

Sustainability Scorecard

2017-18

Acknowledgements

This report was compiled by Hobsons Bay City Council's Strategy and Advocacy department. For further information contact Hobsons Bay City Council on 9932 1000 www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Council acknowledges all language groups of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of these municipal lands. We recognise the first people's relationship to this land and offer our respect to their elders past and present.

Council acknowledges the legal responsibility to comply with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*. The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is designed to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. The Charter gives legal protection to 20 fundamental human rights under four key values that include freedom, respect, equality and dignity.

Executive Summary

Sustainability reporting is Council's opportunity to highlight progress on actions that address climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, water use and waste generation and enhance recycling to the community. In 2011-12 Council commenced reporting to the community on its key environmental undertakings through the Sustainability Report.

This report documents Council's key environmental actions and measures progress for the financial year 2017-18. Trend data has been included for the previous eight years to measure greenhouse gas emissions, water use, and waste generation and recycling.

The 2017-18 financial year was a busy time for Hobsons Bay. Council installed a total of 193 solar panels on Council buildings, hosted over 400 events for the community on topics ranging from sustainable food production to reducing energy in your home, increased our unique biodiversity by planting more trees and shrubs, educated school kids on the key environmental issues impacting the region and provided Environmental Grants to the community valued at \$16,500.

Council paved the way for future sustainability outcomes through the following:

- an Australian first program that engaged and empowered high school students to address the region's environmental issues through a partnership with CSIRO
- adopted an Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy Statement (ESD) setting a benchmark for Council to achieve 6 Star Green Star ratings for all new buildings
- launched the Compost Revolution, a Council initiative that allowed Hobsons Bay residents to purchase compost bins, worm farms and bokashi buckets at significantly reduced prices
- installed 193 solar power panels on two Council buildings that reduced 104 tonnes of carbon emissions, the equivalent of planting 728 trees
- ran a Residential Solar Program that assisted 66 households saving 467 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions

Highlights for 2017/18

Showcasing Council's leadership role on environmental sustainability

Greening Hobsons Bay

- **36,579 tree seedlings and tubestock** were planted across the municipality
- **2,500 trees, shrubs and understory** planted on National Tree Planting Day in the Altona coastal park

Cutting emissions

- **Removed 164 houses' energy use per year** (1,150 tonnes of carbon emissions) by Council initiatives on Council buildings, local businesses and residential households

Saving water

- **Four and a half Olympic-sized pools** (11ML) of recycled water was used for irrigation instead of potable water
- **21 and a half Olympic-sized pools** (54ML) of stormwater harvested and used for irrigation

Reducing landfill

- **3,523 largest waste and recycling collection vehicles** (46 per cent of waste) diverted from landfill through recycling and green waste services
- **13 tonnes** of electronic waste recycled

Striving for Sustainability Excellence

Hobsons Bay is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change because of its coastal location and unique biodiversity. Council is responding to this by working with the community to create a more resilient and sustainable Hobsons Bay while protecting and improving our biodiversity.

Council's commitment to sustainability is reflected in the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision and Council Plan 17-21 goals. In addition, Council has a long-standing commitment to the environment through the Hobsons Bay Biodiversity Strategy 2017-22 and Climate Change Policy 2013. To monitor and report on Council's sustainability agenda, each year since 2011 Council has developed an Environmental Sustainability Report. This year we have changed the format to provide a clear and simple message to our community on progress against our goals through this Sustainability Scorecard.

This Sustainability Scorecard provides an overview of the achievements and challenges Council faced in the 2017-18 financial year. Its purpose is to inform you, the community, about the sustainable projects, initiatives and events that Council.

Community initiatives and events

Council delivers a significant number of programs aimed at building the community's capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, reduce energy and water use, and enhance biodiversity. These programs support behavioural change outcomes aimed at promoting a low carbon future.

