

National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program Public Disclosure Summary



An Australian Government Initiative

City Of Yarra
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ABN: 98 394 086 520



Australian Government

Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change,
Science, Research and Tertiary Education

1. Organisation and Product Information

Table 1: Organisation and Product Information

Organisation Name	<u>Yarra City Council</u>	
Name of the subject(s) of certification	Yarra City Council	
Type of certification (tick all applicable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Product/service <input type="checkbox"/> Part of organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Event	
Reporting year period	From 1/07/2012	To 30/06/2013
Emissions in this reporting year	13,924t CO ₂ -e	
Base year period	From 1/07/2011	To 30/06/2012
Emissions in the base year	14,462 t CO ₂ -e	

2. Description of Organisation Activities

The City of Yarra- an inner metropolitan municipality of Melbourne Victoria, was originally formed in June 1994 and is home to a diverse community of about 81,000 people. Yarra's 19.5 square kilometres include the suburbs of Abbotsford, Burnley, Clifton Hill, Collingwood, Cremorne, Fitzroy, North Carlton, North Fitzroy, Princes Hill and Richmond. Parts of Alphington and Fairfield - south of Heidelberg Road - are also included in Yarra.

As an organisation, Yarra Council has a total capital and operating budget of \$151 million, which is used to deliver a wide range of community services and maintain essential community infrastructure.

Council provides both universal services that are used by most community members (such as waste and recycling collection or footpath maintenance), and specialised services which respond to specific needs (such as meals on wheels and child care). Some key statistics that relate to Council's service delivery in 2012-13 include:

- 45,666 hours of care for aged residents and/or residents with a disability including 23,088 hours of home care, 17,364 hours of personal care and 5,214 hours of respite care
- 34,466 meals delivered to older residents and/or residents with a disability
- 9695 metres of footpath upgraded
- 389 kindergarten places for three and four-year-olds
- 30,067 new items added to the local library collection

- 3120 inspections of food premises such as restaurants and cafes
- 2590 immunisations for the general community and 1756 for school children
- 10,490 hard waste collections and 9,259 green waste collections
- 29,870 residential rubbish bins and 26,800 residential recycling bins emptied per week

Buildings Summary

Council owns and operates over 150 buildings and structures across the City of Yarra. This includes town halls, libraries, leisure centres, sports pavilions and child care centres. The largest sites are Richmond Town Hall, Fitzroy Town Hall, Collingwood Town Hall, Richmond Recreation Centre, Fitzroy Swimming Pool and Collingwood Leisure Centre. These six sites account for nearly 77% of total building energy use.

3. Organisational & Geographic Boundary/Scope & System Boundary

In 2012, Council established its emissions boundary for the entire organisation, and was based on national and international standards to ensure alignment with the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) Program. This included not only the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (NGER Act), but also the GHG Protocol's Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard 2004- that covers the accounting and reporting of the six greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol. As a result a number of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions have been identified, measured and subsequently offset. Council included emission sources in its organisational boundary, based on two key determining factors:

- That the emissions would not have otherwise occurred if the City of Yarra as an organisation did not exist (ie operational control); and
- That Council had confidence that the emissions were able to be measured completely and accurately

In summary, Council's emissions boundary has been established to include the following:

Scope 1 emissions

- Natural Gas;
- Transport Fuel (including Unleaded Petrol, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Diesel use); and
- Fugitive emissions
- Oils and Lubricants (included for the first time in for the 2012-13 Reporting Year)

Scope 2 emissions

- Grid electricity

Scope 3 emissions

- Business travel of employees (including Air Flights, Public Transport and Taxis);
- Waste created from business operations;
- Paper;
- Upstream Electricity Use- Streetlighting; and
- Major Contractor Fuel Use

Table 2: Organisational and Geographic Boundary

Boundary consolidation approach:	Financial control
Description of the boundary of the subject of certification (also describe exclusions from the boundary):	<p>Financial Control</p> <p>Council consolidates its facility-level GHG emissions and removals based on control i.e. accounting for all its quantified Greenhouse Gas emissions and removals from facilities over which it has financial control as per the AS ISO 14064.1-2006. Financial Control is directly linked to whether Council is paying the utility costs for the sites. Additionally Council looked at Operational Control (as defined under NGERs) of the facilities and can report the following.</p> <p>Operational Control</p> <p>Council has also analysed its building stock and applied the operational control test (as defined under NGER) and have confirmed that sites that are owned and operated by Council are all under Council's operational control, as determined by the ability to set:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Operating policies -Health and safety policies & -Environmental policies <p>Sites Council lease to others</p> <p>Council have a number of buildings where the entire building is leased out to a third party.</p> <p>Using the same operational control test and based on details contained in the lease agreements Council does not have operational control of these sites. None of these are of a significant size (i.e. some Councils lease out their leisure centres but the City of Yarra does not). Of these leased sites there are 4 sites where Council paid the utility bills in 2011-12 (for a variety of reasons) and these have been included within inventory for that year, as they sit within Council's financial control.</p> <p>Leased spaces within Council operated buildings</p> <p>Council also has some sites (e.g. Fitzroy Town Hall) where a portion of the building is leased out. In these circumstances Council is responsible for the utility bills in their entirety and they are considered to be within Council's operational and financial control and as such all emissions at these sites are included in Council's inventory.</p> <p>Sites Council lease from others</p> <p>Council lease a number of sites on long term leases (10 years plus) from third parties. Of these only four have electricity or gas connected. The other leased sites are parks and open space sites. Those with electricity or gas connected are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Collingwood Library; • North Fitzroy Library; • Ryan Reserve Tennis Court and Pavilion;

