City of Marion

Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2026-2030

This document is a summary of the Environmental Sustainability Plan 2026-2030

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Introduction

Environmental sustainability means ensuring that our actions today do not compromise the wellbeing of future generations. Our community shares a strong vision for a sustainable future, one where the natural environment is valued and protected, and we are resilient to climate change.

The Draft Environmental Sustainability Plan 2026–2030 (the Plan) sets out how we will work with the community and partners to improve environmental sustainability outcomes in our city. The Plan will guide how we will manage the natural and built environment in an ecologically sustainable manner.

This Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy is a summary document that provides a high-level summary of the Plan, including targets, priorities and objectives. For more detail, including an overview of our current activities and how we will deliver on our commitments, please refer to the full draft Environmental Sustainability Plan 2026-2030.

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The Environmental Sustainability Plan 2026–2030 is shaped by the City of Marion's Strategic Plan 2024–2034 and key environmental policies. It also aligns with other strategic and operational plans that support our environmental work, including but not limited to:

- Biodiversity Plan 2024–2029
- Trees Asset Management Plan 2024–2034
- Open Space Framework 2024–2034
- Asset Management Strategy and Framework
- Walking and Cycling Guidelines and 4 Year Plan
- Regional Public Health Plan 2025
- Resilient South Regional Climate Action Plan 2024–2029

The Plan replaces the former Carbon Neutral Plan 2020-2030 with a broader and more integrated climate response. It reflects our commitment to reducing emissions, protecting natural assets, and building a more climate-resilient city.





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THEME 1:

Greening, trees and biodiversity



Targets for council operations

These targets will measure our progress towards achieving improved greening, trees and biodiversity outcomes for our operations.

1.Ensure **90%** of plantable spaces along council-managed roads are filled with trees by **2030**

2. Achieve **30%** canopy cover over council-managed land by **2055**[3]

3. Plant **60,000** native plants by **2030** (baseline 2024/2025)[2]

4. Biodiversity condition at priority biodiversity sites is **maintained or improved**[1]

Stretch target for council operations

1. No loss of remnant vegetation on council-managed land.

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PRIORITY G1:

Expand and improve council's natural assets

Objectives

- **G1a** Protect, enhance and restore biodiversity with a focus on the critical protection of remnant vegetation.
- **G1b** Develop open spaces and streetscapes that protect and enhance tree canopy, promote natural landscaping and enable climate resilience.
- **G1c** Increase nature in council developments through biodiversity-sensitive urban design (BSUD).
- **G1d** Develop organisational maturity in natural asset management through improved data, planning and monitoring.

PRIORITY G2:

Advocate for trees, greening and biodiversity in the community

Objectives

- **G2a** Encourage residents to protect, enhance and restore tree canopy and biodiversity on private land.
- **G2b** Advocate for State Government policies that promote increased tree canopy and protection of trees.
- **G2c** Encourage greening and biodiversity-sensitive design in residential and commercial developments.
- **G2d** Advocate for improved biodiversity protection laws.

PRIORITY G3:

Enhance regional biodiversity and greening



Objectives

- **G3a** Collaborate with partners to protect, enhance and restore regional biodiversity corridors along Sturt River - Warriparri, Field River, coastline and the southern hills face.
- **G3b** Collaborate with partners to enhance greening of regional active transport connections and other transit routes.
- **G3c** Collaborate with partners to support regional monitoring of tree canopy, green cover and urban heat.
- **G3d** Collaborate with partners to develop regionally consistent biodiversity monitoring and reporting protocols.
- **G3e** Collaborate with Kaurna to improve cultural connections through nature.
- **G3f** Support research and development to enhance and future-proof our natural environment.
- **G3g** Advocate for the Local Government Association (LGA) to improve council access to local markets for nature repair and carbon sequestration.

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THEME 2:

Water and coastal management



Targets for council operations

These targets will measure our progress in improving water management for our operations.

1. Continually increase the use of **recycled water** for our operations by 2030.

2. Ensure potable mains supply water does not exceed **30%** of the total water used for irrigation of council land and aim to keep total potable water consumption **below 200Ml** per year.

