

His Worship the Mayor
Councillors
City of Marion

Notice of Infrastructure and Environment Committee

Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre
245 Sturt Road, Sturt

Tuesday, 11 June 2024 at 6.30 pm

The CEO hereby gives Notice pursuant to the provisions under Section 83 of the *Local Government Act 1999* that an Infrastructure and Environment Committee will be held.

A copy of the Agenda for this meeting is attached in accordance with Section 83 of the Act.

Meetings of the Council are open to the public and interested members of this community are welcome to attend. Access to the Council Chamber is via the main entrance to the Administration Centre on Sturt Road, Sturt.



Tony Harrison
Chief Executive Officer

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1 Open Meeting

2 Kurna Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kurna people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

3 Elected Member Declaration of Interest (if any)

4 Confirmation of Minutes

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 9 April 2024

Report Reference	IEC240611R4.1
Originating Officer	Business Support Officer – Governance and Council Support – Cassidy Mitchell
Corporate Manager	Manager Office of the Chief Executive – Kate McKenzie
General Manager	Chief Executive Officer – Tony Harrison

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 9 April 2024 be taken as read and confirmed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. IEC 240409 - Final Minutes [4.1.1 - 8 pages]



**Minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee
held on Tuesday, 9 April 2024 at 6.30 pm
Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre
245 Sturt Road, Sturt**



PRESENT

His Worship the Mayor Kris Hanna
 Councillor Joseph Masika
 Councillor Nathan Prior
 Councillor Raelene Telfer
 Councillor Luke Naismith
 Councillor Jason Veliskou
 Councillor Sarah Luscombe (Chair)

Councillor Jayne Hoffmann
 Councillor Ian Crossland
 Councillor Renuka Lama
 Councillor Jana Mates
 Councillor Amar Singh

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer - Tony Harrison
 General Manager City Services - Ben Keen
 General Manager City Development – Tony Lines
 General Manager Corporate Services – Angela Allison
 Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
 Unit Manager Engineering – Carl Lundborg
 Executive Officer to the General Manager City Services - Colleen Madsen
 Chief Financial Officer – Ray Barnwell
 Transport Engineer, Sara Hurditch

1 Open Meeting

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.30pm.

2 Kurna Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kurna people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

3 Elected Member Declaration of Interest (if any)

The Chair asked if any member wished to disclose an interest in relation to any item being considered at the meeting.

The following interests were disclosed:

- Nil

4 Confirmation of Minutes

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2024

Report Reference IEC240402R4.1

Moved Councillor Crossland

Seconded Councillor Mates

That the minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting held on 13 February

IEC240409 - Infrastructure and Environment Committee - 9 April 2024



2024 be taken as read and confirmed with the following correction:

On page 5, spelling of Councillor Maika is corrected to Councillor Masika.

Carried unanimously

5 Business Arising

5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items

Report Reference	IEC240409R5.1
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Moved Councillor Prior

Seconded Councillor Hoffmann

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

1. Notes the business arising statement, meeting schedule and upcoming items.

Carried unanimously

6 Confidential Items - Nil

7 Reports for Discussion

7.1 Streetscapes

Report Reference	IEC240409R7.1
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Manager Engineering, Assets and Environmental Sustainability, Mathew Allen and Unit Manager Engineering, Carl Lundborg provided a brief overview of the Streetscape program and various options for a future program.

Since the 2019 streetscape program (15-year program) was endorsed, there has been an approximate 30% increase in costs.

To maximise the funding allocation for the Streetscape program, the following 5 options were presented to the Committee for consideration.

1. Maintain current program and project timeframes.
2. Remove the Streetscape Program.
3. Reduce the Streetscape Program.
4. Increase the Duration of the Streetscape Program.
5. Reduce Service Levels.

Following discussion on each of the above options the Chair conducted a straw poll., the committee was not in favour of options one or two, however would consider a combination of options three, four and five.

The Committee discussed various scenarios of options three to five including:

- Importance of environment impact.

IEC240409 - Infrastructure and Environment Committee - 9 April 2024



- Permeable pavers discussed, noting their environmental benefits and cost implications.
- Emphasis placed on utilising permeable pavers where significant benefits exist with reducing use in other projects.
- Comparison made between service standard and cost of standard versus permeable pavers.
- Alawoona Avenue project underway with contractual arrangements in place.
- Options considered need to align with the community vision.
- Discussion on cost-saving measures without compromising service quality.
- Budget reduction target is \$2.2m annually, aiming for a saving of approximately \$1m per annum.
- Staff to develop a revised Matrix, prioritising the program balance, and working with Councillors to identify potential project removals and program duration extensions, and detailed information to inform the 4-year program of works.

Raglan Avenue

Raglan Avenue to be delivered over 2 years – Stage 1 Marion Road to Eastern Avenue – Stage 2 Eastern Avenue to Rail Crossing.

- 90% design complete, ready to go to community consultation, currently on hold due to tonight's discussion.
- Roundabout has a safety priority due to 9 casualty crashes between 2018 to 2022.
- \$510k Federal Government's Local Roads and Infrastructure Grant funding for Stage 1 can potentially be reallocated to another project; staff would need to apply for extension beyond 30 June 2024.
- Funding originally redirected from the MCC project to Stage 1. Perceived risk to request another redirection.
- The draft 2024-25 Capital Work program includes a \$2.2m funding allocation for Stage 2.
- Savings of \$1.3m this year and \$2.2m next year if project does not go ahead.
- Staff to confirm grant eligibility for Stage 2 instead of Stage 1.

The Chair conducted a straw poll on the following options for Raglan Avenue:

1. Stop the project.
2. Go ahead as planned (no changes).
3. Consider an alternate version of the plan – undertake Stage 2 (roundabout to rail crossing) and remove Stage 1. (May be a variance in price of \$100k to \$150k to include roundabout works).

Majority of Members (9) voted for option 3.

7:40 pm the Chair invited Members to take a short break.

7:53 pm the meeting resumed.



Further discussion on Raglan Avenue included:

- Clarification summary by the CEO:
 - No longer undertake Stage 1 (in this year’s budget, including the \$510k grant) and allocate those funds into a condensed Stage 2 saving \$2.2m overall. Council Members could determine how to utilise those funds.
 - Councillors would like an opportunity to have time to re-profile the streetscape program for years 2 to 10 with \$2.2m annual budget.
- Incorporate an environmental weighting in the matrix.
- Additional information to be presented at a Forum to support streetscape decisions.

Moved Councillor Veliskou

Seconded Councillor Masika

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

1. Provides feedback on the current and future Streetscape Program.
2. Supports staff to develop a revised Streetscape Program with a 4-year Streetscape Plan with defined service levels, project costings and timeframes.
3. Recommends proceeding with the Raglan Avenue streetscape with a revised scope from the Towers Terrace roundabout to the rail crossing.

carried

7.2 Footpaths	
Report Reference	IEC240409R7.2

Manager Engineering, Assets and Environmental Sustainability, Mathew Allen and Unit Manager Engineering, Carl Lundborg presented the Committee with a report on an alternative approach to the footpath program and the kerb ramp upgrade program.

Discussion by the Committee included the following.

Do we include a footpath disposal program?

- The majority of the committee were supportive.
- Community consultation, to include at least 50% of the street must reject the footpath removal proposal.

Alternative kerb ramp program

- Majority of the committee are supportive of aligning future kerb ramp upgrades to other infrastructure programs.
- Number of requests from residents vary regarding non-compliance.
- Cost per ramp \$2,500.
- Prior to this program kerb ramps were included in other projects.



- Continuation of upgrading kerb ramps is included in service levels and DDA compliance.
- Noted we have an ageing population.
- Meet all reasonable resident requests and in addition continue with the program when in conjunction with other works – a suggestion of approximately \$50,000 per year over and above the ordinary footpath budget.

Footpaths

- Committee suggests reducing budget to \$375,000 per annum for years 2-10.
- Life of a block paved footpath is estimated at 30 years.
- Staff conducting a 4-6 week audit. Data analysis will help inform future renewal investment and be presented back to the committee.
- Program set for next financial year with a budget of \$730,000.

Moved Councillor Telfer

Seconded Mayor Hanna

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

1. Provided the following feedback regarding the footpath and kerb ramp service levels and proposed footpath disposal program for consideration in the Draft Transport Asset Management Plan (2024).
 - Continue with upgrading kerb ramps to meet resident requests and DDA compliance up to \$50,000 per annum.
 - Support the footpath disposal program with the criteria that community consultation should be at least 50% of the residents in the street respond and at least 50% of the houses must reject the footpath removal proposal.
 - Consider reducing the footpath budget for years 2 to 10 in the Long-Term Financial Plan to \$375,000 per annum.

carried unanimously

7.3 Draft Walking and Cycling Plan

Report Reference IEC240409R7.3

The General Manager City Services, Ben Keen, Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment, Mathew Allen and Transport Engineer, Sara Hurditch presented on the Walking and Cycling Plan and presented four budget scenarios for the Committee to consider.

Scenario 1 (\$100,000 p.a.)

Scenario 2 (\$400,000p.a.)

Scenario 3 (\$750,000 p.a.)

Scenario 4 (\$1,000,000 p.a.)



Mr Keen provided an explanation of how the table of deliverable projects within the report could be considered.

Committee discussion included:

- Committee discussed categorising projects as unfunded and discussed opportunities for grant funding.
- Staff advised there is not 50/50 funding - State Bike Fund allocates up to \$200k per project, opening in April with notification in October each year.
- Committee suggested a \$200,000 annual option over a stretched timeline to achieve projects in the \$400,000 category.
- Noted this action is proposed to commence in the financial year 2025-26.

The Chair conducted a straw poll on the above scenarios, with the addition of the \$200,000 option. There was a tie between \$200,000 and \$400,000 (5 each).

- Staff recently met with DIT in relation to number 39 on the list – Mitchell Park Railway Station Connections and advised DIT is willing to asphalt the connections to the station and put in a sealed path in those two locations.
- Clarification provided on the Chrysler Trail. The project relates to the connection between Trott Grove and Boyle Street.
- The Chair proposed a \$300,000 scenario, which was accepted by the Committee. There would need to be an understanding of expenditure averages and project prioritisation.
- Project discussions should precede staff planning.
- Staff engaged at ward briefings in October/November last year to discuss the proposed projects, incorporating feedback into the project list.
- List was derived from strategic network of primary and secondary routes with current projects' timelines.
- Staff will work with a \$300,000 budget scenario, presenting proposed projects for feedback at ward briefings.
- Options discussed for projects exceeding \$300,000, Included carrying over funds or staggering over two years.

Moved Mayor Hanna

Seconded Councillor Prior

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

1. Provided feedback on the following scenario to consider for the Draft Walking & Cycling Plan:
 - The Committee supports a budget allocation of \$300,000 per annum; staff to present at each of the ward briefings a revised list of projects, prior to the 28 May General Council meeting.
2. Supports staff to present the Draft Walking and Cycling Guidelines and Plan to the 28 May 2024 General Council Meeting for community engagement endorsement.

Carried unanimously



8 Reports for Noting - Nil

9 Workshop / Presentation Items - Nil

10 Other Business

11 Meeting Closure

The meeting shall conclude on or before 9.30pm unless there is a specific motion adopted at the meeting to continue beyond that time.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.26pm.

CONFIRMED THIS 11 DAY OF JUNE 2024

CHAIRPERSON

5 Business Arising

5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items

Report Reference	IEC240611R5.1
Originating Officer	Executive Officer to the General Manager City Services – Colleen Madsen
Corporate Manager	N/A
General Manager	General Manager City Services – Ben Keen

REPORT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this report is to review the business arising from previous meetings of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee meetings, the meeting schedule and upcoming items.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

- 1. Notes the business arising statement, meeting schedule and upcoming items.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. IEC 240611 - Business Arising as at 11 June 2024 [5.1.1 - 1 page]
2. IEC 240611 - Schedule of Upcoming Items 2024 [5.1.2 - 3 pages]

CITY OF MARION
BUSINESS ARISING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meeting Date	Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken / Response	Status
		NIL				

* Completed items to be removed are shaded

Infrastructure and Environment Committee – 2024 Schedule of upcoming items

Infrastructure and Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 13 February	Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Digitised Tree Asset Management Plan				I Seccafien	
Community Renewables and VPP and EVs		Includes an update on EV transition plan and charging stations		M Allen	
Workshop agenda for 2024					

Infrastructure and Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 9 April	Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Walking and Cycling Action Plan				M Allen	
Footpaths		Refer GC231212		C Lundborg	
Streetscape program		10-year program		M Allen	

Infrastructure and Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 11 June	Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Environmental Engagement and Comms		Info update and help inform program over the rest of calendar year. Feedback on focus areas for Common thread Question about sustainability rebates program		R Neumann	

Infrastructure and Environment Committee – 2024 Schedule of upcoming items

Environment Plan		Engagement on scope and directions for the CoM Environmental Sustainability Plan (and CoM Strategic Plan if time permits)		R Neumann
Carbon Inventory and Reporting				R Neumann

Infrastructure and Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 9 July	Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Flinders University Sustainability Strategy			William Van Ausdal	M Allen	
FOGO (Food Organics, Green Organics)				A Byrne	
262 Sturt Road Precinct Landscaping		Review of scope		B Jaggard M Hubbard	

Infrastructure and Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 6 August	Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
EV Charging Station trial (SAPN)		Update on SA Power Networks Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station trial and the joint EV charging stations request for proposal tender.		C Lundborg	
Sustainable Solar Savings Scheme		Brief Update	ShineHub	M Allen	
Marion Water Business Update				G Ricketts	

Infrastructure and Environment Committee – 2024 Schedule of upcoming items

Infrastructure and Environment Committee Date: Tuesday, 10 September Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm Venue: Chamber				
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen
Green Adelaide Update			Chris Daniels	R Neumann
Field River Dunes				R Neumann
Tonsley Car Park (TBC)				C Lundborg

Infrastructure and Environment Committee Date: Tuesday, 8 October Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm Venue: Chamber				
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen

Infrastructure and Environment Committee Date: Tuesday, 12 November Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm Venue: Chamber				
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen

6 Confidential Items

7 Reports for Discussion

7.1 City of Marion Environmental Sustainability Plan

Report Reference	IEC240611R7.1
Originating Officer	Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability – Rebecca Neumann
Corporate Manager	Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
General Manager	General Manager City Services - Ben Keen

REPORT OBJECTIVE

To provide the Infrastructure and Environment Committee with a summary of the proposed scope and approach to develop an Environmental Sustainability Plan 2025-2030 and gather initial feedback.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the City of Marion *Environmental Sustainability Plan 2025-2030* is to create strategic alignment between the high-level directions of the new City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034 and operational council activities.