- Stanton Street Hall; and
- 433 Smith st (short-term lease – under 3 years)

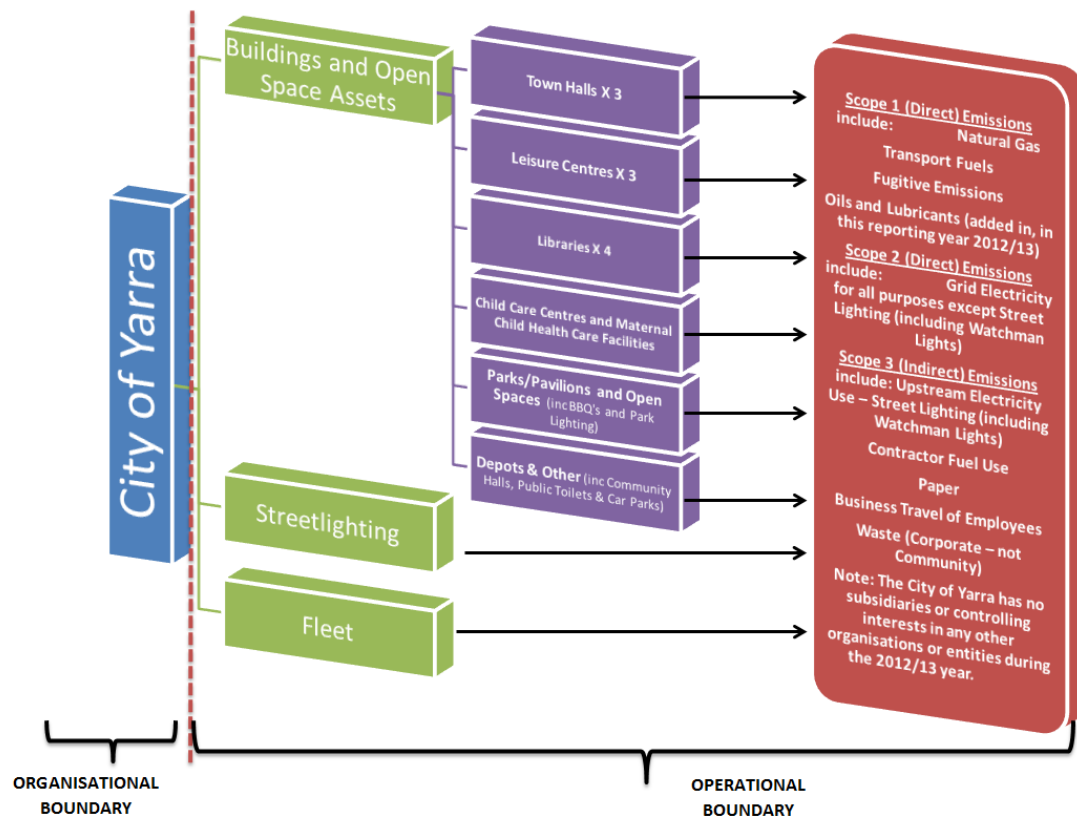
It has been determined that these sites are within Council's financial and operational control and are included in Council's inventory. In some instances, Council's boundary emissions have accounted for emissions that are not under its operational control but under Council's financial control. Examples include:

- A site is used by public individuals/groups but the tenant does not pay any utility bills- e.g. some pavilions and community centres; and
- Fleet vehicles used for staff commute to and from work

Consequently, there were some exclusions from Council's emissions boundary such as:

- Embodied emissions of all other consumables, supplies and services;
- Minor contractor vehicle use;
- Municipal (Domestic) waste
- Staff commute to and from work (except those commuting in a fleet vehicle) and
- Electricity and gas use at Council leased facilities (where bills are paid by the tenant);
- Community emissions (emissions emitted within the City of Yarra but outside of Council's operational boundary)

4. Diagram of the Boundary of the Subject of Certification



5. Purchase of GreenPower and Retirement of GreenPower Eligible Large-Scale Generation Certificates (LGCS)

Table 3: GreenPower

Type	Volume	Unit	t CO ₂ -e	Status
GreenPower	Not Applicable (N/A)	N/A	N/A	Choose an item.

