

# Disclosure Statement

## Zero Carbon Emissions

1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020



## Organisation and Product Information

Table 1: Organisation and Product Information

Organisation Name	Maribyrnong City Council	
Reporting year period	From 1/07/2019	To 30/06/2020
Actual emissions in this reporting year 2019/20	9,112 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e	
Carbon Offsets in this reporting year 2019/20	9,112 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e	
Total Net Emissions in this reporting year 2019/20	0 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e	
Base year period	From 1/07/2008	To 30/06/2009
Actual emissions in the base year 2008/09.	12,416* tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e *(12,791 tonnes estimate including items below.)  *Emissions in the 08/09 base year did not include fugitive emissions, municipal waste, air travel or paper, which made up an estimated 284 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e in 19/20.	

# 1. Introduction.

Maribyrnong City Council reduced its corporate carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions to zero in the 2019/20 financial year in line with Council's commitment to become a zero carbon Council. Council first set a target to reach zero emission for its own operation by 2015, via its 2008 Carbon Neutral Action Plan.

As Maribyrnong City Council is undertaking this initiative in an entirely voluntary capacity, Council has decided to undertake a voluntary Zero Carbon program rather than a more formal accreditation program due to the ongoing cost of accreditation which could be better spent in other ways.

Council has followed the same protocols as those required by the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) and this disclosure statement allows interested parties to compare Maribyrnong City Council's CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions to those of similar Councils.

As the "Carbon Neutral" name has since 2008 been used by NCOS to accredit organisations – Council changed the name of its own program to Zero Carbon to avoid confusion with the formal program.

By making the decision to undertake an entirely voluntary program, Council is able to use the savings to further improve its underlying emissions through activities such as installing solar panels on community buildings and upgrading streetlights to energy efficient models.

# 2. Description of Organisation Activities

The City of Maribyrnong is a place of diversity, historically vibrant, dynamic and colourful, the city celebrates its opportunities and grows through its challenges. Located five kilometres west of Melbourne, its 31sq km area is comprised of nine distinct suburbs, each varying significantly in its' demographics, population and geography. For over 60,000 years, the Maribyrnong area has been home to the peoples of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land. The cities suburbs now include, Footscray, West Footscray, Yarraville, Seddon, Kingsville, Maribyrnong, Maidstone, Braybrook and Tottenham.

As an organisation, Maribyrnong Council had a total capital and operating budget of \$158 million (for 19/20), which was used to deliver a wide range of community services, programs and support, and develop and maintain essential community infrastructure.

Council provides both universal services that are used by most community members (such as waste and recycling collection or footpath maintenance), and specialised services which respond to specific needs (such as meals on wheels and child care).

It is important to note the impact of Covid-19 during this period, resulting in closure of significant buildings, increase in on-line modes of communication, significant impacts on services and transport and with the majority of staff working from home from March – June 2020.

### 3. Total Carbon Footprint – 19/20 Year

Table 1: Emission sources, scopes and quantities

Scope	Emission source	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
1	Transport Fuel	818
1	Fugitive Emissions	97
1	Natural Gas	1,098
2	Electricity	4,244
3	Electricity –Street Lighting	2,667
3	Waste from Internal Council Operations	184
3	Paper Use within Council	3
3	Business Travel of Employees - Flights	1
Total carbon footprint in tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e		9,112

### 4. Annual Trend Data

Table 2: Annual Emissions Trend Data in tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e

Description	2008/09 Base Year	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20 Reporting Year
Total Actual Emissions	12,416	11,355	10,628	9,743	9,704	9,573	9,112
Less Greenpower Purchases	2,155	0	0	0	0	0	0
Less Carbon Offsets		11,355	10,628	9,743	9,704	9,573	9,112
Total Net Emissions	10,262	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3: Estimated Emissions Savings in tonnes CO2e – Compared to Business As Usual

Description	2008/09 Base Yr	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20 Reporting Yr
Estimated Business as Usual*	12,895	15,133	15,651	16,081	16,575	17,072	17,513
Total Actual Emissions	12,416	11,355	10,680	9,743	9,704	9,573	9,112
Estimated Annual Emissions Savings from Energy Efficiency	479	3,778	4,971	6,338	6,871	7,499	8,401
Cumulative Emissions Savings since base yr	479	12,602**	17,573	23,911	30,782	38,281	46,682

\*Estimate of emissions if no energy efficiency actions had been taken

\*\* Includes 2009/10 to 2013/14 estimated emissions savings from this year on

Table 3 estimates the tonnes of CO2e Council would be producing if no energy efficiency actions had been undertaken, and conditions existing in 2008/09 had continued until the present. It also shows estimated emissions savings that have been realised from energy efficiency initiatives since 2008/09.

