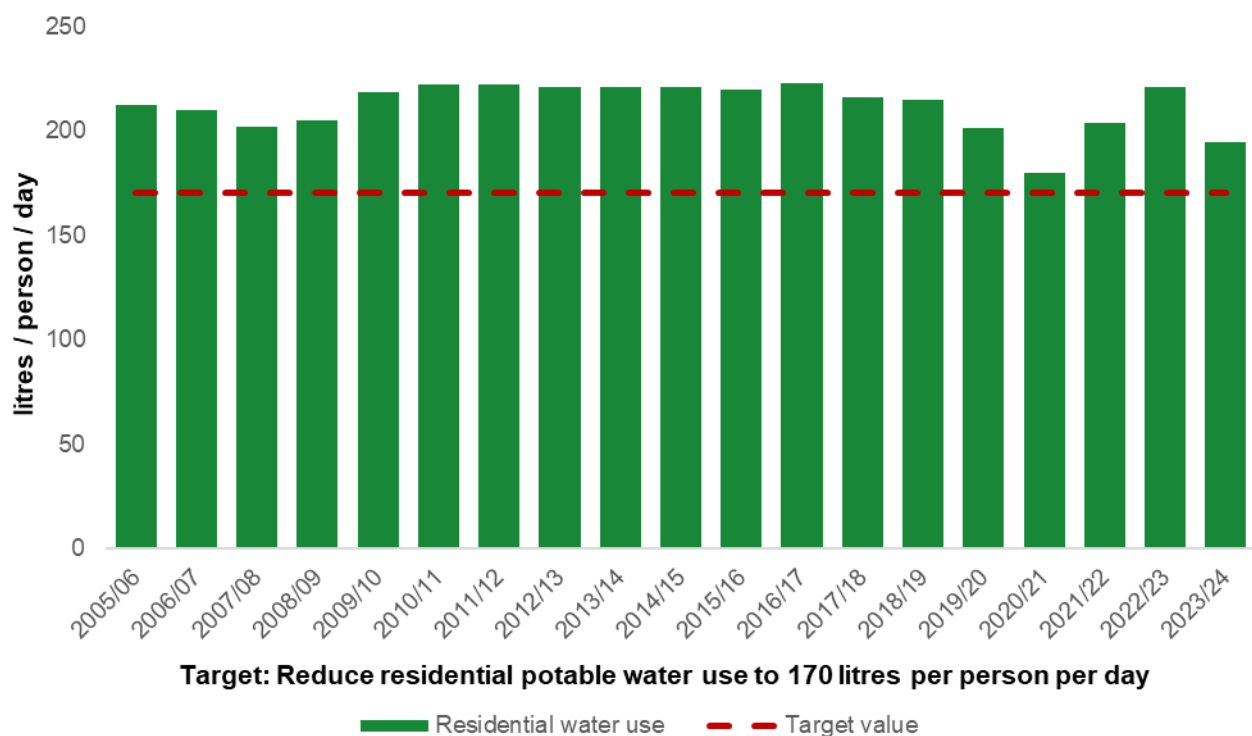


Figure 14: Residential water consumption

Non-residential water use in 2023/24 was 1.86 litres/m²/day, a 20% reduction from our 2019 baseline.