Table 2: LGCs Surrendered

Details of LGCs Voluntarily Surrendered	
Quantity	Serial No.
None	Not Applicable

6. Purchase of NCOS Carbon Neutral Products

Table 3: Carbon Neutral Products

Product/service	Company	Quantity	Units	t CO ₂ -e (if known)
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Total (if known)				0

7. Total Carbon Footprint

Table 6: Emission sources, scopes and quantities

Scope	Emission source	t CO ₂ -e
1	Transport (petrol)	525
1	Fugitive Emissions	175
1	Transport (Autogas – LPG)	109
1	Transport (Diesel)	207
1	Natural Gas	1,925
1&3	Oils and Lubricants	1
2	Electricity	5,129
3	Electricity transmission and distribution losses	658
3	vehicle fleet (petrol extraction & distribution losses)	42
3	vehicle fleet (Autogas -LPG extraction & distribution losses)	9
3	vehicle fleet (Diesel extraction & distribution losses)	16
3	Natural Gas	146

Scope	Emission source	t CO ₂ -e
3	Electricity –Street Lighting	3,687
3	Transport Fuels –Major Contractors – Petrol	57
3	Transport Fuels –Major Contractors – Autogas/LPG	18
3	Transport Fuels –Major Contractors – Diesel	1088
3	Waste	61
3	Paper	35
3	Business Travel of Employees - Flights	18
3	Business Travel of Employees – Taxi's	16
3	Business Travel of Employees – Public Transport	2
Total carbon footprint in tonnes CO ₂ -e		13,924

8. Carbon Offset Purchases and Retirement for this Reporting Period

When Council first adopted the CNAP, its strategy to become carbon neutral was originally to purchase accredited GreenPower™ for electricity usage and accredited offsets for all other emissions. However, in September 2011 Council resolved to move to only purchasing NCOS approved offsets for all emissions and utilise the resultant financial savings to maximise the investment in additional projects and actions which will reduce energy consumption and also to increase Council's percentage of its energy requirements coming from low carbon, local energy generation. This decision has better prioritised Council's expenditure to align with the Energy hierarchy as detailed in the introduction to this document.

Offset Purchase:

In May 2012, Council established an offset panel to ensure access to reputable, reliable and competitive offset providers for the short-medium term. One of the mandatory requirements imposed was that providers were either listed on the Carbon Offset Guide Australia – (a listing of quality carbon offset providers maintained by Low Carbon Australia and EPA Victoria), or have applied to be listed.

As a result, Council appointed the following Offset Providers to their panel:

- Australian CO2 Exchange Pty Ltd trading as ACX Argyle
- Beyond Neutral Pty Ltd
- Cleaner Climate Australia Pty Ltd
- Climate Friendly Pty Ltd
- Climate Positive Ltd
- CO2 Australia Ltd
- Ramp Carbon Pty Ltd

The panel has been appointed for a term of two years with an option to extend a further year at Council's discretion. In June 2012 Council has procured more offsets than will be required for Carbon Neutral purposes for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 years via this panel.

Offset Cancellation

Council's policy position is to be Carbon Neutral under NCOS and as such the intention is that Council will only cancel the required number of offsets to meet this obligation.

After the cancellation of the carbon offsets required to offset its 2012/13 Greenhouse gas inventory it still has 11,580 offsets banked for use in future years. Council may need to purchase a small number of offsets prior to the verification of its 2013/14 Greenhouse gas inventory in order to meet its NCOS carbon neutral obligations for that year.

Table 7: Offset Cancellations

Offset type	Registry	Serial number	Quantity (t CO ₂ -e)
VCU	Markit	2186-89403468- 89417425-VCU-008- MER-CN-1-807- 01012010-31122010-0	13,958t
Total			13,958t ¹

¹ Council instructed its broker to cancel 13,958 tCO₂-e. The actual inventory for 2012/13 is 13,924 tCO₂-e due to two minor calculations amendments that were identified after instructions were issued to cancel the offsets. The 34 surplus offsets cancelled will be used for the 2013-14 reporting period.

The excess of the 34t of carbon offsets cancelled for 2012/13 will be allowed for when the 2013/14 carbon offset cancellations are calculated and completed, in order to re-align Council's cancellation of offsets with its Greenhouse Gas Inventory under NCOS.

