

# Climate Emergency Action Plan

Draft for public consultation

April 2022

## **Executive summary**

In 2020, Manningham Council adopted a resolution that 'acknowledges we are in a state of serious climate and environmental change and that this climate emergency requires urgent action by all levels of government, including local government.'

This climate emergency declaration has resulted in the need for an urgent plan of action to address climate change.

Climate change is already having a significant global impact. In Manningham, climate change risks and impacts are growing. This includes more extreme weather, increased average temperature, water availability risks and the flow on effects from these things which all threaten the liveability of Manningham.

Manningham Council has long recognised the risks of climate change and has been taking climate action for a long time. Our experience and momentum has us well placed to increase this action. We will also need to significantly scale up support for community action.

We have explored and are starting to develop a broad range of climate actions that Council and the Manningham community can take. It includes climate mitigation or initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, initiatives to adapt to climate change already occurring or imminent and it includes advocacy and other action.

Community feedback demonstrates that there is a shared commitment with Council to take this increased action on climate change.

With that shared commitment, Council has decided to adopt ambitious aspirational climate mitigation or greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

The adopted targets are:

- net zero emissions for Council by 2028
- net zero emissions for community by 2035

This *Climate Emergency Action Plan* represents a summary of our direction for helping to address climate change for the benefit of Manningham. By increasing our climate action, we have the opportunity to improve Manningham's liveability, strengthen community health and wellbeing and build the resilience of our natural and built environments and the economy.

## **Climate risks**

Human activity is contributing to an increasing concentration of atmospheric greenhouse gases that is causing climate change beyond natural climate variability.

Understanding and addressing climate change is vital as it is already having a damaging and growing impact on Manningham's liveability, community health and wellbeing. It also impacts the natural and built environments and the economy.

In the long term, the climate is likely to become hotter, more erratic and will shift across continents.

The Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO's *State of the Climate* reports detail the climate change that has already occurred and is predicted for the future. It includes 1.44 degree celsius of warming for Australia since 1910. For Melbourne and Manningham, declining total rainfall will likely continue at the same time as isolated downpours become more intense.

Climate risks already impacting Melbourne and Manningham and likely to worsen over the long term include the following:

- > extreme weather including heatwaves, bushfire, storms, wind, hail and flooding
- > increased average temperature
- > water availability

Extreme weather in Manningham has been particularly notable during 2020 and 2021 causing significant damage to property, trees and vegetation and a higher risk of harm to people:

- > A January 2020 hailstorm caused about \$5 million of property damage and clean-up costs incurred by Council, private property owners incurred significant damage and costs also.
- > June and October 2021 windstorms resulted in about \$150,000 of costs for Council.

The flow on effects of such impacts are keenly felt including insurance costs which are rising significantly.

With increasing likelihood and moderate to catastrophic consequences, these have been assessed as 'high' or 'very high' risks for Manningham. It is increasingly difficult for the community and Council to adapt to these growing risks.

This is why Manningham needs to take more action to address climate change and lessen these risks through climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.

## Our journey so far

Manningham Council has been working for a long time to help mitigate climate change by reducing Council greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the community to live more sustainably and reduce community emissions.

A decade ago, we adopted a *Carbon Abatement Plan* which incorporated a target to reduce emissions from Council operations by 20% below 2008/09 levels by 2020.

In moving towards this target, our action has included:

- > energy efficient streetlights
- > building rooftop solar and energy efficiency measures
- > low-emission fleet vehicles
- > green power grid electricity purchasing
- > partnering with Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) for wind-powered grid electricity
- > participation in the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA)
- > residential solar and energy saving programs

We have closely monitored Council emissions and the reductions that have resulted from mitigation action. Council surpassed its emissions reduction target – by 2020, we achieved a 25% reduction.

We have also implemented a number of initiatives to help adapt to climate change already occurring. This includes:

