



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**CITY OF MELBOURNE
FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL
JULY 4-6, 2025**

POST-EVENT REPORT

Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement



RESPONSIBLE ENTITY NAME	City of Melbourne
NAME OF EVENT	Firelight Festival
EVENT DATE(S)	July 4-6, 2025
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>Krista Milne Co-Director, Climate Change and City Resilience, City of Melbourne 05/05/2025</p>



Australian Government
**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water**

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Version 9.1.



1. CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	482 tCO ₂ -e
CARBON OFFSETS USED	100% VERs
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	18.48%
CARBON ACCOUNT	Prepared by: City of Melbourne
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	Date: 18/09/2025 Organisation: Pangolin
THIRD PARTY VALIDATION	N/A

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2. CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

Description of certification

This certification is for the Firelight Festival which was held on July 4-6, 2025.

The event had 104,748 attendees in 2025 and was held at the following location(s).

- Docklands Precinct, Melbourne.

Actual data collected from this event has informed the preparation of this carbon inventory.

Event description

Melbourne's Firelight Festival is a multi-day celebration of the winter solstice held in the Docklands precinct of Melbourne. Owned and produced by the City of Melbourne, the Firelight Festival revels in themes of family and community, food and feasting, singing and music and renewal and rebirth.

All attendee transport, activations, food and beverage sales and entertainment brought to the precinct by Firelight organisers is included in the scope of this certification. All fuel use, electricity, management costs, bump-in and bump-out services, waste and post-event clean-up are also part of the certification scope. Any uplift to existing Docklands businesses is not included in the scope.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Firelight Festival has achieved carbon neutral certification.

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. This may include emissions that are not identified as arising due to the operations of the event however are **optionally included**.

Non-quantified emissions have been assessed as relevant and are captured within the emissions boundary but are not measured (quantified) in the carbon inventory. All material emissions are accounted for through an uplift factor. Further detail is available at Appendix C.

Outside the emissions boundary

Excluded emissions are those that have been assessed as not relevant to the event'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.

Inside emissions boundary		Outside emission boundary
<u>Quantified</u>	<u>Non-quantified</u>	<u>Excluded</u>
Accommodation and Facilities		Attendee Accommodation
Cleaning and Chemicals		
Electricity		
Food		
Office equipment and supplies		
Postage, courier and freight		
Professional Services		
Stationary Energy (liquid fuels)		
Stationary Energy (solid fuels)		
Transport (Land and Sea)		
Waste		
Water		



Data collection – changes since the pre-event report

Emissions source	Data collection method	Assumptions / conservative approach taken
Attendee travel	A sample of attendees will be surveyed on their travel mode, origin postcode and purposes of their travel. Total distance by transport mode figures are then extrapolated across all attendees to the event and a proportional attribution factor applied dependent on the average number of 'other activities' an attendee was engaged in on that day.	It is assumed that the sample is truly representative of all attendee travel behaviour.
Attendee accommodation	The Firelight Festival is a local event for Melbournians and is not marketed interstate. Any interstate or overseas attendee is considered to be in Melbourne for other reasons and as such their accommodation is not attributable to Firelight Festival.	It is assumed that no interstate attendee has traveled to Melbourne exclusively to attend the Firelight Festival.
Food and drinks	All food and beverage vendor sales figures are collected by Firelight management.	No assumptions.
Electricity	Sub-metering data and equipment lists for areas not sub-metered are collected by event management for all plug-in loads.	No assumptions.
Road freight	All invoices for freight companies are collected by central event management.	No assumptions.
Professional services	All invoices for freight companies are collected by central event management.	No assumptions.

4. EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

Emissions reduction measures

In its fourth year of carbon neutral certification, the Firelight team has focused on ensuring compliance with data collection from contractors.

1. Limited the amount of new construction – No new activations in 2025 meant no additional construction.
2. Food organics were collected and sent to a composting facility to minimise emissions from waste in landfill in 2025.
3. Multiple streams of recycling were collected, and bin infrastructure has been designed to ensure recycling is available at every station.
4. Attendees were encouraged to take public transport to the event to reduce their carbon footprint.

5. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Significant changes in emissions – pre-event vs post-event

Emission source	Pre-event emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	Post-event emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	Reason for change
Food & catering	101.84	181.29	There was a significant increase in the number of attendees in 2025
Medium Car: unknown fuel	51.49	106.03	There was a significant increase in the number of attendees in 2025. The average distance travelled by attendees was also marginally higher.

Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products, services, buildings or precincts

N/A.

