

State of the
Environment
Report
2007/08

Legend

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| \$ | Cost |
| % | Percent |
| °C | Degrees Celsius |
| Ha | Hectare |
| kg | Kilogram |
| kL | Kilolitres |
| LGA | Local Government Area |
| m ³ | Cubic metre |
| ML | Megalitres |
| mm | Millimetre |
| MWh | Megawatt hour |
| pphm | Parts per million per hour |
| ppm CO ₂ | Parts per million carbon dioxide |
| t | Tonne |
| tCO ₂ e | Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent |
| µg/m ³ | Micrograms per cubic meter |

Contents

| | | | |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| Energy and emissions | 2 | Plants and animals | 14 |
| Global warming | 2 | Biodiversity | 14 |
| Greenhouse gas emissions | 2 | Parks and open spaces | 14 |
| City of Sydney emissions | 2 | Community planting groups | 14 |
| Carbon neutral | 3 | Animals | 14 |
| GreenPower usage in Australia | 3 | Plants and animals | 15 |
| City of Sydney GreenPower | 3 | Flora and fauna of the Pyrmont peninsula | 15 |
| Electricity | 4 | | |
| A greener vehicle fleet | 4 | Integrated strategies | 16 |
| Fleet | 4 | Our targets and actions so far... | 16 |
| Energy savings plan | 5 | Green roofs | 16 |
| Energy efficiency | 5 | GreenLeaders Business Program | 16 |
| Air pollution | 6 | CitySwitch | 16 |
| Future focus | 6 | Environmental management plan | 16 |
| Green transformers | 6 | City projects | 16 |
| | | Sustainable Sydney 2030 | 17 |
| Sustainable transport | 7 | CCCLM | 17 |
| Cycle-friendly city | 7 | Local Action Plans | 17 |
| Pedestrian-friendly city | 7 | Triple Bottom Line | 17 |
| Public transport | 7 | Education | 17 |
| Car sharing | 7 | Awards | 18 |
| Transport | 7 | Environmental grants program | 18 |
| | | Environmental partnerships and memberships | 18 |
| Water | 8 | Land and noise | 19 |
| Water savings action plan | 8 | Land | 19 |
| Water savings measures | 8 | Noise | 19 |
| Water usage | 8 | Demographics | 19 |
| Water supply | 8 | Built form | 19 |
| Water re-use systems | 9 | | |
| Stormwater and water pollution | 9 | Cultural heritage | 20 |
| Water pollution | 10 | History | 20 |
| Future focus | 10 | Heritage | 20 |
| Waste | 11 | | |
| Waste management strategy and policies | 11 | | |
| Resource recovery | 11 | | |
| Waste services | 11 | | |
| Waste education | 11 | | |
| Partnerships | 12 | | |
| Environmental protection | 12 | | |
| Council waste minimisation practices | 12 | | |
| Waste and recycling | 13 | | |
| Future focus | 13 | | |

Energy and emissions

The City has a number of initiatives in place to reduce energy use and emissions generated.

Global warming

| | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | Trend |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Atmospheric carbon dioxide (ppm CO₂)¹ | 374 | 376 | 378 | 379 | 382 | x |
| Global-mean surface temperature increase (°C)² | 0.55 | 0.56 | 0.60 | 0.42 | 0.51 | x |

¹ Annual average CO₂ concentrations provided by CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research based on data from the Cape Grim Baseline Air Pollution Station, which is funded and managed by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. In 2008, atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide equivalent (includes other greenhouse gases such as methane or water vapour) are 455ppm.

² Observed temperature increase above the 14°C global land/ocean climatic mean (from 1951–1980). NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies. <http://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/2007>

Greenhouse gas emissions

| Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | Trend |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Global³ | 49.0 billion | 50.1 billion | 51.2 billion | 52.2 billion | 53.3 billion | x |
| National⁴ | 564 million | 583 million | 584 million | 580 million | 584 million | x |
| City of Sydney LGA⁵ | no data | no data | no data | 5.46 million | no data | – |

³ Calendar year global greenhouse gas emissions extrapolated from Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (based on 44.7GT in 2000 increasing to 49GT in 2004).

⁴ Calendar year forecast estimate (including abatement measures) from Tracking To The Kyoto Target 2007, Australian Government.

⁵ 2006 estimate developed by Kinesis for Sustainable Sydney 2030. The City is working to develop reliable emissions estimates at the local government area level.

City of Sydney emissions⁶

| Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent | 2006/07 |
|---|----------------|
| Scope-1 (corporate emissions) | 4,363 (9%) |
| Scope-2 (production of electricity consumed) | 35,002 (72%) |
| Scope-3 (travel, waste, distribution, production of materials used) | 9,192 (19%) |
| Total | 48,556 |
| GreenPower | –41,687 |
| VER offsets | –5,983 |
| Other offsets | –316 |
| Scope-3 exclusions | –570 |
| Total | –48,556 |
| Net Emissions | 0 |

⁶ The City's first detailed emissions inventory was prepared for 2006/07. Previous years emissions have been estimated only and therefore are not suitable for comparison. A detailed inventory will be prepared for 2007/08 and for subsequent years in accordance with recognised standards.

