

Welcome message

Message from CitySwitch

2022 was a big year for CitySwitch and climate action in Australia.

In September, we were pleased to release our net zero framework for the program. This culminated from 18 months of engaging with you all to understand how we can support corporate Australia in its work to decarbonise. Going forward, all the resources and campaigns we deliver in CitySwitch support your capacity to understand and implement seven steps to net zero.

It was also great to welcome a new team of CitySwitch program managers in 2022, who will be supporting you in this journey. Our reporting suggested that the net zero themes our signatories need the most support with are reducing waste, and upskilling and educating their teams on net zero. The report also indicated a high level of interest in connecting with other signatories and sharing best practice. Over the coming year, the CitySwitch team will be aligning our campaigns and delivering the program to reflect this direction.

It is an exciting phase for the program and for climate action in business, and this is our first report celebrating our shared net zero ambition. This report provides some insights into progress from our signatories. For instance, this year we have benchmarked office emissions at an average of 71 kilograms of CO2 per square metre. It was great to see 27 per cent of tenancies using renewable electricity saving 23,539 tonnes of CO2e. There are also 26 signatories that are carbon-neutral certified and 44 who are either committed to the Science Based Targets initiative or have Paris Agreement-aligned targets.

We hope you share these results with your executive teams and are inspired to learn from other signatories to accelerate your organisational priorities towards net zero. It would be great to hear about how your business compares to the average 74 kWh of electricity use per square meter that emerged from our shared reporting.

The other exciting moment in 2022 for climate action was the Federal government introducing an interim emission reduction target. By 2030, Australia's emissions will be 43 per cent lower than 2005 levels. This is now the target we are all working towards. With corporate Australia increasingly making Paris-aligned emissions targets, we know our signatories are up for the challenge.

Well done to all our signatories who continue to inspire us with the action they take towards net zero. We look forward to working with you in this important decade of climate action.

This report provides you with a snapshot of signatory outcomes and achievements for 2022. Please don't hesitate to talk further with your program manager if you'd like to know more detail about the results.



Sydney net zero launch September 2022

National Program Managers:

Annie Mack, Greater Metro

Jack Blackwell, City of Melbourne

Emily Keegan, City of Sydney

Daniella Mac Dowell, North Sydney Council

Megan Schartner, City of Adelaide

National Steering Committee:

Katie Shammas, City of Sydney

Melinda Dewsnap, City of Sydney

Zoe Baker, NABERS

Tiffany Crawford & Krista Milne, City of Melbourne

Lara Daddow, City of Adelaide

Danielle Birkbeck, North Sydney Council

CitySwitch is a free sustainability business program thanks to the support of Council partners and our associate, NABERS.

Program vision: Net zero emissions from businesses in the commercial office sector

Objective 1	Signatories are reducing their emissions annually and achieving key indicators on their journey to net zero
Objective 2	Councils are reducing emissions from office-sector businesses in their LGA
Objective 3	Annual increase in signatories who are using relevant ratings and certifications
Objective 4	CitySwitch and friends are working collaboratively to strengthen business networks, share resources and build intellectual and social capital towards net zero
Objective 5	The CitySwitch program increases council membership and impact, and demonstrates commitment to continuous improvement











Program reach

CitySwitch is for all office-based businesses. There are currently more than 500 signatories on their net zero pathway that have joined from across Australia. These include businesses from many private, public and not-for-profit sectors, including finance, legal, engineering, advertising and health. All sizes are welcome and represented.



Signatory impact

CitySwitch helps office-based businesses reduce emissions by mapping a pathway to net zero. The framework is designed to be flexible rather than prescriptive. Some businesses are further along their pathway, while others are planning their actions for the right time. We don't expect businesses to achieve the steps in order, but it's important to measure your emissions and establish your baseline first.

Signatories report annually on their progress along the pathway.* These results reflect their national impact.

