



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT


CITY OF SYDNEY

ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION

FY2021–22

Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	City of Sydney
REPORTING PERIOD	1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 Arrears report
DECLARATION	<p><i>To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this public disclosure statement is true and correct and meets the requirements of the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard.</i></p>  <p>Kim Woodbury Chief Operating Officer 24 March 2023</p>



Australian Government

**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water**

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Version March 2022.



1. CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	12,144 tCO ₂ -e
OFFSETS BOUGHT	21% ACCUs, 8% VCU, 71% VER
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	100% renewable
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	Next technical assessment due: FY23
THIRD PARTY VALIDATION	Type 1 8 Nov 2022 Dr Adina Cirtog Pangolin Pty Ltd

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2. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

This carbon neutral certification is for the operations of the Council of the City of Sydney.

In 2007 the City of Sydney resolved to become carbon neutral for its operations. Since 2008 the organisation has been measuring and reducing emissions through energy efficiency, fuel switching, installing solar PV, and purchasing carbon offsets.

In November 2011, the City's carbon neutrality was officially recognised under the National Carbon Offset Standard (now Climate Active) and this has been retained annually.

Emissions avoidance is our top priority. Our target is 80% reduction in emissions by June 2025 - to be achieved with absolute reductions and not offsets. The City's FY22 emissions have reduced 77 per cent since our 2006 baseline. Switching to 100% renewable electricity in July 2020 made a significant contribution.

Through our [Environmental Strategy 2021 - 2025](#), the City of Sydney is committed to maintaining carbon neutral operations in perpetuity. By 2025 we aim to transition to 100 per cent high quality Australian regenerative offsets.

Being carbon neutral can lead to benefits beyond the carbon savings. Each year we have been buying an increasing share of offsets from Indigenous-led products in northern Australia which have social, economic, and cultural benefits beyond the carbon. For FY22 the share was 21 per cent of our emissions.

This purchase of offsets has led to a growing relationship with the not-for-profit Aboriginal Carbon Foundation. We helped to connect funding from the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance to grow the market for Indigenous-led carbon farming in NSW. This important opportunity may not have eventuated if the City of Sydney was not a carbon neutral organisation.

This inventory covers emissions from City of Sydney operations in the period of 1-July 2021 to 30-June 2022 based on the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations.

“Being carbon neutral is a great way for organisations like the City of Sydney to also deliver on their Reconciliation Action Plans by supporting Indigenous businesses and communities to Care for Country, keeping carbon in the trees and ground.”

Organisation description

City of Sydney

456 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

ABN 22 636 550 790

The City of Sydney is the local government authority responsible for the city centre and more than 30 suburbs. The City's role is to provide services for our residents as well as for the daily influx of workers and visitors. The core functions of the City are defined by the Local Government Act 1993, the City of Sydney Act 1988 and other legislation.

The City owns approximately 250 properties, many of which are tenanted. The City also owns over 8,500 streetlights and there are a further 13,000 streetlights owned by the electricity network provider but deemed to be within the City's financial control (pays for energy and maintenance). The City's operations mostly run out of its administration building, depots, parks, libraries, venues, and community centres.

3.EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Inside the emissions boundary

All emission sources listed in the emissions boundary are part of the carbon neutral claim.

Quantified emissions have been assessed as relevant and are quantified in the carbon inventory. This may include emissions that are not identified as arising due to the operations of the certified entity, however, are **optionally included**.

Non-quantified emissions have been assessed as relevant and are captured within the emissions boundary but are not measured (quantified) in the carbon inventory. All material emissions are accounted for through an uplift factor. Further detail is available at Appendix C.

Outside the emissions boundary

Excluded emissions are those that have been assessed as not relevant to an organisations or precinct's operations and are outside of its emissions boundary or are outside of the scope of the certification. These emissions are not part of the carbon neutral claim. Further detail is available at Appendix D.

The emission sources in the boundary diagram below are as per the emissions categories in the emission summary table.

Inside emissions boundary

Quantified

Electricity
Natural gas
Diesel fleet
Biodiesel fleet
Ethanol fleet
ULP fleet
Staff business travel
Flights & Accommodation
Taxis
Refrigerants
Diesel - Stationary
Council waste
Events – New Year's Eve
Paper – A3, A4 & A5
Paper - plotter
Water
Staff commute
Postage and courier services
Food and catering
Waste from contractor
FY21/22 NYE event

Non-quantified

Business travel by public transport or rental vehicles

City of Sydney Events other than New Year's Eve

ICT equipment, consumables, repairs, maintenance and communications.

