



MOONEE VALLEY CITY COUNCIL

Environmental Sustainability Plan 2007 - 2012



Mayor's Message

Welcome to Moonee Valley's Environmental Sustainability Plan. This document is Council's commitment to the community to protect and enhance the environment we all share.

The notion of sustainability has been familiar to scientists and environmentalists for over 30 years. In 1987 the World Commission on Environment and Development released a report, now known as the Brundtland Report, which defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Today we are feeling the effects of the depletion of our vital natural resources and are starting to explore what it truly means and what we can do to achieve sustainable development. We are realising that we need to adapt and change the way we live to ensure that future generations can enjoy what we now have.

At Moonee Valley we have defined the notion of sustainability as promoting and facilitating a healthy community, healthy economy and healthy environment.

These three are inextricably linked – a sustainable environment is the backbone of any society's ability to develop economically and socially. It provides natural resources such as water, healthy soil and organic materials, and social opportunities for connecting people with natural areas, which has been shown to provide positive benefits to the physical and mental health of communities.

Council recognises that we are all stewards of the environment, and that local government has a key role in protecting our natural assets and icons for future generations.

Thank you to all those involved in putting this document together. The actions, goals and objectives reflect a genuine commitment to making a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Giuliano', written in a cursive style.

Cr Paul Giuliano
Mayor
Moonee Valley City Council

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Executive summary

A sustainable environment is vital to the wellbeing of present and future communities. Moonee Valley City Council plays a crucial role in ensuring environmental sustainability in Moonee Valley, through leading by example, advocating for sustainable service provision and providing the community with opportunities to adopt environmentally sustainable practices. The key environmental challenges faced by Council and community today are:

- Protecting our natural assets
- Using resources wisely
- Minimising everyday environmental impacts

The development of an Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP) reflects Council's commitment to addressing these challenges. The ESP aims to integrate environmental targets into future Council strategies, policies and service delivery, reflecting global, national and local best practice.

This is an overarching document that will build on previous Council environmental strategies including integrated transport, street planting, waste management, sustainable water use, biodiversity protection, greenhouse reduction, stormwater management and planning scheme reviews.

The plan includes the identification of key areas in environmental management, and sets out the actions that will address these issues, including:

- Developing park masterplans to sustain and enhance natural areas and their biodiversity
- Reducing the dependency on valuable resources such as water and energy, and achieving best practice management of their use across Council services
- Promoting and providing greater accessibility to renewable resources
- Encouraging alternative transport use and advocating for better alternative transport provision
- Achieving best practice in waste minimisation and kerbside recycling
- Increasing both public awareness and corporate responsibility for environmentally sustainable practices.

It is intended that this plan will be a living document through a process of regular review and adaptation to ensure that best practice in sustainability is reflected in Council policy and activities.



A vision for sustainability in Moonee Valley

Council's vision for Moonee Valley is a 'diverse and safe community, which has ready access to services and facilities required for wellbeing, embraces its local heritage and cares for the environment, supporting individuals and groups to be involved in their community'. A key strategic objective of the Council Plan 2006-2010 is ensuring sustainability through a minimal impact approach. The Environmental Sustainability Plan 2007-2012 provides actions that set Moonee Valley on a path towards sustainability and achievement of its key strategic objectives.

As an inner-city municipality, Moonee Valley will be renowned for its best practice management of **natural assets**. Those areas with remnant vegetation have been protected and are treasured by the local community. The ecological value of these areas has been greatly improved through careful management, and significant revegetation works have taken place in Moonee Valley's open space. The biodiversity of the municipality has improved considerably.

The waterways of Moonee Valley provide an important space for recreation that can be enjoyed via a network of cycling and walking trails. A commitment to catchment-wide stormwater management has resulted in healthier waterways that are rated excellent by Melbourne Water. Land and groundwater contamination is no longer a concern in Moonee Valley.

The **wise use of resources** guide Council's and the community's decision making. Potable water consumption has been greatly reduced through large scale stormwater capture and reuse projects and through water efficiency. Council's parks and reserves are drought-proof, providing the community with excellent facilities that are resilient to declining rainfall. Rainwater tanks are a common addition to residential and industrial premises, grey water reuse is mainstream and water sensitive urban design features are common throughout the municipality.

The impacts of climate change have been minimised through an appropriate mix of mitigation and adaptation measures. Council has committed to carbon neutrality for its service delivery and this commitment has resulted in best practice innovation, including energy efficiency measures, renewable energy technologies and green power uptake. The use of renewable energy is common throughout Moonee Valley, with solar hot water systems, photovoltaic arrangements, solar heaters and mini wind turbines common throughout the municipality.

Both the Council and the community have prepared appropriately for the impacts of climate change that include more heatwaves and severe weather activity. Council benefits financially from having taken those steps to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

A commitment to green purchasing principles by Council has resulted in the mainstreaming of sustainable materials. This has directly resulted in a large reduction of waste going to landfill and a reduction in energy and water use.

A focus on our daily habits and how they impact upon the environment has ensured that Moonee Valley's residents **minimise their everyday environmental impacts**. Both Council staff and the wider community use alternative transport to reach their workplace. Public transport provision has improved considerably, and our cities are now planned to encourage the movement of people via walking, cycling and public transport rather than private vehicles.

Council leads by example in the provision of a sustainable built form. All new Council facilities are built using best practice environmentally sustainable design features that reduce water and energy use and waste production. Existing facilities have been retrofitted. New residential and commercial premises in Moonee Valley must abide by stringent environmental conditions, and incentives for retrofitting existing homes and commercial properties has seen their sustainability improve considerably.

Zero waste is now reality. Through innovative measures that ensure all goods are reused, recycled or composted, there now exists limited need for landfills. The community embraces the concept of avoidance and reduction, greatly helping reduce the amount of goods consumed.

The residents of Moonee Valley take pride in living in a connected community that has embraced the principles of sustainability and the fragility of their unique environment.

Introduction

The City of Moonee Valley

Close to Melbourne's Central Business District and nestled between Melbourne's northern and western suburbs, Moonee Valley combines a culturally rich community with a valued natural environment within its diverse suburbs.

The municipality is home to 109,248 residents and spans 44 square kilometres, bounded by the Maribyrnong River along the south and the Moonee Ponds Creek along the northeast. Waterways are an important part of the environment, linking major parks and open spaces across the City. The streetscapes are a strong feature of Moonee Valley, with major boulevards complimenting tree lined streets in the City.

