

Strategic Action Plan

This Strategic Action Plan has been developed to support the delivery of Council's key priority areas, as outlined in the **Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-2023**.

Implementing the Action Plan will require a collaborative effort from all stakeholders including Council staff, the Stonnington community and other external partners.

The strong actions Council has committed to in this strategy will bring significant social, cultural and economic benefits to the city and its community.

While Council will continue to annually report on its progress towards the strategic priority areas outlined in this strategy, the Action Plan will be formally reviewed in 2020 to incorporate any changes to Council priorities, new technologies, systems and processes and stakeholder feedback.

Strategic priority 1: Climate change and energy

Council

<p>1.1 Maximise energy efficiency in Council buildings and facilities through design, technology, innovation and engagement.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Energy Efficiency Implementation Program Continue to deliver the Energy Efficiency Implementation Program, undertaking efficiency upgrades at Council buildings and facilities to deliver permanent energy reductions. Funds will be directed to projects that deliver the greatest energy and greenhouse gas reductions and cost savings.</p>
	<p>1.1.2 Street lighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to fund an annual program to upgrade residential and arterial street lighting to energy efficient technology. b. Engage with distribution network service providers to expand the scope of street lighting replacement options. c. Advocate to VicRoads to develop an arterial road lighting upgrade plan.
	<p>1.1.3 Public lighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Replace inefficient public space lighting in parks, gardens, other open spaces and carparks with LED luminaires and solar options. b. Continue to investigate opportunities to upgrade lighting at tennis courts and sports fields with LEDs.
	<p>1.1.4 Energy efficient appliances Develop and implement a process to ensure minimum energy efficiency standards for major or minor appliances installed and replaced in Council buildings. Additionally, identify opportunities for improving operational efficiencies of major and minor Council appliances.</p>
	<p>1.1.5 Smart technology Investigate opportunities to integrate smart technology at Council buildings and facilities, including monitoring devices, timers and sensors, to improve energy efficiency and support behaviour change and engagement.</p>
	<p>1.1.6 Maintenance upgrades Ensure that all Council building maintenance upgrades incorporate energy efficiency improvements.</p>
	<p>1.1.7 Leadership Demonstrate leadership by actively communicating Council's sustainable built environment achievements.</p>
<p>1.2 Maximise renewable energy generation opportunities across all Council buildings and facilities.</p>	<p>1.2.1 Local renewable energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to install solar PV systems on the roofs of Council owned buildings and facilities. b. Explore opportunities to trial and install battery storage at Council owned buildings and facilities.
	<p>1.2.2 Large scale renewable energy Investigate opportunities to increase renewable energy supply for Council at a local and regional scale.</p>
	<p>1.2.3 Renewable energy target Investigate an achievable renewable energy target for Council.</p>
	<p>1.2.4 Monitoring and reporting Develop a system to monitor and report on the amount of renewable energy generated and consumed on Council's solar sites.</p>

Strategic priority 1: Climate change and energy

<p>1.3 Achieve minimum Environmentally Sustainable Design standards for Council building projects.</p>	<p>1.3.1 ESD minimum standard a. Continue to integrate ESD into Council building projects. b. Develop ESD guidelines to continue to ensure all new Council building and redevelopment projects meet minimum ESD standards.</p> <p>1.3.2 ESD capacity building Develop and implement education activities that increase the capacity of Council staff to better understand and incorporate ESD principles in Council building and redevelopment projects.</p>
<p>1.4 Support development to meet minimum Environmentally Sustainable Design standards.</p>	<p>1.4.1 Local ESD Policy a. Advocate to the Victorian Government for permanent adoption of a state-wide ESD Policy into the State Planning Scheme, which ensures that the current standards within the local ESD policy are retained. b. Ensure that Council's local ESD policy is maintained through the transition to the new Planning Scheme Structure (Amendment VC148). c. Advocate to the Victorian Government to ensure that proposed stormwater management policies align with Council's local ESD policy.</p> <p>1.4.2 Meeting ESD standards Continue to ensure minimum ESD standards are realised in development projects.</p> <p>1.4.3 ESD capacity building Develop and implement education activities that increase the capacity of developers to better understand and incorporate ESD principles.</p> <p>1.4.4 Advocacy Continue to advocate for a state-wide approach to improving the sustainability of the built environment.</p> <p>1.4.5 Monitoring and reporting Develop a process to monitor and report on environmental outcomes of developments during the planning assessment, construction and post-construction phases.</p>
<p>1.5 Address climate risks to Council assets, operations and service delivery responsibilities.</p>	<p>1.5.1 Strategic planning Embed strategic planning across Council functions to plan and manage the impacts of climate change, such as storm frequency, urban heat island and peak stormwater flows, on open space, infrastructure and services.</p> <p>1.5.2 Asset management Develop a process to integrate climate change risks into asset management plans and capture trend data on asset damage and reduced lifespans from climate change impacts.</p> <p>1.5.3 Risk management Develop a process to embed climate change risks and responses in Council risk registers, strategies and plans.</p> <p>1.5.4 Capacity building Ensure Council staff have access to regular training to stay up-to-date with changing knowledge and technology in relation to adaptation and climate risks to Council assets, operations and service delivery.</p>

