



Annual Environment Report 2021-2022

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Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Greater Bendigo is on Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country. We acknowledge and extend our appreciation to the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung People, the Traditional Owners of the land.

We pay our respects to leaders and Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples.

We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.

Acknowledgement of First Nations People

The City recognises that there are people from many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities living in Greater Bendigo.

We acknowledge and extend our appreciation to all First Nations Peoples who live and reside in Greater Bendigo on Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country, and we thank them for their contribution to our community.

Executive Summary

Council adopted the ***Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2022*** in October 2021. This strategy sets out 22 goals and 102 targets across the strategy's six (6) themes of biodiversity, zero carbon, circular economy, sustainable food systems, sustainable transport and water sensitive Bendigo.

This Annual Environment Report is the first time Council has reported against these goals and targets. The report also includes an overview of Council's progress towards achieving the environmental indicators listed in the ***Council Plan 2021-2025, Mir Wimbul***.

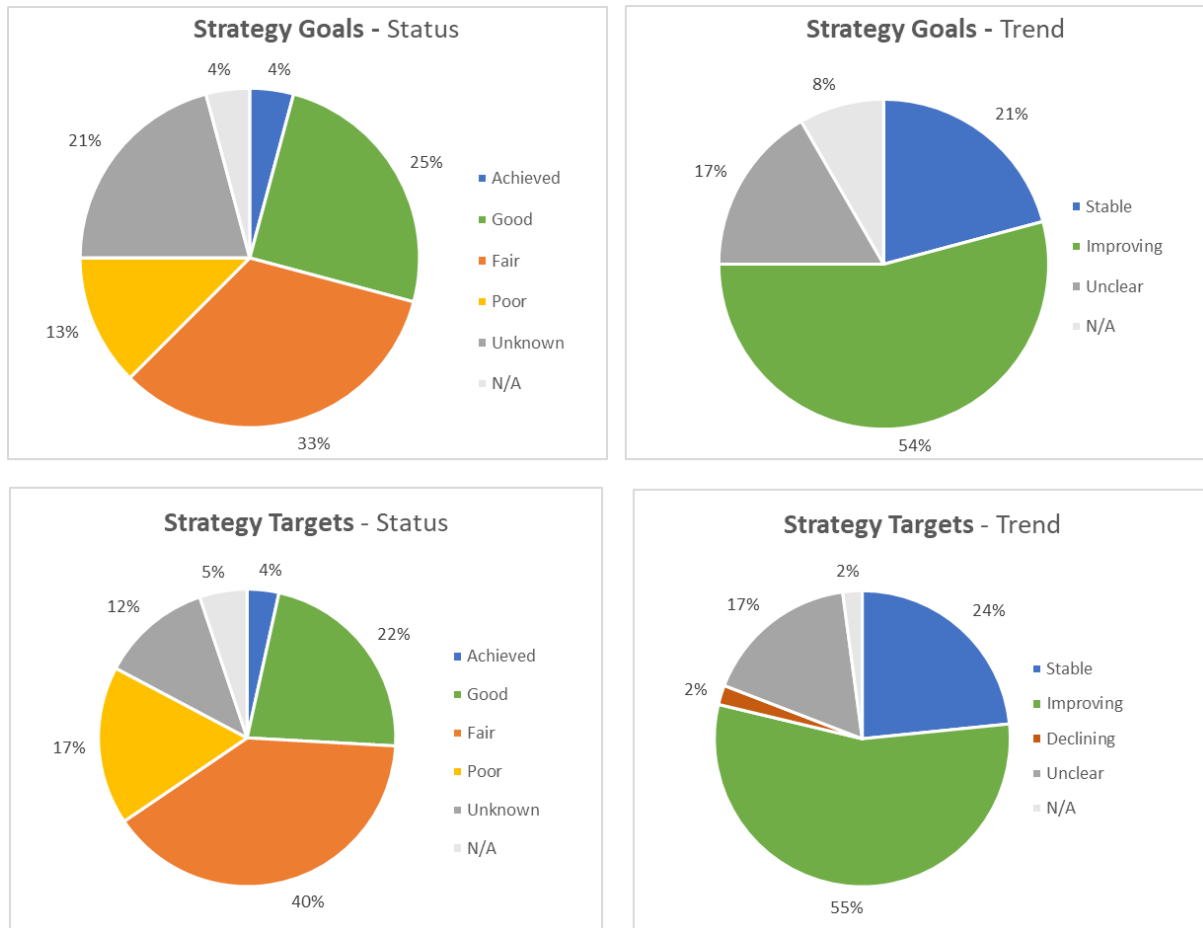
Achievements 2021/22

The highlights for the financial year 2021/22 include:

- Launch of the Greater **Bendigo Climate Collaboration** in partnership with businesses and community groups to achieve zero emissions across the City by 2030.
- Commencement of a **Biodiversity Strategy** which will establish the vision and a set of actions to enhance biodiversity across the City.
- **Planting of 2,700 urban trees and revegetation of 5 hectares of Council land.**
- **Reduction in emissions** from Council operations by **8,459 tCO₂e** due to the purchase of renewable energy for all the City's electricity.
- Purchase of **4 electric vehicles** within Council's passenger fleet.
- Installation of **13km of walking and cycling paths.**
- Participation of approximately **90 landholders** in the City in the ***Healthy Landscapes: Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities Program***.
- Securing **\$583,000 for restoration works along Bendigo Creek.**
- **Reduction in waste** from Council operations by 1,689 tonnes and from kerbside waste sent to landfill by 3%.
- Progression of the **Circular Greater Bendigo** project through commencement of contractual discussions and master planning for Circular Economy Hubs at three (3) sites.

Performance Summary

Despite the above achievements, when assessed against the goals in the *Climate Change and Environment Strategy*, Council's performance is "fair" to "good", however it is trending towards "improving".



Some reasons for the organisation's mixed performance include lack of data for monitoring and reporting and the changing context which has created a misalignment between the strategy's targets and priority work areas in some areas. The Climate Change and Environment Unit was also only established in mid 2021 and it has taken some time to build the Unit and develop a strategic approach to the strategy's implementation.

Areas for Improvement

Key areas for improvement include:

- Data collection processes and practices
- The speed of electrification of City operations
- The speed of delivery of active transport infrastructure in the City
- Enhancing the condition of local waterways
- Planning for integrated water management
- Resourcing for biodiversity and conservation reserve management
- Use of reused and recycled content, products and materials in City operations
- Community engagement

Current Work

Current work underway to improve performance includes development of:

- A Zero Emissions Plan for City Operations
- A Climate Change Risk Assessment
- A Biodiversity Strategy
- A Sustainable Land Management Program (scope subject to funding)
- A Stormwater Management Strategy (scope subject to funding)
- A Local Carbon Offset Pilot Project (subject to funding)
- A Public Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy
- Circular Economy Hubs
- A 10 year walking and cycling infrastructure plan

Other work underway to better align Council's environmental reporting and operations to the City's work program and priorities include:

- Review of the monitoring, evaluation and learning plan for the Strategy
- Introduction of governance arrangements to ensure that there are cross-organisational collaborations working on each of the action areas.

Introduction

This Annual Environment Report provides an overview of Council's environmental performance against:

- The ***Greater Bendigo Council Plan 2021-2025, Mir Wimbul***.
- The ***Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-26***

Implementation of other relevant documents such as the Greater Bendigo Food Systems Strategy will be assessed separately.

The report provides an assessment of Council's environmental performance against the indicators, goals and targets contained in both of these documents.

The body of the report includes a summary of achievements, progress, areas for improvement and future work for each theme. The full scorecard assessments against each theme is provided at Appendix 1.

Context

Climate crisis

The risk from climate change is ratcheting up each day as greenhouse gas levels in our atmosphere continue to increase, trapping more heat and warming the planet.

While warming is happening most rapidly at the poles, Australia has already experienced 1.4 degrees of warmingⁱ, which is faster than the current global average of 1.1 degrees. This means Australia will soon hit 1.5 degrees of warming and that we are well on the way to 2 degrees and beyond.

Multiple lines of evidence show that the incidence of extreme weather events will increase as the planet warms.ⁱⁱ

In the City of Greater Bendigo, we need to play our part to reduce emissions from our own operations while working with our community to support emission reductions across the City and broader region.

