



Section A: NOW - established strategies and actions

● complete/ ongoing
 ● pending
 ● not complete
 ● no longer applicable



(Note - some of the Department names and responsibilities have changed since changed since the organisation structure changes in May 2021)

Ref	Strategy / action	Supports these sustainability outcomes	Responsible Departments	Status	Comments
A1	Continue to retrofit Council and community buildings with energy and water-efficient features as appropriate and within budget limits.	Reduced use of potable water Adapting to climate change and peak oil More renewable energy Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Built Infrastructure	●	Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy for Council Buildings and Infrastructure endorsed in February 2021 to guide refurbishments, renovations and new builds of Council and community assets. Ongoing maintenance of these assets seek opportunities to improve energy and water ratings of appliances and fixtures as business-as-usual. Major building capital works upgrades and new-builds already include ESD features.
A2	Continue to invest in renewable energy, water efficiency, climate risk adaptation and energy efficiency for all of Council assets as part of the capital works program.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure	Built Infrastructure	●	\$100, 000 annual funding has been committed for sustainable energy initiatives, \$50,000 every two years for sustainable water initiatives and \$100,000 every two years for climate change risk adaptation between 2016/17 and 2020/21. All new buildings are designed and constructed in line with ESD considerations, where applicable and financially viable. Preference is given to ecologically friendly goods and services, wherever practicable.
A3	Continue to provide rebates for residents who purchase solar photovoltaic panels, solar hot water systems, water tanks, grey water systems and home composting products.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure Informed and resilient community Lower cost of living products	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	Council's solar PV rebates have been discontinued as State Government rebates are now available. Council rebates were provided until 2018/19. Councils' home composting rebate has now been revised to an incentive model via the Compost Revolution initiative from 1 July 2021.




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A4	Continue to use Council's building Environmentally Sustainable Design checklist and Environmentally Sustainable Design guidelines to construct and retrofit Council's building projects.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Built Infrastructure		<p>ESD Policy for Council Buildings and Infrastructure endorsed in February 2021 to guide refurbishments, renovations and new builds of Council and community assets as per Action-A1. This includes a transition phase, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects already scoped with budget allocated in the Capital Works annual program until 30 June 2022 - All efforts should be made to reach the ESD requirements outlined in the Policy, however flexibility may be required. If any discretion is to be made, a best-value approach based on a sound business case is suggested to justify what ESD measures can reasonably be included. Projects that are yet to be scoped (e.g. feasibility studies, business cases or early stages of concept design etc) and all projects from 1 July 2022 - Must meet the ESD requirements in the Policy, where applicable.
A5	Provide occupants of Council's leased buildings with information on energy and water efficiency, waste management, and sustainable grants and rebates.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure	Engineering & Environmental Services		<p>Ongoing advice is offered as requested, including utility management. Two energy audit programs have been completed to provide advise on how sporting clubs can improve their energy efficiencies and reduce utility costs via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAGA's Save it for the Game (2017, 2 sporting clubs engaged). Sustainability Victoria's Community Climate Change and Energy Action Program, Stream 1 Energy Audit (2022 in progress, 2 sporting clubs engaged).

A6	<p>Support the effective implementation of the ESD Policy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing applicants information resources and workshops. • Continue Planning Officer training and resourcing to assess the <i>Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP).framework</i>. • Monitoring the number of planning permits reviewed and how many went through the SDAPP process. 	<p>Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure</p> <p>Easy to walk or cycle</p> <p>More renewable energy</p> <p>Lower cost of living</p>	Planning & Building	<p>●</p> <p>Council continues to contract an Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) consultant to serve as Council's ESD Officer.</p> <p>Council's ESD Officer provides fundamental support to assist development applications, via the planning permit application and approvals process, to comply with Council's ESD Policy.</p> <p>Council's ESD Officer provides assistance to Council's Statutory and Strategic Planning Officers, Enforcement Officers, as well as, officers within the Sustainability and Waste team on ESD related and planning scheme matters.</p> <p>Council's ESD Officer also supports Planning Officers and delegated personnel with technical, ESD, matters that are heard before VCAT to advocate and ensure beneficial outcomes for Council and the community.</p> <p>Council's ESD Officer, with the support of Council's Planning Officers, have undertaken the collective review of the following amounts of ESD Referrals, in which Council's ESD Policy and the Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP) framework was applied to planning permit applications, on an annual basis: FY17/18, 218 referrals; FY18/19, 291 referrals; FY19/20, 381 referrals; and FY20/21, 256 referrals.</p> <p>Council continues to support the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) and the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) tool which is used to assist assessing planning permit applications from an ESD perspective and with regard to the SDAPP framework. Council has maintained its ongoing membership of CASBE and subscription to BESS from inception and attends regular meetings regarding CASBE's and BESS's ongoing development, industry updates and improvements.</p> <p>The advice from industry experts was sought to provide training and education on new State government Integrated Water Management requirements and their applicability to the planning framework. The training involved Council Planning Officers and Management detailing respective requirements.</p> <p>Council officers have continued to update ESD content on its webpage to inform industry and the development community on statutory planning framework changes, where required. This is also provided to best inform</p>
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					<p>the community on council's design requirements and expectations with regard to ESD and Integrated Water Management.</p> <p>Council Planning and ESD Officers have continued to promote the strong uptake of the energy efficiency hierarchy within development via the planning permit application process as a method to support towards zero carbon development. This has included encouraging development to include solar photovoltaic systems on large scale development applications that have a significant environmental impact and ecological footprint and that would benefit from the use of such systems.</p>
A7	Periodically review Council's Land-use Planning and approval procedures to take into consideration the impacts of climate change, carbon neutrality and peak oil.	<p>Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure</p> <p>Adapting to climate change and peak oil</p>	Planning & Building	●	<p>Council officers have worked collaboratively with other councils to ensure that the ESD Policy does not expire given its former sunset clause. DELWP were successfully petitioned by Council officers to amend such sunset clause and for the ESD Policy to continue to apply until it is superseded by a State ESD Policy.</p> <p>Council has supported, with the involvement of Council officers, to serve as a part of the Elevating ESD Targets Planning Policy Amendment project. The project, which includes 30 other Councils and CASBE, aims to deliver elevated ESD requirements within the planning scheme and further encourage zero carbon development. The intention is for a collective group of councils to pursue a joint, planning scheme amendment, to incorporate respective changes. Such changes will also improve and strengthen Council's statutory position through updating its existing ESD Policy requirements.</p> <p>Council officers continue to work with DELWP officers to provide technical support and input on the State ESD Policy and potential National Construction Code (NCC) 2022 Victorian variation changes regarding energy efficiency.</p>

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A8	Continue to promote the use of sustainable forms of transport by a range of actions in Council's Integrated Transport, Road Safety and Cycling strategies.	Better access to and use of public transport Easy to walk or cycle	Engineering & Environmental Services		<p>Delivery of cycling confidence and skills courses for adults and teenage girls.</p> <p>Promoted sustainable transport options for school children through Bike It!, Walk to School Month, Transit, supporting Bike Ed Teacher Training, and school travel planning.</p> <p>Updated Council's Travelsmart Map, which highlights walking, cycling and public transport options in the municipality.</p>
A9	Continue to advocate to State and Federal Government agencies for the improvement of public transport infrastructure and better integration between the various forms of public transport.	Better access to and use of public transport	Engineering & Environmental Services		<p>As a member of the Eastern Transport Coalition, Council has advocated for better services on the Belgrave/Lilydale train line and improved bus services and infrastructure.</p> <p>Council was on the working group for the Box Hill Transport Interchange Steering Committee which gave its final report in 2019.</p> <p>Council adopted the Box Hill Integrated Transport Strategy (2020). It identifies a range of actions to improve transport options for the Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre.</p> <p>Council continues to advocate for better public transport outcomes and integration with major transport projects such as North East Link, Level Crossing Removal Projects (Blackburn, Heatherdale and Mont Albert/Surrey Hills) and Suburban Rail Loop.</p>