Strategic priority 1: Climate change and energy

1.6 Improve fleet efficiency through technology, innovation and engagement.	1.6.1 Council fleet a. Continue to review the selection criteria for purchasing Council fleet vehicles to ensure vehicles with low emissions and improved environmental performance are prioritised. b. Continue to explore opportunities to improve the ongoing efficiency of fleet operations.
	1.6.2 Low emission vehicles Continue to explore options to progressively replace Council's fleet with low emission vehicles, including electric vehicle charging infrastructure and opportunities for collaborative vehicle procurement.
	1.6.3 Minimum specifications Specify low-emission vehicle standards for new Council vehicles and plant machinery, for example EURO5 or above standards to be specified for truck and heavy vehicle tenders.
	1.6.4 Sustainable transport Continue to promote the use of sustainable transport by Council staff to travel to and from work and meetings through incentives and support.

Community

1.7 Improve the energy efficiency of homes, schools and businesses.	1.7.1 Energy efficiency support Continue to provide information and support for residents to improve energy efficiency and increase uptake of renewable energy.
	1.7.2 Local businesses Investigate options for supporting local businesses to reduce energy use.
	1.7.3 Apartment buildings Continue to support apartment buildings to innovate and network to explore energy efficiency opportunities.
	1.7.4 Sports clubs Continue to deliver education to sporting clubs on improving energy efficiency in Council owned pavilions.
1.8 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	1.8.1 Monitoring community emissions Investigate ways to report and monitor on community greenhouse gas emissions.
1.9 Transition to renewable energy.	1.9.1 Renewable energy a. Continue to support and facilitate the uptake and use of renewable energy across Stonnington. b. Investigate ways to support community and commercial renewable energy projects and develop guidelines to help clarify the process.
1.10 Prepare for the impacts of a changing climate.	1.10.1 Education Continue to educate and engage the community on the impacts of climate change.

Strategic priority 1: Climate change and energy

1.11 Transition to more sustainable modes of transport including alternative fuel, and fuel efficient vehicles, cycling and public transport.

1.11.1 Infrastructure

- a. Continue to invest in infrastructure to encourage walking and cycling, such as shared-use paths, walking trails, bicycle parking, footpaths, and dedicated cycle lanes.
- b. Support cycling networks and connections that pass through Stonnington and beyond its borders.

1.11.2 Car share

Continue to investigate ways to support and expand car sharing in Stonnington.

1.11.3 Electric vehicles

Investigate ways to support the transition to electric vehicles within the community including facilitating access to charging infrastructure.

1.11.4 Public transport

Advocate to the Victorian Government on priorities as outlined in Council's **Public Transport Advocacy statement**.

1.11.5 Strategic planning

- a. Replace Council's Sustainable Transport Strategy with an **Integrated Transport Strategy**.
- b. Review and update Council's **Cycling Strategy**.

1.11.6 Community programs

Continue to support community programs to encourage walking, cycling and public transport use.



