



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

CITY OF SYDNEY

**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION
FY2019-20**

Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY: **City of Sydney**

REPORTING PERIOD: **1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020**

Declaration

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Woodbury".

Date 8 June 2021

Name of Signatory – **Kim Woodbury**

Position of Signatory – **Chief Operating Officer**



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

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1. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

In 2007 the City of Sydney Council resolved to become carbon neutral for its own properties and operations. Since 2008 the organisation has been measuring and reducing energy and greenhouse gas emissions, installing and using renewable energy, and purchasing carbon offsets for emissions which cannot be avoided.

In November 2011, the City's carbon neutrality was officially recognised under the National Carbon Offset Standard (now Climate Active) and this has been retained annually.

Our target is to reduce our 2006 emissions by 70 per cent by 2030 with an interim target of 44 per cent by June 2021 to be achieved with absolute reductions and not offsets. We are serious about achieving ambitious targets in order to mitigate climate change impacts. Emissions avoidance and reduction is our highest priority, and the City has many programs underway.

This inventory has been prepared based on the Climate Active Standard. For emissions that cannot be avoided in the immediate term, the City purchases offsets recognised also by the Climate Active Standard. It pertains to greenhouse gas emissions released due to activities associated with City of Sydney Council operations in the period of 1-July 2019 to 30-June 2020. The gross emissions during this period were 36,459 tCO₂e.

It is imperative that the world reaches net zero emissions as soon as possible. Being certified carbon neutral and using carbon neutral products is a simple and transparent way that organisations can contribute.

Organisation description

The City of Sydney Council

The City of Sydney is the local government authority responsible for the city centre and more than 30 suburbs. The City of Sydney's role is to provide services for our residents as well as for the daily influx of workers and visitors. Pre-pandemic, on any given day, Sydney's population swells to more than a million people.

The core functions of the City are defined by the *Local Government Act* 1993, the *City of Sydney Act* 1988 and other legislation. A non-exhaustive overview of City of Sydney services and facilities include:

- Aquatic centres
- Community centres, services and facilities
- Domestic waste service
- Economic development
- Events and sponsorships
- Health and building inspections
- Infrastructure (roads, footways, drainage, street lighting)
- Parking services
- Parks and open space
- Strategic planning and development consent
- Sustainability

The City owns approximately 250 properties, many of which are tenanted. The City also owns over 8,500 streetlights and there are a further 13,000 streetlights owned by the electricity network provider but deemed to be within the City's financial control (pays for energy and maintenance). The City's operations mostly run out of a main administration building, multiple depots, parks, libraries, venues and community centres.

Organisational targets developed through Sustainable Sydney 2030 and the City's Environmental Action Plan include 44 per cent reduction of 2006 greenhouse gas emissions by June 2021 and 70 per cent by 2030. A new agreement with renewable energy company Flow Power will ensure all City of Sydney operations, including pools, sports fields, depots and buildings, including the historic Sydney Town Hall, will be powered by 100 per cent renewable energy from July 2020. This will ensure that the City is on track to meet its 2021 and 2030 operational emission targets.

Sustainable Sydney 2030 proposes a Green, Global and Connected city and has significantly increased the expectations and service delivery by the City of Sydney. This report is about the processes and results of the City of Sydney being a carbon neutral organisation, and it does not refer to the Local Government Area (LGA).

Greenhouse gases

The City of Sydney greenhouse gas emissions inventory includes the gases covered by the UNFCCC/Kyoto Protocol including carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorinated carbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃). However, there are no known sources of PFCs, SF₆ or NF₃ relevant to the City's operations.

The City includes greenhouse gas emissions from the ozone depleting R22 refrigerant within its inventory. This is an option accorded within the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Required Greenhouse Gases in Inventories - Accounting and Reporting Standard Amendment Feb 2013. Until R22 is phased out it will continue to be a source of greenhouse gas emissions and is therefore included.

