Attachment E

Green Report
(Annual Environmental Report) 2025/26

Green report



Annual Environmental Report
2025/26

CITY OF SYDNEY

The City of Sydney acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area.

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Published November 2026

Message from the CEO

As we feel the impacts of climate change, focusing on a more sustainable future for all has never been more important. To date we've made important strides towards our sustainability targets both in our operations and in the local area as well as working with our community to improve city wide sustainability.

This year's Green report updates progress made on the targets in our new Environmental strategy 2025-2030 launched in June and highlights our activities and achievements over 2025/2026. The strategy builds on 20 years of environmental sustainability action and underpins our goal to be a leading environmental performer. The strategy sets new and revised targets to further drive operational and local area outcomes. We also released a new Waste reduction and circular materials strategy setting clear ambitions for us and the community, to work towards a future where nothing is wasted. The targets and actions within the strategy will be reported annually as part of the green report.

We've further increased our operational emissions target to an ambitious 85% reduction. To reach our target, we're accelerating electrification through our net zero buildings plan. Our pools are the biggest users of fossil gas, so we're removing gas heating from our aquatic centres. By removing fossil gas cooktops and other appliances we're pushing hard to reach our target.

Climate change is reducing overall rainfall, and so our operations teams have continued the strong focus on tracking leaks, installing smart monitoring for targeted watering and upgrading alternative water sources in our parks and buildings. With a strong El Nino event predicted for this summer, this work ensures we are not wasting water.

Businesses and residents across our local area are also working hard to reduce emissions and potable water use, progressing our local area net zero target. We can't directly influence individual emissions within our local area, but we can work in partnership to reduce them. We partnered with the NSW Government to build the new Green Square Public School, and I am proud that the project achieved a 5-star Green Star rating for design and build, delivering energy and water efficiency to a gold standard.

I am excited to see our canopy cover and green space area has grown again providing important cooling and respite for our community. Seeing our canopy increase since 2008 shows that our hard work is paying off and more people now have access to public cool, green spaces than ever before.

I am pleased with the achievements and progress that we have made this year, showing what we can achieve by working together.



Monica Barone PSM

Chief Executive Officer

Year in review

Operational highlights

Since our 2006 baseline, operational emissions have fallen significantly, decreasing by 75% from 52,970 to 13,104 tonnes CO_2e in 2025/26. This year there was a small increase to the previous year's emissions, primarily due to a slight increase in gas use in some aquatic centres ahead of electrification. However, we are still on track to meet our emissions reduction target of 85% by 2030 through ongoing electrification of our fleet, reducing fossil gas use, and by the ongoing investment of 100% renewable electricity.

In 2025/26 a further three gas accounts were closed, Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool transitioned to electric heat pumps, and gas cooking appliances were replaced with induction systems at four properties. Solar battery power stations were introduced at major events, replacing diesel generators, reducing emissions and operational impacts.

The transition to an all-electric fleet progressed, with 26% of the overall operational fleet now fully electric. Additional charging infrastructure was installed across operational sites, and staff travelled more than 9,000 km by e-bikes.

Waste reduction and circular economy initiatives continued to deliver strong results. Operational activities achieved a 91% landfill diversion rate, while construction and demolition work reached a 97% resource recovery rate. Recycled and reclaimed materials were increasingly used in infrastructure projects, including more than 1,035 tonnes of reclaimed asphalt pavement and 281 tonnes of recycled crushed glass in road renewals. Reuse initiatives recovered materials from vacant buildings, and Sydney Town Hall's bottle crushing system recycled almost 2 tonnes of glass.

We expanded and enhanced our green spaces and biodiversity by planting 762 street trees, 402 park trees and almost 80,000 additional plants in parks and street gardens. Park renewal projects delivered upgraded landscaping, recreation facilities and community amenities.

Our operational water consumption increased to 438 megalitres, 2% above the 2006 baseline, largely due to our discovery of underground leaks in Hyde Park that have since been repaired. Smart metering has improved leak detection and will help avoid future losses. Recycled water supplied 42 megalitres for irrigation, meeting around 20% of overall irrigation demand in our parks, while upgrades to rainwater infrastructure, smart irrigation systems and alternative water connections have strengthened long-term water resilience.

Local area highlights

We continued implementing community-wide climate action through our partnerships, new planning controls, advocacy and targeted programs aimed at achieving local area net zero emissions by 2035. Local area carbon emissions are 48% below 2006 levels despite ongoing economic growth and we're on track to meet our target of 70% emissions reduction by 2030.

The second stage of our net zero planning controls for non-residential developments require base building operations to now use renewable electricity. Residential developments have commenced the transition to all-electric developments, with new homes required to be built without indoor fossil fuel gas appliances from January 2026.

Flagship sustainability programs continued to support emissions reductions. The Smart Green Apartments and Green Building Grants have assisted 353 apartment buildings to date to improve sustainability and reduce operating costs. Better Buildings Partnership members now purchase 96% renewable electricity and have significantly improved emissions, energy and water performance.

Our advocacy efforts focused on stronger building performance standards, improving minimum energy standards for rental properties, electrification incentives, renewable energy expansion and a fair energy transition.

Zero emissions transport remained a priority. New cycling infrastructure delivered record use, with the Oxford Street cycleway reaching nearly one million trips within its first year. Continued investment in walking, cycling and public spaces supported low-carbon transport choices across the city. Efforts to influence NSW Government agencies focussed on achieving the vision of a city for walking, cycling and public transport.

The Waste Reduction and Circular Materials Strategy 2025–2035, adopted by Council in February 2026, updated our framework to reduce waste, improve recycling and strengthen the use of circular materials. Residential waste services diverted 48% of collected waste from landfill, supported by recycling events, pop-up services and doorstep collection programs. Education and engagement initiatives promoted waste avoidance, repair and reuse, while grants, partnerships and training supported circular economy innovation.

Bush restoration and habitat enhancement programs improved ecosystem health through weed management, native planting and biodiversity conservation activities. Community participation remains central to greening efforts, with volunteers contributing thousands of hours through Sydney City Farm, community gardens and Bushcare programs. Native plant giveaways, community planting events, education programs and biodiversity monitoring further supported urban greening and habitat restoration.

Our growing population and changes in climate mean we need to actively manage water in our local area for long term resilience. In 2025/26, local area potable water use increased overall - while residential water consumption per capita decreased, non-residential water intensity per square meter of floorspace increased slightly. The Green Square recycled water scheme expanded to service new residential buildings and the expanded Gunyama Park, increasing access to recycled water for hundreds of additional homes, and public open spaces while reducing demand on Sydney's drinking water supplies.

Waterway health improvements continued through stormwater treatment and capture infrastructure, preventing 330 tonnes of rubbish and sediment from entering local waterways.

Operational targets

Target (by 2030)	Latest result
Carbon	
85% **reduction in emissions** from 2006 baseline	75% **reduction against baseline** (June 2026)
All light commercial and passenger vehicles 100% electric by 2030. 20% reduction in fleet emissions by 2030 from FY 2023 baseline	4% **reduction against baseline** (June 2026) Target achieved
	49% of light commercial and passenger vehicles are electric
30% **reduction in energy use** by 2030 from a FY 2023 baseline	12% **reduction against baseline** (June 2026)
Water	
zero increase **in potable water use** yearly until 2030 from 2006 baseline.	2% **increase against baseline** (June 2026)
Waste	
90% **diversion from landfill**, with 50% source separated **recycling**, from our managed properties by end of June 2030	91% **diverted from landfill** (June 2026) Target achieved
	49% **source separated recycling** (June 2026)
20% **reduction in total waste** generated from our managed **properties** by end of June 2030, from 2019 baseline	9% **increase in total waste generated against baseline** (June 2026)
90% **resource recovery** of **construction** and **demolition waste** generated and managed by our operations by end June 2030	89% **recovery** of **construction** and **demolition waste** (June 2026)
60% **resource recovery** of waste from **our parks, streets** and **public places** by the end of June 2030	58% **resource recovery** from **our parks, streets** and **other public places** (June 2026)

Local area targets

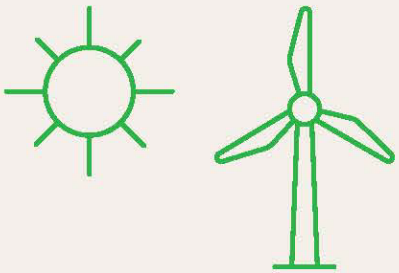
Target (by 2030)	Latest result

Carbon

70% **reduction in emissions generation** from a 2006 baseline

48% **reduction against baseline** (June 2025)

net zero emissions by **2035**



Water





Reduce residential **potable water use to** per person per day **170 litres**

191 litres per person per day (June 2025)

10% **reduction in non-residential potable water use** per m^2 from a 2019 baseline

16% **reduction against baseline** (June 2025) Target achieved

23% **reduction in total suspended solids** from a 2006 baseline

Gross pollutants reduced by **22%**

37% **reduction in gross pollutants** from a 2006 baseline

Total suspended solids reduced by **16%**

12% **reduction in total phosphorus** from a 2006 baseline

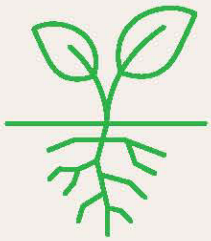
Total phosphorous reduced by **9%**

5% **reduction in total nitrogen** from a 2006 baseline

Total nitrogen reduced by **5%**

Local area targets continued

Target	Latest result



Greening

Increase overall **green cover to** 40% across the local area, including **27% tree canopy by 2050**

33.6% green cover (2026)

21.7% canopy (2026)



Waste



80% diversion from landfill of **residential waste,** with 35% as source-separated recycling by 2030

Diversion from landfill 48% (June 2026)

Source separated recycling 31% (June 2026)

10% reduction in total **residential waste generation** per capita by 2030 from a June 2023 baseline

13% **per capita reduction in waste since 2023** (June 2026) Target achieved

80% resource recovery of **commercial and industrial waste**, with an overall **10% reduction in total waste generation** by 2030 from a June 2019 baseline

55% **diversion from landfill** (estimate, 2026)

Climate action



Climate change affects all of us. Bold **action** in this critical decade will help to avoid its worst impacts.

We continue to lead with **ambitious** targets and **decisive** action to meet them.

Our operations

The impacts of climate change are already being felt globally. To mitigate against the worst of these changes, we need to keep carbon emissions as low as possible. This is why we've set an ambitious target to reduce our operational carbon emissions. To reach this target, we're electrifying our buildings, fleet and equipment, managing our waste and purchasing 100% renewable electricity.

Our results

Since our 2006 baseline, operational emissions have fallen significantly, decreasing by 75% from 52,970 to 13,104 tonnes CO_2e in 2025/26. There has been a small increase in total emissions since the previous year caused by a short-term increase in gas use due to the different operating needs of each of our aquatic centres. As we continue to replace gas-powered systems with electric alternatives, we expect gas consumption to reduce over time. These upgrades will help us achieve our goal of eliminating fossil gas use across the portfolio by 2030.

The City of Sydney became the first government authority to achieve carbon neutral certification from the Australian Government in 2011. To maintain this certification, we prioritise minimising emissions through our activities as much as possible with any remaining emissions managed through the purchase of high integrity carbon credits. Since the 2019/20 certification year we have purchased an increasing share of high-quality Australian carbon credits supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fire and land management projects.

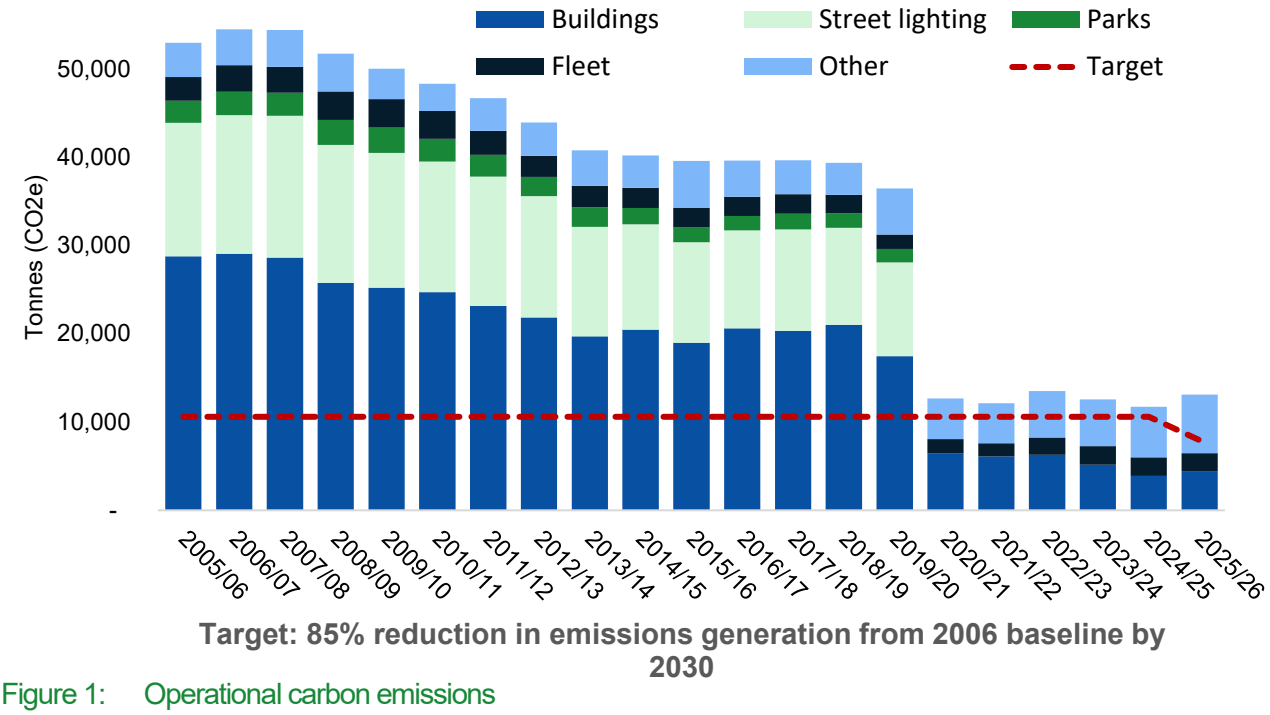
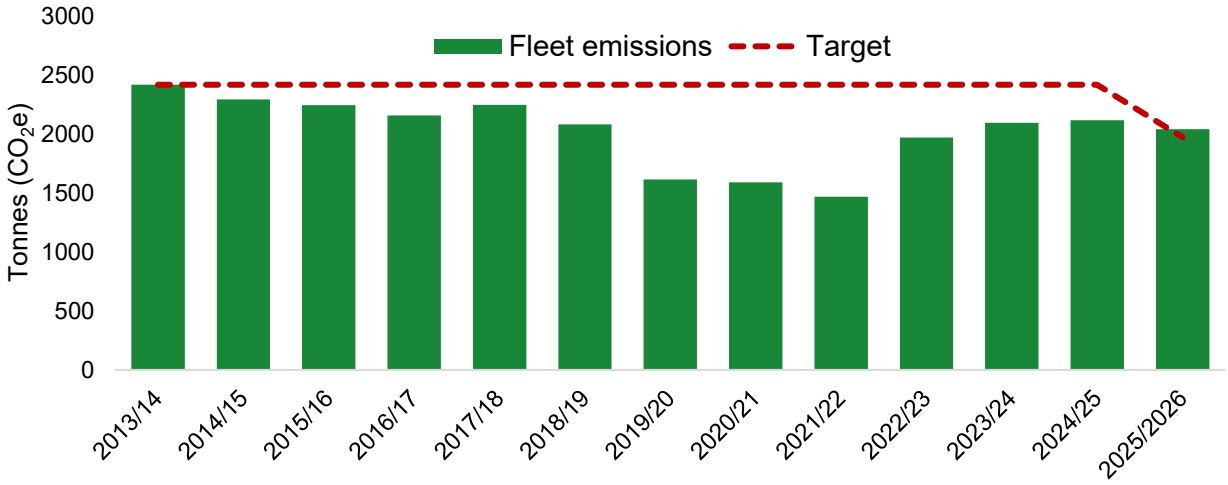


