

MORE ACCESS TO SPORTS FIELDS IN OUR CITY

In 2016, we undertook an Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study to understand what was required to meet the sporting and recreational needs of our growing city.

We love grass sports fields, but we determined we couldn't meet the needs of our communities with grass fields alone. That is why we have looked into high quality synthetic grass fields, because they can be used more often by a greater range of sports, are less impacted by weather, and don't need to be re-turfed.

We have now started work on three new synthetic fields: as part of **Gunyama Park in Zetland**, which will be the city's first synthetic sports field when it opens later this year, and **Perry Park in Alexandria**. The community will also share a synthetic sports field with students at the **Alexandria Park Community School**.

We are developing concept designs for synthetic sports fields at **Turrwul Park in Rosebery**, **Waterloo Oval** and **The Crescent in Annandale**, and increasing the field width at The Crescent so that it can accommodate Hockey5s, a popular short-form version of hockey.

Having a network of synthetic fields will allow us to accommodate 16,000 additional playing hours each year, which would be extremely difficult to achieve with grass fields alone.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore with Les Wark, President of the Glebe Hockey Club, who will make use of the synthetic field at The Crescent in Annandale



SYDNEY'S NEWEST PUBLIC ART

Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi artist Jonathan Jones' latest thought-provoking installation **untitled (maraong manaŋuwi)** was recently displayed at the Hyde Park Barracks from 21 February to 15 March.

The site-specific artwork featured 2,500 emu footprint or broad arrow designs created with red and white gravel sourced from Wiradjuri Country, covering the entire 2,500 square metres of the Hyde Park Barracks courtyard.

The artwork explored the shared history of our colonial past and the role of Indigenous stories within that past.

untitled (maraong manaŋuwi) was presented by Art & About and Sydney Living Museums.

Find out more: artandabout.com.au

In March, we unveiled **Patchwork of Light**, a new permanent public artwork at Reiby Place, off Pitt Street near Circular Quay.

Dutch-American artist Lara Schnitger has created a network of 10 light boxes emblazoned with slogans and images, from Eora fisherwomen to Australia's first female Olympians. It is a bold celebration of women's empowerment and brings Sydney's Aboriginal, European, political and sporting histories to life. The artwork was developed with Wiradjuri/Yuin elder Aunty Bronwyn Penrith, whose journey has been dedicated to reclaiming the culture of and respect for Aboriginal women.

Patchwork of Light is part of our City Art Program, our long-term plan to revitalise Sydney's laneways and create a livelier city centre.

For more information about our public art collection visit cityartsydney.com.au



CELEBRATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR!

This February, we were proud to once again host our Sydney Lunar Festival – the largest celebration of the Lunar New Year outside of Asia.

Over 16 days, we welcomed in the Year of the Rat, which is the first sign of the lunar zodiac and heralds the start of the 12-year lunar calendar cycle.

This year, for the first time, we started our celebrations with the Lunar Lanes street party, held in the heart of Chinatown where the Festival began 24 years ago. There were craft stalls, carnival games, roving performances and dancers, including a hip-hop MB crew all the way from Seoul in Korea and a troupe of performers from Shaanxi province in China!

The popular Lunar Lanterns exhibition returned to the harbour foreshore. We debuted four new lanterns, including a spectacular and larger-than-life robotic sculpture in honour of the Year of the Rat, designed by Claudia Chan Shaw.

Our Sydney Lunar Festival is an important expression of Sydney's diversity and vibrancy, so thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed our events.

We hope you have a very fortunate and prosperous Year of the Rat!



Councillor Robert Kok, Deputy Lord Mayor Jess Scully, Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Councillor Philip Thalys with artist Claudia Chan Shaw and her glowing tower of nine golden rats

WOMEN4CLIMATE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



In the lead up to the Sydney Climate Action Summit, we have hosted the C40 Women4Climate mentorship program, pairing 20 inspiring emerging women leaders with established women leaders from across government, business and the community to foster the next generation of climate leaders.