Carbon neutral

In 2008, the City of Sydney became the first carbon neutral government in Australia by reducing energy use and purchasing 100% GreenPower accredited renewable energy for electricity use and Greenhouse Friendly accredited offsets for some Scope 1 and 3 emissions (see previous page for explanation).

See details at: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/carbon

GreenPower useage in Australia

| | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | Trend |
|--|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| GreenPower usage in Australia (MWh)⁷ | No data | 495,250 | 688,754 | 1,013,707 | 1,455,887 | ✓ |
| Households using GreenPower | No data | 150,374 | 281,701 | 565,977 | 748,377 | ✓ |
| Businesses using GreenPower | No data | 7,229 | 14,676 | 24,313 | 30,313 | ✓ |

⁷ National GreenPower quarterly reports www.greenpower.com.au

City of Sydney GreenPower

In 2007/08 the City of Sydney purchased 100% GreenPower accredited renewable energy to cover its electricity use in properties, street lighting and some major events.

| | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | Trend |
|---|-------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-------|
| Council GreenPower usage (MWh)⁸ | 50 | 4,144 | 7,695 | 39,328 | 100% pending | ✓ |
| Percent of electricity use (per cent) | <1% | ~10% | ~20% | 100% | 100% pending | ✓ |
| GreenPower cost (\$) | Sponsored | \$125,845 | \$271,780 | \$2,524,268 | TBA | – |
| Main provider | – TruEnergy | – Climate Friendly | – AGL | – C0zero | TBA | – |

⁸ Includes GreenPower used by properties, public lighting. Smaller amounts of GreenPower have been used for fleet offsets and events.

To find out more visit: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/greenpower

Electricity

| (MWh) | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | Trend |
|---|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| City of Sydney LGA electricity usage⁹ | | | | | | |
| Households | | No data | | 378,465 | 402,295 | x |
| Small business | | No data | | 1,361,567 | 1,354,692 | x |
| Large business | | No data | | 2,501,958 | 2,562,600 | x |
| Council electricity usage¹⁰ | | | | | | |
| Total | No data | | 40,759 | 42,485 | 43,318 | x |
| Per employee | No data | | 27 | 26.5 | 27 | |

⁹ Information provided by Energy Australia for suburbs in and around the City of Sydney. Data is not confined to the LGA and may be based on accruals and estimates.

¹⁰ Information provided by Planet Footprint using data from Energy Australia. Figures vary from previous reports due to improved estimates of street lighting electricity usage and the inclusion of new sites.

A greener vehicle fleet

The City has cut the number of vehicles in its fleet, changed its entire light fleet to 29 hybrid vehicles, provides an incentive to staff to choose fuel efficient vehicles, has converted large diesel trucks to more fuel efficient vans, is working with the Clinton Climate Initiative to establish electric/diesel truck availability in Australia and is aiming to achieve Euro 5 engine compliance from October 2008.

The City has previously used biodiesel to power its trucks. However, we have ceased using biodiesel while investigations are underway on its sustainability and until a more sustainable fuel can be sourced.

To ensure fuel is used most efficiently, routes for Council vehicles are planned and monitored. Council offsets all fleet emissions with schemes accredited by the NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme and/or Australian Government Greenhouse Friendly Scheme.

Fleet

| Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | Trend |
|---|--------------|---------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| Council fleet emissions¹¹ | 2,795 | 2,981 | 2,692 | 2,980 | 3,001 | – |
| Contractor vehicle emissions | No data | | 1,060 | 1,315 | 1,438 | – |
| Total | | | 3,752 | 4,295 | 4,439 | – |
| Emissions offset (per cent) | 25% | 50% | 100% | 100% | 100% pending | ✓ |
| Main Provider | – Greenfleet | | – Greenfleet – Climate Friendly | – C02 Aus | TBA | – |

¹¹ Full fuel cycle emissions calculated using 2008 National Greenhouse Accounts (NGA) factors developed by the Australian Government.

Energy savings plan

Since implementation of the City's Energy Savings Action Plan (ESAP) in mid 2007, more than 58 energy savings projects have resulted in estimated savings of 4,800 gigajoules each year, the equivalent of around 1,300 tonnes of greenhouse emissions. Since developing its ESAP, the City has improved from a one-star rating in 2006 to a four-star rating in 2008 using the One-2-Five energy management diagnostic.

