

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MERRI-BEK CITY COUNCIL

ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION FY2021–22

Australian Government

Climate Active Public Disclosure Statement







An Australian Government Initiative

NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	Merri-bek City Council
REPORTING PERIOD	Financial year 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 Arrears report
DECLARATION	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.
	Robyn Mitchell Unit Manager Sustainable Built Environment 24 November 2022



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

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Version March 2022.



1.CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	6,597 tCO ₂ -e
OFFSETS BOUGHT	100% VERs
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	100%
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	30 th January 2023 Josh Prado Pangolin Associates Next technical assessment due: FY2025 report

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2. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

Merri-bek City Council (Council) changed its name from Moreland City Council in 2022. Council has been certified carbon neutral for its organisational corporate emissions since 2012, and works hard to continually reduce emissions. This ambition is demonstrated by Council's Zero Carbon Merri-bek – Climate Emergency 2040 Framework, adopted in 2018. The Framework combines three previous strategies, the Zero Carbon Evolution Strategy (2014) (ZCE), the ZCE – Refresh to 2020, and the Corporate Carbon Reduction Strategy.

Council is seeking carbon neutral certification for its operations for the financial year 2021/22, with the baseline year 2011/12. To be certified carbon neutral, Merri-bek City Council must measure and offset all remaining emissions.

Council's carbon neutral certification includes the following Council entities and activities:

- Administration buildings
- Community facilities
- Childcare centres
- Theatre and art galleries
- Kindergartens
- Libraries
- Parks
- Leisure/recreation centres
- Public (street) lighting
- Unmetered electricity supplies
- Vehicle fleet
- Contractor fleet, including waste collection





Organisation description

Merri-bek City Council covers the inner and mid-northern suburbs of Melbourne. It lies between 4 and 14km north of central Melbourne and covers a diverse range of communities. Council covers the suburbs of Brunswick, Brunswick East, Brunswick West, Pascoe Vale, Pascoe Vale South, Coburg, Coburg North, Hadfield, Fawkner, Glenroy, Oak Park and Gowanbrae, as well as small sections of Fitzroy North and Tullamarine.

Centrally located on the northern doorstep of Melbourne's CBD, Merri-bek is undergoing a sustained period of urban regeneration. Merri-bek has housing choices ranging from restored heritage cottages, modern family homes, stylish inner-urban apartments to recycled industrial buildings.

Merri-bek's current population of 173,541 (as of 2022) is forecast to grow to 235,200 by 2036.

Key features of Merri-bek's regional context:

- Proximity to Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD)
- Good transport links to the CBD, ports, airport and industrial areas

Merri-bek City Council (ABN 46 202 010 737) provides services to the community within its geographic area. Council provides these services through its buildings and facilities (which include six aquatic centres), vehicle fleet, provision of public lighting, as well as in-house and contracted waste collection services. These services are the primary business activities that result in carbon emissions.

Council currently has over 300 buildings within its portfolio, including civic centres, aquatic and sports leisure centres, community centres, pavilions, maternal/childcare centres, kindergartens, libraries and depots, as well as other facilities including public lighting and parks and reserves. The majority of these buildings/facilities are owned and operated by Council; however, some are leased by third parties. Council also leases some third-party buildings/facilities to provide various community services.

This inventory has been prepared based on the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations. The standard is aligned with the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (NGER Act), as well as the Greenhouse Gas Protocol's Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard.

This submission considers the following greenhouse gases:

- carbon dioxide
- methane
- nitrous dioxide
- synthetic gases (HCFC-22, HFC-32, HFC-410a, HFC-134a)



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 organisation's 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.

Inside emissions boundary

Quantified

- Council fleet fuel (diesel, unleaded, LPG)
- Stationary energy (gas, oils, greases)
- Contractor fuels (diesel, unleaded, LPG)
- Water (both for irrigation and sent to wastewater treatment)
- Construction materials (asphalt)
- Refrigerants
- Electricity (facilities, street lighting and unmetered supplies)
- Waste (office)
- Accommodation and facilities (business travel)
- Business travel (air transport, taxis and hire cars)
- Office equipment & supplies (paper)
- ICT equipment and services
- Arborist services
- Cleaning equipment and services

Non-quantified

- Some outdoor events
 Leased sites
 - Leased sites where Council does not pay the energy

bills

Excluded

Community emissions and other emission sources outside of Council's operational control



Data management plan for non-quantified sources

The data management plan below outlines how more rigorous quantification can be achieved for material (greater than 1%) non-quantified emission sources.

Council is looking to develop a data management and collection process to account for construction / demolition activities. Council aims to quantify the carbon emissions for the upcoming construction of a key Council building. This will allow Council to understand the impact of key categories, such as concrete and steel, and design initiatives to reduce emissions from these categories.

