



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

BENTLEIGH
BENTLEIGH EAST
BRIGHTON EAST
CARNEGIE
CAULFIELD
ELSTERNWICK
GARDENVALE
GLEN HUNTLY
MCKINNON
MURRUMBEENA
ORMOND
ST KILDA EAST

GLEN EIRA SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2020–2021





**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF COUNTRY**

Glen Eira City Council acknowledges the Boonwurrung/ Bunurong and Wurrundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We respect and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures, and their continuing spiritual connection to the land and seas. We value their living culture and practices and their right to self-determination.

Council extends its respect to all First Nations' peoples.



**A MESSAGE FROM
THE MAYOR**

Welcome to our *Glen Eira Sustainability Report 2020-21*. This annual report shows you how we achieved the priorities in the final year of our *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016–2021*.

This *Report* highlights our key achievements over the past 12 months.

I'm pleased that our 2020-21 carbon footprint decreased by a further 18 per cent to 6,888 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (t CO2-e) compared to 8,399 tonnes in the previous financial year. The COVID-19 pandemic would have significantly contributed to this decrease in emissions with many buildings unoccupied during lockdown periods.

A big milestone from the last year was *Our Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2021–2025 | Dhumbali Wurrungi-biik Parbin-ata* adopted by Council on 29 June 2021. This strategy was developed in response to Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency on 5 May 2020. This bold new *Strategy* builds on the work of the *Environmental Sustainability Strategy* and reflects our commitment to strong and fast action on climate change, and outlines how we will achieve our ambitious zero net emissions targets for both Council operations and the community.

We have also started to measure emissions from our supply chain, like postage services, paper consumption, water use, road asphalt, waste generation, waste collection and street cleaning. As a result, this year we have accounted for an additional 2,851 t CO2-e and will now incorporate these carbon sources into our emissions inventory every year.

By capturing these new sources of emissions we are responsible for generating, we will be able to identify opportunities to work with our supply chain to further reduce emissions across our operations.


Cr Jim Magee
Glen Eira Mayor

CLIMATE CHANGE

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Installed solar photovoltaic systems on eight Council buildings, bringing the total amount of rooftop solar capacity to 1,109 kW. This is equivalent to charging 95,602 smart phones.
- Adopted the *Sustainable Building and Infrastructure Policy*.
- Encouraged planning applicants to include Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) considerations in their planning applications.
- Incorporated ESD and other sustainability measures in the construction of six new buildings and streetscapes.
- Installed solar pathway lighting through Rosanna Street Reserve.
- Council adopted a 6 Star Green Star pathway for Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool Redevelopment.
- Participated in *How Well Are We Adapting* to guide our climate change adaptation initiatives and inform our *Community Wellbeing Plan*.
- Undertook a climate risk assessment of four emergency relief centres and commenced a wider climate risk assessment for Council services and infrastructure.
- Actively participated in the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) and started a collaborative research project with 29 CASBE councils to elevate ESD targets for new development.
- Actively participated in the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA), a formal alliance of eight councils in Melbourne's east. Since 2012, EAGA projects have led to emissions savings of 624,907 tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Participated in Climate Emergency Australia (CEA). CEA delivered eight capacity-building webinars, an online forum and two advocacy submissions.



In 2020–21, Council generated
6,888 
tonnes of carbon dioxide.