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A10	Continue to invest in infrastructure to encourage walking and cycling, such as shared-use paths, walking trails, bicycle storage units, footpaths, and dedicated cycle lanes.	Easy to walk or cycle Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Council has been actively involved in the design and advocacy for other new paths, such as the remaining sections of the Pipe Track, the Box Hill to Ringwood shared user path, and upgrades to the Gardiners Creek Trail.</p> <p>Council has been improving the safety of existing on road bike lanes and bike routes, with partial funding from the TAC's Local Government Grants of Small Scale Infrastructure for Cyclist and Pedestrian Projects.</p> <p>Council has completed the first stage of the Pipe Track shared user path in Burwood East.</p> <p>Council adopted the Box Hill Integrated Transport Strategy (2020) which identifies a range of actions to improve transport options for the Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre. Improvements to the safety and amenity for walking and cycling are a key focus of this strategy. Recent pedestrian upgrades have been completed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station St/Bank St, Box Hill • Station St/Harrow St, Box Hill • Cambridge St/Thurston St, Box Hill • Prospect St/Nelson Rd, Box Hill

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A11	Continue to use Water Sensitive Urban Design principles in the design and construction of infrastructure such as drains, roads, car parks, parks and buildings.	Improved water quality of local creeks and waterways Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Engineering & Environmental Services Built Infrastructure Arts & Recreation		<p>To further Council's efforts in integrating Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles into the development, refurbishment and maintenance of its assets, Officers are currently in the process of finalising a draft Integrated Water Management Strategy (IWMS) to better support water management practices in the City of Whitehorse and consider all aspects of the water cycle.</p> <p>The draft Strategy includes targets to measure our performance and a 5-year implementation plan that sets out clear actions toward achieving our vision. The Strategy reiterates working collaboratively with internal and external organisations, traditional owners and IWM forum partners in achieving these outcomes. The strategy will be presented by EOFY 2021/22 for Council's consideration and endorsement.</p> <p>Council has delivered infrastructure projects integrating WSUD principles. Refer to Action-B8.</p> <p>Council adopted its ESD Policy for Council Buildings and Infrastructure in 2021 (Refer to Action-A4). This incorporates WSUD principles, supporting Project teams to identify potential WSUD solutions for their particular project where applicable.</p>
A12	Periodically review Council's storm water management plan to enhance the use of water sensitive urban design, storm water reuse, and water-efficient infrastructure.	Improved water quality of local creeks and waterways Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Engineering & Environmental Services		<p>Council is currently completing flood modelling of stormwater infrastructure and overland flows. Completed modelling will inform the review of the current Stormwater Asset Management Plan.</p> <p>The new Stormwater Asset Management Plan will follow in due course.</p>
A13	Continue to install gross litter devices and similar that would provide best capture of litter in strategic locations as required.	Improved water quality of local creeks and waterways	Engineering & Environmental Services		<p>Subject to an appropriate site, gross pollutant traps (GPTs) have been periodically installed via the Storm Water Management Initiatives Program. The last GPT was installed in Woods Street, Nunawading by Council.</p> <p>Due to services and hierarchy of road, opportunities and suitable locations for potential GPTs are limited due to space restrictions.</p>

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A14	Continue to implement the Whitehorse Tree Education Program, which raises the awareness of the benefit of trees, promotes planting of new trees, and encourages the protection of existing trees on private land.	Healthy and diverse parks and local vegetation	Engineering & Environmental Services Planning & Building Arts & Recreation	●	Council's Tree Education Program continues to provide resources, advice and education to the community and promotes the environmental, economic and aesthetic value of trees. Since the commencement of the COVID-19 pandemic, seminars have been delivered online to ensure that community engagement is maintained. Tree education material is available on Council's website.
A15	Continue to manage and monitor the quality of our native vegetation through the Whitehorse Bushland Reserves – Bushland Management Framework (2012).	Healthy and diverse parks and local vegetation	ParksWide	●	In September 2021, Council endorsed the Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) 2021-31. The UFS has an accompanying implementation and action plan which sets out the actions Council will take to achieve its urban forest vision, 'a diverse, healthy and resilient urban forest' and work towards increasing its tree canopy cover to 30% in Whitehorse by 2050.
A16	Continue to collect and propagate indigenous seeds and plants for all of Council's revegetation works through the Council's nursery.	Healthy and diverse parks and local vegetation	ParksWide	●	Local provenance indigenous seeds and vegetative material are collected for propagation. Council staff hold a current licence for collection, and collection areas are mapped to build knowledge base and ensure genetic diversity.
A17	Continue to implement Council's Procurement Policy which encourages the purchase of goods and services that are ecologically sustainable.	Effective governance and corporate programs Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	All	●	The ecological sustainability of goods and services is weighted within the decision making process for all purchases, in line with the Procurement Policy 2021-25. Recent examples include the purchase of energy efficient lighting, solar lighting in parks and the use of recycled plastic for furniture. For further examples, refer to Action-A29. Council has progressively explored opportunities to diversify how it procures electricity for its Council and community assets. Along with 45 other local councils, from July 2021 Council has commenced purchasing 100% renewable electricity generated by Victorian windfarms for 6 sites (22% of its total electricity requirements) via a joint procurement project, Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO).

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A18	Continue to consider sustainability criteria in Tender and Contract Agreements and service supply agreements including and not limited to Ecological Sustainable Design Guidelines and Checklists for Capital Works.	Effective governance and corporate programs Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Engineering & Environmental Services Finance & Corporate Performance		<p>The Procurement Policy 2021-25 supports environmentally sustainable purchasing principles, including actively pursuing the use of products that have recycled content, and are manufactured locally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the procurement of professional consultants (i.e. Architects or Engineers) their experience in designing and incorporating ESD principles into design is an important factor and in some cases a weighted criteria. When contractors suggest alternative products to Council's Specification, Officers investigate the alternative against its sustainable requirements (eg. percentage of recycled content), quality and durability. <p>During the procurement of contractors, the contractors experience in implementing designs which heavily feature ESD is considered and in some cases is a weighted criteria.</p> <p>There is now a mandatory weighted criteria of 5% for sustainable practices and outcomes across all tender evaluations. This has resulted in all of our capital and major works construction projects having a sustainable component to the construction.</p>
A19	Continue to report on the various Council and community sustainability achievements in Council's Annual Report.	Effective governance and corporate programs	All		<p>Council's Annual Report has addressed Measures of Success (KPIs) for the Council Plan 2017-21, including Strategic Direction 2: Maintain and enhance our built environment to ensure a liveable and sustainable city. Council's current Council Plan 2021-25, reflects the Whitehorse Community Vision 2040, where Strategic Directions 5 is "Sustainable Climate and Environmental Care." Future Annual Reports should address identified and reportable KPIs.</p> <p>Many teams are required to report on their sustainability achievements as part of this process: including Planning and Building; Engineering & Investments; City Services (previously City Works); Major Projects and Facilities Maintenance.</p>