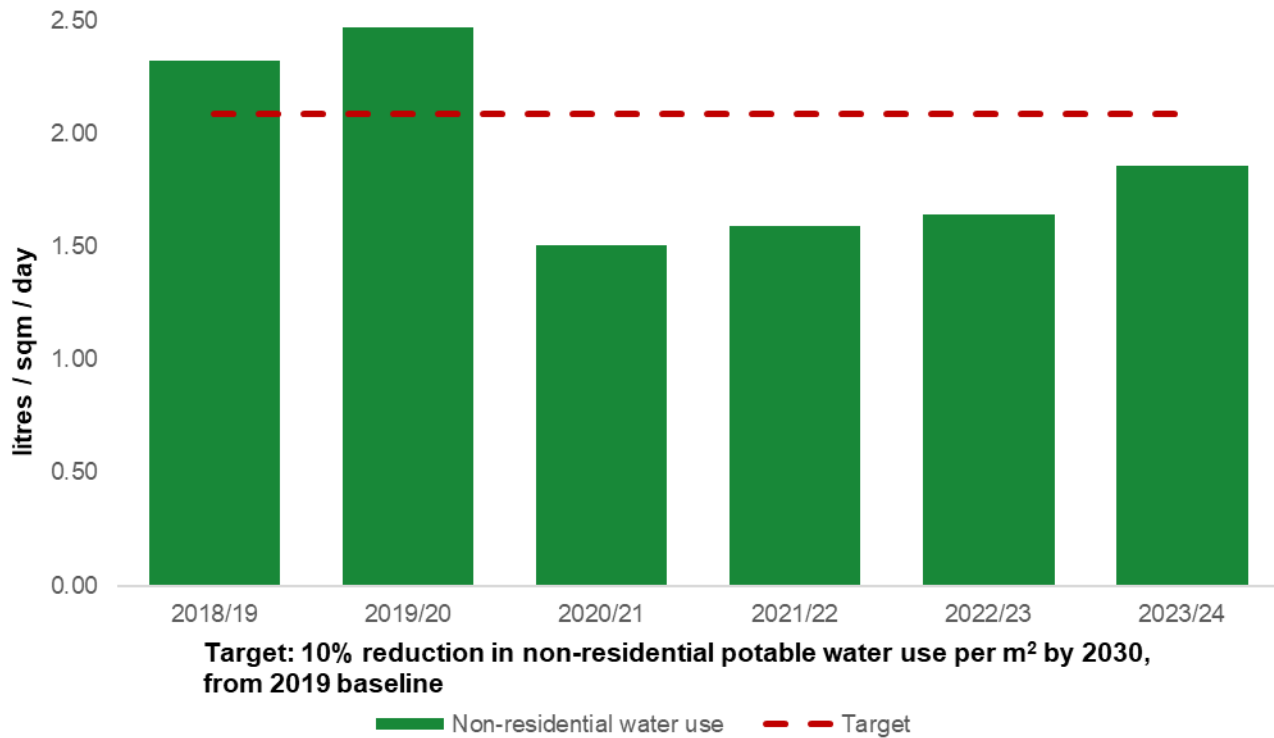


Figure 15: Non-residential water consumption

Water quality results

Our target is to reduce solid waste stormwater pollution by 50% and nutrient stormwater pollution by 15% by 2030, compared to 2006. Solid waste pollution is determined by the amount of rubbish and suspended particles in the water (total gross pollutants and total suspended solids). Nutrient pollution is tracked through phosphorus and nitrogen.

Results in 2025 show we've reduced gross pollutants by 21%, total suspended solids by 15%, total phosphorus by 9% and total nitrogen by 5%. In 2024/25 our network of 47 gross pollutant traps prevented 215 tonnes of rubbish and sediment from entering our waterways.

We track our progress towards these targets using MUSIC (Model for Urban Stormwater Improvement Conceptualisation), the industry standard modelling software. It estimates stormwater pollutant loads and the performance of our existing water quality and water sensitive urban design infrastructure.

As well as our gross pollutant traps, we have more than 300 water sensitive urban design assets including raingardens, tree pits and bioretention swales.

How we do it

Measure

We measure water consumption in key sectors through data provided by Sydney Water.

Programs and partnerships

Our Smart Green Apartments program works with building managers to cut water use. Entertainment and hospitality venues and commercial buildings measure and report on water use and reduction progress through the Sustainable Destination Partnership and Better Buildings Partnership.

Recycled water in Green Square

We manage a recycled water scheme that supplies water to residents and businesses in Green Square for non-drinking purposes such as laundry use, irrigation, washing cars and flushing toilets.

Planning requirements

Water quality requirements are included in the Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 to ensure stormwater discharge from large developments meets high water quality standards.

We encourage new developments in the Green Square town centre to install dual pipes and connect to our stormwater harvesting and reuse scheme.