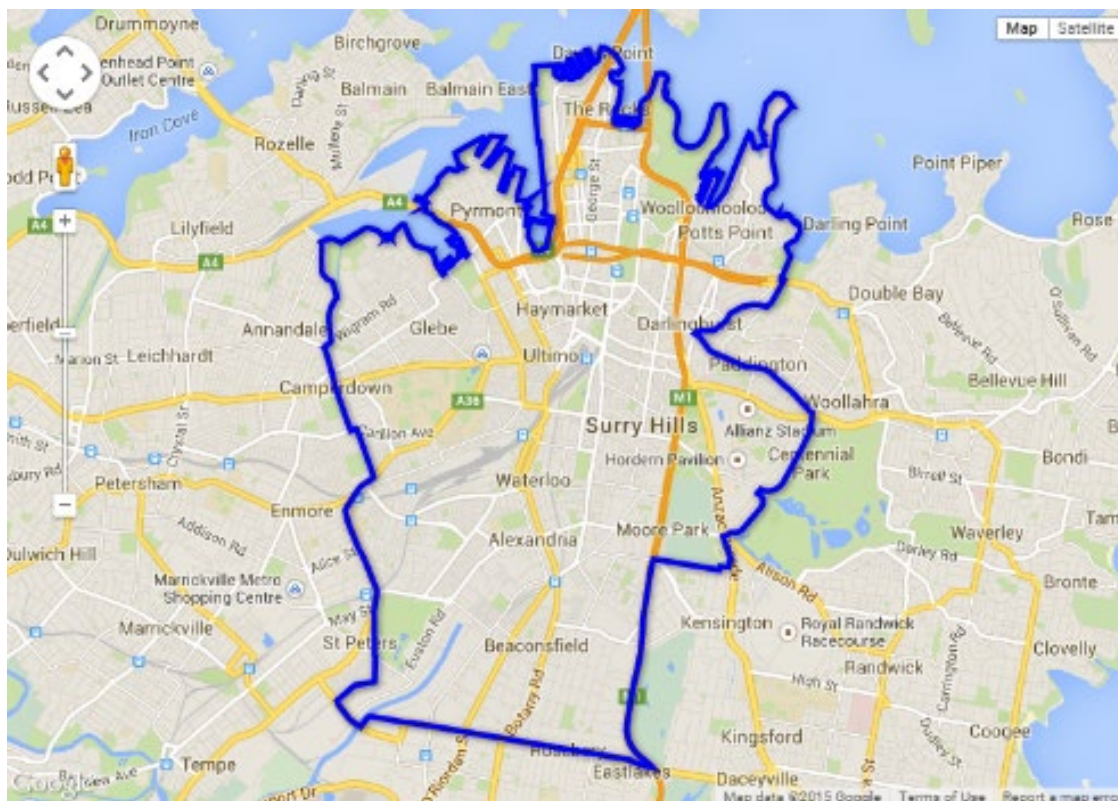
2. EMISSION BOUNDARY

Diagram of the certification boundary

Geographical Boundary

The City of Sydney local government area (LGA) covers 26.15 square kilometres of inner Sydney from Sydney Harbour at Rushcutters Bay to Glebe and Annandale in the west, Sydney Park and Rosebery in the south, and Centennial Park and Paddington in the east. This inventory pertains to providing local government services for the geographical area shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Local Government Area



Organisational boundary

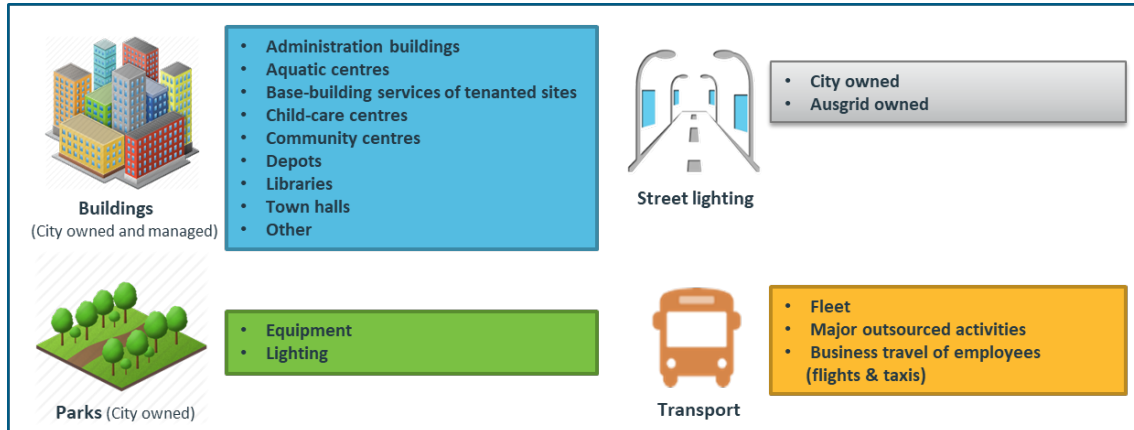
The City of Sydney organisational boundary includes emissions sources where the City is considered to have operational control, as defined by the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2008*¹ and the *Greenhouse Gas Protocol – A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard guidance*, chapters 3 and 4², for emissions resulting in the delivery of services where the City has capacity to implement environmental policies.