Highlights

In 2017-18, Council's key initiatives provided the following outcomes:

- more than 400 community members attended the World Environment Day Festival at Williamstown Town Hall on 3 June 2018
- more than 300 children participated in the Schools Environment Program
- \$16,500 was delivered through to nine community groups through the Environmental Grants program
- \$11,000 of grants for environmental programs were issued to six kindergartens
- 44 community members participated in eight workshops aimed at building resilience to climate change amongst our most vulnerable communities
- My Smart Garden increased community connections by encouraging interactions, food swapping, and sharing through 14 workshops
- two schools participated in the annual Witness King Tides program that explored issues relating to climate change and the coastal environment
- eight events were held at the EnviroCentre ranging from a discussion on zero waste living to understanding the best native edible plants to grow in the Melbourne region

Community Stories

My Smart Garden

My Smart Garden is a free program run jointly for residents of Hobsons Bay, Moonee Valley and Maribyrnong City Councils. The program promotes gardening as a technique to enhance climate change adaptation and to develop mitigation responses that reduce the use of natural resources. In 2017-18, the program had 2,248 residents participate across the

three municipalities. Hobsons Bay hosted 14 events with a total of 509 attendees. The program helps resident's produce healthy and delicious fruit and vegetables.

In 2018 the My Smart Garden program continued to help gardeners access the practical skills they need to make their gardens more sustainable and productive.

Permablitzes continue to be a highlight of the program. Workshops were held in South Kingsville and Williamstown to support the development of new productive food gardens through working bees that involve skill sharing. Through social interaction, the workshops increased community connectivity and helped build resilience through food swapping and knowledge sharing. These hands-on working opportunities provide volunteers with practical skills that can't be taught in a classroom as it is focussed on meeting local gardeners in a fun and social environment.

Quotes from Permablitz participants:

It's [Permablitz workshop] a fun day. It's a great day. We power[ed] through - I believe we achieve[d] a lot and learn[ed] a lot for the short time frame.

[I enjoyed] the camaraderie, the opportunity to learn, get a free work out, dirt under my finger nails and of course the amazing food. Plus I met a neighbour.

Future Leaders for Sustainability

Sixty secondary school students from across the municipality participated in the inaugural Hobsons Bay Future Leaders for Sustainability program in 2018. In an Australian-first, the CSIRO and Council worked in partnership with Altona P-9 College, Bayside P-12 College, Mt St Joseph's Girls College and Laverton P-12 College to implement the program, which tasked Year seven to nine students with finding Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics based solutions to local environmental problems.

The students from Laverton P-12 College based their projects on the health of the Laverton Creek. For many students, this was the first time they had gone down to the creek. From the success of the project, students wanted to continue improving the health of Laverton Creek and are in discussions with Council to organise a Clean Up Australia Day school's event to remove litter from the creek.

On 15 August, students provided an overview of their projects at a graduation event, where the Mayor presented each of them with a Bronze CSIRO Creativity in Research, Engineering, Science and Technology

award. All of the students reported that it gave them a sense of pride to be part of the project and attend the graduation event.

Quotes from Laverton P-12 students:

'It was good that we had to go out and do things ourselves instead of just doing experiments in a classroom,'

'I feel really connected and part of something bigger'

Environment Grants

The Environment Grants is an important program for local schools, communities and not-for-profit groups in Hobsons Bay. Groups can apply for grants up to \$2,000 for activities and projects that support Council's environmental objectives along with an awareness raising or educational element.

One group that gained an important benefit from the Environment Grants was local active conservation group, the Friends of Newport Lakes (FoNL). FoNL, with Council support and resources, have been working since their formation in 1997, to transform Newport Lakes to an important recreational area and habitat for native plants and animals.

FoNL applied for an Environment Grant and held a photographic competition to "encourage more people to come down to the Lakes and create community ownership of the Lakes." The grant funded the creation of a glossy booklet with 60 photographs of animals, plants and landscapes of Newport Lakes taken by local residents and enthusiastic amateur photographers.

Through the grant, the project created positive links with the Williamstown Camera Club, the Newport Community Hub staff and resulted in new memberships for FoNL.

Quote about the Environmental Grant:

"It encouraged a greater respect for our flora, fauna and landscapes as well as an increased awareness of our environment and how we all need to contribute to maintaining and sustaining this precious and finite reserve." -
2017 President of Friends of Newport Lake

Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Council is focussed on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from its operations and responding to its goal of zero net emissions by 2020. Council emissions are mostly generated from its buildings and fleet fuel use.

