

ENVIRONMENT REPORT CARD 2020-2021



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF MARION

This is Marion Council's first dedicated Environment Report Card.

It places our key achievements for 2020-2021 on the record. Council is taking real action on climate change and has done so for many years.

Since 2014, we have sought to reduce our impact on the environment by improving energy efficiency, planting thousands more trees a year, and introducing better recycling.

Over the past year we have:

- Reduced carbon emissions from Council buildings and vehicles
- Tried an innovative product that uses recycled plastic as aggregate on driveways
- Irrigated 35 local parks with stormwater recycled from Oaklands Wetland
- Involved thousands of community members in environmental education activities
- Additionally, we joined with three other councils to provide a new joint \$100 million greener kerbside bin collection service.

The impact of COVID-19 on our residents and businesses make it more important than ever to ensure the local environment is protected.

This report card highlights our achievements for 2020-2021.

Marion Council is thinking globally, but acting locally on the issues that matter.

KRIS HANNA

Mayor Kris Hanna





75% LESS ENERGY

LED STREETLIGHTING

A reduction of 876 tonnes of carbon emissions



3000 STREET TREES PLANTED

- Producing oxygen
- Cooling streets
- Creating habitat for wildlife
- Greening suburbs



331 TONNES

of carbon emissions saved by reusing materials for asphalt on pavements and roads



10% REDUCTION

in carbon emissions from council vehicles compared to 2015-2016



1600 TONNES LESS

carbon emissions from Council buildings compared to 2015-2016

RECYCLED STREETS

Marion became the first council in Australia to trial Toberite, a product that uses recycled hard plastics as aggregate in concrete.

The process involves melting down bumper bars, ice cream containers and bottles and injection moulding them into an artificial aggregate. The aggregate can be recycled and does not shed microplastics into the environment.

In addition, 50 per cent of road asphalt used in Marion comes from recycled materials, saving 331 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

RECYCLING BETTER

A new recycling plant at Seaford Heights opened in July 2021.

The \$24 million Southern Materials Recovery Facility will process 31,000 tonnes of “yellow bin” recyclables per year.

There is the potential for this to increase to more than 60,000 tonnes per year.

The project increases South Australia’s recycling capability and creates new opportunities following the China Sword restrictions.

The plant is a joint venture between Southern Region Waste Resource Authority (SRWRA) and specialist resource recovery provider Re.Group. SRWRA is a subsidiary of the cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion and Onkaparinga.

The facility is funded by Federal and State governments and the private sector.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Council is working to understand the threats of climate change to its 7.2km coastline, including erosion caused by rising sea levels, storm surges, and stormwater.

This included creating a 3D digital model of the coast and securing matching funding from the Department for Environment and Water to monitor changes.

We work with technical experts and the community to increase awareness of changes to the coast.



COOLER, GREENER MARION

PLANTING

Council will plant nearly 30,000 trees by 2028. It is seeking to more than double the street tree canopy – the area covered by branches and leaves – from 15 per cent to 34 per cent by 2040. It launched a new publicly accessible website so residents can see where trees will be planted.

In 2020 we planted **3,000** street trees, **400** mature trees, **25,000** grasses and shrubs, **200** trees in reserves.

In 2021 we are planting **3,500** street trees, **400** advanced trees along major roads, and **400** trees in reserves.

The greening of Marion has been supported by two State Government grants. They are \$134,500 for treescaping on Lonsdale Road and \$40,000 for treescaping along the Woodend Path in Sheidow Park.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Council has developed a new Community Gardens Agreement, which includes guidance on the way they are created and maintained.

There are currently five community gardens on Council land. Community groups are looking at creating two more.

GREENING EDWARDSTOWN

The industrial areas of Edwardstown are the hottest in the Marion Council area.

Council has planted over 175 street trees and installed tree inlets to reuse stormwater as part of its work to revitalise the Edwardstown Employment Precinct.

It will plant a further 150 trees in 2021.

The work aims to increase the tree canopy and reduce urban heat in the area.

Tree planting, signage and thermal imaging to identify “hot spots” for trees cost \$290,000. It is being funded equally between Council and State Government Greener Neighbourhoods grants.

REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS

Carbon emissions harm people and the environment by driving up temperatures, changing rainfall patterns and increasing frequency of extreme fire danger days.