Since 2008, Council has undertaken various energy efficiency initiatives, including:

- Energy Performance Contract of four of the largest energy using buildings in 2010
- Energy audits at Council's top eight energy use sites
- Installed a cogeneration plant at the Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre in 2012
- Other energy efficiency projects
- Installed 591kW of solar on Council-owned corporate and community buildings
- Streetlight changeover to energy efficient globes - 4,400 lights
- LED lighting changeover in Council buildings - Operations Centre, Town Hall, Footscray Library, Maidstone Community Centre, Maribyrnong Community Centre, Phoenix Youth Centre, West Footscray Library, RecWest Braybrook and Footscray, Drill Hall, Cherry Crescent Kindergarten, Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre and Footscray Bowling Club.

The savings from the energy efficient activities have been lessened by the addition of new buildings which increased Council's energy use - for example the Phoenix Youth Centre opened in 2010, the relocation of the Operations Centre in 2012 to a larger site using four times as much energy, an expansion of the Braybrook Hub and new library, Little Saigon carpark and new streetlights installed in growth areas.

## 5. Carbon Offset Purchases and Retirement for this Reporting Period – 2019/20

When Council first adopted the Carbon Neutral Action Plan in 2008, the strategy to become carbon neutral was to purchase accredited Green Power incremented each year until Council achieved 100% green power for electricity usage and accredited offsets for all other emissions. However, in 2014 Council decided to move to purchase NCOS approved offsets for all emissions and use the financial savings to invest in additional projects and actions to reduce energy consumption and also to increase Council's direct investment in renewable energy such as solar panels and solar hot water in Council facilities.

### Offset Purchase:

In the 2019/20 financial year, Council purchased and retired 9,112 tonnes of accredited CO<sub>2</sub>e offsets, which offset Council's total carbon footprint. The offsets were VCU accredited offsets as indicated below.

Project Name: VCS VCU Chakala Wind Power project, Vintage 2016

Project State: Maharashtra

Project Country: India

Project Verifier: **Carbon Neutral (Pty) Ltd**

The Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program is the world's most widely used voluntary Green House Gas program. Once projects have been certified against the VCS Program's rigorous set of rules and requirements, project developers can be issued tradable GHG credits called Verified Carbon Units (VCUs). Those VCUs can then be sold on the open market and retired by individuals and companies as a means to offset their own emissions. Maribyrnong City Council purchases these accredited offsets. Table 4 sets out the registry details of the offsets that have been cancelled through Council's purchase.

Table 4: Offset Cancellations

Offset type	Registry	Serial number	Quantity (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)
VCU Verified Carbon Standard	APX VCS Registry	7068-368135600-368144711-VCU-034-APX-IN-1-1197-01012016-31122016-0	9,112
Total			9,112

## 6. Emissions Reduction Measures

Since Council's first Carbon Neutral Action Plan was released in 2008 it has been recognised that Maribyrnong City Council's response to the impacts of climate change needs to include a commitment to greenhouse mitigation. The impacts of climate change have escalated to a climate emergency which is being felt now and is increasing in severity.

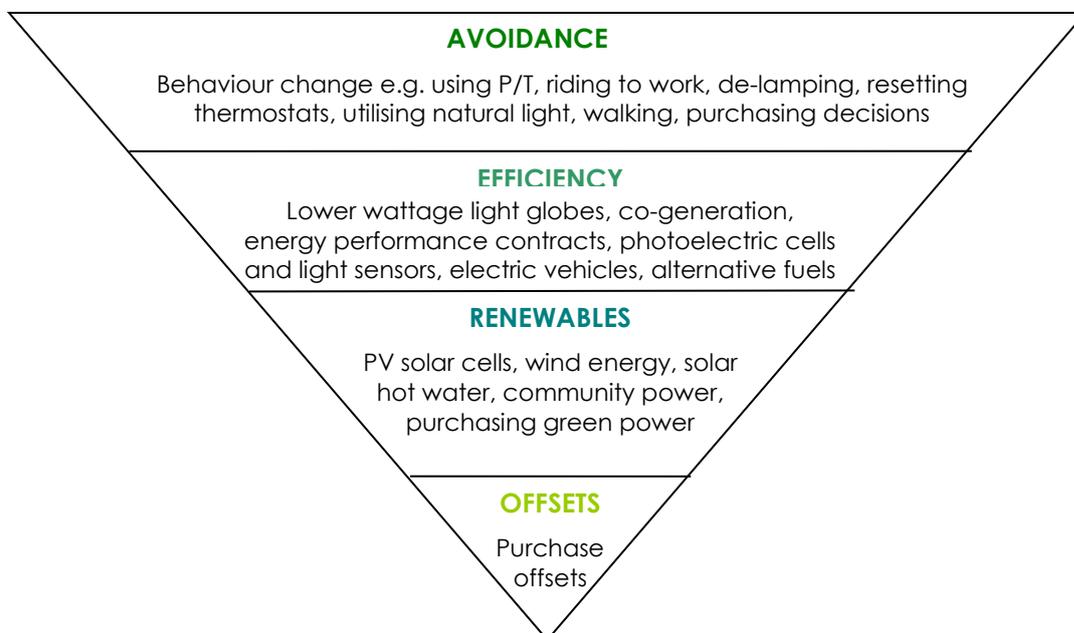
In February 2019, Council acknowledged that we are in a state of climate emergency which requires urgent action from all levels of government, including local Councils. Council's commitment to address the climate emergency and CO<sub>2</sub>e mitigation, will be articulated in the upcoming Climate Emergency Strategy, which will become the key climate document of Council. Undertaking mitigation actions will help prevent Council contribute further to the climate emergency.