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A20	Continue to share best practice and coordinate advocacy to Federal and State government by actively participating with organisations such as ALGA, MAV, EAGA, Behaviour Change Network, and the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group.	Effective governance and corporate programs	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Council Officers and Councillor representatives are active members of these groups, where advocacy activities are coordinated.</p> <p>For example, the Eastern Alliance for Green House Action (EAGA) where Whitehorse is one of eight member councils deliver an annual Advocacy Plan to bring attention to local solutions and call for action to address the impacts of climate change and reduce GHG emissions.</p>
A21	As part of Council's EAGA membership, implement the agreed annual priority projects for energy-efficiency, renewable energy, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and adaptation to climate change. Project examples may include solar savers, Ecodriver, voltage-optimisation, working with energy distributors, and adapting buildings to climate change impacts.	<p>Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure</p> <p>Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices</p> <p>Adapting to climate change</p>	Engineering & Environmental Services.	●	<p>In June 2021, Council endorsed its committed to participate in EAGA by signing its Memorandum of Understanding 2021-25.</p> <p>Council continues to work collaboratively within the EAGA framework by delivering the agreed annual Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Recent project achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Council's 2-Year Energy Performance Contract project. • Collaboration with 45 other Victorian Councils to purchase 100% renewable electricity via a long -term power purchase agreement. • Development of a regional ESD Policy of Council Buildings and Infrastructure, where from there Council endorsed its own Policy (Refer to Action-A1). • Implementation of its Regional Climate Change Adaptation Road Map. <p>EAGA's focus for FY 2021/22 has included to date: Development of its Community Net Zero Emissions Strategy; delivery of its Business Energy Saver Program; and Recycled Content for Council Infrastructure Project.</p> <p>Council Officer representation on the Steering Committee and Councillor representation on the Executive Committee has been maintained.</p>



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A22	Continue to improve the sustainability awareness and capabilities of Council staff through the induction program, ECO-Buy e-Learning tool and Staff EcoLeaders.	Effective governance and corporate programs	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Sustainability initiatives and suggested staff actions have been included in Council's staff induction program previously before it was reformatted.</p> <p>Staff intranet and online induction is now extensively utilised, where information is available for staff to access Council's sustainability strategies and initiatives.</p> <p>Council no longer reports its annual sustainable procurement data under the ECO-Buy framework, due to the lack of industry benchmarking.</p> <p>Council's staff EcoLeader program is currently on hold due to the impacts of COVID and need to review its existing format.</p>



A23	Continue to provide community programs on relevant sustainability topics; practical activities such as gardening, cycling skills, bushland walks, tours of recycling facilities etc.; online and written information resources; and special interest community groups such as Sustainability Street.	Informed and resilient community Lower cost of living	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Community programs and workshops are delivered through a range of avenues including: the Tree Education Program; Cyclewise courses; Parkswide education programs; the annual Sustainable Living Week program; and the annual Smarter Living program in partnership with Manningham City Council.</p> <p>Annual Sustainable Living Week program</p> <p>Council's annual Sustainable Living Week (SLW) program is a flagship initiative to encourage those who work, live and play in Whitehorse to integrate sustainable practices into their activities. The SLW program of events verify each year with keynote speakers, practical workshops and activities.</p> <p>SLW continued to grow in attendance levels pre-COVID, from around 500 people attending in 2016 to around 2,000 people in 2019 (the last program before COVID-19 restrictions were in place). The program was able to swiftly adapt to COVID-19 restrictions in 2020 by moving to an online month-long program of workshops, which were well attended virtually.</p> <p>Council has strived to engage with a diverse audience, delivering a number of Sustainable Living Week workshops directly to local culturally and linguistically diverse community groups in their own native language, and adapted to their needs.</p> <p>Evaluation from the events have been consistently positive, with the key note event as part of the 2021 program having 100% of attendees rate the event as excellent or good on the post-event survey, and 77% of attendees responding that they were likely to put into practice some of the ideas from the talk</p> <p>More recently, Council has partnered with Australian Energy Foundation (AEF) to provide residents and businesses accessible information on how they can be more energy efficient. Refer to Action-B22.</p> <p>In addition, Council has redeveloped the Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct (launched December 2021) to develop a vibrant sustainability and healthy living precinct for the community. Refer to Action-A34.</p>
A24	Continue to provide support to local schools including Council's participation in EASL through a variety of programs and projects such	Informed and resilient community	Engineering & Environmental Services ParksWide	●	<p>Parkswide Nursery staff have provided guidance on the selection of appropriate species and facilitate donations of up to \$200 worth of native plants and trees for school plantings.</p>



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	as Parkswide education program, classroom talks, visits to recycling facilities, support to participate in the Sustainable Schools program, sustainable transport programs and recycling/waste reduction projects.				<p>Previously, the Blackburn Lake Visitor Centre provided incursion and excursion programs for schools within the Whitehorse municipality. Council's involvement in the Eastern Alliance for Sustainable Learning (EASL) has progressed with the following highlights:</p> <p>2020/21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully tendered to deliver the ResourceSmart Schools program for the eastern metropolitan region to 124 pre-, primary and secondary schools. • Delivered the EASL Learning for Sustainability Conference – 117 online attendees • Delivered four professional development sessions attended by 36 education providers <p>2019/20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered the EASL Learning for Sustainability Conference – 235 attendees • Delivered two professional development sessions attended by 26 education providers <p>2018/19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented Tour of Eastern Waste Facilities <p>2017/18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered Four professional development sessions attended by 43 education providers • Delivered a Leadership Conference to 55 students <p>Council also supports local schools to participate in Victorian schools programs such as kitchen garden scheme, sustainable water & energy program, and Resource Smart.</p>




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A25	Continue to run the annual Whitehorse Sustainability Awards that showcase households, businesses, individuals and groups that have undertaken noteworthy sustainability programs or projects in Whitehorse.	All sustainability outcomes	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>The annual Whitehorse Sustainability Awards was delivered until 2016. In 2017, a review of the Awards was completed, and a sustainability section was instead considered as part of the annual Whitehorse Community Grants program.</p> <p>Recognition of local sustainability achievements now features in Whitehorse News stories, Sustainable Living Week and various Council communication outlets. The Built Environment Sustainability Awards program continued on a bi-annual basis until being put on hold due to COVID impacts.</p>
A26	Continue to run sustainability workshops for businesses as part of the annual Sustainable Living Week program and Boost Your Business program.	<p>A mix of local businesses and jobs</p> <p>Informed and resilient community</p> <p>Lower cost of living</p>	Investment & Economic Development Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>The annual Sustainable Living Week program includes events that support businesses to be more sustainable, including waste and energy education. In 2021/22, Council is promoting EAGA's Business Energy Saver Program (Refer to Action-C12) and AEF's service to audit business premises and provide energy efficiency recommendations. Due to COVID impacts, engaging businesses during this period has been limited due to competing priorities.</p>
A27	Continue to run the <i>Think Local, Buy Local</i> campaign to encourage residents to purchase goods and services locally.	<p>A mix of local businesses and jobs</p> <p>Adapting to climate change and peak oil</p>	Investment & Economic Development	●	<p>This program is being used to encourage sustainable purchasing practices and complemented the GreenMoney initiative (ceased 2019) to encourage and reward sustainable living practices in Whitehorse.</p> <p>The Procurement Policy 2021-2025 contains a tender evaluation criteria for local content and 'shop local' promotion formed part of the post-COVID business recovery program in 2021.</p>
A28	Continue to promote sustainable gardening and composting / worm farms through the Council website, Whitehorse Leader, Whitehorse News, workshops and event and other relevant media platforms.	<p>Reduced waste to landfill</p> <p>Improved access to local food</p>	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Sustainable gardening practices are promoted via a range of media platforms including Council's website, monthly sustainability e-newsletter (1600+ subscribers) and Council's Sustainable Living in Whitehorse Facebook page (1000+ followers).</p>