Minor outsourced activities.

Freight and transportation of purchased materials or goods.

Optionally included

Diesel contractor
ULP contractor

Outside emission boundary

Excluded

Embodied energy of road and building materials.

Third party events at City of Sydney facilities.

Waste from tenancies not serviced by City of Sydney

Data management plan for non-quantified sources

There are no non-quantified sources in the emission boundary that require a data management plan.

4. EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

Emissions reduction strategy

The City's [Environmental Strategy 2021-2025](#) outlines the following targets that apply to City of Sydney operations:

- 80% reduction in emissions generation by end June 2025, from 2006 baseline.
- Maintain emissions from the City's fleet below 2014 levels and aim to achieve zero fleet emissions by 2035 or sooner.

Action 1 is to deliver energy, water and resilience outcomes through City asset design and management in its operations through to 2025, including:

- The City will continue to **electrify its fleet** to achieve zero emissions before 2035. We aim to trial an electric version of most vehicle and plant types while expanding our electric passenger fleet.
- We will continue to power many of our facilities with **onsite renewable electricity**. Building on the 2MW already installed, we will add solar to new properties that have a strong business case.
- The City aims to phase out natural gas from our operations. We will develop a plan to electrify gas-using assets and in the interim we will seek to purchase **renewable gas** to provide all our gas needs by 2025.
- We will also focus on continuously improving the sustainability **performance of our properties**. As part of this, we will invest in metering and monitoring to address anomalies, which can significantly improve energy efficiency.
- The City will continue to improve the **Sustainable Design Technical Guidelines** that define the sustainability requirements for our capital works and upgrade projects.

Action 3 is to regenerate the environment through the City's carbon neutral commitment, including:

- The City is committed to maintaining **carbon-neutral operations in perpetuity**.
- By 2025, we aim to transition away from purchasing overseas offsets and instead use 100 per cent high quality **Australian regenerative offsets**.
- We will continue to **work with Indigenous organisations** to help strengthen the local regenerative offset market and support expansion of traditional land management practices.

Other related actions that the City is committed to deliver by 2025 include:

- Action 4 is to ensure the City's **programs and services** use resources efficiently.
- Action 5 is to **reduce operational waste** through avoidance and resource recovery.
- Action 6 is to **reduce embodied carbon** in our supply chain and support circular economy outcomes.

Progress toward our targets is publicly disclosed in the City's annual [Green Report](#).

Emissions reduction actions

Emissions reduction actions from City of Sydney operations that occurred during 2021-22 are listed in the City's [FY22 Green Report](#).

- From July 2020, the City's operations have been 100 per cent powered by **renewable electricity** under a ten-year contract with electricity generated from wind and solar farms in regional NSW including the community developed Shoalhaven solar farm.
- A Sustainability Management and Reporting Tool (SMART) is being used for regular **utility monitoring**, reporting and continual improvement of all assets owned or managed by City of Sydney.
- We are also introducing a **benchmarking tool** for continuous efficiency monitoring and ensuring clear accountability to address issues.
- The City has continued to improve on the energy efficiency of its **property portfolio** through building upgrades projects such as LED lighting replacements, aquatic centre improvements, HVAC improvements and proactive building management.
- We are also investigating options to **electrify our assets**, to purchase **renewable gas**, and use cooling systems with low global warming potential **refrigerants**.
- Deployment of **solar PV** to suitable Council sites has continued with over 2 megawatts installed to date.
- Accelerated replacement of over 7,600 less efficient streetlights with **LED streetlights** is nearing completion.
- A **circular food solution** was introduced by installing dehydrators in two City locations to treat food waste and convert it to a soil conditioner which is used in our parks.
- Electrification of **fleet and plant** continues, including 19 fully electric and 40 hybrid cars, 70 hybrid trucks, and one fully electric truck. In 2022 we took delivery of an electric buggy and ordered an electric footway sweeper. We are also switching the smaller machines we use in our parks to electric models and assessing future charging infrastructure needs.
- Our **Travel Policy for staff** applies a transport hierarchy which requires employees to prioritise walking, cycling and public transport for work trips. Fleet bikes are also available for staff.

5. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions over time

Emissions since base year		Total tCO ₂ -e
Base year:	2005-06	52,972
Year 1:	2009-10	50,030
Year 2:	2010-11	48,336
Year 3:	2011-12	46,701
Year 4:	2012-13	43,945
Year 5:	2013-14	40,769
Year 6:	2014-15	40,204
Year 7:	2015-16	39,566
Year 8:	2016-17	39,600
Year 9:	2017-18	39,653
Year 10:	2018-19	39,354
Year 11:	2019-20	36,459
Year 12:	2020-21	12,666
Year 13:	2021-22	12,144

Significant changes in emissions

Emission source name	Current year (tCO ₂ -e)	Previous year (tCO ₂ -e)	Detailed reason for change
Natural Gas NSW/ACT (metro) (GJ)	5,245.3	5,652.83	Covid impacts have lowered usage of Aquatics and commercial buildings which are high gas consumers.
Diesel Oil - heavy vehicle euro iv or higher	2,989.6	3,286.96	Covid impacts have reduced contractor activity.
Construction and demolition waste	638.62	1,023.65	Asbestos affected waste in construction did not appear in as large amounts compared to last year.
City of Sydney NYE Event	662	0	2021/22 NYE is again managed by City of Sydney whereas it was managed by the NSW government in FY20.

Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products and services

Certified brand name	Product or Service used
Reflex	Carbon Neutral 50% Recycled Copy Paper A3 80gsm White Ream 500
Reflex	Carbon Neutral 100% Recycled Copy Paper A4 80gsm White Carton 5 Reams
Reflex	Ultra White Carbon Neutral Copy Paper A4 80gsm White Carton 5 Reams
Mandura	Carbon Neutral Copy Paper A4 80gsm Bright White Carton 5 Reams
Winc	Carbon Neutral Copy Paper A4 80gsm White Carton 5 Reams
Winc	Carbon Neutral Copy Paper A3 80gsm White Carton 3 Reams

Organisation emissions summary

The electricity summary is available in the Appendix B. Electricity emissions were calculated using a market-based approach

Emission category	Sum of Scope 1 emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	Sum of Scope 2 emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	Sum of Scope-3 emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	Sum of total emissions (tCO ₂ -e)
Accommodation and facilities	0.00	0.00	3.16	3.16
Climate Active Carbon Neutral Products and Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Food	0.00	0.00	77.26	77.26
Office equipment & supplies	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.52
Postage, courier and freight	0.00	0.00	96.70	96.70
Refrigerants	818.24	0.00	0.00	818.24
Stationary Energy (gaseous fuels)	4221.09	0.00	1073.09	5294.18
Transport (Air)	0.00	0.00	7.72	7.72
Transport (Land and Sea)	3142.87	0.00	1164.29	4307.16
Waste	0.00	0.00	707.49	707.49
Water	0.00	0.00	599.02	599.02
Working from home	0.00	0.00	-429.62	-429.62
City of Sydney NYE Event	0.00	0.00	662.00	662.00
Total	8182.20	0.00	3961.62	12143.83

Uplift factors

N/A

An uplift factor is an upwards adjustment to the total carbon inventory to account for relevant emissions, which can't be reasonably quantified or estimated. This conservative accounting approach helps ensure the integrity of the carbon neutral claim.

Reason for uplift factor	tCO ₂ -e
Total of all uplift factors	n/a
Total footprint to offset <i>(total net emissions from summary table + total uplifts)</i>	12,144

6. CARBON OFFSETS

Offsets retirement approach

In arrears	
1. Total number of eligible offsets banked from last year's report	0
2. Total emissions footprint to offset for this report	12,144
3. Total eligible offsets required for this report	12,144
4. Total eligible offsets purchased and retired for this report	12,144
5. Total eligible offsets banked to use toward next year's report	0

Co-benefits

Indigenous-led Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) have been purchased from cultural fire and land management projects in:

- Wagiman, Labarganyan, Malak Malak, and Kamu Country ([Fish River Fire Project](#) NT)
- Karlantijpa Country ([Karlantijpa North Savanna Burning Project](#) NT)

Co-benefits include increased employment opportunities for traditional owners, increased biodiversity through the implementation of cultural burning, continued cultural practice, access to bushfoods and medicine, cultural knowledge exchange, and revitalization of land and people. The ACCU's were purchased through the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation which also applies a [Core Benefits Verification Framework](#) to its projects. These offsets equate to 21 per cent of the City's emissions (60 per cent of the budget) for this reporting period.