Figure 1: Operational carbon emissions

Fleet emissions

Emissions from our vehicle fleet reduced from the previous year to 2,040 tCO2e which is 4% above our 2023 baseline. Fleet emissions have increased since 2023 due to an increase in the services we provide to the community and changes to the federal government emissions factors for diesel and petrol.



New target: 20% reduction in fleet emissions by 2030 from FY2023 baseline by 2030

Figure 2: Operational fleet emissions

Fleet emissions are expected to decline as we continue to invest in more electric vehicles across our operations. Today, 49% of our light and commercial vehicles are fully electric, or 26% of our total fleet. To complement our road registered electric fleet, we continue to increase the use of electric bikes, with more than 9,040km travelled in the year.

Working towards our emissions targets

Our goal in the Environmental strategy 2021-2025 was to reduce emissions by 80% from 2006 levels by 2025. We've reset our ambition in the new Environmental strategy 2025-2030 with an operational emissions target of 85% reduction from 2006 levels by 2030. We have also committed to a new target to eliminate the use of fossil gas in our properties.

We're focused on meeting these targets by electrifying our properties, fleet, plant and equipment. Where available, we'll use refrigerants with a lower climate impact in our heating and cooling systems, and all our new buildings will be fully electric with no new fossil fuel connections. Actions to reduce emissions from our waste are detailed in the waste and materials section.

We have allocated funds in the long-term financial plan to our net zero buildings goal. This year in our properties we changed 2 gas hot water systems to heat pumps and electric units, upgraded 10 lighting systems to LEDs and replaced 10 air conditioning systems with refrigerants that have a lower climate impact. As we complete building electrification projects, we disconnect the gas supply. This year, 3 gas accounts were closed across the portfolio.

Our electric fleet vehicles are charged at our facilities between shifts or overnight. This year a further 15 electric vehicle charge points were installed across 4 operational sites to support this transition. Viable electric heavy vehicle options are starting to emerge. We've also focused on

shifting our light vehicle passenger fleet to fully electric, replacing hybrid vehicles as they come to the end of their lifecycle.

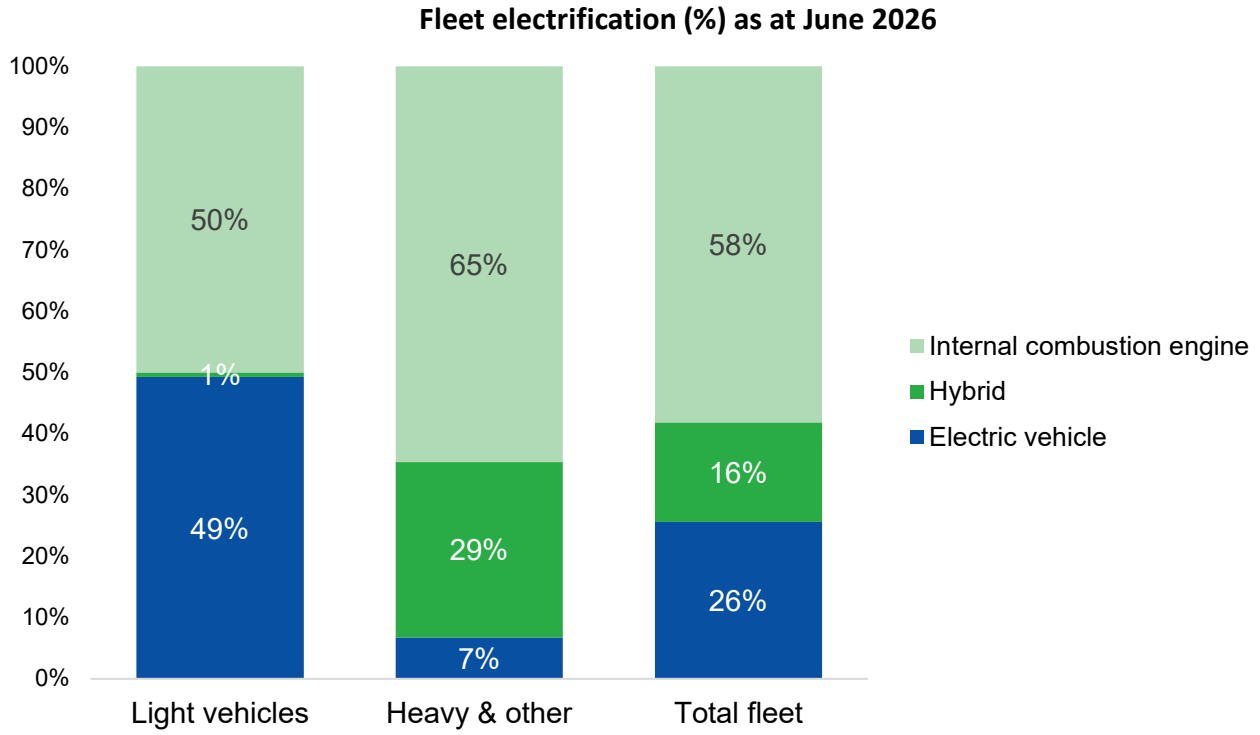


Figure 3: Fleet electrification as of May 2026

Our new Environmental strategy includes a new target to improve our energy efficiency by 30% by 2030. While we are powered by 100% renewable electricity, we also have a responsibility to use less energy and reduce demands on the grid. We do this by replacing our assets with the most energy efficient ones available as they reach the end of their lifecycle and through our electrification work which is much more efficient than burning gas and fuel.

While our long-term agreement to purchase 100% renewable electricity contributed to environmental savings, it also protected us from electricity price increases. We saved $8 million in the first 6 years.

How we do it

Measure and report

By monitoring our energy use, we identify ways to cut consumption and lower emissions.

Each year we prepare a detailed emissions inventory and verify it independently to ensure accuracy. Our emissions and activities are reported yearly in Climate Active public disclosure statements and in this report.

Avoid and reduce

We achieve energy and emissions savings in our buildings, plant and equipment, and public lighting through efficiency upgrades and electrification.

We're focusing on lowering the use of carbon intensive materials in our roads and buildings. We also prioritise renovating and reusing structures where we can rather than demolishing them. Through our asset-design processes, we consider ways to reduce the amount of concrete we use, choosing low carbon options where available. We continue to include recycled content in our asphalt.

Renewable energy

More than 2 MW of solar photovoltaic capacity has been installed in our buildings over the past decade, with these systems continuing to operate and contribute to renewable energy

generation across our property portfolio. We purchase 100% renewable electricity through a power purchase agreement.

Reducing travel-related emissions

Our travel policy requires employees to prioritise walking, cycling and public transport

for work trips. Employees use our fleet of e-bikes, e-cargo bikes and pedal bikes at Town Hall House and Alexandra Canal Depot. We offer training to build confidence and improve safety.

Our electric and more efficient heavy vehicles help us use less fossil fuels like petrol and diesel.

Offsets

We offset unavoidable emissions, by purchasing carbon credits from quality Australian and international projects. These projects support regional land, cultural and social efforts, regenerating ecosystems and support biodiversity.

Phasing out gas at our pools and properties

In our Environmental strategy 2025-2030, we've introduced a new target to eliminate all fossil gas in our operations. The biggest users of fossil gas in our operations are water heaters for our pools.

Following last year's successful project at Victoria Park Pool, this year we replaced the gas pool heating and hot water systems with efficient electric heat pumps at Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool. This electrification work was delivered with support from the Australian Government.

The project coincided with a major renewal, including retiling and waterproofing both 50m and 20m outdoors pools, repairing concrete and steel structures, and installing new decking, shade sails and a lift

Efficient heat pumps will be introduced at our remaining 4 aquatic centres as we progress towards full electrification of our operations by 2030.

Removing gas appliances from our kitchens is also an important step to achieving no fossil gas use across our operations by 2030. In line with our pledge to the Global Cooksafe Coalition, an international push to eliminate gas cooking, we have committed to retrofitting our cooking facilities



Refurbished Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool reopens for spring swimmers. Image: Will Jones

to electric. This year gas stovetops were replaced with induction units at Sydney Town Hall, Erskineville Town Hall, Redfern Town Hall and Rushcutters Bay Kiosk.

Renewable electricity at our major events

Solar battery power stations were introduced to our major events and festivals in 2025. These power stations replace diesel generators and other non-renewable sources previously used across Sydney Christmas, Sydney New Year's Eve, Sydney Lunar Festival, Art & About, Sydney Streets and capital works events.

The new power stations each comprise 4 battery cells recharged by 2 portable solar panels, or by using the existing solar system located at our Creative City Depot, near Perry Park.

The batteries are more environmentally sustainable and quieter than generators and significantly reduce risks including handling combustible liquids during refuelling and keeping people safe from fumes.

Crown Street low carbon trial

The materials used in our streets, parks and buildings emit carbon emissions during material extraction and manufacture, so we seek to test, less carbon intensive products as they become available.

The Crown Street public domain upgrade provided an opportunity to test how lower carbon concrete stood up to the needs of an inner-city project.

Nearly 2,500 cubic metres of low-embodied carbon concrete were used in the project, achieving an estimated 306-tonne reduction in CO_2 emissions compared with standard mixes.

The trial sought to understand if the adjusted mix would affect workability or performance. It confirmed the material's slightly faster set time didn't compromise engineering performance and is suitable for use on roads and footpaths.

Low carbon concrete is now in our technical specifications as a standard material for civil works, ensuring emissions reductions for future infrastructure projects and strengthening our long-term sustainability commitments.



Low carbon concrete being poured at Crown Street. Image: Sydney Civil

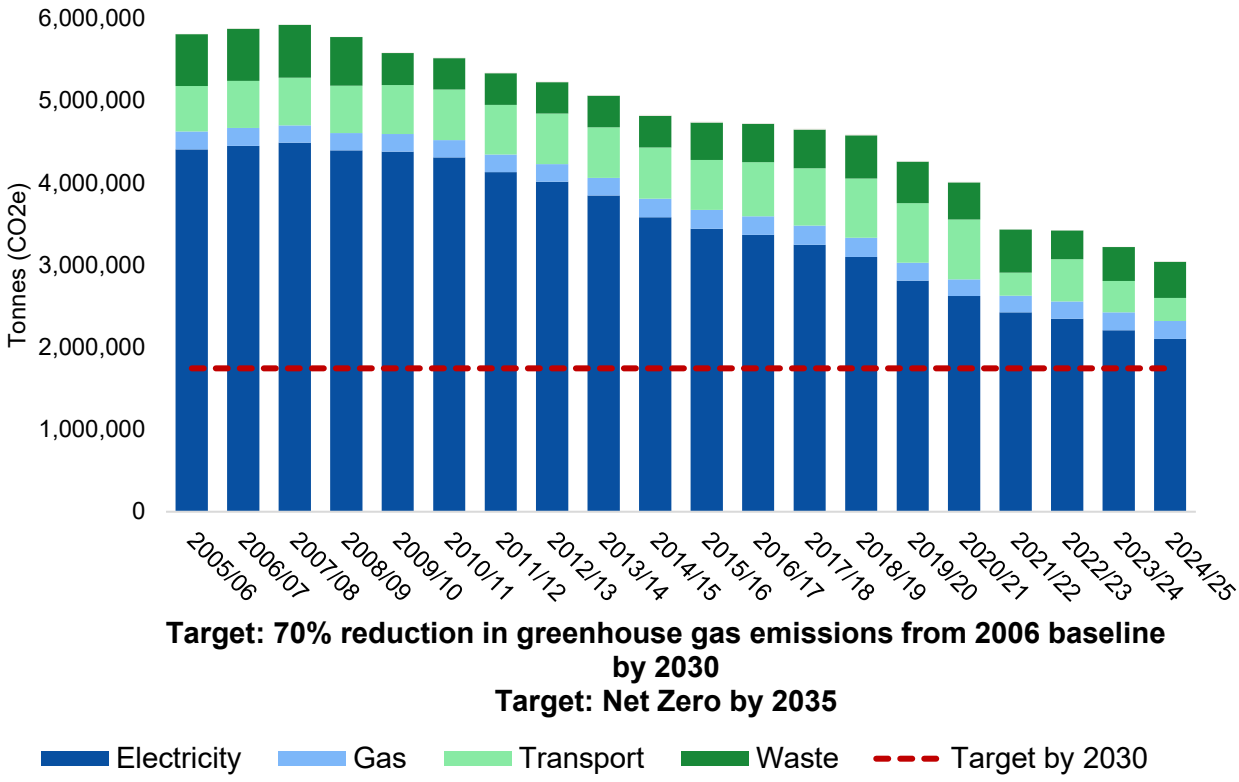
Action for our city

While we can't tackle the climate crisis alone, we can lead and encourage others to do the same. This is why we set a net zero target for the local area.