For the past year, the participants have been working on a diverse range of projects, from developing the climate change framework for the NSW Treasury to engaging with regional councils on the climate emergency.

Meet some of our mentees and mentors:

Dani Alexander is a researcher at the Institute for Sustainable Futures. She seeks to answer this important question: how can established and emerging business leaders work together to promote a nimble, zero-cost approach to the energy transition? Her mentor is Jacki Johnson, Group Executive for People, Performance and Reputation at IAG.

Daniela Ramirez has 15 years' experience working in sustainability and carbon management in the private and government sectors. She is developing targets for net zero emissions and 100 per cent renewable energy for Georges River Council, which is close to her heart, as she works there. Her mentor is Lucy Sharman, Sustainability Manager at Lendlease.

Jillian Reid is a Principal at Mercer in the Responsible Investment team. She is going to tangibly illustrate to superfund members how they are part owners of where we live, work and visit, and how it is mutually beneficial for everyone to act on climate change. Her mentor is Tina Perinotto, Managing Editor and Publisher of The Fifth Estate.

Johanna Walton-Hespe is a Senior Sustainability Consultant at Arup. She is creating a framework for the earliest stages of a building project before major design decisions are made with the aim to upskill designers, project teams and clients to consider all aspects of sustainability in their work. Her mentor is Romilly Madew AO, CEO of Infrastructure Australia.

Melinda Dewsnap is the Sustainability Engagement Manager for residents at the City of Sydney. She is exploring how to connect our city communities with regional and rural Australia in the co-creation of climate change solutions. She thinks it is vital for us to take into account the needs of all communities in planning for our collective transition. Her mentor is Naomi Hogan, National Coordinator, Lock the Gate Alliance.

Tricia Lorenzo works for Flow Power, an innovative energy retailer. Her mission is to find the organisations that can play a role in energy transition. She is helping them interact with the energy market so they can take advantage of energy flows and renewables. Her mentor is Kim McKay AO, Director and CEO, Australian Museum.

A number of C40 Women4Climate mentees will discuss their projects in a series of lightning talks at the Sydney Climate Expo, part of the Sydney Climate Action Summit.

Visit sydneyclimatesummit.com for all the information.



Dani Alexander



Jillian Reid



Melinda Dewsnap

40 mentees and mentors are taking part in the Sydney Women4Climate mentorship program



Daniela Ramirez



Johanna Walton-Hespe



Tricia Lorenzo



Australia's bushfire crisis began in September 2019

CITY OF SYDNEY



NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2040

Since September, we have seen, and many have directly experienced, a bushfire season unprecedented in its ferocity. At the beginning of January, nearly 11 million hectares of Australian bushland had burned including almost five million in NSW. For reference, Tasmania is seven million hectares in size. At least 32 people, including eight firefighters, have died.

In NSW alone more than 2,000 homes have been destroyed, with University of Sydney researchers estimating 1.25 billion animals have died.

In Sydney, we've recorded some of the worst air quality ever experienced in our city – with 81 days classified hazardous, poor or very poor in 2019. This was the first time in a decade the city recorded more than 18 days of poor air quality in a calendar year.

Climate scientists and firefighters have long warned our federal and state leaders that these days were on their way. They told us climate change would supercharge natural disasters, including bushfires. And as the driest inhabited continent on earth, we knew Australia was one of the most vulnerable developed nations.

City communities have supported those most affected by this shocking bushfire

season. Tens of millions of dollars were raised for bushfire relief, through direct donations and relief concerts, artwork auctions and more. All over the world, people have come together, to raise money, sew pouches for injured wildlife or hold vigils. And tens of thousands of you have attended protests to demand change.

Like you, I am angry that successive Federal Governments have failed to prepare for the climate disaster they were warned about.

Here at the City, we've spent more than a decade showing governments what meaningful action looks like.

We declared a climate emergency in June 2019, but most importantly we've been working for more than a decade to demonstrate the real and measurable results that can be achieved when governments, businesses and the

community set ambitious targets and take action to achieve them.

In this issue of Sydney City News, we'll tell you more about our work reducing emissions, recycling water and reducing waste over the last ten years.

