

FACT SHEET

We're cutting our carbon

The City of Melbourne is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the municipality to zero by 2020 and is leading the way in ensuring our future sustainability and to avert the consequences of climate change.

Our aim is to end Melbourne's contribution to global warming by 2020.

Five things the City of Melbourne is doing:

1. Setting targets and measuring our progress

In 1999, we set a goal of reducing emissions from our operations by 30 per cent by 2010. By June 2005, we had achieved a reduction of 26 per cent. Just two months ago, we increased our reduction target to 50 per cent by 2010 and we plan to get there. This new target reflects that we are already achieving greater than expected reductions in carbon emissions.

The Greenhouse Action Plan 2006–2010 sets out the actions the City of Melbourne will pursue to reduce its own energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions. We have set targets for greenhouse gas reductions in public lighting, buildings and transport.

2. Leadership

The City of Melbourne has played a leading role in greenhouse gas reduction activities since the mid 90s and joined the international Cities for Climate Protection program in 1998 and the national Greenhouse Challenge program in 2000.

Since joining these programs, the City of Melbourne has recognised the need to develop a longer-term approach to greenhouse issues, and in 2002, adopted the Zero Net Emissions by 2020 strategy: A Roadmap to a Climate Neutral City.

3. Setting an example

Our new office building, Council House 2 - CH2 is a working model of a climate neutral building – using 85 per cent less electricity, 87 per cent less gas and generating only 13 per cent of the emissions of our existing Council House 1 building. It is a six-star Green Star building.

The city's streetlights are powered by 40 per cent renewable energy from accredited Green Power, as are 20 per cent of municipal buildings.

Queen Victoria Market Solar Energy project launched in April 2003, is the largest urban grid-connected solar photovoltaic installation in the Southern Hemisphere. It has the capacity to generate 252,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year and, to date, has saved more than 1000 tonnes of greenhouse gases from entering the environment.

4. Increasing our expectations

All new commercial buildings in the municipality that are over 5,000 square metres, are now required to achieve a four-star Green Star rating which sets minimum standards for energy.

5. Supporting change

The City of Melbourne runs a number of programs designed to encourage energy efficiency and to reduce water consumption for office buildings, hotels and residents; Council continues to invest in our bicycle network and promote the use of sustainable transport options.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions: 10 things you can do

1. Switch to Green Power.

Eliminate household emissions from electricity by contacting your retailer and asking for an accredited Green Power option. Further information: www.greenpower.com.au

2. Install a solar hot-water system.

This will reduce household emissions by up to 30 per cent and save you money. You may also receive a rebate for it. Visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/

3. Use AAA-rated shower heads and energy-efficient light globes.

Together these can reduce household emissions by up to 22 per cent. Some shower heads also qualify for rebates. Check with your water retailer.

4. Buy star-rated, energy-efficient appliances.

To choose an energy-efficient appliance visit: www.energyrating.gov.au

5. Turn off your appliances at the wall.

Standby power can consume up to 10 per cent of your total energy bill.

6. Insulate your home and only heat or cool the rooms you are using.

7. Find out what your work place is doing on climate change and suggest some actions, such as an energy audit, to start.

8. Residents of the City of Melbourne can subscribe to Councils environmental newsletter called *The Green Leaflet*.

The Green Leaflet offers advice and information on ways for your household to be more environmentally sustainable and take action in the community. Visit: www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/environment

9. Make your next car a fuel efficient one.

Compare cars at <http://www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au/>

10. Walk, cycle or take public transport more often.

Walking and cycling reduce emissions and both are good for your health too. Get a copy of Melbourne's *TravelSmart Map* from Council. Phone 9658 9658.

Source: Modified from Flannery, T. (2005) *The Weather Makers: The History and Future Impact of Climate Change*, The Text Publishing Company, Melbourne.

Useful information to help you live more sustainably:

- Green Pages is the first national directory of environmentally-sustainable products and services: <http://www.greenpagesaustralia.com.au/>
- A home guide to reducing energy costs and greenhouse gases: www.greenhouse.gov.au/gwci
- The Green Vehicle Guide helps you by rating new Australian vehicles based on greenhouse and air-pollution emissions: <http://www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au/>
- A guide to encourage the design, construction and renovation of homes to be comfortable, healthy and more environmentally sustainable: www.yourhome.gov.au