

SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION PARTNERSHIP

Making Sydney a sustainable destination

PROGRESS REPORT FY25



Welcome

Chair's remarks

Mei McNamara, Salter Brothers

Since establishing in 2018, the Sustainable Destination Partnership has played a key role in improving the sustainability performance of organisations across Sydney's visitor economy. It has supported the vision outlined in the City of Sydney's Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050: Continuing the Vision. In 2025, we increased our focus on key sustainability challenges. We did this by working on net zero, renewable electricity, electrification and reducing food waste. Sustainability success stories were also elevated within our communities.

The partnership has evolved into a network of committed and collaborative organisations. Every partner is now contributing meaningfully. In 2025, Sydney achieved its second highest score on the Global Destination Sustainability Index.

Our members have used our tools and resources to develop their own net zero, electrification and climate resilience strategies. Across the partnership, 61 buildings have third-party environmental certifications. Also, 15 buildings are now purchasing renewable electricity. These are clear indicators of real impact. Collaboration is our strength. By working together, we're tackling our common challenges. We're achieving measurable outcomes and demonstrating best practice to our peers across Australia and globally.

Financial year 2025 marked the conclusion of this phase of the partnership and an opportunity to reflect on both progress made and lessons learned. While we did not meet all our targets, we made strong progress in several areas and have identified clear priorities for the next phase of work. On behalf of the leadership panel, thank you to all our members for your commitment and continued efforts. As we close this phase of the partnership, I'm excited to see how we will continue advancing toward net zero. We'll also continue to set the standard for sustainable tourism in Sydney.



Mei McNamara - Manager ESG, Salter Brothers

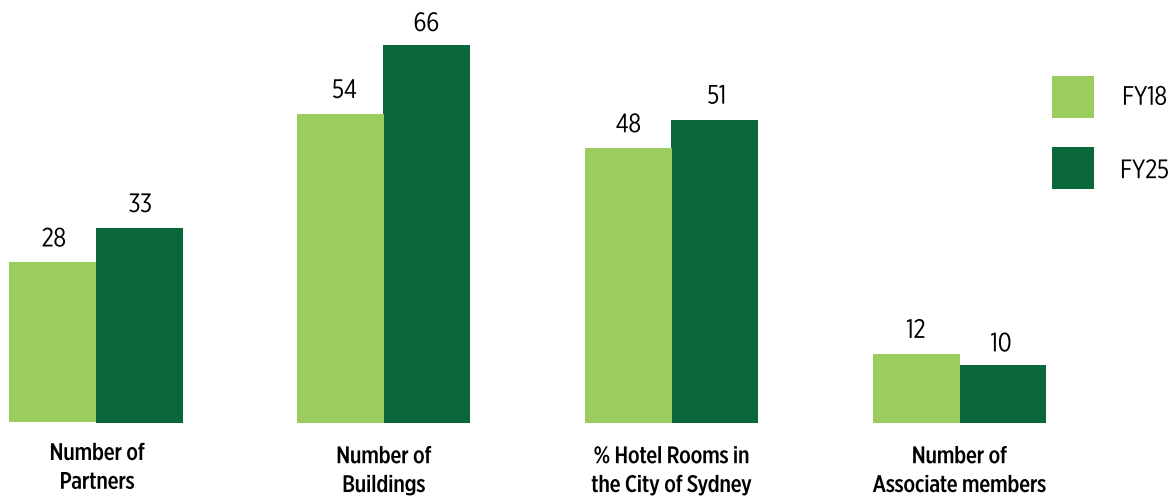
How we work

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 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