¹ <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-measurement/nger>

² <http://www.ghgprotocol.org/standards/corporate-standard>

For the City of Sydney, this means services required under the *Local Government Act 1993* and Sustainable Sydney 2030 and includes core business, statutory responsibilities, service provision, Council facilities, services and other assets as depicted in Figure 2.

Figure 2 - Organisational boundary



Operational boundary

Operational control is the predominant control approach as described above. In accordance with the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2008*, Section 11, the City includes all Scope-1 and Scope-2 emissions based on aggregated data for facilities and core activities. In addition, there are a range of Scope-3 emissions sources. Figure 3 shows all emissions that have been quantified, non-quantified and excluded.

The City has chosen to include other emissions sources which are within its financial control (e.g. fuel emissions from major contractors).

Figure 3: Diagram of the certification boundary

<u>Quantified</u>	<u>Non-quantified</u>	<u>Excluded</u>
<p>Electricity</p> <p>Natural gas</p> <p>Diesel – fleet, contractor</p> <p>Biodiesel – fleet, contractor</p> <p>Ethanol – fleet, contractor</p> <p>ULP – fleet, contractor</p> <p>LPG – fleet, contractor</p> <p>Staff business travel</p> <p>Flights & Accommodation</p> <p>Taxis</p> <p>Refrigerants</p> <p>Diesel - Stationary</p> <p>Council waste</p> <p>Events – New Year's Eve</p> <p>Paper – A3, A4 & A5</p> <p>Paper - plotter</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Staff commute</p> <p>Postage and courier services</p> <p>Food and catering</p> <p>Waste from contractor construction</p>	<p>Business travel by public transport or rental vehicles</p> <p>City of Sydney Events other than New Year's Eve</p> <p>ICT equipment, consumables, repairs, maintenance and communications.</p> <p>Minor outsourced activities.</p> <p>Freight and transportation of purchased materials or goods.</p>	<p>Embodied energy of road and building materials.</p> <p>Third party events at City of Sydney facilities.</p> <p>Waste from tenancies not serviced by City of Sydney</p>

Non-quantified sources

Non-quantified	Justification
<i>Business travel by public transport or rental vehicles</i>	<i>Small in relation to scopes 1&2 and Data unavailable</i>
<i>City of Sydney Events other than New Year's Eve</i>	<i>Small in relation to scopes 1&2 and Data unavailable</i>
<i>ICT equipment, consumables, repairs, maintenance and communications.</i>	<i>Small in relation to scopes 1&2</i>
<i>Minor outsourced activities.</i>	<i>Small in relation to scopes 1&2</i>
<i>Freight and transportation of purchased materials or goods.</i>	<i>Data unavailable</i>

Third party certification through Climate Active helps us to track against our emissions targets with confidence.

Data management plan

All large and important emission sources are quantified in City of Sydney's carbon inventory; hence a data management plan is not provided. The City has a procedure for Climate Active data and reporting.

Excluded sources (outside of certification boundary)

- Embodied energy of road and building material has been excluded as it has been assessed as not relevant according to the relevance test
- Third party events at City of Sydney facilities have been excluded as it has been assessed as not relevant according to the relevance test
- Waste from tenancies not serviced by City of Sydney has been excluded as it has been assessed as not relevant according to the relevance test

3. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions reduction strategy

The emissions reduction strategy focusses on the City's planned or intended actions to achieve its target to reduce 2006 emissions by 44 per cent by June 2021 and 70 per cent by 2030. These are absolute targets, based on the City playing its fair share to constrain global average temperature increases to below 2 degrees Celsius.

