



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT


CITY OF YARRA

ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION

FY2022–23

Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	City of Yarra
REPORTING PERIOD	1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023
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>Michael Oke Sustainability Unit Manager 22/12/23</p>



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

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Version August 2023.

1. CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	7,072 tCO ₂ -e
OFFSETS USED	5% ACCUs, 95% VERs
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	100%
CARBON ACCOUNT	Prepared by: City of Yarra
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	Not required. Next technical assessment due: FY 2023/24

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2. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

The Australian business operations of Yarra City Council (ABN 98 394 086 520) is the subject of this carbon neutral certification as defined by the Organisational and Operational boundaries detailed on the following pages.

Organisation description

The Yarra City Council (ABN 98 394 086 520) is an inner metropolitan municipality of Melbourne, Victoria. Originally formed in June 1994, it is home to a diverse community of approximately 100,000 people. The municipality is 19.5 square kilometres and is located on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people. The City of Yarra acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra.

The organisation has a total capital and operating budget of \$219 million, which is used to deliver a wide range of community services and maintain essential community infrastructure.

The council operates numerous facilities and delivers a broad range of services across the municipality. The facilities include five libraries, three leisure centres, a golf course, childcare and maternal health centres, depots and sporting facilities. The services delivered include care for elderly and disabled residents, food security, collection of domestic rubbish and recycling, as well as sustainability, biodiversity and urban agriculture programs and projects. Council also manages community infrastructure including the construction of new community assets, maintenance of parks, gardens and street trees, and redevelopment and maintenance of existing community assets.

3.EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

This is an organisational certification, which uses the standard Climate Active organisation emissions boundary.

The reported emissions inventory includes direct emissions sources (scope 1), indirect emissions from purchased energy (scope 2) and other measurable indirect sources (scope 3) that are material and relevant to council's operations.

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 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

- Accommodation and facilities
- Carbon neutral products and services
- Construction materials and services – asphalt and concrete
- Electricity
- ICT services and equipment
- Office equipment and supplies
- Refrigerants
- Stationary energy (fossil gas)
- Transport (land and sea)
- Waste
- Water
- Working from home

Non-quantified

- Cleaning and chemicals
- Food
- Professional services
- Postage, courier and freight

Outside emission boundary

Excluded

- Community emissions
- Contractor electricity and gas
- Council-owned buildings leased to commercial or community groups
- Horticulture and agriculture
- Investments
- Machinery and vehicles
- Municipal waste

4. EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

Emissions reduction strategy

Climate Emergency Plan and Organisational Roadmap to Zero Emissions by 2030

Yarra City Council is the second council in Australia to declare a Climate Emergency. In 2020, Yarra Council endorsed its first [Climate Emergency Plan](#) (the Plan). The Plan provides the strategic pathway for decarbonising the council's operations and supporting the local community to take climate action.

The Plan **aspires to achieve zero-net emissions across the entire Yarra community by 2030**, while also bolstering resilience to future pressures such as those caused by extreme weather events.

As the Plan is due to expire in 2024, Council is embarking on the development process of the next Climate Emergency Plan, which will underpin Council's response to the climate crisis in the years to come.

Council's [Organisational Roadmap to Zero Emissions by 2030](#) builds upon the commitments in the Climate Emergency Plan, with the key objective to work towards achieving gross zero organisational emissions by 2030 (i.e., without the use of offsets).

Some of the key actions Council aims to implement to reduce emissions include:

- continuing to purchase 100% renewable electricity through our award-winning [Melbourne Renewable Energy Project](#) 10-year power purchase agreement;
- transitioning all council buildings off gas, to be all-electric and powered by 100% renewable energy;
- continue transitioning our entire vehicle fleet to zero emissions vehicles as soon as practical, noting we already have several electric passenger vehicles and are leading in the uptake of electric trucks;
- working with our contractors – notably those who deliver our kerbside waste collections - to transition to zero emissions vehicles before 2030;
- maximising solar installations on our buildings, including those used by community groups;
- upgrading and optimising Building Management Systems to improve energy efficiency;
- upgrading streetlighting to high efficiency LED, with smart controls included on main roads (although this will not directly reduce emissions, as our electricity is 100% renewable, this is an essential project to balance our electricity demand against the underlying increased demand from the electrification of our buildings and vehicle fleet. This one project is projected to result in a 25% reduction in our overall electricity consumption).

