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Wollongong City Council

CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE

*Working together to
reduce our emissions*



wollongong
city of innovation

December 2021 • Edition 5

At least 4700 tonnes of food waste diverted which is equal to nearly seven Olympic sized swimming pools!

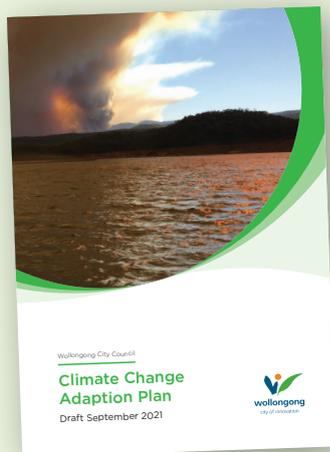


FOGO Update

Over 91% of eligible households, across Wollongong, now have a FOGO kerbside collection service. So far FOGO has resulted in 36060 tonnes of waste diverted away from landfill, including at least 4700 tonnes of food waste, which is equal to nearly seven Olympic sized swimming pools! FOGO is currently being rolled out to eligible multi-unit dwellings with 30 or more units and is expected to be completed by March 2022.

Funding has been received from the NSW Environmental Trust for a 12-month FOGO trial in multi-unit dwellings. This trial will include 1,500 households and focus on improving organic collections in more challenging environments. Multi-unit dwellings mainly produce food waste rather than a combination of food and garden waste meaning the waste stream is often wetter, heavier, and possibly smellier when compared to single unit households. The trial will explore a wide range of food recycling options practical for urban living and will determine whether other food waste processing systems and methods such as Closed Loop, EcoGuardian and standard composting and worm farming can assist with FOGO diversion in the future.

To find out more please visit the Wollongong Waste website wollongongwaste.com.au

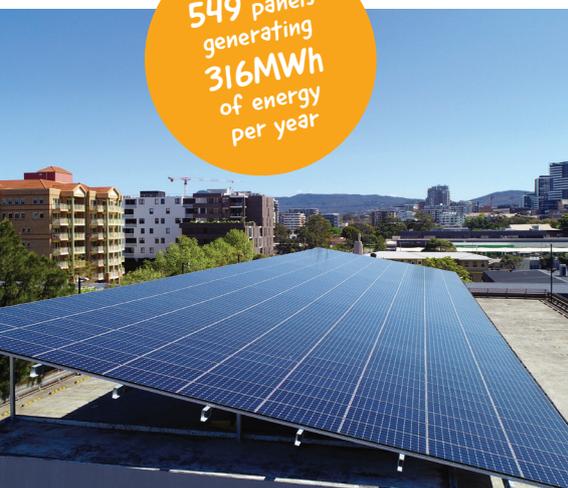


Climate Change Adaptation Plan Public Exhibition

Council is committed to addressing the threat of climate change to the Wollongong community as much as we can at a local level. Council has recently developed the draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which focuses on what we can do to prepare for those changes that are likely to occur due to greenhouse gas emissions already in the atmosphere. Since our last update, the Climate Change Adaptation Plan has been placed on public exhibition.

We sought your thoughts on our Plan to make sure our efforts target the services and operations that are important to the community. This input will help make sure we are prepared to combat the risks that are expected to challenge us as a result of climate change.

549 panels generating 316MWh of energy per year



Renewable Energy Update

The renewable solar energy system on the Council's Administration Building car park is now up and running. This system made up of 549 panels is expected to generate 316MWh of energy per year and will be used to partially power Council's Administration Building, with the annual power generated equivalent to powering approximately thirty-five homes for a year. We are also looking at delivering demand management battery systems at Bulli and Windang Tourist Parks this financial year, and Council will also be delivering solar street lighting at Corrimal Tourist Park.

To decrease harmful greenhouse gases from existing food waste within Whytes Gully landfill, Wollongong City Council have recently embarked on a staged biogas project. Additional gas wells have been installed on site which will capture biomass gasses with the goal of generating base load renewable energy for the local community once the project has been completed.

NSW Joint Power Purchase Agreement

Wollongong City Council will participate in a joint tender with a number of other NSW Councils for a large-scale renewable generation power purchase agreement (PPA). This energy will be used to power Council services and operations such as streetlights, and our largest energy consumption sites such as leisure centres, pools, community centres and libraries. The PPA will lead to a reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions of almost 15,000 tonnes of CO₂-e per annum for our Council, which is around 10-12% of our current emissions profile. If successful, this initiative will significantly contribute towards our target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions for Council operations by 2030.

A renewable energy PPA is where a buyer purchases renewable energy from either a retailer or energy generator for a specified price rate and timeframe, usually 8-12 years. PPAs can be more cost effective and will also help to reduce our environmental footprint.



Sportsfield Lighting Upgrades

We have continued to replace sports field lighting with more energy efficient LEDs. Works at Thomas Dalton Park began in November and are expected to be complete by the end of the year, depending on weather.