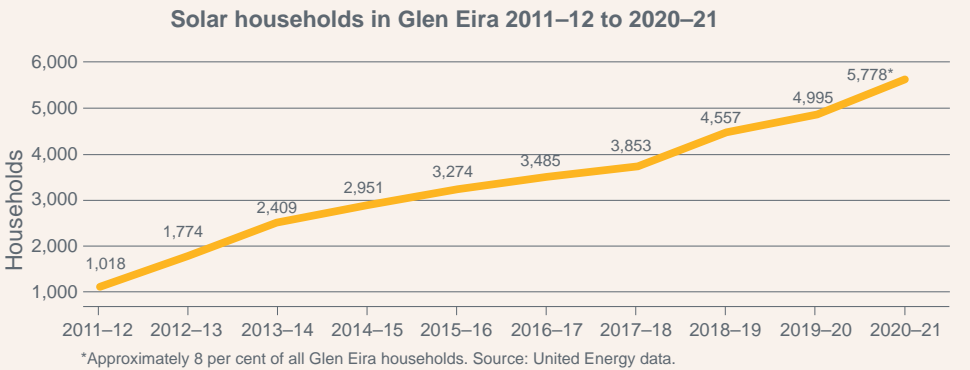
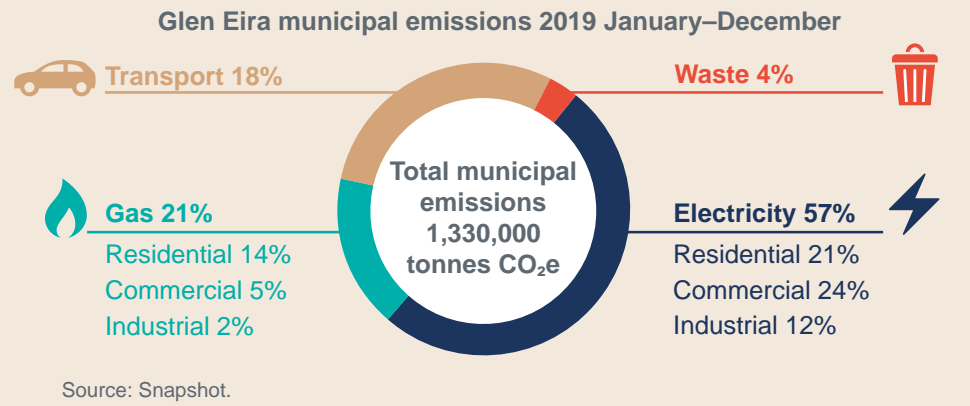
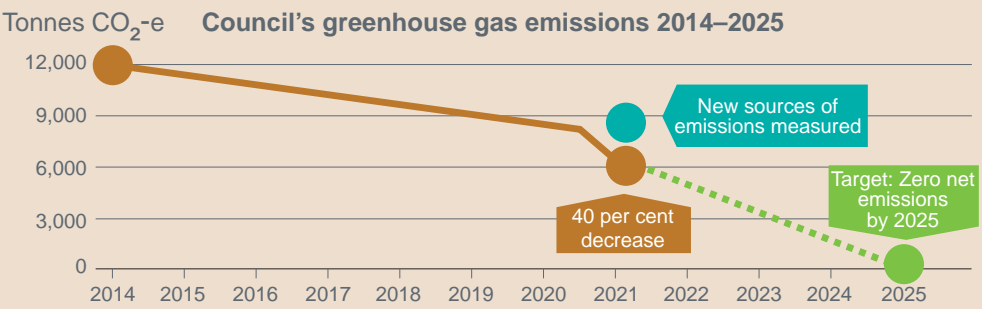
We've reduced corporate greenhouse gas emissions by
↓ 40%
since our baseline year (2014–15).

However, it must be noted that some of this decrease is attributed to reduced activity in office buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reducing Council's greenhouse emissions

This year we have accounted for an additional 2,851 tonnes of carbon dioxide and will now incorporate these carbon sources into our emissions inventory every year. By capturing these new sources of emissions we are responsible for generating, we will be able to identify opportunities to work with our supply chain to further reduce emissions across our operations.

This is due to expanding our carbon inventory to include emissions from our supply chain. This includes postage services, paper consumption, water use, road asphalt, waste generation, waste collection and street cleaning.



CLIMATE CHANGE

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Delivered free energy-efficiency advice and access to trusted installers through the *Australian Energy Foundation*, with 42 quotes for energy-efficiency installations provided.
- Offered two bulk-buy programs to enable the community to purchase solar PV and battery systems, with seven systems installed.
- Developed a *Bike Parking Action Plan* to guide best practice bike parking across Glen Eira and make cycling more accessible and convenient.
- Reviewed the Rosstown Rail Trail to improve the safety, accessibility and attractiveness of cycling.
- Awarded nine grants to schools to deliver local active transport programs.
- The Youth Climate and Sustainability Action Group (YCSAG) delivered a campaign on food waste.
- Partnered with six other councils to deliver 55 free sustainable living webinars. A total of 2,008 people participated.
- A total of 53,201 people engaged with us on sustainability topics on Facebook and e-news.
- Completed modelling on how we will achieve our ambitious corporate zero net emissions target.



We purchased **two** electric vehicles and installed **one** charging station at Glen Eira Town Hall.



Victorian Energy Collaboration

We're proud to be one of 46 Victorian Councils to join together and form VECO, the Victorian Energy Collaboration. VECO is the largest emissions reduction project ever undertaken by the local government sector in Australia. The 46 Councils have pooled their electricity needs into one long-term contract with Red Energy which will provide the VECO group with renewable energy generated from wind farms here in Victoria.

So, from 1 July 2021, the majority of our electricity is renewable. From July 2022, 100 per cent will be renewable. This renewable energy will be used to power council-owned infrastructure, like our streetlights, libraries, aquatic centres and pavilions. By using renewable energy, we'll be saving 260,000 tonnes of carbon emissions from entering the atmosphere — the same as taking 90,000 cars off the road.



From July 2022,
100%
of our electricity will
be renewable.