Our programs, grants and partnerships support building owners, residents and businesses to improve energy efficiency and switch to renewable energy. We support and campaign for zero emissions transport, buildings and energy supplies. In our local area, we encourage the use of transport with no or reduced emissions.

Our results

Carbon emissions for our local area have decreased year on year. In June 2025 they were 48% below 2006 levels. This is despite gross regional product, a measure of local economic activity, growing by 86%[1] from 2006 to 2026.



[1] economy.id.com.au/sydney/gross-regional-product

How we do it

Measure

We use the greenhouse gas protocol to measure the emissions for our local area.

Flagship programs

Our targeted programs enabled our communities to reduce their carbon emissions. Flagship programs include the Better Buildings Partnership, Sustainable Destination Partnership, CitySwitch and Smart Green Apartments.

Food waste collection

Reducing the amount of food waste being sent to landfill not only helps manage waste, it also cuts carbon emissions by preventing food from turning into methane.

External factors

The electricity grid is rapidly greening. The NSW grid was 37.6% renewable in the year to June 2026, up from 35.5% the previous year.

Planning requirements

Our development controls and associated guidelines help improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy power sources in new buildings and major redevelopment.

Support for green tech

We support the Greenhouse Climate Tech Hub, a climate action innovation space, through a rental subsidy with a multi-year accommodation grant. The hub provides coworking areas, meeting rooms and event spaces to more than 850 innovators driving climate action, fostering a dynamic environment for collaboration. The hub also runs year-round climate-themed events.

Green Square primary school gets green stars

In partnership with the City of Sydney, the NSW Government built the new Green Square Public School and Community Spaces at the old Royal South Sydney Hospital site on Joynton Avenue, Zetland.

The new integrated facility provides fit-for-purpose learning spaces, shared spaces available for public use after school, outside school hours care (OSHC) and vacation care times, and 2 dedicated spaces for hire 7 days a week to serve a student population of 600. The shared spaces include 2 large multipurpose spaces, ground level open-air courts and a courtyard.

Specific sustainability objectives were an important part of the design brief for this project. Sustainability was to be integrated into the building, including planning and spatial organisation, materials selection, mechanical and electrical systems, landscape systems and planning, walking and bicycle-friendly links to the surrounding streets.

The building had to:

- generate renewable energy onsite to the maximum reasonable extent
- connect to the Green Square solar ‘private-wire’ electricity distribution network
- connect to the Green Square recycled water network for non-potable uses
- achieve a Greenstar rating of 5 stars, with at least 75% of available credit points in the energy and water categories.

All sustainability requirements were achieved with 128kW produced from the rooftop solar panels and the recent award of a 5-star Greenstar Design & As Built rating.

Passive design elements, shaping the building to naturally manage light, heat and airflow, were incorporated into the design to help with temperature and environmental comfort, and reduce

energy use. This includes internal spaces arranged to consider access to daylight, visual comfort and acoustic levels.

Rooftop solar panels not only provide renewable electricity to the school, they also provide shade to the rooftop play areas, while the brick screen to the facade provides shade and allows for breezes and natural light.

In a very urban setting, greenery is included on each level for improved air quality and heat island relief.



Front of Green Square Public School and community spaces. Image: Abril Felman.

Planning future-fit buildings

All-electric development requirements

On 1 January 2026, new planning controls in the Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 came into effect as part of a transition to all-electric buildings. They require new homes to be designed without indoor fossil fuel gas appliances.

These controls improve indoor air quality and support healthier living environments by eliminating exposure to combustion-related pollutants associated with gas cooking and space heating.

All-electric buildings are more energy efficient, healthier and cheaper to operate over the long term. Designing buildings without a fossil fuel gas connection also avoids the need for costly future retrofitting as Australia transitions to cleaner energy sources.

Phase 2 starts on 1 January 2027 to also include new larger office, hotel and serviced apartment developments. They'll be required to be designed without a connection to the fossil fuel gas network. Affected developments will also need to provide sufficient space and electrical capacity to support all-electric cooking, heating and hot water systems.

Net zero planning controls

On 1 January 2026, the new stage of our net zero planning controls came into force. This increases the minimum energy efficiency standards required for new hotels and shopping centres. It also requires all new major non-

residential development, including large offices, hotels and shopping centres, to power their base building electricity requirements from 100% renewable sources, for at least 5 years from occupation.

Going places on our new cycleways

In July 2025, we opened what quickly became our busiest cycleway, on Oxford Street, connecting existing cycleways on Bourke, College and Castlereagh streets. Providing this safe, zero emission transport connection between the city centre and Taylor Square has improved access attracted, without impacting trade to businesses and maintaining existing parking arrangements. Even in winter, there were up to 4,000 bike trips per day. On 2 July 2026, Oxford Street cycleway counted 1 million bike trips.

New connections including Oxford Street cycleway, a link between College and King Street cycleways, and one near Waterloo Metro station, have improved bike network connectivity. Along with easy access to share bikes, this is making cycling a convenient option for more trips. These factors, plus high petrol prices and the cost of living, have pushed bike counts to their highest yet, with a 20% increase from March 2025 to March 2026, and the number of trips continued to climb even after daylight savings ended.



Oxford Street cycleway. Image: Nick Langley

Oxford Street cycleway. Image: Nick Langley

Influencing for change

Transport

During the year, we continued to advocate for state transport policy and regulatory reform that supports sustainable, accessible and liveable communities. This included contributing to the NSW Government's review of the *Roads Act 1993*, advocating for the Act to recognise streets as places that support walking, cycling, urban greening, outdoor dining and community life.

We responded to the NSW Government's proposed reforms to bike sharing schemes, supporting stronger regulatory frameworks that enable well-managed share bike services while protecting walking safety and accessibility. Our work focused on improving operator accountability, reducing local impacts and providing greater certainty for communities, users and councils, along with providing dedicated bike parking to reduce footpath clutter.

We contributed to the development of the NSW walking strategy, advocating for dedicated funding, resources and a whole-of-government approach.

Climate action

We advocated to federal and state governments for environmentally, economically, and socially just policies and programs.

Our submissions included support for community batteries to store excess local renewable energy so it can be shared with community who can’t access or install rooftop solar. We also advocated for improved strata laws and environmental performance standards and several submissions for data centres.

We also supported minimum rental standards, incentives for electrification, and safe and equitable decommissioning of the gas network, with targeted support for people who are renting, live in apartments or on low incomes.

Environmentally responsible investment

In 2025/26, we strengthened our sustainable investments with $135 million in green tailored deposits and $45 million in social tailored deposits. These investments are linked to climate and social outcomes and align with recognised sustainability frameworks, including internationally recognised benchmarks Climate Bonds Standard, ICMA Social Bond Principles and Westpac Sustainable Finance Framework.

Our investment policy outlines how we’ll continue to prioritise investments in environmentally and socially responsible products.

We don’t directly or knowingly invest in activities that could negatively impact people, planet or country.

Our strata and business programs

To improve the sustainability of our local area, we support strata communities and encourage commercial building owners and tenants, and accommodation, entertainment and cultural venues improve their environmental performance. Together, we collaborate to achieve our environmental targets and move towards net zero by 2035.

Program results

Smart Green Apartments and Green Building Grants

Since 2016, we've supported 353 apartment buildings with sustainability assessments through Smart Green Apartments and Green Building Grants.

Participating owners corporations have collectively:

- saved $19.7 million in running costs
- avoided 111,678 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions
- invested in more than $7.3 million in upgrades.

Better Buildings Partnership

The partnership captures 47% of commercial office space and 81 buildings in our local area.

Since 2006, program partners have collectively reduced:

- emissions intensity (emissions by square metre of floor space) by 97%
- energy intensity by 56%
- water use intensity by 55%.

Partners are buying 96% of base building electricity from renewable sources.

View the Better Building Partnership annual report.

Sustainable Destination Partnership

The program's 33 partners operate 66 buildings, representing half the hotel rooms in our local area.

Since 2018, program partners have collectively:

- reduced emissions by 42%
- cut potable water use by 15%
- achieved 62% waste diversion from landfill
- purchased 13% renewable electricity.

Read the Sustainable Destination Partnership annual report.

CitySwitch Sydney

The program currently provides tailored decarbonisation support to 71 businesses, representing 102 tenancies in our local area

Collective 2025/26 results for tenancies in the Sydney program indicate average electricity intensity is 30 kWh per square metre. Also, 64% have switched to purchasing renewable electricity

See the CitySwitch program annual report.

Supporting a sustainable destination

The Sustainable Destination Partnership brings together organisations across Sydney's visitor economy to reduce emissions, cut water and waste, and shift towards renewable energy.

Partners continued to meet and use the practical resources developed through the partnership to support ongoing sustainability improvements in their own operations.

This work contributed to Sydney achieving its second-highest score yet in the Global Destination Sustainability Index, 78.56 out of 100, ranking 25th among more than 100 destinations.

ICC Sydney cuts food waste with data and innovation

International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney) is a world-class events destination set within one of the city centre's most lively cultural and technology precincts. It embedded sustainability into its operations through a strong focus on reducing food waste and supporting a circular economy. Recognising the significant environmental impact of food waste, ICC Sydney partnered with End Food Waste Australia to measure and better understand waste across its catering operations.

By analysing waste generated while preparing and serving food, ICC Sydney identified opportunities to improve meals, optimise portion sizes and enhance event planning. The venue has also invested in technologies such as BinTracker and AI-powered Winnow systems, using real-time data to drive continuous improvement and empower staff to make informed decisions. Strong leadership and internal education campaigns have built a culture where every team member contributes to reducing waste.

This organisation-wide approach has achieved environmental and social benefits. ICC Sydney aims to divert 75% of waste from landfill each year and has donated more than 34.6 tonnes of safe, unserved food to community organisations such as the Matthew Talbot Hostel since 2016.

ICC Sydney's experience demonstrates how measuring food waste can drive meaningful action, reduce environmental impacts while creating positive outcomes for local communities.



Image: International Convention Centre, Sydney

Improving sustainability in Australian businesses

This year, the Better Buildings Partnership presented webinars and resources focused on green leasing, electrification and circular office fit-outs, helping members build capability and identify opportunities to reduce emissions. CitySwitch continued to support commercial office tenants on their journey to net zero, with focus areas including green leasing, climate resilience and the circular economy in offices.

Airmaster backs sustainable buildings with green leasing

Airmaster, a leading building services provider operating in Australia and New Zealand, is using green leasing, including sustainability commitments directly into lease agreements with landlords, to reduce emissions and improve building performance across its property portfolio. A long-term participant in the CitySwitch program, the company has leveraged emissions tracking and performance data to identify opportunities for environmental improvement.

When securing a new lease for its Scoresby, Victoria headquarters and factory, they negotiated for installation of rooftop solar, upgrades to energy-efficient air-conditioning systems and replacement of high-impact refrigerants.

These improvements meant significant environmental and operational benefits, including a reduction in scope 2 emissions (from purchased electricity) of around 20% in 2024, lower energy use and improved workplace comfort.

By integrating sustainability requirements into its leasing arrangements, Airmaster is demonstrating how collaboration between tenants and landlords can unlock practical emissions reductions and create more sustainable, high-performing buildings.



New solar power installation on Airmaster's warehouse. Image: Rodney Dekker

Waste and materials



We promote **responsible** material management, encouraging reduced consumption, waste minimisation and resource sharing.

Goods and materials used in our city create environmental impacts locally and where they're sourced.

Our operations

We focus on reducing our waste and maximising resource recovery to ensure materials are kept in use and at their highest value for longer. We've set targets to reduce waste, increase recycling and resource recovery, and dramatically divert how much waste goes to landfill.

We're responsible for managing waste and recycling from our buildings, construction projects, and the parks and public spaces we look after.

Our results

We have separate targets for waste from our properties and the public spaces we manage. More control over managing waste in our properties means we have greater recycling opportunities compared to public spaces. The 2 graphs below show these differentiated targets and results. Attachment 1: understanding our waste data explains the terms used to report waste and recycling results.

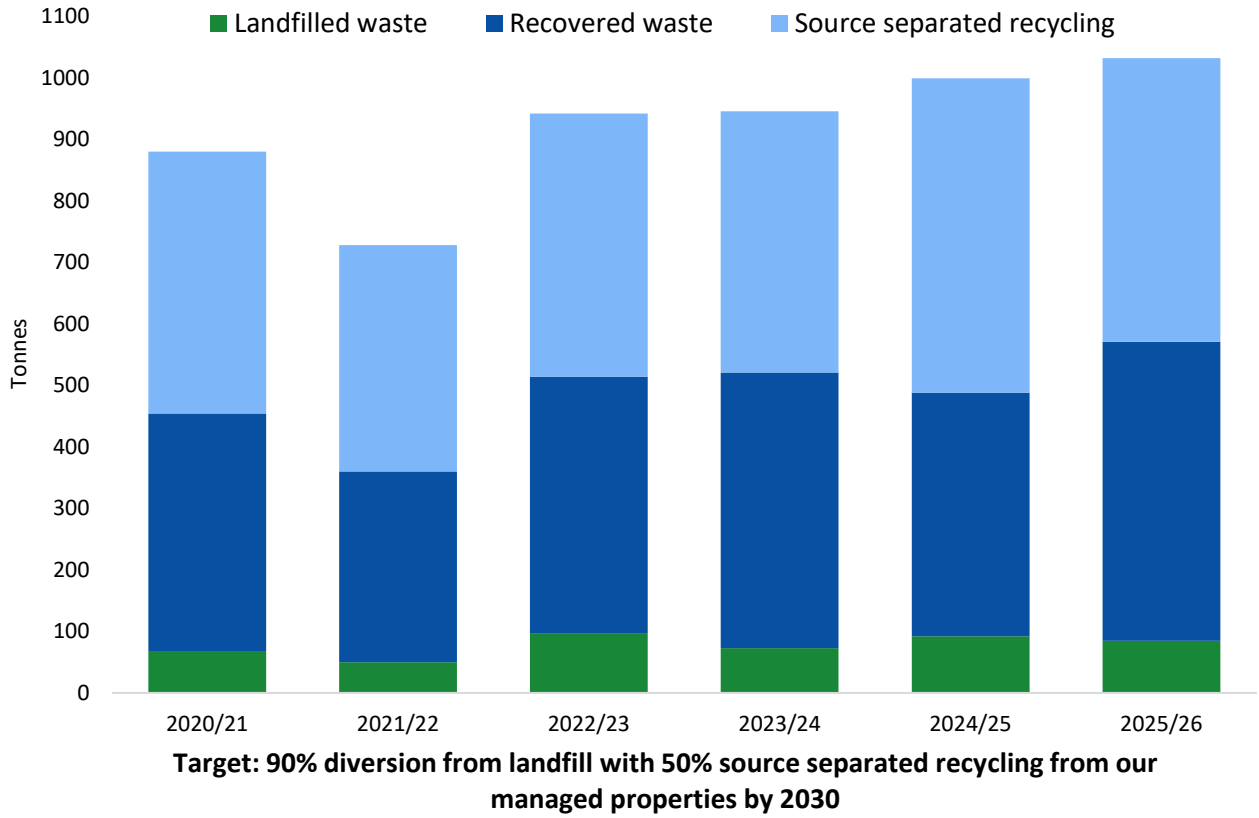


Figure 4: Waste from properties that we manage

Total waste from our properties was 1,032 tonnes in 2025/26, an increase of 9% against our 2019 baseline. This reflects growth in our property portfolio, from 65 properties in 2019 to 76 today, along with a recent increase in building strip-outs and renovations, which generate significantly more unavoidable waste than standard operations.

