Australian Government

Climate Active

Public Disclosure Summary





An Australian Government Initiative

NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY:

Yarra City Council

REPOR

2018 - 2019

Declaration

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this Public Disclosure Summary is true and correct and meets the requirements of the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard.

Signature

Vul

Date 29 March 2020

Name of Signatory MICHAEL OKE

Position of Signatory Sustainability Unit Manager

Carbon neutral certification category	Organisation
Date of most recent external verification/audit	7/11/2016
Auditor	Stephen Glynatsis (Lead Auditor – Sustainability) SGS Australia Pty Ltd
Auditor assurance statement link	https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/-/media/files/about-us/sustainability- initatives/2017-ncos-carbon-neutralindependent-audit- report.pdf?la=en&hash=77BEADF9CDDF8C65248BF6BF43FFA1EB9AC1BF01



Australian Government

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

Public Disclosure Summary documents are prepared by the submitting organisation. The material in Public Disclosure Summary documents represents the views of the organisation and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth does not guarantee the accuracy of the contents of the Public Disclosure Summary documents and disclaims liability for any loss arising from the use of the document for any purpose.

1. Carbon neutral information

1A. Introduction

This Public Disclosure Summary and accompanying documents are part of a submission for Carbon Neutrality certification under the National Carbon Offset Standard for the organisation of Yarra City Council, as defined by the Organisational and Operational boundaries detailed on the following pages and reflected in the graphic titled Diagram of Certification Boundary (Figure 1).

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 approximately 100,000 people. The municipality is 19.5 square kilometres.

As an organisation, Yarra City Council has a total capital and operating budget of \$162.5 million, which is used to deliver a wide range of community services and maintain essential community infrastructure.

Council's service delivery includes:

- Care for aged residents and/or residents with a disability
- Meal on Wheels
- Collection of domestic rubbish and recycling
- Footpath and road resurfacing
- Operation of 5 libraries, 3 leisure centres and a golf course
- Family and Children Services
- Maintenance of parks and gardens and street trees
- Construction of new community assets and redevelopment and maintenance of existing community assets

The entire organisation of Yarra City Council is the subject of this carbon neutral

certification. Applicable Standards

The Annual Inventory and this Public Disclosure Summary have been prepared in accordance with the following standards:

- 1. National Carbon Offset Standard for Organisations
- 2. GHG Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard
- 3. GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain (scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard

4. ISO 14064.1:2006 Australian Standard for organisational greenhouse gas quantification and reporting

Greenhouse Gases

The relevant greenhouse gases for the purpose of NCOS reporting are: carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), hydro-fluorocarbons (HFCs). Note, there are no per-fluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) emitted from our business.

Consolidation approach

Yarra has elected to use an Operational Control approach, being most applicable for a local authority.

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 (i.e. operational control); and

• That Council had confidence that the emissions were able to be measured to a reasonable degree of accuracy.

1B. Emission sources within certification boundary

Quantified sources

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) and ISO 14064.1:2006 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.

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)
- Fugitive emissions

Scope 2 emissions

Grid electricity

Scope 3 emissions

• Business travel of employees, including Air Flights, Public Transport and Taxis, Rental Cars and Buses and Accommodation;

- Waste created from business operations;
- Paper;
- Upstream Electricity Use- Street lighting;
- Contractor Fuel Use;
- Water Use Corporate &
- Asphalt

Non-quantified sources

The following emissions sources have not been quantified, in line with the National Carbon Offset Standard. Some of these fall within Councils organisational boundary but have have not been quantified in line with Section 2.3.1 of the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard (2019), due to one (or more) of the following:

- the emissions are likely to be negligible (relative to other scope 3 emissions)
- determining the emissions will be very costly relative to their likely significance or
- there is insufficient data.