Verified Emissions Reductions (VER) and Verified Carbon Units (VCU) were also purchased from wind energy projects (Turkey), conserving wetlands (Indonesia), and clean burning cookstoves (Nepal). The co-benefits from these projects include employment opportunities, community facilities, biodiversity, education and wellbeing, and reduced health risks. These offsets equate to 79 per cent of the emissions (40 per cent of the budget) for this reporting period.

Eligible offsets retirement summary

Offsets cancelled for Climate Active Carbon Neutral Certification											
Project description	Type of offset units	Registry	Date retired	Serial number (and hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Stapled quantity	Eligible quantity (tCO ₂ -e)	Eligible quantity used for previous reporting periods	Eligible quantity banked for future reporting periods	Eligible quantity used for this reporting period	Percentage of total (%)
Fish River Fire Project NT	ACCU	ANREU	23 Dec 2022	8,330,788,298 – 8,330,790,547	2021/22		2,250	0	0	2,250	19%
Karantijpa North Savanna Burning Project	ACCU	ANREU	23 Dec 2022	8,333,299,090 – 8,333,299,381	2021/22		292	0	0	292	2%
Kavakli Wind Power Plant (GS2682)	VER	GSIR	25 Nov 2022	GS1-1-TR-GS2682-12-2015-480813993 - 21589	2015		7,597	0	0	7,597	63%
Akbuk Wind Farm Project, Turkey (GS436)	VER	GSIR	25 Nov 2022	GS1-1-TR-GS436-12-2015-74407373 - 7377	2015		5	0	0	5	0%
Katingan Peatland Restoration and Conservation Project	VCU	VERRA	25 Nov 2022	6251-292275804-292276803-VCU-016-APX-ID-14-1477-01112015-31122016-1	2015/16		1,000	0	0	1,000	8%
Promoting Clean Cooking Solutions for the Disadvantaged Households (GS6212)	VER	GSIR	25 Nov 2022	GS1-1-NP-GS6212-16-2020-21408881 - 1880	2020		1,000	0	0	1,000	8%
Total offsets retired this report and used in this report										12,144	

Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports

0

Type of offset units	Quantity (used for this reporting period claim)	Percentage of total
Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs)	2,542	21%
Verified Emissions Reductions (VERs)	8,602	70.8%
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	1,000	8.2%

7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) summary

The following RECs have been surrendered to reduce electricity emissions under the market-based reporting method.

The City purchases LGCs under a ten-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) contract that commenced in July 2020. Under this long term PPA contract, LGCs acquired during the previous calendar year are to be settled and transferred to the City in March of the following year. Due to mismatch in the contractual LGCs settlement cycle and the Climate Active reporting cycle, the City can only retire LGCs associated with the second half of the reporting period (January to June) in March of the following year. Therefore, for this Climate Active report, details are only provided for the 11,890 LGCs that have been retired for the period July-December 2021. Details of the remaining 11,892 LGCs retirement required for January-June 2022 will be provided to Climate Active once the LGCs are voluntarily retired, expected by May 2023

LGCs to be purchased and retired for FY22: 23,782

LGCs retired in this report: 11,890

LGCs to be retired in true-up report: 11,892 - estimated by early May 2023

1. Large-scale Generation certificates (LGCs)*	11,890
2. Other RECs	0

* LGCs in this table only include those surrendered voluntarily (including through PPA arrangements), and does not include those surrendered in relation to the LRET, GreenPower, and jurisdictional renewables.

Project supported by LGC purchase	Eligible units	Registry	Surrender date	Accreditation code (LGCs)	Certificate serial number	Generation year	Quantity (MWh)	Fuel source	Location
Bowen Solar	LGC	REC Registry	4 October, 2022	SRPVNSR0	148262-150888	2021	2627	Solar	NSW, Australia
Shoalhaven Solar	LGC	REC Registry	4 October, 2022	SRPVNSR0	92588-93726	2021	1139	Solar	NSW, Australia

Sapphire Wind	LGC	REC Registry	4 October, 2022	WD00NS13	571429-579552	2021	8124	Wind	NSW, Australia
Total LGCs surrendered this report and used in this report							11,890		



APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

APPENDIX B: ELECTRICITY SUMMARY

Electricity emissions are calculated using a market-based approach

Location-based method

The location-based method provides a picture of a business's electricity emissions in the context of its location, and the emissions intensity of the electricity grid it relies on. It reflects the average emissions intensity of the electricity grid in the location (State) in which energy consumption occurs. The location-based method does not allow for any claims of renewable electricity from grid-imported electricity usage.