Sustainable Development

In 1987 the World Commission on Environment and Development released a report, now known as the Brundtland Report, which defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This concept of sustainability encompasses ideas, aspirations and values that continue to inspire public and private organisations to become better stewards of the environment and promote positive economic growth and social objectives. The principles of sustainability can stimulate technological innovation, advance competitiveness, and improve our quality of life.

A sustainable environment is the backbone of any society's ability to develop economically and socially. It provides natural resources such as water, wood and coal, and social opportunities for connecting people with natural areas, which has been shown to provide positive benefits to the physical and mental health of communities.

Moonee Valley City Council recognises that we are all stewards of the environment, and that local government has a key role in protecting our natural assets and icons for future generations.

Consultation during the formation of Moonee Valley 2020 Our City Our Future clearly indicated that the Moonee Valley community values a sustainable environment and regard it as a priority for Council. In the Moonee Valley Council Plan (2006 - 10) sustainability is outlined as one of Council's five key objectives, as follows:

"Moonee Valley will be a sustainable City with a strong economy, a healthy environment and an improving quality of life for all citizens. A strategic review of the challenges facing the City is needed to guide future priorities. (We will) Minimise our impact on the environment – restoring waterways, reducing waste and reducing energy consumption."

A key action set within Council Plan (2006-2010) is the development of an Environmental Sustainability Plan. This plan will be an overarching document to integrate environmental targets into future Council strategies and policies, reflecting global, national and local best practice. Council is committed to improving the environmental management of its operations and helping the Moonee Valley community through education and awareness raising to achieve an environmentally sustainable future.

The Process of Preparing the Strategy

This Plan has been developed by Council's Environment Team with the cooperation of staff from across Council.

Key stakeholders were engaged both internally and externally. Ideas were incorporated from extensive community surveys and ongoing discussion with Moonee Valley stakeholders. Four community environment forums were held to gather input into the Plan, with topics covering transport, energy, biodiversity and water.

An expert panel made up of private industry, academia and government representatives were consulted during the plan's formative stages, to ensure that the direction, format and content reflect the latest thinking in sustainability practice.

A range of events were held in October 2007 to celebrate the release of the Draft Environmental Sustainability Plan and to seek further community input. These events included an Alternative Energy Hypothetical, a networking event and displays at the Senior's Festival and Children's Day festival.

Aims

The key aims of the Environmental Sustainability Plan are to:

1. Establish an overall vision for a sustainable environment in Moonee Valley
2. Provide a basis for Council to integrate best practice sustainability measures into all future policies, strategic documents and service delivery across all of Council's departments
3. Establish a framework of key strategies and priorities
4. Provide an action plan with measurable environmental targets and indicators
5. Provide a framework for an effective and ongoing environmental sustainability report to Council and community.

The Plan is based on the following assumptions:

- Our impacts on the environment must be reduced
- The ability to make progress towards sustainability will change over time as knowledge, understanding and technology improve
- Sustainable environmental management will require change to current activities
- A viable, achievable strategy must have broad community acceptance and must incorporate education and awareness raising activities to be successful
- Even small changes are a valuable tool to raise awareness of sustainability issues.

Advances in scientific understanding and technology development are crucial elements of sound environmental policy and this document must mirror these developments. It is intended that this plan will be a living document through a process of regular review and adaptation to ensure that best practice in sustainability is reflected in Council policy and activities.



Background

An analysis of organisational responses to sustainability can be broken down into a number of recurring themes. This is shown in the table below.

Table one: Organisational responses to sustainability issues, from the international to local level

Scope	Example	Response
Global	United Nations	<i>United Nation's Environment Program Mission Statement</i> ; "provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations."
National	Federal Government	<i>Tracking to the Kyoto Target (2006)</i> - Australian Greenhouse Office
Victorian	State Government	<i>Our Environment Our Future</i> - Victoria's Environmental Sustainability Framework (2006)
Local Government	Councils	<i>Cities for Climate Protection (CCP), ICLEI Water Campaign</i> - Sustainable water use plans
Private sector	BP Australia	<i>Business Case for Early Action (2006)</i> - the Australian Business Roundtable on Climate Change report
Non- government organisations	ACF (Australian Conservation Foundation)	<i>Energy policy (2005)</i> - energy reduction policy
Academic institutions	RMIT University	<i>Centre for Design: sustainability/ research/ solutions (RMIT)</i> - Degrees and post-graduate research focussing on sustainability
Regional approach	WREC (Western Region Environment Centre)	<i>Vision: "To provide the highest quality environmental research, education and advocacy programmes for the communities of the Western Region."</i>
Local communities	East Keilor Sustainability Street Group	<i>Vision: "local people, local communities, local action."</i>



The recurring themes that emerge are:

