




# **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**CITY OF MELBOURNE  
NOW OR NEVER  
AUGUST 21-31, 2025**

**POST-EVENT REPORT**

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



RESPONSIBLE ENTITY NAME	City of Melbourne
NAME OF EVENT	Now or Never
EVENT DATE(S)	August 21-31, 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  25/11/2025</p>



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

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Version 10.



# 1. CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	352 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e
CARBON OFFSETS USED	VERs, 100%
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	Total renewables 48.77%
CARBON ACCOUNT	Prepared by: City of Melbourne
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	Next technical assessment due: CY 2026
THIRD PARTY VALIDATION	N/A

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## 2. CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

### Description of certification

This certification is for the Now or Never Festival held between August 21-31, 2025

The event attracted a total of 396,041 attendees and was held at the following locations.

- Royal Exhibition Building
- Melbourne Town Hall
- State Library of Victoria
- North Melbourne Arts House
- The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI)
- The Capitol Theatre
- Southbank promenade
- 161 Collins Street
- Immigration Museum
- Various smaller venues throughout the city

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

### Event description

Now or Never Festival is a wholly owned and managed event presented by the City of Melbourne.

This carbon neutral certification takes into account all energy and fuel use, all food and beverage sales and all waste from each event, plus the interstate or international travel and accommodation for each artist and their teams, all third-party contractor costs and the ground transport for applicable attendees to all events.

This is the third year Now or Never is certified carbon neutral, however the two events which were merged to create Now or Never (Melbourne Music Week and Melbourne Knowledge Week) were also certified carbon neutral for three years each.

## 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
<b><u>Quantified</u></b>	<b><u>Non-quantified</u></b>	<b><u>Excluded</u></b>
Cleaning	N/A	Attendee accommodation
Electricity		
Stationary Energy		
Air Freight		
Professional services		
Products		
Office supplies		
Attendee travel		
Artist travel		
Food & drink		
Artist Accommodation		
Waste and Recycling		
Water		



## Data collection – changes since the pre-event report

Emissions source	Data collection method	Assumptions / conservative approach taken
Attendee travel	<p>In 2025 a sample of 399 attendees were surveyed asking their:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mode of transport; and</li> <li>2. Origin of trip (postcode)</li> </ol> <p>From this information, a total travel distance by all modes is calculated. These figures are then extrapolated over the entire number of attendees to the event. Attendee = audience.</p> <p>An additional question was asked of attendees – <i>Did you attend work or school as part of you travel today?</i> Those answering <i>yes</i> had their transport emissions excluded from the inventory, as it was determined not to be additional to business as usual.</p>	<p>It is assumed that a sample of 399 attendees is representative of the whole attendee cohort.</p>
Artist travel and accommodation	<p>Artists and the representatives submitted information on the origin mode and class of their travel, an air travel distance calculator was used to determine total distance traveled. They also provided total number of nights accommodation attributable to the event and star rating of their accommodation</p>	<p>All air transport is calculated as a return trip unless indicated by the artist otherwise. All accommodation is assumed at 4 stars unless otherwise specified</p>
Food and drinks	<p>All caterers and venues serving food or drinks are required to report food and beverage sales. All beverages acquired as part of commercial partnerships are also counted.</p>	<p>No assumptions were used as exact data is recorded and reported.</p>
Electricity	<p>All venues will submit their electricity bills and a 'per day' electricity usage will be derived from this and multiplied by the total number of days the venue is used.</p>	<p>If only a part of the venue is used, a proportional multiplier will be used to discount the energy use.</p>
Professional Services	<p>Now or Never staff provide total costs for all services procured for the event.</p>	<p>A centralised budget spreadsheet is managed by Now or Never staff and is used to double check all service costs.</p>

## 4. EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

### Emissions reduction measures

Key emissions reductions targeted in 2025 include:

- Reducing single use items and communicating with each venue to encourage recycling practices are a priority in waste management.
- Working with feature artists to use recycled materials and to ensure work is reused after Now or Never.
- Prioritising venues which use renewable energy.
- Encouraging attendees to use public transport instead of driving to events.
- Eliminating the use of generators.