Market-based method

The market-based method provides a picture of a business's electricity emissions in the context of its renewable energy investments. It reflects the emissions intensity of different electricity products, markets and investments. It uses a residual mix factor (RMF) to allow for unique claims on the zero emissions attribute of renewables without double-counting.

Market Based Approach Summary			
Market Based Approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO ₂ e)	Renewable Percentage of total
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	0	0	0%
Total non-grid electricity	0	0	0%
LGC Purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs & Precinct LGCs)	23,782,000	0	81%
GreenPower	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LGCs retired)	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LRET) (applied to ACT grid electricity)	0	0	0%
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	5,430,487	0	19%
Residual Electricity	-616	-613	0%
Total grid electricity	29,211,871	-613	100%
Total Electricity Consumed (grid + non grid)	29,211,871	-613	100%
Electricity renewables	29,212,487	0	
Residual Electricity	-616	-613	
Exported on-site generated electricity	843,383	-615,670	
Emissions (kgCO ₂ e)		0	
Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	100.00%		
Mandatory	18.59%		
Voluntary	81.41%		
Behind the meter	0.00%		
Residual Electricity Emission Footprint (TCO₂e)	0		

Figures may not sum due to rounding. Renewable percentage can be above 100%

Location Based Approach Summary

Location Based Approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Scope 2 Emissions (kgCO2e)	Scope 3 Emissions (kgCO2e)
ACT	0	0	0
NSW	29,211,871	22,785,259	2,044,831
SA	0	0	0
Vic	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	29,211,871	22,785,259	2,044,831
ACT	0	0	0
NSW	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0
Vic	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0
Non-grid electricity (Behind the meter)	0	0	0
Total Electricity Consumed	29,211,871	22,785,259	2,044,831

Emission Footprint (TCO2e)	24,830
Scope 2 Emissions (TCO2e)	22785
Scope 3 Emissions (TCO2e)	2045

Climate Active Carbon Neutral Electricity summary

Carbon Neutral electricity offset by Climate Active Product	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO2e)
Enter product name/s here	0	0

Climate Active carbon neutral electricity is not renewable electricity. The emissions have been offset by another Climate Active member through their Product certification.

APPENDIX C: INSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Non-quantified emission sources

The following sources emissions have been assessed as relevant, are captured within the emissions boundary, but are not measured (quantified) in the carbon inventory. They have been non-quantified due to one of the following reasons:

1. **Immaterial** <1% for individual items and no more than 5% collectively
2. **Cost effective** Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied.
3. **Data unavailable** Data is unavailable but uplift applied. A data management plan must be put in place to provide data within 5 years.
4. **Maintenance** Initial emissions non-quantified but repairs and replacements quantified.

Relevant-non-quantified emission sources	(1) Immaterial	(2) Cost effective (but uplift applied)	(3) Data unavailable (but uplift applied & data plan in place)	(4) Maintenance
Business travel by public transport or rental vehicles	No	Yes	No	No
City of Sydney Events other than New Year's Eve	Yes	No	No	No
ICT equipment, consumables, repairs, maintenance and communications	Yes	No	No	No
Minor outsourced activities	Yes	No	No	No
Freight and transportation of purchased materials or goods.	Yes	No	No	No

APPENDIX D: OUTSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Excluded emission sources

The below emission sources have been assessed as not relevant to an organisation's or precinct's operations and are outside of its emissions boundary. These emissions are not part of the carbon neutral claim. Emission sources considered for relevance must be included within the certification boundary if they meet two of the five relevance criteria. Those which only meet one condition of the relevance test can be excluded from the certification boundary.

Emissions tested for relevance are detailed below against each of the following criteria:

1. **Size** The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions
2. **Influence** The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.
3. **Risk** The emissions from a particular source contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure.
4. **Stakeholders** Key stakeholders deem the emissions from a particular source are relevant.
5. **Outsourcing** 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.

Emission sources tested for relevance	(1) Size	(2) Influence	(3) Risk	(4) Stakeholders	(5) Outsourcing	Included in boundary?
Embodied energy of road and building material	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Third party events at City of Sydney facilities	No	No	No	No	No	No
Waste from tenancies not serviced by City of Sydney	No	No	No	No	No	No



An Australian Government Initiative