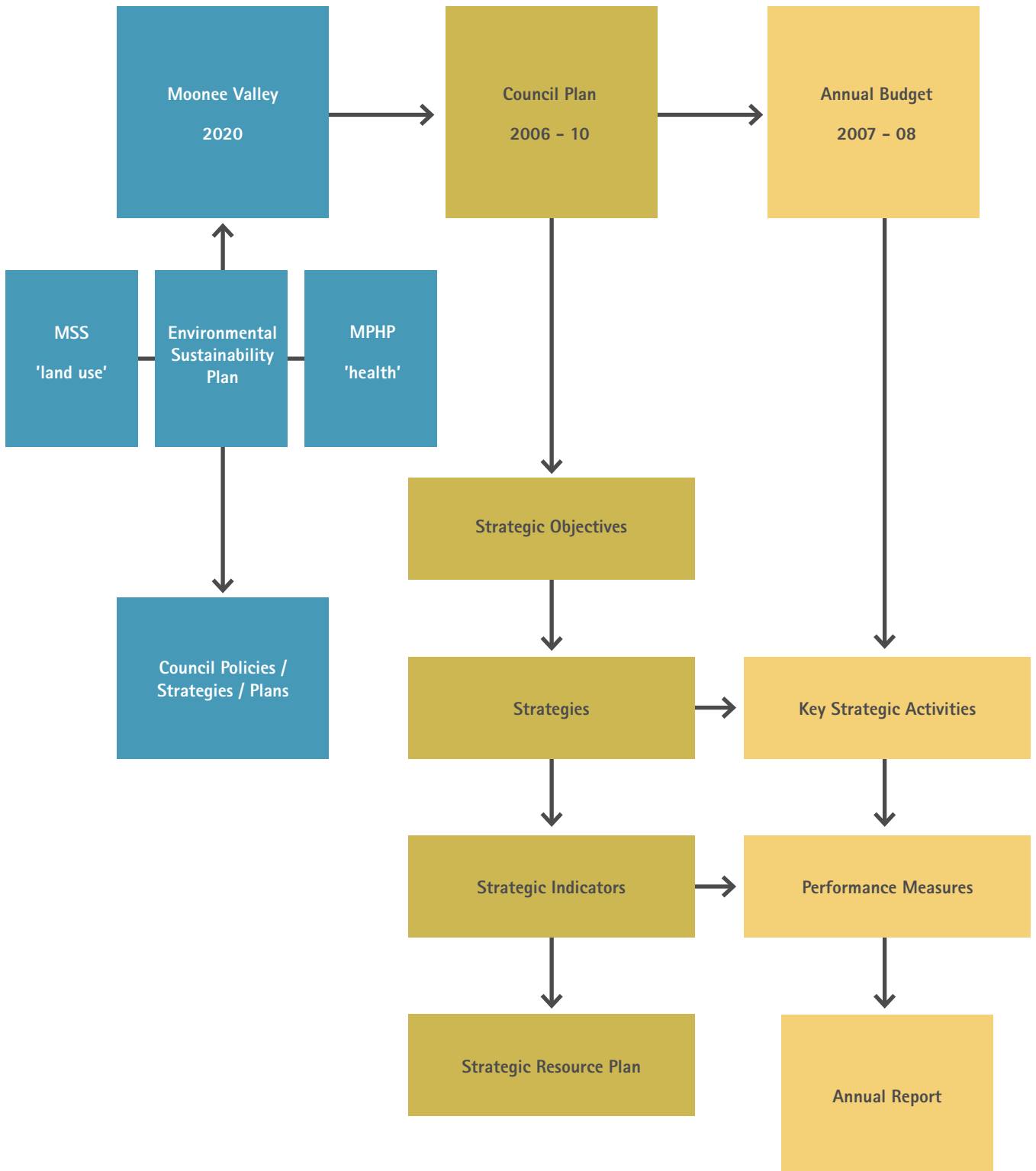
- Climate change
- Energy consumption and greenhouse emissions
- Biodiversity loss
- River and waterway health
- Water consumption
- Sustainable procurement
- Waste management
- Litter and pollution
- Built environment
- Transport planning
- Organisational responsibility
- Community participation

Based on these recurring themes three environmental management areas have been identified in this plan for Council to address. They are;

- Our natural assets
 - » enhanced biodiversity
 - » healthy waterways
 - » healthy lands;
- Using resources wisely
 - » sustainable water use
 - » climate change
 - » sustainable material use;
- Reducing everyday environmental impacts
 - » better transport
 - » sustainable built form
 - » improved waste management.

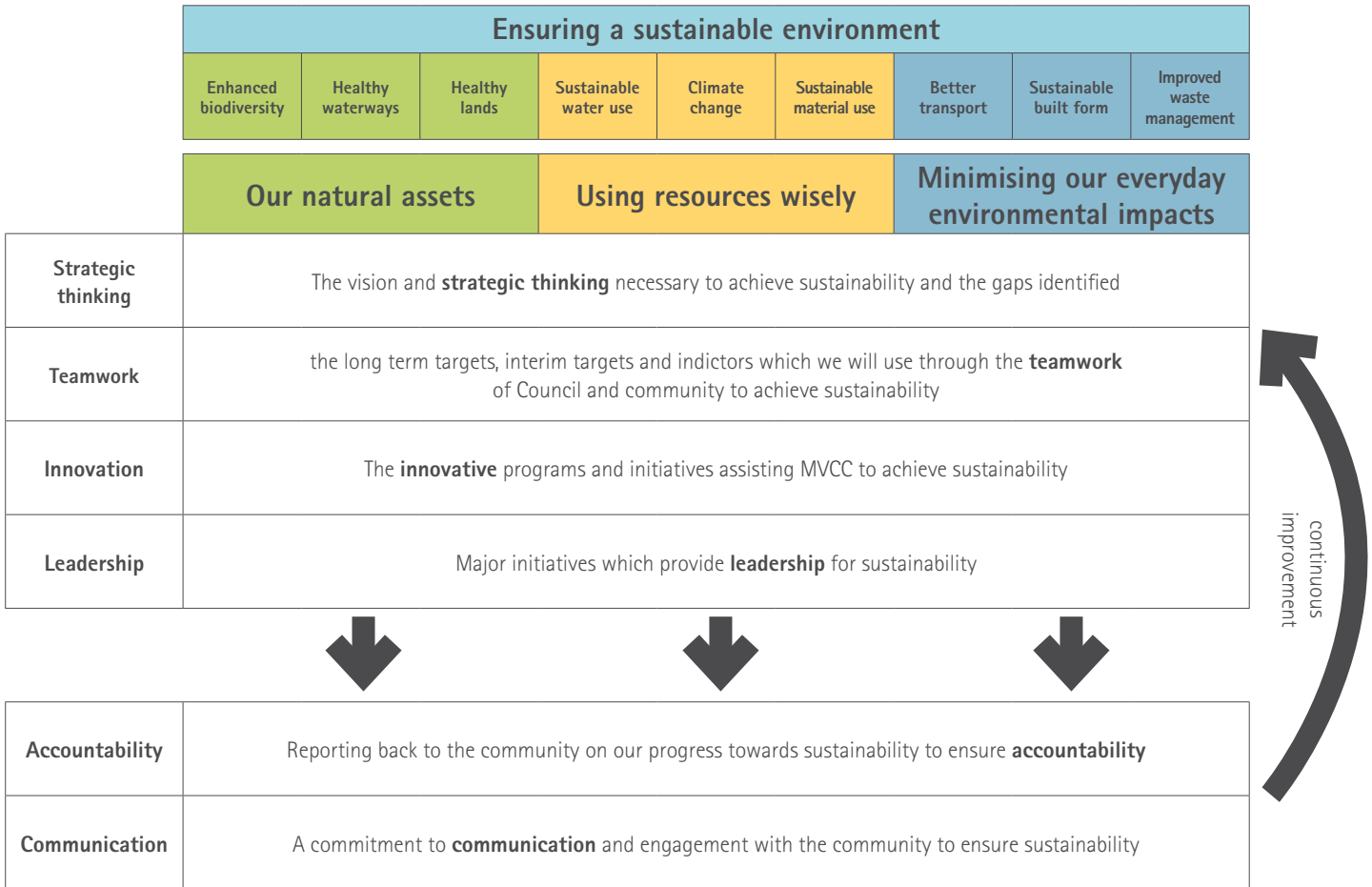
Corporate planning framework

The policy framework that the Environmental Sustainability Plan will sit within is as follows:



* Revised corporate planning framework based on 2006-2010 Council Plan 2007 update paper.