Our leadership team

Chair – Leadership Panel



Mei McNamara

Manager ESG, Salter Brothers

Deputy Chair – Leadership Panel



Trevor McCarren

Deputy Chair, Director Technical Services, Pacific North, Accor

Chair – Communications and Outreach Working Group



Carolin Lenehan

Chief Reputation & Brand Officer,
Business Events Sydney

Chair – Waste and Circular Economy Working Group



Jessica Zickar

Corporate Social Responsibility
Manager, ICC Sydney

Chair – Emissions and Water Reduction Working Group



Carmel Reyes

Head of climate action and
sustainability, The Powerhouse

Our FY25 targets

- › 50% reduction in carbon emissions from FY18 baseline
- › 50% of collective electricity use is renewable
- › 50% reduction in potable water use from FY18 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
- › 12 SDP stories broadcast out through communications channels to industry and the public
- › LP and WG Chairs each do one industry event presentation focusing on the SDP at their relevant sector events
- › Consistently achieve Top 10 Ranking on the GSDI

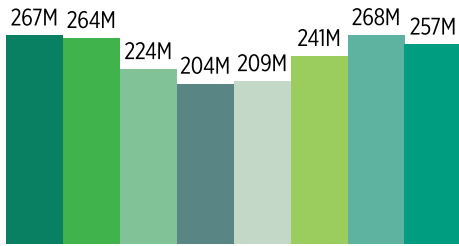
Our FY25 results

Data from FY20 to FY22 was impacted by Covid lockdowns and reduced visitors at partner buildings.

Energy and emissions

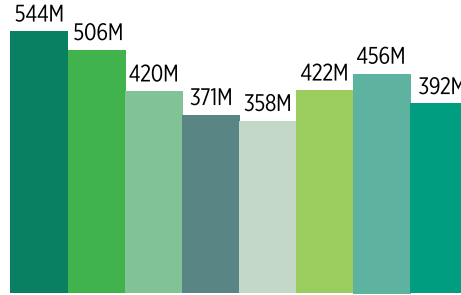
From a FY18 baseline

Reduced electricity by **10 million kWh***

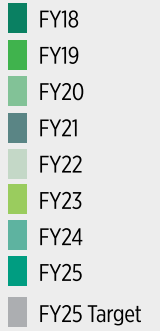


Electricity consumption kWh

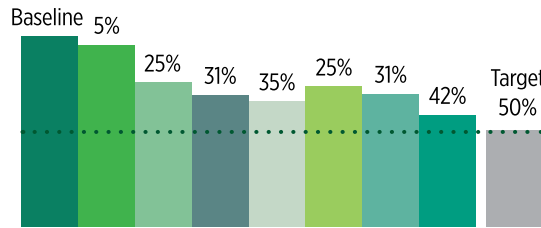
Reduced gas consumption by **151 million MJ**



Gas consumption MJ

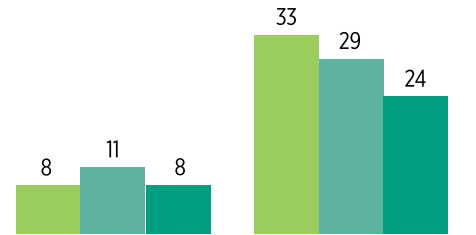


Progress to FY25 emissions target[^]



Emissions savings (tonnes CO2-e)

Changing emissions intensities



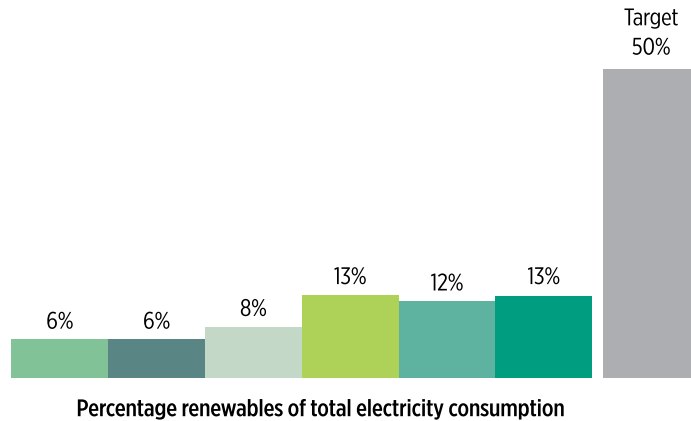
Venues (kg CO2-e / visitor)