Waterway health

We improve the health of local waterways, including Cooks River and Sydney Harbour, by installing and maintaining stormwater treatment systems such as gross pollutant traps, raingardens, wetlands and swales across our stormwater network.

Rubbish and sediment are removed by street sweeping and routine maintenance of drainage pits and pipes.

Collaboration

We work with Sydney Water to support our communities to reduce water use, identify potential water reuse and harvesting schemes, and improve our waterways.

Advocacy

We're an advocate of recycled water infrastructure in new buildings, so they can be connected to the recycled water network and reduce unnecessary potable water use.

Protecting Elizabeth Bay

This year we completed a significant restoration of the Beare Park seawall in Elizabeth Bay. Originally built in 1901, the sandstone seawall had significantly deteriorated over the past 124 years.

Restoring it involved replacing damaged and weathered stone blocks, filling voids and repointing mortar joints to improve structural integrity and preserve its heritage value. These repairs help prevent further erosion and ensure the seawall's long-term stability.

This project had the potential to disturb protected sensitive marine habitats, so we used a cantilevered scaffold system that extended over the seawall from the footpath, avoiding the need to construct supports on the seabed. The scaffold was weighted on the footpath, with a platform that projected out over the wall, allowing workers to safely operate above the

water. This significantly reduced disturbance to the marine environment and avoided the need for extensive environmental controls.

A silt curtain was also used to surround and enclose the works as another level of sediment control and ocean protection.

Importantly, the overhanging scaffold approach protected the seawall pots, a series of artificial rock pools, on the lower wall beneath the works. These eco-engineered pots mimic natural rock pools by retaining water at low tide, providing vital habitat for marine species.

This project demonstrates how innovative construction methods can minimise environmental impact and support biodiversity, while maintaining critical public infrastructure.



Beare Park seawall restoration using cantilevered scaffold to protect marine habitat. Image: City of Sydney

Caring for our waterways

Our roads and stormwater systems funnel water into Sydney Harbour and Alexandra Canal. This water also carries anything from the street with it, affecting water quality and aquatic habitats. We try to capture some of these items through our network of gross pollutant traps and raingardens.

We've identified a series of gross pollutant traps that will improve the cleanliness of our stormwater and we're starting to build them.

The first one was completed in June. It is expected to prevent another 26 tonnes per year of solid waste pollution from entering Blackwattle Bay, including 4 tonnes of rubbish and 22 tonnes of sediment.

Supporting our region

Coastal management programs

We support the development of 2 coastal management programs, by providing funding and employee time.

The Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program team is run by the Sydney Coastal Councils Group. This year the program team appointed consultants to undertake technical studies on water pollution, coastal hazards and coastal inundation.

The Cooks River Coastal Management Program is run by the Cooks River Alliance. The alliance brings together partners from across the catchment to improve the health of the Cooks River. In 2024/25 the coastal management project team began to develop mitigation options for hazards identified in the previous stage of the project.

Attachment 1:

Understanding our waste data

We're responsible for managing waste and recycling from our own buildings, construction and asset management projects, parks and public spaces that we manage and homes. Landfill diversion and recycling targets are set for each of these areas, and we actively monitor and track waste and materials.

While we're not responsible for collecting and managing the remaining commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste in our local area, we recognise the significant impacts of these waste streams. Action for our city sets out what we do to promote reducing waste and improve resource recovery in areas we don't manage or control.

When considering our waste results, we split the total waste collected into recycling, recovery and materials sent to landfill.

Recycling is where a product or material is processed to make the same or different products.

Source-separated recycling is a more specific term. It refers to materials placed into specific bins that are collected to be recycled.

Recovery is where a product or material cannot be made into another product or material but can be processed to reduce its environmental impact before landfilling or to generate energy. It is a process usually applied to materials in our red bins.

When resource recovery is used for construction and demolition waste results it refers to all materials captured for recycling, usually metals and timber, and materials that are processed into recycled aggregate.

Landfill diversion refers to the sum of recycled and recovered materials.