As summarised in the Strategic Plan engagement summary [Toward 2040... Together](#) (February 2024), “green” and “sustainable” were the two strongest themes emerging from community feedback. Through this consultation and other recent consultation activities, the community has indicated a desire to see council expanding on the Valuing Nature theme of the current strategic plan and there is an increasing expectation around higher levels of service in the environmental sustainability space.

The proposed plan aims to address this high level of interest in the community and provide further details around how the priorities of the Strategic Plan will translate into outcomes for the community.

A high-level project plan outlining a proposed scope, approach, and timeframes for the development of an Environmental Sustainability Plan is included in Attachment 1.

Rebecca Neumann, Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability will deliver a presentation and workshop (Attachment 2) outlining the proposed plan and seek feedback from the Committee to shape the development of the plan over the next 12 months.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

- 1. Provides feedback in the meeting on the key focus areas for the City of Marion Environmental Sustainability Plan 2025-2030.**

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 Environmental Sustainability Plan [7.1.1 - 4 pages]
- Attachment 2 Presentation and Workshop [7.1.2 - 21 pages]

Environmental Sustainability Plan 2025 – 2030 PROJECT PLAN



Project Summary

Title	City of Marion Environmental Sustainability Plan 2025-2030
Timeframe	June 2024 – June 2025
Project delivery	Rebecca Neumann, Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability Anna Haygreen, Senior Environmental Planner
Project sponsorship	Mathew Allen, Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment Ben Keen, General Manager City Services

Description

The purpose of the City of Marion *Environmental Sustainability Plan 2025-2030* is to create strategic alignment between the high-level directions of the new City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024- 2034 and operational council activities.

As summarised in the City of Marion [Toward 2040... Together](#) community engagement summary report (February 2024), “green” and “sustainable” were the two strongest themes emerging from community feedback.

The community has indicated a desire to see the council expand on the Valuing Nature theme of the current strategic plan, and there is increasing expectation around higher levels of service in the environmental sustainability space.

The proposed plan aims to address this high level of interest in the community and provide further details around how the priorities of the Strategic Plan will translate into outcomes for the community.

Scope

It is a key function of local government to “manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance, and conserve the environment in an ecologically sustainable manner” ([Local Government Act 1999 – Sect 7](#)).

The City of Marion delivers a broad range of services and outcomes in environmental sustainability.

Key existing documents that guide the scope of council’s environmental services include:

- City of Marion Strategic Management Framework. From Strategic Plan to Work Areas Plans.
- Policies: [Environment Policy](#), [Climate Change Policy](#), [Waste Management Policy](#)
- Operational plans: [Trees Asset Management Plan](#), [Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029](#), [Marion Water Plan 2023 - 2026](#)

Whilst these plans provide excellent guidance in some areas, they have a necessarily limited scope and there are a range of environmental sustainability themes and priorities that are not well guided or reported on to our community.

The Environmental Sustainability Plan will provide an overarching view of environmental sustainability across all council services. It is proposed that the plan will be broken down into key environmental

Project Plan: Environmental Sustainability Plan

June 2024



themes. These themes will be directly guided by the priorities of a new Strategic Plan 2024-2034, the City of Marion Environment Policy and existing functional area of council.

Key goals of the plan will be to:

- Reflect **community priorities**.
- Ensure council is keeping pace with state, national and international **trends** in sustainability.
- Identify opportunities to **partner and collaborate** for efficiency and amplifying effort both internally at City of Marion and with our external partners.
- Ensure **council's roles** and levels of service are clear and resourced sustainably in a field of continuously expanding expectations.
- Ensure **council's objectives and expectations** around environmental sustainability are clear to all our suppliers and value-chain partners.
- Identify opportunities for environmental **innovation and creativity**.
- **Report** back to community on our progress.
- Recognise that environmental sustainability is of cultural importance to **Kaurna** and other **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders** and identify opportunities for partnering.
- Establish a **governance model** to guide implementation, monitoring, reporting and review.

The proposed environmental themes will include the following areas:

- Biodiversity, trees, and greening
- Water
- Climate resilience and emissions reduction
- Waste management
- Sustainable living and engagement
- Environmental governance and reporting

To ensure all relevant council services and community priorities are identified, each theme will include a description of:

- **Current state:** a description of the current state of the environment and the pressures on achieving sustainability.
- **Existing services:** ensure the breadth of the council's existing environmental services are communicated.
- **Trends and priorities:** Ensure new trends and strategic priorities are being considered in existing services.
- **Reporting and evaluation:** Provide a framework for reporting on and evaluating council's environmental sustainability performance and achievements.
- **Future investment:** Identify areas where future investment in environmental sustainability may be required to meet the interests of our community.

It is proposed that the plan will be written to ensure there are clear:

- **Strategies:** including alignment to other internal and external priorities
- **Actions:** including timeframes. A detailed implementation plan may also be developed.
- **Roles and responsibilities:** including where council will lead, advocate or partner.
- **Funding needs:** including what is covered within existing budgets.
- **Measures and timeframes:** for ongoing reporting to the community and evaluation.

Project Plan: Environmental Sustainability Plan

June 2024



Approach and timeframes

The Environmental Sustainability Plan 2025-2030 will be developed and implemented over the following timeframe.

Stage	Activity	Timeframe
Define scope and project plan	I&E Committee Feedback on scope and project plan (this document).	11 June 2024
Initial planning	<p>Establishment of governance model to guide planning and delivery of plan.</p> <p>Analysis of feedback from key recent community consultation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan Review – Towards 2040... Together • Marion 100 Community Forum • Trees Asset Management Plan consultation • Biodiversity Plan consultation • Resilient South Regional Climate Action Plan consultation • ABP and 4 Year Business Plan feedback <p>Review of environmental plans for other leading councils in South Australia and more broadly from other potential partners (including State Government, LGA and other leading organisations).</p> <p>Analysis of key stakeholders.</p> <p>Begin development of initial draft plan ready for internal consultation.</p>	July 2024
Internal consultation	<p>Key internal work areas will also be consulted to gather information about current projects and upcoming priorities as well as interdependencies and potential opportunities / risks with other stakeholders.</p> <p>This will include meeting with all relevant work areas across the council and should align with the start of work area planning for 2025-2026 ABP.</p> <p>Ensure alignment with new Strategic Plan 2024-2034 (due for endorsement in Aug 2024).</p> <p>Draft plan ready for expert review.</p>	Aug 2024
Expert feedback	<p>Engage with experts outside of the City of Marion for feedback – external partners and thought leaders.</p> <p>This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Adelaide • Local government colleagues • Green Industries SA • Department for Environment and Water • Flinders University 	Sept 2024

Project Plan: Environmental Sustainability Plan

June 2024



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community groups and other interested stakeholders. <p>Paid expert reviews may be considered.</p>	
Draft Plan for feedback from Council Members	I&E Committee Feedback on draft plan without graphic design.	11 Nov 2024
Final Draft Plan	Full graphic design and finalisation of draft plan ready for community consultation.	Dec 2024
Draft Plan – endorsement for public consultation	General Council	Jan/Feb 2025
Public Consultation	Formal public consultation period on Making Marion.	Feb - March
Final Plan Endorsement	General Council Engagement summary report and final Environmental Sustainability Plan presented to General Council for endorsement.	May 2025
Implementation	Governance model guiding implementation, monitoring, reporting and review will be established during initial planning stages and further defined in the final plan. Consideration of unfunded priorities at beginning of each ABP cycle Aug/Sept. Reporting on key measures through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Report Card Annual Report Corporate KPIs 	2025 - 2030
Mid-Way Review	Mid-way review and evaluation of progress and minor changes. Timed early in 2027 to allow for endorsement of changes for the next ABP cycle in Aug/Sept.	Early 2027
Major Review	Evaluate, update, and renew plan for next five years.	June 2029

Resource Allocation and Governance

The development of the Environmental Sustainability Plan will be led by the Environmental Sustainability Team using existing resources.

Implementation will be whole of council with some work areas having more relevance than others. The plan will identify areas of existing work and areas for new focus. Where funding is insufficient, this will be identified in the plan and may need further consideration by the Executive and Council on a case-by-case basis.

The plan will identify a governance mechanism to steer implementation, monitoring, report, and review. This may include identifying roles for existing internal committees and a new committee focused on corporate integration of environmental sustainability.

City of Marion

Environmental Sustainability Plan 2025 - 2030

Rebecca Neumann, Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability
Anna Haygreen, Senior Environmental Planner

11 June 2024





20-YEAR VISION

By 2040 our city will be deeply **connected with nature** to enhance peoples' lives, while minimising the impact on the **climate**, and protecting the **natural environment**.

10-YEAR GOAL

By 2029 we will improve **stormwater** management, increase **energy efficiency**, promote **biodiversity** and improve opportunities for people to play in **open spaces** and interact with **nature**.

Environmental Sustainability

It is a key function of a council to provide environmental sustainability **services** that meet the needs of our community.

We take a local and regional lead on:

- Waste management
- Trees and horticulture (“greening”)
- Biodiversity protection and expansion
- Watercourses and water management
- Climate response
- Community education and engagement
- Circular economy and sustainable development

A great place to *live*



Increasing demands

- Climate resilience for \$1.5 billion of assets
- Embodied carbon
- Urban heat and planning laws
- Loss of private green space outpaces council plantings
- Climate resilient urban forestry
- Food waste, soft plastics and textiles
- Food security and sustainable food systems
- Integrated planning for sustainable development
- Circular economy
- Governance, measuring and reporting

A great place to live



Environmental Sustainability Plan 2025 - 2030

The plan aims to highlight:

- Current state of environment
- Existing council strategies and services
- Trends and priorities
- Future investment
- Reporting and evaluation



A great place to *live*



Environmental Sustainability Plan 2025 - 2030

10 Year Strategic Plan

Sustainability commitments

Strategic Policies

- Environment Policy
- Climate Change Policy
- Waste Policy

Environmental Sustainability Plan

Operational Plans (funded)

- Biodiversity Plan
- Trees AMP
- Marion Water
- Open Space Plan

Guiding Plans

- Carbon Neutral Plan
- Resilient South ReCAP
- Council Guidelines

Work Area Plans

Environmental services not committed in stand-alone plans.

Funded Services

- ABP
- New Initiatives
- Grants
- Partnerships

A great place to *live*



Project Plan (Attachment 1) comments?

Stage	Action	Timeframe
Define scope and project plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I&E Committee	11 June 2024
Initial planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of governance model to guide planning and delivery of plan.• Analysis of feedback from key recent community consultation• Review of environmental plans and trends from other leading organisations• Analysis of key stakeholders.	July 2024
Internal consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current work (internal WAPs), interdependencies and upcoming opportunities• Stakeholder analysis• Ensure alignment with new Strategic Plan 2024-2034	Aug 2024
Expert feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet with external stakeholders (government partners, industry leads, community leads)	Sept 2024
Draft Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I&E Committee	11 Nov 2024
Final Draft Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full graphic design and finalisation of draft plan ready for community consultation.	Dec/Jan 2024
Draft Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Council	Jan/Feb 2025
Public Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal public consultation period on Making Marion.	Feb - March
Final Plan Endorsement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Council	May 2025
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of unfunded priorities at beginning of each ABP cycle Aug/Sept.• Reporting: steering group, Environmental Report Card, Annual Report, Corporate KPIs	2025 - 2030
Mid-Way Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-way review and evaluation of progress and minor changes with council members	Early 2027
Major Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate, update, and renew plan for next five years with council members	June 2029

Mentimeter Exercise

Mentimeter Code: 5279 2080



www.mentimeter.com



Council needs to focus...

- A lot more
- A bit more
- About right
- A bit less
- A lot less

New directions / focus areas...

- Free text
- Enter more than once
- < 10 words

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Workshop

We want to understand where you think we need more focus.

Existing vs new directions

1. Biodiversity, trees and greening
2. Water
3. Climate resilience and emissions reduction
4. Waste management
5. Sustainable living and engagement
6. Environmental governance and reporting

*There will be
overlap!*

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Trees, biodiversity and greening



Current Services	New directions / focus areas...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trees AMP• Biodiversity Plan• Open Space Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retaining private trees• Urban Infill• Measurement and reporting• Climate resilient urban forest• Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design (BSUD)

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Trees, biodiversity and greening



Results Page



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Water



Current Services	New directions / focus areas...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stormwater harvesting and reuse (Marion Water Business)• Stormwater management plans• Water course management• Water efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)• Field River• Water for cooling• Water independence and resilience

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Water



Results Page



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Climate resilience and emissions reduction



Current Services	New directions / focus areas...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carbon Neutral Plan• Resilient South• ESD Guidelines• Climate risk governance and disclosure• Coastal monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community renewables and emissions reduction• Electric Vehicles• Sustainable transport• Regional partnerships



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Climate resilience and emissions reduction



Results Page



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Waste management



Current Services	New directions / focus areas...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kerbside bin collection• Waste education• Hard waste• Illegal dumping• Southern depot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food waste diversion• Soft plastics• Single-use and micro-plastics• Product stewardship• Circular economy



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Waste management



Results Page



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Sustainable living and engagement



Current Services	New directions / focus areas...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Green Thymes• Online material• Common Thread• Community Events• Community Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rebates and incentives• Community renewables• Sustainable food systems• Reuse, recycling and share economy schemes



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Sustainable living and engagement



Results Page



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Governance and reporting



Current Services	New directions / focus areas...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment Report Card• Corporate KPIs (waste diversion and CO₂e)• Climate Risk Register• Environmental compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate risk disclosure• Nature positive design / disclosure• Sustainability assessments• Community emissions reporting



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Governance and reporting



Results Page



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7.2 Carbon Inventory and Reporting

Report Reference	IEC240611R7.2
Originating Officer	Senior Environmental Planner – Anna Haygreen
Corporate Manager	Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
General Manager	General Manager City Services - Ben Keen

REPORT HISTORY

Report Reference	Report Title
GC210209R04	Final Carbon Neutral Plan
CG230822R12.1	EV Fleet Transition
IEC240213R7.2	Community Renewables Program

REPORT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council Members with an update on the endorsed City of Marion [Carbon Neutral Plan](#) implementation and emerging trends in climate reporting that may impact on the plan.