Accommodation (kg CO2-e / guest night)

Renewables

15 buildings are purchasing renewable electricity

13% of electricity is sourced from renewables



Percentage renewables of total electricity consumption



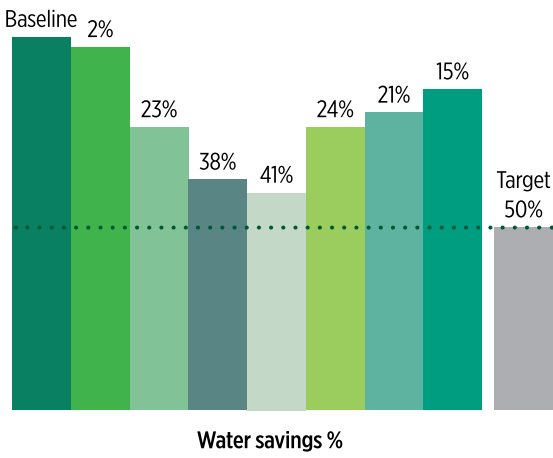
N.B. Our FY25 results are for the 66 buildings in our partnership from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

* The FY24 electricity consumption figure has been revised from 263M kWh to 268M kWh following the backfilling of electricity data for one asset.

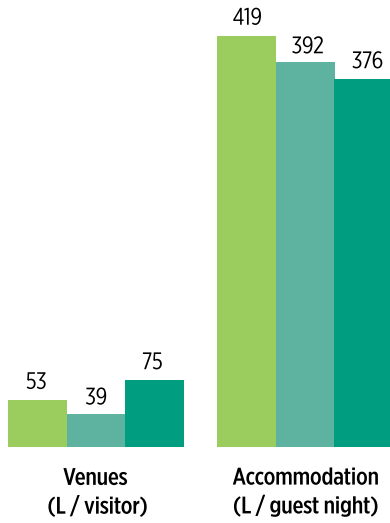
[^] Scope 2 emissions are calculated using a hybrid methodology, where renewable energy procurement is deducted from total electricity consumption and the residual is multiplied by state-level location-based emission factors. While this approach maintains year-on-year consistency, it does not fully align with the GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance. A comparison with the standard market-based method indicates an approximate 2% variance. This approach will be reviewed in future years.

Water

Reduced water by **0.37 million kL** compared to the FY18 baseline



Changing water intensities

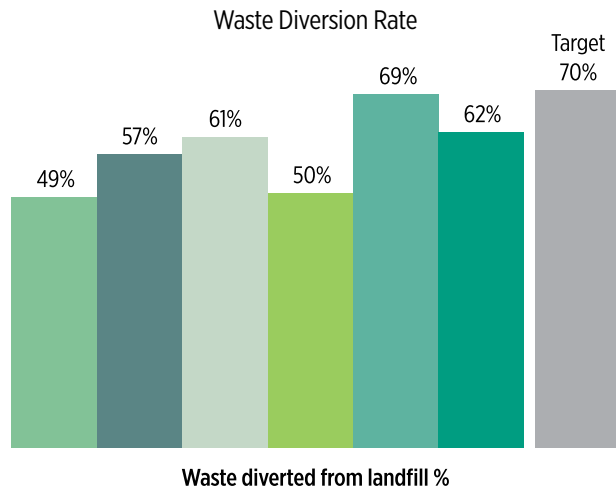


- FY18
- FY19
- FY20
- FY21
- FY22
- FY23
- FY24
- FY25
- FY25 Target



Waste diversion

From a FY18 baseline



More results



61 building ratings and certifications were implemented in FY25



15

buildings are purchasing **renewable electricity**

N.B. Our FY25 results are for the 66 buildings in our partnership from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Our Stories

Less Waste, More Wonder at the Australian Museum

The Australian Museum's major redevelopment of the permanent Surviving Australia exhibition stands as a powerful demonstration of the circular economy brought to life. Every design choice, material selection and construction method was guided by sustainability, showcasing how world class exhibitions can be created with dramatically reduced environmental impact.