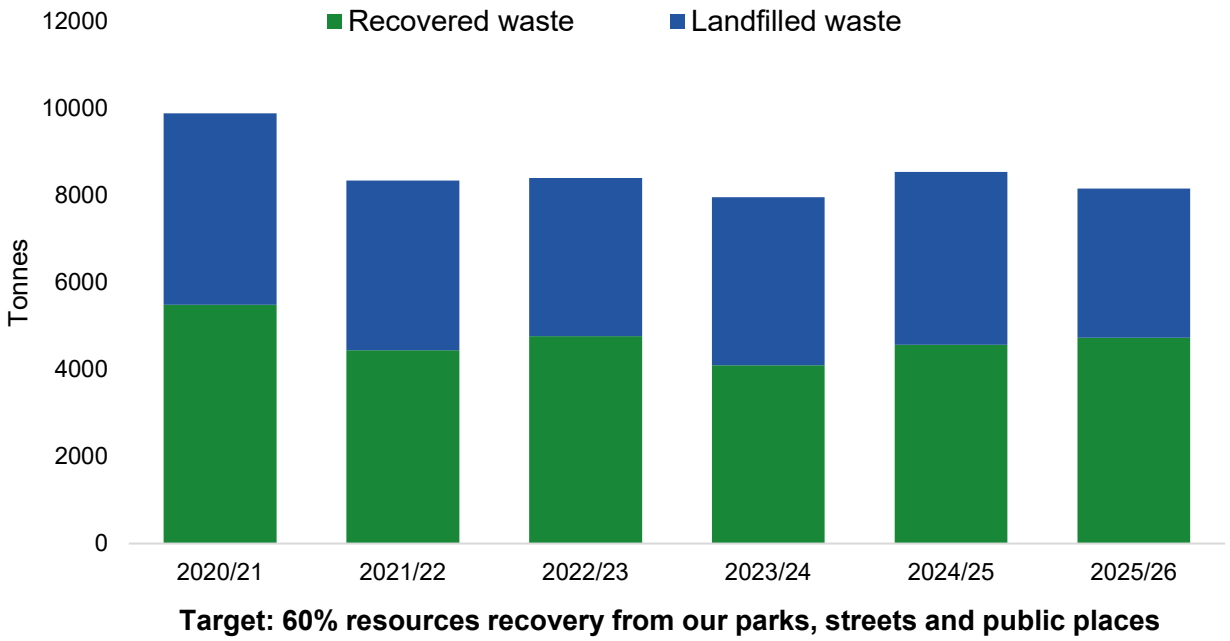


Figure 5: Waste from public spaces that we manage

In 2025/26, 8,154 tonnes of waste came from our parks, streets and public places.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Landfill diversion rate, City of Sydney properties	92%	93%	90%	92%	91%	92%
Source separated rate, City of Sydney properties	52%	54%	51%	49%	56%	49%
Resource recovery rate, parks, streets and public places	55%	53%	57%	51%	54%	58%

Table 1: Operational waste recovery rates

Construction and demolition waste

In 2025/26, we achieved a 89% resource recovery rate for our construction and demolition waste. This result is split into civil construction (roads and stormwater systems) and building construction. The building construction data was added in 2020/21.

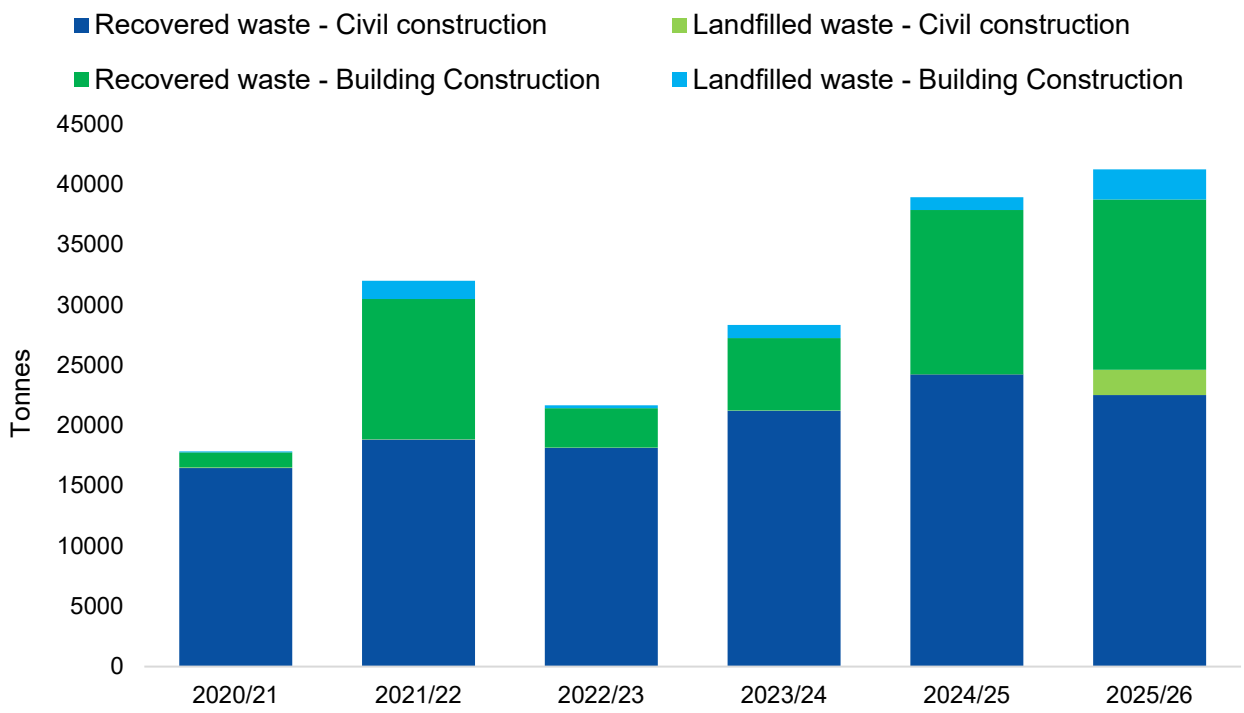


Figure 6: Construction and demolition waste from our operations

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Resource recovery rate, civil construction	99.7%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	91.5%
Resource recovery rate, building construction	92.8%	88.4%	93.8%	84.7%	92.8%	84.9%

Table 2: Construction and demolition waste recovery rates

How we do it

Measure

We're continually improving our reporting processes for our operational waste. Waste services reports for our properties align with the Better Buildings Partnership guidelines, and our service provider is independently certified under the Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) Waste Collection Service Standard. This ensures we have transparency and accountability across our operational waste service.

Avoid and reduce

We aim to avoid creating waste. We support a uniforms recycling program as a permanent service. This year 740kg of garments, shoes, hard hats and safety glasses were recycled or repurposed.

Source separation

Mixed recycling, paper, secure paper and food scraps collections are available in all office locations. Specialised sites also have battery, textile, blister pack, light bulb and metal recycling.

Promote sustainable events

We've developed guidelines to support our employees and communities reduce waste at our own events and those in our venues and outdoor spaces. We also maintain guidelines for single-use items to reduce waste from events and services.

Many pieces in the waste puzzle

There is no silver bullet when it comes to reducing the amount of waste generated during our operations. We use lots of programs to recover, reuse and avoid sending waste to landfill

Recovery in strip-outs

We use strip-out projects to demonstrate how resource recovery can be maximised during building clearances. When we stripped-out one of our properties after the tenant vacated, 87% of materials left behind were removed, successfully rehoming 12.28 tonnes of material. A standout result was the donation of a piano to a local youth centre, while remaining materials were carefully dismantled to recover metals, plastics and other recyclable components.

Making new bottles from old

Following a successful trial, we installed a bottle crushing machine at Sydney Town Hall in November 2025. Since then, 1,980kg of crushed glass has been collected. The crushed glass is recycled into new bottles and jars and is a great project example of supporting a circular economy. The crusher also reduces waste volumes by 80%, significantly freeing up space, saving on collection costs and reducing trucks in the city.

Waste management in our properties

This year, we audited our waste to better understand how we can maximise recycling opportunities across 7 sites, including a childcare centre, community centre, aquatic centre, depot and Town Hall House. Understanding waste across our diverse properties has enabled more targeted waste reduction initiatives and informed staff education, improving awareness of correct waste and recycling practices.

Use of sustainable materials in roads

Using recycled products in road construction is well established, with many road-building materials containing recycled content. This presents an opportunity to further expand the circular use of resources, engage more industry participation and reduce overall dependence on virgin materials.

The benefits of incorporating recycled materials into roads and pavements include:

- diverting waste from landfill and increasing resource recovery
- reducing the demand for virgin aggregates and bitumen
- lowering embodied carbon emissions associated with extracting, processing and transporting raw materials
- supporting local recycling industries

Through this approach, we used 1,035.5 tonnes of reclaimed asphalt pavement **(**RAP) and 281 tonnes of recycled crushed glass (RCG) for road renewals in the 2025/26 financial year.

The use of recycled materials in road renewal works has been successfully implemented on several projects, including Burrows Road in Alexandria, Church Street in Camperdown, and Bligh Street in Sydney.

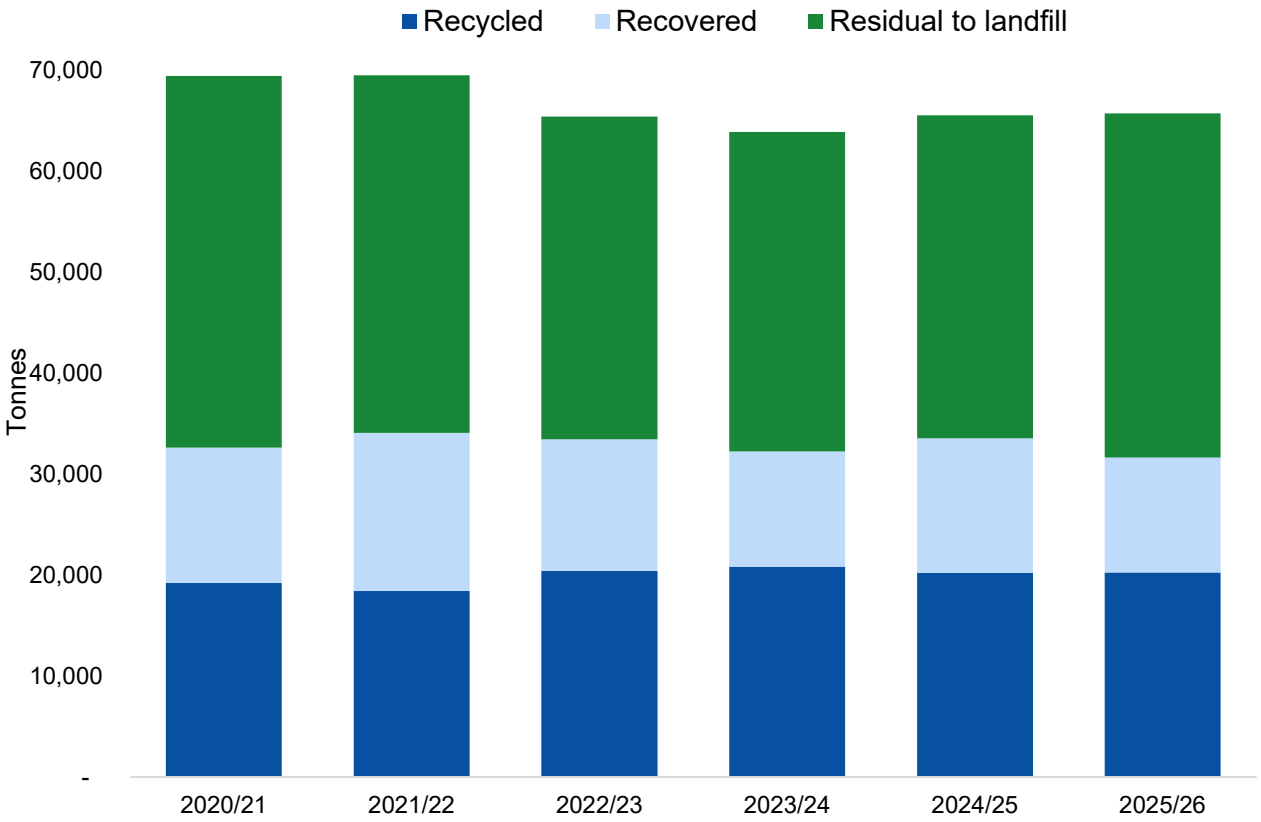
Action for our city

Our long-term, local area waste goals are to reduce waste, recycle as much as possible while retaining a material's highest value and treat what is left over in the most sustainable way.

We can't achieve this alone. We require the support and partnership of industry, government and our communities.

Our results

In 2025/26, the total waste collected from residents was 65,707 tonnes, with 48% (31,627 tonnes) diverted from landfill.