9. Emission Reduction Measures

Table 8: Emissions Reductions Measures

Emission source	Reduction Measure	Scope	Status	Reduction t CO ₂ -e
Electricity – Street Lighting	Energy Efficient Street Lights	3	Implemented in a past reporting period	815
Electricity	Solar Panel installations at 9 sites	2	Implemented in a past reporting period	248
Natural Gas	Roof insulation installed at Collingwood Library (approx)	1	Implemented in a past reporting period	1
Natural Gas and Electricity	Thermal proofing of various Council buildings (approx)	1 & 2	Implemented in a past reporting period	5
Natural Gas and Electricity	Installation of fans to reduce heating and cooling demands at various Council buildings (approx)	1 & 2	Implemented in a past reporting period	5
Electricity – Street Lighting	Energy Efficient Street Lights	3	Implemented this reporting period	573
Electricity	Cogeneration at Collingwood Pool. Note – the 52 tCO ₂ -e represents the net savings between electricity and gas, but on a redeveloped site with greatly increased pool capacity	2	Implemented this reporting period	52
Electricity	Richmond Library – Energy efficiency works	2	Planned for future reporting period	50
Electricity	Fitzroy Swimming Pool Cogeneration - 55 kW reciprocating engine	2	Planned for future reporting period	328
Electricity and Natural Gas	Energy Performance Contract, across up to 18 Council buildings (still subject to Council Approval)	1 & 2	Planned for future reporting period	1,971
Total emission reductions implemented in this reporting period				625
Total expected emission reductions in future reporting periods				2,349

10. Other Information

Council adopted its Carbon Neutral Action Plan (CNAP) in 2010, with the goal of reducing Council's total greenhouse footprint. In line with the targets of the Yarra Environment Strategy (YES) also detailed in Section 2, the CNAP details a total of 157 actions (including sub actions), required to meet Council targets.

Council plans to utilise a number of different media in order to communicate the progress of the CNAP to staff and the community. This includes distributing information through the Yarra website, Council publications, at community events and through social media. Communication of the CNAP actions and achievements will encourage greater understanding and engagement by the community in sustainable living.

Council has made substantial progress against a number of its mid-term targets. A number of substantial energy reductions have already been made and by June 2013 Council has cut its energy use by about 25.5% (from 2000/01 levels). This is a major achievement despite falling short of Council's ambitious target of a 30% reduction in energy use by 2012. There are still numerous energy efficiency and renewable energy projects both underway and being scoped out, as detailed in Table 8 above that make it possible for Council to achieve its long term targets of a 50% reduction in energy use by 2015.

As well as having a strong focus on reducing the environmental footprint of the City of Yarra as an organisation, Council also has a strong focus on community sustainability. In April 2011, Council launched the Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF), a non-profit organisation solely dedicated to making the City of Yarra, as a municipality, carbon neutral by 2020. The foundation leads projects that work with residents, businesses and the wider community to achieve its aims.

Recognising Yarra's commitment to community sustainability, the City of Yarra was named Victorian Sustainable City of the Year in Keep Australia Beautiful annual awards in July 2011. Yarra was awarded top prize for a range of community-based initiatives and projects aimed at reducing waste, cutting energy consumption and preserving the natural environment. As well as winning the overall Sustainable City award, Yarra also won the 'Community Action' category for the Yarra Neighbourhood Orchard program, which organises a monthly food swap for home gardeners, so that people can share their excess produce and their home gardening expertise.

Yarra Council prides itself on being a strong leader in community and organisational sustainability. This can be demonstrated through the ambitious goals and targets set out in the YES and CNAP as well as the large number of projects that have already been implemented throughout Council. This shows strong commitment to the City of Yarra's vision of 'A vibrant, liveable and sustainable inner city that the community can be proud of'.

Since certification of Councils carbon neutral status Council has publicly announced this achievement via a media release, updated Council's website content and organised an official certification ceremony with the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (where former Low Carbon Australia CEO presented Council with its certification plaque).

Council also conducted a carbon neutral workshop in conjunction with the Municipal Association of Victoria with other certified local governments in March 2013.

In May 2013, Council won the UNAA Awards for Excellence in Overall Environmental Management by a local government, which included its activities around Carbon Neutrality and energy reductions. While in July 2013 Council was recognised as the winner of the Pam Keating Award for the overall Environmental Sustainability category for becoming the first Victorian Local Government to be certified Carbon Neutral. This award was presented by Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria.

11. Declaration

To the best of my knowledge and having implemented the quality controls and standards required under the NCOS Carbon Neutral Program and made all appropriate inquiries, the information provided in this Public Disclosure Summary is true and correct.

Michael Oke



Name of Signatory

Signature

Acting Manager Sustainability and Strategic Transport

Position / Title of Signatory

5/12/2013

Date