An independent validation of council's carbon inventory has been completed (Attachment 1) and an implementation update is provided in Attachment 2.

A presentation will be provided with opportunities for discussion on next steps sought from the Committee (Attachment 3).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The [City of Marion Carbon Neutral Plan 2020-2030](#) was endorsed on 9 February 2021. The Carbon Neutral Plan maps out a pathway for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from council operations and includes a target of becoming carbon neutral for our operations by 2030. To implement the Carbon Neutral Plan, it is essential to track our emissions through a carbon inventory which is in line with the Australian Government Climate Active Framework for certifying carbon neutral claims.

Climate Active certified consultants were recently engaged to validate our greenhouse gas inventory for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years. This report explains the key recommendations of the carbon inventory validation along with some emerging trends in carbon accounting and climate reporting. It also outlines the status of actions in the Carbon Neutral Plan implementation plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

- 1. Notes the update on the carbon inventory and implementation of the Carbon Neutral Plan and provides feedback.**

DISCUSSION

Background

The endorsed [City of Marion Carbon Neutral Plan 2020-2030](#) maps out a pathway for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from council operations and includes a target of becoming carbon neutral for our operations by 2030.

For an organisation to be carbon neutral it must balance the amount of greenhouse gases it releases into the atmosphere with the amount it takes away. To do this it must:

- Measure the greenhouse gas emissions it is responsible for to calculate its emissions boundary or carbon footprint.
- Reduce this carbon footprint to the greatest extent possible.
- Purchase offsets for any remaining emissions that cannot be avoided. Carbon offsets come from certified projects that capture or avoid emissions.
- Apply for carbon neutral certification through the Climate Active Program which includes an audit, technical assessment and third-party verification of your carbon inventory.

Climate Active¹ is the Australian Government Carbon Neutral Standard which certifies carbon neutral claims. The City of Marion Carbon Neutral Plan outlines an intention to consider whether to purchase carbon offsets and apply for formal carbon neutral certification through the Climate Active Framework closer to 2030.

Accurate carbon accounting is essential for measuring our progress towards our target. The Carbon Neutral Plan commits us to tracking our carbon emissions through an annual carbon inventory in line with Climate Active. The Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard is underpinned by carbon accounting and offsets integrity principles and built upon international best-practice standards and greenhouse gas (GHG) protocols. Developing a carbon inventory ensures data integrity and completeness when reporting on our progress to reduce the risk of being perceived as 'greenwashing.' Carbon inventories can also demonstrate the impact of different initiatives to reduce emissions over time.

According to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol², emissions fall into the following categories:

- Scope 1 – Emission under Council's direct control, for example fuel used in generators, fuel used in council fleet vehicles.
- Scope 2 – Emissions from use of electricity generated elsewhere and purchased from the grid.
- Scope 3 – Indirect emissions in our value chain that are generated as a result of council operations. Includes 15 categories of upstream and downstream emissions (e.g. purchased goods and services, capital goods, business travel, waste generated).

Best practice reporting is to include all emissions from scope 1 and scope 2. Global and national reporting frameworks are now beginning to also include requirements for reporting on scope 3 emissions. The range of emissions included in reporting is referred to as the "emissions boundary".

The Carbon Neutral Plan includes an implementation plan to outline how we will progress towards our target of carbon neutrality based on an emissions boundary that includes most of our scope 1 and scope 2 emissions. Attachment 2 includes a summary of the status of the actions in the Carbon Neutral Plan.

Carbon Inventory Validation

Climate Active certified consultants The Energy Project were engaged to validate our greenhouse gas inventory for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years. To do this they compared our reported annual emissions with inventories developed using the latest emissions factors and best practice

¹ www.climateactive.org.au

² www.ghgprotocol.org

carbon accounting methods under the Climate Active Framework. The validation report is included as Attachment 1.

Under Climate Active, the emissions boundary must include all the emissions under the direct control or ownership of an organisation as well as emissions they can strongly influence. Some emissions sources are automatically deemed relevant and must be included in an emissions boundary (e.g. electricity, fuels, refrigerants) and other sources are 'tested' for relevance against key criteria.

The key recommendation from the inventory validation is to expand our emissions boundary to include additional scope 1 and scope 3 emissions. The validation report revealed that with our available information (primarily financial data), scope 3 emissions made up 80-90% of our emissions in the last two financial years. Construction materials and services, including new buildings, building maintenance, playgrounds, roads and infrastructure, account for most of our scope 3 emissions. In the absence of detailed emissions data from our suppliers, a high emissions factor is applied to scope 3 emissions that can only be attributed to financial records.

Other recommendations from the inventory validation report include:

- Continuing to report annually maintaining transparency and trust.
- Acknowledge that Climate Active will continue to be the benchmark approach to voluntary emissions reduction in Australia.
- Be aware that the 'rules of the game' will change over time and so inventory calculation methods and terminology will evolve, making comparisons to past performance and commitments challenging.
- Acknowledge that others are grappling with treatment of scope 3 emissions.
- Improve data around refrigerant leakage and waste.
- In relation to major scope 3 emissions sources, set expectations on major suppliers to quantify the emissions associated with the goods and services provided. If we are able to trace declarations on emissions from our suppliers, then this will also reduce the emissions that we need to report.

The carbon validation report also highlighted a [consultation](#) proposing changes to the Climate Active Framework that would make the program more ambitious with additional requirements for certification. Climate Active is also proposing to abandon the term carbon neutral, although it is currently unclear what this term would be replaced with.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 Carbon Inventory Validation Report - The Energy Project [7.2.1 - 15 pages]
2. Attachment 2 Carbon Neutral Implementation Plan Update May 2024 [7.2.2 - 5 pages]
3. Attachment 3 Presentation Carbon Inventory and Reporting [7.2.3 - 13 pages]



Carbon Inventory Validation – Report

15 December 2023



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Disclaimer

This report is not to be used for a formal application to Climate Active or allow for use of the Climate Active trademarks. It is intended purely to inform deliberations on emissions reduction targets.

Your contact:

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1 Executive summary

1.1 Background

The City of Marion (Council) has a commitment to becoming carbon neutral for its operations by 2030 (*City of Marion Carbon Neutral Plan 2020-2030*¹) and intends to consider *Climate Active* certification closer to 2030.

Climate Active is the Australian Government's framework for carbon neutral certification (outlined in **Section 4**).

This Validation Report has been commissioned to "... ensure that Council's carbon inventory is being developed in line with recognised carbon accounting processes and can be used to track Council's progress towards its carbon neutral by 2030 target".

Further, this report flags proposed changes that will make *Climate Active* a more ambitious program. These changes were published during the preparation of this Report in a *Program Direction Consultation Paper* in which *Climate Active* certification is proposing to abandon the term *Carbon Neutral* (**Section 5**).

1.2 Findings

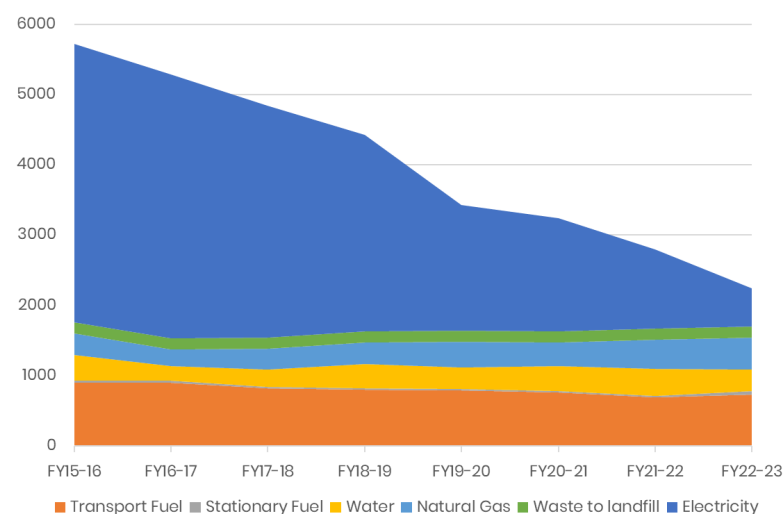
1.2.1 Emissions reductions since 2015-16

Council use a baseline year of 2015-16 and baseline inventory total of **5,700** tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (tCO₂-e).

¹ [Carbon Neutral | City of Marion](#)

We have compared Council's FY21-22 and FY22-23 greenhouse gas inventories (using the baseline year emissions boundary) with inventories developed using the latest emissions factors under the *Climate Active* approach. We have identified minor differences in emissions estimates derived using current *Climate Active* emissions factors. These are explained in **Section 2**.

Council's progress since the base year is illustrated in the following chart:



This illustrates that the reductions achieved to date are in electricity emissions and that the other categories have remained relatively stable.

1.2.2 Emissions Boundary

Council's current 'emissions boundary' (the reported sources of direct, upstream and downstream emissions shown above) does not meet best practice under Climate Active's relevance tests. The guidance on materiality and relevance expands the boundary to encompass virtually all of Council's expenditure (excluding salaries and wages).

We have used Council's audited financial statements and Climate Active's expenditure-based emissions factors (for 5 additional categories) to estimate total emissions footprints for FY22 and FY23. These are several times higher than currently assessed (particularly in FY21-22 due to expenditure patterns). This is explained in **Section 3** and contrasted with those reported in Council's *Corporate Greenhouse Gas Accounting Summary* in the table below:

Emissions Category	FY15-16 t-CO ₂ e	FY21-22 t-CO ₂ e	FY22-23 t-CO ₂ e
Council's published Total	5,720	2,793	2,241
Climate Active comparison		3,108	2,882
Climate Active expanded emissions boundary including Scope 3	-	23,028	14,873

The application of expenditure-based emissions factors for Scope 3 tend to overstate actual emissions. It is recommended that Council collect more granular data on quantities of materials procured and apply Climate Active's detailed quantity-based emissions factors in future inventories as much as possible.

1.3 Recommendations

Without pre-empting the final details of impending changes to the Australian Government's Climate Active framework, it is our view that Council should:

- Continue to report annually, maintaining transparency and trust
- Acknowledge that Climate Active will continue to be the benchmark approach to voluntary emissions claims and reporting in Australia
- Be aware that the "rules of the game" will change over time and so inventory calculation methods and terminology will evolve – making comparisons to past performance and commitments challenging
- Adopt the 'market based' method for Scope 2 and continue to purchase GreenPower accredited electricity to minimise the risk of 'double counting' emissions reductions in the economy
- Acknowledge that other Councils are grappling with the treatment of Scope 3. Council could advocate for a sector-wide approach.
- Improve data around refrigerant leakage and waste
- In relation to the major Scope 3 emissions sources estimated from expenditure:
 - Establish a consistent approach to mapping General Ledger Expenditure Codes to 'in scope' emissions categories
- In relation to the major Scope 3 emissions sources (particularly Construction Materials and Services), set expectations on major suppliers to:
 - Set out detailed quantities (weights, volumes etc) of materials and fuels used, and/or;
 - quantify the emissions associated with the goods and services provided and, ideally, become Climate Active certified.

2 Inventory comparison

Inventories categorise emissions sources into three scopes: **Scope 1** or “direct emissions” are those released directly by Council Operations such as the combustion of petrol, diesel and gas and leakage of refrigerants. **Scope 2** refers to the emissions embodied in the electricity consumed by Council Operations. **Scope 3** refers to other “indirect” greenhouse gas emissions that are generated in the wider economy as a consequence of Council's operations.

Council's published inventory is based on an emissions boundary displayed in **Figure 1**.

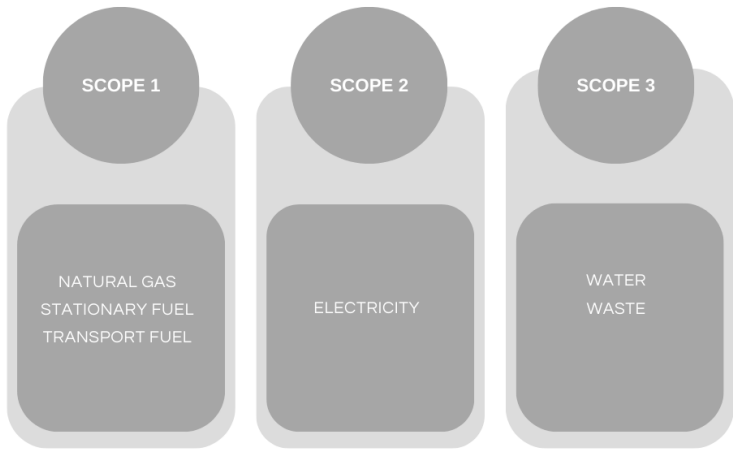


Figure 1: City of Marion emissions boundary

2.1 Council's Published Carbon Inventories vs Climate Active Inventories

We have used data extracted from Trellis to

- attempt to replicate the published emissions summary,
- generate equivalent estimates using Climate Active

Commentary is then provided for emissions categories where there is a material difference.

2.1.1 FY2021-2022

Council's published FY2021-22 Inventory vs a Climate Active derived inventory of identical activity data is compared below.

Emissions Category	FY21-22 Council t-CO2e	FY21-22 Climate Active t-CO2e	Difference
Electricity	1,123	1,219	9%
Transport Fuel	687	691	1%
Stationary Fuel	28	29	3%
Water	384	396	3%
Natural Gas	411	435	6%
Waste	160	339	112%
Total	2,793	3,108	11%

2.1.2 FY2022-2023

Council's published FY2022-23 Inventory vs a Climate Active derived inventory of identical activity data is compared below.

Emissions Category	FY22-23 Council t-CO2e	FY22-23 Climate Active t-CO2e	Difference
Electricity	542	1,056	95%
Transport Fuel	734	735	0%
Stationary Fuel	44	44	0%
Water	313	269	-14%
Natural Gas	447	439	-2%
Waste	160	339	112%
Total	2,241	2,882	29%

2.1.3 Electricity

Under the current Climate Active Technical Guidance Manual, electricity emissions (Scope 2) can be calculated using *either* the location-based or market-based methods.