Target: 90% diversion from landfill of residential waste, with 35% as source-separated recycling by 2030

Figure 7: Residential waste generation

Attachment 1: understanding our waste data explains the terms used to report waste and recycling results.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Landfill diversion rate	47%	49%	51%	50%	51%	48%
Source separated recycling rate	28%	27%	31%	33%	31%	31%

Table 3: Residential recycling and landfill diversion rates

To support our landfill diversion target, we provide services and accept a wide range of materials for recycling, making it easier for residents to keep waste out of the red lid bin.

Our Recycle It Saturday events were attended by 3,747 people who dropped off 79.3 tonnes of materials of recycling and 406 furniture items for reuse. Our Ultimo recycling pop-up saw 6,269 visits by residents and 36.8 tonnes of items collected. For residents who can't make it to our drop-off events or the pop-up service, we offer a doorstep recycling collection service. This year, we collected 49.4 tonnes from 3,291 pickups directly from residents' homes.

Despite these efforts, we'll struggle to meet our 2030 landfill diversion targets due to lack of funding and innovation in recycling and reuse innovation, difficulty in obtaining planning permission for new facilities and increasing costs for collection and management of waste and recycling. Landfill waste increase is a systemic issue, requiring change across all levels including manufacturers and retailers being responsible for the products and materials they design make and sell and for purchasers to hold on to products longer, choosing to reuse and repair instead or replace.

Waste by sector

We're responsible for managing waste and recycling from our own buildings, construction and asset management, parks and public spaces that we manage, and homes. Landfill diversion and recycling targets are set for each of these areas, and we actively monitor and track waste and materials.

While we're not responsible for collecting and managing the remaining commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste in our local area, we recognise the significant impacts of these waste streams and actively discuss these challenges within the industry and to government.

How we do it

Measure

We measure residential material streams and work with consultants and agencies to estimate commercial and construction waste generated in our area.

Tailored services

Residents have access to many separate collection or drop-off services for recycling. We always want to provide services that will maintain the value of the materials we collect.

We design our services to consider materials people generate as waste and seek the most appropriate processing solutions available.

Waste avoidance events and activities

Our waste avoidance events and activities encourage our communities to avoid, reuse and reduce waste. Events include clothing and toy swaps, repair workshops, school education programs, recycling workshops and community pop-up stalls.

'Ask a waste expert' is an online service to answer questions from residents about recycling and the recycle helper service provides custom advice to apartment buildings.

Planning requirements

Our development controls and associated guidelines enable good design of waste management and source separation in new

buildings. In 2025/26, we managed 515 waste planning requests.

Grant funding

We provide funding to support new and innovative resource recovery and circular economy ideas for positive change across our local area.

Advocacy

We consistently advocate for systemic and legislative changes that require businesses that make and sell products to take greater responsibility for managing them at the end of their life, rather than leaving it solely to local government. Over the past year, we prepared and supported awareness and advocacy around the NSW waste infrastructure plan, NSW plastics plan 2.0, the new food organics and garden organics (FOGO) mandate and energy from waste public inquiry. More broadly, we also provided data, research and support to regional and national advocacy for improved product stewardship of materials such as textiles, packaging, batteries and electronics.

New life for household items

Following a successful trial, we've expanded our furniture reuse service. Furniture collected at Recycle It Saturday events or from our doorstep recycling service is now rehomed through The Bower's House to Home program or resold at low cost to the community at their stores in Marrickville and Summer Hill.

To further support a circular economy and make it easier for residents to give quality items a second life, we partnered with The Bower to trial ways to help residents repair household items. Last year residents brought 89 items to 2 events at St Helen's Community Centre and Cliff Noble Community Centre.

These events show that the community values opportunities to keep using items such as appliances, clothing, small furniture and toys rather than replacing them. Providing a benefit to our waste goals, and household budgets during cost of living pressures.

Building circular businesses across our city

We're supporting local businesses to reduce waste through our introduction to the circular economy for small business training program. The free online course gives businesses practical tools and knowledge to adopt circular practices that keep materials in use for longer, reduce waste and create business value.

Opened in September 2025, the self-paced, free program includes 5 modules covering circular economy principles and business models, maximising the value of materials, and identifying circular opportunities. Businesses can access checklists, video tutorials, practical resources and local case studies that help turn ideas into action.

The program has a growing audience, with over 4,400 people now accessing the course. By building knowledge and skills, we're supporting the transition to a more circular local economy which helps reduce waste across the city.

Recycling pop-ups in action

To encourage residents to recycle more and waste less, we designed and coordinated educational pop-ups on a range of topics.

Over the year, 112 pop-ups were offered to more than 3,200 people. Presented at community venues, each pop-up focused on a particular theme or material.

Topics included how households can reduce food waste, blister packs and electronic recycling, wasting less at Christmas and Easter, recycling worn-out clothes, our recycle help tool and an interactive recycling game pop-up used at festivals and events.

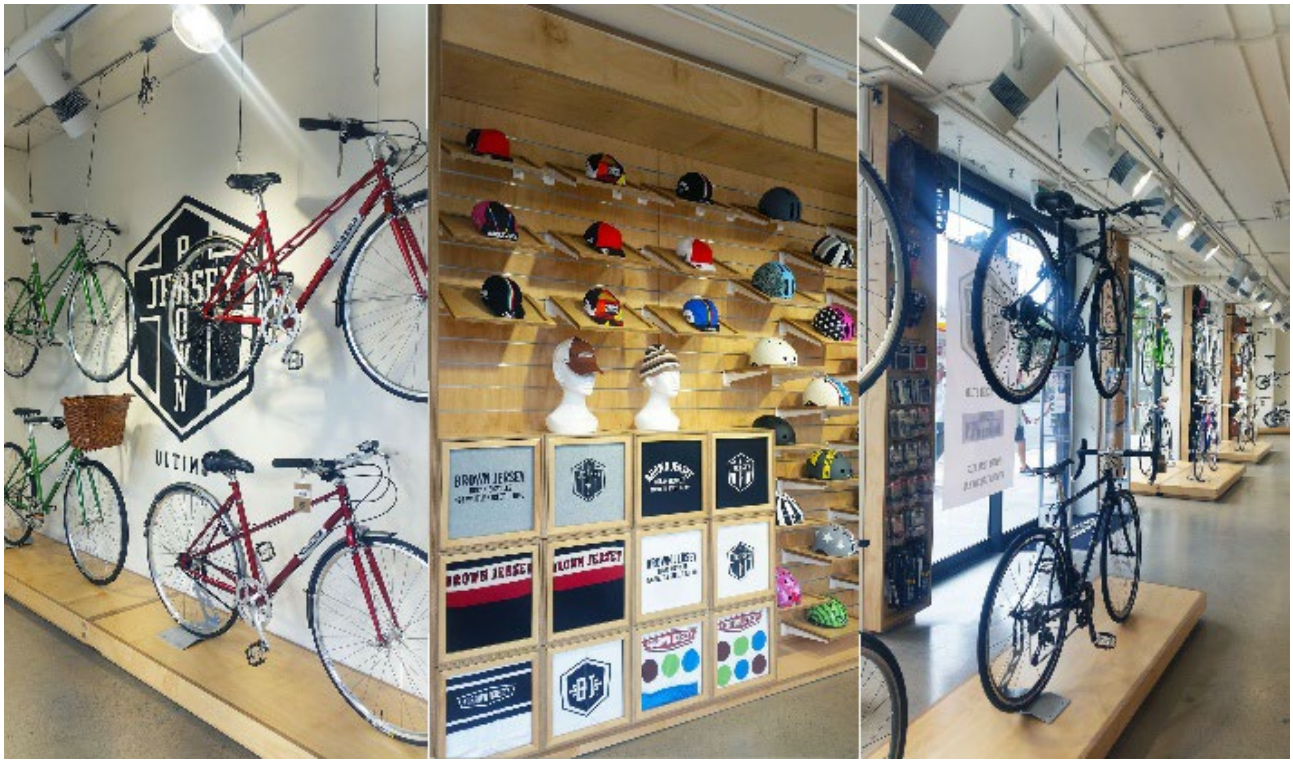
Supporting the circular economy with our grants

Circular design for retail and hospitality fit-outs

Fit-outs for the retail and hospitality industry can generate significant waste, with furniture, fixtures and construction materials often discarded before the end of their useful life. To help address this challenge, we funded research into how materials move through the fit-out process and opportunities to increase reuse and resource recovery.

The project brought together businesses, designers, builders and property owners to identify barriers to circularity and practical ways to reduce waste. Insights from the project informed the development of the circular fit-out guide for Sydney retail and hospitality, which provides practical guidance on applying circular economy principles throughout the planning, procurement and fit-out process.

The guide is freely available and has been shared across industry networks to encourage more sustainable fit-outs in Sydney. By promoting material reuse, longer-lasting products and adaptable design, the guide supports more sustainable design thinking that reduces waste, conserves resources and lower emissions from the sectors.



Forward Thinking Design 2018 fit out embodied carbon was 50% below Sydney's average. Image: Forward Thinking Designs

Bridging the digital divide, sustainably

Our environmental grants helped establish the NSW Device Bank, a program by WorkVentures that refurbishes donated laptops and mobile phones and redistributes them to people and communities experiencing digital exclusion.

By extending the life of electronic devices, the program reduces e-waste and extends the useful life of existing products. For devices that can't be refurbished they are harvested for parts or responsibly recycled. Our funding supported the program's early development, including community organisations and First Nations communities to ensure services are accessible to our community.

Combining technology reuse with community partnerships and digital support, the NSW Device Bank demonstrates how circular economy solutions can provide environmental, social and economic benefits while helping more people access the opportunities that digital connectivity provides.



Torres Strait students getting setup and ready for digital coaching from WorkVentures. Image: WorkVentures

New directions for waste reduction

The way we produce, consume and dispose of products has a significant impact on our environment.

A circular economy offers a better approach by reducing waste, keeping materials in use for as long as possible, and recovering valuable resources so they can be used again.

In February 2026, we adopted the waste reduction and circular materials strategy 2025–2035, setting a long-term pathway to reduce waste, improve resource recovery and accelerate Sydney's transition to a circular economy.

The strategy builds on strong progress already achieved through the expanded food scraps recycling trial, improved recycling services, support for reuse and repair, and advocacy for better waste and recycling policies. It's guided by 5 strategic directions that will help create a cleaner, more sustainable and more circular city.

Direction 1: Avoid waste and recover more resources

The best way to reduce waste is to avoid creating it in the first place. We help residents, businesses and our own organisation reduce waste by choosing reusable products, preventing food waste and designing systems that use fewer resources.

This includes reducing single-use products in our operations, expanding food waste educational programs, supporting businesses to adopt circular economy practices and helping the community make more sustainable choices through education, grants and partnerships.

We also fund innovative projects with our grants, including social enterprise Revolve ReCYCLING, which repairs and redistributes unwanted bicycles while creating local employment opportunities.

Direction 2: Improve reuse, repair and recycling

When waste can't be avoided, valuable materials should remain in circulation.

We're expanding access to recycling and resource recovery services, including food scraps, textiles, electronics and batteries, while making it easier for residents and businesses to repair, reuse and recycle. Programs such as the doorstep recycling service help recover materials that would otherwise be lost to landfill.

As new state requirements for food waste recycling are introduced, we're also supporting businesses to prepare for these changes.

Direction 3: Design for a circular city

As Sydney grows, we have an opportunity to reduce waste before it's created. By designing for durability, adaptability and reuse, we can reduce waste and conserve resources.

We're embedding circular economy principles into the design of buildings, infrastructure and public spaces by prioritising durability, adaptability and material reuse. We're also working with industry to encourage building design that reduces waste, supports material reuse and makes future recovery easier.

Direction 4: Keep Sydney clean and welcoming

A clean city supports community wellbeing, protects our environment and makes Sydney an attractive place to live, work and visit.

We're continuing to improve waste and recycling services in streets, parks and public spaces, while working with residents, businesses and visitors to reduce litter and prevent waste entering waterways.

Direction 5: Build resilient waste and circular systems

Creating a circular city requires strong partnerships, investment and long-term planning.

We're strengthening Sydney's waste and recycling systems through infrastructure planning, new technologies, industry collaboration and advocacy for policies that support waste reduction, recycled content and circular economy innovation.

Looking ahead

Reducing waste is a shared responsibility. By working together with residents, businesses, community organisations and government, we can keep valuable materials in use for longer, reduce carbon emissions and protect our natural environment.

The waste reduction and circular materials strategy provides a clear roadmap for the next decade, helping Sydney become a cleaner, more resilient and more circular city. We'll continue to report the achievements of the strategy in the green report.



Our recycling stations are an easy way for residents to recycle. Image: Chris Southwood

Greening our city



Our communities value a green city with trees and nature, and access to **quality** outdoor spaces for rest and play.

Restoring our natural **environment** and increasing our green **infrastructure** supports the health and wellbeing of all of us and helps our climate resilience.

Our operations

Green streets, parks and open spaces are essential to the liveability of our city. They soften a dense urban environment, reduce the effects of climate change and provide places for our communities to connect with nature, rest, play and thrive.

Trees play a vital role in these environments by naturally cooling the air, reducing temperatures of the urban heat island effect and enhancing resilience against climate change. They improve air quality, support biodiversity and improve community health and wellbeing.

Our results

Since 2008/09, our parks and green spaces have increased from 188 hectares to 218 hectares. This includes 16.48 hectares of land managed for bush restoration, up from 4.2 hectares on the 2012 baseline.

Each year, we aim to plant 700 street and 50 park trees. In 2025/26, we planted 762 street trees and a further 402 in parks.