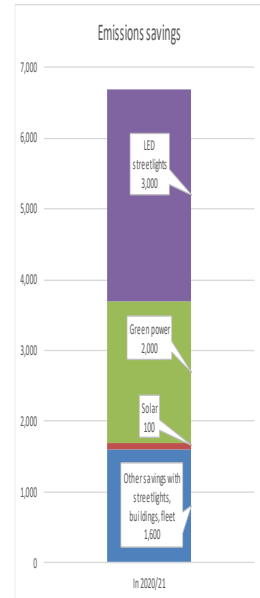
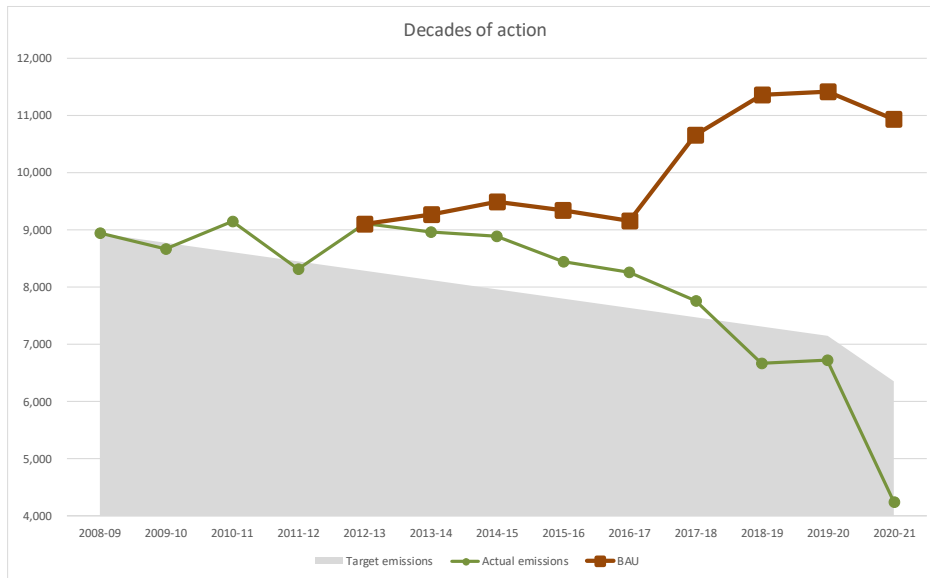
- > water sensitive urban design
- > harvesting stormwater as an alternative water source for open space irrigation in response to water shortage from the 'millennium drought'
- > investigation of flooding impacts, drainage improvement and development planning responses
- > extreme weather emergency response work and support for affected and vulnerable community members

Our experience and momentum provides a solid basis for Council to increase and expand climate action and adapt and expand support for community climate action.

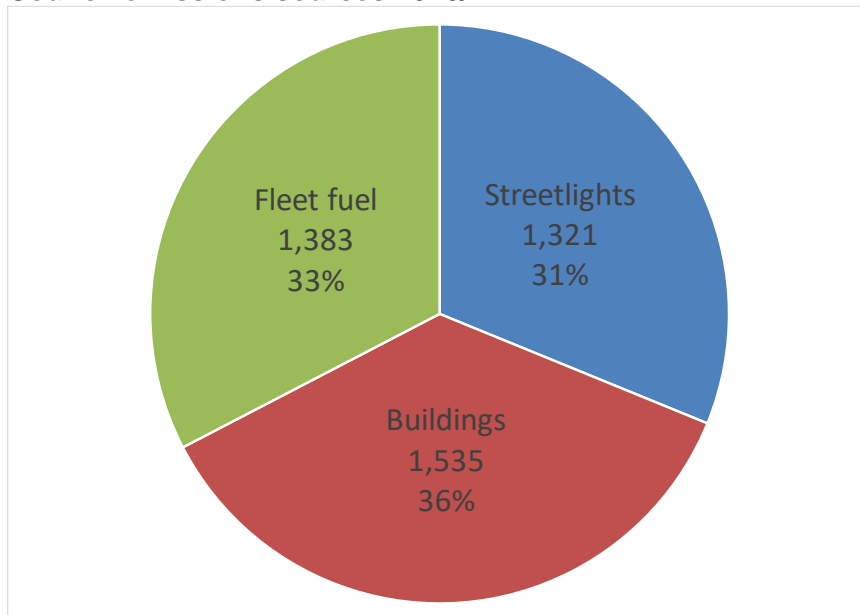
# Emissions profile

The greenhouse gas emissions profiles of Council and the Manningham community are shown in the figures below.