Energy efficiency

There are many opportunities to use energy more efficiently. Some of the City's energy saving measures include:

Commercial energy efficiency

The City is working with North Sydney, Parramatta, Willoughby, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane, and state government agencies to deliver CitySwitch Green Office which represents 70 per cent of Australia's office space. Businesses commit to achieving and maintaining an accredited 4 stars or higher NABERS Energy (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) tenancy rating (previously ABGR).

To find out more visit: www.cityswitch.net.au

Earth Hour

As a founding member of the Earth Hour campaign led by WWF Australia, the City heavily promotes the campaign and turns off all non-essential lighting for the event. In 2008, the Lord Mayor wrote to Mayors around the world to help the campaign recruit more than 370 cities, towns and council areas.

To find out more visit: www.earthhour.org

Public lighting and property

City of Sydney street lighting initiatives include:

- Adopting a Public Domain Lighting Design Code and Strategy to reduce greenhouse emissions by approximately 14 per cent
- A trial with Energy Australia and the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils saw the installation of 100 efficient street lights in Glebe using about 40 per cent less energy
- Undertaking a trial (starting in 2008/09) in Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology for street lights to help towards achieving our target of a 50 per cent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030

Air pollution

Monitoring of air quality in metropolitan Sydney is conducted by the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change at 19 sites. Air quality monitoring stations are also measuring air quality from the Cross City Tunnel.

| | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | Trend |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Regional air quality¹² | | | | | | |
| Nitrogen Dioxide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✓ |
| Carbon monoxide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✓ |
| Ozone | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✓ |
| Nitrogen Dioxide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✓ |
| Particulate Matter (< 10 µm) | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | – |
| Sulphur Dioxide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✓ |
| Nephelometer (visibility) | 18 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 4 | ✓ |
| Local air quality¹³ | | | | | | |
| Carbon monoxide (CO average ppm) | No data | 1.9 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 1.2 | ✓ |
| Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂ average pphm) | No data | 5.2 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 4.0 | ✓ |
| Total nitrogen oxides (NO _x average pphm) | No data | 25.3 | 19.6 | 20.6 | 19.2 | ✓ |
| Particulate matter (PM10 average µg/m ³) | No data | 37.1 | 35.4 | 36.6 | 29.1 | ✓ |
| Particulate matter (PM2.5 average µg/ m ³) | No data | 5.1 | 14 | 15.3 | 11.1 | ✓ |

¹² Data from Air Quality Index (Randwick) www.environment.nsw.gov.au

¹³ Ground level Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Results (Mary Ann Street Park, Ultimo). Cross City Tunnel Air Quality Monitoring Reports. 2005/06 figures based on Sep 05 to May 06 monthly averages. National Environment Protection Measure criteria are CO (9 ppm); NO₂ (12 pphm); NO_x (no standard); PM10 (50 µg/m³); and PM2.5 (25 µg/m³) www.crosscity.com.au

Cities for Climate Protection (CCP)

The City participates in the Cities for Climate Protection program delivered by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (formerly International Council of Local Government Environmental Initiatives). We have achieved Milestone 4 for Cities for Climate Protection, which means we have implemented policies and measures towards efficiency and reducing carbon output.

Future focus

Local Government Emissions Trading Scheme

Council has joined the NSW Local Government Emissions Trading Scheme (LGETS) developed by Randwick City Council. The scheme has a target of a 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across participating councils, targets based on 2005/06 levels, over five years, through implementation of energy efficiency projects.

Find out more at: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment

Green transformers

Sustainable Sydney 2030 outlines a plan to provide the City's total electricity demand and much of its heating and cooling without relying on coal-fired power. The City is working on a Green Infrastructure Plan that includes Green Transformers to transition the City to low carbon energy. While emphasis will remain on energy efficiency and renewable energy, co and tri-generated technology, such as that to be used in Green Transformers, will play a significant role in achieving our environmental targets by 2030.

Find out more at: www.sydney2030.com.au

Sustainable transport

Cycle-friendly city

The City is designing and building cycleways and other infrastructure to deliver on the City's Cycle Strategy and Action Plan including dedicated north-south and east-west cycleways in the CBD. The City works with a range of organisations to promote cycling as a viable transport option and sponsors events such as the City of Sydney Spring Cycle and regular bicycle breakfasts to support people cycling. For more information go to www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Cycling

Pedestrian-friendly city

The City is developing a Pedestrian Strategy which will see the city become a more people-friendly place providing a better balance between people, cars and the built form. Jan Gehl's Public Spaces Public Life Sydney 2007 provides the basis of the City's move toward a pedestrian oriented City Centre and better walking links within and between our suburbs.

Public transport

The City of Sydney continues to advocate for mass transit public transport within and around the LGA including light rail, the CBD rail link and improved bus services.

