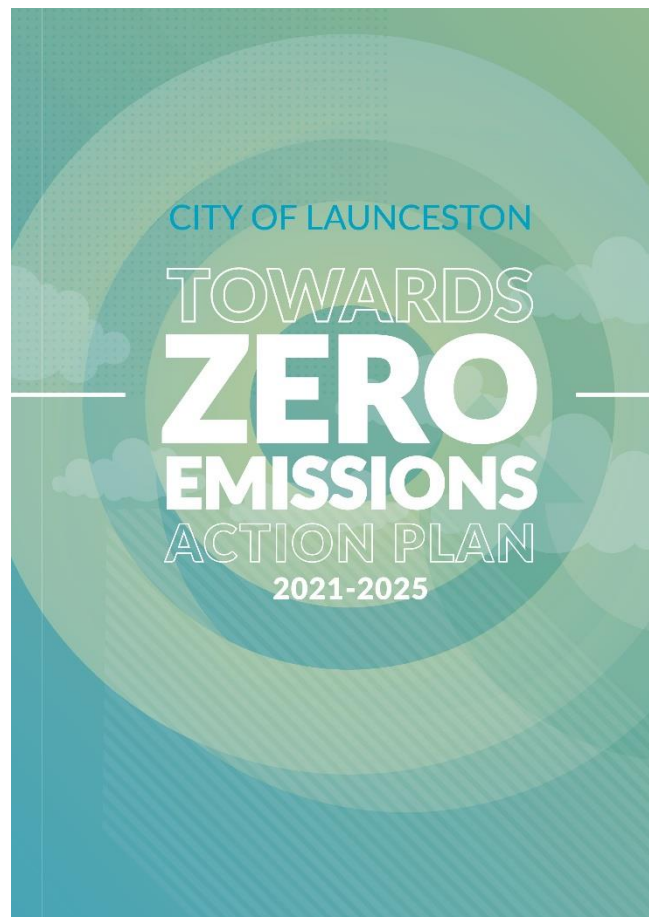
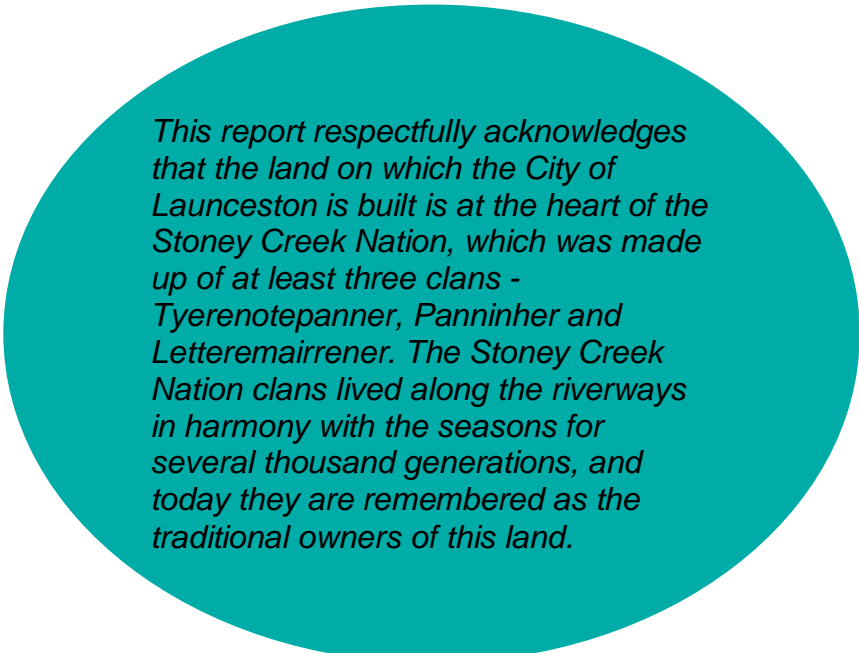


City of Launceston Towards Zero Emissions Action Plan Progress Report July 2022



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This report respectfully acknowledges that the land on which the City of Launceston is built is at the heart of the Stoney Creek Nation, which was made up of at least three clans - Tyerenotepanner, Panninher and Letteremairrener. The Stoney Creek Nation clans lived along the riverways in harmony with the seasons for several thousand generations, and today they are remembered as the traditional owners of this land.