Emissions reduction progress

Project Title	Action
Procurement of renewable energy	Council purchases 100% of its electricity from renewable sources via our award-winning Melbourne Renewable Energy Project – a 10-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Pacific Blue.
Solar on council- and community-operated buildings	Facilitating solar installations and energy upgrades of Yarra facilities, including through assisting community groups with access to financial support. As of October 2023, 823kW of solar capacity has been installed across 42 sites, with 108kWh of battery capacity across 7 sites.
Get all buildings off gas (small sites)	Progressively transitioning facilities off gas, initially focusing on sites with relatively simple gas systems (i.e., hot water systems and domestic-type heating). As of October 2023, 28 of 32 small sites are off gas.
Get all buildings off gas (large sites)	Transitioning sites with highly complex, building integrated gas systems (i.e., leisure centres and town halls) off gas by 2030 and where feasible. Two of three fossil gas cogeneration assets at Yarra's leisure centres have been switched off, with the third system being turned off in 2024. Progressed design works to replace fossil gas heating with efficient electric systems.
Energy efficiency and building optimisation	Investigating and implementing where appropriate best-practice energy efficiency and building optimisation by: utilising smart control and monitoring technologies to operate buildings at the highest possible energy and building performance standards; identifying and investing in priority building energy efficiency upgrades, and; ensuring energy efficiency outcomes are factored into all building project works.
Transitioning to an all-electric fleet	<p>Council is taking steps to transition the fleet to zero emissions, subject to availability of suitable vehicles and charging infrastructure/capability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Passenger Vehicle Fleet Policy mandates that general pool vehicles must be zero emissions vehicles if a suitable vehicle is available on the market that meets the business requirements. • Council's fleet includes 13 electric vehicles, including 3 vans and 2 utes, with plans to add an electric community bus in early 2024. • Yarra's first electric sweeper will hit the ground in January 2024, which will be the first used by any Council in Victoria.

5. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions over time

		Emissions since base year	
		Total tCO ₂ -e (without uplift)	Total tCO ₂ -e (with uplift)
Base year/Year 1:	2011-12	14,462.0	N/A
Year 2:	2012-13	13,923.0	N/A
Year 3:	2013-14	13,947.0	N/A
Year 4:	2014-15	13,123.9	N/A
Year 5:	2015-16	12,787.2	N/A
Year 6:	2016-17	12,396.2	N/A
Year 7:	2017-18	11,988.0	N/A
Year 8:	2018-19	7,852.5	N/A
Year 9:	2019-20	5,147.3	N/A
Year 10:	2020-21	4,634.9	N/A
Year 11:	2021-22	5,836.5	N/A
Year 12:	2022-23	7,072	N/A

Significant changes in emissions

Emission source name	Previous year emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	Current year emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	Detailed reason for change
Stationary energy (fossil gas)	1,800	1,920	Increased site usage post-COVID lockdowns.
Construction materials and services - asphalt	215	746	Additional contractor data and increase in emission factor for aggregate asphalt material.
ICT services and equipment	0	404	Inclusion of previously excluded emission source (IT hardware and off-site data storage).

Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products, services, buildings or precincts

Council procured carbon neutral flights equating to 2,068 passenger-kilometres in 2022/23.

In 2022/23, Council purchased 5,298.7 kg of the certified carbon neutral paper products:

Certified brand name	Total weight (kg)
Winc	4,581.6
Mandura	37.4
Reflex	37.4
Grand total	4,656.40

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 (tCO ₂ -e)	Sum of scope 2 (tCO ₂ -e)	Sum of scope 3 (tCO ₂ -e)	Sum of total emissions (t CO ₂ -e)
Accommodation and facilities	0.00	0.00	0.78	0.78
Carbon neutral products and services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction Materials and Services	0.00	0.00	1,054.35	1,055.35
Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ICT services and equipment	0.00	0.00	404.48	404.48
Office equipment & supplies	0.00	0.00	83.94	83.94
Refrigerants	39.30	0.00	0.00	39.30
Stationary Energy (fossil gas)	1,781.75	0.00	138.31	1,920.06
Transport (Land and Sea)	499.62	0.00	2,428.36	2,927.98
Waste	0.00	0.00	84.70	84.70
Water	0.00	0.00	337.75	337.75
Working from home	0.00	0.00	218.40	218.40
Total emissions	2,321	0.00	4,751	7,072

Uplift factors

N/A

6. CARBON OFFSETS

Offsets retirement approach

This certification has taken an in-arrears offsetting approach. The total emission to offset is 7,072 t CO₂-e. The total number of eligible offsets used in this report is 7,072. Of the total eligible offsets used, 0 were previously banked and 7,072 were newly purchased and retired. 0 are remaining and have been banked for future use.