The project began with a careful and responsible dismantling process. Existing showcases and materials were reused or rehomed wherever possible, and remaining elements were recycled through local green partners. These efforts significantly cut waste destined for landfill and set a strong foundation for the new exhibition's circular approach.

The project team prioritised sustainable construction at every stage. Recycled content materials, low emission products and responsibly sourced items formed the core of the build. Modular components were intentionally designed to minimise waste and maximise longevity, allowing elements to be easily dismantled, adapted and repurposed for future needs.

Precision cutting based on 3D CAD files helped ensure material efficiency, while offcuts were meticulously sorted for reuse or recycling. This approach reduced excess materials and substantially decreased overall waste. Looking to the future, wall units have been engineered for reconfiguration in upcoming projects, showcase doors will be stored for reuse and acrylic vitrines will either be reused or donated, further extending the life of valuable assets.

Chemical safety and indoor air quality were also paramount. The team selected chemically inert and non toxic finishes throughout, incorporating PVC free flooring and wallpaper, recycled acrylics, low VOC paints, certified formaldehyde free and urea free products, water based paints, solvent free inks and acid free papers. This holistic approach ensures a safer and healthier environment for visitors, staff and collections.

Collaborating with local suppliers played a key role in minimising transportation impacts and strengthening regional circularity. Suppliers were encouraged to reduce packaging, offer sustainable alternatives and support increased material efficiency. Their partnership helped bring innovative, low impact solutions to the forefront of the project.

Surviving Australia is an embodiment of what circular, responsible exhibition design can achieve.

“The Australian Museum is committed to developing more sustainable ways to decommission end-of-life exhibition materials and implementing design guidelines for the use of sustainable materials in our exhibitions. The redevelopment of the permanent exhibition, Surviving Australia, allowed us to put this in practice and prove that world class exhibitions can also be sustainable ones.”
– Richard Dilly, Director of Museum Experience and Engagement

Images: Australian Museum



Our Stories

Weaving sustainability into the guest journey at Kimpton Margot Sydney

Kimpton Margot Sydney, a 1930s lifestyle luxury heritage-listed property, seamlessly blends its historic character with contemporary style. The hotel's preservation of architectural features highlights its unique position within Sydney's cultural landscape.

The hotel advanced its sustainability credentials through considered changes aligned with global standards. A major milestone was the landmark being awarded Green Key certification, an internationally recognised eco-label that meets Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) standards, awarded to properties that demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental and social responsibility. This certification reflects the hotel's progress in conserving energy, managing water, reducing waste, sustainable sourcing and community impact. The hotel joins a growing portfolio owned by Pro-invest Group certified under Green Key, underscoring the group's ambition to drive meaningful and credible sustainability.

Operated by EVT Connect Hospitality, Kimpton Margot Sydney's social impact is equally prioritised with RISE - Reaching for Inclusion through Scholarships and Experiences. The signature social program was established by Pro-invest Group in partnership with Southern Cross University in Australia and Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand, supporting equity scholarships and paid internships. At Kimpton Margot Sydney, RISE was founded with creative fundraising from cocktail purchase donations. The money raised meant 3 scholarships worth \$5,000 each were offered in 2025. Guests are also encouraged to reduce their environmental footprint and opt out of housekeeping with IHG's A Greener Stay effort.

"We strive to weave sustainability into every facet of the asset lifecycle, guided by both national and internationally recognised best practice standards. From conserving Kimpton Margot Sydney's heritage features to adopting local and global sustainability certifications and inclusive social programs such as RISE, we are committed to delivering responsible hospitality that drives impact and excellence." – Pro-invest Group, Senior ESG & Communications Manager, Cindy van der Wal

From heritage preservation to community connection and environmental projects, the Kimpton Margot Sydney is dedicated to embedding sustainability into every stage of the guest experience. This holistic approach continues to uphold high standards for responsible hospitality, demonstrating Kimpton Margot Sydney's commitment to advancing Pro-invest Group's One Earth, Countless Experiences ethos and Sustainable Destination Partnership's principles in Australia.