Introduction

In 2021, City of Launceston released the ***Towards Zero Emissions Action Plan*** in response to Council's formal acknowledgement of a global climate emergency, and as a plan to achieve carbon neutrality for all operations and source 100% renewable energy for all Council owned buildings by 2025. The Towards Zero Emissions Action Plan sets out how the City of Launceston will achieve our targets by 2025 while playing our role to help meet the Paris Agreement 2015 objective to avoid a global average temperature rise of 2°C by 2050 and to pursue efforts to limit rising to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The City of Launceston Sustainability team is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Towards Zero Emissions Action Plan and reporting on progress. The Sustainability team implements the Action Plan in collaboration with all internal teams at the City of Launceston, as well as relevant industry, business and community groups.

Each year, City of Launceston will report on the progress towards the implementation of the Action Plan. This is the first progress report which shows progress made from July 2021 to June 2022. This Report will employ an independent framework for recording results, in a style similar to that used by the Tasmanian Government for Climate Action 21 annual Report Cards.



Photo: Ariana Magini





1. Leadership, Transparency and Tracking



This key area aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Monitor and track Council's emissions profile and progress in reducing emissions
- Build state wide capacity for local government climate mitigation actions
- Embed climate action in all decision making
- Determine the effectiveness of emission reduction actions and identify opportunities for improvement.

The Sustainable Development Goals that this key area contributes to include:



Action	Timeframe	Cost	Commentary (2022)	Status
1.1 Calculate Council's annual emissions from operations from each financial year	Short term / ongoing	\$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020FY and 2021FY completed and verified by GHD, including summary report complete. • 2022FY in progress 	 Ongoing
1.2 Improve data capture and quality across all emissions scopes	Short term / ongoing	\$	Additional sources added to reporting in 2019/20 (taxi travel Scope 3, T&D losses from fuel use Scope 3)	 Ongoing
1.3 Develop and implement a climate action program to support staff to undertake climate action as part of their own role	Moderate term	\$	A Virtual Team has been developed to design a training package for City of Launceston staff which will include a climate action program	 In progress
1.4 Register and report to the Clean Energy Regulator in line with the NGER Scheme - Report to CER for each FY	Short term / ongoing	\$	A client account was set up, however, CER responded and informed us not to report landfill emissions to NGER	 Discontinued

1.5a Develop a framework to track emission reduction actions and provide publicly-available updates on the progress of actions - develop framework	Short term / ongoing	\$	Framework developed	 Achieved
1.5b Develop a framework to track emission reduction actions and provide publicly-available updates on the progress of actions - report on progress	Short term / ongoing	\$	Progress tracking for actions to take place quarterly and reported in September (reporting month TBC)	 Ongoing

2. Waste Avoidance and Recovery





This key area aims to achieve the following objectives:







- Avoid and reduce waste sent to landfill
- Improve capacity and efficiencies in landfill gas capture
- Improve data capture and management to identify waste and emission reduction opportunities and track progress
- Identify and support further actions that reduce emissions.
- Transition out of landfilling by 2050.

The Sustainable Development Goals that this key area contributes to include:

Sustainable Development Goals



Action	Timeframe	Cost	Commentary (2022)	Status
2.1 Coordinate the increase gas capture capacity and efficiencies in the existing landfill gas extraction system	Short term / ongoing	\$	LMS advised in May that the new cell will be tapped in about 6 months	 In progress
2.2 Promote commercial FOGO services for organisations generating large volumes of organic waste e.g. supermarkets, restaurants, hospitals, hotels, retirement homes, schools, Launceston airport	Short to moderate term / ongoing	\$	In discussions with several organisations including Verge Hotel, Launceston Country Club, Launceston Airport and local Coles stores	 In progress
2.3 Continue to expand kerbside FOGO collection services to cover entire Local Government Authority boundary	Long term	\$\$	FOGO map is being extended to include the entire municipality, so all Launceston residents can have a FOGO service, though this isn't being promoted yet	 In progress
2.4 Advocate and assist other Councils utilising the Launceston landfill to implement a kerbside FOGO collection service	Moderate to long term / ongoing	\$	Meander Valley Council will implement a kerbside FOGO collection service from July 1	 In progress

