

SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION PARTNERSHIP

Making Sydney a sustainable destination

PROGRESS REPORT 2023



sustainabledestinationpartnership.com.au

Welcome

Chair's remarks

Emma Bombonato, Sydney Opera House

It's been another productive and fulfilling year for the Sustainable Destination Partnership with Sydney's tourism and accommodation sector returning to a busy hum in 2023. This provided the partnership with the energy to renew and sharpen its focus through strategic goal setting and action planning.

Partnership members were afforded several wonderful opportunities to participate in industry workshops and hear from inspiring community leaders. They also contributed to strategic, yet big picture, conversations that kept the group engaged and empowered during the year to achieve its objectives.

We've strengthened the partnership's efforts to increase environmental performance, expand our reach and elevate Sydney's reputation as a sustainable destination. The team designed a project to help better understand waste impact and identify further opportunities to reduce food waste. We hosted several workshops with the City of Sydney in collaboration with the Business Renewables Centre. These workshops built awareness and capability around procuring renewable electricity, and partnership members amplified our sustainability successes with greater engagement and reach through their own networks.

I'm very pleased to report that Sydney achieved its highest ever score in the Global Destination Sustainability Index, ranking as the 5th best metropolis, globally. The partnership reduced emissions by 24% and potable water use by 24% from our 2018 baseline. Our partners also achieved 50% waste diversion from landfill and increased renewable electricity use to 13%.

I've enjoyed immensely my time with the partnership. It's been a privilege to play a role as the chair for the past 2 years, working with the leadership team to guide the partnership's direction. It's such important work and the collaboration between partnership members and the City of Sydney is key to achieving the ambition of Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050 Continuing the Vision. As I step away from my role as chair, I wish the new chair, the partnership, and the leadership team all the best for 2024 and beyond.



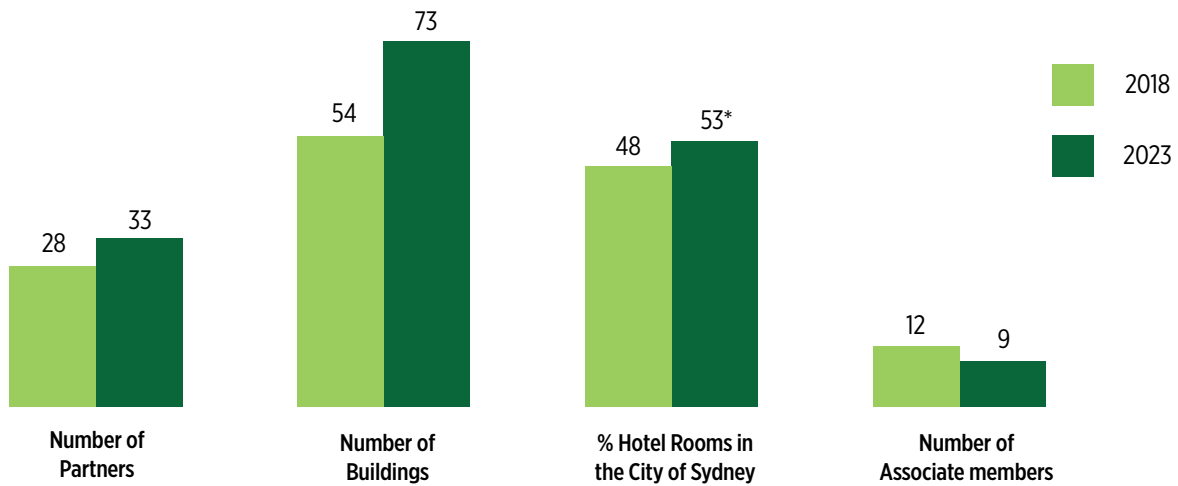
How we work

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 2030-2050
- › **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.



* Based on updated 2022 data from City of Sydney

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



Chair, Emma Bombonto, Sydney Opera House, and Deputy Chair, Mei McNamara, Salter Brothers



Our annual celebration event with the Lord Mayor

Photos by Damian Shaw

Our targets and results

Data from 2020 to 2022 was impacted by Covid lockdowns and reduced visitors at partner buildings.