Car sharing

The City created 32 dedicated car share parking spaces with four private car share operators in 2007/08 and another 14 will be in place by December 2008. For more information go to www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/AboutSydney/ParkingAndTransport/CarShare.asp

Transport

| Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | Trend |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Vehicles per day in LGA ¹⁴ | 756,535 | 765,307 | 758,560 | 744,172 | 742,038 | ✓ |
| Staff with travel passes | 194 (13%) | 266 (18%) | 321 (21%) | 338 (21%) | 363 (23%) | ✓ |

¹⁴ Information provided by the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (does not include Cross City Tunnel). Based on combined direction vehicle numbers for Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Harbour Tunnel, Anzac Bridge, Kings Cross Tunnel, Oxford Street, Parramatta Road, King Street, Regent Street, O'Riordan Street, Anzac Parade, and City West Link Road.

Water

Water savings action plan

The City's Water Savings Action Plan (WSAP) continues to be implemented. At a one-off cost of \$198,000, the plan will save an estimated 72 megalitres of water each year.

Water savings measures

- Ongoing installation of water saving measures at smaller sites, such as water efficient taps and toilets, will reduce consumption
- Council street cleaning operations are using more efficient equipment, reducing frequency of washing and use bore water, rainwater and recycled water
- In our parks, the City is using bore water, deferring major new plantings, mulching and planting drought-tolerant plants
- For parks that require irrigation, we are matching water levels with soil type, climate and site usage following a major water usage study by URS Australia
- Efficient filtration systems, pool blankets, water efficient equipment and amenities, water collection and water meters have been installed at several City aquatic centres and City water features
- In the last seven years, more than 21,500 City of Sydney residents have participated in Sydney Water programs to reduce water use

Water usage

| | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | Trend |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| City of Sydney LGA water usage | | | | | | |
| Total (ML) | 32,891 | 34,508 | 33,712 | 34,419 | 32,471 | ✓ |
| Commercial average (kL) | 2,825 | 2,504 | 2,417 | 2,451 | 2,292 | ✓ |
| Units average (kL) | 176 | 171 | 172 | 170 | 161 | ✓ |
| Houses average (kL) | 200 | 191 | 190 | 183 | 173 | ✓ |
| Council water usage | | | | | | |
| Total (ML) | 534 | 484 | 487 | 496 | 474 | ✓ |
| Per employee (kL) | 361 | 326 | 322 | 304 | 304 | – |
| Fountains (kL/site/day) | No data | No data | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.5 | ✓ |

Water supply

| | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | Trend |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Potable water cost (\$/kL)¹⁵ | \$1.013 | \$1.013 | \$1.264 | \$1.48 | \$1.83 | – |
| Water storage level (per cent)¹⁶ | 42.6% | 38.3% | 41.8% | 50.5% | 66.7% | ✓ |
| Average City of Sydney rainfall (mm)¹⁷ | 705 | 1,041 | 792 | 1,403 | 1,197 | – |

¹⁵ Sydney Water pricing for consumption more than 100 kilolitres per quarter.

¹⁶ Sydney Catchment Authority June figures.

¹⁷ Average rainfall for 5 monitoring stations around City of Sydney provided by Sydney Water.

Water re-use systems

- The City owns and operates one of the largest stormwater collection, treatment and re-use systems built in Sydney, providing 90 per cent of the water used by Solander Park, Erskineville
- Major water collection, storage and re-use opportunities are also being designed for Hyde Park, Prince Alfred Park, Sydney Park and the Water Police site
- Water re-use systems have been installed at 27 City of Sydney facilities with the capacity to collect 760 kilolitres of litres of water
- Stormwater and/or groundwater collection, treatment and re-use systems are also installed at 20 Sydney parks, ovals, reserves and other sites

Stormwater and water pollution

The City's main sources of pollution to waterways are premises licenced under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, illegal dumping, spills, litter, sediments, oils, nutrients and heavy metals.

City programs

- Street cleaning operations remove large volumes of potential stormwater pollution, while street litter bins divert hundreds of tonnes of street cleaning materials from landfill
- The City owns and maintains 11 large stormwater pollution traps and about 4,000 smaller trapped gully pits which collect about 1,290 tonnes of pollution each year
- Litter and pollution are periodically removed from the City's Federal Park Salt-Marsh Wetland and an adjacent gross pollution trap
- As part of the City's stormwater education we publish information brochures, distribute free personal ashtrays and provide guidelines for builders and developers
- The City is one of eight councils working to create an integrated river management plan; conserve water; and improve the health of the Cooks River, through the Cooks River Sustainability Initiative.