Moonee Valley City Council Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP)



Our natural assets



A key indicator of a sustainable environment is the health and abundance of its natural assets. These assets include:

- The biological diversity of the flora and fauna, also known as biodiversity which is the variety of life forms sustained in an ecosystem
- Health of waterways and surrounding catchments and
- Condition of the surrounding landscapes.

The natural assets in Moonee Valley are largely located along our western and eastern borders, formed by the Maribyrnong River and Moonee Ponds Creek. Parkland adjoining the waterways contains indigenous vegetation remnants and provides habitat for native fauna.

To the west the Maribyrnong River is bordered by extensive parkland and forms a natural focus for Moonee Valley residents. The Moonee Ponds Creek forms the eastern boundary of Moonee Valley, and along part of its length runs the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail. This trail provides a recreational path for cyclists and walkers, connecting many reserves, parks and sporting grounds along the creek.

An integral part of the Environmental Sustainability Plan is to ensure the biodiversity and health of our waterways and to manage surrounding landscapes and remnant indigenous vegetation areas sustainably now and in the future.

As an urban environment, Moonee Valley faces particular challenges in enhancing and protecting its natural assets. Urban environments that include buildings, roads and other infrastructure can compromise the green space, original habitats and diversity of flora and fauna. Some land use practices, such as those associated with industry and waste disposal, have the potential to generate contamination detrimental to human health and the environment.

There are considerable opportunities for councils as land managers and planning authorities to protect and enhance the community's natural assets through local laws and close connections with the community.

Enhanced biodiversity

Human activities, such as land clearing, pollution and the introduction of exotic plant and animal species have led to the decline in green spaces and remnant vegetation with a subsequent progressive loss in biodiversity. Biodiversity is integral to sustaining:

- *the economy* – an estimated 40% of the global economy is based on biological products and processes
- *the environment* – a healthy, biologically diverse environment is essential to maintain water quality, air quality, a healthy soil structure, plant regeneration, nutrient cycling and the decomposition of organic waste
- *society* – biodiversity enhances a city's liveability, underpinning the connection of communities with their natural environment and recreation opportunities available.

Moonee Valley has unique remnant vegetation, particularly along its creek corridors that also extend beyond municipal boundaries. The Afton Street Conservation Park supports 64 indigenous plant species with regional or local significance. Napier Park contains a stand of River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus Camaldulensis*), protected under the National Register of Significant Trees. There is only one other such stand of Red Gums in the Melbourne area. Strathnaver Reserve to the east is renowned for sections of remnant native grassland and areas of re-establishing grasses.

With less than 100 hectares of remnant vegetation left in the municipality, on both public and private land, a particular challenge will be to preserve these spaces and enhance their ecological value. Additionally there are significant opportunities for revegetation through open spaces planning and street trees.

As the key land manager for Moonee Valley, Council plays an important role in protecting and enhancing biodiversity. There are considerable opportunities for councils to play even in heavily urbanised areas as land managers, planning authorities and through their close connection with the community. Moonee Valley is committed to preserving and enhancing the many values of biodiversity – ecological, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic – incorporating them into Council's decision making processes.



Strategic Thinking Future Opportunities Team work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space Strategy (December, 2000) • Park masterplans 										
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Planting Plan (proposed) • Natural Heritage (Biodiversity) Strategy (proposed) 										
	Long-Term Targets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net gain in habitat value across Moonee Valley 										
	Interim targets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net gain in public open space • No net loss of vegetation in public open spaces • Annual increase in native and indigenous vegetation • Continue managing open spaces to reduce invasion of noxious weeds 										
	Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More indigenous flora & fauna species detected within the Moonee Valley area 										
Innovation	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>Timeline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Native Bushland Park Ranger program</td> <td>2007/08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Establishment of wetlands at Woodlands Park</td> <td>2008/09</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Completion of revegetation works at Napier Park</td> <td>2008/09</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Enhancing indigenous areas of Moonee Valley with local community group plantings and maintenance particularly along waterways</td> <td>Ongoing</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	Timeline	• Native Bushland Park Ranger program	2007/08	• Establishment of wetlands at Woodlands Park	2008/09	• Completion of revegetation works at Napier Park	2008/09	• Enhancing indigenous areas of Moonee Valley with local community group plantings and maintenance particularly along waterways	Ongoing
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Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afton Street Conservation Park Masterplan implementation including restoration of grasslands and riparian zone • Riverlink Project uniting Maribyrnong River, Steele Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek to create a green indigenous border around Moonee Valley 										

Healthy waterways

Our wetlands, creeks, streams and lakes (collectively called waterways) are far more than just part of the scenery. Waterways provide homes for wildlife and plants, water supplies for homes, industries and farms, and places of recreation and enjoyment for us all. Responsibility for ensuring healthy waterways and protecting water quality in catchments is shared between the community, all levels of government and catchment management authorities.

The two main waterways in Moonee Valley, the Maribyrnong River and the Moonee Ponds Creek, face challenges that occur in most waterways running through urban areas, such as pollution from building activities and industry and litter from commercial areas.

The health of the Maribyrnong River is relatively good and populations of native species, such as the Australian Grayling, can still be found. Key management issues include loss of habitat and native plants, erosion of river banks, weeds, deteriorating water quality and maintaining levels of water flow.

Moonee Ponds Creek, which is a partially concrete channel in Moonee Valley, is currently rated in very poor condition. Recent works by Melbourne Water have focused on enhancing habitat and stabilising, reshaping and replanting the banks of the creek. Wildlife has begun to return to the creek, including the Pobblebonk frog near Strathmore Secondary College.

Stormwater pollution represents one of the most significant damaging forces for our waterways. The urban stormwater system is the path by which rainfall runs off roads, roofs and car parks of residential, commercial and industrial areas and flows untreated into local creeks, rivers, lakes and eventually, the ocean. This system performs a wide variety of functions, from flood control to increasing the amenity of our parks and open space.

Moonee Valley City Council plays a significant role in improving the environmental management of urban stormwater. Through local laws and the use of stormwater management plans, Council has developed an integrated approach to urban stormwater quality.