As explained further in Section 5, the location-based method allows for the calculation of Scope 2 using a South Australian specific factor that reflects the high penetration of renewables in the South Australian Electricity grid. However, this approach gives rise to significant double counting since electricity

consumers in other states (including the ACT Government) are buying the renewable energy certificates from South Australian generators and using these to meet their own targets. The future direction of Climate Active is to only use the market-based method (**Section 5**).

For **FY21-22**, TEP used the **location-based** Climate Active approach to calculate emissions from electricity and was able to replicate the result published by Council. This is consistent with Council's current approach in previous reports.

In **FY22-23**, Council purchased GreenPower™ for the period 01 January 2023 to 30 June 2023. Under Climate Active, the use of GreenPower™ *requires* the use of the **market-based** method.

The difference been the emissions calculation for FY22-23 for the Council inventory and the Climate Active calculated inventory is due to the way the market-based approach treats the electricity not sourced as GreenPower™.

If GreenPower™ had been used for the full reporting year, there would be no emissions from the market-based approach. However, the approximately 50% of consumption that was not GreenPower™ is calculated using what is referred to as the 'Residual Mix Factor' (RMF) as opposed to the state-based factor used under the location-based method. The difference for FY23 is illustrated below:

Description	Scope 2 factor (kg CO2-e/kWh)	Scope 3 factor (kg CO2-e/kWh)	Full Cycle factor
SA	0.25	0.08	0.33
National RMF	0.85	0.11	0.96

2.1.4 Stationery Fuel

We have used Emissions Factors from Climate Active as published at the time of the inventories (v7 for 21/22 and v8 for 22/23) but these result in slightly higher scope 3 emissions than those produced by Trellis.

2.1.5 Water

We have used Emissions Factors from Climate Active as published at the time of the inventories (v7 for 21/22 and v8 for 22/23). Recent updates to the National Greenhouse Accounts Emissions Factors used by Climate Active explain 14% lower scope 3 emissions for FY23 than those produced by Trellis.

2.1.6 Natural Gas

We have used Emissions Factors from Climate Active as published at the time of the inventories (v7 for 21/22 and v8 for 22/23) but these result in slightly different scope 3 emissions than those produced by Trellis.

2.1.7 Waste

Council published inventories have detailed emission of 160 t CO₂-e from waste since baseline inventory, FY2015–2016. It is unclear what data was used to determine this emissions estimate.

Council has recently completed a review of bins, usage and collections at Council facilities. TEP has used these estimates to determine an updated estimate of emissions and applied these to both the FY22 and FY23 inventories.

Under Climate Active, all recycled waste is given an emissions factor of 0.

The emissions factor used for Organics was 0.046 t-CO₂-e per tonne of waste based on the 2023 NGA Factors Workbook² for estimating emissions from the biological treatment of solid waste – composting and anaerobic digestion (Table 19).

The emissions factor used for general waste was 1.6 t-CO₂-e per tonne of waste (Table 16).

² [Australian National Greenhouse Accounts Factors \(dcceew.gov.au\)](https://dcceew.gov.au)

3 Emissions Boundary

Applying Climate Active's relevance tests to upstream and downstream emissions from Council Operations expands the emissions boundary to encompass the "indirect" greenhouse gas emissions generated in the wider economy as a consequence of Council's operations (Scope 3) and the global warming potential of refrigerants that leak from air conditioners and heat pumps (Scope 1).

3.1 Approach

We applied Climate Active's relevance tests (see **Section 4** for an introduction to Climate Active) to upstream and downstream emissions from Council Operations to set an emissions boundary that is much broader than is currently used by Council for reporting emissions.

Under Climate Active, the emissions boundary must include all emissions under the direct control or ownership of an organisation, as well as emissions they can strongly influence.

Emissions *from a particular source* are assessed as relevant when any two or more of the following 5 conditions are met:

- *likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions*
- *contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure (i.e. will the impacts of climate change pose a serious risk to the viability of this emission source over a timeframe suitable to the organisation)*
- *deemed relevant by key stakeholders*

- *the responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source*
- *the emissions are from outsourced activities that were previously undertaken within the organisation's boundary or from outsourced activities that are typically undertaken within the boundary for comparable organisations*

The detailed assessment of a range of emissions categories against the relevance tests is provided as an attachment³.

The emissions boundary used is illustrated in **Figure 2** overleaf.

Financial data from Council's Annual Reports for FY21-22 and FY22-23 was used as the basis for mapping expenditure to Climate Active emissions source categories. The Climate Active calculators then apply a bespoke emissions factor to the expenditure in order to estimate emissions.

A 5% uplift is included to reflect unquantified emissions from categories deemed relevant which included expenditure that was unable to be mapped to a source and a lack of data around refrigerant leakage.

³ File <CityofMarion_EmissionsBoundary_v2.xls>

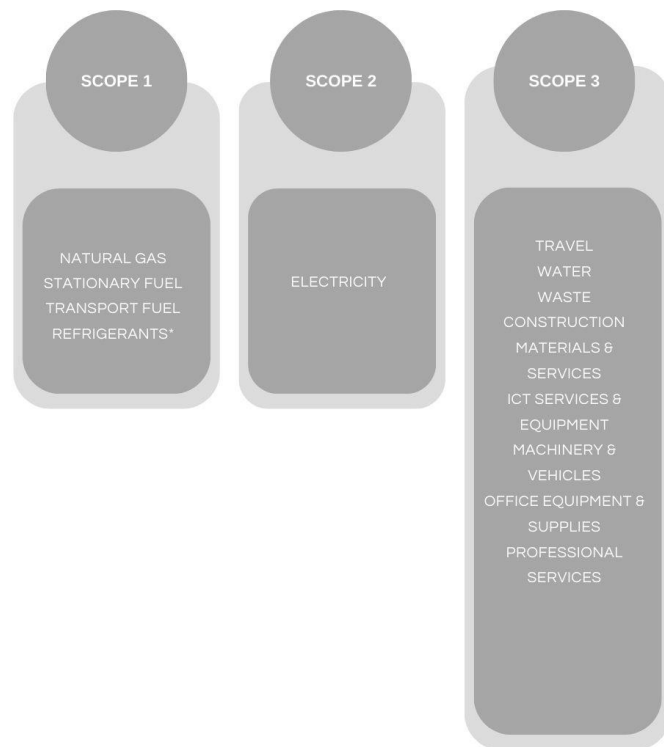


Figure 2: Emissions Boundary including Scope 3

* reflects a non-quantified emissions source

Note: Scope 1 and 2 categories also have a Scope 3 component. This is evident in the following section.

3.2 Findings

3.2.1 FY21-22 Emissions Inventory

The Climate Active approach provides an estimated total footprint of **23,028 tCO₂-e**. This compares to the currently reported total of **2,793 t-CO₂e**.

Emission category	Scope 1 (tCO ₂ -e)	Scope 2 (tCO ₂ -e)	Scope 3 (tCO ₂ -e)	Total (t CO ₂ -e)
Electricity		988	231	1219
Stationary Energy (gaseous fuels)	363		75	438
Stationary Energy (liquid fuels)	28		1	29
Transport (Land and Sea)	654		34	688
Waste			339	339
Water			396	396
Expanded Scope 3 items				
Construction Materials and Services			16985	16985
ICT services and equipment			27	27
Machinery and vehicles			1243	1243
Office equipment & supplies			117	117
Professional Services			451	451
Total	1,045	988	19,898	21,932
5% Uplift for Data unavailability				1,097
with 5% Uplift				23,028

3.2.2 FY22-23 Emissions Inventory

The Climate Active approach provides an estimated total footprint of **14,873 tCO₂-e**. This compares to the currently reported total of **2,241 tCO₂-e**. The reduction from FY21-22 (at left) is almost solely due to reduced expenditure on Construction Services.

Emission category	Scope 1 (t CO ₂ -e)	Scope 2 (t CO ₂ -e)	Scope 3 (t CO ₂ -e)	Total (t CO ₂ -e)
Electricity		933	123	1056
Stationary Energy (gaseous fuels)	364		76	439
Stationary Energy (liquid fuels)	35		9	44
Transport (Land and Sea)	589		145	735
Waste			339	339
Water			269	269
Expanded Scope 3 items				
Construction Materials and Services			9266	9266
ICT services and equipment			29	29
Machinery and vehicles			1233	1233
Office equipment & supplies			129	129
Professional Services			627	627
Total	988	933	12,245	14,165
5% Uplift for Data unavailability				708
with 5% Uplift				14,873

Note: Total sums may not add due to rounding

Discussion

Emissions categories that represent a large proportion of the emissions total are discussed below.

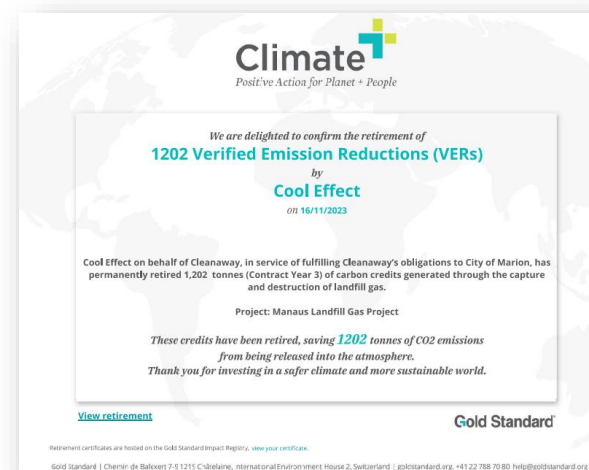
3.2.3 Collection of kerbside waste from residents and businesses

The fuel used by Council's waste contractor to collect general waste, organics and recyclables has been considered a relevant emissions source due to meeting multiple relevance test criteria:

- Relatively large
- Considered 'core business' of local government
- Activity previously undertaken but outsourced
- Council can influence emissions reduction

Cleanaway report and offset their truck emissions under their contract with Council. A copy of the certificate for the retirement of 1,202 Verified Emissions Reductions (VERs) FY23 was provided by Council staff. The referenced project is a landfill gas flaring project in Brazil.

We have assumed 1,202 tCO₂-e from this emissions source that is fully offset in the inventory in both years.



3.2.4 Construction Materials and Services

This category reflects the emissions embodied in the materials and services provided by construction contractors engaged by Council. Key contributors include expenditure on new buildings, building maintenance, playgrounds and roads and infrastructure.

In FY21-22, \$53.1m in expenditure with an average emissions factor of 0.22 tCO₂-e per \$1000 equates to 13,124 tCO₂-e, 63% of the total inventory.

In FY22-23, significantly lower expenditure of \$18.9m, with an average emissions factor of 0.22 tCO₂-e per \$1000 equates to 4,442 tCO₂-e, 48% of the total inventory.

Key opportunities are in the procurement of “low carbon” materials (such as Recycled Aggregate for roads) however accounting for this and low carbon services is presently limited to those that are Climate Active certified.

3.2.5 Machinery and vehicles

In FY22-23, \$4m in expenditure with an average emissions factor of 0.2 tCO₂-e per \$1000 spent equates to 815 tCO₂-e, 8% of the total.

Key contributors include the emissions embodied in purchased vehicles and hired plant.

Council would see a decrease in Scope 1 emissions with the transition of Machinery and Vehicle to all electric options. Through the procurement phase of this transition however, Council may see an increase in emissions to account for those embodied in the manufacture of new machinery and vehicles.

3.2.6 Professional Services

Emissions for professional services for FY21-22 was significantly higher than those for FY22-23. This can be directly correlated to the infrastructure projects in FY21-22 that also led to increases in emissions from Construction and Materials.

Key contributors include Architectural, Legal, Marketing, Business services and other consulting services purchased by Council.

As emissions from Professional services is related to Council spend, it is difficult to address emissions in this category. Council could address this emissions category by seeking to purchase “services” that are Carbon Neutral Certified.

3.2.7 Refrigerants

Council does not currently report on emissions from the leakage of refrigerants from air conditioning and refrigeration equipment. Under Climate Active refrigerants need to be deemed as relevant. If there is a lack of data for an emissions source, an uplift of 5% to the emissions inventory is required to account for these emissions.

The CA tools are based on an estimate of the volume of refrigerants that escape to the atmosphere based on the amount added to larger equipment and assigning default leakage rates to smaller air conditioning, refrigeration and heat pump systems. Details of the type of refrigerants used is very important as emissions factors can vary substantially.

There is currently no accurate data on refrigerants sources for the Council.

To enable a more precise calculation of refrigerant emissions for Council, an updated audit of Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC&R) equipment would need to capture the following information:

- Equipment type
- Equipment brand and model
- Heating / Cooling capacity
- Refrigerant type
- Refrigerant charge added (if available)

3.2.8 Uplift

A 5% uplift is included to reflect unquantified emissions from expenditure unable to be mapped to a source and the limitations of data around refrigerant leakage.

Further, it is recommended that Council's emissions data management plan focus on better understanding the fleet of equipment with refrigerants and to consider procurement only of equipment with low greenhouse refrigerants and high energy efficiency.

4 The Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard

A key attribute of the Climate Active standard is the formal approach to defining an organisations' emissions boundary. In relation to the treatment of Scope 3 emissions, this guides the inclusion or exclusion of emissions embodied in the goods and services "consumed" by Council's Operations and the emissions "enabled" by the services Council provides.