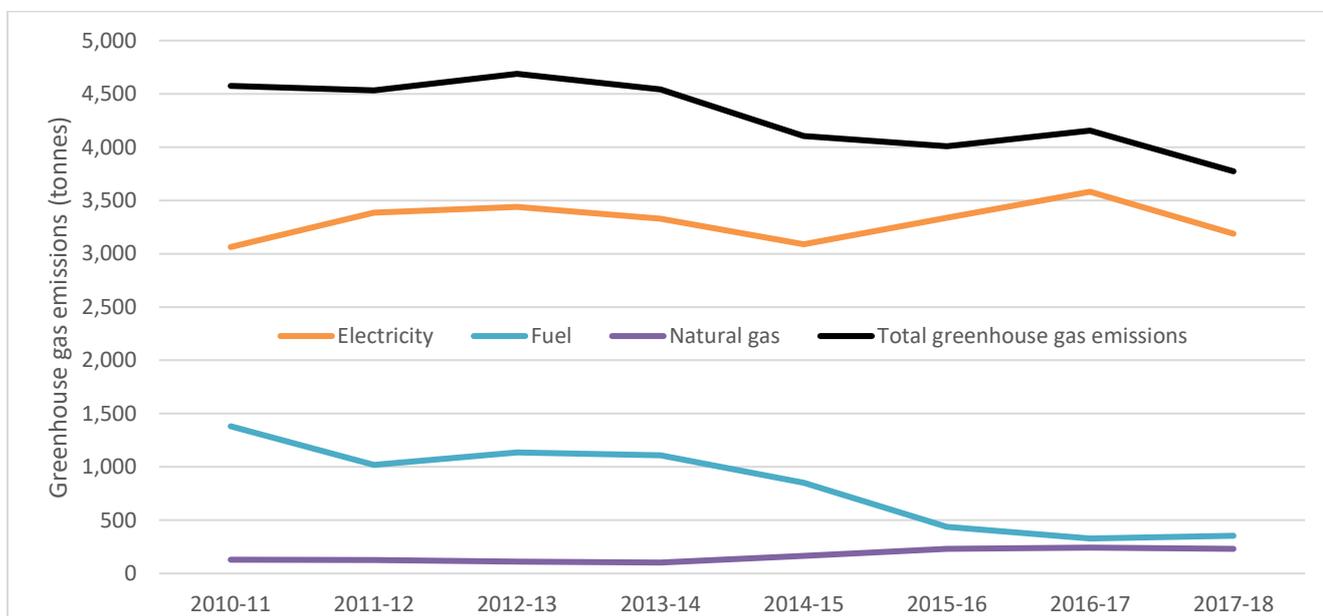
How is Council performing compared to last financial year?

↓ total emissions decreased more than nine percent

↓ natural gas emissions decreased by five per cent

↓ electricity emissions decreased by 11 per cent

↑ fuel emissions increased by 7.9 per cent



Hobsons Bay City Council total greenhouse gas emissions emitted from 2010-11 to 2017-18

Council's greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by 17.5 per cent since it was first reported in 2010-11. In 2017-18 Council installed solar panels on two buildings leading to a decrease in electricity. Also in 2017-18, Council's petrol and diesel use increased which aligned with the increase in fuel emissions.

Highlights

Solar PV installation program

Council installed a total of 193 solar power panels generating 68kW on two buildings - Laverton Community Hub and Newport Community Hub. This reduced Council emissions by 104 tonnes of carbon emissions, equivalent to 728 trees being planted.

Transitioning Council's vehicle fleet to more sustainable alternatives

In 2018, Council adopted the Electric Vehicle Discussion paper which commits Council to the trialling of battery electric vehicles for use in its car fleet and the associated installation of electric vehicle charging stations. Adoption of low emission vehicles will further reduce the emissions intensity of Council's fleet and lower the greenhouse gas emissions from fuel use.

Council offers Myki travel cards to staff to undertake business travel as an option to reduce car dependency. In 2017-18, Council staff took 887 public transport trips for work which is the equivalent to 16,144 km of car travel that was avoided. Council also purchased an electric bicycle in June 2018 to encourage staff to take active transport for shorter distant meetings and an electric tricycle for the Altona Library staff to transport books and resources between libraries.

Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Council has worked with local businesses and the community through a partnership model to help reduce community greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy\$mart program

The Energy\$mart program involves Council working with local businesses and community organisations to install energy efficient lighting and solar energy generation systems, to help save money, energy and reduce maintenance costs. In 2017-18 Council assisted eight businesses to reduce their energy costs through four solar installations and seven lighting upgrades. Through the program, businesses

↓ decreased 579 tonnes of carbon emissions

↓ decreased 494,637 kWh/year of energy

The Energy\$mart program in 2017-18 provided:

- \$104,618 cost savings for businesses
- \$275,733 investment in energy efficient and renewable energy technologies
- 744 solar panels installed (equates to 231kW of solar power)
- 1,122 lights replaced with efficient LED lamps
- Reduction in carbon emissions is equivalent to 4,053 trees being planted

Residential Solar Program

Council ran the Residential Solar Program which assisted 66 households to install a total solar capacity of 282kW. This equates to a greenhouse saving of 467 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per annum.