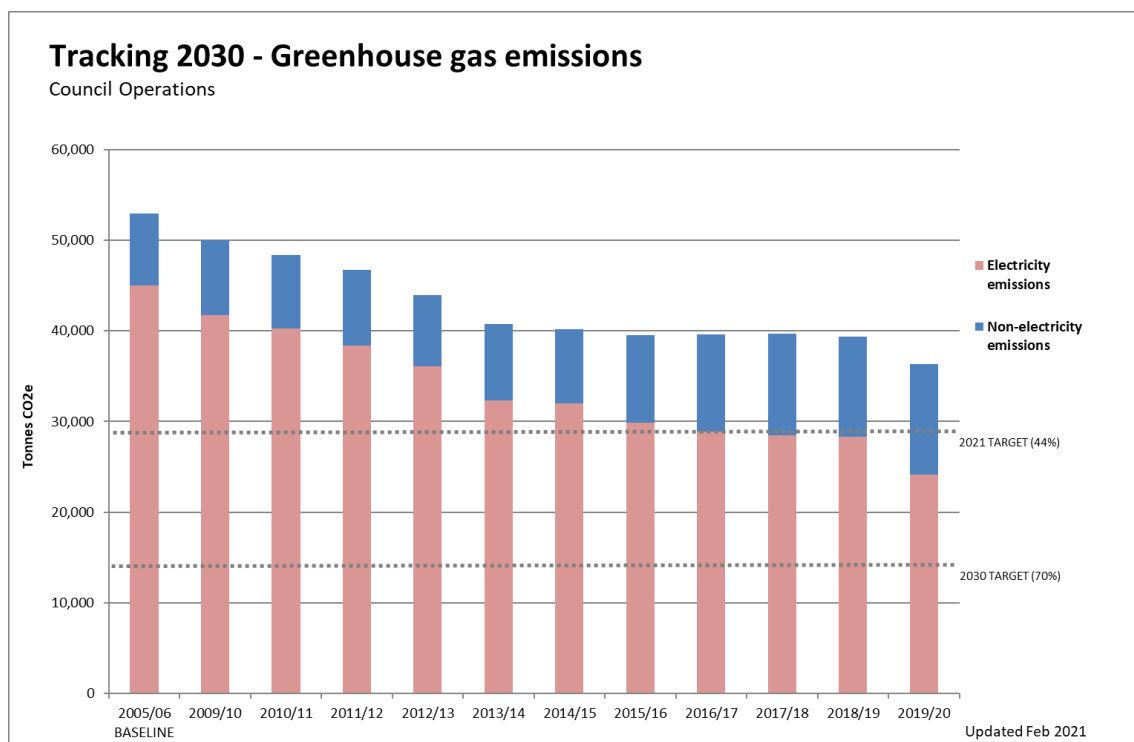
In the first instance, the City will continue to deploy energy efficiency and solar PV as part of its current tenders and commitments. In addition, the City will continue to identify feasible opportunities to reduce emissions through technologies, management practices and the design and operation of its properties and other assets.

A new Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with renewable energy company Flow Power will ensure all City of Sydney operations, including pools, sports fields, depots and buildings, including the historic Sydney Town Hall, will be powered by 100% renewable electricity from July 2020. This will ensure that the City is on track to meet its 2021 and 2030 operational emissions targets.

Beyond 2021, the City also intends to procure renewable gas, when available, and further reduce its fossil fuel related carbon emissions.

Figure 4 shows that the majority of emissions are from electricity which reflects the highly emissions intensive electricity grid due mostly to coal-fired generation. The majority of emissions reductions achieved to date, as well as future savings, will come by reducing grid electricity through energy efficiency, using onsite and offsite and renewable electricity, electrification of plant and vehicles, and also by purchasing renewable gas.

Figure 4 – Electricity and non-electricity emissions



Emissions over time

Figure 5 and Tables 1 and 2 show year-on-year changes to the City's greenhouse gas emissions by scope and by major business unit since 2005/06 - the year against which the City's greenhouse gas reduction target was established through Sustainable Sydney 2030.

The 2005/06 base year emissions inventory received independent assurance to the same level as required for certification under Climate Active.