In 2020–21, we purchased
1.9 million
megawatt hours of
GreenPower.

RECYCLING AND WASTE

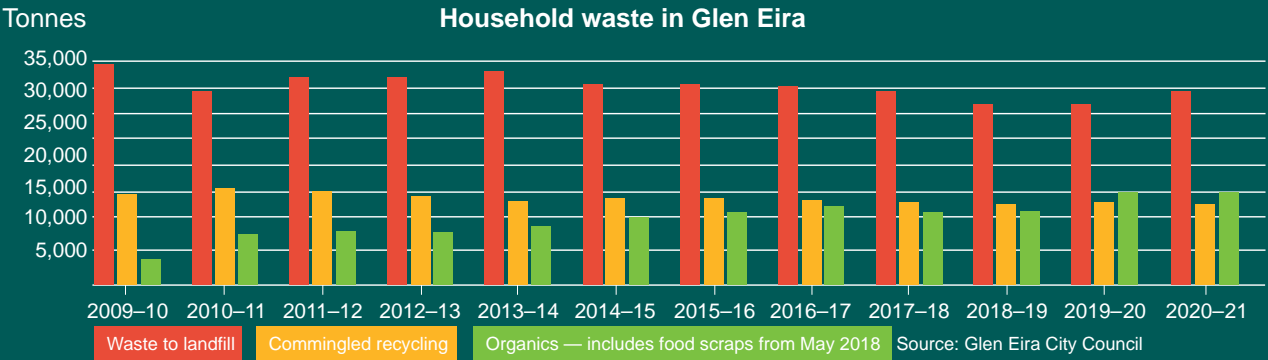
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Diverted an estimated 891.8 tonnes of food waste from landfill. This is equivalent to 4.7 blue whales. This diversion also prevented 1,872 tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.
- Recycled 3.4 per cent more food and garden waste through the green bin when compared with 2019-20.
- Recycled 4.6 tonnes of items that were deposited in e-waste collection stations across all Glen Eira libraries.
- Participated in Garage Sale Trail 2020 with 20 sales held.
- Recycled plastic street furniture installed at eight sites, including bollards at EE Gunn Reserve.
- Used recycled concrete for backfill in one drainage trench.



In 2020–21, Glen Eira recycled **49%** of its waste. This represents **27,493 tonnes**.

We collect recyclables through fortnightly collections of our combined food waste/ green waste bin and our recycling bin for glass, plastics, metal and paper. We also provide residents with three hard rubbish, branch or cardboard collections per year for larger amounts of waste.



Commingled recycling 22%
12,540 tonnes



Food and garden waste 26%
14,867 tonnes

Garbage 52%
29,249 tonnes

Green Asphalt

In January 2021, we trialled green asphalt on three streets in Bentleigh East — Brosnan Road, Dega Avenue and Brosa Avenue. Green asphalt contains a range of recycled materials, including plastic, recycled glass and reclaimed asphalt pavement. Around 15,000 two-litre plastic bottles and 110,000 glass bottles were recycled into the road. The trial not only decreased landfill by 200 tonnes — the equivalent of 3,000 wheelie bins of waste glass and plastic — but also reduced carbon emissions by 1,260 kilograms.



Our food waste recycling service allows residents to recycle food waste that would have otherwise gone to landfill.

BIODIVERSITY

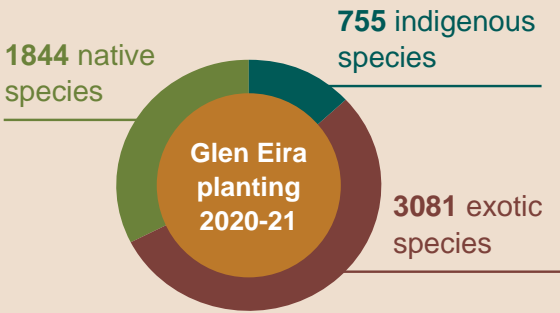
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Planted 1,854 trees.
- Developed the *Urban Forest Strategy*.
- Undertook the *Narrow Nature Strip Planting Program* on three streets.
- A total of 219 people joined the *Neighbourhood Sustainable Gardening Program*.
- Participated in the Botanica Festival at Rippon Lea Estate where 54 people joined a free bird watching walk and 150 indigenous plants were given away.
- Planted 30 River Red Gum and Swamp Gum seedlings in Boyd Park from seeds collected from trees removed as part of the Hughesdale Level Crossing Removal project.
- Supported Parks Victoria’s *Nature Pact* campaign.
- A total of 395 people participated in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count 2020 where a total of 15,056 individual birds were recorded.



Almost **45%** of all new trees and shrubs planted were indigenous or native species.

There are few indigenous and native tree species that are suitable to plant in nature strips, which is where most new plantings occur in Glen Eira.