2.5 Invest in expanding the composting facility to cater for increases in materials	Moderate term	\$\$\$\$	FOGO receiving area upgraded OPF has procured its own compost trommel which will enable for increased capacity to screen own product and provide efficiencies and cost savings	 In progress
2.6 Upgrade Council's main buildings to include best practice waste collection systems, including FOGO	Long term	\$\$\$	Plans in place for Town Hall waste collection upgrade, bins have been procured, just waiting on the construction of the end-of-trip facility	 In progress
2.7 Promote waste avoidance and resource efficiencies to employees through internal education and awareness programs	Short to moderate term / ongoing	\$	Waiting for the construction of the new end-of-trip facility to commence the program. In the meantime, other internal education includes the electronic signature procedure to reduce printing wasted paper	 Behind
2.8 Establish a construction and demolition recovery facility	Long term	\$\$\$\$	Business case to be completed in 2022-23. Also waiting on State Government to advise of future plans for funding availability	 Behind
2.9 Investigate opportunities to utilise low embodied emission materials for Council construction works, including the construction of assets, asset upgrades and maintenance works	Short term / ongoing	\$ - \$	Participated in several information sessions about sustainable materials, and gathered many resources. Considerations have also been included in the drafted new procurement policy, as well as some bespoke tender specifications	 In progress
2.10 Commence scoping a phasing out of landfill transition plan	Long term	\$\$	Due to commence January 2025	 Not yet commenced





3. Efficient Facilities





This key area aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Reduce energy and water consumption and increase efficiencies
- Maximise opportunities and switch to renewable energy sources, generation and storage
- Improve data capture and management to identify energy, water and emission reduction opportunities and track progress
- Apply ESD principles in planning, design, and fit outs
- Identify and support further actions that reduce emissions.

The Sustainable Development Goals and Cities Power Partnership pledge that this key area contributes to include:



Action	Timeframe	Cost	Commentary (2022)	Status
3.1 Transition gas powered facilities to electrification	Long term / ongoing	\$\$\$\$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launceston Aquatic Centre successfully transitioned off gas in August 2021 • Discussions are underway for QVMAG Royal Park gas boiler transition • Discussions are underway for Carr Villa gas burner transition • No new projects have installed gas • UTAS Stadium has gas showers, however, this asset is due to be handed over in 2022-23 	 In progress
3.2 Undertake a desktop audit of Council's high energy and water consuming facilities to identify energy and water saving opportunities	Short term	\$	Desktop energy audit has commenced (NABERs rating to be completed), water yet to be commenced	 Behind

3.3 Adopt an energy management system (software) for monitoring and managing usage and consumption data that assists with regular emissions reporting	Short to moderate term	\$\$ - \$\$\$	Trialling Energy Detective platform for electricity use. Version 2.0 installed in June	 Nearing completion
3.4 Install a building management system (BMS) at Council's high energy consuming facilities	Moderate to long term	\$\$\$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BMS installed at Launceston Aquatic Centre; QVMAG x 2; Town Hall & Annex; Princess Theatre; UTAS; and Macquarie House QVMAG Royal Park and UTAS being upgraded 	 In progress
3.5 Continue upgrading Council facilities to increase energy efficiencies e.g. efficient HVAC systems, adequate insulation and ventilation, window glazing, high efficiency LED lighting and de-lamping etc.	Moderate to long term / ongoing	\$\$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HVAC assessment in progress at Town Hall; energy system upgraded at Launceston Aquatic Centre; smart meters being installed at QVMAG and Town Hall; QVMAG and UTAS stadium BMS to be upgraded 	 In progress
3.6 Transition building, plant and equipment to electrification and renewable power where feasible, while investigating further opportunities for savings	Long term / ongoing	\$\$\$\$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 sites finished installation of new solar in June 2022 - QVMAG Royal Park, Town Hall, Annexe, and Princess Theatre. There is potential for more funding to roll out further solar across community facilities in 2023 	 In progress

3.7 Develop and implement an Environmental Sustainable Buildings Policy for Council owned buildings e.g. all buildings built to a minimum rating system (Green Star, NABERS etc.), minimum renewable energy requirements, adequate building and window orientation, adequate insulation and ventilation, energy efficient lighting and appliances, rain capture systems, water efficient fittings, minimum recycled material content, maximum car park spaces, minimum greenspace allocation, vegetation increase/retainment etc.