We need to prepare in advance for more extreme events and the resulting community emergencies and health impacts. We also need to prepare for the more subtle, less perceptible changes, such as higher average temperatures and longer bushfire seasons.

Biodiversity crisis

Biodiversity is experiencing persistent and sometimes irreversible impacts from habitat loss and degradation, invasive species and climate change. Many ecosystems are collapsing due to cumulative and compounding pressure on species and key ecological functions [\[i\]](#).

In coming decades, climate change will be the dominant cause of biodiversity loss if we cannot limit global warming to 1.5°C. Australia has the most mammal extinctions in the world, which will continue under a business-as-usual scenario [\[iii\]](#).

If the City of Greater Bendigo is to help halt biodiversity decline, it must commit to protect and enhance our vulnerable species and ecosystems from land-use change and effectively control pest plants and animals. This must be backed by effective policies, regulations and adequate funding.

Changing policy context

Since preparation of the *Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2022*, the following changes have occurred at a state and federal level which impacts Council's role and priorities:

Australian policy context

A new Labour federal government was elected in May 2022. As a result, a number of policy announcements have been made which increase climate and biodiversity action at a national level. National policies and programs impacting on Council's environment work include:

- Commitment to reduce emissions by 43% by 2030 and net zero by 2050.
- Commitment to transitioning 82% of the electricity grid to renewables by 2030.
- Commitment to introduce vehicle emission standards and development of a National Electric Vehicle Strategy.
- Commitment to fund renewable energy projects including the Victoria and New South Wales Interconnector (VNI West) high capacity transmission lines with the aim of completing this project by 2028.
- Pledge to cut methane emissions by 30% by 2030.
- Release of the *Threatened Species Action Plan: Towards Zero Extinctions* which includes 110 priority threatened species and 20 priority places.
- Commitment to reserve 30% of land and oceans for conservation by 2030
- Creation of a biodiversity certificates scheme.
- Commitment to review national environmental laws.
- Commitment to increase the minimum energy rating for new homes from 6 to 7 stars.

Victorian policy context

Recent policies and programs announced by the Victorian Government include:

- Commitment to reduce emissions by 75%-80% by 2035.
- Commitment to achieving 95% renewable energy by 2035.
- Commitment to re-establish the State Electricity Commission.
- Commitment to investments in renewable energy projects including off-shore wind.
- Establishment of the Bushbank project aimed at restoring habitat on 20,000 hectares of private land and 600 hectares of public land managed by the state government departments and agencies.

Changing role of Local Government

The introduction of stronger emission reduction and renewable energy targets and the commitment to fund the energy transition at a state and national level enables local

government to focus on reducing emissions from its own operations, ensuring equitable outcomes, working with communities on energy efficiency and reducing demand for energy, and ensuring communities are well informed and are able to active participants in the energy transition.

The commitments at state and national levels to increased investment in biodiversity conservation means that Council needs to work the Bendigo community to ensure the City is well position to capitalise on this investment and ensure resources flow to biodiversity projects in the City and immediate region.

To this end, the *Council Plan 2021-2025 (Wir wimbul)* outlines the roles within the City which are applicable to Council's role in relation to climate change and biodiversity:

- **Provider:** Council directly provides services and/or infrastructure in ways that achieve the aims of its adopted plans and strategies.
- **Regulator:** Council is responsible for regulating a range of activities throughout the municipality. Ensuring that this legislation and the administration of it is done in a way that is supporting the community vision.
- **Partner:** Council has many partners across the community to deliver services, infrastructure and events with.
- **Facilitator:** Council has a role in bringing groups of people and organisations together to support collaborations and new partnerships to create new opportunities and solve problems for the community.
- **Advocate:** Council advocates on behalf of the community to other levels of government and various other decision makers to deliver the best possible outcomes for Greater Bendigo.

Theme 1: Biodiversity and Regeneration

Achievements 2021/22

- Commencement of a Biodiversity Strategy.
- Establishment of 5 hectares of native vegetation on Council managed land.
- Establishment of 9.9 hectares of native grasslands.
- Planting 2,700 urban trees as a part of Greening Greater Bendigo.
- Delivery of a successful Council's National Tree Day planting event at Gold Leaf Reserve in Huntly where approximately 200 community members planted 6,400 native seedlings.

Progress

Progress against the *Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026* goals and targets is generally "fair", trending to "improving".

Status		Trend	
Good	1	Improving	5
Fair	5	Unclear	4
Unknown	4	Unknown	1
N/A	1	N/A	1

Areas for improvement

- Facilitating community access to nature through engagement activities
- Enhancing Council support for Landcare and Friends groups.
- Ensuring planning permit applications for native vegetation removal implement the three step approach (avoid, minimise, offset).
- Reviewing environmental planning controls to ensure they are targeted and effective
- Establishing a coordinated biodiversity monitoring program.
- Ensuring resourcing matches demand for conservation reserve management as Council's portfolio of reserves grows and as community expectations increase.

Future directions

- Completion of the Biodiversity Strategy which provide the necessary strategic direction to help direct Council's investment in biodiversity initiatives. It will also establish a monitoring framework including biodiversity indicators which will be used for future reporting.

Theme 2: Zero Carbon

Achievements 2021/22

- Reduction in corporate emissions by 8,459 tCO₂e due to the purchase of renewable electricity under the VECO contract (see **Figures 1, 2 and 3** below).
- Reduction in community emissions by approximately 30,000 tCO₂e mainly due to the increasing percentage of renewable electricity in the grid.
- Establishment of the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration.
- Removal of gas appliances in 11 facilities.
- Establishment of a Power Purchase Agreement for the installation of rooftop solar on Council facilities.
- Purchase of 4 electric vehicles.
- Progression on an investigation into establishment of a local revegetation based carbon offsetting program.
- Creation of sustainable house kits loaned out to residents through Goldfields Library.
- Submission of the Elevating Targets planning scheme amendment to the Minister for Planning for Authorisation which seeks to achieve improved sustainable design standards as a part of new development.

Progress

Progress against the Strategy's goals and targets is generally "fair", trending to "improving".

Status	
Good	3
Fair	7
Poor	2
Unknown	1

Trend	
Stable	3
Improving	5
Unclear	2
N/A	3

Areas for improvement

- Acceleration of the electrification of Council facilities.
- Developing a strategic approach to supporting the increased installation of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the City.

Future directions

- Completion of a Zero Carbon Plan which will confirm Council's program of works to electrify Council's facilities and fleet and offset the City's residual emissions.
- Continued involvement in local carbon offsetting programs that enable investments in carbon offsets by Council and other organisations to be retained in the region and to achieve biodiversity co-benefits.
- Development of a Greater Bendigo Zero Carbon Road Map and a broader Regional Zero Carbon Roadmap as a part of the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration.
- Development of an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy which will establish policies and priorities for public charging infrastructure.