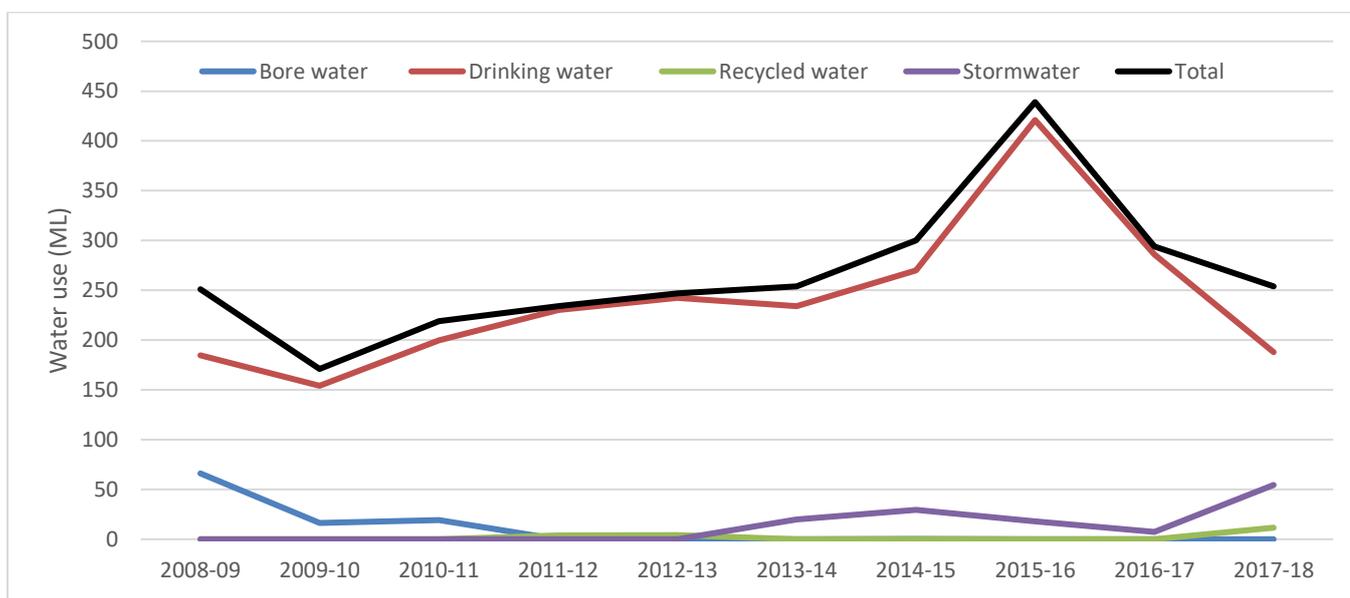
Water use

Council's water use consists of drinking (potable) water, bore water, recycled water, and stormwater. Council used approximately 254ML of water in its open spaces during 2017-18. Sports ovals used the bulk of water (204ML), whilst parks and reserves used 50ML.

How is Council performing compared to last financial year?

↓ overall water usage decreased by 40ML

↑ recycled/storm water usage increased by 88 per cent



Hobsons Bay City Council total water use 2010-11 to 2017-18

The steep reduction in potable water use since 2015-16 was due to several factors. The 2015-16 year was extremely hot and dry whilst the past two summers (2016-17 and 2017-18) have been mild and had higher rainfalls. Also, several of the storm water and recycled water projects were recommissioned during 2015-16 and have been operating for the past two summers which further reduced Council's use of potable water.

Highlights

Hobsons Bay Stormwater Harvesting Project

Starting in 2015, Council partnered with the Australian Government and City West Water, to showcase three stormwater harvesting projects that summer-proofed sporting facilities in Hobsons Bay while diverting water to other uses. Sporting grounds include Paisley Park, Altona North; Cyril Curtain Reserve Williamstown, and Laverton Park Reserve, Altona Meadows. In 2017-18, the project ended with a newly rectified Laverton stormwater harvesting system.