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A29	Continue to use Council's Engineering Design and Construction Environmental Guidelines which require sustainability to be considered in the design and construction of Council's roads, drains and other civil works. This includes the specification and use of recycled-content asphalt, crushed rock, geotextile fabric and other items as standard for Council projects.	Reduced waste to landfill Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Engineering & Environmental Services City Works	●	<p>Council continues to specify 20% Recycled Asphalt Products (RAP) for Council's road resurfacing program inclusive of looking at other alternative products. Some products that have been used include: 30% and 40% RAP, Warm Mix Asphalt, Glassphalt, Tonerpave (made from recycled toner cartridges), and Reconophalt (mixture of recycled materials) and PolyPave (a new sustainable asphalt product containing recycled plastic, glass and asphalt).</p> <p>With Civil Works, Council continues to specify and use recycled crushed concrete as a substitute for crush rock for our kerb and channel, footpath and vehicle crossing bases.</p> <p>Where appropriate and fit for purpose, consideration has been given to the use of recycled products such as plastic and modwood. Recycled plastic has been used for totems for signage and modwood has been used as a substitute for timber slats on seats.</p> <p>Council continues to seek opportunities to trial new recycled materials with industry partners. In 2020/21, Council (led by City Services) partnered with RMIT, Boral and the Office of Project Victoria (OPV) with funding from Sustainability Victoria on a project to develop a more sustainable concrete product that can be used for footpaths and kerb and channel. This has led to the Smartcrete project, where Council is scheduled to commence field trials from early 2022.</p>
A30	Continue to offer the community a range of incentives to reduce waste to landfill and to increase resource recovery and recycling. These include battery recycling, light globe recycling, electronic waste (TV's & computers), scrap metal recycling, discounted garden waste recycling and recycling of paper, cardboard and other recyclable items.	Reduced waste to landfill Lower cost of living	Engineering & Environmental Services Whitehorse Waste and Recycling Centre	●	<p>The Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Transfer Centre offers a range of recycling options for residents and businesses, covering: household batteries, light globes and tubes, electronic waste (TV's & computers), scrap metal, cardboard and mattresses.</p> <p>Council introduced a booked hard waste collection and its ReNew collection and annual drop-off day to encourage residents to recycle their household items, including furniture.</p> <p>Council in 2021, established e-waste hubs and trailers at dedicated customer service centres and community facilities.</p> <p>Council's Gold Star recycling program continues to incentivise residents to recycle correctly.</p>

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A31	Review Council's environmental data management system and consider upgrading current arrangements to ensure accurate capture and effective monitoring of all relevant energy, water, waste and greenhouse related data.	Effective governance Adapting to climate change Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Engineering & Environmental Services		<p>CCAP Utility Tracker (CCAP) software is being used to aggregate, analyse and report Council's utility data for its assets. This includes water, electricity and gas usage, as well as fuel usage by Council fleet and contractors engaged. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting is generated from CCAP, informing Council of its progress towards its sustainability targets.</p> <p>In 2018/19, Council commenced its Embedded Utility Officer program, to verify and consolidate utility data and improve utility management across the organisation. Over 4 years, this has saved Council more than \$350K.</p>
A32	Continue to review Council's selection criteria on how fleet vehicles are chosen to ensure that due emphasis is given to improved environmental performance and emerging technologies such as electric vehicles and alternate fuels. Trial use of eco-friendly vehicles should continue as part of evaluation the sustainability of vehicles for Council's fleet.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	City Works Engineering & Environmental Services		<p>Features such as fuel efficient engines, fuel consumption monitoring devices and maximum fuel consumption to be below or at Australian average fuel consumption for vehicles in its class are considered before purchasing of passenger fleet.</p> <p>Financial incentives are provided to staff who select fuel efficient vehicles as part of their salary packaging to encourage the use of environmental friendly vehicles.</p> <p>All passenger fleet vehicles are currently 4-cylinder. Vehicles with 6-cylinders or above are not considered.</p> <p>Council owns 36 hybrid passenger vehicles, 5 fully electric vehicles, 1 fully electric truck and 1 fully electric van. In terms of equipment, council owns 28 electric blowers, 7 electric hedge trimmers, 6 electric chainsaws, 3 electric brush cutters and 2 electric pole saws.</p> <p>The Fleet and Workshop Team stay up to date with the current market to ensure that due emphasis is given to improved environmental performance and emerging technologies. The Team receive trade news, speak to car dealers, attend various seminars and continue to trial new electric vehicles and equipment where appropriate.</p>

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A33	Track and monitor Council fleet emissions and implement ongoing staff education programs that will contribute towards the reduction of associated emissions.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Engineering & Environmental Services		<p>Fleet emissions are being tracked by CCAP Utility Tracker and the staff induction program includes education about driving to limit environmental impact.</p> <p>In 2016, Council participated in the EcoDriver staff training program via EAGA to build staff capacity to reduce emissions and save money via improved driving behaviour and reduced fuel consumption.</p> <p>Staff are also encouraged to use sustainable transport via the provision of Myki cards and end of trip facilities, including bike parking and showers.</p>
A34	Continue to develop and implement programs that encourage the growing of healthy food locally, to enhance the food security of the local community	Improved access to local food Informed and resilient community Lower cost of living	Engineering & Environmental Services		<p>Council continues to encourage local food production. This includes (and not limited to): Council's Sustainable Living Week program of events (Refer to Action-A23); support of community gardens and Sustainable Schools funding initiatives covering the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program.</p> <p>Strathdon House & Orchard Precinct launched in December 2021 encompasses a demonstration kitchen garden comprising a series of raised garden beds, including accessible beds, are for use by volunteers to grow organic food that can also be prepared in the kitchen.</p>

Ref	Strategy / action	Supports these sustainability outcomes	Responsible Departments	Status	Comments
A35	Review Council's approach to becoming carbon neutral, including the methodology, requirements and costs associated with Council becoming carbon neutral. Continue to progressively reduce carbon emissions and work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2022 (subject to Council approval).	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure Adapting to climate change and peak oil Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Engineering & Environmental Services		<p>Whitehorse Council is working towards its 2022 carbon neutrality target and a range of policies have guided practices to ensure greater efficiencies in the areas of transport, buildings and infrastructure. A reduction in corporate emissions has been consistently reported since 2016.</p> <p>In 2019, Council commissioned the development of Council's Energy Roadmap Report to identify key areas of energy reduction. Priority continues to be given to measures that reduce energy consumption in buildings, street lights and its operations, or generate renewable energy such as solar power. In 2021, Council commenced an electricity contract to source 100% windpower for 6 of Council's largest buildings.</p> <p>To align Council's emissions reporting with the national emission reporting framework, work has been proceeding for Council to adopt the Climate Positive framework including expanding its Scope 3 reporting.</p> <p>In 2022, a Council Report will be presented to Council to consider the final approach to becoming carbon neutral.</p>
A36	Complete the virtualisation of Council's IT system, reducing the number of servers utilised by Council's operations and therefore saving energy consumption and improving efficiency.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure	Finance & Corporate Performance		The virtualisation of Council's IT system has now been completed.

Ref	Strategy / action	Supports these sustainability outcomes	Responsible Departments	Status	Comments
A37	Progressively implement the actions in the Whitehorse Cycling Strategy 2016 that identifies actions to improve safety, convenience and accessibility for cyclists.	Easy to walk or cycle	Engineering & Environmental Services		<p>Council continues to deliver a community bike skills courses and supports the delivery of Bike Ed in schools. Council has continued to run the Bike it! Bike Ed Challenge with schools, in conjunction with Manningham and Maroondah Councils.</p> <p>Council has continued to work with VicRoads/Dept of Transport to complete the remaining sections of the Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail.</p> <p>In 2021, Council has commenced the implementation of the low stress cycling routes, known as the Easy Ride Routes. The first route completed was East-West 6 (EW6), with EW2 and EW4 partially completed in 2020/21. The main works for EW2 and EW4 will be completed in 2021/22 as well as the commencement of the three remaining routes North-South 1 (NS1), NS2 and NS10.</p>
A38	Progressively implement Council's Business Plan for the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre to improve opportunities for recovering and recycling construction and demolition (C&D) waste, as well as other priority waste streams.	Reduced waste to landfill	Recycling & Waste Transfer Centre		<p>Recycling facilities at the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre (WRWC) have progressively been upgraded including bins to capture electronic waste as part of the national TV and e-waste recycling scheme since 2017/18.</p> <p>Future opportunities may include drop-off facility as part of the Victorian Government Container Deposit Scheme, although space at the WRWC is limited.</p> <p>The Business Plan is in need of review and revision as a result of a range of legislative and waste industry changes, however recent focus has entirely been on ensuring the WRWC remains open during CIVID period.</p>
A39	Progressively upgrade the WAMS Building Asset Register to capture ESD features and improve sustainability monitoring and reporting of the ESD performance of buildings.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure Effective governance and corporate programs Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices.	Built Infrastructure Engineering & Environmental Services		<p>WAMS currently does not capture new ESD features of Capital Works renewal or maintenance projects. An ESD Register is also maintained in lieu. Additional capacity is required within to ensure ESD features of all assets are reflected in the system.</p> <p>CCAP Utility Tracker allows reporting on the energy and water performance of Council and community buildings, where major ESD projects are flagged. Refer to Action-A31.</p>