Reduce office emissions Establish your baseline 82% 71 kg CO₂-e Signatories measuring Average emissions intensity scope 1 and 2 emissions per square metre 59% 5 stars Signatories with scope Average accredited NABERS 1 and 2 targets energy rating Set your team up for success 52% 67% Businesses implementing Businesses with internal working resource recovery programs groups driving net zero ambitions Shift to renewables 27% Tenancies choosing renewable electricity through GreenPower, power purchase agreements, on-site solar PV or other mechanisms Offset emissions 26% Organisations certified by Climate Active or undertaking certification Commit across value chain 40% Play a leadership role Businesses quantifying scope 3 emissions (excluding waste) Signatories committed to Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) or to robust below 1.5°C targets

set by the Paris Agreement

^{*}Signatories reported on a 12-month period for the past 20 months to allow for calendar or financial year reporting.

Program impact

CitySwitch structures the journey to net zero for your business. The program aims to upskill and educate across the network on best practice in pathway focus areas, such as renewables. Signatories can build practical, on-the-ground knowledge through the strong network. Annual reporting keeps businesses accountable and tracks collective progress.

Highlights

- Six-month series of lunch and learn style webinars. (Topics included renewables, waste, NABERS and healthy offices)
- The role of business in sustainable food systems expert and signatory showcase hosted by Clayton Utz
- Sydney and online launch of the net zero pathway in September
- Establish your Baseline online webinars and Sydney scope 3 workshop
- NEW Establish your Baseline resources published
- ClimateClever pilot 10 businesses met monthly to track baseline emissions, share learnings and trial the platform
- Adelaide networking event
- New annual reporting process launched
- Business Renewables Centre Australia partnership and masterclass series

It was a great workshop. It encouraged me to explore further and strengthen my knowledge around scope 3 emissions and sustainability in general.

Alex Lama, Sustainability Coordinator, Frasers Property Australia

Being involved in the Climate Clever pilot has been invaluable in kick-starting our attempts to measure a baseline and learn about scopes 1, 2 and 3.

Jason Boulter, Environmental and Social Responsibility Manager, Globe International





Signatories value CitySwitch to support their net zero ambitions

6.67 average rating

Signatories on the program's value to their net zero ambitions

35%

Signatories rating the program value as 8 or above

Most popular engagement

- Utilised resources on the website
- Met my local program manager
- Read the monthly EDMs
- Attended a lunch-and-learn webinar

For me this was a very timely workshop and presentation.

As I am a facilities manager and not a sustainability expert, it is really useful for me to have this knowledge so I can now have the appropriate conversations with the landlords ESG person, and I have since set up a meeting with them for early next week.

Being a CitySwitch Signatory is so powerful as it provides us with the knowledge to join the bits and pieces together, and turn it in to real action.

Francis Stockwell, Group Facilities Services Manager, TSA Australia.

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What's next for CitySwitch

- Building a new website
- New councils signing up to the program.
 Announcements coming July 2023.
- We'll be actively recruiting new signatories across council partner locations
- Refreshed awards program, with a revised 'New Signatory of the Year' award, alongside the Signatory of the Year, Leadership Award and Partnership Award. Submissions will be accepted from February 2024 and celebrated at the annual event in April 2024.

This year's reporting found the top-three net zero pathway areas of most interest (results to the right) to signatories in the coming year. Look out for upcoming campaigns and networking opportunities to support you in these areas.

Upcoming Campaigns



Get your team on board (May/June)



Reduce your waste (August/September)



Green your supply chain (November)

Thank you to the program signatories who are continuously striving to transition to a net zero economy and support a just, prosperous, low-carbon future.

A special thank you to signatories who have completed the mandatory annual reporting.

Note: new signatories have 12 months to measure their scope 1 and 2 emissions.

The data presented in this report was analysed by Kinesis Pty Ltd.



Got questions?

Email us at info@cityswitch.net.au and we will help you with everything you need to know.