Classified Tree Local Law and Classified Tree Register

On 1 September 2020, the *Classified Tree Local Law* and *Classified Tree Register* was created. The *Register* acknowledges and documents trees on Council and private land. The *Register* is an evolving list of the most valuable and important trees in our City, and enables us to protect trees from indiscriminate damage and removal. It also ensures that current and future generations can continue to enjoy the benefits these trees offer. A total of 23 trees were added to the *Register* in 2020-21. An additional 227 nominations were received.



Did you notice the sprouting of six Little Seeds and Reads Libraries?

The libraries were developed to help us all through the recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic. They are a twist on the traditional street libraries as they not only offer books, but provide seedlings, cuttings and other gardening materials and produce for people to take and share to help our community grow. The libraries were developed in partnership with Bentmoor Men’s Shed, Carnegie and Glen Huntly Laneways, Murrumbeena Community Garden, Caulfield South Community House and Community Garden, East Bentleigh Village Community Garden and Murrumbeena Early Learning Centre.



The Rainbow Lorikeet, Noisy Miner, Rock Dove, Common Myna and Australian Magpie

were the most commonly recorded bird species in Glen Eira as part of the Aussie Backyard Bird Count.



WATER

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Commenced development of an *Integrated Water Management Plan* that sets out how we can integrate and sustainably manage water resources in Glen Eira.
- Upgraded irrigation systems at sportsgrounds with smart technology.
- Audited underground watering systems and pumps to identify and fix leaks.
- Included aeration in turf management practices.
- Participated in Elster Creek Catchment Collaboration, with one community webinar held and a new Community Advisory Panel created.
- Supported litter prevention community groups, like *Love Our Street*, by promoting their events.
- Included rainwater harvesting and water efficient fixtures in the design for the new Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool Redevelopment. A 180kL underground rainwater tank will capture rainwater from the roof.
- Stormwater management information packs provided to 71 major building works permit holders.
- Mapped accessible water bottle refill stations for all municipal and neighbourhood parks.



Almost **61%**
of water used in
2020–21 was in our
parks and reserves.



Improving the efficiency of our irrigation systems, as well as capturing and reusing water, is extremely important in a warmer and drier climate.



In 2020–21, average household water use increased by

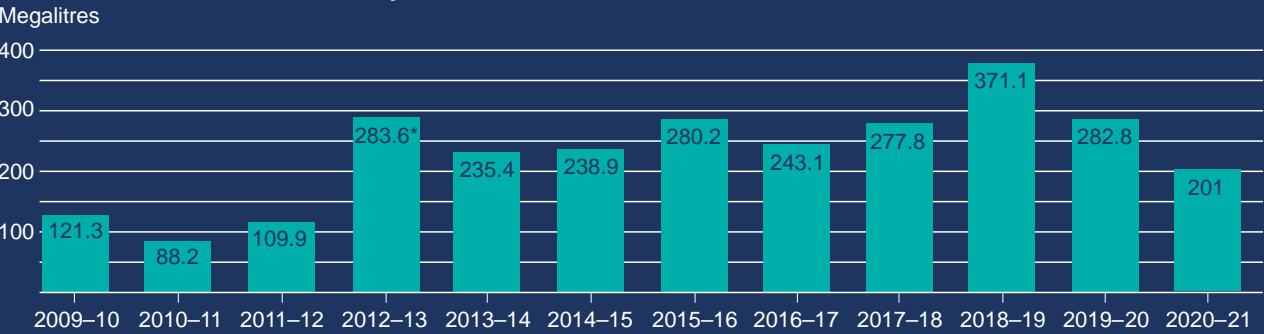
↑ 56%



The average Glen Eira household uses 498 litres of water per day which is much higher than the state target of 155 litres per person per day.

This can be attributed to more people spending more time at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council's corporate water use 2009–10 to 2020–21



Source: Glen Eira City Council

* 2012–13 increased water use attributed to the opening of Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre's swimming pools.

In 2020–21 we decreased our corporate water use by

↓ 29%

when compared with 2019–20 usage.



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

Glen Eira City Council

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and then ask for (03) 9524 3333.

Online: <https://internet-relay.nrscall.gov.au>

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Social media

Glen Eira City Council:

www.facebook.com/GlenEiraCityCouncil

@cityofgleneira:

www.instagram.com/cityofgleneira

Glen Eira arts, gallery and events:

www.facebook.com/gleneiraarts

Glen Eira Leisure:

www.facebook.com/GESAConline

<https://www.instagram.com/gleneiraleisure>

www.twitter.com/GESAConline

Glen Eira Libraries and Learning Centres:

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www.facebook.com/sustainablelivinggleneira

Glen Eira Youth Services:

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