



JUNE 2021

# SYDNEY CITY NEWS

Renewable electricity from the Sapphire Wind Farm at Glen Innes is helping us exceed our emissions reduction targets.

## OUR EMISSIONS SLASHED NINE YEARS EARLY!

Taking effective action on climate change has been a key priority. After extensive citywide consultation we made the commitment in 2008 to reduce emissions by 70 per cent by 2030. We did the master plans, set the targets and took action. And have now met our goal in 2021, nine years early!

Our City operations are now powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity from solar and wind farms in the Shoalhaven, Wagga Wagga and Glen Innes, also saving ratepayers \$500,000 annually for 10 years.

We've expanded canopy cover by almost 20 per cent to reduce heat island effects and increase carbon absorption, planting more than 15,000 trees since 2005, creating rain gardens and greening streets and public areas.

*sustainability measures in the design, construction and performance of new buildings we approve.*

*Our Environmental Strategy 2021–2025 can be found at [cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/enviro-strategy](http://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/enviro-strategy)*

*Clover Moore*

Lord Mayor of Sydney

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Increasing recycling and reducing waste to landfill, a source of methane gas emissions, is an ongoing important responsibility for Council, and so far 11,000 households have access to our food scraps collection service.

*Our next endeavour, utilising our role as a consent authority, is to require*



Currently under construction, Sydney Place Tower will meet the City's sustainability measures when complete.

## AND NET ZERO BUILDINGS FROM 2026

Energy use in buildings is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, with commercial offices, hotels and apartment buildings contributing 68 per cent of the City of Sydney's total emissions.

That's why we're introducing tougher energy performance standards on new development applications from the start of 2023.

This initiative is essential in helping us to achieve zero net emissions across the local government area by 2035. It will support investment in renewable energy and create jobs, many in regional areas, and is estimated to generate energy savings of more than \$1.3 billion for investors, businesses and occupants from 2023 to 2040.

The new standards will apply to new office, hotel and shopping centre developments and major redevelopments of existing buildings.

All must comply with minimum energy ratings from January 2023 and aim for net-zero energy output by 2026.

## RECENT PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS RENEWED



Through the pandemic our local parks and playgrounds have been a solace for many, and as part of our Covid-recovery package we brought forward such capital works projects to help stimulate the city economy and provide job continuity.

Following further consultation with the community, we renewed many of our parks and playgrounds with new adventure play equipment, seating and shade structures, native plantings and fitness equipment.

These include upgrades at the:

- Ross Street Playground, Forest Lodge
- Hollis Park Playground, Newtown, including a cycle lane along Burren and Wilson streets
- Crete Reserve Playground, Rosebery
- Beaconsfield Park Playground, Beaconsfield
- Cardigan Street Reserve, Glebe
- Daniel Dawson Reserve, Redfern
- Fig Lane Park Playground, Ultimo
- Kings Lane Reserve, Darlinghurst
- Rope Walk Park, Green Square
- Strickland Park, Chippendale

*Enjoy!*



Help shape the future of Sydney.  
Have your say at  
[SydneyYourSay.com.au](http://SydneyYourSay.com.au)



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

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Online: [cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://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) / Kerry Phelps (IND) / Angela Vitoulkas (SBP)

## AND WORKING WITH OUR RESIDENTS

### SMART GREEN APARTMENTS PROGRAM

Following our consultations for Sustainable Sydney 2030, we've been working with you, our residents, to help improve energy and water efficiencies, promote renewable electricity and reduce landfill waste.

To help achieve this, we launched the Smart Green Apartments program in 2014, and we've now worked with 141 strata plans, 172 buildings and 27,182 residents in 13,876 apartments to reduce carbon emissions and water use.

In particular, two groups we've worked with are the Zinc building residents and the Hudson Community Association in Alexandria.

The Hudson Association recently won a Smart Green Apartment Award after investing \$150,000 in energy upgrades, reducing their yearly energy bills by \$39,441 or nearly 28 per cent!

And, after securing one of the City's environmental grants, Zinc installed a 27KW per hour rooftop solar system, upgraded common area lighting, and switched to an electricity provider offering a renewable and carbon neutral product.



The Lord Mayor with the Hudson Community Association, winner of a 2021 Smart Green Apartment award after reducing their energy bills by 28 per cent!

*They achieved a 6 Star NABERS energy rating, an 85 per cent reduction in electricity use in common areas and an astonishing 99 per cent energy cost savings!*

### REDUCING WASTE AND LANDFILL

Every day our local area produces more than 5,500 tonnes of waste, generating around 8 per cent of our total emissions. Our goal is to divert more than 90 per cent of all types of waste from landfill by 2030.