Section B: NEW strategies and actions to be delivered between 2016 and 2019

● complete/ ongoing

● pending

● not complete

● no longer applicable

Ref	Strategy/action	Supports these sustainability outcomes	Responsible Departments	Status	Status
B1	Consider participation in cooperative or group projects for implementing larger-scale energy efficiency measures in Council owned buildings. For example energy performance contracts, bulk purchase schemes, installing new technology devices, battery storage for solar power, joint Council contracts, or other projects arising from Councils participation in regional alliances.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure Effective governance and corporate programs Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Engineering & Environmental Services Built Infrastructure	●	Council has successfully implemented the following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in VECO to purchase 100% renewable electricity via a joint procurement process (Refer to Action-A17). Delivery of Council's 2-yr Energy Performance Contract (EPC) at 8 Council and community buildings (Refer to Action-C1). Endorsement of Council's ESD Policy for Council Buildings and Infrastructure (Refer to Action-A4). Via EAGA, delivery of initiatives such as Scaling Up Solar, and Climate Change Building Vulnerability Assessments for Emergency Relief Centres. Installation of Council's first solar battery at the Horticulture Centre.
B2	Implement improvements to Council's Utility Data Management System to provide accurate data in an efficient and timely manner. Ensure data format is more accessible and user friendly to Facility Managers, including features that provide early detection of faults or adverse consumption trends.	Effective governance and corporate programs Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Engineering & Environmental Services Finance & Corporate Performance	●	The CCAP Utility Tracker monitors the use of electricity, gas, water and fuel for Council and community assets as well as fleet (Refer to Action-A31). The system contains 400+ Council assets that staff can access data for reporting and share with their teams to continuously identify efficiency opportunities. It is important to note that CCAP monitors historical consumption data and associated GHG emissions, not real-time data. Other mechanisms are in place to access real-time data (e.g. via retailer and distributor online portals) to reduce duplication of data and avoid unnecessary costs associated to maintaining such large volumes of data.

B3	Progressively implement the actions within the Box Hill CAA Car Parking Strategy that addresses parking issues in the vicinity of the central area of Box Hill, hospital precinct and Box Hill Institute.	Better access to and use of public transport	Engineering & Environmental Services Planning and Building Compliance	●	<p>Council's Traffic Consultant O'Brien Traffic was engaged to investigate 15 recommended actions in the Box Hill Car Parking Strategy 2014. These recommendations have now been reviewed, with a final report provided on the strategy recommendation item outcomes.</p> <p>Since then, Council completed the Box Hill Car Parking Strategy Implementation Report in 2018, which reviewed the remaining actions from the Box Hill Car Parking Strategy 2014.</p>
B4	Build on current programs that encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport to school by implementing education programs and infrastructure improvements that address barriers identified by parents, students and schools.	Easy to walk or cycle	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Council's Transport Team hosts a range of activities that promote active and sustainable transport to school, such as –Transit, Bike It, supporting Bike Ed Teacher training, Walk to School Month and working with schools to develop a School Travel Plan. They have been trialling new programs to encourage cycling, such as the "Mums on Bikes" and "Teenage Girls" cycling programs.</p> <p>Council supports the Crossing Supervisor program and the enforcement of parking regulations in and around school zones.</p>
B5	Implement programs that expand the use by Council of sustainable forms of transport such as walking, cycling, public transport, carpooling and using fuel efficient vehicles for work journeys.	Easy to walk or cycle Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	Council has corporate Myki cards to encourage public transport use and regularly reviews its fleet vehicles to continually improve their fuel efficiency.
B6	Expand the program to further reduce corporate water use at Council's major water-use facilities in a cost-effective way. Consider including actions to increase the use of smart water saving technology, upgrade infrastructure and voluntary water restrictions to minimise unnecessary water use.	Reduced use of potable water	Engineering & Environmental Services All	●	<p>Council has investigated the use of synthetic/natural hybrid sports surfaces that require less irrigation. This surface type is used where applicable. Ongoing practices are being expanded and include the use of warm season grass varieties for sports fields and parks and the installation of water tanks at Council buildings.</p> <p>Participation in Yarra Valley Water's preliminary smart meter roll-out for Council facilities in the Vermont South Livingstone Close precinct. Draft Integrated Water Management Strategy developed. Refer to Action-A11.</p> <p>Showers and toilets at Council facilities continue to be energy-and water-efficient compliant. Some facilities such as the Civic Centre use rainwater to flush toilets.</p>

B7	Implement community water conservation education programs on an annual basis. This could include water audits, competitions, incentives and working with partners such as Yarra Valley Water.	Reduced use of potable water	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Council has previously partnered with Yarra Valley Water to deliver its Showerhead Exchange Program at its Customer Service Centres, and provided Sustainable Schools program participants the opportunity to access the Schools Water Efficiency Program.</p> <p>Currently, the Sustainable Schools Program is covered by Council's participation in EASL and support to deliver the ResourceSmart program, which covers water conservation. Refer to Action-B21).</p> <p>Council's draft Integrated Water Management Strategy (IWMS) identified the need to further engage the community on water quality and conservation measures (Refer to Action-A11).</p>
B8	Include storm water harvesting and treatment infrastructure in Council projects where appropriate, such as small scale retention system and rainwater gardens and wetlands. Consider advances in technology for storm water harvesting where possible.	<p>Adapting to climate change and peak oil</p> <p>Improved water quality of local creeks and waterways</p> <p>Reduced use of potable planning water</p>	<p>Engineering & Environmental Services</p> <p>Built Infrastructure Major Projects</p>	●	<p>Council continues to explore the suitability of storm water harvesting and treatment infrastructure as part of its Capital Works program delivery. Below are some examples of what has been achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raingarden installed in Kalang Parkland near Koonung Road to improve water runoff quality (2017) • An Ephemeral Wetland installed in Kalang Park, Blackburn at the end of Laurel Grove North (2020) • SPEL Ecoceptor and Hydrosystem installed as part of the Whitehorse Performing Arts Centre redevelopment in December 2021. Once the redevelopment is complete, the system will capture and treat stormwater on site, reducing pollutants and improving water quality being discharged into our drains and creeks. • Ephemeral Wetland Proposed as part of Forest Hill Reserve Carpark improvements (scheduled completion by June / July 2022). <p>Council continues to review drainage designs and consider opportunities for water retention to assist with and not impact on downstream catchments and flows (NB: stormwater retention is dependent on downstream drainage an available room for storage for such projects to be developed).</p> <p>This also includes Council's Engineering Assets team reviewing each legal point of discharge application received in order to ensure that there is no imposition on Council's existing drainage network and catchments.</p>

