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# ANNUAL ENVIRONMENT REPORT

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SUMMARY DOCUMENT

The Annual Environment Report highlights the City's progress with implementing the *Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026* and other key environment strategies. A summary of key achievements for each action area of the Strategy is outlined here. The full report can be accessed on the [City's website](#).

## ACTION AREAS

The *Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026* has six action areas, which collectively contribute to all seven outcomes in the Council Plan.

This Summary Document summarises the Strategy's 2036 goals for each action area and lists the highlights and key achievements for 2022/2023.



## SUSTAINABLE AND ACTIVE TRANSPORT

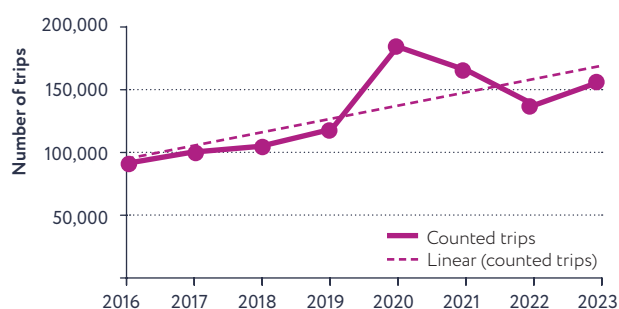
**Goal:** Greater Bendigo City staff and community walk, cycle and use public transport and electric vehicles instead of cars with internal combustion engines. In 2022/2023 we:

Installed 18.5km of footpaths.

Conducted a baseline travel survey to assess how staff from numerous organisations across Greater Bendigo travel to work, and to understand the barriers to sustainable travel.

Hosted a debate at the Climate Summit by Natasha Mitchell from ABC Radio National's Big Ideas about how regional cities can achieve a zero emissions transport system. Listen [here](#).

Cycling counts of protected infrastructure



## BIODIVERSITY AND REGENERATION

**Goal:** Native habitat and areas of important biodiversity are protected and enhanced for future generations. In 2022/2023 we:

Developed the draft Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan which was adopted in September 2023.

Planted 3,376 urban trees.

Reduced native vegetation removed from City operations by 3.7 hectares to 1.6 hectares.

Checked over 600 nestboxes across eight reserves with local groups to monitor mammal populations. Successful breeding of Powerful Owl in one nestbox.

Introduced a 24-hour cat containment requirement.



**Pictured:** Senior Biodiversity Officer Mark Hall showing Healthy Landscapes participants how traps can be used to identify the types of pollinators that are present in the landscape and how to use nets to capture insects.



## ZERO CARBON

**Goal: Net zero carbon from City operations and across the Greater Bendigo community by 2030. In 2022/2023 we:**

Reduced the City's greenhouse gas emissions by 430 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (excluding emissions from landfill).

Reduced emissions from landfill by 11,500 tCO<sub>2</sub>e due to less waste entering Eaglehawk Landfill.

Removed gas from six City facilities to make them all electric.

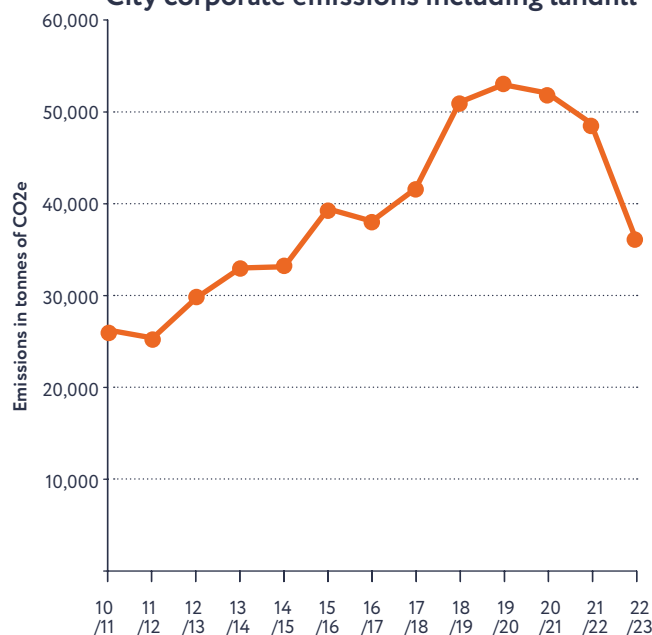
Increased the City's electric passenger fleet from six to ten vehicles.

Delivered a Climate Summit through the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration which was attended by approximately 680 community members.

