



# **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**


**CITY OF SYDNEY**

**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION**

**FY2020-21**

Australian Government  
**Climate Active**  
**Public Disclosure Statement**



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	City of Sydney
REPORTING PERIOD	Financial year 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021 Arrears report
DECLARATION	<p><i>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.</i></p>  <p>Kim Woodbury Chief Operating Officer</p> <p>1 May 2022</p>



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Industry, Science,  
Energy and Resources**

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Version September 2021. To be used for FY20/21 reporting onwards.



# 1. CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	12,667 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e
OFFSETS BOUGHT	9% ACCU, 91% VCU
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	100%
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	Next technical assessment due: FY2023
THIRD PARTY VALIDATION	Verification (source data) 11 March 2022 Dr Adina Cirtog Pangolin Pty Ltd

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## 2. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

### Description of certification

In 2007 the City of Sydney Council resolved to become carbon neutral for its operations. Since 2008 the organisation has been measuring and reducing emissions through energy efficiency, fuel switching, installing solar PV, and purchasing carbon offsets.

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. The City's Environmental Strategy 2021 - 2025 commits to remain a certified Carbon Neutral organisation under the Climate Active program with an increasing share of higher quality, nature based carbon offsets.

The City's emissions have significantly reduced since it began using 100% renewable electricity in July 2020.

Our target is 80% reduction in emissions generation by end June 2025, from 2006 baseline - to be achieved with absolute reductions and not offsets. Our 2020-21 emissions are 76% below 2006 levels.

We are serious about achieving ambitious targets to mitigate climate change impacts. Emissions avoidance and reduction is our highest priority, and the City has many programs underway including LED lighting and fleet improvements.

This inventory covers emissions from City of Sydney operations in the period of 1-July 2020 to 30-June 2021 based on the Climate Active Standard for greenhouse gas emissions.

### Organisation description

City of Sydney  
456 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
ABN 29 143 862 138

The City of Sydney is the local government authority responsible for the city centre and more than 30 suburbs. The City's role is to provide services for our residents as well as for the daily influx of workers and visitors. The core functions of the City are defined by the Local Government Act 1993, the City of Sydney Act 1988 and other legislation.

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 its administration building, depots, parks, libraries, venues, and community centres.

*Being certified carbon neutral and using carbon neutral products is a simple and transparent way that organisations can contribute to net zero. Purchasing high-quality offsets with co-benefits helps to finance legitimate and necessary nature-based carbon farming projects.*

## 3.EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

### Inside the emissions boundary

All emission sources listed in the emissions boundary are part of the carbon neutral claim. **Quantified emissions** have been assessed as relevant and are quantified in the carbon inventory. **Non-quantified emissions** have been assessed as relevant and are captured within the emissions boundary but are not measured (quantified) in the carbon inventory. Further detail is available at Appendix C.

### Outside the emissions boundary

**Excluded emissions** are those that have been assessed as not relevant to the City's operations and are outside of its emissions boundary or are outside of the scope of the certification. These emissions are not part of the carbon neutral claim. Further detail is available at Appendix D.

The emission sources in the boundary diagram below are as per the emissions categories in the emissions summary table.

## Inside emissions boundary

### Quantified

Electricity  
Natural gas  
Diesel – fleet, contractor  
Biodiesel – fleet  
Ethanol – fleet, contractor  
ULP – fleet, contractor  
Flights & Accommodation  
Taxis  
Refrigerants  
Diesel - Stationary  
Council waste  
Events – New Year's Eve  
Paper – A3, A4, A5, plotter  
Water  
Staff commute  
Postage and courier services  
Food and catering  
Waste from contractor construction

### Non-quantified

Business travel by public transport or rental vehicles  
  
City of Sydney Events other than New Year's Eve  
  
ICT equipment, consumables, repairs, maintenance and communications.  
  
Minor outsourced activities.  
  
Freight and transportation of purchased materials or goods.

## Outside emission boundary

### Excluded

Embodied energy of road and building materials.  
  
Third party events at City of Sydney facilities.  
  
Waste from tenancies not serviced by City of Sydney  
  
New Year's Eve 2020 event

## Data management plan for non-quantified sources

There are no non-quantified sources in the emission boundary that require a data management plan.

## 4. EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

### Emissions reduction strategy

The City's [Environmental Strategy 2021 -2025](#) outlines the following targets that apply to City of Sydney operations:

- 80% reduction in emissions generation by end June 2025, from 2006 baseline.
- Maintain emissions from the City's fleet below 2014 levels and aim to achieve zero fleet emissions by 2035 or sooner.