Council is also looking to improve the available data for contractor fuel consumption. Currently total contractor fuel consumption is estimated by doubling fuel consumption of Council's waste contractor.

All emissions not listed above were determined to be outside the inventory boundary. Emissions from community domestic waste sent to landfill is excluded, since waste is sent to a landfill not in Council's operational control. Emissions from Council and contractor waste trucks are however within the inventory boundary. Emissions generated by Merri-bek residents or businesses are also outside the inventory boundary, since they are outside Council's operational control.



4.EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

Emissions reduction strategy

Merri-bek City Council has always been a leader in environmental initiatives, including action on climate change. Council's three previous strategies, the Climate Action Plan, Carbon Management Strategy and Corporate Carbon Reduction Strategy, were combined into the Zero Carbon Merri-bek – Climate Emergency 2040 Framework in 2018.

The Merri-bek Zero Carbon – 2040 Framework provides a pathway for Council to maintain its commitment of corporate carbon neutrality and for Council to aim for a zero-carbon municipality by 2040. The Framework defines priorities for driving emissions reductions across three target areas: energy transition, sustainable transport and waste and consumption. The Framework informs 5-yearly action plans which set medium-term targets and map out priority projects and programs (including advocacy). The initial Zero Carbon Climate Emergency Action Plan (2020 – 2025) has been adopted by Merri-bek City Council.

In 2021 Council increased the ambition of its community and corporate carbon targets. The updated target for the Merri-bek community is to achieve 75% emissions reduction by 2030 (against 2011/12 baseline), net zero by 2035 and drawdown ('negative emissions') by 2040. For Council (corporate/operational) emissions we have a highly ambitious target range of between 80% and 100% reduction by 2030 (precluding offsets, against 2011/12 baseline) (<u>https://zerocarbonmerri-bek.org.au/about/</u>). Council achieved a 70% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020/21, however achieving the remaining reductions will be very challenging.

To meet its corporate carbon target, Council plans a number of initiatives:

- Gas audit: Budget has been allocated to carrying out a detailed audit of all gas-consuming equipment across Council buildings in 2022/23. The gas audit will allow Council to plan the degasification of its sites, and to integrate these works with Council's Capital Works Plan. Council will also be alert to emerging opportunities to move sites off gas, for example if a gas boiler or wall furnace fails.
- Electrification of Fawkner Leisure Centre: This aquatic centre is currently heated by gas, but will be closed in 2023 for refurbishment and redevelopment. As part of the works, gas boilers will be replaced by electric heat pumps both for pool-heating and domestic hot water. To the best of our knowledge, this will be the first aquatic centre to become all-electric through refurbishment, rather than through demolition and rebuild.
- Electrification of fleet: In accordance with Council's Light Vehicle Policy, Council will continue to
 prioritise the purchase of electric vehicles (EVs) where these meet operational requirements.
 Once electric utes become available, as well as sedan models with increased range, these will be
 added to the fleet where they meet functional requirements. Council is also planning to purchase
 electric tipper trucks in 2023.
- Solar photovoltaic (PV): Council will continue to install solar PV systems on its buildings. A



strategic review of Council-owned and operated buildings found that a further 1.3 MW solar could be installed. Alongside this, Council continues to operate its Solar on Leased program, whereby Council pays for the up-front cost of installing solar on leased buildings, with tenants repaying this cost from the savings made on electricity invoices.

Emissions reduction actions

Council implemented the following initiatives in 2020/21 to reduce its corporate carbon emissions:

- Solar PV: Council installed 100kW at Brunswick Baths, and 250kW at Glenroy Community Hub. Annual maintenance was completed for half the solar portfolio and monitoring was improved, to help ensure all systems are generating electricity as expected. Council currently has 1,240kW of solar PV installed across 40 sites.
- Fleet electrification: Council's light vehicle fleet contains 30 pure electric vehicles (EVs). Council also completed a study to examine what electrical upgrades at the main fleet depot are required if the entire fleet should be electrified. By the end of 2021/22, Council's public EV charging network saw over 1,400 charging sessions per month, with two new public chargers installed at Glenroy Community Hub.
- **Degasification**: Detailed designs were completed for the refurbishment of Fawkner Leisure Centre, one of Council's four heated aquatic centres. Through this refurbishment, all gas boilers will be replaced by electric heat-pumps.
- Glenroy Community Hub: This project, which cost over \$27m, was completed in February 2022. The building houses a range of Council services, including a library, kindergarten and maternal child health. The building is all-electric and Passive-house certified, demonstrating Council's commitment to world-leading, sustainable design. It is also registered for the Living Building Challenge.



5.EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions over time

The table below shows annual carbon emissions for all years from baseline (2011-12) to the present (2021-22).