From this project, Council's stormwater usage increased:

- Cyril Curtain Reserve stormwater harvesting system diverted 5.6ML of stormwater which would otherwise have run into the Bay
- Paisley Park Stormwater Harvesting facility provided 25.2ML of water to the Paisley Park sporting precinct
- Laverton stormwater harvesting system diverted 23.7ML of water

Altona Green Project

Council teamed up with Altona Green Primary School to upgrade their existing school playground and sports facilities under the Altona Green Project. Council's recommissioned water storage tanks at Altona Green Primary School supplied 11.6ML of recycled water during 2017-18.

Waste and litter

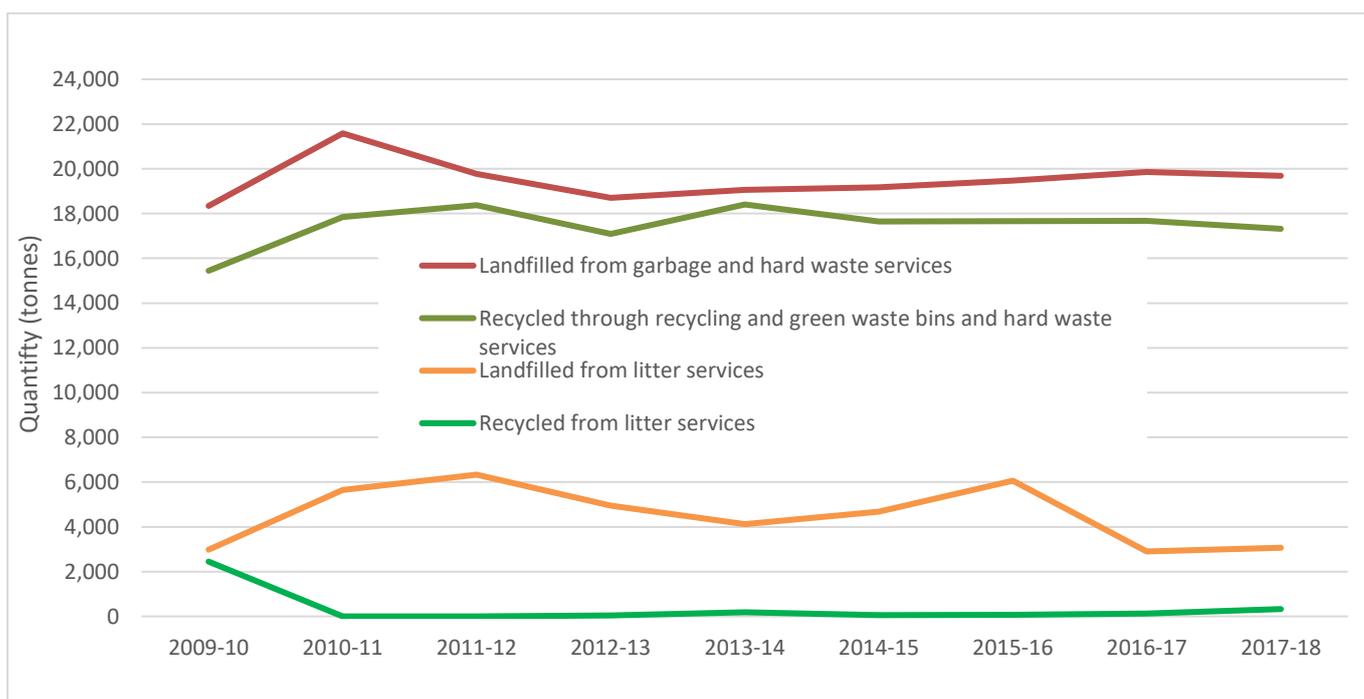
Council provides waste and litter services to its community via garbage, recycling, green and hard waste collection services for households, community organisations and businesses. Council also manages public litter collection, stormwater management, street sweeping, beach cleaning and seaweed removal.

How is Council performing compared to last financial year?

↓ total waste collected decreased by three per cent

↓ garden waste collected decreased by nine per cent

↓ recycling collected through recycling and green waste bins and hard waste collections decreased by four per cent



Total waste and recycling collected from 2009-10 to 2017-18 from waste collection services and litter collection services

*waste includes garbage, recycling, green waste, hard waste collections, litter bin collections, stormwater, street sweeping, beach cleaning, and seaweed removal

Council's waste and recycling services and the use of these services by the community has been largely consistent since 2004 and is consistent with other Melbourne Councils. The decrease in total waste collected was observed in all waste streams including garbage (0.3%) and the hard waste collection service (0.3%). The decrease in the quantity of garden waste collected is due to seasonal weather influences. Despite an increase in the number of hard waste services provided by Council compared to the previous year (an increase of 86 collections), there was a decrease in the quantity of hard waste collected.