Action 1 is to deliver energy, water and resilience outcomes through City asset design and management in its operations through to 2025, including:

- The City will continue to **electrify its fleet** to achieve zero emissions before 2035. We aim to trial an electric version of most vehicle and plant types while expanding our electric passenger fleet.
- We will continue to power many of our facilities with **onsite renewable electricity**. Building on the 2MW already installed, we will add solar to new properties that have a strong business case.
- The City aims to phase out natural gas from our operations. We will develop a plan to electrify gas-using assets and in the interim we will seek to purchase **renewable gas** to provide all our gas needs by 2025.
- We will also focus on continuously improving the sustainability **performance of our properties**. As part of this, we will invest in metering and monitoring to address anomalies, which can significantly improve energy efficiency.
- The City will continue to improve the **Sustainable Design Technical Guidelines** that define the sustainability requirements for our capital works and upgrade projects.

Action 3 is to regenerate the environment through the City's carbon neutral commitment, including:

- The City is committed to maintaining **carbon-neutral operations in perpetuity**.
- By 2025, we aim to transition away from purchasing overseas offsets and instead use 100 per cent high quality **Australian regenerative offsets**.
- We will continue to **work with Indigenous organisations** to help strengthen the local regenerative offset market and support expansion of traditional land management practices.

Other related actions that the City is committed to deliver by 2025 include:

- Action 4 is to ensure the City's **programs and services** use resources efficiently.
- Action 5 is to **reduce operational waste** through avoidance and resource recovery.
- Action 6 is to **reduce embodied carbon** in our supply chain and support circular economy outcomes.

Progress toward our targets is publicly disclosed in the City's annual [Green Report](#).

## Emissions reduction actions

Emissions reduction actions from City of Sydney operations that occurred during 2020-21 are listed in the City's July to December 2020 and January to June 2021 [Green Reports](#).

- From July 2020, the City's operations have been 100 per cent powered by **renewable electricity** under a ten-year contract with electricity generated from wind and solar farms in regional NSW. This has significantly reduced the City's emissions.
- A Sustainability Management and Reporting Tool (SMART) is being used for regular **utility monitoring**, reporting and continual improvement of all assets owned or managed by City of Sydney.
- The City has continued to improve on the energy efficiency of its **property portfolio** through building upgrades projects such as LED lighting replacements, aquatic centre improvements, HVAC improvements and proactive building management. A key program targeting to improve efficiency in the City's highest energy consuming sites was completed in 2021.
- Continued deployment of **solar PV** to Council sites.
- Partnered with Ausgrid (our local electricity utility) for replacement of conventional streetlight fittings with more energy-efficient **LED streetlights**.
- Continued electrification of the **City's fleet** including 19 fully electric and 40 hybrid cars, 70 hybrid trucks, and one fully electric truck.
- There has also been a decrease in electricity and water use in City operations due to reduced services in City operational areas like community and aquatic centres due to the **pandemic**.



## 5. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

### Emissions over time

Emissions since base year		Total tCO <sub>2</sub> -e
Base year:	2005-06	52,972
Year 1:	2009-10	50,030
Year 2:	2010-11	48,336
Year 3:	2011-12	46,701
Year 4:	2012-13	43,945
Year 5:	2013-14	40,769
Year 6:	2014-15	40,204
Year 7:	2015-16	39,566
Year 8:	2016-17	39,600
Year 9:	2017-18	39,653
Year 10:	2018-19	39,354
Year 11:	2019-20	36,459
Year 12:	2020-21	12,666

### Significant changes in emissions

Emission source name	Current year (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e and/ or activity data)	Previous year (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e and/ or activity data)	Detailed reason for change
Electricity	0	24,168	FY21 is 100% renewable.
New Year's event	0	662	Not in City operational control during FY21, NSW government operated and managed.
Waste	1,158	542	Improved data capture and better reporting of construction and demolition.
Land and sea transport (km)	1,026	452	Improved staff figures used for FY21 calculation.
Work from home	-439	0	Emissions impact of work from home first calculated in FY21.

Water	626	306	Less consumption in FY21 but there has been a change in CA emissions factors from 0.808 to 2.05.
Land and sea transport (fuel)	3,646	3,433	Organic growth, slight increase in contractor fuel usage servicing City parks and properties.

## Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products and services

- Winc Carbon Neutral Copy Paper

## Organisation emissions summary

The electricity summary is available in the Appendix B. Electricity emissions were calculated using a market-based approach.