"Sustainability at Kimpton Margot Sydney is achieved through the everyday choices our teams make while running the hotel. It's how we manage energy and water, reduce waste source responsibly and bring guests along the journey to minimise their environmental footprint as they travel. At EVT Connect Hospitality we focus on making sure our ESG commitments translate into real, consistent outcomes across all properties we operate." – EVT Connect Hospitality, General Manager of Operations, Troy Cuthbertson



Images: Pro-invest Group Photography

Our Stories

A recipe for a greener future at ICC Sydney

International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney) is a world class events destination set within one of the city centre's most vibrant cultural and technology precincts. With sustainability embedded at the heart of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategy, ICC Sydney champions a triple bottom line approach: strengthening community, caring for the environment and supporting equitable economic development. Its commitment has earned international recognition, including Gold LEED certification, Silver EarthCheck certification and the UFI Sustainable Development Award.

Recognising that food waste is a major contributor to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, ICC Sydney partnered with End Food Waste Australia and began measuring food waste to understand where and why it occurs. By tracking exactly what is thrown away, from preparation to plate waste, the team uncovered vital insights to refine menu design, adjust serving sizes, improve food preparation practices and optimise event services.

To make this work possible, ICC Sydney equips staff with extensive waste stream training and invests in leading technology, including BinTracker and AI powered Winnow systems. These tools provide real time data that empowers chefs and front of house teams to continuously improve. Strong leadership support and internal education campaigns have built a culture where every team member contributes to reducing waste.

The results go beyond environmental benefits. ICC Sydney strives to divert 75% of waste, including food, from landfill each year while also supporting local communities. Since 2016, the culinary team has donated more than 34.6 tonnes of safe, unserved food to organisations such as the Matthew Talbot Hostel, providing nutritious meals for people experiencing homelessness.

ICC Sydney's message is clear: measuring food waste sparks action. The insights gained help protect the planet, strengthen communities and make good business sense. For organisations starting their own journey, the advice is simple: separate and measure your waste, use technology to make it easier, involve your whole team and turn data into meaningful action.



Image: ICC Sydney

Our Stories



Photo credit: Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel

Sydney Harbour Marriott leads on water management

The Sydney Harbour Marriott continues to strengthen its water efficiency, climate resilience and commitment to sustainable hospitality with targeted infrastructure upgrades, proactive maintenance and improved operations.

As an established property, the hotel addressed several challenges associated with ageing infrastructure, including inefficient cooling systems and over-reliance on drinkable water, while identifying opportunities to improve daily water efficiencies and use best practices. Addressing these issues reduced water waste, cut utility costs and improved system performance.

Refurbishing 2 cooling towers addressed leaks and inefficient water use. Improvements included updating structural their elements, modernising mechanical components and enhanced water treatment.

When the upgrade was completed, water use was cut by 6,716kL or 63%, reflecting improved system efficiency.

In June 2025, the hotel installed a 2,000L rainwater tank on the level 4 terrace to support landscaping irrigation, reducing reliance on mains water and promoting sustainable water use.

Replaced leaking and inefficient irrigation systems in the level 2 and 3 planters further reduced mains water use and supported sustainable landscaping.

Infrastructure upgrades communicated to hotel associates strengthens the team's awareness of sustainability efforts to conserve water and energy. Team members are encouraged to:

- › report any leaks or faulty equipment
- › avoid running water while preparing food
- › run dishwashers only when fully loaded
- › learn about saving water with Greenie challenges in the weekly sustainability spotlight.

Our Stories

A harbour view of a sustainable future at Sydney Harbour Marriott

Sydney Harbour Marriott met globally recognised sustainable tourism criteria to become the first Marriott International Hotel in Australia to achieve its prestigious Sustainable Tourism Certification.