Table 1. Non-quantified emission from within the Organisational Boundary					
Emission source	Scope	Justification for non-quantification & overall implications for footprint			
Purchased Goods and Services	3	Lack of complete and reliable data, and uncertainty regarding methodologies and locally relevant emissions factors. Would be extremely time intensive to capture holistic data for this emissions source but will consider limited inclusions in future reporting periods. Council also have limited ability to influence these emissions, and limited resources to collect this information. The below goods and services are included in emissions calculations because Council has reliable data and a strong ability to influence: Contractor fuel use Asphalt Paper These three sub-categories also represent the largest sources of emissions from Council's goods and services. Remaining emissions from Goods and Services are not expected to represent a material impact to Council's footprint.			
Oils and Lubricants purchased via Third Parties	3	Council contracts out the servicing of its vehicles and most equipment. As such the vast bulk of Councils use of Oils and Lubricants is incorporated into bills from such contractors and very difficult to isolate. As a result there is a lack of complete and reliable data for this emissions source. Implication for the footprint is minor.			
Redevelopment (of Buildings)	3	Lack of complete and reliable data. The implication for footprint is likely to be insignificant as no significant renovations took place during 2018/19.			
Outdoor Events	3	Lack of complete and reliable data. Implication for footprint would be minor.			
Contractor Electricity and Gas	3	Lack of complete and reliable data. Implication for footprint likely to be minor.			
Employee Commuting (except those commuting in a fleet vehicle)	3	Lack of complete and reliable data. Could consider future inclusion if based on very limited sample data. Implication for footprint likely to be minor.			

	3	Not considered to be within Council's operational control. Lack of, and inability to get, consistent and quality data.
Downstream leased assets		Implication for the footprint considered to be small (less than 1.5% of total footprint).
		Note –Yarra does not lease out any of its Leisure Centres to third party operators and as such are included in Council's emissions boundary.
Investments	3	Council holds no financial investments (as defined under the Greenhouse Gas Protocol – Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard) as its investments are held in term deposits with no link to any specific products or services.
		Council have limited resources to collect this information.
		Implication for the footprint considered to be negligible.

1C. Emission Exclusions

Other scope 3 emissions are outside Council's organisational boundary and as such not included in this inventory. These include:

- Municipal waste all waste generated by the broader Yarra community, with the exception of the corporate waste Council produces.
- Community emissions (emissions emitted within the City of Yarra but outside of Council's operational control).

1D. Diagram of the certification boundary

Yarra City Council Organisational and Operational Boundary.



Scope 3 Non-quantified & Excluded Emissions - Purchased Goods and Services, including Capital Goods/Expenditure, Oils and Lubricants purchased via third parties, Redevelopments, Outdoor Events, Contractor Energy, Employee Commuting, Downstream Leased Assets, Investments, Municipal Waste, Community Emissions

Figure 1: City of Yarra's Certification Boundary

2. Emissions reduction measures

2A. Emissions over time

Table 2. Emissions since base year (tCO2-e)										
	2011/12 Base Year	12/13	13/14	14-15	15-16	16/17	17/18	Current Year 18/19	Net change since the Base Year	Percentage change since the base year
Scope 1	2,573	2,943	2,823	3,083	2,821	3,180	3 <i>,</i> 059	2,881	308	11.99%
Scope 2	5,497	5,129	4,921	4,049	4,170	3,804	3,891	1,579	-3,918	-71.28%
Scope 3 – Street Lighting	4,260	3,687	3,421	3,131	2,934	2,896	2,849	1,076	-3,184	-74.75%
Scope 3 – Other	2,132	2,166	2,782	2,862	2,863	2,517	2,189	2,316	184	8.65%
Total	14,462	13,925	13,947	13,125	12,787	12,397	11,988	7,852	-6,610	-45.70%

2B. Emissions reduction strategy

Since Council's first Greenhouse Action Plan was released in 2004 it has been recognised that Yarra's response to the impacts of climate change need to include a commitment to greenhouse mitigation. The impacts of climate change are being felt now and likely to become more severe. It is considered that mitigation actions now will reduce the cost and effort required to adapt to climatic changes and improve future environmental, social, health, and economic outcomes.

Moving forward, the City of Yarra's emissions reduction strategy is based on implementing actions in Council's Climate Emergency and Carbon Management Plans (currently under development).

Council has a holistic approach to carbon management via the 'energy hierarchy' strategy. The hierarchy enables Council to prioritise its immediate and long-term actions and methods in reducing its carbon.

The energy hierarchy prioritises Yarra's actions which minimise overall greenhouse emissions.