The City of Yarra's offset procurement is guided by the following principles:

- Compliance with Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard
- Compliance with Yarra Ethical sourcing commitment

The confidence in carbon reduction, determined by:

- Additionality
- Appropriate estimation
- Permanence of emissions reduction
- Minimisation of double counting
- Associated co-benefits and avoidance of harm

Co-benefits

Project 1: Tiwi Island Savanna Burning (ACCU)

This Tiwi Island savannah burning project avoids emissions through use of traditional fire management practices to mitigate the risk and impacts of late-season destructive wildfires.

Co-benefits:

- CSIRO working with Tiwi Land Council to collect data to inform fire management program
- Protect important Tiwi assets such as plantation forests and cultural and sacred sites of significance
- Prevent ecosystem degradation, loss of habitat, and species decline

Project 2: Household energy efficiency via borehole technology in Mozambique (Gold Standard VER)

A Gold Standard energy efficiency project in Mozambique, which avoids emissions through reducing firewood burning for water purifications through provision of safe water via borehole technology

Co-benefits:

- Access to safe drinking water for hundreds of households
- Avoiding the use of burning firewood reduces time spent by women and children collecting wood, contributes to greater economic stability for the community due to saved money, and reduces smoke inhalation which lowers health risks
- Project also includes flow on benefits from sanitation and hygiene education campaign

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 retired (tCO ₂ -e)	Eligible quantity used for previous reporting periods	Eligible quantity banked for future reporting periods	Eligible quantity used for this reporting period	Percent of total (%)	
Tiwi Island Savanna Burning	ACCU	ANREU	24 Nov 2023	3,772,999,891 - 3,773,000,239 (349 units) 3,773,000,345 - 3,773,000,345 (1 unit) Link to registry	2018-19		350	0	0	350	5%	
GS1247 VPA 161 Improved Kitchen Regimes Manica Province Safe Water (Mozambique)	VER Gold Standard	Gold Standard Impact Registry	13 Dec 2023	GS1-1-MZ-GS7134-16-2020-23935-1-2344 (2,344 units) GS1-1-MZ-GS7136-16-2020-23939-1-1947 (1,947 units) GS1-1-MZ-GS7135-16-2020-23937-151-2355 (2,205 units) GS1-1-MZ-GS7470-16-2020-23941-1195-1418 (224) Link to registry	2020		6,720	0	0	6,720	95%	

GS1247 VPA 161 Improved Kitchen Regimes Manica Province Safe Water (Mozambique)	VER Gold Standard	Gold Standard Impact Registry	11 April 2024	GS1-1-MZ-GS7470-16-2021-23942-1297-1298 (2 units) Link to registry	2020		2	0	0	2	<1%
Total eligible offsets retired and used for this report										7,072	
Total eligible offsets retired this report and banked for use in future reports									0		

Type of offset units	Eligible quantity (used for this reporting period)	Percentage of total
Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs)	350	5%
Verified Emissions Reductions (VERs)	6,722	95%

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)*	6,692
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* 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	Project location	Eligible unit type	Registry	Surrender date	Accreditation code	Certificate serial number	Generation year	Fuel source	Quantity (MWh)
Crowlands Wind Farm	VIC, Australia	LGC	REC Registry	18/03/2024	WD00VC32	32083-33480	2022	Wind	1,398
Crowlands Wind Farm	VIC, Australia	LGC	REC Registry	14/02/2023	WD00VC32	83332-83651	2022	Wind	320
Crowlands Wind Farm	VIC, Australia	LGC	REC Registry	18/03/2024	WD00VC32	33481-34726	2022	Wind	1,246
Crowlands Wind Farm	VIC, Australia	LGC	REC Registry	14/02/2023	WD00VC32	60582-60866	2022	Wind	285
Crowlands Wind Farm	VIC, Australia	LGC	REC Registry	18/03/2024	WD00VC32	18892-20162	2023	Wind	1,271
Crowlands Wind Farm	VIC, Australia	LGC	REC Registry	14/02/2024	WD00VC32	14740-15036	2023	Wind	297
Crowlands Wind Farm	VIC, Australia	LGC	REC Registry	14/02/2024	WD00VC32	134986-135340	2023	Wind	355
Crowlands Wind Farm	VIC, Australia	LGC	REC Registry	18/03/2024	WD00VC32	135341-136860	2023	Wind	1,520
Total LGCs surrendered this report and used in this report									6,692