Under the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations⁴, emissions boundaries are set using the "**operational control approach**" which refers to "*the ability to introduce and implement the operating policies.*"

Under Climate Active, all stationary energy, fuels and electricity are automatically deemed as relevant emissions and must be included in an emissions boundary. Other emissions sources are tested for relevance using the Climate Active relevance test⁵:

"Emission sources are relevant if at least two of the following criteria are met:

- *the emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions*
- *the emissions from a particular source contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure*
- *the emissions from a particular source are deemed relevant by key stakeholders*

⁴ [Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations | Climate Active](#)

⁵ [Guidance – Organisations – Public Disclosure Statement \(climateactive.org.au\)](#)

- *the responsible organisation could influence emissions reduction from a particular source*
- *the emissions are from outsourced activities previously undertaken within the organisation's boundary, or from outsourced activities typically undertaken within the boundary for comparable organisations".*

Under the Climate Active model, all emissions sources listed in an emissions boundary are included in the carbon emissions inventory. Emission sources have been categorised as:

- Quantified emissions – listed in the emissions boundary and emissions from these sources have actual or estimated data accounted for in the inventory.
- Non-quantified emissions – emissions that are assessed as relevant but are not measured in the carbon inventory (non-quantified) due to unavailable data. If an organisation were to seek Carbon Neutrality under Climate Active, a 5% uplift would need to occur to account for data unavailability.
- Excluded emissions are emissions that have been assessed as not relevant to the organisation's operations, therefore are not included in their carbon inventory.

⁶ www.climateactive.org.au/what-climate-active/news/consultation-open-shaping-future-climate-active

5 Climate Active Program Direction Consultation 2023

The Climate Active program continues to evolve and opened a "Program Direction Consultation" in October 2023 in order to keep pace with the changing climate action landscape⁶.

The consultation paper proposes a number of reforms to reflect a more ambitious program. Included in this is several items directly relevant to Council and this report.

- Mandate Climate Active members set near-term and long-term gross emission reduction targets (Proposal 1)
- Replace the term "carbon neutral" with a new term (Proposal 7)
- Mandate a minimum percentage of renewable electricity and require the use of the 'market-based' method – abandoning the use of the 'location-based' method for determining Scope 2 emissions (Proposal 5)
- Mandate the inclusion of specific Scope 3 emissions sources in the emissions boundary (Proposal 3)

Without pre-empting the final details, it is our view that Council should:

- Acknowledge that Climate Active will continue to be the benchmark approach to voluntary emissions claims and reporting
- Be aware that the "rules of the game" will change over time and so inventory calculation methods and terminology will evolve – making comparisons to past performance and commitments challenging

- Acknowledge that other Councils are grappling with the treatment of Scope 3 emissions and Council could advocate for a sector-wide approach.
- Adopt the 'market-based' method for Scope 2 and continue to purchase GreenPower™ accredited electricity to minimise the risk of 'double counting' emissions reductions in the economy
- Set expectations on regular, major suppliers to quantify the emissions associated with the goods and services provided and, ideally, become Climate Active certified.

Carbon Neutral Implementation Plan – Update May 2024

Initiative	Indicative Year of Delivery	Progress/Status
1. TRACKING CARBON EMISSIONS		
1.1 Carbon inventory and annual reporting	2020/21 – 2029/30	<p>Carbon inventory validation undertaken by Climate Active certified consultants the Energy Project to validate our greenhouse gas emissions data for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years.</p> <p>An annual corporate KPI has been established to provide assurance that Council is meeting agreed carbon emissions reduction targets. The annual report also includes carbon reductions.</p> <p>In line with international trends (International Sustainability Standards Board - ISSB), the Australian Government has also introduced legislation for mandatory climate-related disclosures. The new Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards (ASRS) will provide a framework for future mandatory reporting of emissions and other climate-related risks. The legislation targets large corporate entities; however, government reporting is likely to also be required in the future.</p>
2. REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS		
2.1 Improving Council Buildings		
2.1.1 Trial ESD Guidelines on Council projects	2020/21	Complete. Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Guidelines trialled at Mitchell Park Sports and Community Club in 2020/21.
2.1.2 Embed updated ESD Guidelines	2021/22 – 2029/30	The 'ESD Guidelines for New Buildings and Refurbishments' and 'Sustainable Building Maintenance Guidelines' documents were completed in September 2021 along with an implementation plan to embed them into practice and key design documents. A targeted ESD training series was held for relevant staff in property, city activation and sustainability teams in early 2023.

Initiative	Indicative Year of Delivery	Progress/Status
2.1.3 Implement a sustainable behaviour change program	2021/22 – 2029/30	The ESD Implementation Plan included an action for targeted training for property and project staff, vendor panels, and building users (including tenants of leased facilities.) Training has occurred with staff, but further work could be undertaken to build the capacity of as tenants and building users to reduce energy use.
2.2 Zero Emissions Fleet		
2.2.1 Develop Fleet Transition Plan	2021/22 – 2022/23	On 22 August 2023 Council approved a plan for a staged transition to electric vehicles for our passenger fleet. We will no longer purchase ICE or Hybrid vehicles for our passenger fleet and will replace these with EV's as vehicles reach their replacement in our current asset management plan. Our replacement policy is 5 years, or 50,000kms, which means that by June 2027 we will have replaced all 41 passenger vehicles with EV's.
2.2.2 Install EV charging stations at Council sites for fleet vehicle recharging	2022/23 – 2029/30	EV charging stations have been installed at Admin and City Services for the two electric passenger vehicles that were purchased in 2023. Work is underway to upgrade our electricity supply and install further charging infrastructure at the Administration Centre and City Services.
2.2.3 Implement Fleet Transition Plan	2023/24 – 2029/30	Implementation is underway for electrification of the light passenger vehicle fleet. The technology for electric heavy vehicles is not yet advanced enough to enable electrification of our heavy vehicle fleet. However, staff are monitoring technological advances so we can transition our heavy fleet as soon as it is feasible. Heavy fleet vehicles are responsible for a high proportion of our fleet emissions.
2.3 Sustainable Street Lighting: Change over remaining public lighting to LED		
2.3.1 Implement the Public Lighting Action Plan	2020/21 – 2025/26	Efficient LEDs have been upgraded at all existing metered high intensity discharge public lighting locations as identified in the Open Space Lighting Audit. There are still some VCAT streetlights to be upgraded to LEDs across the city. A streetlighting audit will be undertaken in 2024 to identify opportunities for further LED lighting upgrades.

Initiative	Indicative Year of Delivery	Progress/Status
3. SWITCH TO RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY		
3.1 Option A: 100% renewable electricity contract	2022/23	100% GreenPower (renewable electricity) was purchased as part of the new electricity supply contract and commenced on 1 January 2023 and was arranged through the Local Government Association Procurement. There is now consideration of purchasing our renewable electricity through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).
3.2 Option B: Large-scale Solar		
3.2.1 Explore solar farm opportunities	2020/21-2022/2023	A detailed feasibility assessment of large scale solar has not been undertaken as this option for switching to renewable electricity has very high capital costs and long payback periods. Since the Carbon Neutral Plan was developed, many councils in metropolitan Adelaide have been investigating Power Purchase Agreements to achieve low-cost renewable electricity without high upfront capital costs and risk associated with large-scale solar infrastructure.
3.2.2 Solar farm feasibility assessment	2022/23	Not commenced.
3.2.3 Construct solar farm (if favourable)	2023/24 onwards	Not commenced.
4. OFFSETTING CARBON EMISSIONS		
4.1 Research carbon offset projects	2020/21 – 2027/28	<p>A feasibility assessment of a possible carbon sequestration project on public land in the Field River Valley was completed in 2021. Council considered this assessment and decided not to proceed with the offset project based on the analysis undertaken.</p> <p>In 2023 we participated in a City of Adelaide led study on offset opportunities for SA councils. The study was a collaboration between 30 metropolitan and regional SA councils. The study found that although local governments are eligible to generate carbon credits on public land under the Emissions Reduction Fund, significant land area is needed to make these projects viable. The study recommended options for governance of offset partnerships between metropolitan and regional councils. There are huge resourcing requirements to enter such arrangements, and this is a low priority for achieving our carbon neutral target at present.</p>

Initiative	Indicative Year of Delivery	Progress/Status
4.2 Implement final offset program	2028/29 – 2029/30	Carbon offsets will be considered closer to 2030.
5. SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES		
5.1 Communicate and promote carbon neutral activities	2020/21 – 2029/30	Carbon emissions and progress towards the carbon neutral by 2030 target is reported in the Corporate KPI report and annual report. Information on City of Marion carbon emissions reduction initiatives is also included in the annual Environment Report Card.
5.2 Partner with and provide stewardship with the community by providing education and incentives	2020/21 – 2029/30	We undertake a range of initiatives to support and educate our community to reduce emissions including through our Green Thymes newsletter, website, social media, community workshops, online webinars, and business engagement through Future Energy Week.
5.3 Make major Council events carbon neutral	2021/22 – 2029/30	Council has held fewer major events since the Carbon Neutral Plan was developed due to COVID. However, we are investigating trialling a certified carbon neutral event in 2025. This needs to be weighed up against the additional cost to the event budget from purchasing offsets, costs of the license to use the Climate Active certified trademark and the costs of third-party verification.
5.4 Develop and implement a Sustainable Procurement Policy	2021/22 – 2029/30	A stand-alone Sustainable Procurement Policy has not been developed, although some sustainable procurement considerations are included in existing policies and procedures. Further work is required to engage with suppliers on the carbon emissions associated with their products and services. It is important to send a strong signal to suppliers that Council will prioritise low carbon materials when making procurement decisions.
5.5 Achieve Climate Active Certification (optional)	2029/30	Climate Active Certification is a structured, auditable pathway for organisations to achieve carbon neutrality. Formal certification will be considered closer to 2030. Certification will be required if Council wants to promote its carbon neutral status. The Climate Active annual license fee is based on organisation size and net emissions before offsetting. To maintain Climate Active certification, technical reassessment by a registered consultant is required every three years.

Initiative	Indicative Year of Delivery	Progress/Status
		A recent Climate Active Program Direction consultation indicated that the Climate Active program will be reformed over 2024 to make it more ambitious and maintain integrity. The consultation flagged that the term 'carbon neutral' is likely to be replaced with a new term.

City of Marion

Carbon Inventory and Reporting

Anna Haygreen, Senior Environmental Planner

11 June 2024



Presentation Overview

- Update on the Carbon Neutral Plan and its implementation.
- Overview of carbon emissions inventory validation for 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- Discuss trends in carbon accounting and voluntary emissions reductions that may impact on the carbon neutral target.



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Carbon Neutral Plan

City of Marion has set the target of becoming carbon neutral for its own operations by 2030.

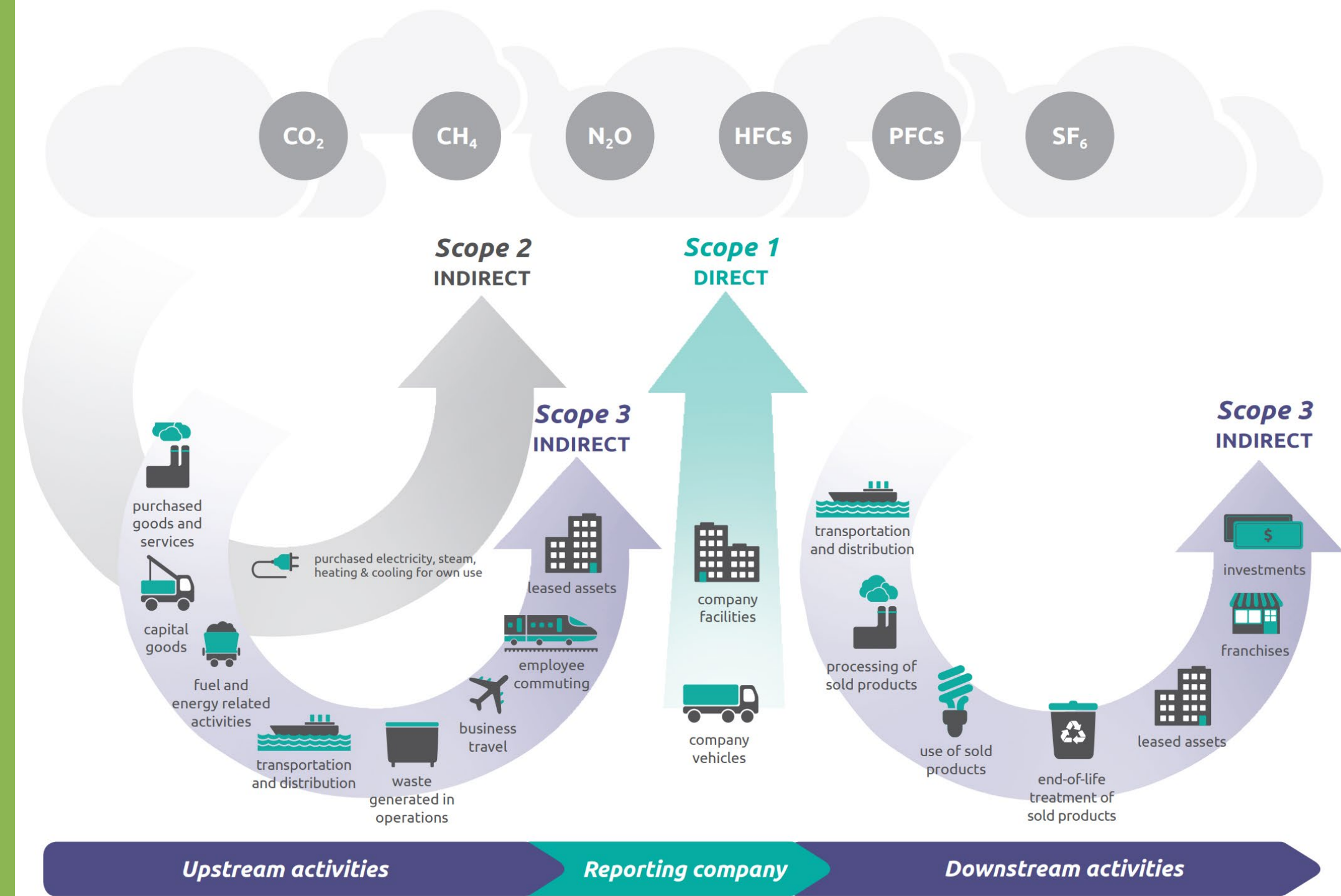


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Scopes and Emissions

- **Scope 1**- Direct emissions that we own or control i.e. *“everything under our roof”* (e.g. petrol, diesel, gas, leakage of refrigerants from fridge and air conditioning systems.)
- **Scope 2** – Indirect emissions from **electricity** generated offsite that we purchase from the grid for our operations.
- **Scope 3** – All other indirect emissions in our value chain generated in the wider economy due to council operations (15 categories of upstream and downstream emissions).