Moderate
to long
term

\$-\$\$

Policy not yet drafted (due to commence July 2022). However, ESD principles are being implemented into the procurement process on a case-by-case basis.



Not yet commenced

3.8 Conduct Council employee and lease holder training and behaviour change programs to ensure facilities and equipment are operated efficiently

Short to
moderate
term

\$

There are plans for this to be included in the staff education and awareness training to be scoped by the established Virtual Team.



Behind















Photo: Tristan Stroud



4. Zero Emissions Transport and Plant



This key area aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Avoid and reduce the use of fossil fuel transport and plant
- Maximise opportunities and switch to low to zero emissions fleet and plant
- Improve data capture and management to identify fuel and emission reduction opportunities and track progress
- Identify and support further actions that reduce emissions.

The Sustainable Development Goals and Cities Power Partnership pledge that this key area contributes to include:

Sustainable Development Goals				Cities Power Partnership		
 7.  9.  11.  12.  13.  16.  17.				 1.  2.  3.		
Action	Timeframe	Cost	Commentary (2022)	Status		
4.1 Continue fuel efficiency and electrification adoption of Council's light vehicle fleet	Short term / ongoing	\$\$\$\$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An audit of current fleet vehicles determined that 85% of vehicles meet the new vehicle fuel efficiency target of 6L/100km and a maximum tailpipe emission standard of 130g CO₂e/km. This is being monitored to achieve 100%. • Opportunities for EV fleet transition are being pursued, including grant opportunities 	 In progress		
4.2 Progressively replace end of life petrol and diesel fuelled plant and equipment with electric and battery operated options, where available and when suitable for the task required	Long term / ongoing	\$\$\$\$	Several electric tools have been purchased. Further applications are being investigated.	 In progress		

4.3 Develop and implement a sustainable fleet guideline, including a fuel consumption rate of 6L/100km and a maximum tailpipe emission standard of 130g CO ₂ /km for all new light vehicles	Moderate term	\$\$\$\$	Due to commence in August 2022.		Not yet commenced
4.4 Investigate and trial alternative transport options for work travel e.g. introduction of e-bikes and e-scooters to Council's fleet	Short to moderate term	\$-\$	This action is behind due to delays in the construction of the end-of-trip facility. However, progress is being made by the e-bike working committee on the potential for the supply of public e-bikes and the free or discounted use of the e-bikes and e-scooters by Council staff		Behind
4.5 Investigate and roll out new technology in renewable energy operated plant and equipment, where feasible e.g. renewable hydrogen powered trucks, electric street sweepers	Moderate to long term / ongoing	\$-\$	Due to commence in August 2022		Not yet commenced
4.6 Construct an end-of-trip facility for Council employees at Town Hall to encourage an increased uptake of active transport to and from work. Promote the facility to the public to encourage other organisations to follow suit	Short to moderate term	\$\$\$	Designs completed in 2021, but delays to original delivery dates due to the unavailability of builder's return tender prices. New construction start date expected to be in Q3 2022		Behind