3. Expand Marion Water to enable supply of up to **300Ml** per year by 2030.

4. Maintain groundwater extraction within sustainable limits of up to **200Ml** per year.

5. Install **200** new street tree inlets by 2030.

6. Complete and implement updated **Stormwater Management Plans (SMPs)** for all catchments by 2030.

Stretch target for council operations

1. Install 1000 new street tree inlets by 2030 (subect to grant funding).

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PRIORITY WC1:

Protect and enhance our water catchments and coast



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PRIORITY WC2:

Conserve water, diversify our water sources and create water sensitive council facilities

PRIORITY WC3:

Promote the establishment of a water sensitive city

Objectives

- **WC1a** Advocate for the rivers, creeks, wetlands and groundwater across the city to meet or exceed acceptable standards in health and quality.
- **WC1b** Maintain and improve council's stormwater network to reduce runoff, improve water quality, mitigate against flooding and support climate-resilience.
- **WC1c** Integrate WSUD into council-managed landscapes to increase green infrastructure and mitigate extreme urban heat.
- **WC1d** Increase organisational capacity to design, build and maintain WSUD treatments.
- **WC1e** Monitor our coastline and develop and implement planned responses to coastal climate change hazards.

Objectives

- **WC2a** Create water sensitive council buildings and facilities.
- **WC2b** Maximise stormwater capture and reuse initiatives including onsite retention and managed aquifer recharge schemes.
- **WC2c** Prioritise use of rainwater and irrigation with recycled water for climate resilient landscapes.
- **WC2d** Use native groundwater within sustainable limits.
- **WC2e** Maximise irrigation efficiency in council reserves through innovation and smart technology.

Objectives

- **WC3a** Collaborate with stakeholders - other councils, government agencies, SA Water, businesses and community - for coordinated approaches and improved governance of catchment-scale, integrated water management.
- **WC3b** Promote WSUD practices for existing homes, businesses and small-scale developments.
- **WC3c** Demonstrate leadership and innovation in the application of smart and adaptive water infrastructure.

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THEME 3:

Waste reduction and circular economy



Targets for council operations

These targets will help us track our progress in reducing waste and supporting a circular economy by 2030.

1. Divert at least **60%** of waste generated by council-run facilities from landfill by 2029/30

2. Achieve average resource recovery over **80%** at council-run events

Stretch target for council operations

1. Divert at least **70%** of waste generated by council-run facilities from landfill by 2029/30

2. Achieve average resource recovery over **90%** at council-run events (per event)

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PRIORITY WR1:
Develop circular council operations

Objectives

- **WR1a** Establish procurement practices that support sustainable markets for material circularity.
- **WR2b** Reduce waste and resource consumption from corporate operations.
- **WR3c** Lead by example through sustainable procurement practices.
- **WR3d** Measure progress toward circular economy goals and report on effectiveness of policies and programs.

PRIORITY WR2:
Encourage our community to reduce waste

Objectives

- **WR2a** Build community capacity to repair, reuse and share resources.
- **WR2b** Increase recovery of food waste and recyclable resources from landfill to the circular economy.
- **WR2c** Develop community education campaigns and behaviour change initiatives to reduce waste and increase recycling in households.
- **WR2d** Educate the community about appropriate recycling practices to reduce contamination.

PRIORITY WR3:
Support circular businesses and product stewardship

Objectives

- **WR3a** Partner with waste service providers to improve materials recovery and appropriate disposal.
- **WR3b** Advocate for improved recycling facilities and local processing of soft plastic products and materials.
- **WR3c** Support local businesses with waste reduction and circular economy practices.
- **WR3d** Advocate for federal and State Government leadership on mandatory product stewardship schemes for handling problematic waste streams.

PRIORITY WR4:
Prevention of litter and pollution

Objectives

- **WR4a** Promote pollution prevention and cleanup in the community.
- **WR4b** Minimise and manage illegal dumping and public place littering.

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THEME 4:

Climate resilience and reducing emissions



Targets for council operations

These targets will measure our progress towards reducing emissions and increasing climate resilience.

1. Reduce corporate greenhouse gas emissions by **50%** by 2035 (from 2022/23 baseline)

2. Replace our light fleet vehicles with EVs by **2028**

3. Purchase **100%** renewable energy

4. Phase out use of gas at all council buildings and facilities by **2035** - replacing each unit with an electric alternative when it reaches the end of its useful life

Stretch target for council operations

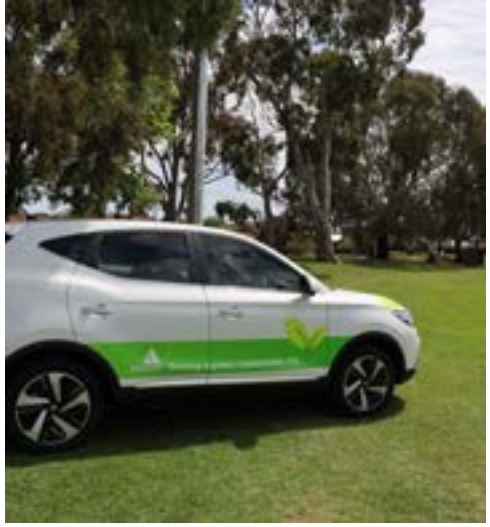
1. Achieve net zero corporate emissions by 2050 (from 2022/23 baseline.)