Row Labels	Sum of Total Emissions (TCO2e)
Accommodation and facilities	0.19
Air Transport (fuel)	0
Air Transport (km)	1.58
Bespoke	0
Carbon neutral products and services	0
Cleaning and Chemicals	0
Construction Materials and Services	0
Electricity	0
Food	64.42
Horticulture and Agriculture	0
ICT services and equipment	0
Land and Sea Transport (fuel)	3645.63
Land and Sea Transport (km)	1025.82
Machinery and vehicles	0
Office equipment & supplies	0.72
Postage, courier and freight	98.23
Products	0
Professional Services	0
Refrigerants	818.2
Roads and landscape	0
Stationary Energy	5667.36
use for duplicates	0
Waste	1157.52
Water	625.81
Working from home	-439.256
x - removed	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12666.25549</b>

## 6. CARBON OFFSETS

### Offsets strategy

#### Offset purchasing strategy: In arrears

1. Total offsets previously forward purchased and banked for this report	0
2. Total emissions liability to offset for this report	12,666
3. Net offset balance for this reporting period	12,667
4. Total offsets to be forward purchased to offset the next reporting period	0
5. Total offsets required for this report	12,666

### Co-benefits

Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU) have been purchased from the [Karlantijpa North Savanna Burning Project](#) in the Barkley Shire of the Northern Territory, Australia. This project involves strategic and planned burning of savanna areas in the low rainfall zone during the early dry season to reduce the risk of late dry season wild fires. A major core benefit is that this carbon farming project helps to support Aboriginal rangers and Traditional Owners to manage country in a connected and sustainable way. The ACCU's were purchased through the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation which applies a [Core Benefits Verification Framework](#) to its projects. The project relates to 9 per cent of the total amount of offsets purchased (and 44 per cent of the budget) for this reporting period.

Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) were also purchased from the [Three Gorges New Energy Jiuquan Co., Ltd Guazhou 100MW Solar Power Project](#) located in Guazhou County, China. The co-benefits include (short and long term) employment, stable power, and increased investment in local education from the project operator. The project relates to 91 per cent of the total amount of offsets purchased (and 56 per cent of the budget) for this reporting period.

## Offsets summary

### Proof of cancellation of offset units

Offsets cancelled for Climate Active Carbon Neutral Certification										
Project description	Type of offset units	Registry	Date retired	Serial number (and hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Eligible quantity (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Quantity used for previous reporting periods	Quantity banked for future reporting periods	Quantity used for this reporting period claim	Percentage of total (%)
The Karlantijpa North Savanna Burning Project	KACCU	Clean Energy Regulator	24 Jan 2022	3,801,887,622 - 3,801,888,739 <a href="#">CER online system</a>	2020-21	1,118	0	0	1,118	9%
Three Gorges New Energy Jiuquan Co., Ltd Guazhou 100MW Solar Power Project	VCU	Verra	25 Jan 2022	11147-284721824-284733372-VCS-VCU-291-VER-CN-1-1444-01012014-31122014-0 <a href="#">Verra Registry</a>	2014	11,549	0	0	11,549	91%
<b>Total offsets retired this report and used in this report</b>									12,667	
<b>Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports</b>								0		
Type of offset units		Quantity (used for this reporting period claim)				Percentage of total				
Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU)		1,118				9%				
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)		11,549				91%				

## 7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

### Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) summary

The following Large-Scale Generation Certificates (LGCs or RECs) have been surrendered to reduce electricity emissions under the market-based reporting method. The City purchases RECs once per year under a ten-year contract that commenced in July 2020. The RECs are voluntarily retired in the first quarter of the calendar year. For this Climate Active report, details are only provided for the RECs that have been retired, for the period July-December 2020. Certificate numbers for the remaining RECs for January-June 2021 will be provided to Climate Active once the RECs have been voluntarily retired.

- LGCs to be purchased and retired for FY21: 23,756
- LGCs retired in this report: 11,880
- LGCs to be retired in true-up report: 11,876 - estimated by early May 2022.

1. Large-scale Generation certificates (LGCs)*	11,880
2. Other RECs	0

\* LGCs in this table only include those surrendered voluntarily (including through PPA arrangements), and does not include those surrendered in relation to the LRET, GreenPower, and jurisdictional renewables.

Project supported by LGC purchase	Eligible units	Registry	Surrender date	Accreditation code (LGCs)	Certificate serial number	Generation year	Quantity (MWh)	Fuel source	Location
Sapphire Wind Farm	LGC	<a href="http://www.rec-registry.gov.au">www.rec-registry.gov.au</a>	22 Dec 2021	WD00NS13	691021-693205	2020	2,185	Wind	Australia
Sapphire Wind Farm	LGC	<a href="http://www.rec-registry.gov.au">www.rec-registry.gov.au</a>	22 Dec 2021	WD00NS13	606717-613872	2020	7,156	Wind	Australia
Sapphire Wind Farm	LGC	<a href="http://www.rec-registry.gov.au">www.rec-registry.gov.au</a>	22 Dec 2021	WD00NS13	517804-520342	2020	2,539	Wind	Australia
<i>Total LGCs surrendered this report and used in this report</i>							11,880		

## APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

## APPENDIX B: ELECTRICITY SUMMARY

Electricity emissions are calculated using a market-based approach

### Location-based method

The location-based method provides a picture of a business's electricity emissions in the context of its location, and the emissions intensity of the electricity grid it relies on. It reflects the average emissions intensity of the electricity grid in the location (State) in which energy consumption occurs. The location-based method does not allow for any claims of renewable electricity from grid-imported electricity usage.

