



CITY OF  
MONASH

# Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016 - 2026 *Summary*



# What is the Monash Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016 – 2026?

**Environmental sustainability is planning and providing for the needs of individuals and communities now and for future generations, creating resilient and prosperous communities and protecting the environment and ecosystem services.**

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026 (ESS), explores the current and emerging sustainability issues facing the City of Monash and its residents. It sets Council's environmental goals for the future and proposes actions that will help to reach these goals.

The ten-year Strategy provides realistic but bold direction and actions required to integrate sustainability practices into Council operations, as well as its community programs and services. It builds on the four-year achievements and strong foundation established through the Environmental Sustainability Road Map 2011-2015.

Monash's garden city character is strongly valued by our communities and this strategy identifies a range of actions to protect and enhance the garden city character and our natural environment.

The strategy commits us to action on many fronts including reducing Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions, potable water use and waste to landfill. There are actions to embed sustainability into Council's strategic processes that also demonstrate leadership and environmental innovation.

The strategy identifies a range of environmental education and community engagement actions to engage Monash residents, community groups and businesses to work with Council to respond to the complex sustainability issues they encounter in their personal, community and working lives.

Council will continue to build partnerships and goodwill across the board and our solid progress towards our Monash 2021: A Thriving Community focus of being a green and naturally-rich municipality can be seen within this strategy.

A number of feasibility studies need to be completed to provide the data and information required to develop effective, challenging and achievable targets. These feasibility studies and associated targets are identified in the Environmental Sustainability Strategic Actions section of this document with completion to occur by 2018/19. The ESS spans ten years and will be underpinned by an implementation plan and annual reporting against targets and sustainability indicators. In addition to annual reporting a progress review will be undertaken in the third (2018/19) and seventh (2022/23) years.

The development of this strategy has been a true collaboration between Council, the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) and the community.

The budget for implementation of the actions within this strategy and action plan is subject to annual Council approval. Council looks forward to making a positive difference to the environmental sustainability of our municipality through the implementation of this ten year strategy.

## Acknowledgement of Country

Monash Council acknowledges and recognises the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land now known as Monash. On behalf of citizens of the municipality, Council pays respect to indigenous elders, past and present and values the lessons of indigenous experience.



*Valley Reserve Playground*

# Seven Ways To Success

## Priority Area 1: Built Environment

### AIMS:

- » Protect and enhance the garden city character of the municipality
- » Promote environmentally sustainable outcomes in urban planning, design and development

### OBJECTIVES:

- » The garden city character of Monash is retained and improved
- » Development is designed along Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles
- » Urban environments are designed and planned to promote and encourage integrated and active transport

## Priority Area 2: Urban Ecology

### AIMS:

- » Maintain and improve local biodiversity, tree canopy cover and the ecological health of ecosystems
- » Increase positive appreciation and stewardship of the urban ecology within the community
- » Define Council's roles and responsibilities relating to community food gardens

### OBJECTIVES:

- » A strategic approach to landscape planning is established which recognises biodiversity, habitat connectivity and builds ecosystem resilience
- » Long-term biodiversity outcomes are achieved on Council owned and managed conservation reserves
- » Increased community understanding of and participation in urban ecology and local biodiversity stewardship is achieved
- » Roles, responsibilities and involvement relating to community food gardens are defined and implemented

## Priority Area 3: Climate Change

### AIMS:

- » Reduce Council's corporate energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
- » Build Council's capacity to understand and manage climate change risks and how best to respond
- » Increase community understanding and preparedness for the likely impacts of climate change

### OBJECTIVES:

- » Best practice climate change thinking is integrated into Council's corporate and operational functions
- » A strategic approach to reducing Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions is established
- » Increased community preparedness for the likely impacts of climate change

## Priority Area 4: Waste and Resource Management

### AIMS:

- » Reduce Council's corporate waste and improve resource recovery
- » Build Council's capacity to understand and implement the waste hierarchy, litter management, life cycle analysis and sustainable procurement principles
- » Increase community awareness of resource consumption and stewardship practices

### OBJECTIVES:

- » Best practice waste and recycling collection and litter reduction services are delivered in a strategic municipal-wide approach
- » A strategic approach to reducing Council's corporate waste and environmental impacts is established which recognises the waste hierarchy, life cycle analysis and has sustainable procurement integrity
- » Reduced community consumption of resources and improved recycling is achieved