The Maribyrnong City Council Carbon Strategies covering the periods 2008-15 (Carbon Neutral Action Plans) and 2015-20 (Zero Carbon Maribyrnong) previously set the following targets:

1. Zero Emissions for Corporate Activities of Council by 2015
2. Carbon Neutral Municipality by 2020

While the Carbon Neutral Action Plan identified a target to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2015 (which was achieved) as a key target, Council has a holistic approach to carbon management via the following 'energy hierarchy'. The hierarchy enables Council to prioritise its immediate and long-term actions and methods in reducing its emissions.

### Energy Efficiency Hierarchy



The Zero Carbon plans were based on the energy efficiency hierarchy shown above. Using the hierarchy as a model:

- Actions avoiding the creation of carbon emissions in the first place are the most valuable, as they minimise carbon emissions the most effectively and use the fewest resources.
- Energy efficiency initiatives are the next preference as they avoid unnecessary wasted energy and enable existing resources to be utilised to their capacity by operating efficiently.
- The purchase of renewable energy such as green power, solar hot water and photovoltaic solar panels are considered to be the next most valuable, in powering more efficient appliances without using high carbon-emitting energy sources.
- Offsets are the final step after undertaking all of the other actions. They enable those emissions that have not been avoided, to be offset by other activities which reduce carbon emissions in the atmosphere (eg: tree planting).

The table below shows emission reduction activities where reduction measures commenced implementation in the 2019/20 financial year. As the reduction measures for the South building solar program were implemented very late in the year, the annual emissions reductions will not be fully realised until the following financial year. The emissions reductions for the portion of the current year is already included in this years emissions calculations.

Table 5: Emissions Reductions Measures Emissions Reductions Measures Taken in 2019/20 Financial Year

Emission source	Reduction Measure	Scope	Status	Reduction t CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Electricity	Operations Centre South Building 30kw solar PV system – installed June 2020	2	Planned for future reporting period	126
	Operations Centre North Building 71kW solar PV system – installed June – Oct 2020			
Total expected emission reductions for 2020/21 from 2019/20 activities				126

## 7. Organisational & Geographic Boundary/Scope & System Boundary

Maribyrnong City Council's emissions boundary for the entire organisation is based on national and international standards to ensure alignment with the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) Program. This includes not only the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (NGER Act), but also the GHG Protocol's Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard 2004 - that covers the accounting and reporting of the six greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol.

Council has included emission sources in its organisational boundary, based on two key determining factors:

- That the emissions would not have otherwise occurred if Maribyrnong City Council as an organisation did not exist (i.e. operational control); and
- That Council has confidence that the emissions are able to be measured completely and accurately

In summary, Council's emissions boundary has been established to include the following:

### **Scope 1 emissions (Direct emissions in Council's control)**

- Natural gas
- Transport fuel (including Unleaded Petrol, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Diesel)
- Fugitive emissions

### **Scope 2 emissions (Indirect emissions from electricity generation which was used as a result of activity by Council)**

- Grid electricity

### **Scope 3 emissions (All other indirect emissions that occur as a result of activity by Council)**

- Upstream electricity use - street lighting
- Business air travel of employees
- Internal waste created from Council business operations
- Paper

### **Boundary Overview**

Council has calculated facility level CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions based on financial control, however, each facility was also assessed for operational control to help understand Council's broader responsibilities. This included:

- Council owned and operated facilities.
- Facilities that Council owns or where Council is the Committee of Management for buildings that are leased to other organisations.
- Facilities that Council does not own but leases from external organisations.

Financial Control is defined as whether Council pays the utility costs for the facility, or in the case of streetlight's, utility cost for the assets.