Council's corporate emissions

Figure 1

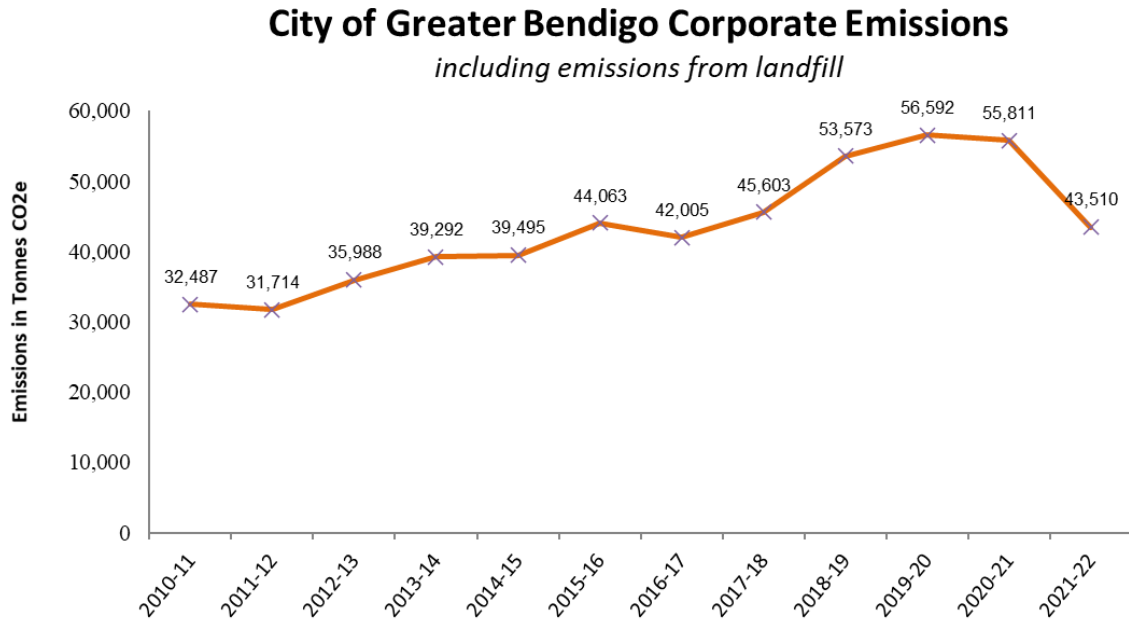
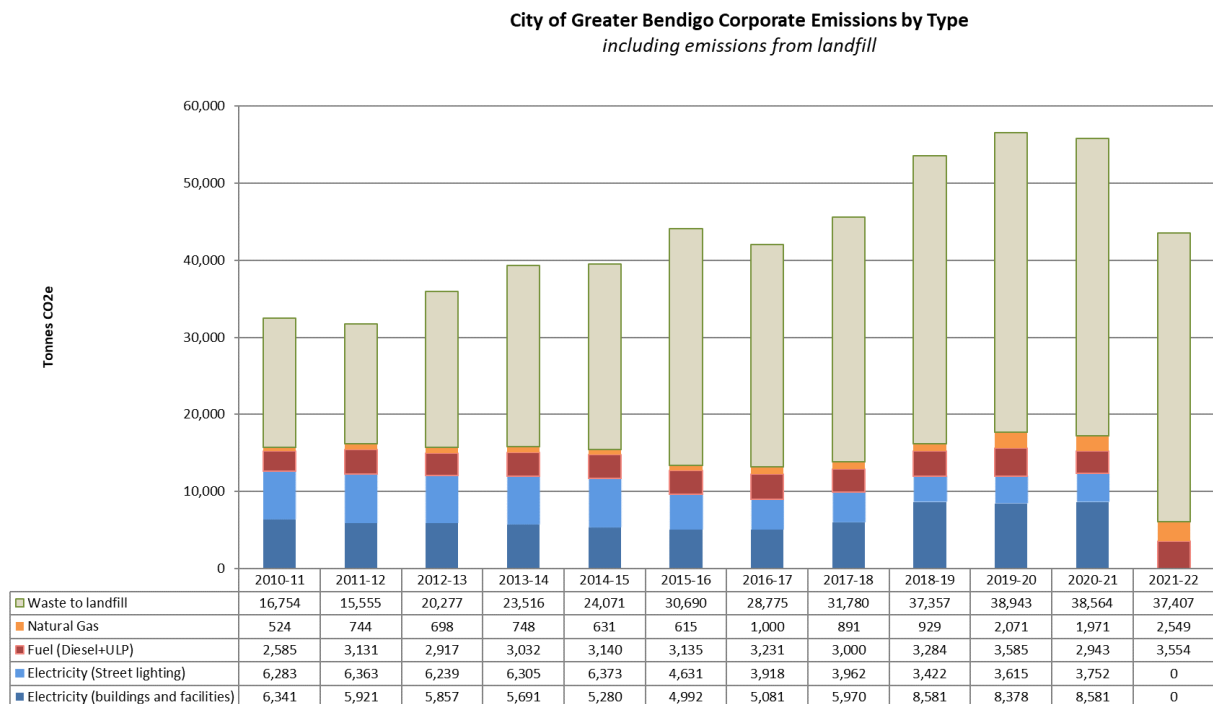


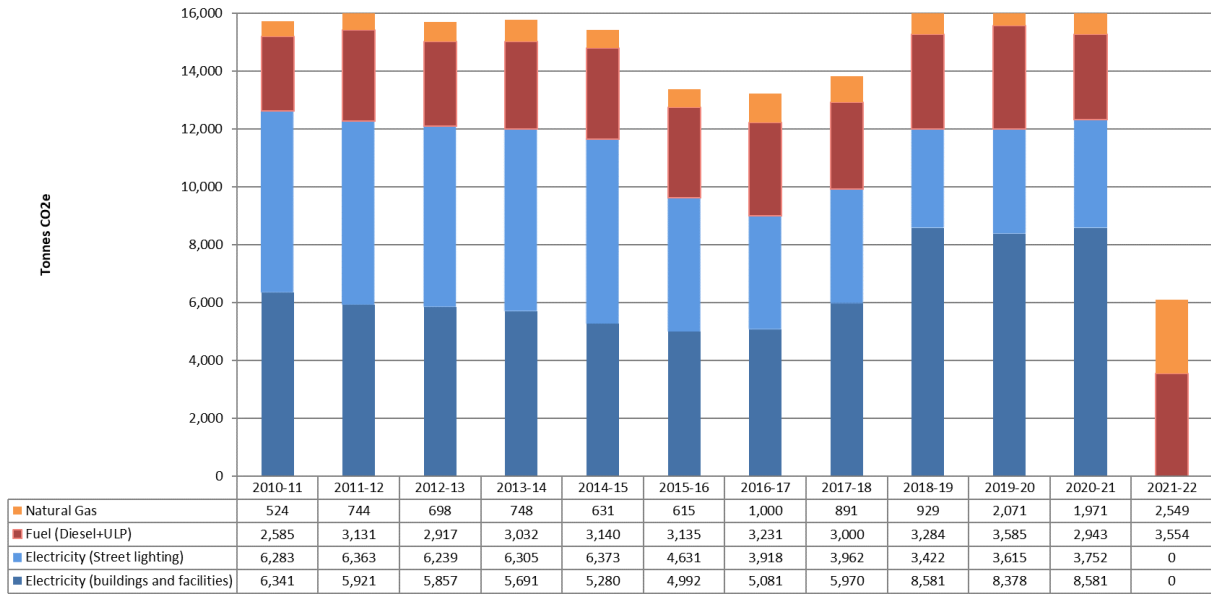
Figure 2



Note: Council's emissions from landfill are currently under review

Figure 3

City of Greater Bendigo Corporate Emissions by Type
excluding emissions from landfill



Theme 3: Circular Economy

Achievements 2021/22

- Reduction in waste from Council operations by 1,689 tonnes.
- Reduction in kerbside waste sent to landfill by 3%.
- Commencement of contractual discussions for localised alternative processing of kerbside residual waste and organics streams at Circular Economy Hubs and commencement of master planning for 3 sites.
- Commencement of a regional project to identify economic development opportunities associated with circular economy solutions across the 9 council areas.

Progress

Progress against the Strategy's goals and targets is mixed, trending to "improving".

Status	
Good	2
Fair	2
Poor	3

Trend	
Improving	3
Stable	3
Uncertain	1

Areas for improvement

- Data collection for different material and product use from Council operations
- Use of reused and recycled content, products and materials in City operations
- Increasing diversion of organic waste from commercial facilities.

Future directions

- Continued establishment of Circular Economy Hubs which will host industries that reprocess different waste streams.
- Continued engagement with the community and industry about waste minimisation.
- Work within the City to improve in-house procurement and use of circular products and avoidance of waste generation.

Theme 4: Sustainable and Active Transport

Achievements 2021/22

- Commencement of a 10 year walking and cycling infrastructure plan
- Installation of 13km of walking and cycling paths.

Progress

Progress against the Strategy's goals and targets is mixed, trending to "improving".

Status	
Good	1
Poor	2
Fair	2
Unknown	2
N/A	1

Trend	
Improving	1
Stable	1
Unclear	1
Declining	1
N/A	4

Areas for improvement

- Acceleration of delivery of walking and cycling infrastructure.
- Development of a strategic approach to public electric vehicle charging.
- Data collection related to staff and community modes of travel.