## Priority Area 5: Integrated Water Management

### AIMS:

- » Reduce Council's water use and increase alternative water sources
- » Build Council's capacity to understand and implement water reuse and water conservation principles and water sensitive landscapes
- » Increase community awareness of water consumption and stewardship practices



**OBJECTIVES:**

- » A strategic approach to integrated water management is established and implemented which recognises and values the health of waterways, wetlands and catchments, water conservation, water reuse and water sensitive landscapes
- » Best practice integrated water management, water reduction and water reuse principles are included in all Council corporate and operational functions
- » Increased community understanding of and participation in waterway health, water conservation and water reduction is achieved

**Priority Area 6: Partnerships and Leadership****AIMS:**

- » Demonstrate strategic environmental sustainability leadership through commitment and action objectives
- » Build skill, capacity and partnerships to deliver this strategy

**OBJECTIVES:**

- » Sustainability is integrated into Council decision-making processes
- » Develop and strengthen partnerships that achieve Council's sustainability objectives

**Priority Area 7: Education, Engagement and Reporting****AIMS:**

- » Educate and engage staff and community to understand environmental sustainability concepts and issues and to implement solutions
- » Monitor, evaluate and report on the sustainability performance of Council

**OBJECTIVES:**

- » Environmental education and behaviour change programs relating to all priority areas are developed, delivered, monitored and evaluated
- » Sustainability outcomes and targets are monitored, evaluated and reported using the best practice sustainability indicators and accounting processes

## Your role in supporting a sustainable future for Monash

Whether you are an individual, household, school, community group or local business, the success of achieving a sustainable Monash requires your help. Ways you can help:

**LEARN:**

Develop a deeper understanding of your own environmental impact and where there are opportunities to reduce these impacts. Council's Green Guide is a good place to start [www.monash.vic.gov.au/Green-Guide](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Green-Guide)

**ACT:**

Focus on areas that resonate with you the most and begin to make positive change. Many organisations, community groups and Council programs may also be available to help you with this process.

**SHARE:**

Your sustainability journey will more than likely be relevant to others. Discover how your lessons could be shared with others. From talking to your neighbours over the fence through to accepting a Sir John Monash Sustainability Leadership Award, you're only limited by your imagination!

**JOIN:**

There are many groups and projects underway in Monash that you could get involved with.

Go to Council's Environment page to connect with existing work [www.monash.vic.gov.au/Services/Environment](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Services/Environment)

Sign up to Council's community database or Teacher Environment Network (TEN) to receive news about upcoming sustainability workshops, projects and opportunities.

Email [sustainability@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@monash.vic.gov.au) to register.

**CONTACT COUNCIL:**

During the rollout of this Strategy, Council would love to hear your feedback about what you are doing and your ideas for actions in your local area. Email [sustainability@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@monash.vic.gov.au) or phone 9518 3555.

# Vision

## AN INNOVATIVE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE GARDEN CITY: RESILIENT, DIVERSE AND THRIVING

A City:	A City where the Community:	A City where Council:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Where garden city character and natural assets have been protected and enhanced.</li><li>» Where neighbourhoods, infrastructure, buildings, community facilities, parklands and transport systems are designed and developed along environmentally sustainable development and urban design principles, in sympathy with the natural environment.</li><li>» Where it is convenient, safe and desirable to move around by walking, cycling and using public transport.</li><li>» Which re-uses and recycles as much of its waste as possible.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Is proud of its sustainability achievements.</li><li>» Is well educated and engaged in how to reduce its environmental impacts.</li><li>» Actively enjoys and takes care of its natural environment.</li><li>» Participates actively in sustainability related programs and initiatives.</li><li>» Increasingly sees environmental sustainability as the normal and best way to do things.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Leads by example on environmental sustainability issues.</li><li>» Plans and makes decisions with a focus on both immediate and long-term needs.</li><li>» Understands the short-term versus long-term environmental and financial costs and benefits of its decisions.</li><li>» Works with the whole community to protect and restore our natural environment and to become environmentally sustainable.</li><li>» Provides targeted programs and services to support all sectors of the community to become environmentally sustainable.</li><li>» Understands the power of effective government and regional partnerships and actively engages in these to support its own objectives.</li></ul>



*Reg Harris Reserve*



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