B9	Implement regular targeted litter campaigns in accordance with the Stormwater Management Plan, Waste Management Plan or identified littering priorities, particularly in litter hotspots upstream from waterways and drainage inlets.	Improved water quality of local creeks and waterways	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Support for Melbourne Water litter source reduction grant program commenced in 2017 but this program has run sporadically since. Similarly the EPA 'Dob In a Dumper' program seems to operate now and then, supported by Council when it does operate.</p> <p>A trial cigarette litter hotspot program next to Box Hill Hospital commenced in 2018 but monitoring has been challenging during COVID lockdown period.</p> <p>Anti-littering stickers have been placed on Box Hill mall public litter bins and Council assists community volunteers that participate in Clean Up Australia Day each year at various litter hotspot locations.</p>
B10	<p>Commit to a 'net gain' policy for tree management within Council managed land - any trees removed to be replaced.</p> <p>Consider including a target to increase canopy cover by 1.5% per year commencing in 2017 and a commitment to also increase the number of trees planted by 20% from approximately 1000 trees per year to 1200 per year.</p>	Healthy and diverse parks and local vegetation	ParksWide	●	<p>The Urban Forest Strategy (Refer to Action- A15) sets out Council's actions to work towards increasing its tree canopy cover to 30% in Whitehorse by 2050.</p> <p>Council agreed to the following target ensuring a net increase of at least 500 trees per annum on Council managed land. Current numbers from June-December 2021 included a net increase of 950 trees.</p>
B11	Consider improvements to Council's tree protection regime, including if feasible, municipal-wide blanket controls to enhance the protection of significant canopy tree protection throughout the municipality.	Healthy and diverse parks and local vegetation	Planning & Building	●	<p>There are now interim planning controls in place across most of Whitehorse requiring permits for trees to be removed, under Amendment C191 which seeks to protect large, established trees and the landscape character of the municipality.</p> <p>Current planning controls are in place until the end of the FY 2022/23.</p>

B12	Expand the community engagement actions and material first developed as part of the Whitehorse Urban Forest Project to assist residents to grow healthy trees through education and incentives.	Healthy and diverse parks and local vegetation Improved access to local food	Engineering & Environmental Services Planning & Building	●	<p>These actions and resources have now been extended to include the new Gardens for Wildlife program which includes personalised gardening and tree care advice along with vouchers for new plants. The program completed a pilot project of 20 gardens in 2017 and is now being rolled out to another 50 gardens in 2018.</p> <p>Gardens for Wildlife visits continued online when COVID-19 restrictions were in place in 2020 and 2021, where face to face visits were unadvisable or prohibited. Outreach of this program include: 80 visits (2019) 31 visits (2020 due to impacts of pandemic 56 visits (2021). The numbers of volunteers remained fairly stable throughout this period – an integral part of delivering the Gardens for Wildlife program.</p>
B13	Seek opportunities to support the introduction of edible plants and gardens in public spaces, particularly existing parks and gardens where appropriate.	Healthy and diverse parks and local vegetation Improved access to local food	Engineering & Environmental Services Arts & Recreation	●	<p>Parkswide will support community driven initiatives for edible plantings within the municipality, where they are not in conflict with Council policies.</p> <p>Refer to Action-A34.</p>
B14	Progressively expand the inclusion of sustainable principles and products in contracts and service agreements with Council suppliers and their supply chain providers, to increase the range of sustainable goods and services available to Council.	Effective governance and corporate programs Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Engineering & Environmental Services Finance & Corporate Performance	●	<p>Refer to Action-A17 and A18.</p> <p>Council has also participated in trials of recycled products in their early stage of development or availability, to support knowledge sharing of the availability or potential of these products. Previous examples included the use of recycled-content asphalt on local roads, and most recently partnering with RMIT on trials of a more sustainable form of concrete for use in footpaths and kerb & channel. Successful outcomes of trials can lead to improvements to Council's specifications to increase the range of sustainable products used in future (see A29).</p>
B15	Consider including enhanced sustainability oriented Key Performance Indicators in relevant Council performance reporting mechanisms. This could include KPI's in policies, strategies, operational plans, Department reports, performance reviews and major project reports.	Effective governance and corporate programs Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Finance & Corporate Performance Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Sustainability and climate response-related KPIs have been included in Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 (MPHWP) and the Council Plan 2021-2025.</p> <p>Reports to Council now include a section to highlight the sustainability impacts of the program or project that the report is about.</p> <p>Evaluation of supplier or service quotes and tenders must also consider sustainability and be scored accordingly.</p>


B16	Produce a Sustainability Report or equivalent to report on the Strategy targets and actions every two years to communicate the progress made.	Effective governance and corporate programs Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Sustainability snapshot of energy and water KPIs produced annually for the Council Report. Mid-term strategy review complete, followed by this Full-Term Review document.</p> <p>Sustainability targets have also been reported on as part of the adoption of Council's interim Climate Response Plan and associated interim progress report.</p>
B17	Build on Council's culture of sustainability through a range of processes including induction, e-learning modules, EcoLeaders and regular awareness raising workshops.	Effective governance and corporate programs Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Refer to Action-A22.</p> <p>Council's staff intranet is used to promote staff sustainability and waste initiatives and share resources on how staff can adopt and integrate sustainable practices into their work area.</p> <p>Council's Sustainability team also provides input to key strategies and major projects to share sustainability principles and provide support for embedding ESD features and climate resilience actions into the relevant strategy or project.</p>
B18	Improve the scope, detail and presentation of sustainability information on Council's website and other digital communication platforms, including the use of more interactive or app based sustainability focussed programs.	All sustainability outcomes	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Refer to Action-A28.</p> <p>Refer to Action-B19 for GreenMoney. The review of the GreenMoney program assessed that the app-based program did not quite reach the expected participation level, so consideration will now be given to other emerging apps, subject to their proven performance and effectiveness.</p> <p>A dedicated monthly Sustainability e-newsletter has been produced in recent years, emailed to residents who wished to be kept informed of Council and community sustainability-related activities and events.</p> <p>Council's intranet is regularly updated with specific sustainability information, links and comments to share across the organisation.</p>


B19	Develop innovative ways to engage the community on living more sustainably including the use of social media and other communication tools that might better meet the needs of our diverse community.	Informed and resilient community	Engineering & Environmental Services Communications	●	<p>Refer to Action-A28.</p> <p>GreenMoney</p> <p>GreenMoney was an App and incentive based program which was delivered between 2018 and 2020. Based on behaviour-change principles, it encouraged participants to commit, action and celebrate their sustainable living choices. The GreenMoney program partnered with local businesses, where actions achieved were rewarded with product and service incentives redeemed from participating businesses.</p> <p>Other community engagement partnerships included participation in the State Government's Take2 program (no longer available) to promote Council's commitment and achievements to implement local climate change measures.</p> <p>Up-to-date online and social media community engagement tools are being considered as part of the 2022 Sustainable Living Week program and Smarter Living workshop series.</p>
B20	Investigate opportunities to integrate sustainability to a greater degree into existing Council Early Learning and Youth programs.	Informed and resilient community	Engineering & Environmental Services Health & Family Services	●	<p>Council's Transport Team works with childcare centres to encourage walking and road safety, and a program specifically targeting teenage girls and cycling.</p> <p>Council's sustainability community grants program was extended to Early Learning Centres from 2018/19 onwards.</p> <p>Eastern Alliance for Sustainable Learning (EASL) provides Professional Development for staff at Early Learning Centres (Refer to Action-A24).</p> <p>Support and resources are provided to Centres to divert waste from landfill, including introduction of waste sorting bins and worm farm/composting facilities.</p>