Emissions since base year						
		Total tCO ₂ -e				
Base year:	2011–12	21,253				
Year 1:	2012–13	19,481				
Year 2:	2013–14	20,485				
Year 3:	2014–15	19,770				
Year 4:	2015–16	17,869				
Year 5:	2016–17	15,503				
Year 6:	2017–18	15,282				
Year 7:	2018–19	16,327				
Year 8:	2019–20	6,562				
Year 9:	2020–21	6,302				
Year 10:	2021–22	6,597				

Significant changes in emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions were 7% higher in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21. Factors which influenced the change in emissions from 2020/21 to 2021/22 include:

- Council's aquatic centres were open as normal throughout 2021/22, for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic. The normal operation of the aquatic centres resulted in increased gas (+157 tCO₂-e) and water consumption.
- With the end of Covid-19 restrictions, more road-building and repair projects were undertaken resulting in higher asphalt consumption (+138 tCO₂-e). For the first time, Council is also reporting on asphalt used by the Urban Design team.
- Council's contractors reported a slight (+65 tCO₂-e) increase in fuel consumption in 2021/22, but this was counter-balanced by a decrease in fuel consumption by the Council fleet (-119 tCO₂-e).
 Consumption of unleaded fuel by Council's light fleet continues to drop as internal combustion engines are replaced by electric vehicles.
- For FY 2021/2022, Council expanded our emissions boundary, in line with Climate Active guidance. The boundary now includes ICT equipment and services, arborist services as well as cleaning services and equipment. Emissions for these areas were calculated using spend-based emission factors. In total these categories increased Council's reported emissions by 167 tCO₂-e.



Emission source	Current year emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	Previous year emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	Reason for change
Natural gas	1,885	1,728	Gas consumption increased because 21/21 was the first year all aquatic centres were open as normal for a full year since the Covid-19 lockdowns.

Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products and services

Certified brand name	Product or Service used
Winc®	Carbon neutral A4 copy paper



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 (t CO ₂ -e)	Sum of Scope 2 (t CO ₂ -e)	Sum of Scope 3 (t CO ₂ -e)	Sum of total Emissions (t CO₂-e)
Accommodation and facilities	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
Cleaning and Chemicals	0.00	0.00	13.66	13.66
Climate Active carbon neutral products and services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction materials and services	0.00	0.00	320.24	320.24
Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Horticulture and Agriculture	0.00	0.00	138.67	138.67
ICT services and equipment	0.00	0.00	14.33	14.33
Office equipment & supplies	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04
Refrigerants	50.61	0.00	0.00	50.61
Stationary energy (gaseous fuels)	1749.60	0.00	135.81	1885.41
Stationary Energy (liquid fuels)	0.63	0.00	0.20	0.83
Transport (air)	0.00	0.00	0.99	0.99
Transport (land and sea)	1996.95	0.00	105.03	2101.98
Waste	0.00	0.00	9.83	9.83
Water	0.00	0.00	317.41	317.41
Contractor fuels	1657.32	0.00	85.06	1742.38
Total	5455	0	1142	6597

Uplift factors

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
None		
	Total of all uplift factors	0
	Total footprint to offset (total net emissions from summary table + total uplifts)	6,597



6.CARBON OFFSETS

Offsets retirement approach

In a	arrears	
1.	Total number of eligible offsets banked from last year's report	1,165
2.	Total emissions footprint to offset for this report (tCO ₂ -e)	6,597
3.	Total eligible offsets required for this report	5,432
4.	Total eligible offsets purchased and retired for this report	5,908
5.	Total eligible offsets banked to use toward next year's report	476

Co-benefits

Council has purchased some of its offsets from the Prony Wind Power project in New Caledonia. This is expected to generate an average of 40GWh annually, providing an alternative to fossil fuels. In addition, the project provides 26 jobs to stabilise incomes and boost the local economy, as well as technological know-how for the wind energy sector in New Caledonia. The project will mitigate 36,000 tCO₂e annually. The remaining offsets are from a variety of wind power projects in Turkey. These will feed zero-carbon electricity into the grid, helping to reduce carbon emissions.