Critically, we are always looking for ways to achieve more. In our first meeting of 2020, Council agreed to bring forward our existing target of net zero emissions by 2050 by a decade, to 2040!

I look forward to working with you to achieve this.

Clover Moore

Lord Mayor of Sydney
@CloverMoore
@clovermooresydney

LEADING LOCAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The City of Sydney and C40 Cities, a global network of cities taking bold climate action, will host the Sydney Climate Action Summit in Sydney Town Hall from 31 March – 2 April.

It will respond urgently to the summer of bushfires and extreme weather experienced in Australia.

The following events will be free and open to the public:

CityTalks:

Local Action in a Hostile Climate
Tuesday 31 March, 6.30pm–8pm
Professor Michael Mann, Professor Ross Garnaut AC, Glen Innes Severn Mayor Carol Sparks, Indigenous fire practitioner Victor Steffensen and Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore will focus on the action we must take to transition to a sustainable future. This event will be moderated by Patricia Karvelas.

Mayors and Citizens Summit: Local Action in a Hostile Climate
Wednesday 1 April, 9am–1pm
Mayors from around Sydney and Australia will meet to share knowledge about practical and effective actions to combat our global climate crisis.

Sydney Climate Expo
Wednesday 1 April, 11am–6pm
Come and meet the people and experience the technological innovations that will enable us to take effective climate action now.

We are also working with local high school students and the business community on targeted events.

Sydney is a founding member of C40 Cities, a global network connecting 94 world cities. With cities responsible for more than 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, the work we do has a significant impact.

Head to sydneyclimatesummit.com for more information.



Help shape the future of Sydney.
Have your say at
SydneyYourSay.com.au



If you require this information in an alternative format please contact:

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Online: cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au Your councillors are Clover Moore (CMIT) / Jess Miller (CMIT) / Robert Kok (CMIT) / Jess Scully (CMIT) / Philip Thalys (CMIT) / Christine Forster (LIB) / Craig Chung (LIB) / Linda Scott (LAB) / Kerryn Phelps (IND) / Angela Vithoulkas (SBP)

MORE THAN A DECADE OF CLIMATE ACTION...

In Sustainable Sydney 2030, we outlined ambitious targets to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, divert waste from landfill, and create a water sensitive city.

Through evidence-based, practical climate actions, we've taken great strides toward meeting our 2030 objectives – we're even ahead of schedule on some of our goals.

After consulting with the community in 2019 on our longer-term plan *Sustainable Sydney 2050*, we've started to roll-out our new targets for an even greener, more global and connected city.

In February, we announced that we are bringing forward our existing target of net zero emissions across the local government area by 2050 to 2040 – ten years early.

CUTTING EMISSIONS

The City of Sydney was the first local government to become carbon neutral in 2007.

And from July 2020, our operations will be powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity – enabling us to meet our 2030 target of 70 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2024, six years early. By purchasing power from wind and solar farms in New England, Wagga Wagga, and the Shoalhaven, we are supporting jobs in regional areas and saving our ratepayers up to half a million dollars each year, for 10 years.

For more than a decade, we've been reducing our emissions:

- We were the first Australian city to install energy-efficient LED street lights on a large scale, replacing 6,000 city-owned street and park lights. We've also paid Ausgrid to fast-track the replacement of the remaining 9,500 lights they own. *When complete, this will save ratepayers over \$1 million in energy and maintenance costs, and reduce carbon emissions by 3,400 tonnes, each year.*
- We're creating a pedestrian-friendly, walkable city and invested \$220 million into Sydney's light rail, reducing emissions and congestion in the city as well as transforming George Street into a beautiful and lively public space with more room for people.
- We have created 15 kilometres of separated cycleways, 61 kilometres of shared paths and 55 kilometres of other infrastructure, which includes bike lanes

Heritage is no barrier to solar power. In 2010, we installed 240 solar panels on the roof of Sydney Town Hall



Alexandra Canal Depot has been designed with a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability



Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Transgrid CEO Paul Italiano at Alexandra Canal Depot with the first industrial scale Tesla battery to be installed in Sydney

and traffic calmed streets, so people can leave their cars behind and reduce transport emissions. *As a result, bike trips in the last decade have more than doubled.*

- We currently operate one of the largest fleets of electric vehicles in Australia, and we are expecting delivery of our first electric truck in the coming months. *By using hybrid and electric cars and reducing the number of vehicles in our fleet, the City of Sydney's fleet emissions are now 19 per cent below our 2006 baseline.*
- We built the 5 Star Green Star rated Alexandra Canal Depot to serve the southern half of the City. It has natural ventilation and lighting, roof water collection and re-use systems, charging stations for electric vehicles, energy and water efficient equipment, and was built using eco-concrete. With more than 1,600 solar panels and a 500 kilowatt hour Tesla battery, *in its first year of operation the depot generated more energy than it consumed.*

We have also:

- Upgraded City properties to improve energy efficiency and reduce water use, *slashing carbon emissions and generating savings of more than \$1 million a year.*
- Installed 6,133 solar panels across 40 City-owned buildings, which is one of the largest rooftop solar programs for local government owned and operated assets in Australia. *This program will save more than 2,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year.*
- Installed trigeneration at Town Hall House to supply the office building and Town Hall itself, and co-generation at our largest pools.
- Installed a trial section of roadway using geopolymers concrete, a product made from fly ash or blast furnace waste, that emits about a third of the carbon dioxide per tonne of concrete poured compared to traditional methods.

RECYCLING WATER

Using drinking water to irrigate our green spaces or flush toilets in the driest inhabited continent on earth is irresponsible.

While managing water is a state responsibility, the City of Sydney has long been committed to creating more opportunities for our own operations, residents and businesses to connect to recycled water.

We've taken the lead on water recycling at a local government level:

- We took the opportunity of the light rail construction in the CBD to install a recycled water pipeline along George Street. This has laid the foundation for a future recycled water network to drought proof our CBD and supply recycled water to commercial buildings and to water our parks and gardens.
- In 2018, we switched on one of Australia's largest urban stormwater recycling facilities in Green Square, which can treat up to 900,000 litres of stormwater every day. More than 3,000 apartments in the Green Square Town Centre will be connected to this \$8 million facility when the town centre is fully developed, so they can use recycled stormwater to wash clothes and flush their toilets. We also use this recycled water in our parks and community facilities.



Water treatment facility in Green Square

REDUCING WASTE

Every day, the City of Sydney area produces more than 5,500 tonnes of waste – contributing to around eight per cent of our total greenhouse gas emissions. *Our goal is to divert more than 90 per cent of waste from landfill by 2030.*

To do this, we:

- Divert 100 per cent of our construction and demolition waste from our own projects, which is then processed into recycled soil, bedding sand and materials for roads.
- Have introduced kerbside collection for food scraps, with a trial that services up to 5,800 households across 69 apartment buildings and 324 houses, and has diverted 114 tonnes of food waste from landfill since the trial started. The trial is planned to expand in the coming financial year to up to 1,000 houses and 250 apartment buildings.
- Offer a free pick-up service for old furniture, mattresses, whitegoods, e-waste and more.
- Are reducing single-use plastics in our own operations, and working with more than 70 business partners to reduce their waste.
- Are continuing to engage with our new and existing residents, to make them aware of our many waste and recycling services.
- Have awarded more than \$200,000 in grant funding since 2017 for projects that deliver waste avoidance or improved recycling outcomes in our community.

On average, each City of Sydney resident has reduced the amount of waste they produce each year by 28 kilograms. But we can no longer rely on landfill and we need to transition to a circular economy.

We continue to advocate to the NSW and Federal Governments to develop a strategic plan for waste management in Sydney, do more to make businesses responsible for their consumer waste, and improve transparency and integrity of waste data so we know what's happening to our waste.