Council has set a target of becoming carbon neutral in its operations, including from buildings, transport and reducing energy consumption by 2030.

Council adopted the Carbon Neutral Plan 2020-2030 that shows how it will achieve this target.

MAKING TRANSPORT CLEANER

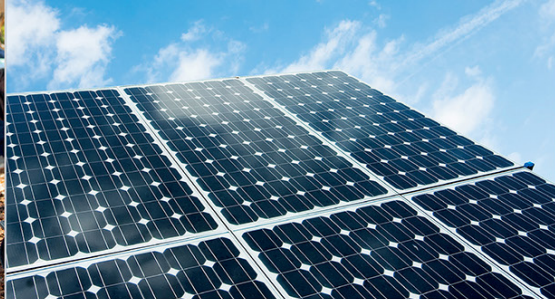
Our achievements include:

- Started transition to zero emissions fleet by increasing the number of hybrid vehicles from seven to nine.
- Offset 100 per cent of vehicle emissions from Council's kerbside waste and recycling collection service with carbon credits purchased by the contractor, Cleanaway.

- Partnered with Charles Sturt and Port Adelaide Enfield to install public electric vehicle charging stations across our cities.

IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Replaced 7,600 streetlights with energy-efficient LED globes saving 876 tonnes of carbon emissions.
- Energy efficiency upgrades and installation of 410kW of rooftop solar on Council buildings resulted in 1,600 tonnes of carbon emissions reductions compared with 2015-2016.
- Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Guidelines for Council buildings have been developed and were trialled during 2020-2021.
- Five small businesses in Edwardstown signed up to pilot projects to improve energy efficiency. They received a free energy audit and could then choose between a 10kW rooftop solar system or upgraded air conditioning. The project was supported by a \$100,000 grant from the SA Government.



OUR COMMUNITY

Environmental sustainability and climate change are global issues. Working with our community will increase the effectiveness of our actions.

Our achievements included:

- **16** Bush for Life and Friends groups volunteer their time to help green our city
- **303** attendees at Valuing Nature activities
- **721** attendees at recycling workshops
- **2,184** visitors to Oaklands Education Centre
- **62** attendees at Climate Ready Communities extreme weather workshops
- **5** local schools involved in 21 Green Adelaide Board nature education activities
- **820** people signed up for monthly Green Thymes electronic newsletter
- **13,033** people reached via Facebook.

PARTNERSHIPS

- Continued collaboration with Holdfast Bay, Mitcham and Onkaparinga councils and the South Australian Government through the Resilient South Regional Climate Partnership. This builds the resilience of local communities and businesses to the impacts of climate change.
- Since 2014 we have hosted an education officer funded by Green Adelaide to deliver environmental education programs to local schools and at community events.
- Delivered community environmental behaviour change programs such as the Red Cross Climate Ready Schools Program and the Green Adelaide Living Smart and Climate Ready Schools Programs.
- Supported environmental upgrades to existing commercial, industrial and agricultural buildings within Marion via the Building Upgrade Finance Scheme.

CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

Council completed an independent climate change risk assessment in 2019 and was recognised as having nation-leading systems that consider climate change in its governance processes and frameworks.

We are working with our Resilient South partners to embed climate risk assessments into our asset management processes. This is being supported by a grant from the Local Government Association of SA.

MAKING THE MOST OF WATER

The projections for South Australia are for warmer, drier conditions. We must protect our water supplies and find alternative sources for irrigation.

Our achievements included:

- **244 million litres** of stormwater from Oaklands captured, cleaned, and stored.

- **121 million litres** of water from Oaklands Wetlands used to irrigate 35 local parks and supply non-drinking water to the new Tonsley residential development.

WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN (WSUD)

To date, we have applied WSUD principles to 25 sites including near buildings and in streetscapes and reserves.

Marion Council is committed to environmental sustainability.

The Council is working hard to increasingly embed environmental considerations into its operations for the benefit of our community.

We have a number of plans and policies that underpin our commitment to the environment available at **marion.sa.gov.au**

Stay in touch by signing up to the monthly e-newsletter, Green Thymes by emailing **environment@marion.sa.gov.au**

CITY OF MARION

Phone **88375 6600**

Email **council@marion.sa.gov.au**

Internet **www.marion.sa.gov.au**

Facebook **[@CityofMarion](https://www.facebook.com/CityofMarion)**

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