This recognition by Ecotourism Australia highlights Sydney Harbour Marriott's commitment to meeting best-practice standards across environmental, socio-economic, cultural and sustainable management. The hotel's efforts include Serve 360, a sustainability and social impact platform guiding eco-conscious actions such as introducing energy efficiency systems, prioritising water conservation, and championing sustainable and local produce for menu items. Also, Connect Responsibly allows its numerous event planners and attendees to meet sustainability goals.

Ecotourism Australia CEO Elissa Keenan applauded the exceptional commitment of Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel.

"Their enthusiasm for and alignment to globally recognised sustainable tourism standards is a testament to their team and their commitment," Keenan said.

Sydney Harbour Marriott general manager Bernhard Langer said achieving Sustainable Tourism Certification represents a significant step forward in the hotel's ongoing journey towards sustainability and responsible tourism.

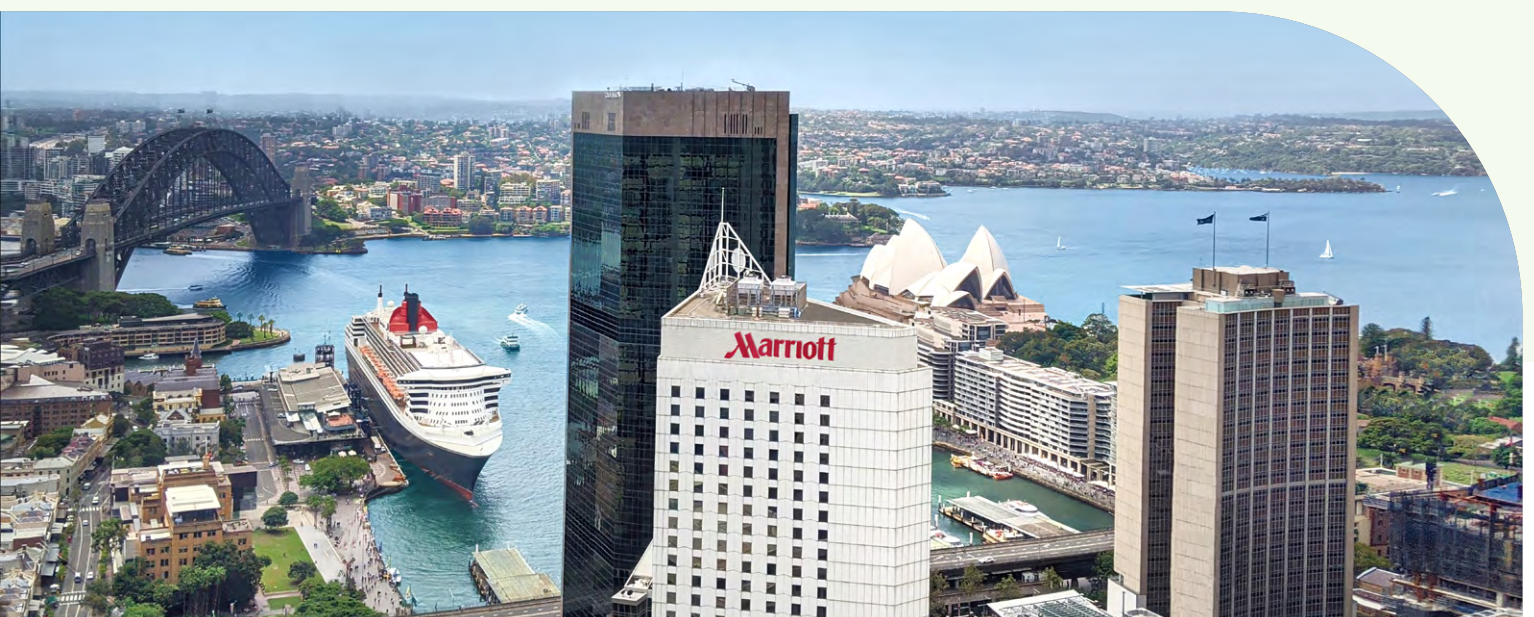
Photo credit: Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel

"Achieving Ecotourism Australia's Sustainable Tourism Certification is a proud milestone for the Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel. Guided by Marriott's Serve 360 sustainability program, we've embedded environmentally responsible practices across every aspect of our operations, from reducing energy and water use to improving waste management and building strong partnerships with our local community."