We are doing this by:

- Collecting old furniture, mattresses, whitegoods, e-waste and more as a free service.
- Hosting **Recycle It Saturday** four times a year. The last event diverted 17 tonnes of pre-loved household items from landfill.
- Expanding **food scraps recycling**, with the service now available to more than 11,000 homes.
- Reducing **single use plastics** in our own operations and working with partners to help them do the same.
- And, piloting **RecycleSmart**, a doorstep pickup service for tricky to recycle items like soft plastics, clothes, batteries and polystyrene.



Recycle It Saturday diverts 17 tonnes of waste from landfill.

## AND PROVIDING GREENER TRANSPORT OPTIONS

We're continuing to expand our cycleway network to provide more and safer transport options, minimise road congestion and reduce the city's emissions.

In addition to our established cycleway network, we installed pop-up cycleways as soon as Covid hit, working with the state government to deliver safe, alternative transport options to the CBD for residents and workers.

Since then, cycling has increased by more than 40 per cent across Greater Sydney, and more than 500 per cent along Pitt Street in the CBD. And many who began riding during the pandemic will continue to do so.

Council recently approved plans to make the Pitt Street cycleway, the expanded footpath and outdoor dining space a permanent addition.



Cycling has grown by more than 500 per cent on Pitt Street!



# CLIMATE ACTION THAT'S GETTING RESULTS ...

## OUR TEN MOST SUBSTANTIAL CLIMATE ACHIEVEMENTS

As well as reaching emissions reduction goals for our City operations nine years early, we contributed to a 22 per cent reduction over the whole city local government area from 2006 to 2019. During that time our city economy expanded by 53 per cent and if it had been business as usual emissions would have increased by 57 per cent. Some major actions that have contributed to our success include ...



**1** We were the first local government in Australia to become carbon neutral in 2007. L-R: Former Federal Minister for Climate Change Greg Combet, presenting the Lord Mayor with a carbon neutral certification award, and green building advocate Tanya Cox.



**2** We are now operating on 100 per cent renewable electricity and we've met our 2030 target of 70 per cent emissions reduction for our operations in 2021. Pictured: photovoltaic panels outside Wagga Wagga, helping power the City's operations.



**3** Working with business, hospitality and cultural organisations to reduce emissions by 439 kilotonnes and water use by 690 megalitres (275 Olympic swimming pools) since 2015.



**4** Completing 25kms of separated cycleways - including Covid-19 response pop-ups - with another 7kms in the pipeline.



**5** The first Australian city to roll out energy-efficient LED street lights and we also paid for Ausgrid owned lights to be converted.



**6** Managing one of the largest rooftop solar programs in Australia, with more than 7,000 solar panels across our buildings. Solar panels were installed on Sydney Town Hall in 2010.



Love Food Sydney members are reducing food waste, saving money and protecting the environment.

## LOVE FOOD SYDNEY

NSW households and businesses throw away more than \$10 billion of edible food each year, which decomposes in landfill and releases methane, a greenhouse gas that's at least 28 times more harmful than carbon dioxide.

So we've launched the Love Food Sydney campaign in partnership with the NSW Government.

It allows businesses to access free online programs that offer training in simple and cost-effective ways to reduce food waste, save money and protect the environment.

There are currently 33 businesses registered and 110 staff trained.

For more information go to [city.sydney/lovefood](http://city.sydney/lovefood)



