



The value we provide

- Improve the sustainability of our city and respond to the Climate Emergency by reducing carbon emissions, water use and waste generation, increasing trees, vegetation and biodiversity, improving water quality and ensuring we are adapting and resilient to the impacts of climate change, including flooding and heat.

What we do

- Develop and implement environmental strategy, policy and action plans for Council and the community.
- Plan and design infrastructure that has an environmental benefit
- Deliver environmental programs, educational campaigns advice and support to our community.
- Provide advice and support to embed sustainability into Council strategic planning, project and service delivery.
- Develop and implement requirements for new developments to reduce their environmental impacts and increase resilience to climate change.
- Partner with Victorian and other local governments, education and not-for-profit agencies to develop and deliver projects that improve environmental outcomes.
- Advocate to the Victorian and Australian Governments for stronger commitments and increased investment in sustainability projects and initiatives.

Why we do it

- To respond to the Climate Emergency by reducing Council's and the community's impact on the environment.
- To reduce carbon emissions and mitigate our impact on climate change.
- To reduce the impacts of flooding, decrease potable water use and improve water quality in the Bay.

Sustainability



- To create a more sustainable future for Port Phillip by reducing Council's and the community's impact on the environment.

Activities that support this service

- Sustainable policy
- Sustainable programs

Our service at a glance

Service statistics	2018/19	2019/20
• Community participants in Council-run sustainability programs	7,839	12,313
• Environmentally Sustainable Design review of planning applications	212	228
• Trees planted	1,325	1,337

Service risk profile **Medium/High**

Strategic risks **Residual risk rating**

- | | |
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| • Failure to effectively mitigate or prepare for the impacts of climate change | High |
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Policies documents that support this service

[Act and Adapt, Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-28](#)

[Elster Creek Flood Management Plan](#)

[Greening Port Phillip - an Urban Forest Approach 2010](#)

[Greening Port Phillip Street Tree Planting Guide 2017-22](#)

[Sustainable Design Strategy 2013](#)

How much it costs to provide the service

		Budget 2020/21	
Operating costs	\$000	How the service is funded	\$000
Employee costs	1,514	Rates	3,200
Contracts	323	Parking revenue	711
Materials and other expenses	315	Reserves	527
Operating projects	965	Fees and charges (incl. statutory)	0
Total operating expenses	3,117	Grants	867
Capital projects	2,187	Other income	0
Total expenses	5,305	Total funding	5,305

(expenses include management overhead allocation, exclude depreciation and project expenditure)

Revenue from parking fees and fines is allocated on a proportionate basis across all service categories.

FTE=12.2

\$3.48 is spent on this service out of every \$100 of rates we receive

16% of costs are funded from fees and charges, grants or other income

Further revenue and expense information on the service

Activity	Expenses \$000	Revenue \$000
Sustainable policy	898	0
Sustainable programs	888	0
Operating projects	965	0
Management expenses	367	0
Total	3,117	0

Expenses exclude depreciation. Management expenses consist of apportioned costs for the Executive Leadership Team (CEO and general managers) and all department managers.

Major contracts (annualised expense) \$000

- None

Major property leases (\$000)	Most recent market rental estimate	Rent per year (\$ excl GST)
• Port Phillip EcoCentre	62	0
• Bili Nursery	32	0

Major financial contributions \$000

- EcoCentre contribution and funding for education programs 323

Major assets

Council assets (June 2020)	Value \$000
• Street trees	31,042
• Park trees	12,852

Our Council Plan 2017-27 priorities

Completed

- Develop a sustainability strategy for beyond 2020.
- Implement and review progress on the Greening Port Phillip Plan - An Urban Forest Approach.
- Examine the effectiveness of establishing a Port Phillip energy foundation.
- Develop a heat management plan to help cool the City.
- Complete an Ecological Biodiversity Study.
- Develop a long-term action plan for the Elster Creek catchment to mitigate flooding.

In progress

- Promote green buildings by applying environmentally sustainable design planning.
- Work with partners to develop a bay-wide coastal hazard assessment.
- Ongoing investment in park and street trees and streetscapes.
- Investigate opportunities to protect vegetation and increase canopy cover on private property.
- Invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.
- Embed sustainability into Council's procurement, fleet and investment policies
- Implement guidelines that enable increased uptake of environmentally sustainable design features.
- Deliver behaviour change and education programs through the Sustainable City Community Action Plan.
- Develop tools to help the community understand and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Contribute to the EcoCentre redevelopment. (a)
- Develop and implement a framework to increase Council asset resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Undertake integrated water management planning
- Plan and deliver water sensitive urban design interventions.
- Investigate and implement stormwater harvesting and flood mitigation works at key locations.
- Implement irrigation upgrades at key sports fields and parks.
- Increase the permeability of ground surfaces across public streets and spaces.
- Develop a Stormwater Management Policy and Guidelines to require onsite stormwater detention for new developments.

(a) Councillors will be briefed in February regarding deferral of funds due to absence of partnership funding.