Emissions summary

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

Emission category	Pre-event	Post-event			
	Total emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	Sum of scope 1 (tCO ₂ -e)	Sum of scope 2 (tCO ₂ -e)	Sum of scope 3 (tCO ₂ -e)	Sum of total emissions (t CO ₂ -e)
Accommodation and facilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.26
Cleaning and Chemicals	2.64	0.00	0.00	1.82	1.82
Electricity	1.36	0.00	0.74	0.09	0.83
Food	124.96	0.00	0.00	202.94	202.94
Office equipment & supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.38	1.38
Postage, courier and freight	18.07	0.00	0.00	23.16	23.16
Professional Services	108.22	0.00	0.00	99.19	99.19
Stationary Energy (liquid fuels)	19.68	13.96	0.00	4.17	18.13
Stationary Energy (solid fuels)	0.09	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.10
Transport (Land and Sea)	62.49	0.00	0.00	128.15	128.15
Waste	2.56	0.00	0.00	5.44	5.44
Water	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.12
Total pre-event emissions (tCO₂-e)	340.13				
Total post-event emissions (tCO₂-e)		14.07	0.74	466.72	481.52
Difference between pre-event and post-event emissions				-	141.39 tCO₂-e

Uplift factors

N/A

6. CARBON OFFSETS

Eligible offsets retirement summary

Offsets retired for Climate Active certification

This is a post-event report. The eligible offsets below are a reconciliation of those from the pre-event report. The table may also show additional eligible offsets purchased and retired for this event based on the post-event emissions calculations.

Type of offset unit	Quantity used for this reporting period	Percentage of total units used
Verified Emissions Reductions (VERs)	482	100%

Project name	Type of offset unit	Registry	Date retired	Serial number	Vintage	Total quantity retired	Quantity used in previous reporting periods	Quantity banked for future reporting periods	Quantity used for this reporting period	Percentage of total used this reporting period
Miaoli 49.8MW Wind Farm Project	VER	Gold Standard Impact Registry	23/02/2024	GS1-1-TW-GS931-12-2014-4575-36668-37157	2014	490	412	0	78	16.18%
Thai Hoa Wind Power Project	VER	Gold Standard Impact Registry	04/04/2025	GS1-1-VN-GS11251-12-2023-26254-74656-74918	2023	263	0	0	263	54.56%
Thai Hoa Wind Power Project	VER	Gold Standard Impact Registry	02/09/2025	GS1-1-VN-GS11251-12-2023-26254-79657-79797	2023	141	0	0	141	29.25%
Offset Totals:						894	412	0	482	100%

Stapled units summary

The below units have been ‘stapled’ to eligible Climate Active carbon offset units. Stapled units may represent a beneficial outcome, such as biodiversity protection or improved water quality. These purchases are additional to Climate Active program requirements.

Stapled units and their corresponding scheme or project have not been assessed by Climate Active against the offset integrity principles in the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standards and are not included in the list of eligible Climate Active carbon offset units (Appendix A of the Standards). Businesses have undertaken their own due diligence when purchasing these stapled units.

Project name	Unit type e.g. biodiversity	Project location	Eligible offset project stapled to	Stapled quantity	Link to project or evidence
Mount Sandy Conservation Project	ABU	Mount Sandy, South Australia	Miaoli 49.8MW Wind Farm Project	78	
Mount Sandy Conservation Project	ABU	Mount Sandy, South Australia	Thai Hoa Wind Power	263	See Appendix A below for retirement certificates
Mount Sandy Conservation Project	ABU	Mount Sandy, South Australia	Thai Hoa Wind Power	141	

7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) summary

N/A

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BIODIVERSITY UNIT CERTIFICATE

MOUNT SANDY CONSERVATION PROJECT

This certificate confirms that

490

Australian Biodiversity Units
(735 square metres)

have been purchased and are being retired by

City of Melbourne

CRN: 105685

Serial Numbers: 103394 - 103883

An Australian Biodiversity Unit (ABU) represents the permanent protection of 1.5 square metres of high conservation value native habitat



22/02/2024

Registrar Certification

date

NVCR ALLOCATION REFERENCE: NVS2019-4003-182VOL003



vegetationlink
Verified Biodiversity Units

BIODIVERSITY UNIT CERTIFICATE

MOUNT SANDY
CONSERVATION PROJECT

This certificate confirms that

263

Australian Biodiversity Units
(394.50 square metres)

have been purchased and are being retired by

City of Melbourne

CRN: 111813

Serial Numbers: 8158-8420

An Australian Biodiversity Unit (ABU) represents the permanent protection of 1.5 square metres of high conservation value native habitat



02/04/2025

Registrar Certification

date

NVCR ALLOCATION REFERENCE: NVS2019-4003-181 VOL005b



vegetationlink
Verified Biodiversity Units

BIODIVERSITY UNIT CERTIFICATE

**MOUNT SANDY
CONSERVATION PROJECT**

This certificate confirms that

142

Australian Biodiversity Units
(213 square metres)

have been purchased and are being retired by

City of Melbourne

CRN: 111813

Serial Numbers: 15340-15481

An Australian Biodiversity Unit (ABU) represents the permanent protection of 1.5 square metres of high conservation value native habitat



29/08/2025

Registrar Certification

date

NVCR ALLOCATION REFERENCE: NVS2019-4003-181 VOL005b



vegetationlink
Verified Biodiversity Units

APPENDIX B: ELECTRICITY SUMMARY

There are two international best-practice methods for calculating electricity emissions – the location-based method and the market-based method. Reporting electricity emissions under both methods is called dual reporting.