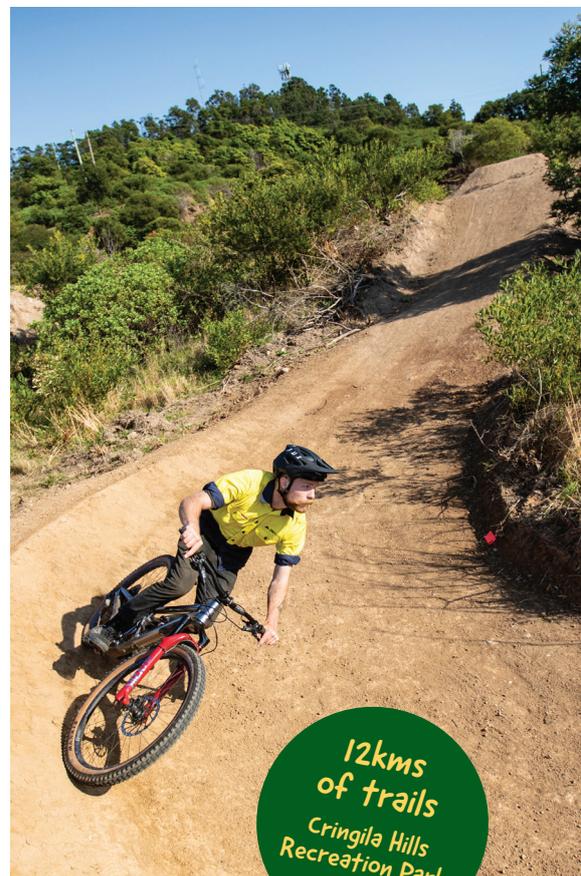


Cycling Update

Since the last Climate Emergency Update, we have continued to create more people powered movement through improvements to our cycling networks throughout the city. We've upgraded cycleways and shared pathways, created new pop-up cycling routes, and installed more bike racks to make riding easier for our community. Decreasing our reliance on cars for shorter trips and outdoor recreation is a positive way we can make our city more sustainable into the future.

Work is progressing on the Port Kembla and Wollongong pop-up cycleways, providing more opportunities to get out and about more easily. In Port Kembla, we've finished work along Military Road to install traffic separators, repair the kerb and gutter as well as putting in line marking and signage. In Wollongong's CBD, we've completed additional work along Gladstone Avenue, Smith Street and Kembla Street. We'll continue to make adjustments as needed to the design and complete any additional work over the next few weeks.

The Cringila Hills Recreation Park's mountain bike trails are also now open! New purpose-built trails, with almost 12kms of trails to explore. It is a perfect place for families or those new to the sport of mountain bike riding, with trails catering for beginner to intermediate riders. New works have also begun on the area's pump track and skills park which are expected to be complete mid-2022.



12kms
of trails
Cringila Hills
Recreation Park

Urban Greening Update

Tree planting is one of the simplest and effective ways of tackling climate change. Trees are the lungs of the planet and our carbon banks – they exhale oxygen and inhale and absorb CO₂ as they grow (the exact opposite of humans) to help slow the rate of global warming. The bigger the tree, the bigger the benefit! Key achievements under our Urban Greening Strategy include:



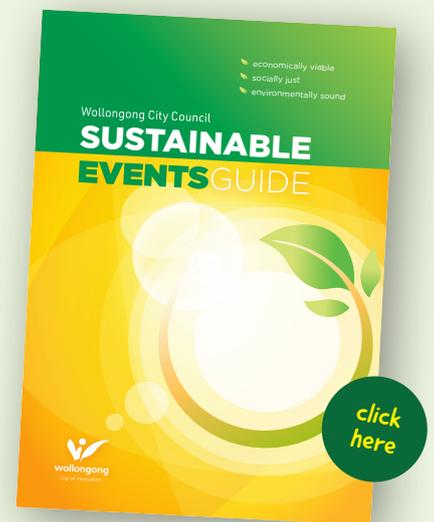
Sustainable Events Guideline

Earlier this year Council released the voluntary Sustainable Events Guideline and Checklists to support event organisers to deliver more sustainable events and reduce their environmental footprint. It covers waste, energy, transport, food and water, promotional material and more.

The goal is to reduce environmental impact, add value to the local economy, engage the wider community and educate those involved. Planning is essential in making real changes to reduce emissions and water use, limit waste generation and minimise impacts on the environment. Doing it all straight away can be overwhelming. Remember, even small changes can have a big impact.

The Checklists can be used when organising an event as a quick guide to help you incorporate some key sustainability actions into your practice. Many of the ideas in this guide can also be applied to smaller-scale parties and gatherings.

Visit our [Sustainable Living](#) page or the [Organise an Event](#) page on our website to read the Guidelines and Checklists.



Electric Vehicle Charging Update

Australia has a low uptake of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in comparison with other developed countries. However, EV sales in Australia have increased by 200% in 2019, with 6,700 vehicles being sold, compared to 2,200 in 2018. Research has identified high purchase costs and 'range anxiety' as two of the biggest factors contributing to the low uptake rate.

In order to address 'range anxiety', Council is working together with the NRMA to provide Wollongong's latest EV Charging Station located at Stewart Street East Carpark. The charging station will be comprised of two charging units, including one Ultra-fast charger, both accessible 24 hours, 7 days a week. Site works are planned to commence early 2022 with the charging station becoming operational by the end of this financial year.



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