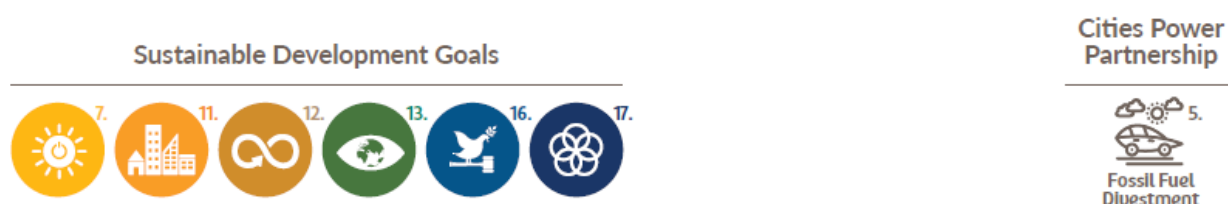
4.7 Develop a policy to offset air travel emissions	Short term	\$ - \$\$	Action has been discontinued. After further investigation and engagement with other Councils, recommended best practice is to offset all of Council's emissions at one source e.g. when purchasing carbon offsets. Airline offsets are thought to be unverified and untrustworthy. Also having one solo data point for offsets is much more efficient and less room for error. It also enables the City to choose which offsets they purchase, rather than relying on the airlines default option.		Discontinued
4.8 Set long term and interim targets for the increase in renewable energy powered fleet and plant equipment	Moderate to long term	\$	Due to commence in August 2022. The aim is to set a realistic target by 2023/24 once more complete data is collated and more market ready and affordable technology is available		Not yet commenced

5. Sustainable Supply Chain




This key area aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Procure goods and services within a framework that considers emissions reductions targets
- Improve data capture and management to identify emission reduction opportunities and track progress
- Identify and support further actions for emissions reduction in Council's supply chain.

The Sustainable Development Goals and Cities Power Partnership pledge that this key area contributes to include:



Action	Timeframe	Cost	Commentary (2022)	Status
5.1 Update Council's procurement policy and strategy to ensure goods and services purchased by Council meet criteria for environmental, social and governance responsibility	Short to moderate term	\$	Draft procurement policy taken to Executive Leadership Team (ELT), but further adjustments were requested before it can proceed to workshop and Council	← Behind
5.2 Undertake a snapshot audit of Council's supply chain to determine opportunities for emissions reductions and work with suppliers on developing and implementing emissions reduction actions	Moderate term	\$	Due to commence August 2022	📅 Not yet commenced

<p>5.3 Communicate with Council's supply chain on our goals to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025, include sustainable procurement awareness in Council's induction program for suppliers, and encourage transparency from suppliers on their emissions profile and the actions they are implementing to reduce emissions</p>	Short term / ongoing	\$	<p>There are plans for this to be included in the staff education and awareness training to be scoped by the established Virtual Team.</p>	 Behind
<p>5.4 Explore assigning sustainability weighting / evaluation criteria in tender evaluations to encourage the procurement of zero-low emissions goods and services</p>	Short term	\$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability weighting has been included in several tenders in 2021 and 2022, on a case-by-case basis • System for monitoring tender weightings yet to be established 	 In progress
<p>5.5 Continue the divestment from all direct fossil fuel aligned investments and further explore the divestment from indirect fossil fuel aligned activities e.g. banking and superannuation</p>	Ongoing	\$ - \$\$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fossil fuel investments have occurred. • Banking and super to be explored, due to commence in August 2022 	 Not yet commenced

6. Carbon Sequestration and Offsets



This key area aims to achieve the following objectives:




- Support the capture and storage of emissions
- Explore the capture and storage of emissions that provide co-benefits for the community and environment
- Improve data capture and management of carbon sequestration.

The Sustainable Development Goals and Cities Power Partnership pledge that this key area contributes to include:

Sustainable Development Goals



Action	Timeframe	Cost	Commentary (2022)	Status
6.1 Develop and implement an Urban Forestry Plan to retain and increase canopy cover across Council land	Moderate to long term	\$-\$\$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several consultation workshops have taken place including six for community groups and one internal council consultation • The first draft of the Urban Forestry Strategy has been completed and is expected to be finalised by end of August 2022 • An implementation strategy is being drafted 	 In progress
6.2 Assess vegetation management practices to optimise soil and plant health and carbon sequestration e.g. species selection and watering schedules adapted to future climate projections, the use of pesticides and fertilizers and the impact to soil and plant growth	Moderate term	\$	Due to commence August 2022	 Not yet commenced