Strategic priority 2: Resources and waste management

Council

2.1 Provide best practice waste management services.

2.1.1 Waste service improvements

Undertake a community survey every two years to improve Council waste management services and accessibility.

2.1.2 Waste Transfer Station

Ensure the existing waste transfer station is best practice and explore options to expand the range of materials that can be accepted.

2.1.3 Contracts and tenders

- a. Review and update waste and recycling clauses in relevant Council contracts and tenders to ensure best practice waste management and collection practices are included.
- b. Explore collaborative waste contract options with other councils and the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group.

2.1.4 Planning scheme

- a. Develop waste services criteria for new apartments and multi-unit dwellings, commercial and industrial development that define appropriate waste and recycling collection processes.
- b. Ensure waste management facilities are integrated into the design of new building projects.



Strategic priority 2: Resources and waste management

2.2 Avoid the production of waste and increase resource recovery.**2.2.1 Kerbside garbage collection service**

- a. Maintain Council's existing garbage collection service and continue to explore opportunities to further enhance the service.
- b. Support Stonnington residents to reduce their general waste bin from 240L to 120L.

2.2.2 Kerbside recycling collection service

Maintain Council's existing recycling service and continue to explore opportunities to further enhance the service to improve yield and quality.

2.2.3 Kerbside garden waste collection service

- a. Maintain Council's existing garden waste collection service and continue to explore opportunities to further enhance the service.
- b. Continue to promote and facilitate increased participation in Council's kerbside garden waste service.
- c. Explore options to trial the collection of food waste in Council's garden waste collection service.

2.2.4 Hard rubbish collection service

- a. Continue to review Council's existing hard rubbish collection service to ensure it is meeting the needs of the community, is cost effective and maximises reuse opportunities.
- b. Explore ways to support apartment residents to participate in Council's hard rubbish collection service.

2.2.5 Internal waste management

- a. Continue to seek ways to improve Council's waste management practices through staff engagement and access to appropriate infrastructure and waste management services.
- b. Continue to undertake annual waste audits of Council offices and develop initiatives to facilitate staff behaviour change.
- c. Provide support to build the capacity of Council office cleaners about the impacts of waste generation and improve recycling through engagement and guidelines.

2.2.6 Functions and events in Council facilities

- a. Continue to provide waste and recycling bins at Council events and activities on Council land.
- b. Develop a process to separate waste at functions including guidelines and appropriate infrastructure.
- c. Continue to explore options to collect and recycle food waste at Council events.

2.2.8 Public place recycling

- a. Continue to expand Council's public place recycling program by installing recycling bins in Stonnington shopping areas and other public areas.
- b. Investigate opportunities to increase the range of materials collected through Council's kerbside recycling service, Waste Transfer Station and recycling stations located at Service Centres, pools and libraries.
- c. Explore options to expand the location of recycling stations across Stonnington including schools and shopping centres.

2.2.9 Electronic waste

Continue to support residents to recycle electronic waste in Stonnington by expanding the range of materials collected.

2.2.10 Innovation

Continue to investigate innovative ways to reduce waste to landfill and recover resources through involvement in trials and collaborative grant opportunities.

2.3 Support the reduction of single use plastics in Stonnington.**2.3.1 Plastic wise Council**

- a. Develop and implement a program to support Council and the community to reduce the use and distribution of single use plastic items.
- b. Create awareness on the harmful effects of plastic on the environment.