Table 1 – Emissions since base year

Emissions since base year	2005/06 BASELINE	Year-1 2009/10	Year-2 2010/11	Year-3 2011/12	Year-4 2012/13	Year-5 2013/14	Year-6 2014/15	Year-7 2015/16	Year-8 2016/17	Year-9 2017/18	Year-10 2018/19	Year-11 2019/20
Total tCO ₂ e	52,972	50,030	48,336	46,701	43,945	40,769	40,204	39,566	39,600	39,653	39,354	36,459

Figure 5 – Annual emissions by major type

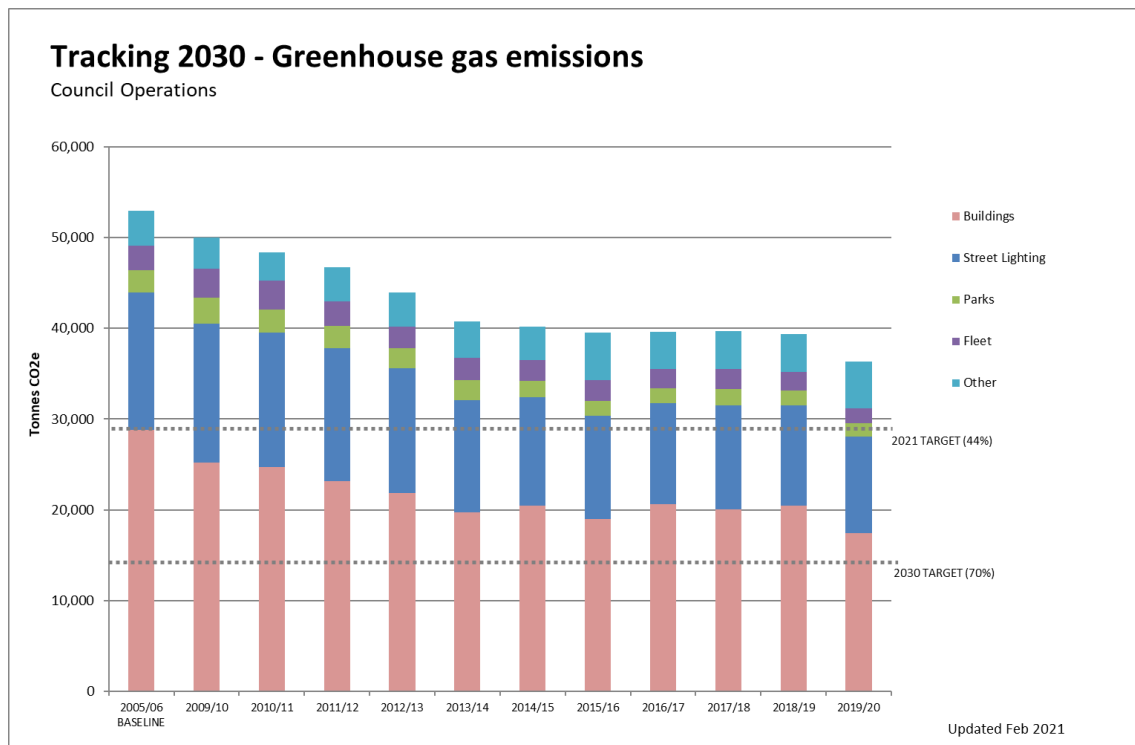


Table 2 – Annual emissions by major type

Emissions since base year	2005/06 BASELINE	Year-1 2009/10	Year-2 2010/11	Year-3 2011/12	Year-4 2012/13	Year-5 2013/14	Year-6 2014/15	Year-7 2015/16	Year-8 2016/17	Year-9 2017/18	Year-10 2018/19	Year-11 2019/20
Buildings	28,775	25,203	24,718	23,150	21,847	19,711	20,468	18,996	20,616	20,034	20,495	17,465
Street Lighting	15,131	15,269	14,783	14,653	13,730	12,404	11,942	11,382	11,103	11,515	10,975	10,635
Parks	2,502	2,878	2,578	2,468	2,197	2,206	1,824	1,648	1,633	1,754	1,667	1,524
Fleet	2,669	3,225	3,175	2,710	2,373	2,417	2,293	2,244	2,156	2,245	2,081	1,614
Other	3,896	3,455	3,082	3,720	3,798	4,031	3,677	5,296	4,092	4,105	4,137	5,221
Total tCO ₂ e	52,972	50,030	48,336	46,701	43,945	40,769	40,204	39,566	39,600	39,653	39,354	36,459

There have been no material changes to the emissions boundary since 2005/06. Business travel accommodation, water, staff commute, postage and courier services, food and catering, and waste from contractor construction, which were not included in the baseline reporting year, sum up to less than four per cent of the whole inventory.