Moonee Valley City Council endorsed the protection of our stormwater environments by adopting the Moonee Valley City Council Stormwater Management Plan in 2002. A review of the 2002 Stormwater Management Plan will allow Council to incorporate recent developments in stormwater management technology such as the use of water sensitive urban design (WSUD).

Council will meet pollution reduction objectives through strengthening local laws, imposing additional planning controls and implementing Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) initiatives set out in the new Stormwater Management Plan.



Strategic Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater Management Plan (June 2002) 														
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater Management Plan review 														
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Heritage (Biodiversity) Strategy (proposed) 														
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Team work	<p>Long term targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All waterways in Moonee Valley including the Maribyrnong River, Moonee Ponds Creek and Steele Creek are rated as 'excellent' by Melbourne Water 														
	<p>Interim targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise environmental damage to the waterways in the Moonee Valley's catchment areas Achieve a water quality improvement as set out in the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) Water Campaign's water quality program for Council operations by 2012 Achieve the ICLEI goals for community water quality by 2012 														
	<p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less pollution entering the Moonee Valley waterways Fewer reports of pollution incidents to local laws and the EPA 														
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Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish wetlands at Afton Street Conservation Park in partnership with Melbourne Water 														

Healthy lands

A healthy landscape is dependent on the quality of the soil, groundwater, surface water and air.

Healthy landscapes are necessary for:

- human health
- ecosystem function
- production of food, including our community gardens
- flora and fauna in our open spaces and
- safe play, recreational and work spaces.

Moonee Valley is a highly urbanised environment with a history of imported landfill used during its development, with much of it sourced from soils with a variety of pollutants and contaminants. Redevelopment of these sites today creates pollution risks which must be managed to ensure that no contamination of soil, groundwater or waterways occurs as a result of development. Planning is the primary way to regulate land use and development approvals, and is an important mechanism to manage potentially contaminated land. Council, as the planning authority, has a responsibility to ensure that this management is carried out in a manner that ensures human health and prevents any ecological damage.

Land and groundwater contamination can also be as a result of past land use and poor practices in handling, storing and disposing of hazardous waste and chemicals. Contamination may occur through the migration, dispersion and leaching through soil or groundwater of contaminants from nearby sites. Remediation of contaminated lands is expensive and can ultimately transfer the problem to another site (a prescribed waste site). Removing prescribed waste to toxic waste treatment sites is a very time consuming and costly operation.

Council has developed a draft site contamination policy as part of its governance and risk management strategy, however increasing awareness of this issue will require ongoing education and stringent management of site contamination issues.



Strategic Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asbestos Risk Management Policy (Sept 2005) 								
Future Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Weed Control Strategy Contaminated Soils Policy (proposed) 								
Team work	<p>Long term targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve and enhance all remaining areas of remnant landscapes particularly those along waterways Prevent further land degradation wherever possible No net gain in contaminated sites throughout Moonee Valley Focus on preventing overall degradation <p>Interim targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess and manage all known contaminated sites as specified under state legislation <p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving landscapes through careful management and reduced land degradation Reduced risk for the community of exposure to contaminated sites 								
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Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a Contaminated Lands Risk Management Policy. 								

Using resources wisely

Natural resources are the backbone of our society and economy. We rely on them to provide fresh water, air, food and shelter. In the past two centuries human development needs have placed significant pressure on the availability of resources worldwide.

Moonee Valley City Council uses resources daily to service the community, for example when:

- constructing local roads and footpaths
- collecting recycled, green waste and landfill material from residents
- maintaining parks, sportsgrounds and other open spaces
- delivering services to elderly citizens such as meals on wheels
- procuring materials for Council operations.

Moonee Valley, like other local areas, faces challenges and opportunities managing its resource base into the future. Climate change, population increases and any industry expansion will place greater demands on the use of materials, energy and water.

The use of resources can only be sustainable when the use is efficient and does not damage the environment. Reducing demand for unsustainable resources is the primary action towards sustainable resource management, for example, through using renewable resources such as wind and solar energy rather than non-renewable fossil fuels.

Moonee Valley citizens value their natural heritage and environment. Council can ensure their protection and maintenance through careful planning, management and new approaches to resource use.



Sustainable water use

Using our water resources efficiently and sustainably is essential for our quality of life, agriculture, food industries and the natural environment. Reducing demand on our potable (drinking quality) water can be done through behavioural and infrastructure changes, water recycling and rainwater capture, using water efficient appliances and equipment.

Australia is the world's driest inhabited continent; its limited water resources must be used wisely. Moonee Valley, as part of greater Melbourne, is facing increasing water shortages as a result of reduced rainfall over the last 30 years² and a growing population. From 1970-2001 urban water use in Melbourne almost doubled and over the last eight years of drought, water catchment levels have rarely been above 60% capacity³.

While water use has increased overall, per capita it has decreased⁴. This may be due to more community awareness of water scarcity, water restrictions and reduced demand from commercial and industrial activities⁵. Compared to the rest of the world however, Australia remains the greatest per capita consumer of water⁶. The average Melbourne household pours 30% of their potable water onto the garden and flushes 20% down the toilet⁷.

The impact of climate change is likely to result in less available potable water supply over the long term⁸, meaning that changes need to be made now to reduce our dependence on this precious resource.

In Moonee Valley there is potential to substitute mains water usage (potable water) with recycled water, stormwater and rainwater. Melbourne's previous eight years of drought have led to the increased popularity of water saving devices such as rainwater tanks, and rebate schemes have been introduced to encourage their installation.

Moonee Valley City Council can influence sustainable water use habits through:

- upgrading Council facilities to be more water efficient
- investing in innovative community water recycling projects
- incorporating water sensitive urban design (WSUD) into capital works
- using planning frameworks that require water efficiency in new developments.



Strategic Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Water Use Plan (2007) • Stage 3a Water Restrictions – Water Conservation Plan 				
Future Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Milestone 4 & 5 of the ICLEI water campaign 				
Team work	<p>Long term targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to reduce potable water consumption by 2020 to 40% of 2001 figures • Council to work with the community and state government to reduce community potable water consumption by 2020 to 40% of 2001 figures • Council to source 15% of water use from alternative water sources by 2012 <p>Interim targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% reduction in Council water use by 2015 based on 2002/2003 figures • 30% reduction in Community water use by 2015 based on 2002/2003 figures • Indicators • Reduced consumption of water in Council operations • Reduced consumption of water in the community 				
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the Moonee Valley City Council Sustainable Water Use Plan (2007) 	2007/08				
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Green Precinct is to be established around the areas of the Civic Centre, Clocktower, Kellaway Neighbourhood House, Moonee Ponds Police Station, Essendon Historical Society and Queens Park. The Green Precinct which will showcase excellence in sustainability including water and energy conservation, waste minimisation, alternative transport and will demonstrate to the community what is possible in ensuring sustainable resource management. 				