Find out more at: www.ourriver.com.au

Water pollution

| Indicator | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | Trend |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Darling Harbour bacteria levels (percent compliance to safe limit)¹⁸ | | | | | | |
| Faecal coliforms | | | | | | |
| Winter | 41% | 41% | 59% | 35% | 55% | ✓ |
| Summer | 39% | 23% | 41% | 32% | 35% | ✓ |
| Enterococci | | | | | | |
| Winter | 41% | 32% | 55% | 40% | 68% | ✓ |
| Summer | 74% | 35% | 69% | 55% | 48% | ✗ |
| NSW Maritime rubbish collection (m³) | | | | | | |
| Blackwattle Bay | 96 | 99 | 116 | 126 | 93 | – |
| Rozelle Bay | 214 | 298 | 263 | 204 | 157 | – |
| Rubbish from Council stormwater pollution traps (t) | 1,104 | 1,372 | 1,102 | 1,290 | 1,334 | – |
| Water pollution infringements | 52 | 94 | 76 | 44 | 84 | – |

¹⁸ Darling Harbour testing by the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change against standards for primary contact.

Future focus

Green Square Town Centre

Council has approved the concept of a “ecological engine” system that would allow stormwater from Shea’s Creek in the Green Square urban development site to be collected, treated using natural bio-filtration measures and used for irrigation and other uses within the development area.

Details of the water initiatives listed in this section are available at:
www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment/water

Waste

The City has adopted an integrated approach to providing residential waste and recycling services and reducing the environmental impacts of waste.

Waste management strategy and policies

Following a detailed community consultation process, the City's draft Waste Management Strategy creates a framework to reduce waste to landfill. The City's policies for the Management of Waste in Public Places and Waste Minimisation in New Developments encourage best-practice waste minimisation and resource recovery (recycling).

Find out more at: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/waste

Resource recovery

Currently, 70 per cent of residential waste from the City of Sydney ends up in landfill and 30 per cent is recovered through recycling.

The City:

- continues to financially support The Bower, a not-for-profit cooperative reuse service, diverting 628 cubic metres of material from landfill
- recycled 19,349 tonnes of construction and road materials through its Burrows Road Materials Recycling Facility
- will begin trialling an e-waste program in 2008. Between 95 and 98 per cent of the e-waste can be recovered and reused, which will save between three and five tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions for every tonne recycled
- introduced a GreenLeaders program for small to medium-sized City businesses which aims to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by 15 per cent

Waste services

A key role for the City of Sydney is to provide domestic waste management services to approximately 90,000 properties across the local government area.

In addition, the City provides a range of specialist services including:

- a regular kerbside clean up services that saw a three per cent increase in recycling from the year before, diverting 16,655 tonnes of material from landfill
- a free kerbside recycling service for white goods and small appliances
- a green waste collection service including Christmas tree recycling

Waste education

City programs and resources to help educate, residents, schools, businesses and visitors include:

- a range of resource recovery and recycling guides
- a free recycling service for 33 schools in the LGA
- an overarching schools education program involving Keep Australia Beautiful's Waste Watchers program, the Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre's Grime Scene Investigation and Watertight programs, Sydney Water Streamwatch
- Clean Harbour Partners, a business program attracting an additional 150 small to medium-sized businesses concerned with littering and stormwater pollution
- free training courses on how to minimise waste, delivered through The Watershed partnership

Partnerships

- Council works collaboratively with Housing NSW, body corporate groups and residents to develop improved recycling systems in multi-unit dwellings
- The Watershed partnership with Marrickville Council continues to engage residents and businesses delivering workshops to 1,400 community members
- The City continues to support local community gardens and networks, developing a guide for residents to set up their own community garden
- The City participated in Clean Up Australia Day

Environmental protection

Council continues to work towards creating a clean, safe and healthy city:

- 3,200 illegal dumps were collected by rapid response trucks
- 403,000 incidents of graffiti, including pole posters, were removed representing a 20 per cent increase on 2006/07
- Monthly cigarette butt littering blitzes are conducted across the LGA
- The City's Rangers also issue Clean-Up and Prevention Notices to prevent sediment pollution from construction sites and illegal dumping of waste

Council waste minimisation practices

Council is working towards minimising waste in all its operations.

- Food waste from some City venues is donated to Oz-Harvest, a charity that collects excess food and delivers it to organisations that feed the disadvantaged
- 100 per cent post-consumer recycled paper is used for written communications
- City Rangers use electronic ticketing saving 800,000 paper notices each year
- Multi Function Devices (MFDs) with double-sided printing has reduced the number of smaller, less efficient printers by 30 per cent
- Introduction of web-based activities such as electronic faxing and online forms
- The majority of all cartridges used are returned for recycling
- Over 200 mobile phones were recycled through the Aussie Recycling Program, raising funds for charity
- Council avoids the use of bottled water at meetings.