2. Rooftop solar on all City of Marion owned buildings - including leased facilities - by 2030

3. All residual risks in the City of Marion climate risk register are 'medium' or lower by 2030[4]

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PRIORITY C1:
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our operations



PRIORITY C2:
Reduce emissions in our supply chain

PRIORITY C3:
Support our community to reduce their emissions

Objectives

- **C1a** Track our emissions in line with best practice approaches for emissions inventories.
- **C1b** Maximise renewable energy generation and storage and purchase renewable energy.
- **C1c** Transition to a low-emission fleet.
- **C1d** Transition to low-emission buildings and assets.
- **C1e** Seek innovative solutions to improve efficiency of public lighting including consideration of reduced lighting times.
- **C1f:** Assess council owned facilities for battery storage and integrate where practical and feasible.

Objectives

- **C2a** Strengthen data collection and reporting processes for emissions across the supply chain.
- **C2b** Integrate environmental sustainability and low-emissions criteria into procurement practices in alignment with emerging LGA standards and advocate for additional LGA support where required.
- **C2d** Encourage suppliers to lower the emissions associated with the goods and services they provide.

Objectives

- **C3a** Support our community to transition to all-electric homes powered by renewable energy.
- **C3b** Provide infrastructure and programs to increase sustainable and active transport modes.
- **C3c** Support local businesses to reduce their emissions.

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PRIORITY C4:

Build our organisation's resilience to climate change



PRIORITY C5:

Foster community resilience to climate change



Objectives

- **C4a** Build and manage our assets to ensure resilience to climate change including heat, storms, flooding and bushfires.
- **C4b** Deliver services that are resilient to climate impacts.
- **C4c** Build staff capacity to understand and respond to climate change.
- **C4d** Strengthen climate governance and embed climate resilience across the organisation.
- **C4e** Identify and publicly disclose our climate risks and manage how they impact on our organisation.

Objectives

- **C5a** Raise community awareness about local climate impacts, risks and opportunities.
- **C5b** Encourage climate-resilient resilient low-emissions development.
- **C5c** Assist the community to avoid or prepare for climate change risks.
- **C5d** Assist the community - including those outside our region - in responding and recovering from climate change related emergencies.

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THEME 5:

Sustainable living and environmental engagement



Targets for council operations

These targets will measure our progress with engaging our community on environmental matters.

1. Increase community awareness of council environmental programs in the **community satisfaction survey**

2. Reach at least **1000** households each year through direct mailouts with opportunities to get involved in environmental programs

3. Maintain a Green Thymes newsletter click-rate average of **10%**

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PRIORITY E1:
Foster sustainable communities

Objectives

- **E1a** Deliver education and engagement programs that increase awareness of sustainable living in our community.
- **E1b** Remove barriers and provide incentives to encourage positive behaviour change towards sustainable living practices.
- **E1c** Enhance partnerships and networks with community to support collective action.

PRIORITY E2:
Connect our community with nature

Objectives

- **E2a** Enhance community engagement with nature.
- **E2b** Promote community understanding of our unique natural environment, local biodiversity and its cultural significance.
- **E2c** Provide children and young people with meaningful opportunities for nature connection, fostering lifelong environmental stewardship.

PRIORITY E3:
Support community gardening and sustainable food systems

Objectives

- **E3a** Support existing community garden groups and foster the development of new community gardens.
- **E3b** Support local food gardening and sharing of local produce to build a sustainable local food system.

PRIORITY E4:
Support and promote community leadership in sustainability

Objectives

- **E4a** Support the development of diverse and inclusive environmental groups and local champions.
- **E4b** Build community capacity to deliver and innovate on local environmental projects and initiatives.
- **E4c** Amplify community impact through sharing and showcasing achievements and local stories.
- **E4d** Create pathways for youth leadership through collaboration with schools and youth-led initiatives.

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Endnotes

1 ‘Priority sites’ are defined in the City of Marion Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029

2 This target is based on the revegetation action in the City of Marion Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029 to plant 1500 local native plants annually

3 This target is aligned with Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide and will require regular review based on seasonal conditions and available data.

4 Refer to City of Marion Risk Management Framework and City of Marion Climate Change Policy

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