Future directions

- Progressing development of a shared path along Bendigo Creek, often referred to as the "Low Line". This shared path will create a cycling "highway" through the City, significantly increasing the safety, accessibility and connectivity of Bendigo's cycling network.

Theme 5: Sustainable Food Systems

Achievements 2021/22

- Procurement documents were updated to require tenders to provide information about how their service supports sustainable food.
- Continued successful participation in the *Healthy Landscapes: Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities Program* which included 20 property visits, 4 discussion groups, 2 field days in the City and participation of approximately 90 City of Greater Bendigo landholders.

Progress

Progress against the Strategy’s goals and targets is generally “good”, trending to “improving”.

Status	
Achieved	1
Good	1
Unknown	1
N/A	1

Trend	
Improving	2
Unclear	1
N/A	1

Areas for improvement

- Identifying and progressing projects that support broad food system changes in terms of local food production and reduced emissions from agriculture and food manufacturing.
- Increasing support for sustainable land management outcomes across the City’s rural land.

Future directions

- Development of a sustainable land management program to complement the existing Healthy Landscapes program.
- Continued implementation of Council’s *Food Systems Strategy*.

Theme 6: Water Sensitive Bendigo

Achievements 2021/22

- Completion of the Central Bendigo Flood Mitigation Study
- Securing \$583,000 for restoration works along Bendigo Creek
- Commencement of a Stormwater Development Contributions Offset Policy.

Progress

Progress against the Strategy’s goals and targets is generally “fair”, trending to “improving”.

Status	
Achieved	1
Good	1

Trend	
Stable	1
Improving	6

Areas for improvement

- Reducing potable water use from Council operations.
- Enhancing the condition of local waterways which have been assessed as generally in poor condition.
- Developing a strategic approach to stormwater management including investment in new and existing water sensitive urban design infrastructure.

Future directions

- Development of a Stormwater Management Strategy that sets out priority interventions that will improve water quality and asset management.
- Continued implementation of the Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan.
- Continued administration of the Water Sensitive Bendigo partnership.

Appendix 1: 2021/22 Scorecards

Legend

Status, Trend and Data confidence are the descriptors used this Report. Status refers to progress for the year. Trend refers to the direction of progress over time. Data confidence refers to a subjective assessment of data quality.

Status

- **N/A (Not Applicable):** A status assessment is not applicable. Not assessed.
- **Unknown:** Data is insufficient to assess status and trends
- **Poor:** Progress is inadequate to achieve the goal or target
- **Fair:** Progress is generally positive but may exhibit variability
- **Good:** Progress is adequate and there is a high level of confidence in achieving the goal or target
- **Achieved:** The goal or target has been achieved and no further work is required

Trend

- **N/A Not Applicable:** This assessment is based only on current information, and so it is not applicable to provide a trend assessment. Only a status assessment is provided.
- **Unclear**
- **Deteriorating**
- **Stable**
- **Improving**

Data confidence

- **Unknown**
- **Poor:** Evidence and consensus too low to make an assessment
- **Fair:** Limited evidence or limited consensus
- **Good:** Adequate high-quality evidence and high level of consensus

Definitions

- **Adaptation:** Changes made in response to the likely threats and opportunities arising from climate variability and climate change. Adaptation can be reactive or planned and can be carried out in response to or in anticipation of changes in climatic conditions.
- **Climate:** Average weather based on temperature, precipitation, and wind, over an extended period, typically, decades.
- **Climate change:** A statistically significant variation in either the average state of the climate or in its variability, persisting for an extended period (typically decades or longer).
- **Extreme weather event:** Weather phenomena that are at the extremes of the historical distribution, including especially severe or unseasonal weather.
- **Mitigation:** Reducing causes of climate change.

Council Plan

Council Plan Outcome 5 is to achieve:

A climate resilient and healthy landscape: A community featuring healthy regional landscapes and buildings that are developed with the changing climate and earth’s resources in mind.

The Council Plan recognises the United Nation’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals as a guide to our community.

Council Plan Outcome 5 links to the Sustainable Development Goals of:

- affordable and clean energy
- sustainable cities and communities
- responsible consumption and production
- climate action
- life below water
- life on land

The Council Plan’s eight strategic indicators provide a snapshot of environmental performance. The pie graph below provides a dashboard view of the status.

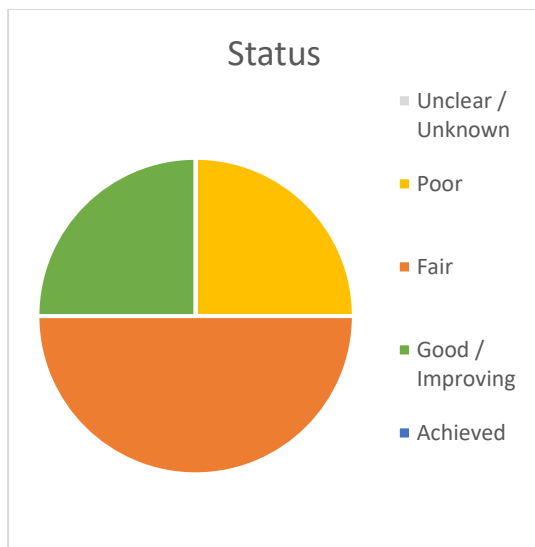


Figure 1: Status of strategic indicators

Community Strategic Indicators

Carbon emissions:

Council has set a target of zero emissions across the community by 2030.

The report for FY 20/21 (latest available data) states that total municipal emissions were 1,515,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (equivalent). (Source: Snapshot Climate - Australian Emissions Profiles.)

The status is poor as community emissions remain high.

The trend is improving as emissions are decreasing. However, not rapidly enough to achieve the 2030 municipal target.

Significant effort is required to reduce emissions. Principally this involves substituting fossil fuels with renewable electricity and the linked electrification of all the machines in the municipality.

The Bendigo Climate Collaboration is the key approach for Council and community partners to facilitate this change and communicate this message.

Status	Poor
Trend	Improving
Data	Fair

Community solar uptake:

Council has set a target that 40% of households and commercial businesses have a solar system installed by 2026.

Approximately 27% of households in the municipality now have a solar PV system installed on their rooftop. Data source: APVI <https://pv-map.apvi.org.au>

This equates to approximately 16,000 households.

The status is good as solar PV uptake has been high and the target may be achieved.

The trend is improving as solar uptake continues to increase.

Uptake has been buoyed by rebates and incentives from the Victorian and Australian governments and an efficient and competitive market. Australia is a world leader on rooftop solar PV installations, and batteries are becoming more commonplace.

Data quality is good, but it does not distinguish between residential and commercial installations.

Status	Good
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Council Strategic Indicators

Council's carbon emissions:

Council has set a target of zero emissions from Council emissions by 2030.

Significant progress has been made via the City joining the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), which provides 100% renewable electricity, and is the largest emissions reduction project ever undertaken by the local government sector in Australia.

The status is fair as progress is generally positive, but much work remains to achieve the target including removing all gas from buildings, the full electrification of the fleet, and the management of landfill gas emissions. Confirming Council's emissions from Council's landfill is also a project currently in progress.

The trend is improving as emissions are declining.

Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Percentage of lightweight fleet that are electric:

Council has set a target of a 35% electric light vehicle fleet by 2026.

Currently 7% of the light vehicle fleet of 121 vehicles are electric with two more on order. Shortages in supply have slowed the transition. For this reason, it remains unclear if the target will be achieved but EV availability and model diversity is improving rapidly and so this target is still within reach if the City commits to a rapid deployment schedule.

Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Waste to landfill per head of population:

In FY 21/22 the population of Greater Bendigo was approximately 121,470, and households sent 25,707 tonnes of waste to landfill via their kerbside bins (24,265 tonnes via their red bin, and 1442.13 tonnes of unrecyclable material put in recycling). This represents 211kg to landfill per person, a 3% reduction from 20/21.

The status is fair. This figure would be far greater if all commercial and industrial landfill waste were included, but much of this waste is carted out of the region by private businesses, so an

accurate total landfill figure is not possible to calculate.

There is a very minor trend towards a per capita reduction in waste production (at a household level) due to kerbside tonnages remaining steady in recent years, whilst the population has slowly grown.

Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Investment in tree planting:

Tree planting has been progressing well, and most importantly, the establishment rate is also increasing.

The City is now successfully planting a target of more than 3000 advanced trees annually, primarily in the urban environment, in streetscapes and parks. This target is two years ahead of its original identified year for inception (2024). Each tree costs \$440 to procure and establish.

This data relates to urban tree planting and does not reflect action to revegetate conservation reserves or restore biodiversity.

Status	Good
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Percentage of City procurement spent on reused/ recycled content goods/materials:

Council adopted the Circular Economy and Zero Waste Policy in May 2021. A mechanism has been established for tracking spend by material type and implementation is beginning to occur across the organisation, but the application is not yet comprehensive.

As such, determining a percentage of total spend on circular goods/materials is not yet possible. Anecdotal evidence suggests infrastructure projects have used more of these materials compared to previous years.

Work is needed to revise the City's procurement processes to better factor in circular economy considerations into the tender and purchase order processes.

Status	Poor
Trend	Unclear
Data	Poor

Percentage of City investment in fossil fuels:

The 30 June 2022 Green Investment Summary (excl. cash/at-call), indicates the following split between financial institutions:

- Does fund fossil fuel industries, \$40,000,000 66.63%
- Does not fund fossil fuel industries, \$20,036,855, 33.37%
- Total, \$60,036,855

Governed by the provisions of the Local Government Act, Council's investment strategy gives preference to authorised deposit-taking institutions that state they do not finance fossil fuel projects, where the investment transaction is compliant with the credit risk and institutional risk parameters specified in this policy, and the rate of investment is within 0.05 percentage points when compared against other investments available to Council at the time.

Status	Fair
Trend	Stable
Data	Good

Climate Change and Environment Strategy

The Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026 includes six action areas.

1. Biodiversity and Regeneration
2. Zero Carbon
3. Circular Economy
4. Sustainable and Active Transport
5. Sustainable Food Systems
6. Water Sensitive Bendigo

This scorecard communicates an assessment of each goal and target set for these six action areas.

This assessment includes an indication of the status of progress, the trend to date and predicted, and the quality of the data used to make the assessment.

The Strategy is forward thinking and includes key evaluation questions that ask if the:

- Design of the Strategy can be improved
- Implementation of the Strategy can be made more efficient and effective
- Impact of the Strategy is as expected and contributes towards long-term outcomes

In considering these key evaluation questions, this Report builds on the existing monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement plan, and includes a new 'evaluation question' and 'headline indicator' for each of the goals.

Theme 1: Biodiversity and Regeneration

Council Goals and Targets

Note: the targets under this theme will be updated following completion of the City's Biodiversity Strategy.

2036 GOAL A: Council projects regenerate landscapes and ecosystems	
Headline Indicator: A headline indicator is required for this goal and will be developed as part of the Biodiversity Strategy.	
Comment: The City has a range of existing programs including Greening Greater Bendigo and the management of over 1000 hectares of nature reserves that contribute to regenerating landscapes and ecosystems.	
Status	Unknown
Trend	Unclear
Data	Unknown

Target A1: 2026	Council has a 'net vegetation gain' plan completed
Comment: City programs are contributing to improvements in the condition of vegetation, but the methodology used to determine the net amount of vegetation gain is in development.	
The City had 14 projects that resulted in native vegetation removal for 2021/22, totalling 5.337 hectares removed, including 31 measured large trees. All projects were approved and obtained the required native vegetation offsets.	
As a standard when offsets are calculated, a multiplier of 1.5 is factored in to ensure a gain is achieved when native vegetation is removed.	
During 2021/22, the City established around 5 hectares (~50,000 plants) of natural vegetation on Council managed land. The City has also planted the	

equivalent of 10,000 aquatic plants. As part of Greening Greater Bendigo, an additional ~2700 trees were planted across urban areas. Over five years (2018-2022), tree loss or failure in this project is ~900, or 180 per year.	
In addition to tree and shrub restoration, the City has sown 9.9 hectares of native grass during 2021/22.	
The City currently has 52 properties (938.6 hectares) with a Trust for Nature covenant.	
Status	Unknown
Trend	Unclear
Data	Unknown

2036 GOAL B: Native habitat and areas of important biodiversity are protected for future generations	
Headline indicator: A headline indicator is required for this goal and will be developed as part of the Biodiversity Strategy.	
Comment: The auditing of natural reserves is in progress. Management plans are needed for City conservation sites.	
Status	Unknown
Trend	Unclear
Data	Unknown

Target B1: 2026	Complete required investigations and consultation to increase controls under the planning scheme
Comment: Changes to existing environmental controls will be explored at a high level as a part of the Biodiversity Strategy which will be followed up by detailed planning investigations.	
Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Unknown

Target B2: 2026	Baseline biodiversity assessment completed
Comment: An overview of biodiversity in the City will be included in the	

Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy will also establish a biodiversity monitoring program which will set out the methodology for a baseline assessment and subsequent monitoring activities. This will be informed by stakeholders such as Landcare to determine the level of assessment completed to date.	
Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Unknown

Target B3: 2026	Indicator species selection and baseline dataset established
Comment: As part of the Biodiversity Strategy the City will determine the best indicator species of overall biodiversity that are easily monitored.	
The City has some data on Tuan, Powerful Owl, fish species, the woodland bird community, Platypus, and Spiny Rice Flower. Indicator species are a useful way of measuring overall function, however particular ecosystems or communities may need to be monitored more closely, particularly if threatened (e.g., some ecological vegetation classes).	
Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Fair

Community Goals and Targets

2036 GOAL C: Connected and flourishing urban and rural landscapes and ecosystems	
Headline indicator: A headline indicator is required for this goal and will be developed as part of the Biodiversity Strategy.	
Comment: The City has a range of avenues to support connected and flourishing ecosystems, however there is currently no overarching strategy to collect and collate the necessary data. Grasslands and other important ecosystems are lacking from the current perspective.	
Status	Fair
Trend	Improving

Data	Fair
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Target C1:2026	No net loss of tree and shrub cover across all Greater Bendigo
Currently Council is unable to collate this data.	
It may be possible to access satellite data collected by State or Commonwealth government to understand the loss of trees. Analysis exists for Melbourne but it is not known to exist for Greater Bendigo.	
Status	Unknown
Trend	Unclear
Data	Unknown

Target C2: 2026	Fragmented vegetation identified and plans developed for linking them
Comment: This is being developed as part of the Biodiversity Strategy.	
Status	Unknown
Trend	Unclear
Data	Unknown

Target C3: 2026	Completed a baseline assessment of local biodiversity
Comment: This is being developed as part of the Biodiversity Strategy.	
Status	Unknown
Trend	Unclear
Data	Fair

Target C4: 2026	Reintroduce the 'Magnificent Six' native fish into Bendigo Creek and establish a baseline of their population
Comment: Annually, the City is constructing and/or maintaining 10 - 12 waterbodies in preparation for fish release. The preparation includes either digging a new basin or desilting an old basin, then planting aquatic vegetation and installing woody debris. Plants need	

three years to flourish and create enough habitat for fish to hide and breed in.

To date, 300 Southern Pygmy Perch and 300 Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon have been re-introduced to City managed basins. The City is exploring the reintroduction of an extinct fish in Victoria, the Olive Perchlet (*Ambassis agassizi*).

A monitoring program will be developed as part of the Biodiversity Strategy.

Status	Good
Trend	Improving
Data	Fair

2036 GOAL D: Strong community connection to, awareness of and care for our ecosystems and biodiversity

Headline indicator: A headline indicator is required for this goal and will be developed as part of the Biodiversity Strategy.

Comment: Greater Bendigo has a strong connection to nature, with a wealth of community support through Landcare, various friends' groups, and active school programs. These groups participate in revegetation works and nest box installation and monitoring, among other activities. The City works closely with at least 20 groups.

Status	N/A
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Target D1: 2026	25% of all Greater Bendigo's residents have actively participated in stewardship of the natural environment
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Comment: We are currently assessing our systems to record community engagement; however, we have good attendance at the many community events held across Greater Bendigo, and an active schools program. Accurate recording of data will help establish if we are meeting this goal.