Strategic priority 2: Resources and waste management

<p>2.4 Close the loop by purchasing materials and services with minimal environmental impact.</p>	<p>2.4.1 Procurement policy Continue to annually review Council's Procurement Policy to ensure best practice sustainable procurement is integrated into procurement processes.</p> <p>2.4.2 Sustainable procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to explore opportunities to ensure materials and furniture used in public realm projects meet environment and social best practice standards. b. Develop guidance for Council staff on suitable sustainable alternatives for materials and furniture used in public realm projects. c. Continue to identify opportunities to purchase recycled materials to be used in Council operations, where suitable alternatives are available. d. Assess environmental and social risks and opportunities for Council procurement to identify opportunities to incorporate best practice sustainability considerations. <p>2.4.3 Tenders and contracts Develop a process to ensure that all Council tender and contract agreements include sustainability criteria and specifications.</p> <p>2.4.4 Staff engagement and training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop a formal sustainable procurement engagement and communication plan for Council staff and external stakeholders. b. Develop a training plan to build the capacity of Council staff to incorporate sustainability into purchasing decisions. <p>2.4.5 Monitoring Review sustainable procurement reporting metrics and tracking processes to assess effectiveness of progress and identify areas for improvement.</p> <p>2.4.6 Trial projects Research and, where appropriate, implement new and innovative sustainable materials, products and services.</p> <p>2.4.7 Corporate paper use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Explore opportunities to improve Council work efficiency and reduce paper consumption through IT systems and technology. b. Implement education and behaviour change programs to increase the capacity of staff to reduce waste and paper usage.
<p>2.5 Advocate for improved waste management infrastructure and programs.</p>	<p>2.5.1 Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to advocate to the State Government for improved waste management outcomes for Council and the community. b. Support and participate in initiatives and opportunities that advocate for reduced packaging, resource recovery opportunities and improved litter management. c. Advocate to the Victorian Government for improvements to waste management infrastructure at public housing sites.



Strategic priority 2: Resources and waste management

Community

2.6 Reduce the level of contamination in kerbside recycling to be less than the metropolitan Melbourne average.	2.6.1 Kerbside recycling service Develop a program to regularly inspect and monitor kerbside bins to encourage correct use of bins and avoid recycling contamination.
	2.6.2 Education and engagement a. Continue to undertake annual kerbside waste and recycling audits to tailor education and engagement activities. b. Continue to educate and engage the community on correct recycling practices through events, programs and communication materials.
2.7 Avoid the production of waste and increase the diversion of materials from landfill.	2.7.1 Education and engagement Continue to educate and engage the community to reduce waste through events, programs and communication materials
	2.7.2 Local businesses Work with local businesses to improve waste management practices and reduce waste to landfill.
	2.7.3 Sports pavilions Engage with local clubs to improve waste management practices at sports pavilions.
	2.7.4 Planning scheme Review planning controls to ensure waste separation systems in multi-unit developments meet best practice.
2.8 Increase the diversion of food waste from landfill.	2.8.1 Organic waste a. Continue to engage and support the community, including apartment buildings, to recycle food and garden waste on-site through programs and education. b. Engage with local businesses to explore options for diverting food waste in cafes and other outlets from the general waste stream. c. Investigate opportunities to support communal composting in Stonnington. See also Action 2.2.3 (c)
2.9 Choose materials, goods and services that have minimal environmental impact.	2.9.1 Community education and engagement Continue to educate and engage the community on choosing materials, goods and services that have minimal environmental impacts.
2.10 Engage with waste management programs and services, local to Stonnington.	2.10.1 Communications and engagement a. Develop a communications strategy to educate and engage the community on waste management, waste avoidance and reuse. b. Develop communications materials in relevant community languages to engage CALD community groups.