Figure [1.1] Overview of GHG Protocol scopes and emissions across the value chain

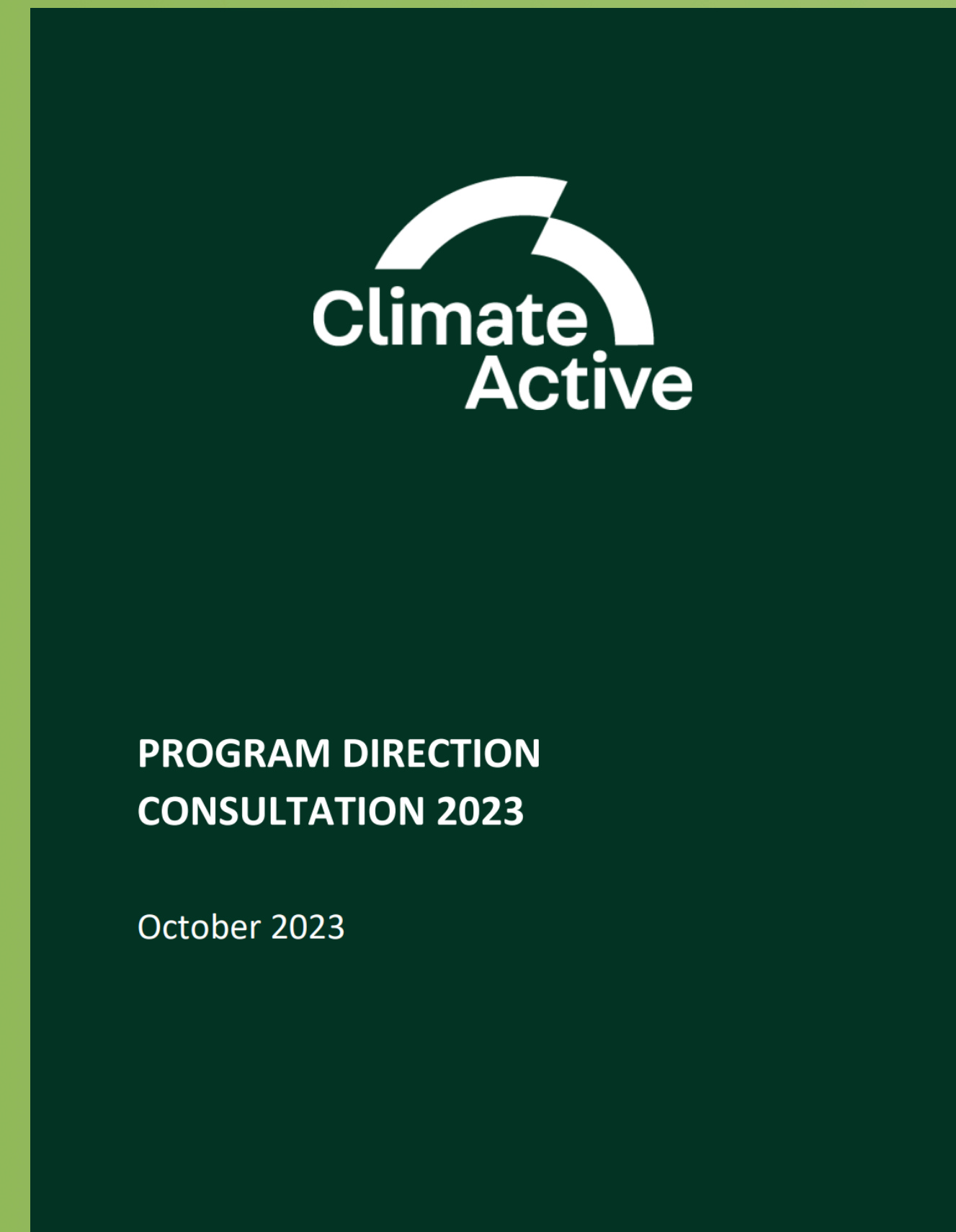


Source: [Greenhouse Gas Protocol Technical Guidance for Calculating Scope 3 Emissions](#)

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Climate Active

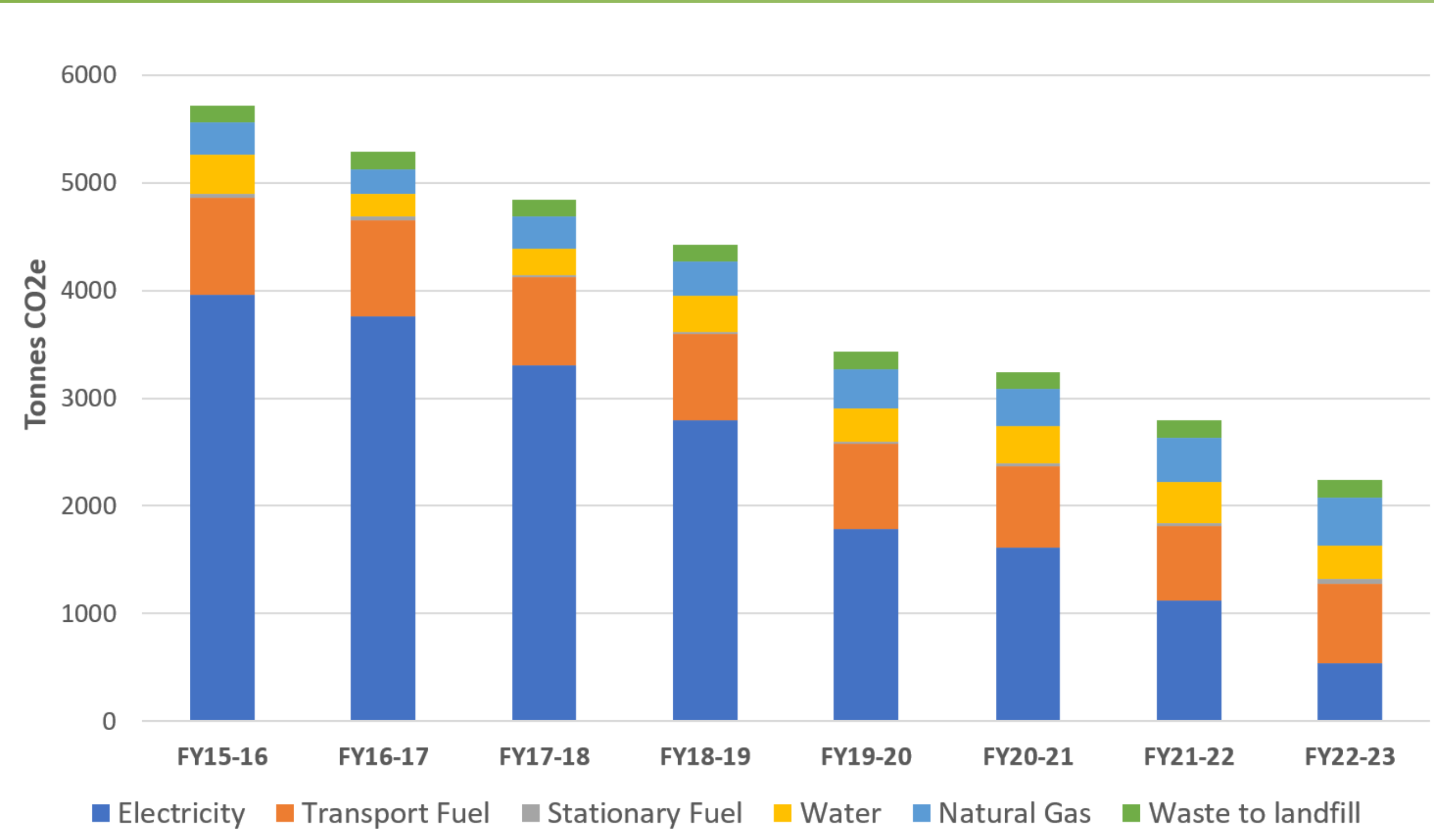
- Climate Active is the Australian Government framework for carbon neutral certification
- Climate Active is the benchmark approach for carbon neutral certification
- Climate Active carbon inventories must include scopes 1,2 and 3 in emissions boundary
- In 2023 a consultation flagged changes that will make Climate Active more ambitious and abandon the term 'carbon neutral'



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Our emissions over time

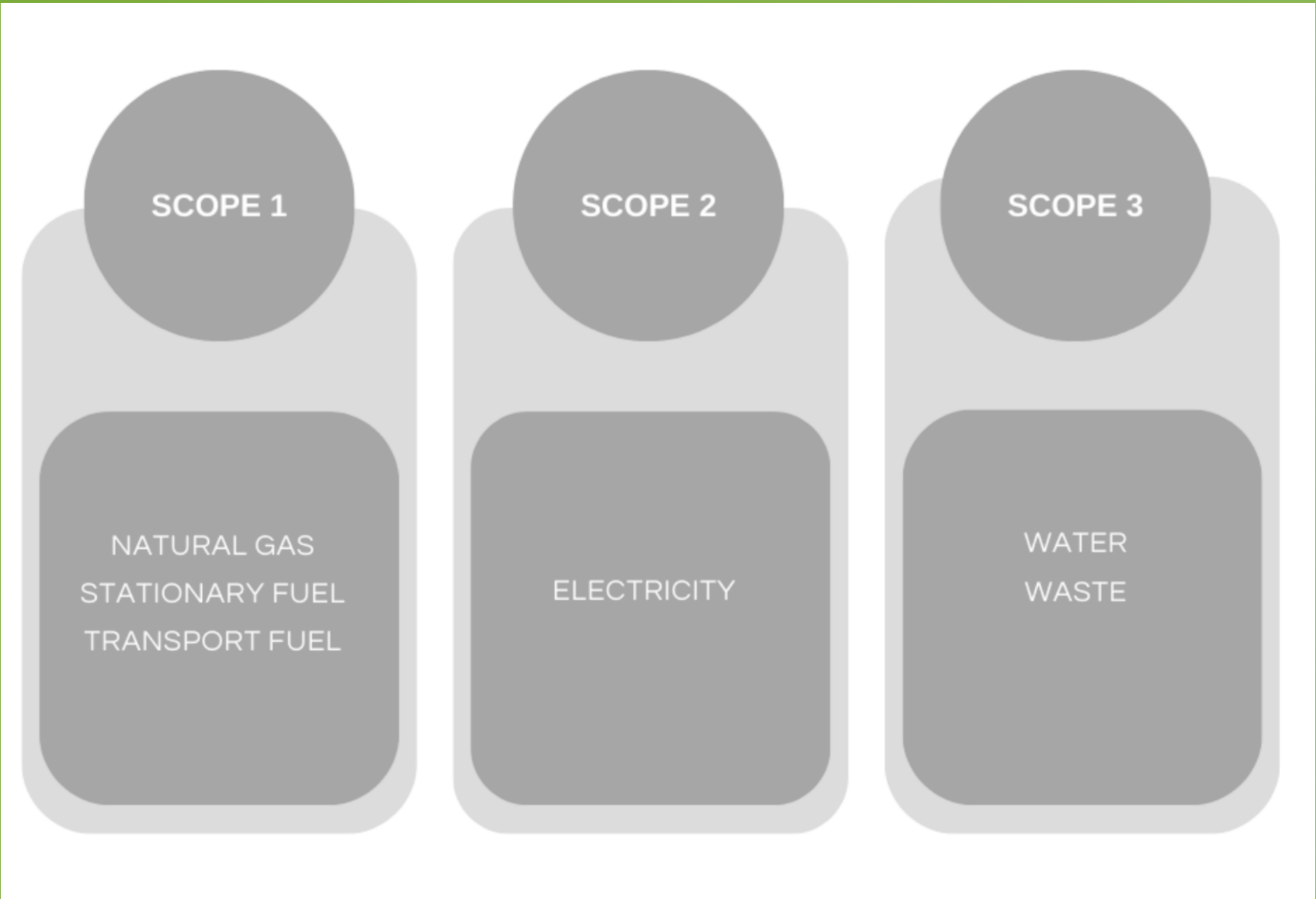
- The main progress in emission reductions since the baseline year is in electricity (scope 2)
- Electricity emissions have reduced due to energy efficiency upgrades, a growing percentage of renewables at Council sites and the SA grid, and purchasing GreenPower



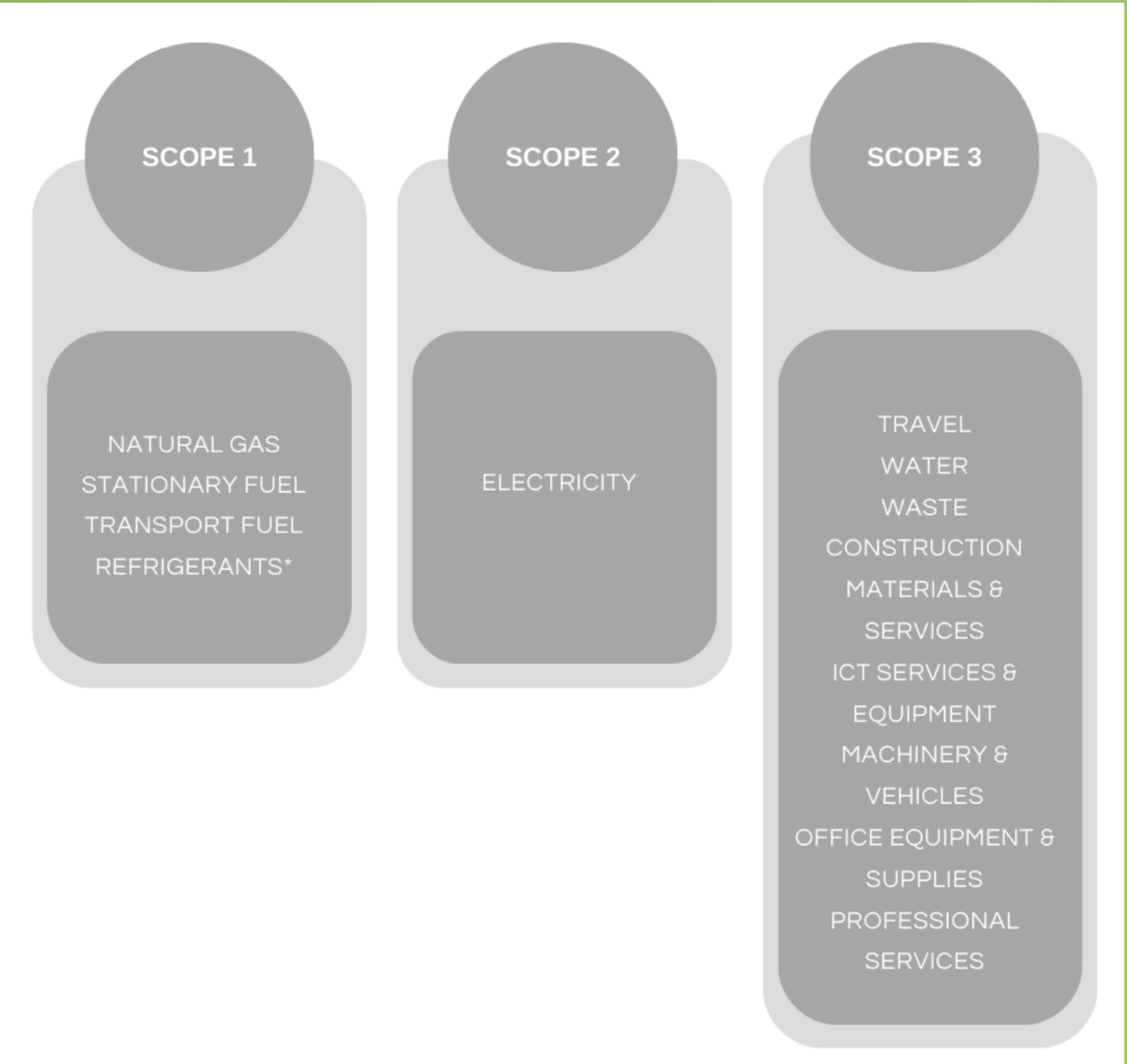
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Emissions Boundaries