Waste and recycling

| Indicator | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | Trend |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|-------|
| Household waste¹⁹ | | | | | | |
| Total (t) | 26,020 | 36,553 | 39,999 | 38,752 | 40,230 | ✘ |
| Per person (kg) | 230 | 238 | 257 | 234 | 238 | ✘ |
| Household recycling²⁰ | | | | | | |
| Total (t) | 9,169 | 12,186 | 13,227 | 16,122 | 16,654 | ✓ |
| Per person (kg) | 84 | 79 | 85 | 97 | 99 | ✓ |
| Landfill diversion (per cent) | 26% | 25% | 25% | 29% | 29.3% | ✓ |
| Public place waste collection (t) ²¹ | 7,565 | 6,901 | 7,410 | 7,750 | 7,205 ²² | – |
| Clean-Up Notices ²³ | 15 | 67 | 54 | 15 | 3 | – |
| Litter infringements | 80 | 122 | 671 | 1,412 | 1,340 | – |
| Council A4 paper use (sheets/employee) | 6,370 | 8,597 | 8,595 | 7,908 | 6,059 | ✓ |
| Building materials recycled at Council facility (t) ²⁴ | 21,417 | 18,950 | 26,727 | 19,894 | 19,349 | – |

¹⁹ Waste includes collected household waste and clean-ups disposed to landfill.

²⁰ Recycling includes containers, paper, green waste and white goods collection.

²¹ Includes street cleansing waste, public bins, events and waste dumps.

²² 10% of public waste in 2007/08 was recycled through the UR3R resource recovery facility.

²³ Clean-Up Notices were first issued by the City in Q4 of 2003.

²⁴ Burrows Road Materials Recycling Facility, St Peters.

Future focus

Zero Waste

In 2008 the City launched the Zero Waste campaign to reduce the amount of waste the City sends to landfill. Zero Waste doesn't mean zero rubbish. It's about looking at waste as a valuable resource that can be used to create new products, energy, even new jobs. The campaign aims to help people avoid, reuse, recycle or dispose of rubbish thoughtfully.

Plants and animals

Biodiversity

The City is creating green corridors and planting native species in a range of areas including: Alexandra Canal network, Federal Park salt marsh wetland, Glebe Foreshore mangrove plantings, Orphan School Creek Reserve, Pyrmont Light Rail corridor, Sydney Park, and a variety of small pocket parks.

Parks and open spaces

In June 2007, the City endorsed its Open Space and Recreation Needs Study to establish a framework for environmental sustainability within parks and open spaces by increasing the amount of green space, use of local plant species, water efficiency and wildlife corridors. For more information go to www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/parks

The City also has a number of Tree Management Policies to ensure the protection and enhancement of the City's urban forests. For more information go to: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/trees

Community planting groups

The City continues to support the restoration work being undertaken by the Rozelle Bay Community Native Nursery (RBCNN) and Pyrmont Ultimo Landcare (PUL) as well as providing services, land and materials for ten community gardens.

Animals

- City staff and rangers periodically assist in wildlife rescues with the Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Service
- The City encourages residents to de-sex and micro-chip their pets through a partnership with The Sydney Dogs and Cats Home and by providing information on the City's companion animals website
- Council offers a range of pet services including training programs, to ensure dog owners can maintain effective control of their dogs
- The City manages weeds and feral animals within our parks and open spaces and has a comprehensive pest control program

Plants and animals

| | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | Trend |
|--|---------|---------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Area of parks and open space (Ha) | 377 | | | | | – |
| Area managed by the City of Sydney (Ha) | 187 | | | | | – |
| Native animal rescues | 115 | 151 | 129 | 172 | not available at time of print | |
| Number of bird species ²⁵ | 65–68 | | | | | |
| New and replacement street trees ²⁶ | 850 | 1,127 | 1,150 | 2,030 | 1,301 | – |
| Native plantings for National Tree Day | 11,660 | 6,547 | 8,000 | 4,665 | 5,400 | ✓ |
| Native plantings by Rozelle Bay Community Native Nursery | 2,365 | 1,441 | 2,806 | 2,812 | 2,757 | ✓ |
| Native plantings by Pymont Ultimo Landcare | No data | No data | ~2,500 (over 3 years) | | | – |
| Free native plants distributed ²⁷ | 90 | 1,500 | 2,250 | 1,198 | 772 | – |
| New aerial bundle cabling on electricity cables (spans) | 100 | 95 | 45 | 15 | 9 | – |

²⁵ Sightings by the Bird Atlassers Association, and bird watchers in Pymont and Glebe.

²⁶ Calendar year plantings.

²⁷ Includes World Environment Day, National Tree Day and other environmental events.

Flora and fauna of the Pymont peninsula²⁸

The City of Sydney recently funded a detailed ecological investigation of the Pymont Peninsula through its Environmental Grants Program. The results show significant ecological impacts since European arrival. However, the report recommends ways to improve this situation, which the City is investigating.

| | 1788 | 2008 | Trend |
|----------|------|------|-------|
| Flora | 750 | 15 | x |
| Mammals | 63 | 3 | x |
| Birds | 223 | 45 | x |
| Reptiles | 44 | 6 | x |
| Frogs | 23 | – | x |
| Total | 1103 | 69 | x |

²⁸ John Broadbent Sep 2008 – Ecology in the Pymont peninsula project funded by the City of Sydney Environmental Grants Program.