Dual reporting of electricity emissions is useful, as it provides different perspectives of the emissions associated with a business's electricity usage.

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.

For this certification, electricity emissions have been set by using the **market-based approach**

Market Based Approach Summary			
Market Based Approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kg CO ₂ -e)	Renewable Percentage of total
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	0	0	0%
Total non-grid electricity	0	0	0%
LGC purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs)	0	0	0%
GreenPower	0	0	0%
Climate Active certified - Precinct/Building (voluntary renewables)	0	0	0%
Climate Active certified - Precinct/Building (LRET)	0	0	0%
Climate Active certified - Precinct/Building jurisdictional renewables (LGCs surrendered)	0	0	0%
Climate Active certified - Electricity products (voluntary renewables)	0	0	0%
Climate Active certified - Electricity products (LRET)	0	0	0%
Climate Active certified - Electricity products jurisdictional renewables (LGCs surrendered)	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LGCs surrendered)	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LRET) (applied to ACT grid electricity)	0	0	0%
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	207	0	18%
Residual electricity	914	832	0%
Total renewable electricity (grid + non grid)	207	0	18%
Total grid electricity	1,121	832	18%
Total electricity (grid + non grid)	1,121	832	18%
Percentage of residual electricity consumption under operational control	100%		
Residual electricity consumption under operational control	914	832	
Scope 2	813	740	
Scope 3 (includes T&D emissions from consumption under operational control)	100	91	
Residual electricity consumption not under operational control	0	0	
Scope 3	0	0	

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	18.48%
Mandatory	18.48%
Voluntary	0.00%
Behind the meter	0.00%
Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO₂-e)	0.74
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO₂-e)	0.09
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO₂-e)	0.74
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO₂-e)	0.09
Total emissions liability (t CO₂-e)	0.83
<i>Figures may not sum due to rounding. Renewable percentage can be above 100%</i>	

Location Based Approach Summary

Location Based Approach	Activity Data (kWh) total	Under operational control			Not under operational control	
Percentage of grid electricity consumption under operational control	100%	(kWh)	Scope 2 Emissions (kg CO ₂ -e)	Scope 3 Emissions (kg CO ₂ -e)	(kWh)	Scope 3 Emissions (kg CO ₂ -e)
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	1,121	1,121	886	78	0	0
QLD	0	0	0	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	1,121	1,121	886	78	0	0
ACT	0	0	0	0		
NSW	0	0	0	0		
SA	0	0	0	0		
VIC	0	0	0	0		
QLD	0	0	0	0		
NT	0	0	0	0		
WA	0	0	0	0		
TAS	0	0	0	0		
Non-grid electricity (behind the meter)	0	0	0	0		
Total electricity (grid + non grid)	1,121					

Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO₂-e)	0.89
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO₂-e)	0.08
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO₂-e)	0.89
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO₂-e)	0.08
Total emissions liability (t CO₂-e)	0.96

APPENDIX C: INSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Non-quantified emission sources

N/A

APPENDIX D: OUTSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Excluded emission sources

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 event's electricity.
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 event's greenhouse gas risk exposure.
4. **Stakeholders** The emissions from a particular source are deemed relevant by key stakeholders.
5. **Outsourcing** The emissions are from outsourced activities that were previously undertaken within the event's boundary or from outsourced activities that are typically undertaken within the boundary for comparable events.

Excluded emissions sources summary

Emission sources tested for relevance	Size	Influence	Risk	Stakeholders	Outsourcing	Justification
Attendee Accommodation	N	N	N	N	N	<p>Size: The size of the emissions is unknown as attendees who may be from interstate or overseas are determined to have not travelled to Melbourne for the purpose of attending Firelight as it is a local event. It is assumed however that the number of interstate or overseas visitors to this event would be immaterial.</p> <p>Influence: We do not have the potential to influence the emissions from this source.</p> <p>Risk: As attendee accommodation is not considered in-scope for this event, and is likely to be very minimal anyway, it is unlikely to be of significant public interest.</p> <p>Stakeholders: Stakeholders, including the public, are unlikely to consider this a relevant source of emissions for our business.</p> <p>Outsourcing: This activity is not outsourced, it is simply out of scope. We have not previously included this source our emissions boundary for any City of Melbourne major event.</p>



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