

SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION PARTNERSHIP

Making Sydney a sustainable destination

PROGRESS REPORT 2021



sustainabledestinationpartnership.com.au

Welcome from the Chair- Amanda Visser

The Sustainable Destination Partnership (SDP) is a collaboration of tourism, accommodation and entertainment sector organisations including hotels, hostels, serviced apartments, cultural institutions, event and entertainment venues who share the vision to make Sydney a global leader in sustainable tourism and who work together to lift industry standards in sustainability performance.

Together, our partners operate over 60 per cent of hotel rooms and all the major cultural and entertainment venues in the City of Sydney and collectively, pre COVID-19, we welcomed 26 million visits annually to our venues.

Sydney is Australia's leading destination for tourists and the gateway to NSW. In Sydney, the sector is responsible for 47 per cent of Sydney's commercial waste, 21 per cent of its carbon emissions and consuming 14 per cent of its drinking water. Our sector is a vital component of the city's economy and an important contributor to national and international recognition of Sydney being a great place to visit, live and work.

Our shared purpose is to create more sustainable visitation and tourism offerings across Sydney, and we are achieving this through climate advocacy and action, collectively championing renewable energy uptake, leading our sector in food waste reduction programs and collaborating and knowledge sharing to find solutions to common challenges.

This Progress Report is our third and reflects the challenging two-year period experienced across the tourism, accommodation and entertainment sectors as a result of the global pandemic.

Despite the myriad of challenges during the reporting period – including border closures, resourcing and a slower return to more normal operating levels post-COVID restrictions, our members demonstrated tremendous resilience and perseverance.

As we look towards a brighter future, we reflect on the outcomes that have been achieved towards our sustainability goals and acknowledge the progress our members have made in their commitments to carbon reduction and neutrality, new solar installations and Power Purchase Agreements in development, new corporate strategies to drive sustainable outcomes and implementing building efficiency upgrades and resource saving programs.

The partnership also delivered projects in line with the SDP's strategic plan including food waste avoidance and reduction training, best practice water audit and management guidance and implementation of third-party green building ratings.

In 2022, we are looking forward to more ambitious strategies and bolder goals and targets as we prioritise a sustainable recovery. We will increase renewable energy uptake, maintaining a focus on single use plastics reduction, switching to innovative waste and recycling solutions and guiding the wider industry towards leading sustainable operations.

On behalf of the leadership panel, I applaud our partners, our supporters, and our program managers at the City of Sydney for their resilience, leadership and perseverance. We are proud of what we have achieved over the last 18 months and invite you to share our stories and experiences throughout this report.



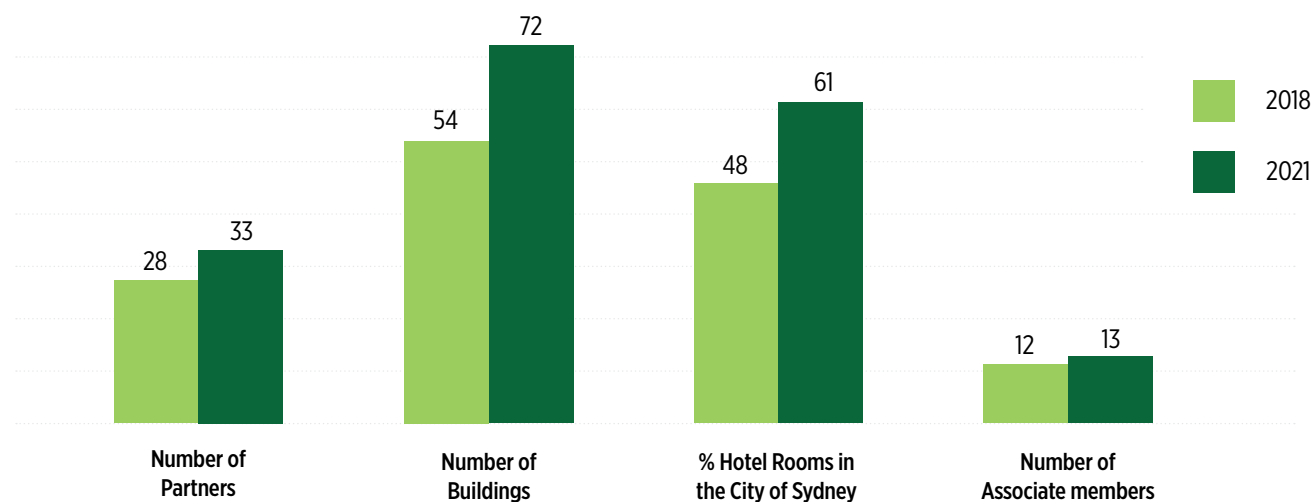
How we work

The partnership works collaboratively to:

- › **Improve** the environmental performance of Sydney's accommodation and entertainment venues
- › **Invest** in renewable energy, recycled water, waste avoidance and management and other sustainable solutions that support Sustainable Sydney 2030
- › **Engage** with regulators and governments on key environmental policy and regulatory issues

- › **Champion** and promote our objectives and outcomes to the broader sector and wider community.