Climate change

There is now general consensus in the scientific community that climate change is the most serious threat facing the world today. Human activity is affecting global warming through excess production of CO₂ (greenhouse gas) emissions, which impacts weather patterns, sea levels and rainfall.

A global assessment of data since 1970 has shown it is likely that anthropogenic (caused or produced by humans) warming has had a discernible influence on many physical and biological systems. (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Working Group II Contribution, Fourth Assessment Report 2007).

The burning of fossil fuels dominates Australia's electricity generation. As a result of burning these fossil fuels, the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is increasing.

Moonee Valley City Council recognises the impact humanity is having on increased greenhouse gas emissions. Council is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and meeting the challenges of climate change and global warming.

As a participant in the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) program, Moonee Valley City Council has made a commitment to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. The Local Greenhouse Action Plan sets a target of a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from Council activities by 2010, based on 1990's levels. Moonee Valley residents, traders and other community members will be encouraged to also reduce their emissions by 20%.

Through this Plan, Council is committing to a carbon neutral target for its services by 2015. To meet this target, Council will prioritise actions according to the following energy hierarchy:

- energy conservation: behaviour change and demand management measures that ensure we avoid wastage and only use what we actually need;
- energy efficiency: improvements to infrastructure that ensure energy is used as efficiently as possible;
- renewable energy: source renewable energy over coal derived power (solar, wind, biomass, etc);
- offsetting carbon emissions.

Saving energy through improved energy efficiency has been shown to be the most cost effective way to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Energy savings can be made through making smarter choices when buying new products, or by an initial capital investment in infrastructure and technology.

Climate change will influence all aspects of our lives, from environmental, to social, to economic. It means that we must rethink how we live and work and create new ways to carry out our day to day activities.



Strategic Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse Action Plan (July 2004) 																																				
Future Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Greenhouse Action Plan and include a carbon neutral action plan Join the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Plus program Sign onto the Victorian Local Sustainability Accord Join the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) 																																				
Team work	<p>Long term targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moonee Valley City Council will be carbon neutral by 2015 Interim targets 20% reduction in Council greenhouse gas emissions by 2010 based on 1990s' levels 20% reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions by 2010 based on 1990s' levels <p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced energy consumption Reduced CO2 emissions from Council operations Reduced CO2 emissions from the Community 																																				
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Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moonee Valley Carbon Calculator (available on the website) Develop a sustainable demonstration building in Woodlands Park, Essendon, with an emphasis on solar hot water, solar power, home insulation, grey water reuse and rainwater harvesting Develop a Green Precinct proposal around the Civic Centre, Clocktower, Kellaway Neighbourhood Centre, Moonee Ponds Police station, Essendon Historical Society and Queens Park with an emphasis on energy efficiency and other environmental initiatives. 																																				

Sustainable materials use

The key objectives for sustainable resource management are minimising materials used and managing wastes produced by our consumption. In addition, it involves looking at the choices we make in purchasing goods, such as using recycled goods instead of those made from new materials.

The sustainability of a product depends on the amount of resources – such as water, energy and raw materials – used in its production and the processes used, for example toxic chemicals. Sustainable materials must be durable and resource efficient, and contain as much recyclable content as possible.

A commitment to using sustainable materials has wide-ranging benefits; reduced landfill waste, reduced energy and water use, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and minimum damage to human health (avoidance of toxic materials).

Moonee Valley City Council has identified that it can achieve greater environmental sustainability by purchasing sustainable materials. Changing community perceptions about how we source and reuse materials is driving Council to purchase materials minimising landfill impact through a process known as green procurement. Green procurement is a way an organisation can use its influence in the market place to create a shift towards sustainable production and consumption, while minimising its own impact on the environment.

Moonee Valley City Council is a member of ECO-Buy™, a joint initiative of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Sustainability Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment. ECO-Buy is a resource for Victoria's local government's green purchasing program, working to increase purchasing of recycled, greenhouse friendly, water and energy efficient, non-toxic products. Since becoming a member of ECO-buy in 2004, Council has committed to developing and implementing a green purchasing program.



Strategic Thinking Future Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to adopt a Green Purchasing Policy 	
Team work	<p>Long term targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of all purchases meet established green purchasing principles <p>Interim targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include green purchasing guidelines in the accounts payable and procurement policy for Moonee Valley City Council Endorse agreed green purchasing principles Implement a staff awareness program highlighting the environmental and economic advantages of green purchasing 40% of infrastructure projects using concrete to use recycled content or low carbon content concrete by 2008 <p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased percentage of total expenditure on environmentally preferable products and services Increased staff awareness of more environmentally friendly purchases 	
Innovation	Activity	Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue participating in the ECO-Buy™ green purchasing program 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all contracts and tenders source materials from environmentally friendly places such as the ECO-Buy program 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor staff use of printers and paper to reduce paper usage in council activities 	2007/08
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce a low print run policy for Council documents, making electronic copies available 	2007/08
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership projects East Keilor Leisure Centre will reuse 75% of building materials during its redevelopment 	

Minimising our everyday environmental impacts

Ensuring sustainability requires us to make sustainable choices every day – about transport, the infrastructure we build and the waste we produce.

To live more sustainably we need plan our communities to avoid car dependent travel, design more environmentally sustainable houses and buildings and reduce our energy and water use.

Better transport

Transportation contributes 16.5 per cent to Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions and the annual rate of increase of these emissions is higher than any other sector. Increasing sustainable transport use presents a difficult challenge as social, economic, educational, recreational and cultural activities often depend on carbon intensive transportation. Increasing the use of public transport and cycling and planning our cities to ensure that facilities are located in walking distance are two ways in which the impact of transport on climate change can be lessened.

Moonee Valley City Council is currently developing an integrated transport plan to manage the travel needs of Moonee Valley residents and commuters passing through the city. A major objective of the plan is to create sustainable choices for the movement of goods and people through our city. The management of vehicles, bicycles, walking paths for the public, accessibility for disabled users, and public transport users requires careful planning to ensure all needs are met. The plan aims to find better ways to govern, manage and fund urban transport and improve links between various transport modes.