Status	Fair
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Trend	Unclear
Data	Fair

2036 GOAL E: Respectful and effective partnerships with Traditional Owners to regenerate ecosystems

Headline indicator: A headline indicator is required for this goal and will be developed as part of the Biodiversity Strategy.

Comment: There are several current projects and initiatives across Greater Bendigo where there is partnership building with Traditional Owners, including work along Bendigo Creek, reserve management (including contracts) and traineeships. The City is continuing to build and strengthen partnerships.

Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Target E1: 2026	Two public land areas are identified to be solely managed by Traditional Owners and current management arrangements are shared, if suitable.
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Comment: Not commenced.

Status	N/A
Trend	N/A
Data	Unknown

Target E2: 2026	Management framework and, if required, collaborative governance arrangements with other agencies are developed
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Comment: Some governance arrangements are being developed. Djandak are land management contractors at some managed reserves throughout Greater Bendigo. The City is improving partnerships through less formal means also e.g., Indigenous trainees

Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Fair

Theme 2: Zero Carbon

Council Goals and Targets

2036 GOAL F: Net Zero Carbon from Council operations by 2030	
Headline indicator: Council emissions	
<p>Comment: Significant progress has been made via the City joining the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), which now provides the City with 100% renewable electricity, and saves around 12,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (equivalent) pre year.</p> <p>The status is fair as progress is generally positive, but much work remains to achieve the target including removing all gas from buildings, the full electrification of the fleet, and the management of legacy landfill gas emissions. The trend is improving as emissions are declining. A Zero Emissions Plan is in development. This goal needs to be adjusted to net zero to recognise that offsets will likely be required from 2030.</p>	
Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Target F1: 2026	No new gas connections in Council buildings
<p>Comment: There have been no new gas connections made to facilities since 2020. Council advocated strongly for Galkangu, the new government hub building to be an all-electric building, but this was not delivered by Regional Development Victoria and Development Victoria.</p>	
Status	Fair
Trend	Stable
Data	Good

Target F2: 2026	60% of Council small and medium-sized owned and
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	operated buildings transitioned off-gas
<p>Comment: Council has 32 facilities considered 100% under the City's operational control. There is an ongoing program to remove gas appliances from these facilities and other community buildings. This program will need to be ramped up to achieve this target, and ideally reach 100% by 2029 or earlier. There is currently around 500 gas appliances in City owned buildings.</p> <p>In FY2021/22 gas space heating and gas hot water units were replaced with energy efficiency electric units in 11 facilities including 5 kindergartens. Maternal and Child Health facilities have had 11 gas hot water and heating appliances removed with gas cooktops/ovens to be removed in 2023, completing their transition off gas.</p>	
Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Target F3: 2026	90% of Council owned buildings have solar systems installed
<p>Comment: Twenty-three City buildings have systems installed. Following detailed site assessments, only a small number of larger sites will gain rooftop solar through the Power It From the Rooftops program. Smaller community facilities are unsuitable for this program due to their intermittent energy consumption patterns and the program characteristics. Council will investigate options for an alternative program to install solar on these smaller facilities.</p>	
Status	Fair
Trend	Stable
Data	Good

Target F4: 2026	35% of lightweight fleet is electric
<p>Comment: Currently 7% of the light fleet of 121 vehicles are electric with two more on order. Shortages in supply and fit for purpose EV models have slowed the transition. It is expected that EV</p>	

availability will increase significantly in the coming years.	
Status	Fair
Trend	Unclear
Data	Good

Target F5: 2026	Five heavy plant vehicles are electric or powered by a sustainable fuel source
Comment: No heavy plant vehicles have been ordered which are powered by a sustainable fuel source. There is a lack of availability of fit for purpose sustainably powered alternatives at the current time. This is expected to change in the coming years.	
Status	Poor
Trend	N/A
Data	Good

Target F6: 2026	Program for local regenerative offsets established in partnership with North Central CMA
Comment: Progress is being made investigating the design of a regional program to create biodiverse regenerative habitat plantings and offsets.	
Status	Good
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Target F7: 2026	Offsets purchased to reach 2030 net-zero target
Comment: Council is exploring offsetting options including the abovementioned regional program to deliver benefits within the municipality. If a local approach is taken, then plantings will need to occur by 2025 to enable trees to be established by 2030. This target is in the Strategy as 2026 but has been changed to 2030 to align with the zero emissions target.	
Status	Fair
Trend	N/A
Data	Good

Target F8: 2026	More than 60% of Council's funds are invested with financial institutions that do not lend to fossil fuel industries, or invested in products that reduce carbon emissions
Comment: Currently 33% of investments are with financial institutions that do not lend to fossil fuel industries.	
Status	Fair
Trend	Stable
Data	Good

Community Goals and Targets

2036 GOAL G: Zero carbon across Greater Bendigo community by 2030	
Headline Indicator: Community emissions	
Comment: The current Snapshot report for FY 20/21 (latest available data) states that total municipal emissions were 1,515,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (equivalent). The status is poor as community emissions remain high.	
The trend is improving as emissions are decreasing. However, decarbonisation is not occurring rapidly enough to achieve the 2030 zero emissions municipal target.	
Significant effort is required to reduce emissions. Principally this involves substituting fossil fuels with clean electricity through the 'electrification of everything' and increasing use of active and public transport. The Bendigo Climate Collaboration is the key approach for Council and community partners to assist with this transformation.	
Status	Poor
Trend	Improving
Data	Fair

Target G1: 2026	40% of households and commercial businesses have solar system installed
<p>Comment: There has been a steady increase in installed systems. Anecdotally, household installations are tracking well, but commercial business installations are lagging. The available data does not distinguish between households and commercial installations, rather it only provides system size which is then used as a proxy indication of likelihood for it being for a household or commercial business.</p> <p>Thus, approximately 27% of households in the municipality now have a solar PV system installed on their rooftop. (data source: APVI https://pv-map.apvi.org.au)</p> <p>This equates to approximately 16,000 households.</p>	
Status	Good
Trend	Improving
Data	Fair

Target G2: 2026	50% of region's 2021 energy demand is generated through local renewable energy
<p>Comment: Improvements to network and transmission capacity will rapidly increase connection of large-scale renewable energy generation projects in the Murray Renewable Energy Zone to our north-west, and this project has recently been fast-tracked for completion by 2028.</p> <p>In the meantime, rooftop solar and battery capacity is expected to increase, but to reach this target significantly more needs to be deployed. Accordingly, the status is poor as the target is unlikely to be achieved.</p> <p>Arguably, in the short term, from an emissions perspective, investment</p>	

<p>should be prioritised towards 'demand side' electrification such as getting off gas in buildings and switching to EVs rather than to local renewable generation. The Australian Government expects the national energy market, 'the grid', to be 82% renewable electricity by 2030. Victoria now has a target of 95% by 2035.</p> <p>It is unclear if this target can be measured.</p>	
Status	Poor
Trend	Improving
Data	Poor

Target G3: 2026	No gas connection in new subdivisions (e.g., no option to connect)
<p>Comment: The City does not currently collect data on subdivisions not requesting to be connected to gas and would need to prepare a way of recording that information.</p>	
Status	Unknown
Trend	Unclear
Data	Unknown

Target G4: 2026	One zero carbon new development
<p>Comment: Zero carbon developments are new buildings that have no net carbon emissions. We are seeing more planning applications for both residential, commercial, and industrial buildings not connecting to gas and installing renewable energy, combined with improved energy efficiency. None to this stage have demonstrated they are purchasing renewable energy from a third-party provider, but we anticipate that will be the next step to deliver zero carbon developments. Also, the elevating ESD planning Scheme Amendment will also assist with achieving this goal.</p>	
Status	Good
Trend	N/A
Data	Good

Target G5: 2026	20% of all passenger vehicles sold in Greater
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	Bendigo are electric or hybrid
<p>Comment: Limited availability of imported models, and high purchase prices have hampered uptake but there is now a clear trend towards increased demand and supply. It seems possible that the target will be achieved as policy settings improve. Data for this target is not yet identified.</p>	
Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Poor

Theme 3: Circular Economy

Council Goals and Targets

2036 GOAL H: Zero recoverable waste from Council operations	
Headline indicator: Weight of waste from operations	
Comment: General waste from Council operations was down to 2,733 tonnes in FY 20/21 and down to 1,689 tonnes in FY 21/22. This is a reduction of 50.6% vs. the baseline of 3420 t/y in FY19/20.	
Status	Good
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Target H1: 2026	35% reduction in Council's 'general waste' production (baseline of 3420t/y general waste from 2020)
Comment: As mentioned above the weight of waste from Council operations has been reducing.	
This progress should be caveated due to a reduction in littering on streets and pathways (street cleaning) and infrastructure delivery (and thus works waste production) during the various COVID lockdowns and slowdowns.	
Status	Good
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Target H2: 2026	Zero organics to landfill from the Council
Comment: There is currently no dedicated measurement mechanism to measure this metric. Council does do audits of various waste bin streams across building facilities, and since the introduction of food waste bins and collection, the volume has been quite low, whilst garden waste and timber from operational activities is typically mulched for reuse.	