Attachment 2:

Strategic actions

Environmental strategy 2021-2025

This green report is the last yearly update on our progress in the environmental strategy 2021-2025 and its actions listed below. The 2021-2025 strategy has been revised and the new environmental strategy 2025-2030 was adopted by Council on 23 June 2025. Reporting on the new strategy will start in 2026.

Direction 1 – Smart and resilient city operations

1. Deliver energy, water and resilience outcomes through City asset design and management
2. Keep City parks green with water efficiency and alternate water sources
3. Regenerate the environment through the City's carbon-neutral commitment
4. Ensure the City's programs and services use resources efficiently
5. Reduce the amount of operational waste sent to landfill through avoidance and resource recovery
6. Reduce embodied carbon in our supply chain and support circular economy outcomes
7. Manage environmental risks and issues

Direction 2 – Efficient, future-proof buildings and transport powered by renewable energy

1. Improve energy efficiency, water efficiency and waste management in existing buildings
2. Drive all new buildings to be resource-efficient and net zero energy
3. Support the transition to zero-emissions transport
4. Encourage community uptake of renewable electricity and stimulate the green economy

5. Support our residents to reduce utility costs and environmental impact
6. Help businesses to reduce utility bills and demonstrate environmental achievement

Direction 3 – Regenerative and inclusive city

1. Incorporate the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in environmental action
2. Address equity issues related to climate change
3. Build community resilience and momentum on climate action
4. Support the development of circular economy systems
5. Drought-proof the city by facilitating water recycling
6. Regenerate polluted waterways, air and land
7. Reduce the amount of residential waste sent to landfill through avoidance and resource recovery

Direction 4 – Strong foundations for delivery

1. Build staff capability to deliver environmental outcomes
2. Deliver high-quality internal and external environmental reporting and communications
3. Employ efficient and effective decision-making processes

Greening Sydney strategy

Direction 1 – Turn grey to green

- Action 1 – Achieve the targets
- Action 2 – Greener laneways
- Action 3 – Harness innovation, technology and inspiration

Direction 2 – Greening for all

- Action 4 – Equitable greening distribution
- Action 5 – Fair access to quality green spaces
- Action 6 – Adapting for climate
- Action 7 – Growing food locally

Direction 3 – Cool and calm spaces

- Action 8 – Cool the hot spots
- Action 9 – Calm green spaces
- Action 10 – Celebrate water

Direction 4 – Greener buildings

- Action 11 – Green Factor Score
- Action 12 – Increase green roofs & walls
- Action 13 – Planning ahead

Direction 5 – Nature in the city

- Action 14 – Recognise and support Indigenous ecological knowledge
- Action 15 – Strengthen urban nature protection measures
- Action 16 – Urban ecology health check
- Action 17 – Reconnecting with nature

Direction 6 – Greening together

- Action 18 – Support community participation
- Action 19 – Greening Sydney Fund
- Action 20 – Increase our community engagement

Attachment 3: Memberships

Memberships

Environmental action is about conversations, research, setting policy, direct actions, investments and sharing experiences. We maintain many environmental memberships to enable us to contribute to the conversation, help improve common understanding and to learn, share and support others.

Our memberships that cover environmental, transport and waste related issues are local, regional and international. These include:

- Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council
- Australian Water Association
- Business Renewables Centre Australia
- C40 Cities
- Committee for Sydney
- Carbon Market Institute
- Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance
- Chargefox
- Climate Emergency Australia
- Committee for Economic Development Australia
- Council of Capital City Lord Mayors
- Energy Efficiency Council
- Green Building Council of Australia
- Global Covenant of Mayors
- Global Resilient Cities Network
- Impact Ecosystems Network
- Infrastructure Sustainability Council
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
- Keep Australia Beautiful NSW
- Local Government NSW
- Materials and Embodied Carbon Leaders' Alliance
- Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
- National Australian Built Environment Ratings Steering Committee
- Property Council of Australia
- Smart Energy Council
- Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils
- Supply Nation
- Sustainable Business Australia
- The Committee for Sydney
- Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association