Our projects (* means 100% and ** means partial grant and contribution funding)

Capital projects \$000	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
EcoCentre Redevelopment **	1,975	3,405	0
Energy Efficiency and Solar Program	107	475	475
Open Space Irrigation Renewal and Upgrade Program	50	350	350
Stormwater Harvesting Development	0	100	500
Water Sensitive Urban Design Program	50	740	740
Total capital projects (excluding Fleet Renewal allocation)	2,182	5,070	2,065
Operating projects \$000	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Community Electric Vehicle Charging Program	30	70	100
Energy Efficient Street Lighting Upgrade	60	443	1,443
Elster Creek Catchment Partnership	90	60	60
Greening Port Phillip Strategy Implementation	440	740	740
Sustainable City Community Action Plan Implementation	125	70	0
Sustainable Environment Strategy Implementation	220	310	100
Total operating projects	965	1,693	2,443

How we are performing
Recent highlights

- Planted 1,337 trees as part of the Greening Port Phillip program and planted approximately 20,000 indigenous plants in native vegetation areas along the foreshore.
- Completed Alma Park stormwater harvesting system to capture and treat stormwater.
- Worked with Melbourne Water and local government partners to develop the Elster Creek Catchment Flood Management Plan (2019-2024) which contains actions to reduce the impact of flooding across the catchment
- Partnered with City of Bayside to develop the Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve Masterplan, which plans to redevelop the former golf course in Elsternwick Park to a nature reserve to reduce flooding and improve environmental outcomes
- Installed irrigation control infrastructure in the majority of parks and reserves with irrigation.
- Constructed water sensitive urban design treatments at six locations, which will improve water quality by reducing the amount of pollutants, nutrients and grit flowing into the bay
- Completed a Biodiversity Study of the City, which included ecological surveys of key areas and species of plants and animals.
- Partnered with the Port Phillip EcoCentre to develop 'NatureSpot', an online platform where the community collected and shared information about flora and fauna in their gardens, balconies and public spaces
- Completed heat mapping and modelling of the South Melbourne precinct.
- Delivered energy efficiency improvements in Council buildings, including lighting, heating and cooling upgrades for St Kilda Town Hall, South Melbourne Market, Bubup Nairn and Middle Park Community Centre
- Installed solar panels on roof of South Melbourne Market, enough to power 45 houses in Port Phillip. The new 200kW solar panel system is expected to generate 263,000kWh of electricity each year and save over \$60,000 per year in avoided electricity costs

How we are performing

- Improved the sustainability of buildings across the City by assessing Environmentally Sustainable Design in 228 planning applications.
- Declared a climate emergency in September 2019 stating that climate change poses a serious risk to Australians - including those living in Port Phillip - and should be treated as an emergency
- Delivered a range of in person and on-line events to support residents to green their own properties, draught proof their homes, access renewable energy and respond to the Climate Emergency.
- Launched two new programs to provide support to residents and businesses to invest in their own properties. The low-income solar grant provided a \$1,000 grant to assist residents to install solar panels. Environmental Upgrade Finance provides a type of green loan facilitated by Council for non-residential property owners.
- Delivered community sustainability programs to community services and businesses.
- Increased sustainability newsletter subscribers to 4,267. Facebook followers have also increased to 2,251.
- Purchased one electric vehicle, one plug-in hybrid electric vehicle and ten hybrid vehicles and installed two chargers at South Melbourne Operations Centre to support fleet vehicles.
- Installed two new electric vehicle chargers at South Melbourne Market for visitors to charge their vehicles.
- Tripled the Sustainable Business Network from 50 to 176 members and pivoted to online events during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Cities Power Partnership Community Engagement Achievement Award: For The Butterfly Effect, Albert Park Kindergarten and City of Port Phillip; the first certified carbon neutral Early Childhood Education and Care Service in Australia.
- LGPro Excellence Sustainability Award: For the collaborative Supply Chain Sustainability School project.

Recent challenges

- The COVID-19 pandemic called for us to be agile and flexible and to support the community where most needed. During the pandemic, Council adapted to innovate new ways of keeping safe and connected while maintaining our high standard of service delivery. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - The Sustainable Business Network breakfast seminar events moved online commencing 6 May as well as a series of DIY draughtproofing videos. Seventy people attended the online business events and 113 actively participated in the videos, which have now been viewed over 2,500 times.
 - Climate emergency community forums were held online started on 13 May to the 200 community members.
 - Cross-Council free online sustainable living series of events begins on 21 May
 - Winter Warmers program launched online to support residents to draught proof their homes and save energy.
- An increase in potable water use through irrigation and across some of Councils buildings and facilities was experienced. Recovery from the previous year's record dry contributed to this, despite rainfall returning to average during 2019/20.
- The EcoCentre Redevelopment project is dependent on partnership funding. To date, we have received \$200,000 (Incl GST) from the Victorian Government to progress a design. Council will continue to seek further partnership funding of \$2.75 million for construction.

How we are performing

- Some community sustainability programs were paused or reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, online communication ensured that advice and support remained readily available to residents and businesses.
- Apartment dwellers continue to face barriers to improving sustainability and accessing renewable energy. Council is exploring different options for accessing renewable energy that isn't dependent on the installation of roof-top solar panels.

Measure	2017/18 result	2018/19 result	2019/20 result	2020/21 target	Metro councils 2019/20
Total canopy cover (2015/16=19%)	No score	19%	No score	19.2%	No comparison available
Council's greenhouse gas emissions	4,750	4,736	23	0 net	
Council's gross greenhouse gas emissions	11,205	10,758	3,193	<1,200	
Council's electricity usage from renewable sources	5%	23%	93%	100%	
Council building and streetlight energy consumption (MWh)	No score	8,080	8,800	8,970	
Council's potable water use (ML)	226	298	359	257	
Municipality-wide greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ -e) (data reflects calendar year rather than the financial year)	2,088,000	1,800,500	No data	No target	
New trees planted per year	1,519	1,325	1,337	1,055	
Resident satisfaction with making Port Phillip more environmentally sustainable	86%	75%	82%	No target	
Megalitres of water use from alternative sources	14.15	19.12	27.61	>40	
Total suspended solids removed from stormwater (tonnes)	46.5	55.9	59.0	>49	
Investments in fossil free institutions	77%	85%	62%	60-80%	