

# 4

Wollongong City Council

# CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE

*Working together to  
reduce our emissions*



**wollongong**  
city of innovation

August 2021 • Edition 4



Approx. 88,000 residents have helped to divert around 1,700 tonnes of waste from landfill using FOGO

FOGO will save around 12,750tCO<sub>2</sub>-e per year, which is equal to approx. 17,513 trips from Perth to Sydney!



Around 1,500 households in multi-unit dwellings will participate in a 12-month FOGO trial

Sustainability Advantage will support Council in improving the integration of sustainability principles across the organisation



## FOGO Update

Since the rollout of FOGO in November 2020 Wollongong residents have helped to divert roughly 1,700 tonnes of waste from landfill up until the end of March 2021. A further 1,500 households will participate in a 12-month trial in the coming financial year to explore FOGO options in multi-unit dwellings and investigate barriers to collection including storage space, lack of garden organics and contamination.

By recovering and reusing food waste, we are helping the environment by saving around 150kg per household per year from going to landfill. The implementation of FOGO is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by around 12,750tCO<sub>2</sub>-e (equivalent tonnes of carbon dioxide) per year, which is equal to approximately 17,513 car trips from Perth to Sydney!

To keep updated with FOGO please visit the Wollongong Waste website [wollongongwaste.com.au](http://wollongongwaste.com.au)

## Sustainability Advantage Membership

Council has recently become a member of the Sustainability Advantage Program, which is facilitated by the NSW Government Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). This program will support Council to integrate sustainability principles and practices across the organisation and becoming a sustainability leader.

Council will be working through a series of modules to reduce emissions and improve the sustainability outcomes of our operations. The modules include Net Zero Emissions, UN Sustainable Development Goals, Circular Economy and Partnering with Nature.

As a first step in the program, we have identified key opportunities where we can improve sustainability outcomes and enhance our work towards net zero emissions across Council operations.

## Verge Garden Guidelines

Recently Council developed Verge Garden Guidelines which allow residents to replace grass on the Council strip (verge) with plants. The guidelines provide information on simple measures to ensure your verge garden is a success. Well-managed verge gardens can potentially save around 20,000 to 40,000 litres of water per year and also help to keep our cities cool and improve our food security.

For more information on verge gardens, edible and local native plant selections and GreenPlan Nursery sale days, visit Council's Verge Gardens page [www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/verge-gardens](http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/verge-gardens)

Verge gardens can help save around 20,000 – 40,000 litres of water per year

## Progress with Sustainability Projects

Council is moving forward with the solar installation on the Administration Building car park, with work having started mid-May 2021. The panels on the car park are expected to generate 220 kwp (kilowatts peak – energy generation at peak performance), and this energy will be used to partially power the Council Administration Building, with any excess energy exported to the grid. It's anticipated it will be connected by Spring 2021.

We have been continuing with our streetlight LED rollout, replacing lights of 80W or below which are typically located in residential areas. To date, we have changed 5295 lights to 17W LEDs. Older sports lighting technology is also being replaced with LEDs as systems reach their end of serviceable life, such as at the Lakeside Leisure Centre tennis courts, and the Guest Park and Judy Masters sports fields.

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades are also occurring at several Council sites which will use more efficient equipment and allow for improved control over the settings, optimising the systems performance and energy usage.

## Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on Public Land Policy

Council's Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations on Public Land Policy was adopted by Council on 7 December 2020. Our city wants to see electric vehicles replacing fuel vehicles over coming years to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Policy aims to support the uptake of EVs in Wollongong through an increase in the number of EV charging stations. With more charging stations, residents can transition to electric vehicles with the confidence they won't be left out of range of a charge up and it will also promote Wollongong as a tourist destination.