Residents take part in our food scraps recycling trial



Raingarden in Glebe

- We worked with the Federal Government to build the \$11.2 million Sydney Park water reuse project, completed in October 2015. This project enabled around 850 million litres of stormwater a year to be captured in a series of wetlands within Sydney Park. Wetlands naturally clean the water before being discharged into the Cooks River via Alexandria Canal. We can also harvest some of this stormwater to irrigate Sydney Park and our nursery of growing plants, trees and street gardens. This water recycling scheme will be back up and running again by the end of this year, after being decommissioned because of the NSW Government's destructive WestConnex project.
- We've installed 249 raingardens since 2005, which filter and reduce harmful stormwater pollutants from our streets that would otherwise flow into our waterways.
- We're also working with residents and businesses to reduce their water use, through Sydney Water's Water Savings Partnership, our Smart Green Apartments program, and our building tune-up program, which supports commercial building owners and managers to implement low or no cost environmental improvements to improve their buildings' performance.

However, due to population growth and the drought, annual potable water consumption across the city has grown 13 per cent against our 2006 baseline.

We are calling on the NSW Government to urgently work with us to unlock the potential of recycled water.

This means getting the NSW Government to scrap the cost penalties it allows Sydney Water to impose on recycling wastewater for residential use.

... INCLUDING BOLD EFFORTS BY OUR SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS

The City of Sydney acknowledges that we are in a climate emergency. That's why, for more than a decade, we've been urgently working with industry leaders, building owners and commercial office tenants to help tackle their waste and water use, and slash greenhouse gas emissions.

The achievements of our flagship sustainability programs prove that bold climate action is not only essential, it's good for business too.

BETTER BUILDINGS PARTNERSHIP

The Better Buildings Partnership represents more than half the commercial office space in the city centre, with members including major building owners like Dexus, Lendlease and Mirvac, as well as the University of Technology. *They have reduced their emissions by 56 per cent since 2006, tracking toward an 83 per cent reduction by 2030 – which will be ahead of their original target of 70 per cent emissions reductions by 2030. The businesses have also reduced their water use by 26 per cent since 2006 and saved over \$30 million a year.*

CITYSWITCH GREEN OFFICE

The CitySwitch Green Office program was co-founded by the City of Sydney in 2005 and now represents 18 per cent of all office space Australia-wide. *In 2019, these businesses reduced their carbon emissions by 942,930 tonnes and saved \$29 million.*

SMART GREEN APARTMENTS

Through our Smart Green Apartments program, we've worked directly with 158 buildings – home to more than 25,000 of our residents. By initiating hundreds of energy efficiency projects, owners' corporations have avoided *14,660 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, with participating owners saving more than \$2 million each year.* And by working with Sydney Water, more than 2,000 apartments have been upgraded to improve efficiency and reduce water wasted through leaks in taps and toilets, *saving owners a total of \$400,000 in water bills annually.*

SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION PARTNERSHIP

Inspired by the success of the Better Buildings Partnership and CitySwitch Green Office, we established the Sustainable Destination Partnership. Forty local and international organisations from the accommodation and entertainment sector, such as the Art Gallery of NSW, Hilton Hotels, and the Sydney Opera House have signed up to reduce energy, emissions and water use, increase use of renewable energy, and improve waste management. *The accommodation and entertainment sector is responsible for 47 per cent of all commercial waste, 21 per cent of the city's carbon emissions and 14 per cent of drinking water consumption, so the Sustainable Destination Partnership has huge potential. In 2019, the Partnership won the Innovation in Sustainability Award from the Global Destination Sustainability Index for its important work.*

ELIMINATING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

The Sustainable Destination Partnership spearheaded the launch of the Single-Use Pledge. The City of Sydney joined key members of our flagship sustainability programs to further commit to eliminating single-use items and plastics in our day-to-day operations.

We continue to advocate to the NSW Government to take further action to eliminate single-use plastics and ban plastic bags.

Sydney businesses pledged to eliminate single-use plastics in May 2019

Sustainable Destination Partnership launch in 2018



Sustainable Destination Partnership member Grace Hotel



Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Better Buildings Partnership Chair Paul Wall at Grosvenor Place