Baseline Boundary



Recommended Boundary



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Scope 3 Emissions

	2021/22	2022/23
Council’s Published Emissions (Scope 1 & 2)	2,793 tCO ₂ e	2,241 tCO ₂ e
Climate Active Expanded Emissions Boundary (including Scope 3)	23,028 tCO ₂ e	14,873 tCO ₂ e

- Scope 3 emissions are around 85% of our total emissions
- 80-90% of our scope 3 emissions are from construction materials and services

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Implementation Plan

1. Tracking Carbon Emissions

2. Reduce Carbon Emissions

- Improve Council buildings (ESD Guidelines)
- Zero Emissions Fleet
- Sustainable Streetlighting

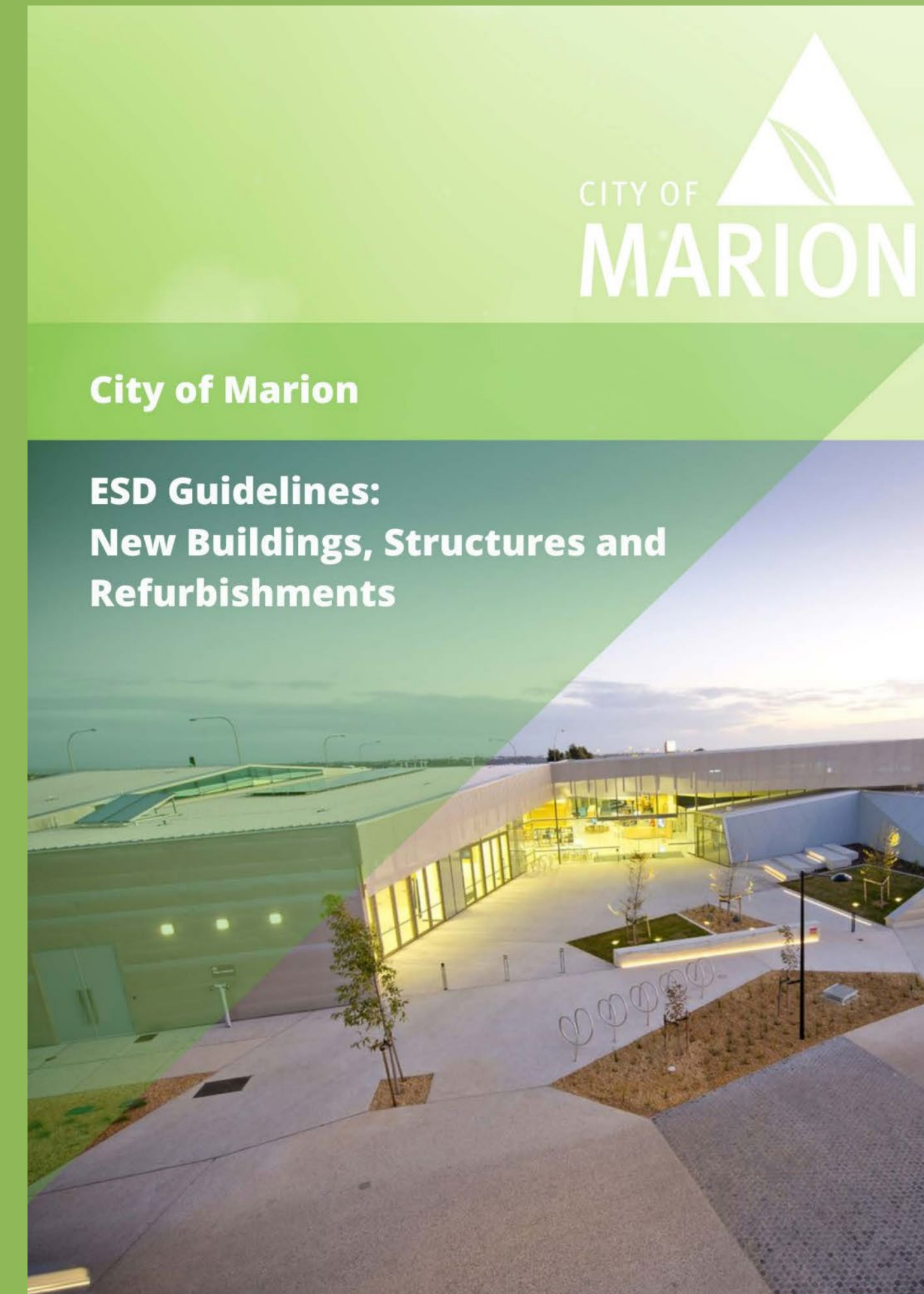
3. Switch to Renewable Electricity

4. Offsetting Carbon Emissions

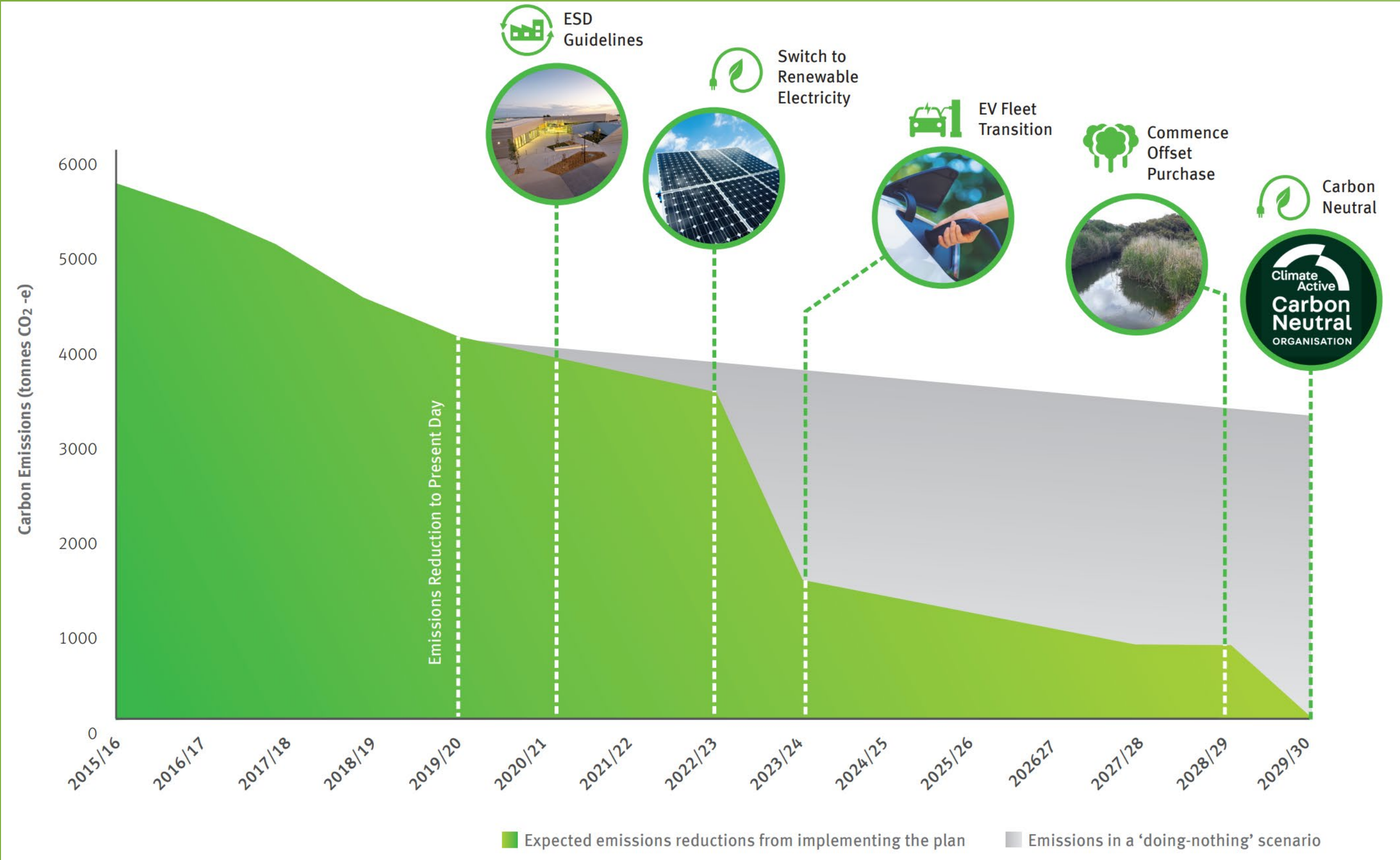
5. Supporting Activities

- Community partnerships/education/incentives
- Make major Council events carbon neutral
- Sustainable Procurement
- Carbon neutral certification

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Carbon Neutral Pathway



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CARBON NEUTRAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

■ = indicative year of delivery ◆ = Council decision required

INITIATIVE DESCRIPTION		ESTIMATED COST	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
1. Tracking Carbon Emissions												
1.1. Carbon inventory and annual reporting		Within existing resources										
2. Reduce Carbon Emissions												
2.1. Improving Council Buildings:												
2.1.1. Trial ESD Guidelines on Council projects		Within existing project budgets										
2.1.2. Embed updated ESD Guidelines		3 – 5% on capital for new building projects; reduced whole-of-life costs (e.g. additional \$200,000 for a \$4M new build project; additional \$5,000 for a \$100,000 refurbishment project)										
2.1.3. Implement a sustainable behaviour change program		Within existing budgets										
2.2. Zero Emissions Fleet:												
2.2.1. Develop Fleet Transition Plan		~\$30,000										
2.2.2. Install EV charging stations at Council sites for fleet vehicle recharging		~\$27,000 / charging station (number and locations to be identified in Fleet Transition Plan)										
2.2.3. Implement Fleet Transition Plan		currently 20-25% increase in whole of life vehicle costs (based on purchase price of \$30,000, running and maintenance costs over 5 years)										
2.3. Sustainable Street lighting: Change over remaining public lighting to LED												
2.3.1. Implement the Public Lighting Action Plan		~\$300,000 - \$500,000										

CARBON NEUTRAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

■ = indicative year of delivery ◆ = Council decision required

INITIATIVE DESCRIPTION		ESTIMATED COST	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
3. Switch to Renewable Electricity												
3.1. Option A:	100% renewable electricity contract	\$0 increase on existing contract			◆							
3.2. Option B: Large-scale Solar												
3.2.1.	Explore solar farm opportunities		■	■	◆							
3.2.2.	Solar farm feasibility assessment	~\$130,000			■							
3.2.3.	Construct solar farm (if favourable)	~\$10,000,000				◆	■	■				
4. Offsetting Carbon Emissions												
4.1.	Research carbon offset projects	Within existing resources	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	◆		
4.2.	Implement final carbon offset program	Currently \$14 - \$34 / tonne (total cost is dependent on tonnes required to be offset; estimated 800 tonnes CO ₂ -e at \$20/tonne will cost \$16,000/year)									■	■
5. Supporting Activities												
5.1.	Communicate and promote carbon neutral activities	\$5,000 p/a	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
5.2.	Partner with and provide stewardship with the community by providing education and incentives.	Within existing resources	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
5.3.	Make major Council events carbon neutral	~\$1 – 5,000 per event (cost per event determined by event type, size, attendance, etc.)		◆	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
5.4.	Develop and implement a Sustainable Procurement Policy	\$5,000 (to develop policy and embed within Council procurement systems and processes)		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
5.5.	Achieve Climate Active Certification (optional) (Climate Active certification fees required annually and third-party re-assessment every 3 years)	Current estimate \$25,000 (includes audit, technical assessment, third party validation and \$2,000-3,000 in Climate Active certification fees)										◆

Questions?

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7.3 Environment Communications and Engagement

Report Reference	IEC240611R7.3
Originating Officer	Environmental Engagement Officer – Jess Mitchell
Corporate Manager	Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
General Manager	General Manager City Services - Ben Keen

REPORT HISTORY

Report Reference	Report Title
EC230404R7.3	Environmental Engagement (Agenda and Minutes)

REPORT OBJECTIVE

To provide an overview of the environmental engagement and communication initiatives and receive feedback to help shape future programs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Marion delivers a variety of environmental engagement and communication initiatives, collaborating with stakeholders across government, business, and the community to promote sustainability. By partnering with organisations including Resilient South Councils and Green Adelaide, we aim to share and amplify environmental messages with our community.