Strategic priority 3: Integrated water management

Council

<p>3.1 Maximise water efficiency in Council buildings, facilities, sports grounds and open spaces through design, technology and innovation.</p>	<p>3.1.1 Water efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Undertake an assessment of potential water efficiency opportunities at Council buildings and facilities and develop a plan to implement improvements that deliver permanent water reductions and minimise use of potable water. b. Undertake a review of Council's current irrigation practices for sports grounds and open spaces and implement improvements to meet industry best practice. <p>3.1.2 Appliances and fittings</p> <p>Ensure minimum water efficiency standards for major and minor appliances and fittings are specified and selected for Council buildings and new Council building projects.</p> <p>3.1.3 Smart technology</p> <p>Investigate opportunities to integrate smart technology at Council buildings, facilities, sports grounds and open spaces including monitoring devices, timers and sensors, to improve water efficiency and support behaviour change and engagement.</p> <p>3.1.4 Building maintenance</p> <p>Ensure that all maintenance upgrades support water efficiency improvements.</p> <p>3.1.5 Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to assess and implement improvements to Council's water data management process. b. Advocate to water authorities to develop and implement smart metering and monitoring technologies for water consumption.
<p>3.2 Install and maintain Water Sensitive Urban Design treatments throughout the city.</p>	<p>3.2.1 WSUD infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to identify and implement opportunities to include WSUD infrastructure e.g. raingardens, tree pits, structural soils and strata cells, for road and streetscape renewal projects and major precinct redevelopment projects. b. Continue to investigate opportunities to include best practice WSUD and integrated water management principles within capital works projects. c. Develop a process to ensure all WSUD infrastructure is registered and maintained to Council and Melbourne Water best practice maintenance guidelines. <p>3.2.2 Capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to engage and develop staff understanding of integrated water management, water sensitive urban design and water conservation principles. b. Develop and incorporate standardised specifications and drawings that ensure Council achieves best practice design for new and existing trees in infrastructure upgrades. <p>3.2.3 Drought tolerant plants</p> <p>Continue to identify opportunities to plant drought tolerant species in Council parks, gardens, streets and projects where appropriate.</p>
<p>3.3 Achieve minimum Water Sensitive Urban Design standards for Council building projects.</p>	<p>3.3.1 WSUD standard</p> <p>Ensure all new Council building and redevelopment projects meet minimum ESD and WSUD standards aligned with Council's requirements of private developments through the WSUD Local Planning Policy.</p> <p>3.3.2 WSUD capacity building</p> <p>Develop and implement education activities that increase the capacity of Council staff to better understand and incorporate WSUD principles in Council building and redevelopment projects.</p>

Strategic priority 3: Integrated water management

3.4 Support development to meet minimum Water Sensitive Urban Design standards.	3.4.1 Meeting WSUD standards Continue to ensure minimum WSUD standards are realised in development projects.
	3.4.2 WSUD capacity building Develop and implement education activities that increase the capacity of developers to better understand and incorporate WSUD principles.
3.5 Increase the collection and use of non-potable water.	3.5.1 Water assets Undertake a review of Council's water management and capture assets and where possible, implement improvements to meet industry best practice.
3.6 Improve the health of local waterways.	3.6.1 Collaborative partnerships a. Support state government strategic planning initiatives to protect and enhance the Yarra River. b. Explore opportunities to partner with neighbouring councils and water authorities to protect and manage local waterways.

Community

3.7 Use water more efficiently.	3.7.1 Community engagement Continue to educate and engage the community to reduce water use through events, programs and communication materials.
3.8 Help improve the health of local waterways.	3.8.1 Community engagement Continue to educate and engage the community to reduce water pollution through events, programs and communication materials.