Eligible offsets retirement summary

Offsets retired 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 (%)
Prony and Kafeate wind- farms, New Caledonia	VERs	GSR	27 Sep 2021	<u>GS1-1-NC-GS566-12-2014-</u> 5968-14543-20042	2014	-	5,500	4,335	0	1,165	18%
Prony and Kafeate wind- farms, New Caledonia	VERs	GSR	11 Oct 2022	<u>GS1-1-NC-GS566-12-2014-</u> 5968-27829-28108	2014	-	280	0	0	280	4%
Mut Wind Power Plant, Turkey	VERs	GSR	11 Oct 2022	<u>GS1-1-TR-GS2546-12-</u> 2015-6313-36685-37762	2015	-	1,078	0	0	1,078	16%
Balikesir 142.5 MW Wind Power Plant Project	VERs	GSR	11 Oct 2022	<u>GS1-1-TR-GS971-12-2015-</u> 4583-47472-47597	2015	-	126	0	0	126	2%
Belen Wind Power Plant	VERs	GSR	11 Oct 2022	<u>GS1-1-TR-GS390-12-2016-</u> 6345-14928-16403	2016	-	1,476	0	0	1,476	22%
Koru Wind Power Plant, Turkey	VERs	GSR	11 Oct 2022	<u>GS1-1-TR-GS2545-12-</u> 2017-6140-28159-28703	2017	-	545	0	0	545	8%
Rotor Elektrik Uretim Osmaniye Wind Farm	VERs	GSR	11 Oct 2022	GS1-1-TR-GS474-12-2018- 22093-28564-29563	2018	-	1,000	0	0	1,000	15%
Ziyaret Wind Power Project, Turkey	VERs	GSR	11 Oct 2022	<u>GS1-1-TR-GS617-12-2014-</u> 4231-111701-111839	2014	-	139	0	0	139	2%
Ziyaret Wind Power Project, Turkey	VERs	GSR	11 Oct 2022	GS1-1-TR-GS617-12-2014-	2014	-	1	0	0	1	0.02%



				4231-86448-86448							
Prony and Kafeate wind- farms, New Caledonia	VERs	GSR	11 Oct 2022	GS1-1-NC-GS566-12-2019- 22752-8068-9330	2019	-	1,263	0	476	787	12%
						Total	offsets retired	this report and ι	used in this report	6,597	
Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports 476											

Type of offset units	Quantity (used for this reporting period claim)	Percentage of total
Verified Emissions Reductions (VERs)	6,597	100%



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.

1.	Large-scale Generation certificates (LGCs)*	5,945
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
Crowlands Windfarm - VIC	LGC	REC Registry	2021	WD00VC32	191564-193010	2021	1,447	Wind	Victoria, Australia
Crowlands Windfarm - VIC	LGC	REC Registry	2021	WD00VC32	212097-213430	2021	1,334	Wind	Victoria, Australia
Crowlands Windfarm - VIC	LGC	REC Registry	2022	WD00VC32	56435-57930	2022	1,496	Wind	Victoria, Australia
Crowlands Windfarm - VIC	LGC	REC Registry	2022	WD00VC32	87663-89330	2022	1,668	Wind	Victoria, Australia
Total LGCs surrendered this report and used in this report					5,945				



APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A



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	748,491	0	9%				
Total non-grid electricity	748,491	0	9%				
LGC Purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs & Precinct LGCs)	5,945,000	0	74%				
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)	1,350,258	0	17%				
Residual Electricity	-31,899	-31,739	0%				
Total grid electricity	7,263,359	-31,739	91%				
Total electricity consumed (grid + non grid)	8,011,850	-31,739	100%				
Electricity renewables	8,043,749	0					
Residual electricity	-31,899	-31,739					
Exported on-site generated electricity	174,986	-127,740					
Emissions (kgCO ₂ -e)		0					

A negative figure for residual electricity emissions in kgCO₂-e rounds down to zero because the negative emissions can only be used to reduce electricity consumption emissions. See the Climate Active electricity accounting rules for further information.

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

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	100.40%
Mandatory	16.85%
Voluntary	74.20%
Behind the meter	9.34%
Residual electricity emissions footprint (tCO ₂ -e)	0



Location-based approach summary							
Location-based approach	Activity data (kWh)	Scope 2 emissions (kgCO ₂ -e)	Scope 3 emissions (kgCO ₂ -e)				
VIC	7,263,359	6,609,657	726,336				
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	7,263,359	6,609,657	726,336				
VIC	748,491	0	0				
Non-grid electricity (Behind the meter)	748,491	0	0				
Total electricity consumed	8,011,850	6,609,657	726,336				
Emissions footprint (tCO ₂ -e)	7.336						

Emissions footprint (tCO ₂ -e)	7,336
Scope 2 emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	6,610
Scope 3 emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	726



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 <u>one</u> of the following reasons:

- 1. Immaterial <1% for individual items and no more than 5% collectively
- 2. <u>Cost effective</u> Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied.
- 3. <u>Data unavailable</u> 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
Some outdoor events	Yes	No	No	No
Leased sites where Council does not pay the energy bills	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. <u>Size</u> The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions
- 2. <u>Influence</u> The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.
- 3. <u>**Risk**</u> 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.
- <u>Outsourcing</u> 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?
Community waste	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Community energy	Yes	No	No	No	No	No





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