Areas for improvement are for paper hand towel waste from toilets to be directed to composting, and to find an alternative to the use of treated timber products that cannot be mulched for reuse.	
Status	Fair
Trend	Stable
Data	Poor

Target H3: 2026	25% reduction in the 'embodied carbon' footprint of Council operations
Comment: The measurement of the City's 'embodied carbon' footprint is currently very difficult due to the lack of data captured. Specifically, there is no clear record by the City of what quantities of materials and products are purchased each year.	
Procurement is only recorded as a high-level dollar spend against different suppliers/supplier-categories.	
Status	Poor
Trend	Uncertain
Data	Poor

Target H4: 2026	Reused and recycled content products and materials are a standard part of project design and service delivery
Comment: The City implemented the 'Circular Economy & Zero Waste Policy' in May 2021, and the adoption of reused and recycled content products and materials is slowly occurring e.g., bollards, benches, crushed concrete.	
Anecdotal evidence suggests infrastructure projects having used more of these materials compared to previous years. However, a quantitative review of all procurement for FY21/22 indicates only 27.8% of tenders and 6.58% of request for quotes complied with the policy requirements.	
Status	Poor
Trend	Improving
Data	Poor

Community Goals and Targets

2036 GOAL I: A well-established circular economy with zero recoverable waste to landfill

Headline indicator: Community waste to landfill

Comment: For FY 21/22 the population of Greater Bendigo was approximately 121,470 and the combined total of waste from households and businesses/industry was 82,502 tonnes of waste to landfill (either at Eaglehawk landfill or carted to Patho landfill to save airspace and prolong the life of the landfill).

This represents 680kg of landfill per person.

This figure would be far greater if all commercial and industrial landfill waste was included, but much of this waste is carted out of the region by private businesses, so an accurate total landfill figure is not possible to calculate.

There is a very minor trend towards a per capita reduction in waste production (at a household level) due to kerbside tonnages remaining steady in recent years, whilst the population has slowly grown. However, given there is no cessation to waste generation levels in industry, and Australia continues to increase imports from abroad, plateauing of waste likely reflects the increasing 'offshoring' of commercial and industrial production waste.

Status	Fair
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Trend	Stable
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Data	Good
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Target I1:2026	Zero organics to landfill from the region
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Comment: Following the implementation of the Food Organics & Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection in 2016 and in subsequent years of community engagement, there was an initial substantial drop in organics from

residential general waste bins from 50% down to 25%-30%. In recent years this figure has plateaued around the 25% mark with residents, whilst for commercial and industrial waste streams going to landfill, organics continues to represent approximately 30% of the waste stream by weight.

The City has been introducing a commercial FOGO collection in recent years, but as uptake is not mandatory, usage has been slow (despite being a cheaper alternative to landfill).

Status	Poor
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Trend	Stable
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Data	Good
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Target I2: 2026	72% of region's 'waste' diverted from landfill
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Comment: The data quality for this target varies greatly. If looking solely at residential/household waste production, our current diversion rate is approximately 50.19% based on data reported to 'Know Your Council'.

Unfortunately, estimating these figures for all waste streams is not possible, as waste data reporting across commercial and industrial businesses remains poor at a state level when looking at specific geographic/LGA regions.

Status	Fair
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Trend	Stable
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Data	Fair
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Target I3: 2026	Council has established 'Circular Economy Hubs'
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Comment: As part of the broader 'Circular Greater Bendigo' project, Council has identified key post-landfill infrastructure to be sited at a future Circular Economy Hub.

The requirements of this infrastructure, in addition to broader resource recovery operations requirements, is being fed into a 'Site Master Planning' process being completed by consultants to develop detailed (and costed) site plans

for Circular Economy Hubs at the Eaglehawk landfill site, Strathfieldsaye transfer station, and at the Bendigo Livestock Exchange.

Status	Good
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Theme 4: Sustainable and Active Transport

Council Goals and Targets

2036 GOAL J: Council staff use active, public, and low carbon transport	
Headline indicator: Percentage of staff trips to work	
See comments below for target J1.	
Status	Unknown
Trend	Unclear
Data	Poor

Target J1: 2026	20% of staff trips to work are by active, shared, and public transport
Comment: Council is yet to implement a staff travel survey which collects accurate data on modes of travel to work.	
Status	Unknown
Trend	Unclear
Data	Poor

2036 GOAL K: Greater Bendigo has a safe and well-connected active transport network	
Headline indicator: A headline indicator for this goal is to be determined.	
Comment: Significant work has occurred on securing funding for key corridors and ensuring active transport is highlighted in key advocacy documents.	
Status	Unknown
Trend	Uncertain
Data	TBD

Target K1: 2026	Priority gaps in the walking and cycling network have been reduced by doubling the new footpath program (baseline 22km in 2020)
In 2020/21 there was 13km of walking and cycling tracks installed – 6 from capital works and 7 from subdivisions.	

The trend is declining at the current time.	
Status	Fair
Trend	Declining
Data	Good

Target K2: 2026	10-year walking and cycling infrastructure plan developed and implementation commenced
Comment: Significant work has occurred to map a draft proposed network and identify existing gaps. Work is required in FY22/23 to finalise the 10-year prioritisation program and undertake key stakeholder engagement prior to endorsement and implementation.	
Status	Good
Trend	N/A
Data	Good

Community Goals and Targets

2036 GOAL L: Greater Bendigo community uses active, public, and low carbon transport network	
Headline indicator: A headline indicator for this goal is to be determined.	
Comment: Census 2021 information on travel to work has not yet been disclosed on the ID community website. There has been a slight drop off in walking and cycling at the five embedded counters between 20/21 and 21/22 from 181,000 trips to 171,000 trips. There are a couple of factors that may be influencing these figures including strong usage figures of our tracks and trails during Covid-19 lockdowns in 20/21 and an extremely wet 2022. Counters are not the full story on this goal and so data quality is fair.	
Status	Fair
Trend	Unclear
Data	Fair

Target L1: 2026	A commuter rail service is servicing Goornong (via
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	Huntly and Epsom), Raywood (via Eaglehawk) and Kangaroo Flat to Bendigo
Comment: The V-line extension to Goornong has been completed ahead of schedule. There is still no Greater Bendigo commuter rail service, and existing services are limited at the times needed e.g., early morning.	
Status	Poor
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Target M2: 2026	Car sharing program established
Comment: A car sharing program has not yet been established in Greater Bendigo. Anecdotally, car sharing businesses cannot achieve the rate of return that they desire outside of the inner Melbourne area.	
Status	Poor
Trend	N/A
Data	N/A

Target L2: 2026	10 kilometres of additional shared paths installed in new developments
Comment: For the FY21/22 approximately 7km of shared paths were installed in subdivisions.	
Status	Fair
Trend	Stable
Data	Fair

Target L3: 2026	Urban bus service is servicing Marong, and adjusted bus services to reach growth areas in Maiden Gully and Huntly
Comment	No information.
Status	Unknown
Trend	N/A
Data	Unknown

2036 GOAL M: Greater Bendigo has a safe and well-connected active transport network

Goal M is the same as Goal K

Target M1: 2026	10% of trips are by active transport
Comment: This is not measured currently.	
Status	N/A
Trend	N/A
Data	Unclear

Theme 5: Sustainable Food Systems

Council Goals and Targets

2036 GOAL N: Council is a leader in sustainable food procurement, practices, and policy

Headline indicator: Procurement documentation includes sustainable food

Comment: Questions have been added to the standard tender response schedules as below:

- 'How does your service support sustainable food? (e.g., through purchasing food from local primary producers, minimising use of packaged and highly processed foods and drinks, supporting agroecology and regenerative agriculture, supporting sustainable food system education)'.
'How do you plan to minimise waste as a part of delivering your service to Council, including food waste?'