Strategic priority 4: Urban environment

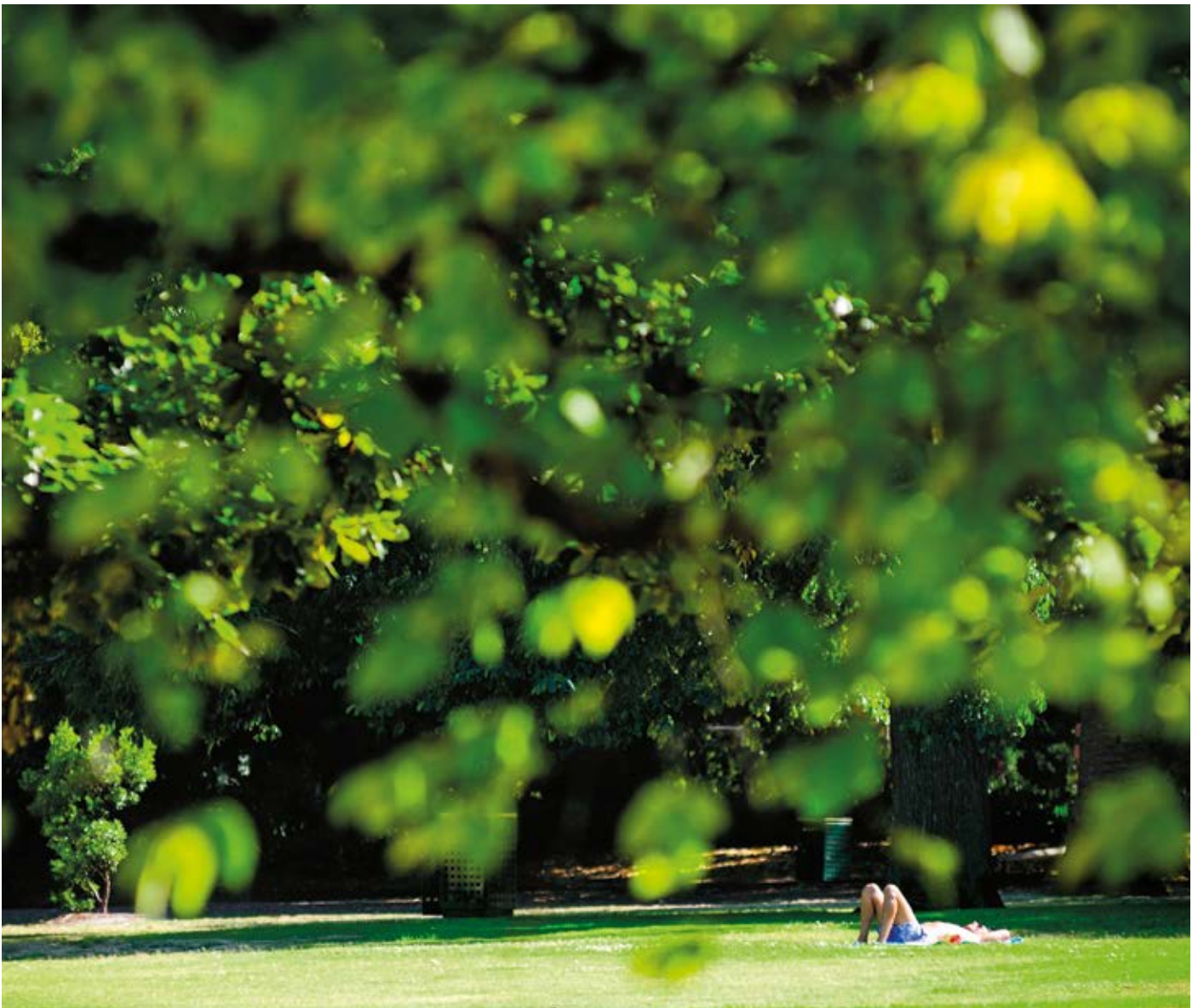
Council

<p>4.1 Protect, maintain and enhance areas of natural environment throughout the City.</p>	<p>4.1.1 Enhance the natural environment a. Continue to undertake revegetation activities in Council's seven key biodiversity sites to enhance biodiversity. b. Continue to investigate ways to enhance biodiversity in the public realm including the integration of indigenous plants, habitat hollows and nesting boxes in parks, gardens and streetscapes.</p> <p>4.1.2 Community engagement Continue to run school, community and Council staff tree planting days to enhance biodiversity in Stonnington parks and gardens.</p> <p>4.1.3 Green corridors a. Complete and maintain the Yarra River Biodiversity Project to improve habitat connectivity and water quality and provide recreational and educational opportunities for the community. b. Complete and maintain the Scotchmans Creek revegetation project to improve habitat connectivity and water quality. c. Develop and implement a revegetation and biodiversity enhancement project along Gardiners Creek.</p> <p>4.1.4 Biodiversity monitoring Develop and implement a biodiversity monitoring program to track and promote biodiversity improvements across the city.</p> <p>4.1.5 Weed control Continue to explore options to efficiently, effectively and safely manage weeds including the safe use of approved chemicals.</p>
<p>4.2 Manage the urban forest to ensure a cool, healthy and liveable city.</p>	<p>4.2.1 Urban Forest Strategy a. Support the implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy. b. Investigate controls within the Planning Scheme to support the desired outcomes of the Urban Forest Strategy.</p> <p>4.2.2 Capacity Building Collaborate with relevant Council staff to refine the design and construction process for tree infrastructure assets.</p>
<p>4.3 Integrate green infrastructure throughout the municipality.</p>	<p>4.3.1 Green infrastructure Identify and scope opportunities for trial green infrastructure projects throughout the municipality including on Council buildings, in city carparks and on local streets.</p>
<p>4.4 Grow the urban forest by planting 250,000 plants and trees throughout the municipality over the next five years.</p>	<p>4.4.1 Tree planting Continue to deliver and expand Council's annual tree planting program across parks, gardens, city streets and waterway regeneration projects.</p>