Strategic Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling and Walking Strategy (Sept) • Road Safety Plan (2001-05) 														
Future Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Integrated Transport Plan for Moonee Valley (proposed) • Green Travel Plan (proposed) • Review Road Safety Plan • Vehicle Fleet Policy 														
Team work	<p>Long term targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create choices for the movement of goods and people through our city ensuring these choices are sustainable • Increase the number of residents in activity centres to reduce the need for car dependent travel <p>Interim targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with State Government to achieve 20% of all trips to be made on public transport by 2020 <p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A greater percentage of trips taken by active or public transport • Increase in the number of school children participating in the Walk to school program • A net reduction in fuel use by all Council vehicles of 20% by 2010 and 50% by 2015 based on June 2007 figures 														
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Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Walking School Bus program • Sustainable Transport Week 														



Sustainable built form

The built environment includes the places where we live, work, shop, and play. How and where construction and development occur can affect energy use, air quality, ecosystem health, human health and vegetation protection. Green building principles and smart growth can allow residential development to occur in a manner which encourages walking, cycling and public transport use, using planning as a tool to balance development and environmental protection. A sustainable built form will accommodate growth while preserving open space and critical habitats, revitalising communities and protecting water and air quality.

Most developments are subject to Victoria's planning provisions and the Planning and Environment Act (1987) which Moonee Valley City Council administers. Using incentives and regulations is a way for local government to deliver favourable environmental outcomes, through policies covering:

- neighbourhood and streetscape character
- sustainable development patterns (i.e. activity centres)
- the provision and protection of open space
- protection of native vegetation
- remediation of contaminated land and
- compliance with EPA guidelines.

Council is responsible for planning scheme amendments in the municipality, including rezoning of land and changes to the Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) of the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme. The three-yearly review of the LPPF provides an opportunity for Council to build on policies contained with the State Planning Policy Framework to deliver local sustainability outcomes.

Strategic Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moonee Valley planning scheme 										
Future Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal Strategic Statement Review Activity centre structure plans Asset management plans ESD Guidelines/Fact Sheets for the community 										
Team work	<p>Long term targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with the community to develop structure plans for activity centres including Moonee Ponds, Airport West, Keilor Road and Essendon North, incorporating environmental sustainability objectives <p>Interim targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate environmental sustainability principles into the review of the planning scheme All new or redeveloped Council buildings to incorporate environmentally sustainable development measures (energy, water, waste, materials) that seek carbon and water neutrality <p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreased potable water and energy consumption in the community Increase in number of sustainable developments in Moonee Valley 										
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Leadership	<p>Leadership projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moonee Ponds Activity Centre (MPAC) to be a sustainable living village with energy, water and waste efficiency in the built form Ensure the East Keilor Leisure Centre redevelopment incorporates best practice ESD measures including carbon and water neutrality Develop 6 star rated sports and recreation pavilions (or equivalent Sustainable Design Scorecard rating) at Buckley Park and Walter St Use the development of Council properties in the Gladstone St link as a benchmark for the built form within the MPAC project 										

Improved waste management

Action to reduce waste, either by reducing its generation or enabling the recovery and reuse of discarded material is a critical element of sustainable development. Local governments face the task of finding alternatives to landfill disposal, increasing recycling and organic waste diversion rates, meeting statutory requirements and the community's expectation of a sustainable environment.

Local government plays an important role in waste management, with municipal waste making up 35% of waste produced in Victoria (Sustainability Victoria, 2005).

Municipal waste has traditionally been disposed of to a landfill, essentially an area of land which is filled up before moving on to the next site. This is an unsustainable practice, and as landfills reach their capacity and are closed, there is increasing resistance to creating new landfill sites. Technologies and methods of dealing with municipal waste have been rapidly changing over the last 20 years, moving towards increased diversion of recyclables and organic materials.

Moonee Valley City Council is committed to reducing waste within its operations and within the community. A review of Council's Waste Management Strategy will enable Council to build upon the momentum generated by the 2003 Great recycling revolution. It is designed to help Council surpass mandatory State Government targets and be seen as a leader in waste management across the broader metropolitan region. Improved waste management will be guided by Council but requires the education and participation of residents, producers and consumers.

One of the greatest challenges will be managing the increase in consumption as we progressively become a more disposable society. Waste per capita is steadily rising, and part of local government's role in waste management is to educate and provide information to the community to help them make sustainable choices.

The growing concern of excessive material consumption has led to efforts to educate consumers and manufacturers on the need to make and purchase products which use fewer resources in their manufacturing and are made up of recyclable components. Programs such as Ecobuy and company green purchasing policies are methods to increase responsible purchasing habits, minimising waste production.





Strategic Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Management Strategy (June 2003) 								
Future Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Waste Management Strategy 								
Team work	<p>Long term targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To achieve best practice in waste minimisation and kerbside recycling Work with state government to deliver innovative solutions to the community to minimise landfill and make informed purchasing decisions <p>Interim targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce waste going to landfill from all sectors of the community to 45% diversion by 2008 <p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased diversion rates Reduced tonnage of waste overall Increased staff awareness of more environmentally friendly purchases 								
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Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase Council's diversion rate to exceed the state government's target of 65 per cent by 2014 								

Accountability and communication

Accountability –

Reporting to the community on our progress towards sustainability.

Moonee Valley's corporate planning process includes Moonee Valley 2020, the four year Council Plan, annual Business Unit Service Plans, the Annual Report and quarterly progress reports to Council. Our corporate planning process facilitates the strategic direction of the organisation and the presentation of information to our community. The actions listed below will integrate environmental sustainability into Council's corporate planning process.