The base year inventory will be re-calculated when changes to emissions factors, improved methodologies or data sources, boundaries, or other causes are deemed to result in a significance threshold change to total emissions of five per cent or greater. The base year inventory will not be recalculated for organic growth or decline in assets or services that are owned or controlled by the Council.

There is always statistical uncertainty associated with GHG source data, resulting from natural variations or human errors in the measurement process, and fluctuations in data measurement methods or equipment. An estimate of the data uncertainty for the City of Sydney has been carried out in accordance with the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008 and the GHG Protocol. The statistical uncertainty associated with emission data collected and analysed for the City of Sydney for the 2019-20 reporting period is 5.24%.

Total greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 31 per cent since 2006.

Emissions reduction actions

Emission source	Status	Reduction measure and calculation method
Solar photovoltaic	Installation in progress	<p>To date, the City has installed 43 solar PV systems at multiple Council sites including office buildings, childcare centres, libraries, works depots, community centres, sporting fields and other venues.</p> <p>Solar PV generation data is collated from various meters and modems for individual PV systems. Solar PV export data is extracted from Ausgrid's Plus-ES portal.</p>
Grid Emissions	Continuing	<p>Greening of the grid means that emission factors are anticipated to improve year on year. A further reduction in grid emissions for 2019/20 is due to the switch to market-based accounting. The City has signed a 10-year 100% renewable electricity contract meaning that changes to grid emissions will not impact future years reporting.</p>
Energy and water at major properties	In progress	<p>Major Properties Efficiency Project (MPEP) includes energy and water improvement projects at thirteen City of Sydney sites, which account for almost 80 per cent of the City's total energy and water consumption.</p>
Utility management	Continuing	<p>SMART is the City's platform to manage, monitor and report on utilities and other sustainability metrics for all assets owned or managed by City of Sydney. It provides City asset managers and staff with improved visibility on electricity, gas, water consumption, and waste generation.</p> <p>For the 2019/20, SMART identified and resolved utility variances within City's portfolio including 321MWh electricity, 19TJ fossil gas and 29ML water. The electricity and natural gas variances equate to 1,285 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
Water management	In progress	<p>The rectification of leaks, management of previously unidentified accounts and normalising of irrigation changes also provide improvement opportunities.</p>
Waste	In progress	<p>Recycling of waste from City parks, streets and public places continues to increase as a result of changes to waste processing contracts that divert organic waste from public litter and stormwater material from landfill. City properties Waste Improvement Program is resulting in improvements in avoidance and recycling.</p>

Please Note – During the last quarter of reporting period 2019/20, the City of Sydney's entire portfolio experienced reduced energy and water consumption, which resulted in lower emissions. This reduction in emissions is attributed to COVID-19 pandemic related closures of aquatic centres, depots, community and commercial buildings from March to June 2020.

Emissions summary (inventory)

Table 3

Emission source category	tonnes CO ₂ -e
Electricity – Market Based	24,168
Stationary Energy	5,456
Land and Sea Transport (fuel)	3,433
Refrigerants	891
Bespoke – New Year's Eve, Paper	629
Waste	542
Land and Sea Transport (km)	452
Water	306
Food	296
Air Transport (km)	121
Postage, courier and freight	105
Office equipment & supplies	37
Accommodation and facilities	14
Taxi and Uber	11
Total Net Emissions	36,459

Carbon neutral products

- Carbon neutral certified Paper

Electricity summary

Electricity was calculated using a Market-based approach.

A summary of emissions using both Market-based and Location-based measures has been provided for full disclosure and to ensure year on year comparisons can be made.