This will mean that any new tenders that include procurement of food will include these questions as assessment criteria. The Healthy Food and Catering Policy was also updated to include greater specificity in clauses related to food and packaging waste reduction.

Status	Good
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Trend	Improving
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Data	Good
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Target N1: 2026	30% of relevant City contracts, leases and tenders include clauses related to sustainable food practices
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Comment: An audit was not undertaken for FY21/22.

Status	Unknown
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Trend	Unclear
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Data	Unknown
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Community Goals and Targets

2036 GOAL O: Sustainable food production systems are viable, resource efficient and regenerate natural ecosystems

Headline indicator: A headline indicator for this goal is to be determined.

Comment: Landholders are interested to learn about and implement sustainable food production systems on their farms, evidenced by excellent attendance at outreach programs such as the Healthy Landscape program. In addition, the agricultural industry is investing in producing frameworks to measure sustainability for each industry, that landholders can then reference.

Status	Unknown
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Trend	Improving
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Data	Good
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Target O1: 2026	20% of farms are on the sustainable agriculture rate
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Comment: An alternative program to the establishment of a specific farm rate is under development, with further investment in education and outreach programs being investigated as the preferred alternative. And so, this target will be revised soon.

Status	N/A
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Trend	N/A
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Data	Unknown
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2036 GOAL P: Communities are aware of the resources required to produce food and know how they can influence the food system

Headline indicator: Percentage of learning environments incorporating sustainable food system education

Comment	This goal is addressed by Target P1 below.
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Target P1: 2036	80% of early childhood education settings, primary and secondary schools incorporate sustainable food system education into the curriculum
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Comment: The target has been achieved. 83% of childcare and schools,

including schools are participating in a variety of initiatives including food waste reduction education, kitchen garden programs, food redistribution etc.

Greater availability of data from collaborative data sharing has provided a more accurate baseline. Going forward this same data will be used for consistency.

Status	Achieved
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

2036 GOAL Q: Enable Traditional Owners to grow and harvest indigenous food and fibre plants

Headline indicator: Funding support for food and fibre production

Comment: The Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation trading as DJAARA is successfully leading the agricultural project, Djandak Dja Kuditja (Country Healing its Home) using the highly regarded Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), grown as a modern perennial broadacre cropping system. The project received Federal Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment funding of \$1.8 million. Council is not a project partner.

Status	Good
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Theme 6: Water Sensitive Bendigo

Council Goals and Targets

2036 GOAL R: Council operations are water efficient and utilise diverse water supplies

Headline indicator: Percentage of alternative water used in Council facilities and operations

Comment: The City used 664 ML megalitres in 2021/22. The water sources for this include 40% recycled water, 15% rural water and 45% potable water.

Status	Good
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Trend	Stable
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Data	Good
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Target R1: 2026	Council's total use of potable water reduced by 5% from the 2016 baseline (307 ML)
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Comment: The City has a diverse water supply and 45% comes from potable water sources. There was an increase in the amount of potable water use in 2021/22 to 297 ML due to undetected leaks. This amount is comparable to the 2016 baseline.

Status	Fair
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Trend	Stable
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Data	Good
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2036 GOAL S: Flood risk in Greater Bendigo is reduced through flood mitigation infrastructure and planning

Headline indicator: Flood Mitigation Plan in place

Comment: The City has developed six flood mitigation strategies over the past decade. In 2021/22, the City initiated the Central Bendigo Flood Mitigation Study. This study identified the flood risk liabilities for large storm events and identified the most feasible solutions to reduce this risk. Status is fair as implementation is complicated by the

high cost of mitigation solutions e.g., Huntly levee is close to \$20M.

Status	Fair
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Trend	Stable
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Data	Good
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Target S1: 2026	A 5% reduction in flooding occurrence affecting properties (2020 baseline)
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Comment: In 2021/22, there were 34 properties impacted by flooding. This was an improvement from last year (271). Drainage maintenance has been improving and addressing legacy issues.

Status	Good
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Trend	Improving
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Data	Good
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2036 GOAL T: Investment in water projects is secured through collaborative partnerships

Headline indicator: Funding for water projects

Comment: The partners for Water Sensitive Bendigo continue to advocate for their priority projects includes Reimagining Bendigo Creek. This included developing a prospectus and arranging meetings with State and Federal Ministers and agencies. In 2021/22, the City, Djandak and North Central CMA secured \$583,000 for Bendigo Creek. Status is fair as the capital cost for projects is very high and external funding will be needed.

Status	Fair
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Trend	Improving
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Data	Good
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Target T1: 2026	The Water Sensitive Bendigo partnership has leveraged \$0.5 million investment in water initiatives and infrastructure
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Comment: In 2021/22, the City, Djandak and North Central CMA secured \$583 thousand for Bendigo Creek.

Status	Achieved
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Trend	Improving
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Data	Good
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Community Goals and Targets

2036 GOAL U: Waterways in Bendigo are healthy, connected, and nurturing places

Headline indicator: Water quality

Comment: The health of the creeks around Bendigo are generally in poor condition as assessed by the North Central Catchment Management Authority and consultants in 2016 and 2021. This is largely due to past mining, urban development, and stormwater impacts. However, there is a strong aspiration amongst key agencies and the community to improve their condition and value including via the Reimagining Bendigo Creek project. Improving water quality will be a long-term pursuit.

Status	Poor
Trend	Stable
Data	Good

Target U1: 2026	Three large WSUD infrastructure projects are designed and approved
Comment: In 2021/22, the City progressed the design and approvals of Bendigo Creek instream works project. This project is to commence recreating a chain of ponds on the Bendigo Creek, starting with an instream basin to manage sedimentation.	
In 2021/22, the City commenced developing a stormwater offset policy. This policy will identify priority WSUD to develop and implement.	
Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Target U2: 2026	Design and approvals for 5 kilometres of new shared paths along waterways of Bendigo
Comment: In 2021/22, the City commenced developing a design for 'the Low Line', which is shared trail that will use the built channel of Bendigo Creek to	

travel to, and through the city centre. This project is aiming to be constructed by the Commonwealth Games, and it has been included as a priority in the City's Legacy Plan for the Games.

Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Target U3: 2026	50 new meeting places located along waterways of Bendigo
Comment: New meeting places are being developed along the creek ranging from park benches to more significant developments.	
In 2021/22, Djandak's Wanyarram Dhehk precinct continued to flourish with additional landscaping to complement the existing frog ponds at the Knight Street site. This included developing a dancing circle that will enable cultural practices and ceremonies and installing interpretive signage to explain Djaara cultural values to the community. The Knight St. site was also assigned a cultural name - 'Wanyarram Dum' meaning frog waterhole.	
Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

2036 GOAL V: Waterways in Greater Bendigo are collectively managed by Traditional Owners, agencies, and community

Headline indicator: Shared management agreements

Comment: Presently there are no places with formal shared management with Traditional Owners. However, collective discussions are emerging.

Status	Poor
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

Target V1: 2026	Two waterway reserves are co-managed by the Djaara or Taungurung and relevant agency
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Comment: In 2021/22, DJAARA and the City progressed a draft agreement to establish a shared committee of management for the Long Gully Creek. Finalising the agreement is currently hindered by the site's land contamination.

Status	Fair
Trend	Improving
Data	Good

ⁱ <http://www.bom.gov.au/state-of-the-climate/>

ⁱⁱ <https://snapshotclimate.com.au/locality/australia/victoria/greater-bendigo/>

<https://www.science.org.au/files/userfiles/support/reports-and-plans/2021/risks-australia-three-deg-warmer-world-report.pdf>