The partnership is governed by a leadership panel, three technical working groups and the City of Sydney, as secretariat. Together we define shared barriers to improved environmental performance, test solutions, develop best practice tools and resources, and encourage uptake of these across the broader sector.



Values



We are creating a sustainable future



We care about people



We create innovative solutions



We measure our achievements



We share ideas



We lead by example

In May 2021, Partners were able to gather for a socially-distanced event in the Barnet Long Room, Customs House.



Photos by Anna Kucera

Our targets and results

Our results for 2021 are influenced by COVID-19 which saw many of our properties close from March 2020 resulting in a significant reduction in visitor numbers and therefore the resource use presented here. However, many of our partners used this time to focus on other qualitative measures of sustainability success which are included in this report.

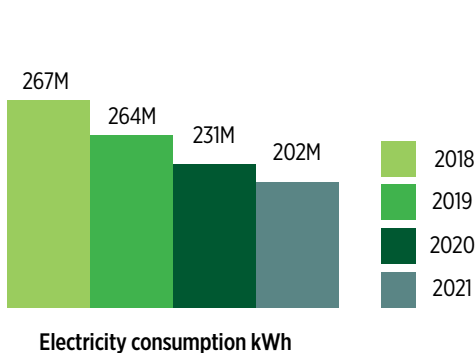


TARGET BY JUNE 2021
Reduce total emissions by 10%*

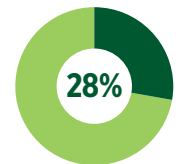
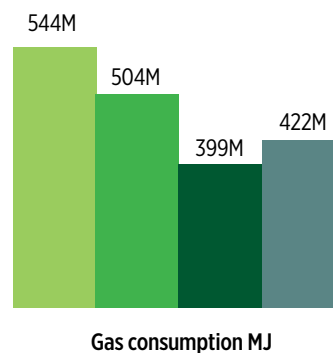
* From a 17-18 baseline

OUR 2021 RESULTS

Reduced electricity by **65 million kWh**



Reduced gas consumption by **122 million MJ**



28% reduction in emissions*



TARGET BY JUNE 2021
Increase energy from renewable sources through on-site generation and off-site purchasing

9 partners are currently sourcing some renewable electricity and **13** others are considering their options.

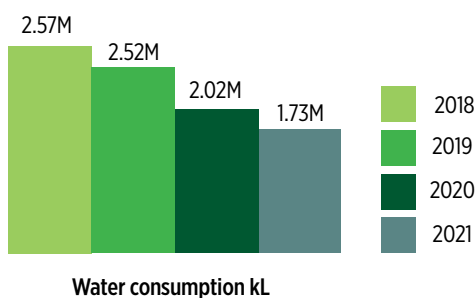
OUR 2021 RESULTS



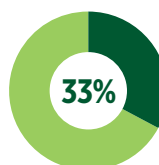
TARGET BY JUNE 2021
0% increase in potable water*

* From a 17-18 baseline

OUR 2021 RESULTS



Reduced water by **.84 million kL** since 2018



33% reduction in potable water*





TARGET BY JUNE 2021

- 70% diversion from landfill
- All partners reporting on waste

OUR 2021 RESULTS

18

members reported
on waste

207

SDP hotel staff undertook food waste
training through Love Food Sydney

34

buildings continued to work on
reducing single use plastics



Employee engagement key to Hilton's efforts on single use plastics

*"Our people see the damage that single-use plastic does to the environment
and are proud to be working with a company taking steps to address it."*

Craig Cavers, Chief Engineer, Hilton Sydney



TARGET BY JUNE 2021

- The average sustainability capability** score across the partnership is 3.5 out of 5 (proactive)
- Range of scores is 2-5 across all capability measures

OUR 2021 RESULTS

** as measured every two years by our Associate Member, Sustainability Advantage

2021 was a very disrupted year, but Partners continued to work on sustainability projects.