"This recognition reaffirms our commitment to minimising our environmental footprint as a hospitality leader, while continuing to deliver exceptional guest experiences as we work towards a more sustainable future."

Achieving global best-practice Sustainable Tourism Certification is a meticulous process, involving more than 200 key criteria across 4 pillars of sustainability. Certification involves an initial third-party audit, followed by periodic independent audits to maintain certification and demonstrate ongoing commitment to sustainability. Accommodation providers who have obtained Sustainable Tourism Certification from Ecotourism Australia now have the option to add their certification to their Booking.com listing, making demonstrating sustainability credentials easier than ever.

This was first published by Ecotourism Australia.



Our Stories

Behind the scenes at Disney Studios Australia's major sustainability milestone

Disney Studios Australia marked a major sustainability milestone in June 2025 with the installation of more than 700 solar panels across its site, creating a 460kW system that provides renewable energy to the studio. The install made the facility the first operational film studio in Australia to run on solar power.

Led by the studio's Green Team, the effort sits alongside other sustainability projects. The site offers 15 recycling streams and achieves an 85% landfill diversion rate. Also, several buildings run on 100% GreenPower and rainwater tanks have been installed to help lower overall water use.

The solar installation reflects a clear commitment to reducing environmental impact through meaningful, measurable action.

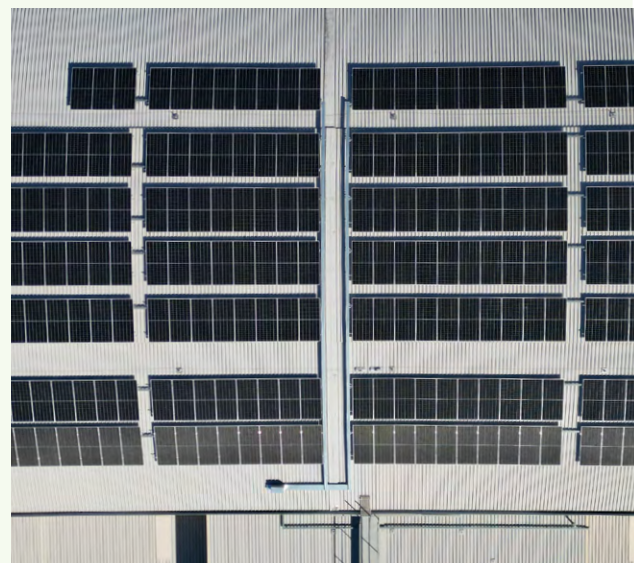
"Our team was driven by a genuine desire to do better for our industry and for the environment," Yasmine Lintmeijer, Head of Disney Studios Australia said. Her comments highlight the studio's belief that large production spaces can lead the way in adopting renewable energy at scale.

Sustainability executive Cassey Stone described the move as a transformative step that raises expectations for what studios can achieve.

"By integrating green grid energy onto our site, we're not only reducing emissions but also setting a new benchmark for sustainability within the screen industry," Stone said.

With the system now well established, the studio is continuing to monitor the solar array's performance and the measurable impact. The insights gathered so far are helping shape the next phase of the studio's renewable energy strategy, with further opportunities already being explored to build on this momentum. This milestone represents not an endpoint, but a strong foundation for what comes next as the studio continues to push sustainability standards forward across the screen sector.

Photo credits: Disney Studios Australia



Partners



Associates



The data and methodology in this report were reviewed by Pangolin Associates, with recommendations provided to support accuracy and alignment with the GHG Protocol.

SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION PARTNERSHIP