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

APPENDIX B: ELECTRICITY SUMMARY

For this certification, electricity emissions have been set by using the **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 (kg CO ₂ -e)	Renewable % of total
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	107,714	0	2%
Total non-grid electricity	107,714	0	2%
LGC Purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs)	6,692,000	0	97%
GreenPower	0	0	0%
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	1,276,171	0	19%
Residual Electricity	-1,180,029	-1,126,927	0%
Total renewable electricity (grid + non grid)	8,075,885	0	117%
Total grid electricity	6,788,142	0	116%
Total electricity (grid + non grid)	6,895,856	0	117%
Percentage of residual electricity consumption under operational control	100%		
Residual electricity consumption under operational control	-1,180,029	-1,126,927	
Scope 2	-1,042,103	-995,209	
Scope 3 (includes T&D emissions from consumption under operational control)	-137,925	-131,719	
Residual electricity consumption not under operational control	0	0	
Scope 3	0	0	

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	117.11%
Mandatory	18.51%
Voluntary	97.04%
Behind the meter	1.56%
Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO₂-e)	-995.21
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO₂-e)	-131.72
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO₂-e)	0.00
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO₂-e)	0.00
Total emissions liability (t CO₂-e)	0.00

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

Location Based Approach Summary

Location Based Approach	Activity Data (kWh) total	Under operational control			Not under operational control	
		(kWh)	Scope 2 Emissions (kg CO2-e)	Scope 3 Emissions (kg CO2-e)	(kWh)	Scope 3 Emissions (kg CO2-e)
Percentage of grid electricity consumption under operational control	100%					
VIC	6,788,142	6,788,142	5,769,921	475,170	0	0
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	6,788,142	6,788,142	5,769,921	475,170	0	0
VIC	107,714	107,714	0	0		
Non-grid electricity (behind the meter)	107,714	107,714	0	0		
Total electricity (grid + non grid)	6,895,856					

Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO2-e)	5,769.92
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO2-e)	475.17
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO2-e)	5,769.92
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO2-e)	475.17
Total emissions liability (t CO2-e)	6,245.09

APPENDIX C: INSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Non-quantified emission sources

The following emissions sources 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
Cleaning and chemicals	Yes	No	No	No
Food	Yes	No	No	No
Professional services	Yes	No	No	No
Postage, courier and freight	Yes	No	No	No

Data management plan for non-quantified sources

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

APPENDIX D: OUTSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Excluded emission sources

The below emission sources have been assessed as not relevant to this [organisation'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.

Excluded emissions sources summary

Emission sources tested for relevance	Size	Influence	Risk	Stakeholders	Outsourcing	Justification
Community emissions	Y	N	N	N	N	The emissions source is likely to be large compared to the total emissions from electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions. However, our ability to drive significant change is largely reliant on State and Federal government support.
Contractor electricity and gas	Y	N	N	N	N	The emissions source is likely to be large compared to the total emissions from electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions. While we are working to support our suppliers to reduce their emissions and strengthening our requirements, we have no direct operational control over their consumption. We have included Yarra City Council's organisational electricity and gas consumption and fuel used by Council contractors within the emissions boundary.
Council-owned buildings leased to commercial or community groups	N	Y	N	N	N	While we have some control over our leased buildings, this source does not meet other relevancy tests.
Horticulture and agriculture	N	N	N	N	N	This source does not meet any relevancy test.
Investments	N	Y	N	N	N	While we can control what investments we have, this source does not meet other relevancy tests.
Machinery and vehicles	N	N	N	N	N	This source does not meet any relevancy test.
Municipal waste	Y	N	N	N	N	The emissions source is likely to be large compared to the total emissions from electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions. However, we do not have the potential to influence the emissions from this source. We have included Yarra City Council's organisational waste within the emissions boundary.



An Australian Government Initiative