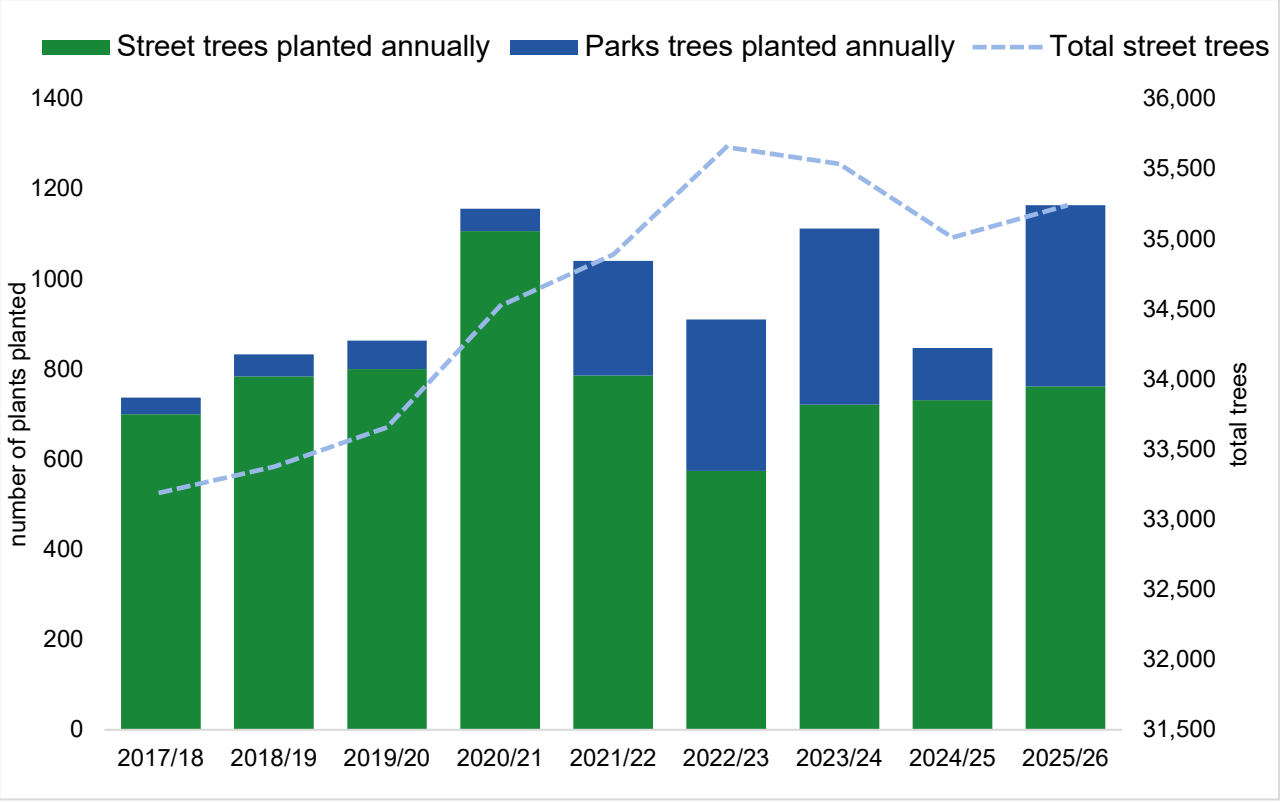


Figure 8: Trees planted on streets and in parks

How we do it

Planting

We plant trees in our streets, parks and on our properties.

Our qualified arborists select trees with the objective of planting the right tree, in the right place, at the right time and suitable for the future climate.

We plant shrubs, grasses and understorey plantings in parks and streetscapes. Where possible, we increase our green areas by converting previously paved areas to new garden beds and infill planting in existing ones.

Parks and open space

Green spaces are vital for community health and wellbeing and improve the quality of the urban environment.

Our parks and open spaces are designed for play, nature conservation and outdoor enjoyment. With our increasing population we aim to increase the area of parks and open space.

Ecological restoration

We protect, expand and improve the condition of bush restoration areas. These areas improve the biodiversity of native plants and animals

Our qualified bush regenerators work to establish and enhance the natural structures of bushland areas, suppress weeds and create habitat.

Managing our natural wetland structures are also vital to supporting healthy ecosystems. Maintenance activities, such as removing silt, is key to supporting water quality and plant life for animals. At the Federal Park wetland in Annandale, a protected biodiverse tidal saltmarsh, we carefully removed silt build up from stormwater and tidal movements without impacting the saltmarsh. Since the works, fish, oysters, crabs and migratory shorebirds have been sighted in the wetland area.

Creating habitat

Artificial habitats support shelter, nesting and roosting activities of local native wildlife where original habitat has been lost or displaced. Many Australian species use natural tree hollows for breeding, but these can be limited in urban areas. Nesting boxes have been installed in our parks and standing dead trees are left in place to provide habitat for local urban wildlife.

Frog ponds in Rosebery and Forest Lodge have also been rejuvenated to improve habitat. Dominant reed species were removed and replanted with local aquatic and wetland plants, creating space for frogs and tadpoles.



Wetlands in Federal Park thriving one month after silt removal. Image: Charlotte Fletcher

Improving parks

We're constantly renewing and upgrading parks to make even better spaces for people to gather, play, rest and connect with nature. Our ongoing park renewal program ensures parks are safe, well maintained, attractive and meet community needs. Renewal works include new playgrounds, refreshed landscaping and park furniture, new garden beds and tree plantings.

In the past year we completed renewal works at:

- Mountain Street Reserve, Ultimo
- Regent Street Reserve, Paddington
- Cooper and Adelaide Street Reserves, Surry Hills
- Ada Villa Terrace, Erskineville
- Robyn Kemmis Reserve, Glebe
- Pirrama Park decking, Pyrmont
- Harmony Park decking, Surry Hills
- Edgely Street Reserve, Surry Hills
- Jubilee Oval, Glebe
- Federal Park sports field eastern path, Annandale
- Wulaba Park plaza works, Waterloo
- Vescey Reserve, Waterloo
- Bourke Street Community Garden
- St Helens Community Garden



Renewal of Ava Villa Terrace in Erskineville. Image; Will Jones

Action for our city

Experts forecast that by 2050 Sydney will be hotter and more susceptible to extreme or prolonged drought, as well as high rainfall periods.

Our vision is for a greener Sydney that will help improve everyone's health and wellbeing, reduce urban heat impacts and bring nature into the city. We're committed to providing everyone with access to quality green spaces and supporting the biodiversity of our city as part of a healthy ecosystem. We're focused on ensuring our tree canopy is resilient – planting the right kinds of trees at the right time and in the right places has never been more important.

Our results

As part of our urban forest strategy, we are increasing the quantity and quality of tree canopy across streets, parks and properties.

Every 2 years, we measure how green our city is by using specialised high-resolution aerial imagery to measure tree canopy cover (trees over 3m) and overall green cover (trees, plants and grass).

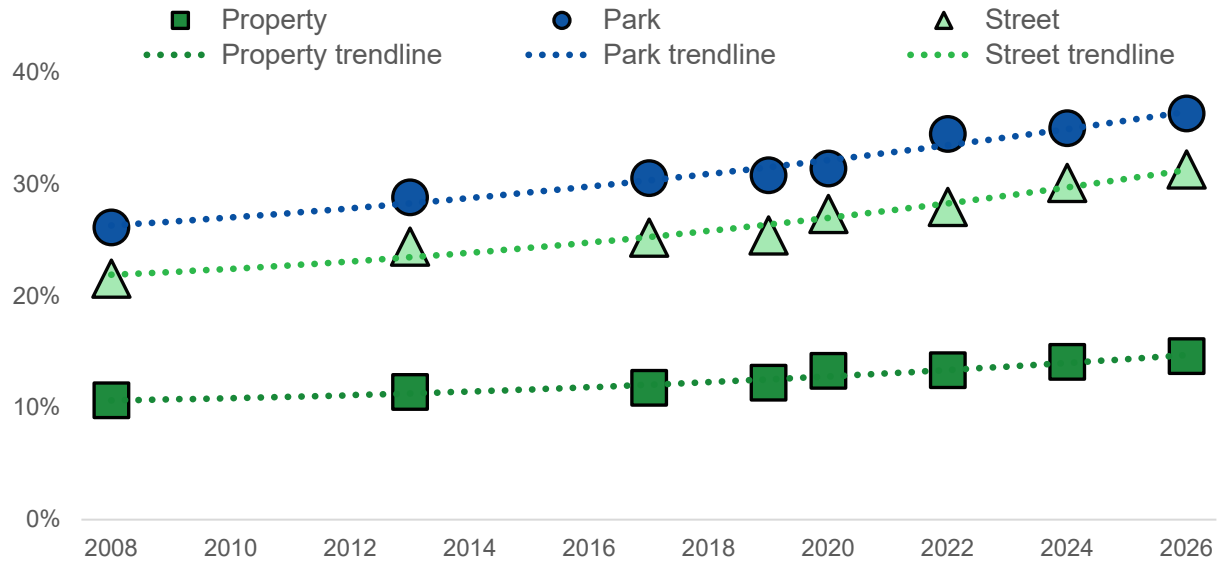


Figure 9: Canopy cover by location type

The latest measurement in March 2026 showed our urban forest canopy cover is at 21.7%, an increase on our 2008 baseline of 15.5%, while total green cover is 33.6%. The analysis extends to canopy cover in the 3 broad land uses: streets, parks and property. Each has specific targets to ensure comprehensive urban forest benefits. Our street tree canopy 2030 target has already been achieved.

	2008 canopy cover result	2026 canopy cover result	2030 canopy cover target	2050 canopy cover target
Streets	21.5%	31.3%	31%	34%
Parks	26.1%	36.3%	39%	46%
Property	10.7%	14.6%	16%	20%

Table 4: Tree canopy cover results by land use type

These results show we're steadily advancing towards our 2030 and 2050 canopy cover targets through a shared commitment to a greener, cooler and calmer city. From residents caring for their trees and gardens, and planners and developers protecting and planting new trees, to many professions in our organisation who help with planning, managing and caring for our city.

Community volunteering

We continued to support 4 Landcare / Bushcare groups with around 50 volunteers who regularly work in bush restoration areas. Around 500 members participated in activities at 19 community gardens.

This year volunteers contributed 4,040 hours of work at Sydney City Farm, producing 605kg of fresh food for local charities, including culturally significant and interesting foods such as hops, sugar cane, babaco, plantain, taro and pandan. Over 252 different types of fruit, vegetable, herbs and flowers were grown this year. More than 220 people from 18 businesses have worked at the farm in team building and wellbeing programs.

We held community planting events in Harold Park at Forest Lodge and Federal Park at Annandale for National Tree Day in July 2025. 180 community volunteers planted 5,000 native grasses, groundcovers and flowering herbs, to create habitat for insects, small birds and lizards.

How we do it

Community programs

We improve gardening skills and confidence through programs at Sydney City Farm.

We run activities to promote understanding of the biodiversity in our city.

We support 19 community gardens that provide spaces to promote environmental education and sustainable food production. The gardens also provide opportunities for social and community development.

We support biodiversity volunteers who restore local bushland by weeding, growing native plants, and creating habitat for birds, lizards, insects and other species.

Planting in the community

We partner with IndigiGrow, an Aboriginal owned and operated plant nursery, to offer 2 free native plants to households in our area. The plants included are native to coastal Sydney. Many are part of the endangered Eastern suburbs banksia scrub plant community which once covered Waterloo, Zetland, Beaconsfield and Rosebery. By planting these species in as many places as possible, we help to create a living seedbank and contribute to conservation of these species.

Planning requirements

Our development controls and guidelines require new developments to provide areas of deep soil for trees to be planted, ensuring long-lasting and good-quality canopy cover on private land.

Biodiversity counts

We use information from citizen science programs to help us monitor species presence and distribution of local biodiversity. We use this data to set benchmarks and tailor projects to protect and enhance habitats. Citizen scientists have recorded and photographed fairy wrens in the mangroves at Bicentennial Park in Annandale for the first time in more than 10 years, and further reports of sightings upstream along Orphan School Creek.

We've put together a biodiversity monitoring plan to guide us on plant and animal survey timing, frequency and methods.

Canopy equity

While our canopy and green cover is increasing year on year, ensuring everyone has access to the shade of trees is just as important. This is called canopy equity.

Canopy equity means ensuring tree canopy is distributed fairly across neighbourhoods and communities. It recognises that everyone should benefit from the many environmental, social and health benefits trees provide, regardless of where they live or their socioeconomic circumstances.

Our programs prioritise areas with limited access to tree canopy, particularly locations with less than 10% canopy cover, while continuing to grow canopy in areas with higher existing cover.

These results show we are increasing canopy where it is needed most, not only in areas where planting is easier, such as parks. Our approach targets urban heat hotspots and priority communities to help ensure the benefits of tree canopy are shared more equitably across the local area.

Figure 10 shows how we have improved our canopy equity. We compared canopy cover within a 100m radius that was present in 2008 and what it looks like in 2026. Tree canopy has increased significantly across our area, reflecting our focus on expanding canopy in locations with historically low levels of cover.

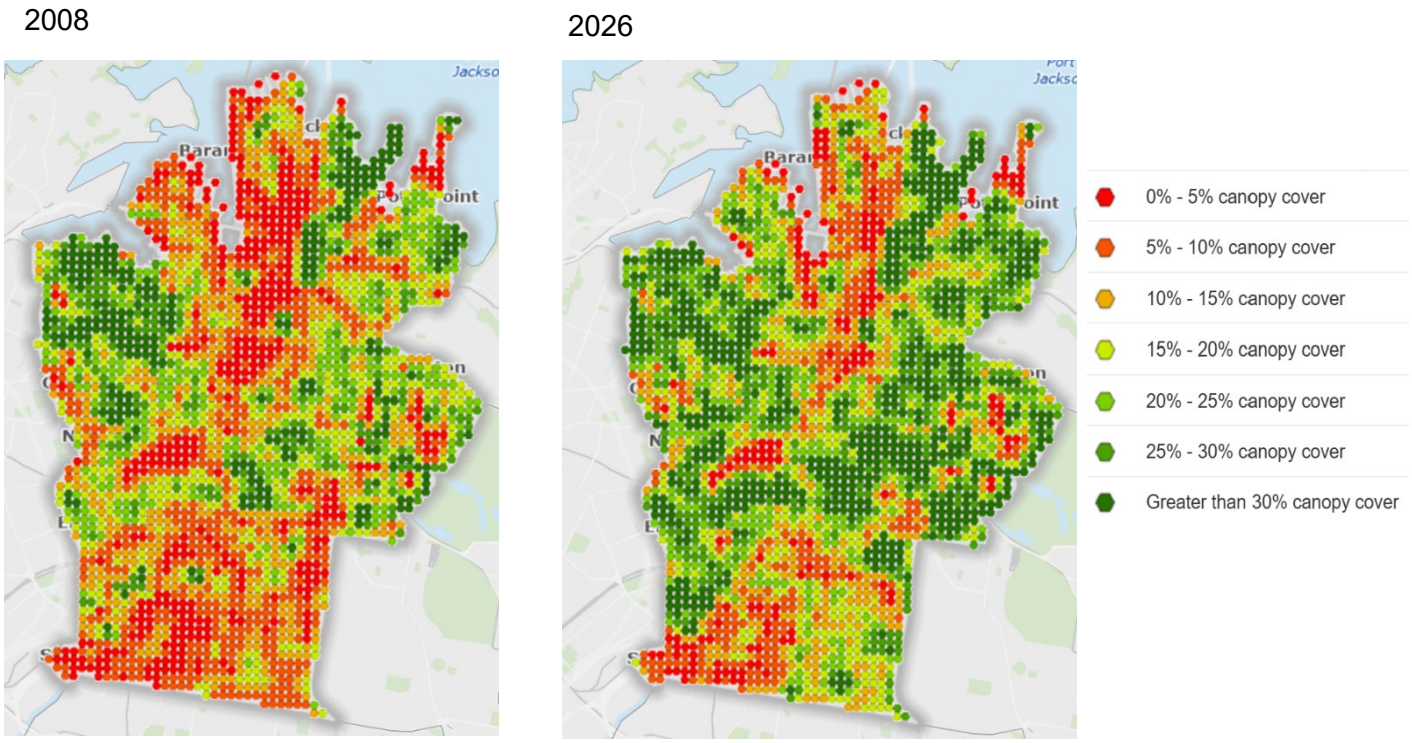


Figure 10: Local area canopy cover heat map

Events at the city farm

Sydney City Farm provides a place for our communities to learn about urban agriculture and sustainable food production. We host themed events each year to provide opportunities for our diverse local communities to gather, connect, celebrate, learn and share.