## 5. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

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

Emission source	Pre-event emissions (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Post-event emissions (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Reason for change
Technical services	35.39	91.44	A more dispersed program required a greater number of technical contractors to produce.
Long economy class flights (>3,700km)	209.47	91.14	Less international artists were engaged in 2025 compared to 2024

### 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 <sub>2</sub> -e)	Sum of scope 1 (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Sum of scope 2 (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Sum of scope 3 (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Sum of total emissions (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)
Accommodation and facilities	6.87	0.00	0.00	6.76	6.76
Cleaning and Chemicals	2.11	0.00	0.00	1.07	1.07
Electricity	13.37	0.00	23.46	3.19	26.64
Food	52.72	0.00	0.00	24.29	24.29
Postage, courier and freight	8.44	0.00	0.00	1.86	1.86
Products	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.31	1.31
Professional Services	65.80	0.00	0.00	113.58	113.58
Stationary Energy (gaseous fuels)	0.45	0.34	0.00	0.03	0.36
Stationary Energy (liquid fuels)	6.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transport (Air)	214.90	0.00	0.00	93.41	93.41
Transport (Land and Sea)	41.49	0.00	0.00	60.22	60.22
Waste	2.12	0.00	0.00	18.11	18.11
Water	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total pre-event emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>414.68</b>				
<b>Total post-event emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>		<b>0.34</b>	<b>23.46</b>	<b>323.84</b>	<b>347.63</b>
<b>Difference between pre-event and post-event emissions</b>					<b>67.05</b>
<i>Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.</i>					

## Uplift factors

An uplift factor is an upwards adjustment to the total carbon inventory to account for relevant emissions, which can't be reasonably quantified or estimated. This conservative accounting approach helps ensure the integrity of the carbon neutral claim.

Reason for uplift factor	tCO <sub>2</sub> -e
1% uplift for all physical marketing material produced. Many smaller individual print runs collectively amount to enough to justify this small uplift.	3.47
Total of all uplift factors (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	3.47
<b>Total emissions footprint to offset (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b> <i>(total post-event emissions from summary table + total of all uplift factors)</i>	<b>352</b>

## 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)	352	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
Thai Hoa Wind Power Project	VER	Gold Standard Impact Registry	19/05/2025	GS1-1-VN-GS11251-12-2023-26254-78032-78450	2023	419	0	67	352	100.00%
<b>Offset Totals:</b>						419	0	67	352	100.00%

## 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	Australian Biodiversity Units	Mount Sandy	Thai Hoa Wind Power Project	352	See Appendix A

## 7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

### Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) summary

N/A



## APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The City of Melbourne purchases and retires offsets that are stapled to Australian Biodiversity Units ABUs. This enables the City's offsetting to have some element of drawdown action along with the protection of native habitat for its own sake and as a place for biodiversity to thrive. The City also has a policy of maximising Aboriginal procurement, which the Mount Sandy Conservation Project delivers on.

A total of 419 ABUs were retired as part of the pre-event certification, however only 352 units were required in the 'true-up' of real emissions for the Now or Never 2025. The remainder of these ABUs will be attributed to future certifications.

### Additional offsets retired for purposes other than Climate Active 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)	Purpose of retirement
Mount Sandy Conservation Project	Australian Biodiversity Units	N/A	20/05/2025	<a href="#">11971-12389</a>	2021	352	Supporting nature conservation in Australia and aboriginal businesses.

