

## Strategic priority 5:

# Education, engagement and collaboration

### Context

While Council's education and engagement activities are integrated throughout the priority areas outlined in this Strategy, this section summarises Council's commitment to engage, communicate and build and strengthen relationships with all stakeholders involved in the implementation of this Strategy.

The integration of sustainability throughout Council requires strong commitment and action from all staff. Developing staff awareness, information and capacity to deliver environmental outcomes requires leadership, cross-departmental collaboration and ongoing support. While Council works hard to improve its own environmental performance, it acknowledges that it is important to engage others in the process.

The City of Stonnington works with a wide range of partners and stakeholders daily to maintain and enhance Stonnington's liveability now and into the future. Strengthening these relationships and developing new partnerships with other key stakeholders will help drive the delivery and implementation of Council's key sustainability objectives.

While Council plays a leadership role supporting sustainability action within the community, organisations and individuals have a significant role to play to co-create the change that is needed to transition our City to a more sustainable future. Council will engage and communicate with the community - identifying and removing barriers to change, including filling knowledge gaps, providing resources, direction and support to motivate and inspire behaviour change. Council will also advocate on behalf of the community for biodiversity protection, improved public transport, renewable energy generation, higher standards for buildings and better waste management systems.

The Stonnington community is increasingly interested in taking action to reduce its environmental impact. Council will continue to support the community in their aspirations for environmental sustainability and to tap into their skills and energy, including exploring supporting volunteering opportunities in the area such as citizen science and tree planting.

### Our approach

Council runs an annual calendar of environmental events for the community including workshops, tours, festivals and planting days to raise awareness and equip residents with the knowledge and skills to create change at home and work, as well as support community connectedness.

Council also delivers educational programs for Stonnington residents across a range of sustainability topics including home composting, energy efficiency, communal gardening and waste management.

Through the Green Schools Program, Council engages with schools and early learning centres to build their capacity to deliver environmental initiatives. The knowledge gained through these sessions can be applied in the classroom or at home, providing a link to the wider community.

Council also works with local community groups and sporting clubs to help them build their capacity and environmental knowledge and skills to create change.

Reporting is a key element of implementing Council's commitment to sustainability. Monitoring and reporting Council's progress towards its sustainability goals is an important way for Council to demonstrate its commitment, leading by example and communicating and marketing its achievements. Effective reporting raises the profile and promotes the importance of improving environmental outcomes across the city and enables opportunities for further improvements to be identified. This progress can be used to inspire the Stonnington community to also change their actions and decisions.

Council continues to develop and build partnerships with a number of key stakeholders both within Stonnington and in the wider community including state government agencies, local government networks and peak bodies. Collaborative projects support sustainability networking, capacity building, innovation, research and monitoring opportunities.





## Education, engagement and collaboration strategic objectives

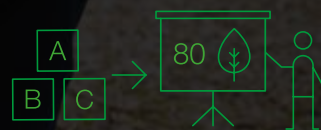


### Council will:

- 5.1 integrate sustainability into Council services, functions and decision-making processes
- 5.2 monitor, evaluate and publicly report on Council's progress towards achieving its sustainability objectives and targets
- 5.3 develop and strengthen partnerships with relevant external stakeholders to advance sustainability, and
- 5.4 support staff action and behaviour change through environmental education and engagement.

### Council will support the community to:

- 5.5 reduce its environmental impact through environmental education and engagement.



- » Through the **Green Schools Program**, Council engages with schools and early learning centres to build their capacity to deliver environmental initiatives



- » **Monitoring and reporting** Council's progress towards its sustainability goals is an important way for Council to demonstrate its commitment