Ref.	Action	Timing	Involvement
	Develop a departmental responsibility matrix for actions linked to each of the innovation areas of the ESP	2007/08	Environment Unit
	Evaluate the ESP and its implementation at the end of each financial year to ensure relevance and refine actions as appropriate for the coming year	Ongoing	Environment Unit
	Review Council's current executive/manager performance system (KPI's) and develop an appropriate policy/approach to incorporate environmental outcomes as performance indicators	2008/09	Corporate Planning HR
	Undertake a major review of the ESP every five years (including review of the overall strategic goal)	Ongoing	Environment Unit
	Ensure sustainability indicators and targets are aligned with those of the Council Plan	2008/09	Corporate Planning Environment Unit
	Ensure all long term targets and interim targets identified in the ESP are incorporated into major projects conducted by Council (e.g. activity centres, new Council facility projects and service provision)	Ongoing	All departments
	Ensure that new policy/strategy development or revisions of existing policies/strategies are aligned with the goals and principles of the ESP and consult the Environment Unit on environmental: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indicators • targets • reporting dates • revision frequency • responsibility • communication and consultation • community engagement • training 	Ongoing	Council wide
	Link proposed planning amendments to environmental sustainability targets adopted by Council (e.g. greenhouse reduction targets)	2008/09	Planning Dept. Environment Unit
	Brief Executive General Management and Council on the progress of the ESP prior to yearly budget process	2007/08	Environment Unit
	Assess Council's current risk management approach (e.g. Risk Management Policy) against potential environmentally related risks to Council, including climate change. If required, develop a list of recommendations that support the reduction of significant environmental risks	Ongoing	Risk Management Environment Unit
	Integrate environmental sustainability themes and projects into the yearly executive/Councillor planning session	2008/09	Corporate Planning Environment Unit
	Establish an internal Green Committee (to supersede the current Waste Wise staff committee) and maintain a resource folder of initiatives	2007/08	Environment Unit EMG
	Investigate opportunities to establish Council supported independent environmental advisory services	2008/09	Environment Unit
	Review the ESP goals and targets in line with major strategy reviews (e.g. Moonee Valley Greenhouse Action Plan) to ensure Council is consistently aiming for best practice outcomes	Ongoing	Corporate Planning Environment Unit
	Integrate ESP objectives into Moonee Valley's Council Plan reporting tools/templates	2009/10	Corporate Planning Environment Unit
	Review Council's annual report format and investigate developing a whole of council sustainability reporting framework in accordance with leading sustainability reporting frameworks (e.g. Global Reporting Initiative)	2008/09	Corporate Planning Environment Unit
	Link sustainability into the internal Interplan reporting system	2007/08	Corporate Planning Environment Unit

Communication – Communicate and engage with the community

Moonee Valley City Council has a strong commitment to communication and community engagement. Council is committed to strengthening and engaging our community, ensuring a dynamic network of neighbours, friends, family and groups. Participation and engagement in local activities and governance improves quality of life throughout our municipality.

Ref.	Action	Timing	Involvement
	Hold community Environment forums (chaired by the Mayor) that focus on emerging trends of environmental significance - 2006/07 topics have been on transport, energy, biodiversity and water	Ongoing	Communications Environment Unit
	Community Advisory Forum (Chaired by the Deputy Mayor) - Renewing Infrastructure, Transport: Sustainable Environment	Ongoing	City Works
	Regular media releases on environmental sustainability information and articles in Valley View is sent to every home in the municipality	Ongoing	Communications Environment Unit
	Use Council events and programs to introduce the sustainability message, for example childcare centre newsletters and a sustainability educator at the Senior's Health and Wellbeing day.	Ongoing	All departments
	Provide regular updates to the Council website	Ongoing	Communications Environment Unit
	Place articles in the Council staff newsletter informing staff of environmental activities, initiatives and achievements	Ongoing	Communications Environment Unit
	Feature environmental information and activities information stalls at the Moonee Valley Festival	Ongoing	Arts & Culture Environment Unit
	Poster and flyers at the Council Civic Centre, Depot, Clocktower Centre, libraries and child care centres advertising environmental events	Ongoing	Communications Environment Unit
	Produce an Environmental Resource Kit for schools and the community	2007/08	Communications
	Update the Sustainable Gardening Booklet. Promote with local nurseries running sustainable gardening programs	2008/09	Environment Unit
	Report yearly to EMG and councillors on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water consumption • energy consumption and greenhouse emissions • waste generation • environmental activities 	2008/09	Environment Unit
	Develop an online ESP reporting system for all stakeholders to monitor Council's performance across the ESP action areas.	2008/09	Corporate Planning



Glossary of terms

Biodiversity Number and variety of living organisms. Includes genetic diversity, species diversity and ecological diversity.

Catchment An area of land that collects water which has drained to its lowest point. As well as rivers, creeks, lakes and dams, a catchment also includes groundwater, stormwater, wastewater, and water-related infrastructure.

Climate change The variation in the Earth's global climate over time. These changes can be caused by processes internal to the Earth, external forces (e.g. variations in sunlight intensity) or, more recently, human activities.

Demand management Reducing the demand for consumption i.e. reduced energy and water use through more efficient appliances and reduced wastage.

ECO-Buy A government funded organisation established to encourage the purchasing of green/environmentally friendly products.

Ecosystem Short for ecological and system. Refers to the collection of biotic and abiotic components and processes that comprise and govern the behavior of a subset of the biosphere. Elements of an ecosystem may include flora, fauna, water and soil.

Environmental sustainability Long-term maintenance of ecosystem components and functions

Global warming The observed increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans as a result of human induced activities.

Green procurement The acquisition of products and services that have less impact on the environment than a competing product or service that serves the same purpose.

Greenhouse gases Gases in the atmosphere that contribute to the greenhouse effect. Some greenhouse gases occur naturally in the atmosphere, others result from human activities. Naturally occurring greenhouse gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone. Certain human activities, however, add to most of these naturally occurring gases.

Indicators Measure progress towards a result.

Indigenous Flora/fauna native to a specific part of Australia.

Non-renewable resources Natural resources that cannot be re-made, re-grown or re-generated on a scale comparative to their consumption. Often fossil fuels, such as coal, petroleum, and natural gas are considered non-renewable resources, as they do not naturally re-form at the rate they are used.

Potable water Drinking quality water.

Remnant vegetation Original plant community native to a region.

Renewable resources Any natural resource used more slowly than it regenerates. It must either have a way of regenerating itself to qualify as renewable, or be so abundant that its depletion is next to impossible.

Revegetation The process of replanting and rebuilding the soil of disturbed land.

Sustainability Ability to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Water Campaign Local government program run by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability that seeks to decrease water consumption, improve the health of water systems and address catchment-wide management issues.

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Footnotes

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Moonee Valley Language Line

عربي	Arabic	9280 0738
中文	Cantonese	9280 0739
Hrvatski	Croatian	9280 0740

Ελληνικά	Greek	9280 0741
Italiano	Italian	9280 0742
Somali	Somali	9280 0743

Español	Spanish	9280 0744
Türkçe	Turkish	9280 0745
Việt-ngữ	Vietnamese	9280 0746

All other languages 9280 0747

TTY 9243 9170