Our community accesses extensive information through 75 dedicated web pages, social media, newsletters, and more. We recognise that sustainable behaviour change requires more than information, so we also deliver initiatives that build knowledge, connection and resilience. Programs include Common Thread events, sustainable living tools, and educational webinars. To maintain impact with our community, future initiatives may include engaging short videos, more in-person events, and support for household electrification and sustainable living rebates.

Jess Mitchell, Environmental Engagement Officer will provide a 20-minute presentation outlining current environmental engagement projects and services. We are seeking feedback from the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on local community priorities and environmental trends to help shape our future programs.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

- 1. Notes the presentation on environmental engagement and communication initiatives (Attachment 1) and provides feedback in the meeting.**

DISCUSSION

The City of Marion delivers a range of environmental engagement and communication initiatives for the benefit of our community. Environmental sustainability is everyone's responsibility, and we work with a broad range of stakeholders across the organisation, government, business and the community.

We have built strong ongoing relationships with Resilient South Councils and Green Adelaide to

partner and deliver collaborative environmental engagement and communication initiatives. Internal staff networks and relationships are key as our environmental messages can reach different audiences and achieve efficiencies.

Our community can access a range of environmental information on our services and local initiatives to take action on 75 environment themed pages on the City of Marion website. Social media, [Green Thymes](#) (monthly sustainability e-newsletter) flyers, brochures, City Limits articles and interpretive signage are other mediums used to get information to our target audience.

Information doesn't change human behaviour, people need to understand the benefits, overcome barriers to change and be part of an enabling environment that supports the new sustainable behaviour. Engagement initiatives that build knowledge, community connection and resilience, improve self-efficacy and reduce cost barriers have been developed to successfully achieve environmental behaviours.

[Common Thread](#), a monthly sustainability event launched in March, provides a space for the community to connect, share ideas, learn about sustainability, and take action. Some examples of engagement opportunities that build on a behaviour change approach include [Gazania Free Gardens](#), Go Wild in Nature, Love Our Local Trees, [My Cool Home tool](#), [Sustainable Homes webinars](#) and [recycling education](#).

To continue to provide relevant and engaging environmental information and initiatives that meet our community's needs, now and in the future, we have identified several trends and opportunities. These include short entertaining and educational videos, more in-person events, shift towards household electrification and sustainable living and tree rebates (Attachment 1 – presentation).

SPEAKERS

Jess Mitchell (Environmental Engagement Officer) to provide a 20-minute presentation.

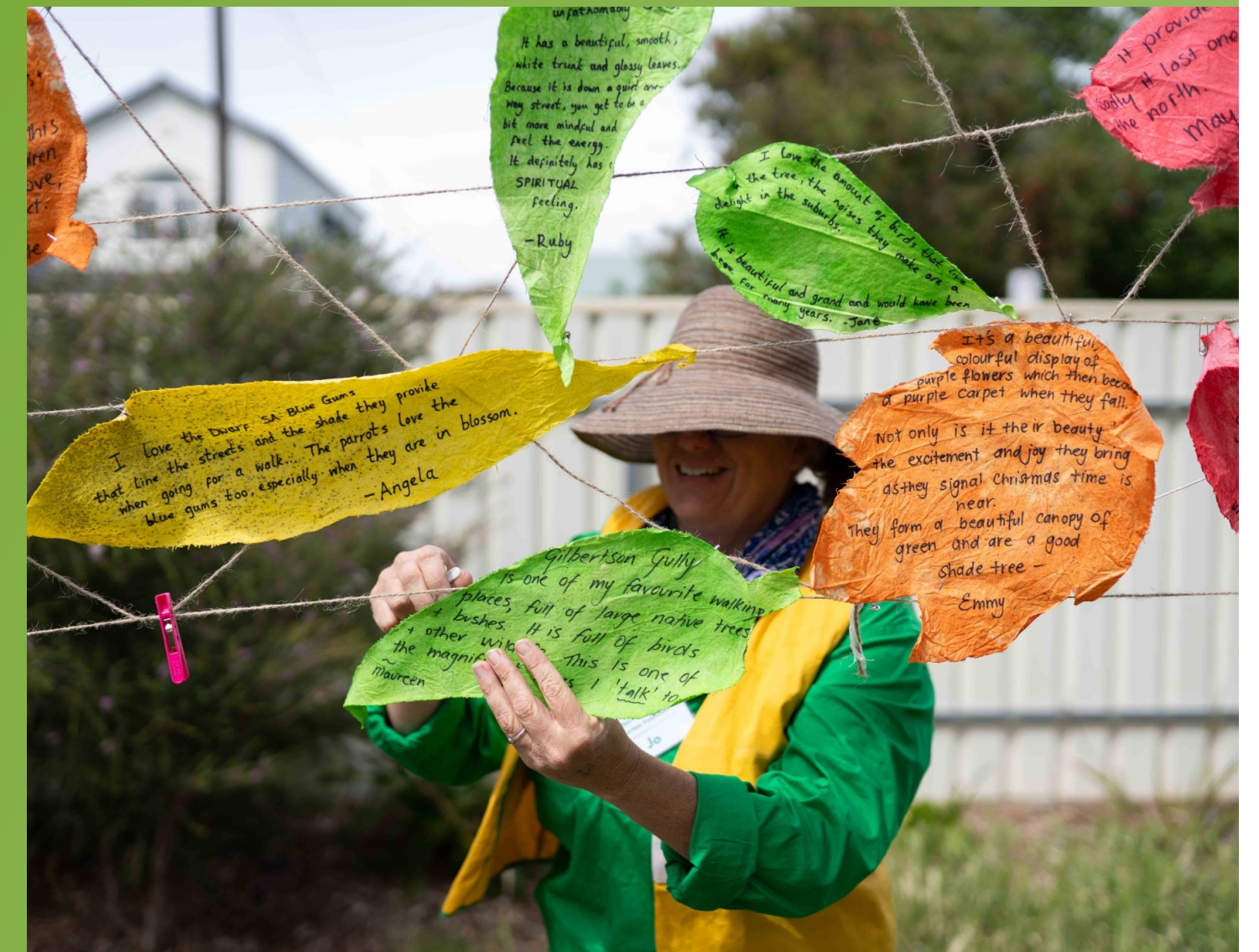
ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 Presentation [7.3.1 - 16 pages]

Environmental Engagement and Communications

Purpose of this presentation

- Update on engagement and communication initiatives
- Receive feedback



Jess Mitchell, Environmental Engagement Officer
11 June 2024

Session outline

Overview

Environmental engagement approach

- Information provision
- Hands on activities
- Community of practice

Future trends and opportunities

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Environmental Engagement and Communications

What is it?

- Raising awareness about environmental issues
- Building knowledge
- Building capacity

How we do it?

- Consider our audience
- How we reach our audience
- Key messages or 'call to action'

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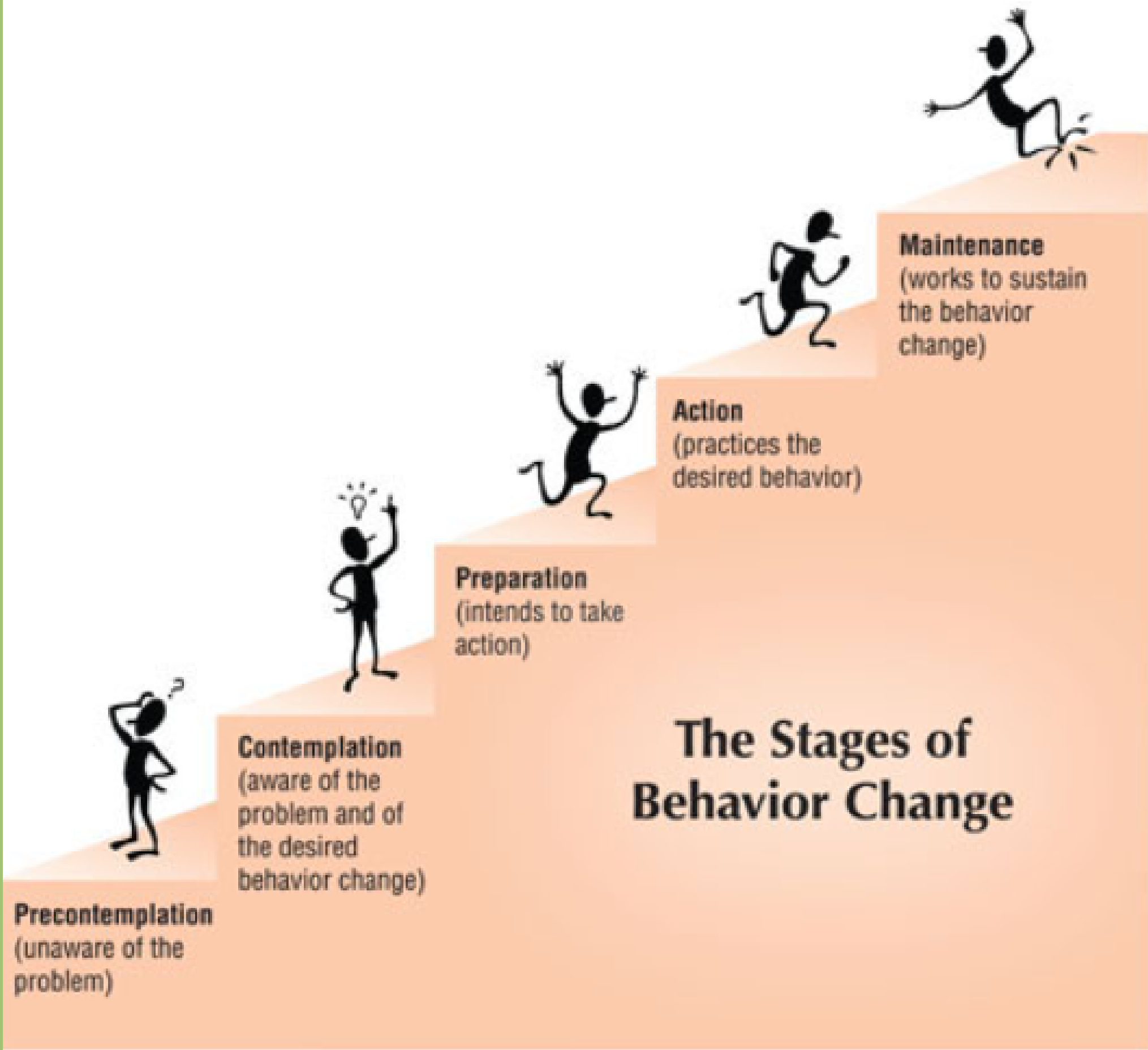


Environmental engagement approach

Guides how we inform, motivate and empower with our residents

85% interested in environmental issues with varied demographics and attitudes

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Sources: Grimley 1997 (75) and Prochaska 1992 (148)

Communications and marketing

- [Environment Report Card](#)
- Flyers/brochures – Greener Verges, Trees are Cool, [100 Ways with Nature series](#)
- City Limits Climate Action articles
- Signage – interpretive signs, tree tags
- 75 City of Marion environment webpages
- 156 environment specific social media posts (over past 12 months)
- Manage online application processes, customer journey and data collection e.g verge and tree maintenance rebate

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Green Thymes

- Monthly sustainability e-newsletter sent out to over 1,640 subscribers
- Features local sustainability events, workshops, promotions, consultations, project updates and other interesting articles
- Delivered for 9 years and 95 editions
- 54% (average) open rate
- 8% (average) click rate

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Online information

CoM website topics - recycling, trees, climate change, gardening, energy, biodiversity, water, sustainability, coasts

More online programs

- Sustainable Living Series (online)
- [My Cool Home tool](#)
- [Sustainable Homes Expert Webinar series](#)
- [Grow It Local](#)

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TOPIC:

Electric Vehicles



RESILIENT EAST



Resilient South

Hands on activities

Go Wild In Nature

- 65 attendees at Oaklands Wetland on Earth Day
- Nature scavenger hunt, wild wetland tour, pond dipping for macroinvertebrates and nature journaling

Love Our Local Trees

- Initiative by Marion Living Smarties delivered in partnership with Cities of Marion and Holdfast Bay
- Collection of community stories about important local trees presented online and as community artwork.

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Hands on activities

Gazania Free Gardens Plant Swap

- Gazanias are a declared weed
- Residents remove gazanias from their garden and attend a plant swap day to receive native plants
- Coastal Gardens Workshop
- Partnership with Green Adelaide and City of Holdfast Bay
- 50 approx. participating households each year
- Letterbox drop to 2400 households

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Hands on activities

- Waste and recycling education
- Economic development
- Green Adelaide Education
- [Oaklands Wetland tours](#)
- Community planting events
- [Tree Maintenance Rebates](#)
- [Verge Rebates](#)
- Green@Work

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Empowering communities

Common Thread

- Monthly sustainability event held on third Tuesday of the month
- Purpose - community connections, sharing of ideas, learning about sustainability, inspiration , knowledge and tools to take action.
- Topics include food and native gardening, saving energy at home, food systems, a changing climate, supporting sustainability behaviours.

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Empowering communities

- Community Gardens
- Conservation Friends Groups
- Marion Living Smarties

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Working together

- Green Adelaide
- Green Industries SA
- LGA
- Resilient South
- Nature and Sustainability Educators Network

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Trends and opportunities

- Social media - 'Behind the scenes' content and short entertaining and educational videos
- Increased community interest in in-person events
- Increased cost of living
- Shift towards household electrification

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Trends and opportunities

Sustainable living rebates

- Councils (Cities of Adelaide, Onkaparinga and Holdfast Bay) provide small rebates (e.g. 50% up to \$200) for households and/or businesses for some of the following:
 - Home insulation
 - Switching from gas appliances to electric
 - Home energy assessments
 - Installation of EV charging infrastructure

Tree rebates and giveaways

- Councils (Cities of Mitcham, Onkaparinga, Port Adelaide Enfield, Unley and Burnside) provide initiatives for mature trees to be planted on private land to increase tree canopy.

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Questions?

Any questions or comments on the content of the presentation?

Are there any other ideas or trends that you can share for the future?

What do you think about a broader sustainability rebate fund?

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8 Reports for Noting**9 Workshop / Presentation Items****10 Other Business****11 Meeting Closure**

The meeting shall conclude on or before 9.30pm unless there is a specific motion adopted at the meeting to continue beyond that time.