### Market-based method

The market-based method provides a picture of a business's electricity emissions in the context of its renewable energy investments. It reflects the emissions intensity of different electricity products, markets and investments. It uses a residual mix factor (RMF) to allow for unique claims on the zero emissions attribute of renewables without double-counting.

#### Market-based approach summary

Market-based approach	Activity data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Renewable % of total
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	0	0	0
<b>Total non-grid electricity</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
LGC purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs & Precinct LGCs)	23,756,000	0	81%
GreenPower	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LGCs retired)	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LRET) (applied to ACT grid electricity)	0	0	0%
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	5,545,171	0	19%
Residual electricity	-402	-431	0%
<b>Total grid electricity</b>	<b>29,300,769</b>	<b>-431</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total electricity consumed (grid + non grid)</b>	<b>29,300,769</b>	<b>-431</b>	<b>100%</b>
Electricity renewables	29,303,171	0	
Residual electricity	-402	-431	
<b>Exported on-site generated electricity</b>	<b>798,970</b>	<b>-623,197</b>	
Emission footprint (kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e)		0	

<b>Total renewables (grid and non-grid)</b>	<b>100.01%</b>
<b>Mandatory</b>	<b>18.93%</b>
<b>Voluntary</b>	<b>81.08%</b>
<b>Behind the meter</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Residual electricity emission footprint (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>0</b>

Figures may not sum due to rounding. Renewable percentage can be above 100%

### Location-based approach summary

Location-based approach	Activity data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e)
ACT	0	0
NSW	29,300,769	26,370,692
SA	0	0
Vic	0	0
Qld	0	0
NT	0	0
WA	0	0
Tas	0	0
<b>Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)</b>	<b>29,300,769</b>	<b>26,370,692</b>
ACT	0	0
NSW	0	0
SA	0	0
Vic	0	0
Qld	0	0
NT	0	0
WA	0	0
Tas	0	0
<b>Non-grid electricity (behind the meter)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total electricity consumed</b>	<b>29,300,769</b>	<b>26,370,692</b>
<b>Emission footprint (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>26,371</b>	

### Climate Active carbon neutral electricity summary

Carbon neutral electricity offset by Climate Active product	Activity data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e)
N/A	0	0

*Climate Active carbon neutral electricity is not considered renewable electricity. The emissions have been offset by another Climate Active carbon neutral product certification.*



## APPENDIX C: INSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

The following sources emissions have been assessed as relevant, are captured within the emissions boundary, but are not measured (quantified) in the carbon inventory. They have been non-quantified due to one of the following reasons:

1. **Immaterial** <1% for individual items and no more than 5% collectively
2. **Cost effective** Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied.
3. **Data unavailable** Data is unavailable but uplift applied. A data management plan must be put in place to provide data within 5 years.
4. **Maintenance** Initial emissions non-quantified but repairs and replacements quantified.

Relevant-non-quantified emission sources	(1) Immaterial	(2) Cost effective (but uplift applied)	(3) Data unavailable (but uplift applied & data plan in place)	(4) Maintenance
Business travel by public transport or rental vehicles	Yes	No	No	No
City of Sydney Events other than New Year's Eve	Yes	No	No	No
ICT equipment, consumables, repairs, maintenance and communications.	Yes	No	No	No
Minor outsourced activities	Yes	No	No	No
Freight and transportation of purchased materials or goods.	Yes	No	No	No

# APPENDIX D: OUTSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

## Excluded emission sources

The below emission sources have been assessed as not relevant to an organisation's or precinct's operations and are outside of its emissions boundary. These emissions are not part of the carbon neutral claim. Emission sources considered for relevance must be included within the certification boundary if they meet two of the five relevance criteria. Those which only meet one condition of the relevance test can be excluded from the certification boundary.

Emissions tested for relevance are detailed below against each of the following criteria:

1. **Size** The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions
2. **Influence** The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.
3. **Risk** The emissions from a particular source contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure.
4. **Stakeholders** Key stakeholders deem the emissions from a particular source are relevant.
5. **Outsourcing** 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.

Emission sources tested for relevance	(1) Size	(2) Influence	(3) Risk	(4) Stakeholders	(5) Outsourcing	Included in boundary?
Embodied energy of road and building material	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Third party events at City of Sydney facilities	No	No	No	No	No	No
Waste from tenancies not serviced by City of Sydney	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>New Year's Eve 2020 event</b>	No	No	No	Yes	No	No



An Australian Government Initiative