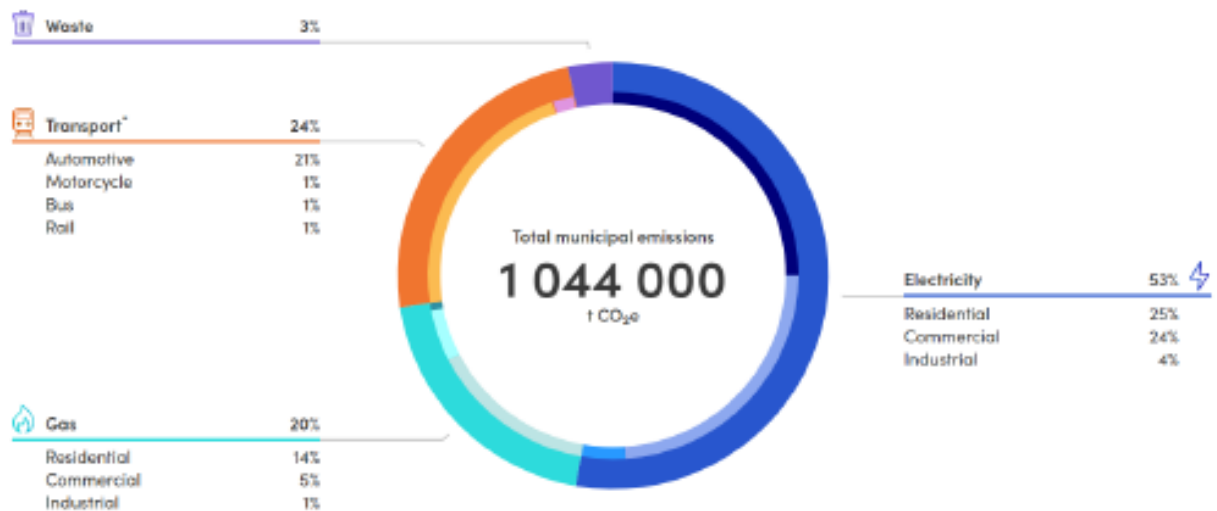
## Council emissions 2008/09 to 2020/21



## Council emissions sources 2020/21



## Manningham community emission 2019



The first graph shows Council emissions over time and tracked against the 2008/09 to 2020 emissions reduction target. Emissions were reduced by 25% by 2020, surpassing our 20% target. By 2020/21, Council has reduced emissions by more than 50%. The BAU or 'business as usual' line is an approximate representation of what emissions would have been if no action was taken over time.

The second graph shows a breakdown of Council emissions sources, comprising of streetlights electricity, building electricity and gas and fleet vehicle petrol use. This breakdown shows the main areas that our past and future actions have and will continue to focus on because they are the largest emissions sources for Council – switching to emissions-free electricity and initiatives for buildings, fleet and streetlights.

The third graph shows the approximate Manningham community emissions profile for 2019. This profile has been taken from Snapshot, available at [snapshotclimate.com.au](https://snapshotclimate.com.au).

Similar to the Council emissions profile, this community breakdown of emissions points to the main areas that our future actions should focus on – switching to emissions-free electricity and low-emissions transport and waste initiatives.

When the Council and community emissions totals are compared, we can see that Council emissions account for less than 1% of the community emissions footprint. This indicates the large-scale challenge and shared responsibility of tackling community emissions.

As illustrated above, we have strong experience, momentum and success in actions to reduce Council emissions. This will need to be continued for Council climate action and adapted more and more for supporting community climate action. We will need to significantly scale up community action and this will be a challenge that will require appropriate resourcing and partnership between Council, community, all levels of government and the private sector.

## Targets

Manningham Council's history of action, the climate emergency resolution, community feedback to Council and the new *Council Plan 2021-2025* demonstrate the shared commitment of Council and the Manningham community to increase action on climate change.

It is important we aspire to climate mitigation targets to drive us to take increased action.

There is an established and emerging Victorian and Australian Government, international and business sector direction toward more urgent action on climate change and more ambitious targets.

In order to maintain a safe climate for humanity and our home Earth, the international community has a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050. The Victorian Government has a target for a state-wide 45-50% reduction of 2005 emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. The Australian Government also aspires to net zero by 2050.

With this context and in accordance with our *Council Plan 2021-2025*, Manningham Council has decided to take ambitious climate action and to adopt ambitious aspirational emissions reduction targets for Council and the community.

During 2021, the new targets adopted by Council are:

- > net zero emissions for Council by 2028
- > net zero emissions for community by 2035

Through these targets and the actions we take to achieve them, Manningham Council and the community seek to make a significant and worthwhile contribution to help address climate change.

## **Increased action going forward**

Increased action from Council and the community will be needed to achieve emissions reduction targets and play our part in ensuring a safe climate. Increased Council and community action will also be needed to adapt to climate change already occurring now or already on its way in the future.