## Sustainable Transport

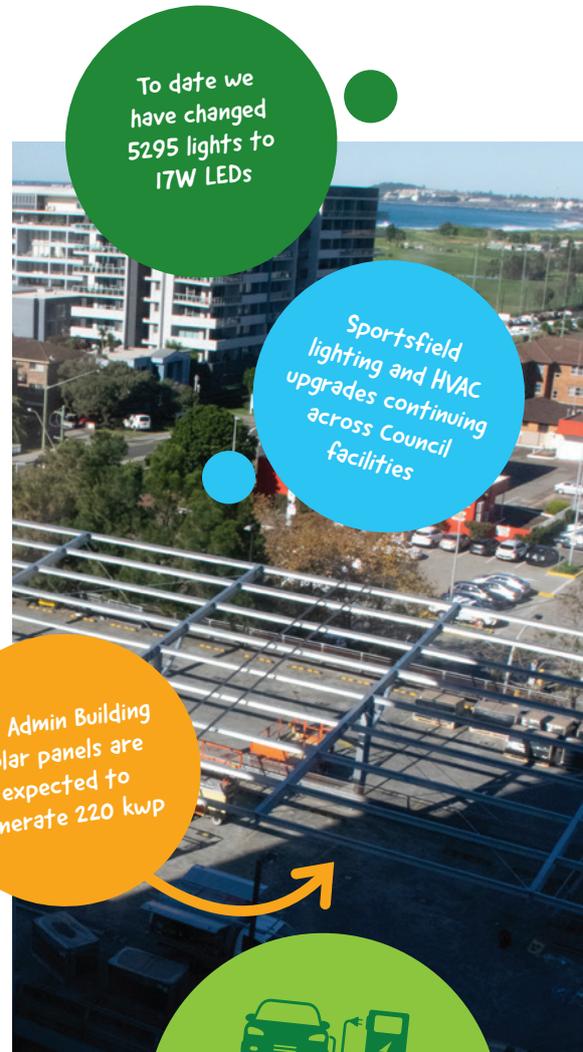
Council is currently trialling pop-up cycling routes to support cycling throughout the city, making it easier to jump on your bike and ride to your destination than ever before. These increased active transport opportunities and improvements to cycling infrastructure will also help to reduce emissions produced by transport in the city.

To make room for these changes, Smith Street, Wollongong has changed to a one-way road for east bound traffic. You'll notice we've made some changes to on-road parking, added traffic-calming measures and shifted some footpaths into shared paths for use by both pedestrians and cyclists.

Works are being planned for Kembla Street, Wollongong to build a new on-road cycleway. Kembla Street will remain two-way and the new cycleway route will provide an on-road link into the heart of Wollongong's CBD.



Smith St has been modified to a one-way road for east-bound traffic



To date we have changed 5295 lights to 17W LEDs

Sportsfield lighting and HVAC upgrades continuing across Council facilities

The Admin Building solar panels are expected to generate 220 kwp



Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on Public Land Policy adopted 7 December 2020



Works are continuing on our trial Wollongong CBD on-road cycleways

# Climate Change Adaptation Plan Review

Council is currently reviewing our Climate Change Adaptation Plan that was produced in 2009. As a first step, we have been looking at historical and future climate hazards that effect Wollongong and are expecting to have a draft version of the new Adaptation Plan shared with the community towards the end of this year.

Creating an Adaptation Plan allows us to plan and prepare for the inevitable impacts of climate change such as temperature increases, more severe and frequent storms and sea level rise. Planning for these changes means that infrastructure, facilities and services can be better adapted to a changing climate.

Council is also planning to undertake a re-inventory of the emissions profiles for both Council operations and the broader city of Wollongong to support the work being undertaken under the Climate Change Mitigation Plan.



We are currently reviewing our Climate Change Adaptation Plan

We are also planning to undertake a re-inventory of Council and community emissions profiles

## What can you do to help?

Check out the Sustainable Living page for information and tips on reducing waste, gardening, sustainable food, and energy and water, and to read our Sustainable Wollongong Strategy and Climate Change Mitigation Plan

[www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/my-community/sustainable-living](http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/my-community/sustainable-living)

Want to get news about sustainable events, activities and tips straight to your inbox? Sign up for the Sustainable Wollongong e-newsletter on our Sustainable Living page above. You can also view the archive of recent e-news.



[wollongong.nsw.gov.au](http://wollongong.nsw.gov.au)

Visit our Sustainable Living page

[wollongong.nsw.gov.au/my-community/sustainable-living](http://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/my-community/sustainable-living)

Join one of our volunteer groups

Sign up to the Sustainable Wollongong E-Newsletter

### Contact us

(02) 4227 7111

Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm

You can also use the number above for after hours Council-related emergencies.

Email [sustainability@wollongong.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@wollongong.nsw.gov.au)

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