**BIODIVERSITY UNIT CERTIFICATE**

**MOUNT SANDY  
CONSERVATION PROJECT**

This certificate confirms that

**419**

Australian Biodiversity Units  
(628.50 square metres)

have been purchased and are being retired by

**City of Melbourne**

CRN: 111813

Serial Numbers: 11971-12389

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



Registrar Certification

20/05/2025

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 <sub>2</sub> -e)	Renewable Percentage of total
Behind the meter consumption of renewable electricity generated	0	0	0%
<b>Total non-grid renewable electricity</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
LGC purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs)	0	0	0%
GreenPower	17,445	0	31%
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)	10,125	0	18%
Residual electricity	28,960	26,644	0%
<b>Total renewable electricity (grid + non grid)</b>	<b>27,570</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Total grid electricity</b>	<b>56,530</b>	<b>26,644</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Total electricity (grid + non grid)</b>	<b>56,530</b>	<b>26,644</b>	<b>49%</b>
Percentage of residual electricity consumption under operational control	100%		
<b>Residual electricity consumption under operational control</b>	<b>28,960</b>	<b>26,644</b>	
Scope 2	25,498	23,458	
Scope 3 (includes T&D emissions from consumption under operational control)	3,463	3,186	
<b>Residual electricity consumption not under operational control</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Scope 3	0	0	

<b>Total renewables (grid and non-grid)</b>	<b>48.77%</b>
<b>Mandatory</b>	<b>17.91%</b>
<b>Voluntary</b>	<b>30.86%</b>
<b>Behind the meter</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>23.46</b>
<b>Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>3.19</b>
<b>Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>23.46</b>
<b>Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>3.19</b>
<b>Total emissions liability (t CO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>26.64</b>

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

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 <sub>2</sub> -e)	Scope 3 Emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	(kWh)	Scope 3 Emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e)
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	56,530	56,530	43,528	5,088	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
<b>Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)</b>	<b>56,530</b>	<b>56,530</b>	<b>43,528</b>	<b>5,088</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
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		
<b>Non-grid electricity (behind the meter)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Total electricity (grid + non grid)</b>	<b>56,530</b>					

<b>Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>43.53</b>
<b>Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>5.09</b>
<b>Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>43.53</b>
<b>Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>5.09</b>
<b>Total emissions liability (t CO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>48.62</b>

### Operations in Climate Active buildings and precincts

Operations in Climate Active buildings and precincts	Electricity consumed in Climate Active certified building/precinct (kWh)	Emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e)
N/A	0	0
<i>Climate Active carbon neutral electricity is not renewable electricity. These electricity emissions have been offset by another Climate Active member through their building or precinct certification. This electricity consumption is also included in the market based and location-based summary tables. Any electricity that has been sourced as renewable electricity by the building/precinct under the market-based method is outlined as such in the market-based summary table.</i>		

### Climate Active carbon neutral electricity products

Climate Active carbon neutral product used	Electricity claimed from Climate Active electricity products (kWh)	Emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e)
N/A	0	0
<i>Climate Active carbon neutral electricity is not renewable electricity. These electricity emissions have been offset by another Climate Active member through their electricity product certification. This electricity consumption is also included in the market based and location-based summary tables. Any electricity that has been sourced as renewable electricity by the electricity product under the market-based method is outlined as such in the market-based summary table.</i>		

## 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><b>Size:</b> Now or Never, as with all City of Melbourne major events is marketed to, and primarily attended by a local Victoria audience. Any instance of attendees from out of state are assumed to be attending the event as a secondary reason for their travel. It is assumed however that the number of interstate or overseas visitors to this event would be immaterial. The accommodation of artists and other contractors and their teams is however included in the inventory.</p> <p><b>Influence:</b> We do not have the potential to influence the emissions from this source, including by shifting to a different lower-emissions supplier for our event.</p> <p><b>Risk:</b> There are no relevant laws or regulations that apply to limit emissions specifically from this source.</p> <p><b>Stakeholders:</b> Key stakeholders, including the public, are unlikely to consider attendee accommodation a relevant source of emissions for this event.</p> <p><b>Outsourcing:</b> 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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