State Library uses lockdown to shine a light on hidden energy savings

*"COVID closures gave the Library the opportunity to identify electrical loads
that should not have been running and further fine tune the operations
of the Library buildings. This has enabled further electricity reductions
resulting in 43 per cent decrease in electricity from the 2013/14 baseline."*

David Franco, Manager Facilities, State Library New South Wales



Photo by Anna Kucera

N.B. Our 2021 results are for the 71 current buildings in our partnership from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021.
76 per cent of members reported their resource data in 2021, up from 52 per cent in 2020.

Our Stories

3 members who are **carbon neutral**

CO₂ + **7** have a public **commitment to net zero** carbon emissions

17 buildings achieved **third party ratings**

34 buildings working on reducing **single use items**



Five actions for the year ahead

1

Drive data excellence for waste reporting

2

Work towards halving food waste

3

Implement water saving opportunities

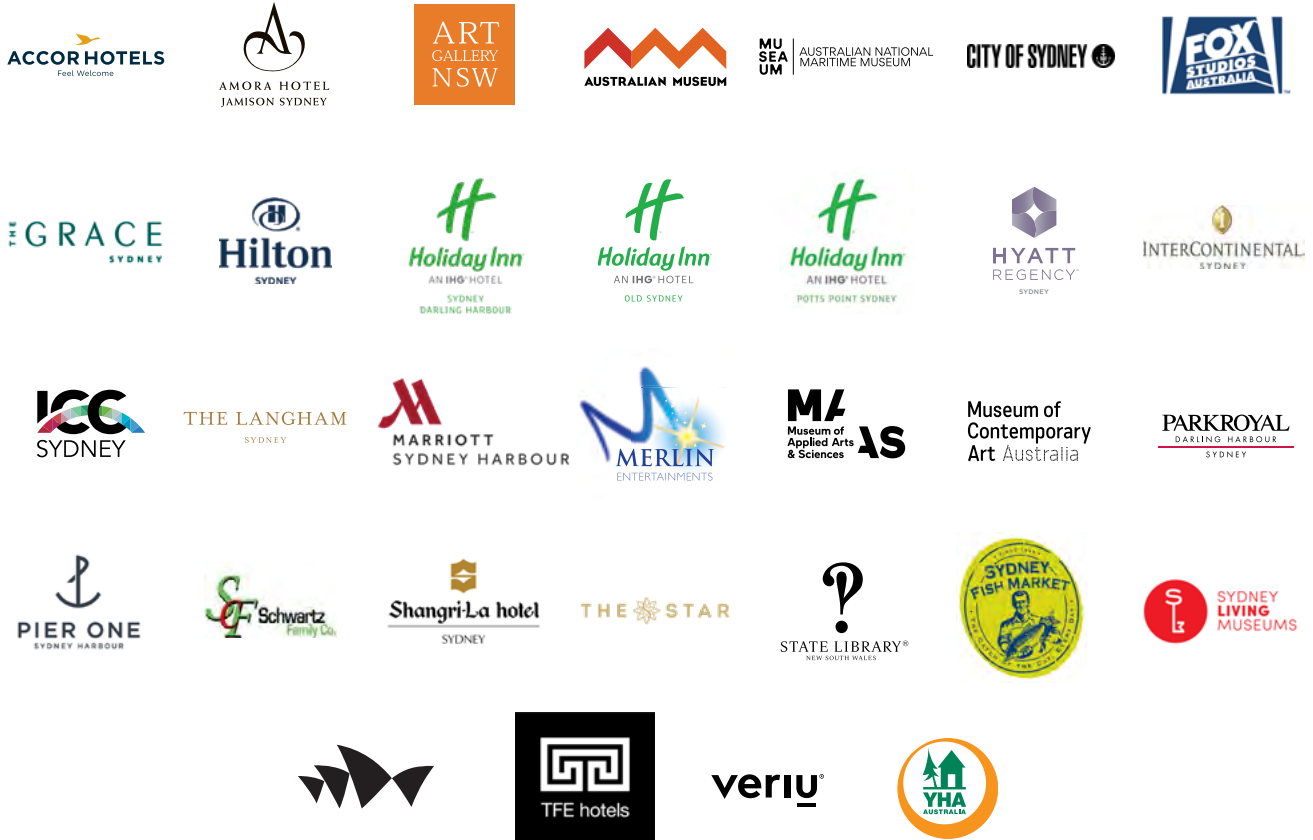
4

Demonstrate pathways to reducing single use

5

Increase knowledge and uptake of renewables

Partners



Associates



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