It is recognised that the community net zero emissions target will be far more challenging to achieve than the Council net zero emissions target because of the large scale of action required and the level of cooperation needed from everyone who lives in, works in or visits Manningham.

Council's adoption of the community target has established the policy setting and the responsibility for achieving this target will need to be shared between Council and the community, all levels of government and the private sector.

Community action will need to be significantly scaled up and this will require partnership and appropriate resourcing or investment between all these people and organisations.

Along with the net zero emissions targets, Council also made the following commitments during 2021:

- > Council commits to providing advocacy and sustainability initiatives to facilitate and assist the community in achieving the community target
- > Council endorses the following principles to guide decision making on actions and the implementation:
  - actions are to be based on best value and be economically prudent, environmentally viable and technically proven
  - council and community actions and progress towards targets be reported annually
  - future Councils aim to affirm or adjust the ongoing program of climate mitigation actions within the first 12 months of their elected term – due in 2024/25, 2028/29, 2032/33

We have explored and are putting forward a wide range of climate change mitigation, adaption, advocacy and other actions.

This includes actions for both Council operations and for the community and in partnership with other councils, other levels of government and the private sector. To facilitate and assist in achieving the community target, advocacy and sustainability initiatives are included in accord with Council's 2021 commitment.

We have assessed these actions for their public value including the benefit they will provide for the community and Council, their alignment with adopted policy such as the *Council Plan 2021-2025* and the capacity and capability of Council, the community and partners to successfully deliver the actions.

Adhering to Council's 2021 decision making guiding principles, our climate actions will be further investigated, developed and implemented in the years ahead and through to the net zero target years of 2028 and 2035. Where necessary, financial commitment to funding actions will be decided annually through the Council budgeting process.

The actions put forward by Council are detailed below and on the following pages.



## Increased action – mitigation, energy sustainability, emissions reduction

Council	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Extend solar and other energy sustainability measures across more Council buildings</li><li>&gt; Expand VECO (Victorian Energy Collaboration) contract to incorporate more Council electricity accounts</li><li>&gt; Further LED retrofits of street lights</li><li>&gt; Convert all Council fleet to hybrid or electric vehicles</li><li>&gt; Green travel offer for Council staff</li><li>&gt; Introduce environmentally sustainable design training and upskilling for Council staff</li><li>&gt; Transition Council buildings from gas to renewable electricity</li><li>&gt; Develop a waste wise policy to eliminate the use of single-use plastics and soft plastics in council operations, functions and at events held on council land and in facilities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Expand residential solar programs</li><li>&gt; Explore or facilitate car-share schemes</li><li>&gt; Explore or facilitate public electric vehicle charge points</li><li>&gt; Mandate green travel plans for planning applications for multi-unit developments</li><li>&gt; Develop a renewable energy power purchasing agreement for business and/or residents</li><li>&gt; Support environmental upgrade finance for business and/or residents</li><li>&gt; Investigate the provision of e-waste drop off hub(s) to collect small e-waste items</li><li>&gt; Embed circular economy principles throughout municipality</li></ul>

## Increased action – adaption

Council	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Initiatives to reduce urban heat island effect in streetscapes including water sensitive urban design and increasing tree canopy</li><li>&gt; Flood modelling in partnership with Melbourne Water to better understand flood risk for our municipality, including mapping for a climate change scenario</li><li>&gt; Develop an Integrated Water Management Strategy to minimise potable water use and better manage stormwater to utilise the resource and harvest for irrigation</li><li>&gt; Develop sustainability principles and guidelines in procurement to ensure all materials and services acquired meet mandatory sustainability standards</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Increase Local Environment Assistance Fund grants for private landholders to incentivise protection of existing tree canopy and understory vegetation</li><li>&gt; Explore biodiversity improvement or environmental community engagement programs with Wurundjeri, Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria</li><li>&gt; Research, increase knowledge and build resilience of biodiversity and protect vegetation to better manage the impact of climate change</li><li>&gt; Manage bushfire risk with fuel management in bushland reserves and provision of community green waste disposal initiatives</li><li>&gt; Support at-risk community members to adapt to climate risks such as heatwaves and other severe weather</li><li>&gt; Educate community in climate adaptation through capacity building sessions</li></ul>