National Science Week in August 2025 was highlighted with a Nature's Patterns themed event attracting 180 people.

Visitors discovered natural patterns in seeds, leaves, corals and human fingerprints, created botanical leaf print artworks, leant about butterfly life cycles and anatomy, and planted herb seedlings in pots made from recycled newspaper.

Science academics from local universities shared findings about their research on conservation, food, and health.

A total of 90 community volunteers got hands-on in July 2025, celebrating NAIDOC Week by helping plant native bush food in our raised wicking beds. During the event, 105 species were planted from 23 different types. This planting is a trial of using biointensive crop rotation systems with native plants such as Malaga bean (legume), apple berry (fruit), marsh yellow cress (leaf) and vanilla lily (root). Attendees took part in interactive guided walks facilitated by Aboriginal educators, explored a cultural touch table and sampled bush foods.

Resilient Sydney

Resilient Sydney is a collaboration of 33 councils working together to drive region-scale action that strengthens our city's ability to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of chronic stresses and acute shocks. It builds capacity across local government to address city-wide risks and build stronger, more resilient communities.

The collaboration is aligned with the global Resilient Cities Network and works with state and federal governments, business, academia and communities to strengthen the resilience of our city.

We host Resilient Sydney on behalf of all participating councils.

Program activities

Resilience ambassadors

Resilience practitioners from the network met regularly to share knowledge, tools and projects that strengthen community resilience. One area of focus this year has been working with the network to inform a strong collective case for a connected city of greenways and improved active transport links across the region.

The multi-sector Resilient Sydney steering committee contributed to key policy discussions, including the Climate Change and Natural Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP), Sydney plan, rental reforms and data centre planning. We also continued our leadership by collaborating with the NSW Premier's Department and helping develop the NSW Social Cohesion Framework.

During the year, the community connections campaign toolkit was released and Resilient Sydney's work was showcased to government representatives from Germany and Japan.

The Resilient Sydney data platform has been updated with latest annual data. This provides Greater Sydney wide and LGA dashboards to 362 council and state government users tracking greenhouse gas emissions, electricity, gas, water, waste, transport, electric vehicles and solar PV.

This year, Resilient Sydney also published an electrification resources toolkit, presented an electrification masterclass to 83 council staff, and shared the data platform with the global C40 cities network.

Greater Sydney heat taskforce and heat smart city plan

Resilient Sydney and Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) continued to coordinate the Greater Sydney heat taskforce, bringing together government, community and industry stakeholders to advance actions under the Greater Sydney heat smart city plan.

The collaboration focuses on reducing the risks of urban heating in Greater Sydney to, informed responses to proposed planning policy changes and the draft NSW policy statement on urban heat. Ministerial briefings were also delivered with WSROC and the co-chair of the Heat Taskforce.

Resilient Sydney is part of the Global Resilient Cities Network and collaborating with WSROC, delivered presentations on the Greater Sydney heat smart city plan to New York Climate Week, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the Singapore Ministry for the Environment and the Greater London Authority. Resilient Sydney is working with Resilient Cities Catalyst and WSROC to invest in heat risk reduction projects in western Sydney.

Action on heat

On 12 March, Resilient Sydney, WSROC and Resilient Cities Catalyst, hosted Heat Smart Sydney: urban design for heat resilience', a key capacity building event during Climate Week. The session provided updates and case studies for more than 100 planning, design and climate resilience professionals focused on how local councils use the cool suburbs rating tool to design spaces that help reduce heat for main streets in Camden and Blacktown.



Participants at the Heat Smart Sydney Climate Action Week event collaborating to implement the Cool Suburbs tool. Image: Western Sydney Regional Organisations of Councils (WSROC)

Sydney as a renewable energy zone

Resilient Sydney is supporting the Committee for Sydney's vision for Sydney as a renewable energy zone, by providing advice, advocacy and briefings on the concept.

Drawing on the inspiration of the regional renewable energy zones, a more resilient, responsive and inclusive energy system could be created for Greater Sydney. Research into the potential project found Sydney could generate 75% of its energy needs through local renewables and storage.

This project is about more than electrons. It's about economic development, energy equity and empowering people to be part of the solution. The project is about designing a city that works with the grid, not against it, and building a future that's powered locally, governed collaboratively, and provides energy equity and resilient grid benefits for all.

Water stewardship



Water is crucial to the social, economic and environmental **wellbeing** of our city.

Our efforts create a **sustainable**, **liveable** city with healthy waterways, resilient green spaces and the resource valued by our communities.

Our operations

How we manage water plays an important role in adapting to some of the big challenges our city will face in the future. We need to manage water as efficiently as possible and secure access to drought-resilient water sources to support greening and cooling across the city.

We're committed to managing water responsibly. Our target of no increase in potable water use compared to our 2006 baseline is set even as we grow our parks, open spaces, buildings and community facilities. We focus on efficient practices by using rainwater, stormwater, bore water and water recycling methods.

Our results

In 2025/26 we exceeded our target of zero increase in potable water use against the 2006 baseline, using 438 megalitres, a 2% increase from the 2006 baseline. Hidden leaks which were detected with our new smart metering systems at Hyde Park and Prince Alfred Park Pool, contributed an estimated 28 megalitres to this result. Both leaks have since been repaired, positioning us to improve our target trajectory in 2026/27.

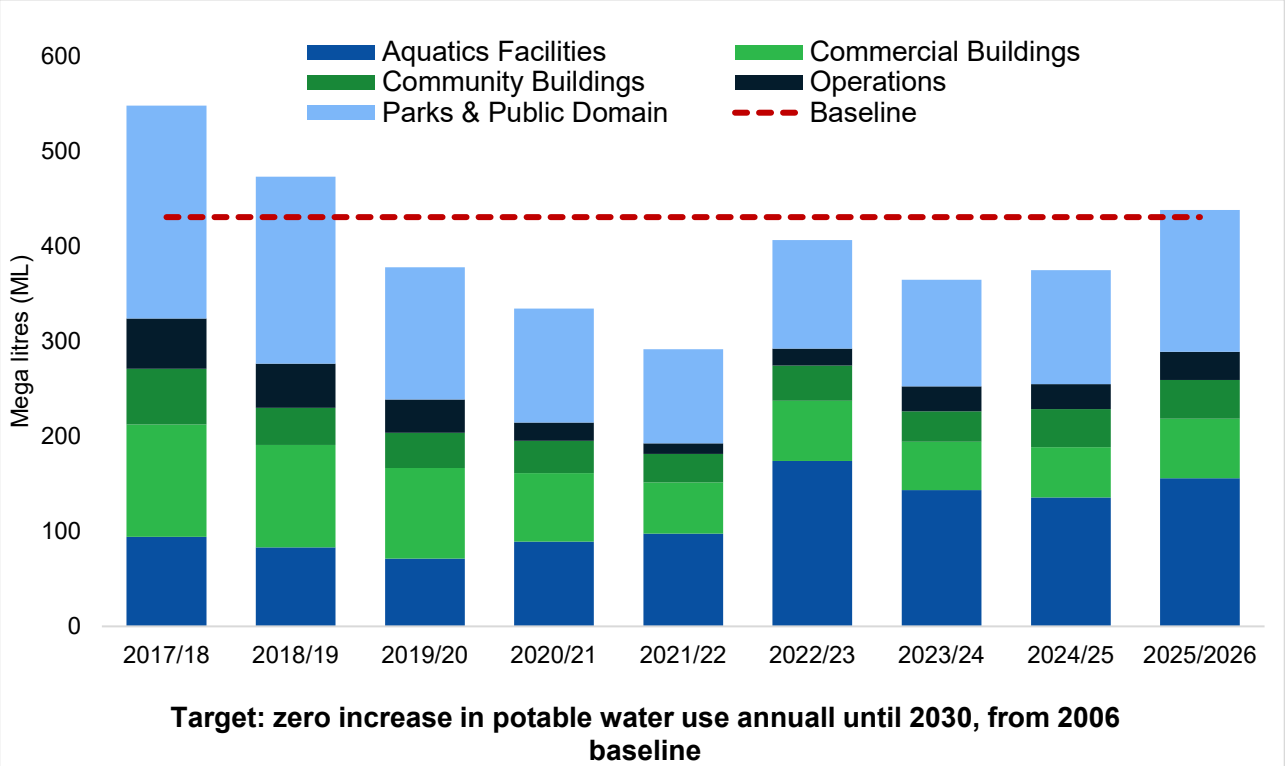


Figure 11: Annual water consumption against baseline, by use category

Our water recycling systems in parks supplied 42 megalitres of recycled water for irrigation in 2025/26. This meets 77% of irrigation demand in the parks these systems supply, equivalent to around 20% of irrigation demand across all parks. Since 2006, we've increased the irrigated area in parks by more than 50% while continuing to reduce potable water use. We're now using less water for every square metre of green space we manage.

How we do it

Detecting and repairing leaks

We monitor water use through 232 smart water meters installed in our parks and buildings. The data allows us to detect leaks sooner, respond more rapidly to water loss and identify opportunities to improve water efficiency across our operations.

Rainwater – not just for gardens

Making better use of rainwater helps reduce demand on drinking water supplies and improves the value of the infrastructure we already have.

Water efficiency in our parks and properties

We use water efficiently to keep our parks green and healthy. We plan when and how irrigation is used. Our staff receive efficiency training, and we set specific service levels for best practice water management.

Regular reviews of our properties, such as aquatics centres, help to identify and update out of date and inefficient fixtures.

Irrigation

We make sure our irrigation systems are efficient with best practice management throughout the asset lifecycle.

Remote irrigation management helps us schedule and monitor irrigation and quickly respond to weather conditions. This includes trialling smart sensor and monitoring equipment.

Water harvesting

We have 20 water recycling systems that supply recycled water to our parks and open spaces. These systems source water from ponds and bores, harvested rainwater and stormwater drainage.

More than 40 rainwater reuse systems are installed in our properties, including 4 for community gardens. Water from these systems is used for irrigation, to flush toilets, wash vehicles, top up our swimming pools and cleanse our streets.

Smart tech making big water savings

This year, we detected and repaired multiple hidden leaks across our operations using smart water meter data. These leaks would have been difficult to identify through routine visual inspections alone. Data and investigation techniques are key to helping us reduce water losses and protect our assets.

At Hyde Park, monitoring data identified a continuous water loss of 70L per minute. There were few visible signs of a major leak, only a damp area beneath a tree and a small amount of surface ponding. The pipe break was buried deep underground, with the surrounding park acting like a sponge and absorbing much of the water. Early detection allowed repairs to be completed before the issue escalated, avoiding more than $150,000 in water supply costs and prevented potential damage to surrounding infrastructure.

At Prince Alfred Park Pool, unusual water use patterns triggered a leak investigation. Data analysis and thermal imaging located a concealed hot water pipe leak, reducing water losses and improving water pressure.

Making rainwater go further

To make better use of existing rainwater infrastructure, we reviewed rainwater harvesting systems across our property portfolio and identified opportunities to expand reuse.

As a result, rainwater systems at Maybanke Recreation Centre, Ultimo Community Centre and the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre were connected to more uses, including toilet flushing, reducing reliance on drinking water. At Alexandra Canal Depot, new fill points improved access to harvested rainwater and increased operational efficiency.

These projects demonstrate how relatively small infrastructure improvements can maximise the value of existing rainwater infrastructure, reduce reliance on potable water and support more efficient day-to-day operations across our facilities.

Crown and Corning parks system upgrade

As part of our commitment to improving long term water security for parks and reducing reliance on potable water, we are expanding our ability to harvest and use alternative water sources for irrigation. A recently completed project has connected the irrigation water harvesting systems at Crown and Corning parks in Waterloo, allowing both to share recycled water, creating a more resilient and efficient irrigation network.

Crown Park captures rainwater from the roof of a neighbouring building to irrigate park lawns, while Corning Park relied on water from a groundwater bore. Each park was previously limited to using its own water source, vulnerable to weather conditions and the risk of equipment failure.

By linking the 2 systems, harvested water can now be shared between the parks. When rainfall is low and Crown Park's rainwater supply is depleted, we can draw on groundwater from Corning Park. Similarly, if the groundwater bore is unavailable, Corning Park can be irrigated using stored rainwater from Crown Park.

This project has improved how we access recycled water and reduced the need to supplement irrigation with potable water. It is an important step towards making our parks more resilient in increasingly variable climate conditions.

Action for our city

Our area is surrounded by Sydney Harbour (Warrane), one of the most well-known waterways in the world. As a steward of our local area, our services impact the health and beauty of this waterway and the Cooks River which flows into Botany Bay (Kamay). Action to improve the quality of these waterways is an ongoing effort, with constant improvement every year.