Market-based approach electricity summary

Table 4

Electricity inventory items	kWh	Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)
Electricity Renewables	5,326,317	0.00
Electricity Carbon Neutral Power	0	0.00
Electricity Remaining	22,355,070	24,168.066
Renewable electricity percentage	19%	
Net emissions (Market based approach)		24,168.066

Location-based summary

Table 5

State/ Territory	Electricity Inventory items	kWh	Full Emission factor (Scope 2 +3)	Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)
ACT/NSW	Electricity Renewables	-	-0.90	0.00
ACT/NSW	Electricity Carbon Neutral Power	-	-0.90	0.00
ACT/NSW	Netted off (exported on-site generation)	954,726	-0.81	-773.328
ACT/NSW	Electricity Total	28,636,112	0.90	25,772.501
	Total net electricity emissions (Location based)			24,999.173

4. CARBON OFFSETS

Offset purchasing strategy: Forward purchasing

Table 6

Forward purchasing summary	
1. Total offsets previously forward purchased for this reporting period	36,800
2. Total offsets required for this reporting period	36,459
3. Net offset balance for this reporting period	341
4. Total offsets to be forward purchased for next reporting period	0*

* The City voluntarily retires a modest amount of additional carbon offsets each year to be carbon positive.

Offsets summary

Table 7

1. Total offsets required for this report							36,459		
2. Offsets retired in previous reports and used in this report							0		
3. Net offsets required for this report							36,459		
Project description	Eligible offset units type	Registry unit retired in	Date retired	Serial number (including hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Quantity (tonnes CO2-e)	Quantity used for previous report	Quantity to be banked for future years	Quantity to be used this report
Tiwi Islands Savanna Burning for Greenhouse Gas Abatement (ERF105045)	KACCUs	ANREU	08 Jan 2021	3,772,969,100 – 3,772,970,899	2019	1,800	0	0	1,800
Renewable Power Project by Saipuram Wind Energies Private Limited	VCUs	VCS	02 Feb 2021	9513-104507283-104542282-VCS-VCU-997-VER-IN-1-1788-01012019-03102019-0	2019	35,000	0	0	35,000
Total offsets retired this report and used in this report							0		36,800
Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports								0	

Co-benefits

The City of Sydney has purchased 1,800 carbon offsets from Indigenous cultural burn practices through the Indigenous owned Aboriginal Carbon Foundation. This forms part of the City's ongoing carbon neutral certification under the Climate Active program, whilst supporting Indigenous business and people. The offsets come from traditional burning practices in the Tiwi Islands.

The City contacted Supply Nation which led to procurement through the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation. AbCF is an Indigenous not-for-profit entity established in 2010 to support carbon farming projects, with an office in the city local government area. It is led by Indigenous rangers and connects Aboriginal communities with offsetting organisations.

5. USE OF TRADE MARK

Table 8

Description where trademark used	Logo type	Link
City of Sydney Green Reports	Certified organisation	www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/GreenReport
City of Sydney website	Certified organisation	www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Carbon

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nil.

APPENDIX 1

Excluded emissions

Emission must meet two of the five relevance criteria to be deemed relevant. Excluded emissions are detailed below against each of the five criteria.

Table 9

Relevance test					
Excluded emission sources	<i>The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions</i>	<i>The emissions from a particular source contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure.</i>	<i>Key stakeholders deem the emissions from a particular source are relevant.</i>	<i>The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.</i>	<i>The emissions are from outsourced activities previously undertaken within the organisation's boundary, or from outsourced activities typically undertaken within the boundary for comparable organisations.</i>
Embodied energy of road and building material	Yes	No	No	No	No
Third party events at City of Sydney facilities	No	No	No	No	No
Waste from tenancies not serviced by City of Sydney	No	No	No	No	No

APPENDIX 2

Non-quantified emissions for organisations

Table 10

Non-quantification test				
Relevant-non-quantified emission sources	<i>Immaterial <1% for individual items and no more than 5% collectively</i>	<i>Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied.</i>	<i>Data unavailable but uplift applied. A data management plan must be put in place to provide data within 5 years.</i>	<i>Initial emissions non-quantified but repairs and replacements quantified</i>
City of Sydney Events other than New Year's Eve	Yes	Yes	No	No
ICT equipment, consumables, repairs, maintenance and communications.	Yes	No	No	No
Minor outsourced activities.	Yes	Yes	No	No
Freight and transportation of purchased materials or goods.	Yes	Yes	No	No