- 1. Measure all emissions and evaluate the effectiveness of previous reduction measures
- 2. Avoid using energy at all opportunities and eliminate waste.
- 3. Reduce what energy needs to be used through efficient technology and behaviour change
- 4. Green energy supplies by switching to low or no emission sources

5. Sequester and offset all residual emissions that can't be eliminated through avoiding, reducing and changing energy supplies

The energy hierarchy



2C. Emissions reduction actions

Table 3. Emissions reductions actions	
Action	Estimated annual emissions reduction (tCO2e)
Completed installation 256kW of solar power at 9 Council sites including battery storage at 6 sites.	995
Commencement of a power purchase agreement (PPA) for 100% renewable electricity for 100% of Council's electricity demand.	3,495

3. Emissions summary

Table 4. Emissions Summary					
Scope	Emission source	t CO2-e			
1	Transport (petrol)	491			
1	Transport (Autogas – LPG)	29			
1	Transport (Diesel)	174			
1	Natural Gas	1,972			
1	Fugitive Emissions – non-Kyoto	185			
1	Fugitive Emissions	30			
2	Electricity - Buildings	1,579			
3	Electricity – Buildings - transmission and distribution losses				
3	vehicle fleet (petrol extraction & distribution losses)				
3	vehicle fleet (Autogas -LPG extraction & distribution losses)				
3	vehicle fleet (Diesel extraction & distribution losses)				
3	Natural Gas Distribution 14				
3	Electricity –Street Lighting	1,076			
3	Contractor Fuel Use (transport) – Petrol				
3	Contractor Fuel Use (transport) – Autogas/LPG				
3	Contractor Fuel Use (transport) – Diesel 1,6:				
3	Waste	79			
3	Paper	56			
3	Business Travel of Employees	8			
3	Water Use -Corporate	50			
3	Asphalt	81			
Total G	Total Gross Emissions 7,852				
GreenP	2,655 voluntary LGCs already subtracted from 'Gross Emissions'				
I otal Ne	et Emissions	7,852			

Electricity emissions in 2018/19 have reduced by 60% from 2017/18. This can predominantly be attributed to the commencement of a power purchase agreement providing 100% renewable electricity for all of Council's operations from January 2019.

Gas consumption has reduced by 8% since 2017/18. One of Council's three co-generation plants was offline for two months due to site renovations.

4. Carbon offsets

4A. Offsets summary

Table 5. Offsets Summary							
Projects supported by offset purchase	Eligible offset	Registry	Cancellation date	Serial numbers (including hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Quantity	
Kalasin Wastewater Treatment, Thailand (300136)	VCUs	Markit	5-Mar-19	5092-211552538-211563728-VCU-005-APX-TH-13-416-01012014- 14092014-0	2014	11,191.00	
Total offsets cancelled:							
Total offsets required for 2018/2019:							
Total offsets banked for use in future years:							



4B. Offsets purchasing and retirement strategy

Council offset procurement process specifies that Council only procure offsets that meet the NCOS *Guidance on NCOS eligible offset units.* Offsets have historically been retired on either the Markit or APX VCS registries and this is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

4C. Offset projects (Co-benefits)

Kalasin Wastewater Treatment, Thailand

Council has selected to support the Kalasin Wastewater Treatment Project - a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project certified in accordance with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Located in the Kalasin Province in north-east Thailand, the project commenced in 2012. It introduced a closed loop system in a starch factory that employs an Anaerobic Baffled Reactor (ABR) that removes 90% of the organic material in the wastewater, and hence reduces the Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) and subsequent fugitive CH4 emissions. The captured methane-rich biogas is used to provide heat and generate electricity.

As a result of this process, the electricity generated from the fossil-fuel intensive grid and heavy fuel oil used in the boilers, is replaced with a clean alternative. The project reduces air pollution and saves precious groundwater resources which directly benefits the health of the local community. It promotes sustainable development of the region by supporting local farmers with free agricultural fertilizers and creating jobs during the construction and operating phases.

The project's offsets are certified under the Verified Carbon Units scheme and are recognised both globally and under the National Carbon Offsets Scheme.

5. Use of trade mark

Table 6. Trade mark register					
Where used	Logo type				
Staff Email Signature Blocks	Certified organisation				
Decal on Nissan Leaf Electric Vehicle	Certified organisation				
Website	Certified organisation				