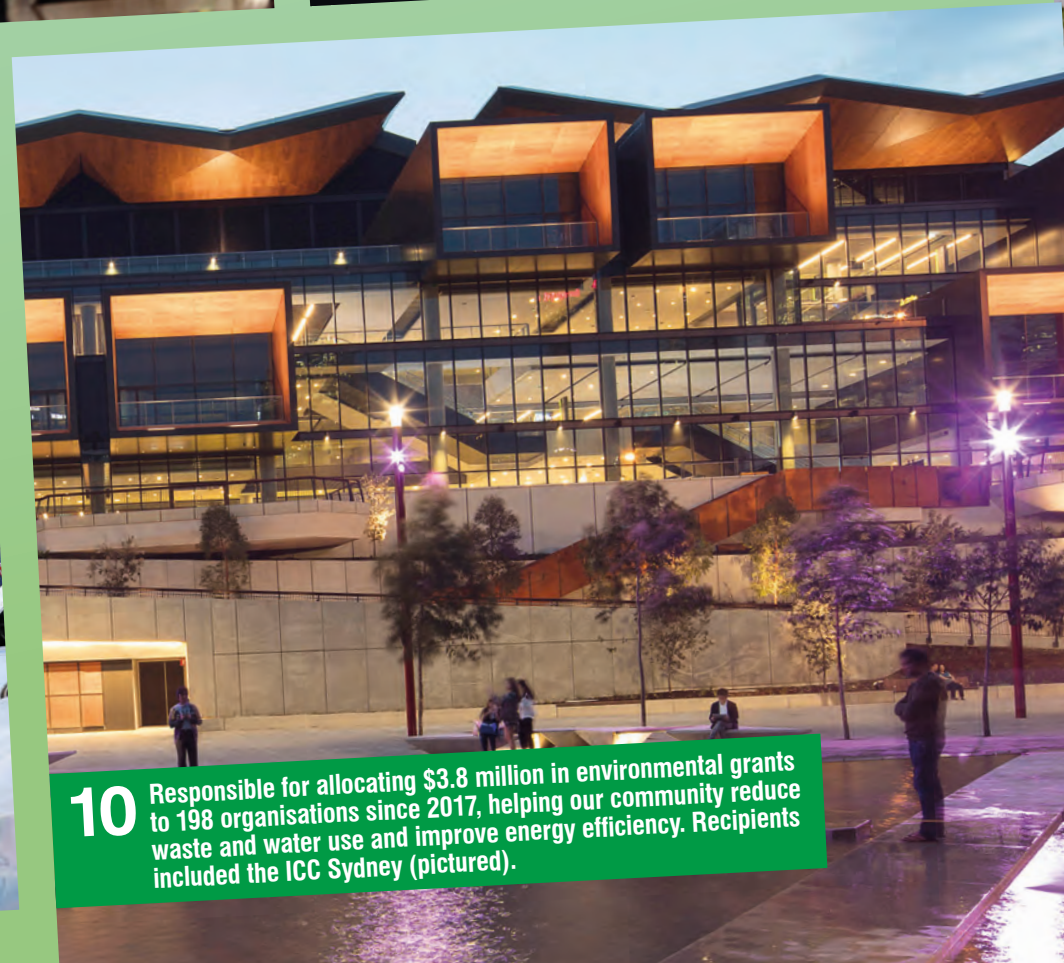
**7** Operating one of the largest fleets of electric vehicles in Australia.



**8** Building one of Australia's largest urban stormwater recycling facilities in Green Square.



**9** Diverting 89 per cent of our own projects' construction and demolition waste from landfill.



**10** Responsible for allocating \$3.8 million in environmental grants to 198 organisations since 2017, helping our community reduce waste and water use and improve energy efficiency. Recipients included the ICC Sydney (pictured).

## PARTNERING WITH BUSINESS

### THE BETTER BUILDINGS PARTNERSHIP

Our partnering with business has achieved a 61 per cent reduction in per annum emissions from their properties and a 39 per cent drop in water use since 2006. Eighty eight buildings are committed to being carbon neutral by 2030 and sixteen are already carbon neutral certified.

We've achieved this after launching the Better Buildings Partnership (BBP) ten years ago. It is a City-led collaboration with the commercial property sector to improve the environmental performance of our city's commercial office buildings.

The program now covers 59 per cent of the CBD's commercial office floorspace and our partners are reporting great results.

Partners include ISPT, AMP Capital, Frasers Property, GPT Group, Charter Hall, Brookfield, Investa, Dexu, Lendlease, Mirvac, Stocklands, University of Technology Sydney and the University of Sydney and others.



The Lord Mayor and sustainability specialist Paul Wall at Grosvenor Place. BBP members have reduced their emissions by 61% and are on track for 83% reduction by 2030 and are saving more than \$30 million a year.

For the past three years the City has also facilitated a similar partnership with the tourism sector through the Sustainable Destination Partnership.

[betterbuildingspartnership.com.au](http://betterbuildingspartnership.com.au)  
[sustainabledestinationpartnership.com.au](http://sustainabledestinationpartnership.com.au)

### AND DROUGHT-PROOFING OUR CITY...

We're drought-proofing our city. Our substantial recycling plants at Green Square and Sydney Park are saving water and building resilience to climate change. And during the light rail construction, we installed pipelines for recycled water between Circular Quay and Central station.

This will allow CBD buildings to connect to new or existing water recycling plants in the future. With cooling towers absorbing 20 per cent of the water used in commercial office buildings, this has enormous potential to reduce potable water consumption.

Where possible, we'll retrofit City properties along George Street, including Sydney Town Hall, to connect to the network, and recycled water could be pumped directly to Hyde Park to drought-proof it.

We're also working with key stakeholders, including Sydney Water, to develop and expand the network.



We've laid the pipes for CBD buildings to connect to water recycling plants in the future.