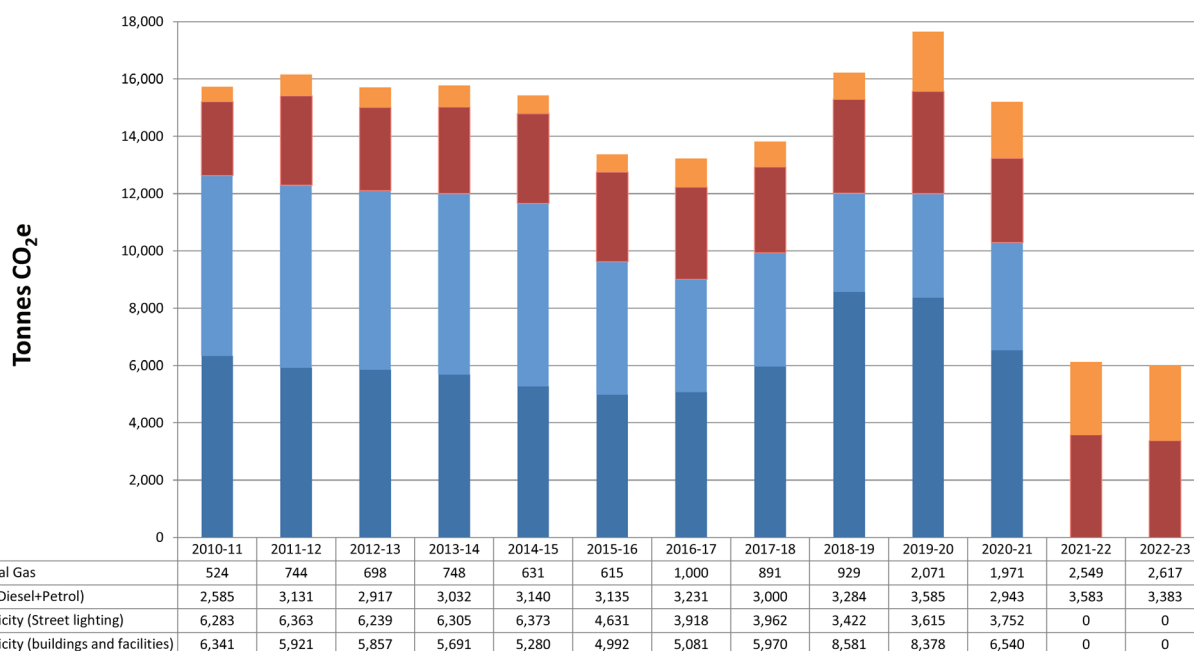
Developed the draft Greater Bendigo 2030 Zero Emissions Roadmap which was since adopted in September 2023.

Adopted the Zero Carbon Net Zero Emissions Plan for City Operations 2023- 2030.

City corporate emissions including landfill



City corporate emissions excluding landfill





## SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

**Goal:** Sustainable food production systems are viable, resource efficient and regenerate natural ecosystems. In 2022/2023 we:

Enabled participation of approximately 168 landholders in the Healthy Landscapes: Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities Program.

Achieved registration of 70 household or community gardens in the City with Grow it Local.



**Pictured:** Participants attending the field day, looking at preparation for a multi-species cover crop. The presenter mentioned the paddock was browned out to break the life cycle of red legged earth mite before the plants commence growing.



## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

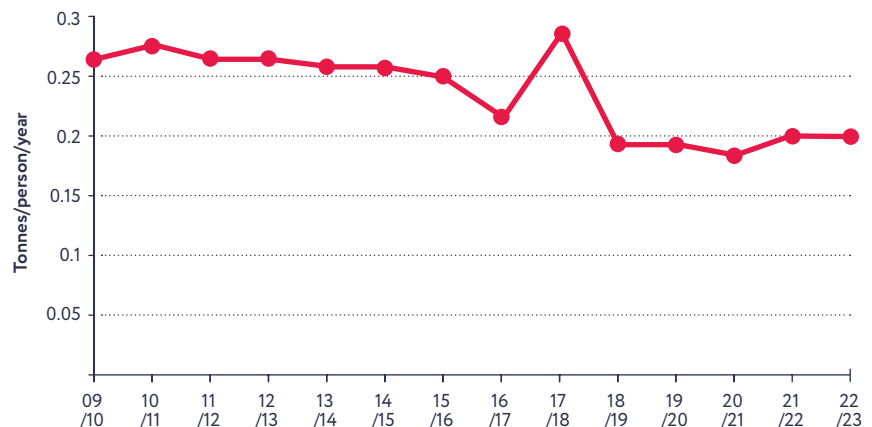
**Goal:** A well-established circular economy with zero recoverable waste to landfill. In 2022/2023 we:

Achieved a reduction in waste collected per capita across all waste streams and an increase in diversion of organic waste from landfill.

Achieved a reduction in the kerbside municipal solid waste per capita from 0.2 tonnes per person to 0.19 tonnes per person

Established soft plastics recycling drop off points.

Kerbside municipal solid waste per capita



## WATER SENSITIVE BENDIGO

**Goal:** City operations are water efficient and utilise diverse water supplies. In 2022/2023 we:

Progressed the Bendigo Creek Instream Works project.

Continued administration of the Water Sensitive Bendigo Partnership.