We want to manage water responsibly and sustainably while meeting local needs and enhancing liveability and resilience. As our local area grows and the climate changes, more water will be needed for drinking, to green the city and combat the effects of increased heat.

Lack of consistent rainfall and longer periods of hotter days because of climate change puts Sydney's water storage dams under pressure. Supporting the use of less potable water means better water security for all of us.

Our results

Overall potable water use in the local area increased by 1-2% in 2024/25 compared to the year before. The increase may be due to demand generally increasing as our population grows and increase in commercial floorspace.

Residential daily water use per person decreased from 194 to 191 litres/person/day.

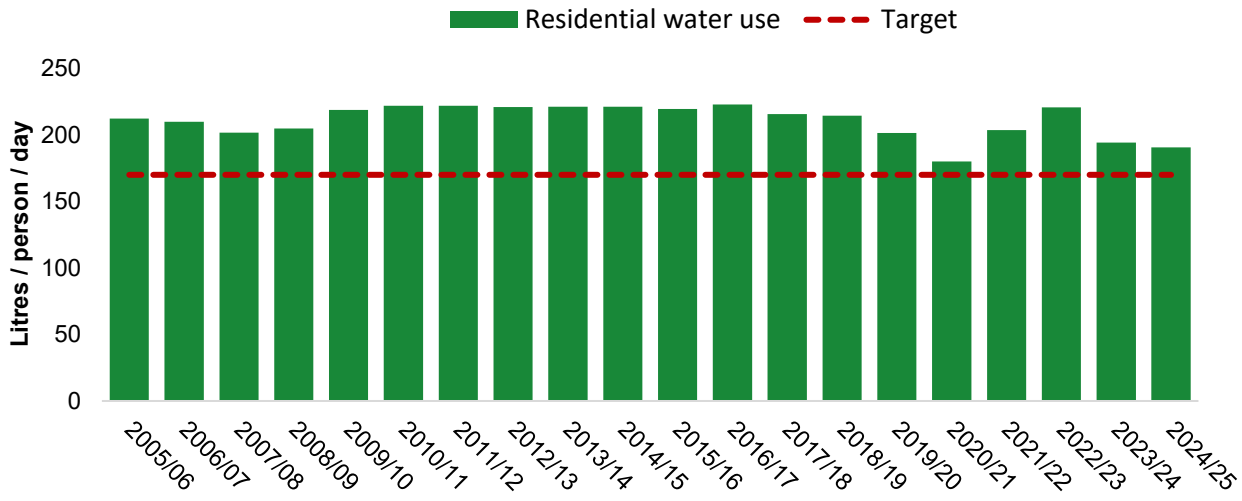


Figure 12: Residential water consumption

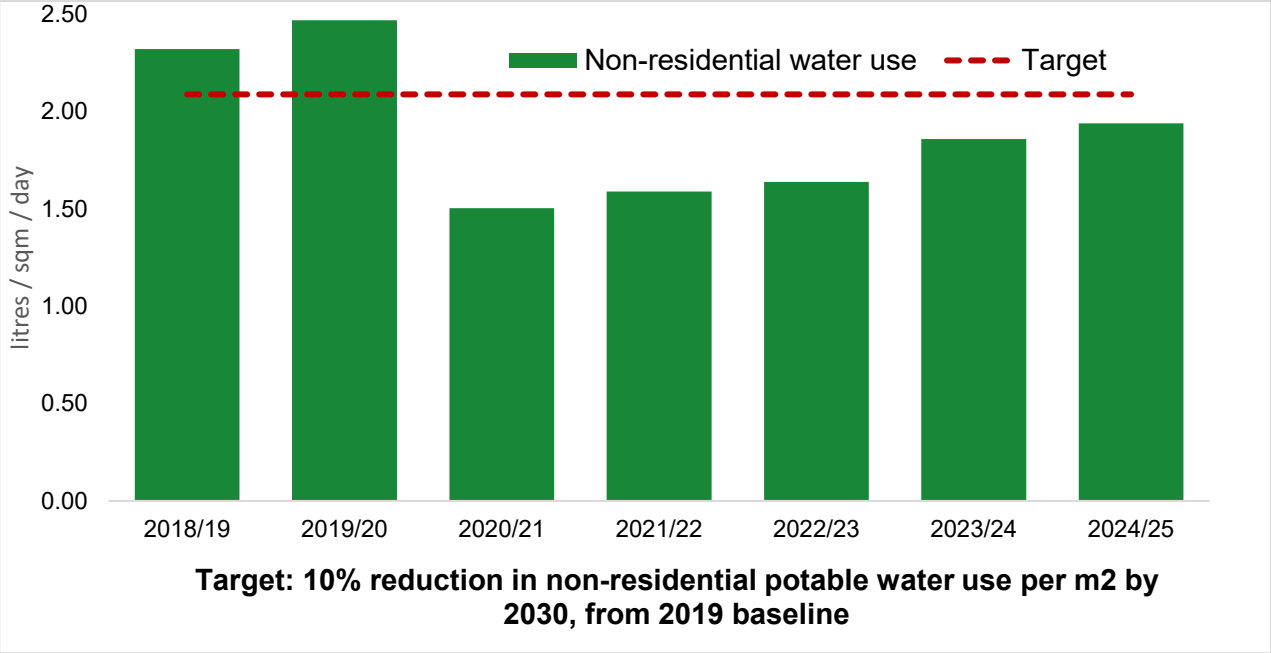


Figure 13: Non-residential water consumption

Non-residential water use in 2024/25 was 1.94 litres per square metre a day, up from 1.86 the previous year, but still a 16% reduction from our 2019 baseline.

Water use intensity in commercial buildings continues to fall aided by NABERS water ratings, our sustainability programs and grants, and Sydney Water's business programs. However, commercial floorspace in the LGA has grown over the same period (Barangaroo, Eveleigh, Metro over-station development) so we are still seeing water use rise overall.

Water quality results

Our roads and stormwater systems can act as a funnel diverting water into Sydney Harbour and Alexandra Canal. This water also carries anything from the street with it, affecting water quality and aquatic habitats. We try to capture some of these items through our network of gross pollutant traps and raingardens.

We achieve our water health targets with stormwater quality improvement devices installed across our local area. This network includes 50 gross pollutant traps (GPTs) and around 290 bioretention systems. We track our progress towards these water quality targets using the MUSIC (Model for Urban Stormwater Improvement Conceptualisation) application. The model estimates stormwater pollutant loads and the performance of our stormwater quality improvement devices.

We continue to expand our GPT program. A second gross pollutant trap was completed in June 2026 as part of the same program. It is expected to prevent another 8 tonnes per year of solid waste pollution from entering Rozelle Bay, including 1 tonne of rubbish and 7 tonnes of sediment.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Total gross pollutants	16%	16%	21%	22%
Total suspended solids	11%	11%	15%	16%
Total nitrogen	4%	4%	5%	5%
Total phosphorous	7%	7%	9%	9%

Table 4: Water quality results

How we do it

Measure

We measure water use in key sectors through data provided by Sydney Water. We also measure gross pollutant content and water quality through our urban stormwater MUSIC modelling. Waste that might end up in the harbour is collected by our street sweepers and we collect tonnage amounts through our waste collection services' data.

Programs and partnerships

Our Smart Green Apartments program works with building managers to cut water use. Entertainment and hospitality venues and commercial buildings measure and report on water use through the Sustainable Destination Partnership and Better Buildings Partnership.

Planning requirements

Water quality requirements are included in the Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 to ensure stormwater discharge from large developments meets high water quality standards.

We encourage new developments in the Green Square town centre to install dual pipes and connect to our stormwater harvesting and reuse scheme.

Waterway health

We improve the health of local waterways, including Cooks River and Sydney Harbour, by installing and maintaining stormwater quality improvement devices such as gross pollutant traps, raingardens, wetlands and swales across our stormwater network.

Rubbish and sediment are also removed by street sweeping and routine cleaning of stormwater drainage pits and pipes.

Collaboration

We work with Sydney Water to support our communities to reduce water use, identify potential water reuse and harvesting schemes, and improve our waterways.

Coastal management programs

We are participating in the staged development of coastal management programs for the Cooks River and Outer Sydney Harbour to improve the coastal resilience, foreshore protection, ecological health and amenity of these highly valued waterways.

During 2025/26, stage 2 of both programs was completed. The Cooks River program assessed biodiversity, coastal hazards, waterway assets and monitoring, while the outer Sydney Harbour program investigated water pollution, coastal hazards, access and recreation. The findings from both projects are now informing stage 3, where management options and future actions are being developed.

Expanding water reuse at Green Square

Green Square is home to one of Australia's largest urban stormwater harvesting schemes.

Stormwater captured from the Green Square drainage network is treated at the water recycling plant located in the Green Square Infrastructure Centre. The water is supplied to buildings in the town centre through dedicated purple pipes for non-potable uses including toilet flushing, irrigation, laundry and car washing.

The scheme began in 2018 to support the growing residential and commercial community. By providing an alternative water source treated and distributed close to where rain falls, the scheme supports the long-term liveability of the precinct and reduces demand on Sydney's drinking water.

This year the scheme was extended beyond the Green Square town centre to service the Meriton development at 905 South Dowling Street and the Gunyama Park playground and amenities building (opened 2 July 2026).

This extension will provide water for non-potable uses to an additional 855 homes and 6,500 square metres of public open space, supporting our commitment to managing water sustainably. The project expands the reach of existing infrastructure and helps ensure the sustainability and resilience of one of the city's fastest-growing precincts.



The second stage of Gunyama Park is now supplied with recycled water for toilets and irrigation as part of our target to not increase potable water use in our operations. Image: Will Jones.

Attachment 1: understanding our waste data

We're responsible for managing waste and recycling from homes, our own buildings, construction and asset management, parks and public spaces we manage. Landfill diversion and recycling targets are set for each of these areas, and we monitor and track waste and materials.

While we're not responsible for collecting and managing the remaining commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste in our local area, we recognise the significant impacts of these waste streams. Action for our city sets out what we do to promote reducing waste and improve resource recovery in areas we don't manage or control.

When considering our waste results, we split the total waste collected into recycling, recovery and materials sent to landfill.

Recycling is where a product or material is processed to make the same or different products.

Source-separated recycling is a more specific term. It refers to materials placed into specific bins that are collected to be recycled.

Recovery applies to items, typically found in our red bins, that cannot be recycled into new products. Instead, these materials are processed to either generate energy or reduce their environmental impact before the remaining waste goes to landfill.

When resource recovery is used for construction and demolition, it refers to all materials captured for recycling, usually metals and timber, and materials that are processed into recycled aggregate.

Landfill diversion refers to the sum of recycled and recovered materials.

Attachment 2: strategic actions

Environmental strategy 2025-2030

This green report is the first yearly update on our progress in the Environmental strategy 2025-2030 and its actions listed below. The new Environmental strategy 2025-2030 was adopted by Council on 23 June 2025. The strategy contains updated targets, directions and priorities.

Direction 1 – Resilient and efficient operations

1. Reduce direct operational emissions and energy use by electrifying our buildings and fleet
2. Deliver environmental sustainability through responsible asset planning and management
3. Build water resilience in our operations with increased efficiency and non-potable water
4. Practise sustainable procurement to reduce supply chain emissions and create circular economy opportunities
5. Reduce the amount of operational waste sent to landfill through avoidance and resource recovery

Direction 2 – Efficient and climate resilient buildings

1. Drive electrification of all buildings and reduce reliance on fossil gas
2. Support communities to reduce embodied carbon
3. Encourage community uptake of renewable electricity including onsite solar
4. Build water resilience through encouraging water efficiency in homes and businesses
5. Support renters' access to efficient and climate resilient homes

Direction 3 – Regenerative and inclusive city

1. Enhance and regenerate waterways and land through restorative practices and managing environmental risk
2. Support cultural, social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through environmental action
3. Improve walking, cycling and zero emissions transport for everyone
4. Provide inclusive access in the community to reduce, reuse and repair instead of buying new

Direction 4 – Strong foundations for delivery

1. Understand and manage our climate risk
2. Produce transparent reporting and inclusive communications
3. Use and share data to drive efficiency and clear decision making
4. Strengthen employee and community expertise to drive environmental outcomes

Greening Sydney strategy

Direction 1 – Turn grey to green

Action 1 – Achieve the targets

Action 2 – Greener laneways

Action 3 – Harness innovation, technology and inspiration

Direction 2 – Greening for all

Action 4 – Equitable greening distribution

Action 5 – Fair access to quality green spaces

Action 6 – Adapting for climate

Action 7 – Growing food locally

Direction 3 – Cool and calm spaces

Action 8 – Cool the hot spots

Action 9 – Calm green spaces

Action 10 – Celebrate water

Direction 4 – Greener buildings

Action 11 – Green Factor Score

Action 12 – Increase green roofs & walls

Action 13 – Planning ahead

Direction 5 – Nature in the city

Action 14 – Recognise and support Indigenous ecological knowledge

Action 15 – Strengthen urban nature protection measures

Action 16 – Urban ecology health check

Action 17 – Reconnecting with nature

Direction 6 – Greening together

Action 18 – Support community participation

Action 19 – Greening Sydney Fund

Action 20 – Increase our community engagement

Attachment 3: memberships

Environmental action is about conversations, research, setting policy, direct actions, investments and sharing experiences. We maintain many environmental sustainability memberships to enable us to contribute to the conversation, help improve common understanding and to learn, share and support others.

Our memberships that cover environmental, transport and waste related issues are local, regional and international. These include:

- Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC)
- Business Renewables Centre Australia
- C40 Cities
- Committee for Sydney
- Carbon Market Institute
- Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA)
- Chargefox
- Climate Emergency Australia
- Committee for Economic Development Australia (CEDA)
- Council of Capital City Lord Mayors
- Energy Efficiency Council
- First Nations Affairs - The Climate Collective
- Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA)
- Global Covenant of Mayors
- Global Resilient Cities Network
- Impact Ecosystems Network
- Infrastructure Sustainability Council
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
- Keep Australia Beautiful NSW
- Local Government NSW
- Materials and Embodied Carbon Leaders' Alliance (MECLA)
- Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
- National Australian Built Environment Ratings Steering Committee (NABERS)
- Property Council of Australia
- Smart Energy Council
- Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC)
- Supply Nation
- Sustainable Business Australia
- Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association