Strategic priority 4: Urban environment

Community

<p>4.5 Integrate green infrastructure in developments.</p>	<p>4.5.1 Green infrastructure Identify and develop processes to support the implementation of green infrastructure by developers.</p>
<p>4.6 Increase connection and engagement in Council's natural environment.</p>	<p>4.6.1 Nature connection Continue to increase community connection and engagement with the natural environment by integrating furniture and rest areas into landscape and revegetation projects.</p>
	<p>4.6.2 Communications Develop and implement a communications campaign to promote the benefits of nature, raise awareness of the benefit of trees and encourage the community to protect existing trees on private land.</p>
<p>4.7 Improve habitat on private land for native wildlife.</p>	<p>4.7.1 Biodiversity in backyards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop and implement a program to encourage biodiversity and habitat gardening on private land. b. Continue to support sustainable gardening practices within Stonnington through events and information.



Strategic priority 5: Education, engagement and collaboration

Council

5.1 Integrate sustainability into Council services, functions and decision-making processes.	5.1.1 Policies and plans Continue to integrate environmental considerations into Council's policies, plans and decision-making.
	5.1.2 Capacity building Continue to build the capacity of staff to assist them to deliver sustainability outcomes in their roles within Council.
	5.1.3 Council leadership Continue to drive organisational change and implement Council's sustainability commitments through Council staff, senior management and Council.
5.2 Monitor, evaluate and publicly report on Council's progress towards achieving its sustainability objectives and targets.	5.2.1 Annual reporting Continue to publicly report annually on Council's environmental performance and achievements.
	5.2.2 Data management system Continue to investigate opportunities to improve data management and capture of Council's key sustainability indicators.
5.3 Develop and strengthen partnerships with relevant external stakeholders to advance sustainability.	5.3.1 Partnerships <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support local community groups and activities to empower and engage the wider community. Continue to investigate opportunities to work with key external stakeholders to deliver outcomes associated with Council's key strategic priority areas as outlined in this strategy. Explore options to join state, national and global sustainability programs that contribute to Council's leadership and sustainability commitments.
	5.3.2 Collaboration <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to collaborate and partner with other local governments within Melbourne on sustainability projects. Continue to investigate opportunities to work collaboratively with Distribution Network Service Providers to identify energy efficiency initiatives to improve electricity network reliability and community resilience. Continue to collaborate with other metropolitan councils to support innovation and sustainability in apartment buildings.
5.4 Support staff action and behaviour change through environmental education and engagement.	5.4.1 Internal engagement Continue to engage with Council staff through sustainability programs and activities to support staff action and behaviour change.

Strategic priority 5: Education, engagement and collaboration

Community

5.5 Reduce its environmental impact through environmental education and engagement.**5.5.1 Communication**

Continue to engage and educate the community on sustainability through information, news, events and programs.

5.5.2 Culturally and linguistically diverse community

Develop material and education resources for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups on a range of sustainability topics.

5.5.3 Vulnerable communities

Build the capacity of Home and Community Care (HACC) staff to engage with vulnerable communities on energy efficiency and heatwave preparedness.

5.5.4 Green schools

Continue to investigate opportunities to develop and expand Council's Green Schools Program.

5.5.5 Community sustainability

- a. Continue to explore ways to support community sustainability action, including through grants, education and volunteering activities.
- b. Continue to explore opportunities to work with owners corporations and residents of apartment buildings to improve sustainability on-site.
- c. Continue to explore opportunities to support local businesses to improve sustainability through education and support.
- d. Continue to deliver a series of environmental events to support and advance sustainability action.
- e. Develop a program to work with local real estate agents and owners corporations to provide sustainability information to new tenants and new home owners.