6.3 Review all policy and strategy documentation relevant to flora to ensure the impacts of climate change have been considered in future planning and works e.g. species tolerant to increased temperatures, extended dry periods, and high intensity rainfall events, species with higher sequestration rates, species that provide greater shade	Moderate term	\$	Due to commence August 2022	 Not yet commenced
6.4 Investigate the technology available to assess Council's carbon sinks and sequestration capacity	Moderate term	\$\$	Due to commence in August 2022	 Not yet commenced
6.5 Investigate carbon offset options for Council to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025	Short term / ongoing	\$\$\$	External consultant commissioned to conduct a carbon offsets scoping study in July 2022	 In progress







7. Community Emissions






This key area aims to achieve the following objectives:



- Build education and awareness of climate change impacts and mitigation at a local scale
- Support the community to reduce emissions
- Improve data capture and management to identify emission reduction opportunities and track progress.

The Sustainable Development Goals and Cities Power Partnership pledge that this key area contributes to include:

Sustainable Development Goals					Cities Power Partnership	
<div><div><div>3.</div><div></div></div><div><div>6.</div><div></div></div><div><div>7.</div><div></div></div><div><div>12.</div><div></div></div><div><div>13.</div><div></div></div><div><div>15.</div><div></div></div><div><div>16.</div><div></div></div><div><div>17.</div><div></div></div></div>					<div><div><div>2.</div><div></div><div>Sustainable Transport</div></div><div><div>3.</div><div></div><div>Renewables</div></div></div>	
Action	Timeframe	Cost	Commentary (2022)	Status		
7.1 Further develop the Towards Zero Emissions - Community Action Plan through further community and stakeholder engagement	Short to moderate term	-	Due to commence in 2022-23 after community consultation to develop action timeframes and details	<div><div></div><div>Not yet commenced</div></div>		
7.2 Complete an annual emissions audit for community emissions	Short term / ongoing	\$	<div><div>• 2018-19 audit complete</div><div>• 2019-20 audit in progress</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>In progress</div></div>		
7.3 Set emission reduction targets for community emissions	Moderate term	-	Due to commence in 2022-23 after community consultation to develop action timeframes and details	<div><div></div><div>Not yet commenced</div></div>		
7.4 Improve data capture and quality of community emissions	Short term / ongoing	\$	TasNetwork data provides a significant increase in accuracy	<div><div></div><div>In progress</div></div>		
7.5 Lobby State Government via the review of the Climate Change Act for a harmonised and standardised approach for Councils to develop a community emission inventory	Short to moderate term	\$	Participated in a workshop and provided input into LGAT's submission	<div><div></div><div>Achieved</div></div>		

7.6 In partnership with key stakeholders, develop and promote communication tools to educate the community on climate change and climate mitigation actions that can be undertaken in homes and businesses to reduce emissions and improve the use of natural resources	Moderate term / ongoing	\$\$	Project completed in partnership with UTAS Climate Futures. Internal communications refining content to publish online	 Achieved
7.7 Promote any upcoming state and federal grant funding to the community to stimulate locally driven emissions reduction actions	Short term / ongoing	\$	Grants to be promoted at the two Sustainable Business Forum events	 In progress
7.8 Promote commercial sector accomplishments in emissions reductions	Moderate to long term	\$	Businesses promoted at the 2021 Sustainable Living Festival, Sustainable Business Awards and 2022 Sustainable Business Forum events	 In progress
7.9 Support schools and businesses in the delivery of emissions reduction initiatives e.g. ClimateClever	Short to moderate term	\$	Several schools and businesses have signed up to use ClimateClever, supported and promoted by the Council	 In progress
7.10 In line with the Launceston Transport Strategy, support the roll out of sustainable and active transport infrastructure by industry and state government to increase zero emissions mobility uptake in the community	Short to long term	-	Due to commence in 2022-23 after community consultation to develop action timeframes and details	 Not yet commenced
7.11 In line with the Launceston Transport Strategy, develop and implement a public car-parking strategy that promotes sustainable transport modes over driving	Short to moderate term	-	The Launceston Transport Strategy four year work plan includes Parking Implementation Plans in central Launceston, South Launceston and Invermay	 In progress