More details at: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment/plantsandanimals

Integrated strategies

Many of the City's environmental programs target more than one area and seek to reduce a range of environmental impacts.

Our targets and actions so far...

The City of Sydney's environmental management plan establishes an ambitious environmental vision and specific targets for Council and the local government area.

In June 2008, a total of 46 out of 53 environmental actions have been initiated in the areas of:

- Energy and emissions
- Water
- Waste
- Plants and animals
- Integrated strategies to achieve improvements in a number of areas

For a list of actions, their current status, the environmental management plan and a summary of the City of Sydney's ambitious environmental targets, visit: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/EMP

Green roofs

The City of Sydney has provided funding to Pymont Progress Incorporated to establish a model process to retrofit sustainable green roofs to existing multi-storey apartment buildings.

GreenLeaders Business Program

The City of Sydney has recognised the need for small to medium businesses to be more responsible for their impact on the environment and in response has launched GreenLeaders, a sustainability program. In 2008, the GreenLeaders program reached its capacity with 150 businesses committed to improving their environmental performance.

CitySwitch

CitySwitch Green Office is a national tenant energy management program run in partnership with the cities of North Sydney, Parramatta, Willoughby, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane and state government agencies. To date, 69 high profile organisations covering more than 750,000 sqm of commercial office space have committed to the program.

Environmental management plan

Find out more at: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment

City projects

Surry Hills Community Centre

Construction has commenced on the new Surry Hills Community Centre using recycled and sustainable materials, water tanks, solar panels, efficient and natural lighting and a rooftop garden. Key learnings will be shared with the Green Building Council of Australia to assist in the development of a community facilities sustainability rating tool.

Sustainable Sydney 2030

Sustainable Sydney 2030 is the culmination of the most comprehensive consultation ever undertaken on the future of our city. Throughout 2007/08, people told us they want a city that is sustainable environmentally, socially and culturally. Ninety-seven per cent of people told us that they want the City to address global warming. Sustainable Sydney 2030 maps out how we can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of a holistic approach to planning Sydney's future.

Broad consultation was also carried out to find out what our residents need to 'live green'. In response, we are developing a Residential Environmental Action Strategy with targeted, locally focused environmental education programs linking residents to products, services and incentives to make more sustainable choices.

CCCLM

The City is a member of the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM), a lobby group which actively campaigns to the Australian Government on a range of issues including sustainability, public transport and infrastructure. The City of Sydney will chair the CCCLM in 2009.

Local Action Plans

Local Action Plans (LAPs) for each of the city's eight villages continue to be implemented, including priority environmental projects. For more information go to www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/LAPS

Triple Bottom Line

The City of Sydney is one of eleven Australian councils to participate in the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Capacity Building Program run by ICLEI to incorporate economic prosperity, environmental quality and social justice into its reporting and accountability systems.

Education

The City regularly promotes environmental messages through our events. These include the sustainability-focused Earth Hour and Live Green festival, educational publications, localised campaigns on issues such as GreenPower, and activities supporting the City's many environmental programs.

The City's community facilities also continue to promote environmental awareness through themed excursions, displays and education sessions.

Many of the City's planners, project staff and strategic planning staff have undergone training in the use of the Green Star sustainability rating tool, developed by the Green Building Council of Australia.

Staff have been briefed on work undertaken by the Sydney Coastal Councils Group and CSIRO to determine the City's vulnerability to climate change.

The City's own environmental working group is also working to improve Council's capacity to deliver and communicate the organisation's environmental projects. Endorsed by the CEO, the group consists of senior staff from all areas of Council creating environmental impacts.

In 2006/07, the City signed a memorandum of understanding with Marrickville Council to fund The Watershed Sustainability Resource Centre for a further three years. The Watershed reaches thousands of people each year through its drop in centre and free education programs.

More information at: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment

Awards

The City received runner up in the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards 2007 and was a finalist in the 2007 Banksia Environmental Awards 2007 for the CitySwitch Green Office program.

Environmental grants program

The City's Environmental Grants Program continued to provide funding to community groups to undertake environmental improvement and awareness programs.

2007/08 projects include: Grime Scene Investigation in Blackwattle Bay, Green roof retrofit design manual, HarbourKeepers in the City, NatureKeepers BioBlitz 2008, stage three of the Pyrmont Urban Wildlife Corridor, Waterloo Recycling Project unleash the potential.

Environmental partnerships and memberships

The City maintained environmental memberships and/or collaborated on environmental projects with more than 25 environmental organisations and government departments.

- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Clean Up Australia
- Cooks River Foreshore Working Group
- Environment Business Australia
- ENVIRONS Australia
- Green Building Council of Australia
- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
- Institute for Sustainable Futures
- Keep Australia Beautiful
- Nature Conservation Council of NSW
- NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
- NSW Department of Water and Energy
- Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre
- Planet Ark
- Pyrmont Ultimo Landcare
- Rozelle Bay Community Native Nursery
- Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils
- Streamwatch
- Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Service
- Sydney Water Corporation
- The Sydney Coastal Councils Group
- The Watershed
- Total Environment Centre (Green Capital)
- WWF Australia

Land and noise

Land

Find out more at: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment/land

The City seeks to manage land in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, addressing land contamination through the City's Contaminated Land Development Control Plan and developing an Ecologically Sustainable Design Development Control Plan to influence urban form through planning processes.

Noise

Find out more at: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/residents/noise

The City prevents and regulates noise through planning controls and reports of noise incidents. With the exception of construction activities, the City limits neighbourhood noise from most sources to a maximum of five decibels above background levels.

Demographics

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Residents | 146,540 | 155,559 | 160,090 | 161,800 | 168,400 |
| Workers (per day) | 350,000 | 367,544 | 369,043 | 375,000 | 385,000 |
| Visitors (per day) | 450,000 | 475,000 | 475,000 | 475,000 | 475,000 |
| Visitors (total nights) | 8,732,100 | 9,000,000 | 9,039,900 | 9,462,800 | 9,507,600 |
| City of Sydney employees | 1,479 | 1,485 | 1,509 | 1,601 | 1,602 |

Built form

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Households (dwellings) | 84,123 | 87,506 | 90,597 | 93,965 | 97,907 |
| Completed development (sqm) | | | | | |
| Commercial | 85,276 | 150,859 | 246,825 | 107,404 | 333,372 |
| Residential | 4,812 | 3,706 | 2,558 | 3,368 | 3,942 |

Cultural heritage

Within the City of Sydney, our cultural heritage is defined by the lives of our people including Indigenous Australians, people born within Australian and those born overseas who now share in and contribute to our rich and diverse culture. During 2007/08, the City continued efforts to conserve the history of the LGA and embrace, promote, and celebrate our cultural heritage. In 2007/08:

- the City continued to consult and work with Sydney's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) communities and achieved a significant improvement in the working relationships between the greater community, Indigenous community organisations and Council
- Council endorsed the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel to engage our local ATSI communities. The ATSI Advisory Panel will assist the City in working towards the delivery of landmark 2030 initiatives such as the Indigenous Cultural Knowledge Centre and the Eora Journey
- local children aged between 5 and 22 were supplied disposable cameras to capture emotions of Sorry Day on 13 February 2008 and the photos were exhibited in Redfern Community Centre during the Reconciliation Week
- The waste education team have fostered an ongoing collaboration and dialogue with the Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project (DECC and ECC) on a broad range of projects, and have contracted their bilingual educators to provide educational services at numerous events and workshops including:
 - Live Green festival
 - Urban Sustainability workshops
 - World Tower recycling project
 - Clean Green Chinatown

History

The City's History Program is nationally and internationally recognised for its depth, rigorous research and commitment to ensuring all members of the community have the opportunity to access information on the LGA's history. In 2007/08 the City's history programs included:

- Staging of Heritage Week and History Week celebrations

- Completion and launch of "Sydney Town Hall and its collection"
- Publication of a precinct history of Glebe and reprints of Surry Hills and Chippendale precinct histories
- Completion of history walks for Ultimo and Oxford Street
- Launch of oral history collection online
- On-going development of the Dictionary of Sydney at www.dictionaryofsydney.org
- Public lectures, talks and presentations by the City Historian and the Research Historian. A number of presentations were made to conference groups, students, history groups and the general public.
- Support for publications through the History Publication Sponsorship Program

Heritage

During 2007/08 the City has continued reviewing its heritage conservation planning controls, heritage items and conservation areas, ahead of the consolidated local Environment Plan, Development Control Plan and City Plan.

A number of studies have now been completed and reported to Council, including:

- Heritage Streetscapes Study
- Heritage Conservation Areas
- Glebe Conservation Area Study
- Millers Point and Walsh Bay Heritage Review
- Rosebery Heritage Studies

In January 2008 a heritage assessment of Juanita Nielsen's House in Victoria Street, Potts Point concluded that it was of high local historical and social significance. This heritage assessment will be taken into consideration in preparing a new heritage item list for the City Plan.

Information on Heritage Inventory within the LGA is available via the NSW Heritage Office at: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au Heritage Conservation Area Maps are also available on the City's website at: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Development/HeritageInformation/HeritageConservationAreaMaps