The amount of litter landfilled through the different means has declined significantly and is largely due to changes in the amount of seaweed and innovation by Council. The amount of seaweed that is produced is affected by variables such as tidal movements, nutrient sources, health of the seaweed and weather conditions. All other litter is sent to landfill.

Highlights

- 46 per cent of waste diverted from landfill through recycling and green waste services
- 17,312 tonnes of waste were recycled through recycling and green waste bins and hard waste collections
- 320 tonnes of seaweed composted

Waste and Litter Community Project

Council undertakes programs aimed at minimising the community's waste and litter output. Council programs target both the wider community and businesses and industries. For the 2017-18 programs, more than 3,000 community members participated in waste and litter programs.

Compost Revolution

In June 2018 Council launched Compost Revolution, a Council subsidised initiative allowing Hobsons Bay residents to purchase compost bins, worm farms and bokashi buckets at significantly reduced prices. The Compost Revolution program aims to divert this food from the waste stream by encouraging residents to use home composting systems. During June 2018, **a total of 213 composting systems were purchased.**

Cigarette Butt Litter Reduction Project

During 2017-18 Council continued its Butt It – Bin It campaign which encouraged people to dispose of their cigarette butts responsibly. To do this Council **distributed 2,000 personal ashtrays and installed footpath decals and 59 cigarette butt bins.** The project involves implementation of best practice cigarette butt litter reduction activities using a variety of education, enforcement and infrastructure elements.

Garage Sale Trail

In October 2018, Council supported the Garage Sale Trail program which aims to promote re-use, waste

reduction, enable positive community interactions, assist groups to fundraise, and stimulate local economies. **There were 42 garage sales and stalls with more than 1,600 participants** (22% of sellers fundraising for a cause). Through the event, local sales generated \$11,107 funds with more than 16,000 items listed for sale.

Lighting recycling program

In 2017-18 Council extended its residential lighting recycling program with Bunnings Altona, Toxfree Solutions and Simmers Hardware in Williamstown to June 2020. During 2017-18, **more than 300 kilograms of fluorescent tubes and high intensity discharge lamps were recycled.**

Electronic Waste Recycling

Council's annual ewaste collection event was held in November 2017 and attracted 469 participants.

Overall, **13 tonnes of ewaste was collected with an average of 27.7 kilograms of ewaste per resident.**

Detox your Home

Sustainability Victoria's Detox your Home event was held at Council's Operations Centre in Altona during May 2018 with 126 residents attending. Detox your Home is a safe, free and easy-to-use service to dispose of unwanted household chemicals without harming your health or the environment. During the event, 2.9 tonnes of household chemicals were collected

resulting in **approximately 23 kilograms of chemicals were collected per participant.**

Clean Up Australia Day

In March Council again participated in the annual Clean Up Australia Day event. Four hundred community members participated in the day with over 12 clean up locations across Hobsons Bay **removing approximately 30 cubic metres of litter from the environment.**

Conclusion

The extensive community and behavioural change programs offered by Council are having an impact on the community's knowledge and understanding of climate change impacts and adaptation opportunities. Hundreds of community members are dedicated to building a more resilient and sustainable Hobsons Bay. The effectiveness of these programs will have a lasting legacy on the broader community and Council will continue to provide support to community and environmental groups in this important work.

Looking Forward

In the next year, Council will continue trialling innovative ways to reduce its own emissions, water consumption and waste to provide leadership as well as pass on knowledge to assist the community to reduce its own. Key opportunities that are being investigated include:

1. trialling Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles
2. installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure for Council's fleet and providing public access
3. partnering with universities and organisations to create nature-based projects for schools
4. working with community leaders to build resilient communities and increase awareness of climate change
5. offer the Future Leaders program to all secondary schools in Hobsons Bay and enhance the outcome by partnering with universities and industry
6. installation of solar systems in three Council buildings
7. installation of a battery system in the Altona Library to achieve Council's first zero net emissions building

It is important that Council and the community continue to be leaders in sustainability, so that together we can create a sustainable Hobsons Bay, now and into the future.