B21	Expand Council's sustainable schools programs to consider more outreach projects, take-home linkages from students into their homes, linking with relevant partner organisations and other programs and projects that relate to Council's sustainability priorities.	Improved access to local food Easy to walk or cycle Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Council funds or subsidises school involvement in a range of programs, including: ResourceSmart Schools (ongoing), Schools Water Efficiency Program (complete), Eastern Alliance for Sustainable Learning (ongoing), Walk2School (ongoing), Transit (ongoing), Visy incursions (ongoing) and the Parkside Education Program (ongoing).</p> <p>RSS (ResourceSmart Schools) program (delivered by EASL):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the eastern metropolitan region to be delivered to 124 pre-, primary and secondary schools over the 2021-23 period Focuses on helping schools improve biodiversity, reduce energy and water use, waste to landfill and greenhouse gas emissions. Supports schools with dedicated regional Facilitators, networking, events and professional development.
B22	Expand the community education campaign to raise awareness of climate change and peak oil adaptation measures and provide practical advice and assistance for the community to adapt to the impacts of climate change.	Adapting to climate change and peak oil Informed and resilient community	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Sustainable Living Festival programming and Council's involvement in Sustainability Victoria's Take2 program educate the community about how to limit climate change. Practical advice is also provided through a range of media (Refer to Action-A28).</p> <p>Introduced in 2019, AEF (Australian Energy Foundation) provides a range of free online and in person advisory services to Whitehorse residents and the business community around energy efficiency, solar and batteries, energy costs, electric vehicles and LED lighting.</p>
B23	Target sustainability and climate change adaptation assistance to low-income households and CALD-oriented households, such as providing home energy and water assessments to a number of eligible households each year.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure Informed and resilient community	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>The Solar Savers program provided interest free loans for low income households to access solar panel installation (2016). CALD education has included a range of translated resources for international students at Deakin University and through the Chinese Senior Citizens Centre.</p> <p>Council's current partnership with AEF provides professional and technical advice on how households can improve on their home's energy efficiency.</p> <p>Council's HACC clientele have been made aware of and involved in several sustainability initiatives in recent years, and will again be offered free energy-saving advice through Council's AEF advice service in 2022.</p> <p>Council piloted a waste reduction program to migrant communities in multi-units in a partnership project with Maroondah Council in 2018/19.</p>

B24	Consider expansion of food growing opportunities in public places and on nature strips where appropriate with approved guidelines. Incorporate online and digital resources for growing local food where feasible.	Improved access to local food	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Council has established an online application process for residents seeking a naturestrip planning permit. Guidelines are in place to ensure the health, wellbeing and safety of community members.</p> <p>The Susty e-news monthly newsletter promotes events and workshops to support local growers (Refer to Action-A23).</p>
B25	Expand community education and engagement program to promote energy and water saving measures that will help address the impacts of rising utility bills.	<p>Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure</p> <p>Informed and resilient community</p> <p>Lower cost of living</p>	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Council is promoting a number of initiatives to encourage and inform the community about energy and water saving measures, and the resulting financial savings, including (and not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESD Planning Policy (Refer to Action-A6). • Annual Sustainable Living Week program (Refer to Action-A23). • Information sessions via AEF and guest presenters (Refer to Action-B23). • Energy audits of community facilities (Refer to Action-A5). • Support provided from Council's Utility Officer to leased facilities to understand billing structures and opportunities of improvement (Refer to Action-A31).
B26	Expand the number or scope of sustainable business programs or incentives offered to local businesses, in particular those programs that partner with suitable government or non-government service providers and programs that access grant funding.	A mix of local businesses and jobs	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Council encouraged businesses to take part in Sustainability Victoria's Take2 program (now ceased) to keep climate change to a minimum by operating in environmentally conscious ways.</p> <p>Working with Council's Economic Development team, AEF offered a range of free consultation services to Whitehorse based businesses, including advice on solar installation, energy efficiency, reducing energy costs and switching to LED lighting.</p> <p>In addition from 1 July 2021, Council is promoting EAGA's Business Energy Saver program to its businesses to take-up energy efficiency retrofits and upgrades via the State Government's Victorian Energy Upgrades program.</p> <p>Council continues to explore the opportunity to offer qualified local commercial property owners to engage in a Business Energy Upgrade Agreement (EUA), a mechanism for businesses to secure a loan against the property to deliver energy efficiency upgrades. This model allows businesses to be cash-positive, and financially and environmentally benefit from the upgrade via reduced operational costs.</p> <p>Other: Refer to GreenMoney, Action-B19.</p>

B27	Expand Council's current program of food waste avoidance/food waste reduction community programs to continue the focus on food waste avoidance and food waste reduction, utilising best practice.	Reduced waste to landfill	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Council has implemented the following initiatives to avoid and reduce food waste generated by the community. Initiatives have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love Food Hate Waste Recipe Book Development • Annual Smarter Living workshops series in partnership with Manningham City Council. • GreenMoney incentive program (ceased) • Home Composting Rebate and succeeded now with the Compost Revolution incentive program. <p>Substantial work is underway in 2021/22 to prepare for the implementation of the Food Organic Green Organics (FOGO) kerbside service commencing 1 July 2022.</p>
B28	Expand Council's recycling education materials and community engagement programs, in particular those programs that partner with suitable government or non-government service providers and programs that access grant funding.	Reduced waste to landfill	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Council explores external partnerships where possible to make available recycling resources and community education and engagement opportunities.</p> <p>These have included: Deakin University student program (internships and work experience opportunities), Recycling and Waste Facility Tours, Gold Star program, GreenMoney, keynote speakers and presentations such as War on Waste presentation, Smarter Living, Sustainable Living Week events.</p> <p>Partnerships with Manningham Council, Deakin University English Language Institute, Sustainability Victoria, Melbourne Water, GreenBe, Eastern Health and Epworth Hospital have been utilised to promote waste and litter education programs.</p>
B29	Complete the replacement of all mercury vapour streetlight lamps with energy efficient lamps. The first phase of this project was very successful in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and was cost-effective.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	<p>Council is currently completing its streetlighting upgrade program for 2020/21 and 2021/22 to install LED and energy efficient street lighting on local roads and cost-shared arterial roads replacing standard and non-standard (decorative) lights. Co-funded by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund Program, the combined energy efficiencies will avoid an annual GHG of 430t CO2-e once the project is completed by 30 June 2022.</p>

B30	Consider providing or participating in community schemes for the bulk purchase of solar panels, energy efficient devices, other renewable energy sources or green power, if such schemes prove to be viable and affordable. This may include participation in multi-Council or partnership schemes with energy distributors.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure Informed and resilient community	Engineering & Environmental Services		Council offered low-income residents the opportunity to participate in the Solar Savers program that provided interest free loans for the costs associated with the installation of household solar panels (Refer to Action-B23).
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B31	Prepare a new Urban Forest Strategy that includes strategic, policy and operational consideration of how trees in the public realm -parks and streets, are managed and maintained.	Healthy and diverse parks and local vegetation	Parkswide	 <p>Refer to Action-B10.</p> <p>Council's endorsed Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy 2021-31 implementation and action plan is outlined over five key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the urban forest across private and public land • Expand the urban forest and adapt to climate change • Enhance biodiversity • Build community capacity to share knowledge, protect and enhance the urban forest • Build on Council's knowledge base <p>UFS Implementation and Action Plan Update that meets Action-B31 include:</p> <p>Objective 1 – Action 1.2: <i>Integrate tree inventory into Council's asset management system to better manage funding, scheduled works program and auditing processes.</i></p> <p>Municipal wide street tree data collection is now completed with quality checks of data collected about to commence.</p> <p>Objective 1 – Action 1.6: <i>Revise the existing Whitehorse Tree Policies and tree management plan to bring into line with best practice in a changing climate.</i></p> <p>The pre-existing Interim Urban Forest Strategy 2018-21 included Council's Tree Management Plan which incorporated current information that outlines how trees are maintained and managed on public land owned and managed by Council including street trees and park trees. The Plan covered: Street tree planting and establishment; street tree pruning; street tree removal; and objections.</p> <p>This information is now entitled 'Interim Urban Forest Policy and Tree Management Plan' separated from the Urban Forest Strategy 2021-31 and Action Plan.</p> <p>Council officers are now developing a Strategic Marketing and Communications Plan on this policy and will update Council with details</p>
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					of the appropriate engagement process in the coming months. The review of the Tree Management Plan will provide a revised and more comprehensive tree planting plan.
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Section C: Next actions – to be reviewed as part of the mid-implementation review.