7.12 In line with the Launceston Transport Strategy, develop and implement a parking monitoring and optimisation plan to support improved traffic flow around the CBD and reduce driving distances e.g. dynamic signage, wayfinding and car park monitoring	Short to moderate term	-	Due to commence in 2022-23 after community consultation to develop action timeframes and details	 Not yet commenced
7.13 In line with the Launceston Transport Strategy, provide the resources for the community to independently establish, monitor and implement their own travel plans	Short to moderate term	-	Due to commence in 2022-23 after community consultation to develop action timeframes and details	 Not yet commenced
7.14 Lobby State and Federal Governments to increase sustainable transport outcomes including the introduction of rigorous minimum vehicle emissions standards; incentives for low and zero emission vehicles; change in legislation to support e-scooters; and the provision of funding for sustainable transport infrastructure	Short to moderate term	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to commence in 2022-23 after community consultation to develop action timeframes and details Lobbying completed for change in legislation to support e-scooters 	 In progress
7.15 Lobby State Government to transition to a zero-emission bus fleet	Short to moderate term	-	Due to commence in 2022-23 after community consultation to develop action timeframes and details	 Not yet commenced
7.16 Develop guidance documentation for applying Environmental Sustainable Development (ESD) principles in the planning and design of buildings	Moderate term	-	Due to commence in 2022-23 after community consultation to develop action timeframes and details	 Not yet commenced

7.17 Pilot an annual tree provision for Launceston residents, to increase canopy cover, sequester carbon and provide community participation in climate action	Short to moderate term	-	Due to commence in 2022-23 after community consultation to develop action timeframes and details		Not yet commenced
7.18 Lobby State and Federal Governments to increase resource optimisation and recovery and circular economy opportunities including the introduction of a state waste levy and container refund scheme; include circular economy principles in Government purchasing policies; mandating a product packaging and labelling scheme to promote the use of recycled materials and product recyclability; and prioritising a response and solution to the national recycling crisis	Short to moderate term	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to commence in 2022-23 after community consultation to develop action timeframes and details • Lobbying completed for State waste levy and container refund scheme 		In progress

Case Study

Launceston Leisure & Aquatic Centre transitioned off gas

A key step in moving City of Launceston towards zero emissions is Action 3.1 of transitioning gas powered facilities to electrification. City of Launceston made a large step in that direction in the second half of 2021, successfully transitioning the Launceston Leisure & Aquatic Centre (Council's largest energy-consuming facility), off gas.

What was the project?

In response to Council's Climate Emergency Declaration (2019), forecast increases in energy prices, and the opportunity to improve heating efficiency; the Centre converted its primary heating fuel from natural gas to electricity. The Centre's conversion from natural gas to near-100 per cent renewable energy capitalises on Launceston's unique climate and geography which allow it to generate renewable hydroelectric electricity at power plants including the Trevallyn Power Station.

The works included the installation of a rooftop 99kW solar array, CO2 domestic hot water heat pump, and two high-efficiency heat pumps for Centre heating. Now operational for 12 months, the Centre has achieved significant financial and environment goals.

What were the results?

The benefits of this project have improved the environmental and financial sustainability of the City of Launceston, and showcased our commitment to carbon emission reduction. The project reduced the Council's emissions footprint by approximately 1,400-1,600 tCO₂-e, as well as reducing energy expenditure by \$200,000, with a projected net savings of \$650,000 over the following 12 month period. Furthermore, the project facilitated the employment of local contractors to maintain plant and equipment, whereas previously required interstate specialists.



*The two new 600kW heat pumps.
Photo: Marcus Grantham*



List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

BMS	Building Management System
CER	Clean Energy Regulator
ELT	Executive Leadership Team
ESD	Environmental Sustainable Design/ Development
EV	Electric Vehicle
FOGO	Food Organics and Garden Organics
FY	Financial Year
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
NABERS	National Australian Built Environment Rating System
NGER	The National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting
QVMAG	The Queen Victorian Museum and Art Gallery
UTAS	The University of Tasmania
TBC	To Be Confirmed
T&D	Transmission and Distribution Losses