## Increased action – advocacy, awareness and partnership

Council	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Divert food and garden organics waste from landfill</li><li>&gt; Collaborate with other Councils on advanced waste technology, explore collaboration with State Government on separated glass recycling and container deposit scheme</li><li>&gt; Participate in the Cities Power Partnership or Climate Emergency Australia, Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, International Council Local Environment Initiatives</li><li>&gt; Improve strength of Council's climate related disclosure to build social licence to operate with community and enhance reputation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Facilitate community education and awareness raising</li><li>&gt; Promote community-led climate initiatives</li><li>&gt; Educate the community on lower emissions food and lower emissions consumption</li><li>&gt; Advocate for community energy innovation such as neighbourhood batteries or virtual energy networks</li><li>&gt; Advocate for electric buses from wind and solar generation</li><li>&gt; Collaborate with state government to understand land use change for net zero carbon sinks</li><li>&gt; Advocate for Victorian government to declare climate emergency</li></ul>

## **Community action**

We need to significantly scale up community climate action in Manningham and we all share responsibility for this.

Community net zero emissions by 2035 is a very ambitious and challenging climate mitigation target that we are reaching for. Expanded climate action and reaching the target will be something that brings great benefits for us.

The opportunity is there to improve Manningham's liveability, strengthen community health and wellbeing and build the resilience of our natural and built environments and the economy.

Community feedback and Council policy and action demonstrates there is a strong shared commitment to increase community climate action. This will require appropriate resourcing and partnership between Council, community, all levels of government and the private sector.

Listed on the previous pages are a wide range of community climate actions that Council wants to advocate for and facilitate and assist the community with.

For climate change mitigation, many actions help with switching to emissions-free electricity, low emissions transport and waste initiatives. There are also adaption, awareness and advocacy actions that seek to build community resilience and build the resilience of our natural and built environments.

Many of these actions build on and expand existing work that the community and Council already does. Council intends to increase support for this action in partnership with the community and other stakeholders.

Adhering to Council's 2021 decision making guiding principles, support for community actions will be based on best value, technical and environmental viability and economic prudence with financial commitment to funding decided through annual Council budgeting processes.

As a member of the community, we encourage you to take more climate action. You can take climate action in a range of ways. You could:

- > install solar or take energy saving action, adapt your home
- > switch to a hybrid or electric vehicle or switch to public transport, cycling or walking
- > improve biodiversity on your property
- > consume less and waste less
- > support Council advocacy for more action from governments and business

Council already provides advice and support on some of the actions you can take and there are many other organisations and community groups that can support you with all of this. Online information and resources can be a great start for your sustainability journey.

Over time, as outlined above and throughout this *Climate Emergency Action Plan*, Council intends to increase its support of the actions you take.

## **Links to other policy and work**

This *Climate Emergency Action Plan* links in with a range of other policies and work.

The *Council Plan 2021-2025* is Manningham Council's leading policy document that has a key goal to 'reduce our environmental impact and adapt to climate change' under the theme of 'Resilient Environment'. A range of climate actions are included in the *Council Plan 2021-2025* many of which have been incorporated into this *Climate Emergency Action Plan*.

A *Manningham Environment Strategy* will soon be developed and will integrate addressing climate change alongside other areas of enhancing our natural environment and biodiversity, reducing waste, improving water sustainability and empowering community.

The other Council Plan themes of Healthy Community, Liveable Places and Spaces, Vibrant and Prosperous Economy and Well Government Council will have a bearing on the implementation of actions from this *Climate Emergency Action Plan*. Under these themes, the following policies will link with climate action:

- > Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2025 – calls for increased adaptation to the health impacts from climate under its 'health, safe and resilient community' goal
- > The Liveable City Strategy – provides an urban design framework to underpin the liveability of Manningham – incorporating environmentally sustainable design, sustainable transport and 'greening our city' that relates with aspects of climate change mitigation and adaption

The Victorian *Local Government Act 2020* established a new responsibility for councils 'to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate risks'.

The *Victorian Climate Change Action 2017* established the Victorian net zero emissions by 2050 target. The Act also prompt the setting of the 2030 target for there to be a 40-50% reduction below 2005 emissions. *Victoria's Climate Change Strategy* details the climate action that the State Government intends supporting to achieve these targets.

## **Monitoring and reporting**

To track our progress with implementation of this Climate Emergency Action Plan, there will be annual monitoring and reporting on climate actions and greenhouse gas emissions levels.

This will then feed into future Councils having the opportunity to affirm or adjust the ongoing program of climate mitigation actions.

This monitoring, reporting and adjustment process is in accord with the 2021 commitments made by Council.