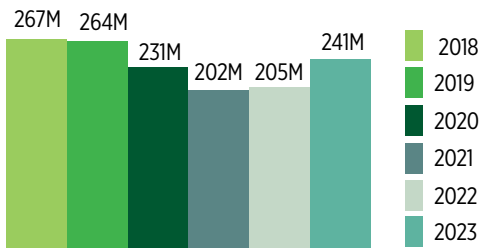


TARGET BY JUNE 2025
Reduce total emissions by 50%

* From a 17-18 baseline

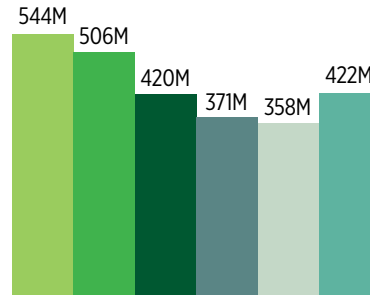
OUR 2023 RESULTS

Reduced electricity by **26 million kWh**

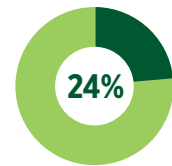


Electricity consumption kWh

Reduced gas consumption by **122 million MJ**



Gas consumption MJ

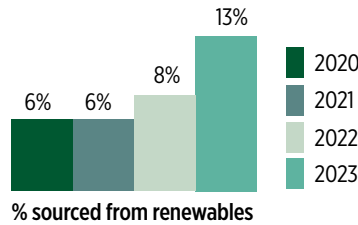


24% reduction in emissions*

TARGET BY JUNE 2025
50% of electricity sourced from renewables

OUR 2023 RESULTS

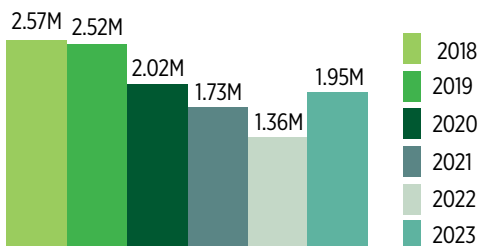
14 partners are currently sourcing renewable electricity
13 per cent of electricity is sourced from renewables



TARGET BY JUNE 2025
0% increase in potable water*

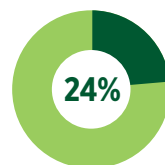
* From a 17-18 baseline

OUR 2023 RESULTS



Water consumption kL

Reduced water by **0.62 million kL** since 2018



24% reduction in potable water*



N.B. Our 2023 results are for the 73 buildings in our partnership from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Resource use data was reported for 62 buildings, and was estimated from FY 22 data for buildings that did not report

Our Stories



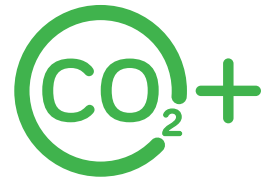
47

building ratings and certifications **were implemented in 2023**



14

buildings are **purchasing renewable electricity**



21

buildings have a **net zero commitment or target**

Our 2025 targets

- › 50% reduction in carbon emissions from 2018 baseline
- › 50% of collective electricity use is renewable
- › 50% reduction in potable water use from 2018 baseline
- › All hotels in the Partnership have a Net Zero Action Plan
- › All partners reporting on waste
- › 70% of our collective waste is diverted from landfill
- › Consistently achieve Top 10 Ranking on the Global Destination Sustainability Index
- › 12 SDP stories broadcast to industry and the general public

Five actions for the year ahead

1

Implement best practice waste management

2

Continue to work towards halving food waste

3

Amplify our success stories

4

Plan and work towards net zero

5

Increase uptake of renewable electricity

Case Study

Salter Brothers – furniture donation creates environmental and social impact

Salter Brothers is an Australian-based investment manager which owns and operates several local hotels, including Novotel Sydney City Centre. The 283-room Haymarket hotel was one of 11 of its hotels due for refurbishment in 2023, which included a strip-out of all furniture, fixtures and equipment.

Most of the items were still in very good condition so Salter Brothers looked for project partners that could accept and redistribute them to people in need. Relationships with 3 charity partners – ReLove, Vinnies and GIVIT – were established.

These strategic partnerships helped Salter Brothers successfully redirect almost 100 tonnes of furniture, appliances and household items away from landfill. The donations that benefitted at risk groups and displaced families included mattresses, sofas, tables, appliances and artwork. The donations also supported the Wise Foundation, which provides hospitality training to refugees and asylum seekers.

While it contributed to environmental sustainability, Salter Brothers also empowered priority communities.

“Donating items to ReLove, Vinnies and GIVIT allowed our hotel refurbishment to have a positive social impact. Salter Brothers was thrilled to be able to support people in need throughout this project,” Salter Brothers portfolio manager Andrew Dunn said.

Key sustainability outcomes:

- › **Choose to reuse:** Salter Brothers diverted more than 80% of refurbishment waste from landfill from its Novotel Sydney City Centre Hotel. By comparison, top performing commercial office buildings divert around 20% of waste from landfill when refurbishing.
- › **Buy local:** Salter Brothers also sourced more than 80% of the new furniture, fixtures and equipment from local NSW suppliers.
- › **Social impact:** Donations went to women and children impacted by domestic violence, homeless people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and young people, and people seeking asylum.



Global Destination Sustainability Index

Each year Sydney enters the Global Destination Sustainability Index where it is scored and ranked among other global destinations against a set of sustainability criteria.

The City of Sydney collaborated with Business Events Sydney and Destination NSW in an application to recognise and enhance the work of the accommodation and entertainment sector in progressing sustainability.

In 2023 Sydney was ranked 29th in the index against all other destinations and received its highest score of 77.21%. In the metropolis category Sydney ranked 5th globally, ahead of cities like Berlin, Barcelona and Montreal.

Business Events Sydney won the first Social Impact Award at the 2023 Global Destination Sustainability Awards.

In 2024 the City of Sydney will work closely with the Sustainable Destination Partnership, Business Events Sydney and Destination NSW to continue promoting and improving Sydney's results in the Global Destination Sustainability Index.

Partners



Associates



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