● complete/ ongoing ● pending ● not complete ● no longer applicable

Ref	Strategy/action	Supports these sustainability outcomes	Responsible Departments	Status	Comments
C1	Consider accelerating the implementation of energy saving measures in Council buildings such as technology improvements, battery storage for solar power, energy saving guarantee contracts and partnering arrangements that might provide economies of scale benefits and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure More renewable energy	Built Infrastructure	●	<p>In 2018/19, Council invested \$2M over two financial years in a new form of contract called an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) to install a range of energy efficient measures in eight of Council's larger buildings. These measures include: LED lighting upgrade, solar PV installations, BMS and energy analytics improvements, AC replacements, and mechanical equipment upgrades.</p> <p>The energy consumption reduction from these measures are designed to achieve is guaranteed under this form of contract, with a detailed Monitoring and Verification (M&V) phase of the contract now commencing after delays due to COVID impacts on the project. It is expected that this detailed measurement component of the contract will provide further assurance about the savings that come from reducing energy and water consumption through ESD upgrades.</p> <p>The EPC contract is expected to reduce Council's an annual GHG emissions by 1428t CO₂-e.</p>

C2	Investigate the feasibility of Council to facilitate a showcase community solar energy project and promote to the community.	More renewable energy	Engineering & Environmental Services Built Infrastructure	●	<p>Previously Council showcased solar and other energy-saving initiatives undertaken by residents and businesses as part of Council's Sustainability Awards program (ceased in 2019) and Built Environment Awards (ongoing on a bi-annual basis). This enabled the community to view practical examples from the local area on what can be done to make a home or business more energy-efficient.</p> <p>As part of EAGA's annual implementation plan FY 2021/22, Council with other member councils and neighbouring Alliance councils are exploring opportunities to procure renewable electricity via a for a retail partnership for households, and a power purchase agreement for businesses.</p> <p>Council is also currently exploring opportunities to collaborate with the Yarra Valley Community Power Hub, which aims to facilitate community-led energy projects including heat pump bulkbuy program, energy auditing upskill program, library resource kits, EV information session and Community Power Roadshow. State Government Funding for the Hub is only committed for this FY 2021/22.</p>
C3	Review the current management of sporting fields including: watering regimes, frequency of use, community expectation of field quality and the potential impacts of climate change. Implement system improvements as required, based on the outcome of the review.	Reduced use of potable water Adapting to climate change and peak oil	ParksWide	●	<p>Progressively, there has been increased demand from the community on the quality of sporting fields. Sporting fields have never been utilised as much as they are currently now, with the increase in female sporting activities and events, and the impacts of COVID restrictions for open space.</p> <p>Council continues to reduce its irrigation requirements for its sporting fields where applicable without compromising the best possible playing surfaces for user groups. The use of smart technology in irrigation systems is an example of controlling watering while satisfying grass growing requirements (see C4).</p> <p>To date, the local impacts of climate change have not had an impact on the growth of warm season grasses on sporting fields during October and November. This is because, grass surface are still in their winter dormancy. Impacts of turf quality is only currently being experienced in the warmer temperatures between December and February.</p>

C4	Fast track the installation of real-time water monitoring systems for Council's major sporting fields to measure water usage and detect/quantify water leaks.	Reduced use of potable water Sustainability practices and policies embedded in Council practices	ParksWide	●	Flow meters are installed at all sporting fields. These meters have the technology to cancel the irrigation cycle if there is a water leak. Council receives daily reports of irrigation faults and water usage.
C5	Implement and develop a database to record the removal and planting of trees within the municipality including the health of the trees.	Healthy and diverse parks and local vegetation	ParksWide	●	Refer to Action-B31.
C6	For priority areas identified in the Urban Forest Strategy, consider expanding community involvement in bushland maintenance and provide support to relevant community based programs or projects.	Healthy and diverse parks and local vegetation	ParksWide	●	Council has established the Whitehorse Environment Sustainability Reference Group. This Reference Group is represented by two Councillors, four community members, and four Council staff members, and meets quarterly. Council is currently reviewing the Parkland Advisory Committee structure to ensure a sustainable model to support environmental volunteering into the future.
C7	Accelerate the implementation of actions from the Open Space Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy that improve the habitat corridor links and values of the existing linear open space system of Whitehorse.	Healthy and diverse parks and local vegetation	Arts & Recreation ParksWide	●	The Open Space Strategy (OSS) review is planned for FY2022/23. An OSS draft brief has been developed by Leisure and Recreation Services in consultation with relevant internal departments. Once the brief is endorsed the OSS development will be procured and tender evaluated.
C8	Consider any suitable opportunity to create an urban environmental education centre to showcase sustainable living practices, biodiversity and local food production such as the redevelopment of existing community facilities.	All sustainability outcomes	Arts & Recreation	●	Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct offers a wide range of educational programs in environment, sustainability, health and wellbeing to the Whitehorse community. It has recently established an organic kitchen garden where volunteers can grow a variety of vegetables that can be prepared in the kitchen and consumed on site. It also offers future programs around fruit tree pruning, nature play, nature art, composting, seed saving, solar energy, water saving, biodiversity and Eco explorers bush program.
C9	Develop a community sustainability grants program to encourage grassroots projects and programs over and above Council's current community grants program.	All sustainability outcomes	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	An environmental sustainability category within current annual Community Grants program has been established to support grass-roots initiatives to integrate and raise the profile of sustainable practices within the Whitehorse community. Grants to date have facilitated community workshops and information sessions, sensory gardens, composting solutions and food harvesting projects.

C10	Develop a workshop program for residents and businesses to undertake energy, water and waste self-audits, to enable them to implement effective energy and water-saving retrofits.	Efficient buildings, transport and infrastructure Informed and resilient community	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	Although, Council has not established its own workshop and self-audit program, it is currently delivering and/or seeking opportunities for collaboration as per below. Refer to: AEF, Action-B22. Business Energy Saver program, Action-B26. Yarra Valley Community Power Hub, Action-C2.
C11	Further upgrade Council's online and smart technology methods of providing sustainability information to the community and engaging with the community to help them to improve their sustainability practices. This may include the opportunity for the community to post and share suitable tools and resources.	Informed and resilient community	Engineering & Environmental Services	●	Refer to: Community engagement and awareness, Action-A28. GreenMoney, Action-B19. For all its community consultation requirements, Council utilises the YourSay platform to encourage community participation in the consultation phase(s) of developing draft Council strategies and action plans, as well as obtaining community feedback on projects such as the "Cost of Waste" and establishing the Food Organics and Garden Organics service.
C12	Consider working with a local shopping strip or business precinct within the municipality that wishes to collectively enhance their environmental management practices to help to share and promote sustainable outcomes. Council may consider providing incentives for businesses to improve their energy/water efficiency and waste diversion practices.	A mix of local businesses and jobs	Investment & Economic Development Engineering & Environmental Services	●	Refer to EAGA Business Energy Saver program, Action-B26. Council previously piloted a program called Compost Mates linking businesses and community groups/residents to redirect food scraps for composting. This faded out just before COVID and has not resumed. It relies on volunteers from the community and businesses willing to separate food scraps, so it is not envisaged that it will resume in the near future while businesses focus on post-COVID recovery. Currently Council is collaborating with Brickworks Shopping Centre to host sustainability workshops during Sustainable Living Week 2022 at Brickworks, including a tour or demonstration of the Brickworks environmental best practice in developing and operating at their site.
C13	Develop and implement a recycling strategy for public areas in Whitehorse.	Reduced waste to landfill	Engineering & Environmental Services CityWorks	●	Public place recycling initiatives have been impacted by COVID restrictions and concerns about the high contamination levels in public recycling bins that make recycling the bin contents unviable. The updating of a public place recycling strategy has therefore been put on hold, but will likely be considered when Council's 10-year Waste Management Strategy is reviewed in 2023.