Operational control relates to whether Council has the ability to set operating policies, health and safety policies and environmental policies. (As defined in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol).

*Council has analysed its building stock and applied the operational control test (as defined under NGER) and has confirmed that sites that are owned or leased and operated by Council are all under Council's operational control, with the ability to set:*

- Operating policies
- Health and safety policies &
- Environmental policies

### **Council Owned or Managed Buildings That are Leased Out**

Council has a number of buildings where the entire building is leased out to a third party. Using the same operational control test and based on details contained in the lease agreements, Council does not have operational control of these sites, and they have not been included. These include a number of sporting club facilities.

### **Leased Spaces within Council Owned Buildings**

Council also has some sites (e.g. Maidstone Family Centre Hub, Braybrook Community Centre) where a significant portion of the building is leased out. In these circumstances Council is responsible for the utility bills in their entirety, although leaseholders are on charged. They are considered to be within Council's operational and financial control and as such all emissions at these sites are included in Council's inventory.

### **Facilities Leased by Council.**

Council previously leased only one large site, the Operations Centre at 95 Sunshine Rd on a long-term lease. This site was previously included in the greenhouse calculations. The site has now been purchased and continues to be included in the calculations.

### **Facilities where Council is the Committee of Management.**

Council is the Committee of Management for some facilities on Crown Land, e.g. Pipe makers Park, Yarraville Community Centre. Only those facilities operated by Maribyrnong City Council are included in the inventory.

Only those owned or leased facilities where Maribyrnong City Council has Financial Control has been included in the scope of this greenhouse gas inventory.

### **Other Inclusions**

Fugitive emissions of synthetic gases from air conditioning units in facilities operated by Maribyrnong City Council is a direct Scope 1 emission. This has been estimated as a Maribyrnong City Council emission, as no other organisation will account for this Scope 1 emission. Checking each air conditioning unit and undertaking the calculations is a lengthy exercise. As benchmarking indicates emissions in similar Councils have been reported as being less than 1% of total emissions, Maribyrnong City Council has included an estimate of 1% of the previous year's (18/19 financial year) emissions. 97 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e have been added to the inventory to account for this.

### **Exclusions**

There are some exclusions from Council's emissions inventory. Some of these fall within Council's organisational boundary but have been excluded from quantification in line with Section 4.2.3 of the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS), due to one (or more) of the following:

- the emissions are likely to be negligible (relative to other Scope 3 emissions)
- determining the emissions will be very costly relative to their likely significance
- there is insufficient data.

These exclusions are:

- purchased goods (including Capital goods) and services
- employee commuting (except those commuting in a fleet vehicle)
- goods sold, including transportation, distribution, processing, their use and their end of life treatment
- downstream leased assets - where that party has operational and financial control, such as some community buildings and pavilions
- investments.

Other Scope 3 emissions (below) are outside Council's organisational boundary and as such are not included in this inventory:

- Municipal waste – all waste generated by the broader Maribyrnong community, with the exception of the corporate internal waste that Council produces
- Community emissions - emissions emitted within the City of Maribyrnong but outside of Council's operational control
- Business travel of employees - including public transport and taxis, rental cars and buses
- Contractor fuel use
- Emissions from water - corporate use.

## 8. Scope of audit

### To whom it may concern

#### Re Carbon Neutral Verification – Maribyrnong City Council

Ecodecisions was tasked with independently verifying and auditing the Zero Carbon Emissions project undertaken by Maribyrnong City Council for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

The scope of the audit was to verify:

1. That all Scope 1,2, 3 emissions were accounted for based on the Local Government Australia South Australia (LGASA) and National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) guidelines
2. The correct emission factors were used based on the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008, August, 2019
3. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) factors for air travel based on the latest figures calculated by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Carbon Offset Calculator
4. The GHG factors for waste from 2020 National Greenhouse Account Factors
5. The correct factors for paper usage based on the latest figures from Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria.
6. The calculations for each category were checked
7. The offsets purchased were verified by checking the Verra Verified Carbon Units (VCU) registry and the creator of the offsets.

#### Notes

1. Fugitive emissions of refrigerants were estimated and physical verification was outside of the scope of audit.
2. The only Scope 3 electricity emissions counted were for public street lighting. Scope 3 emissions for other electricity use was deemed outside the scope of the project.

## 9. Verification Statement

I certify that the emissions statement and the offsets purchased are accurate within the scope of the audit and that the offsets purchased are legitimate and verified.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matters referred to in the notes section of the scope of audit, the participant's Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Public Disclosure Summary are, in all material aspects, in accordance with the National Carbon Offset Standard and National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program Guidelines.



Graeme Ambrose, Lead Auditor, EcoDecisions