



Program  
Report  
2023

CITY  SWITCH

# Welcome message

## 2023 was a busy year as we embedded the net zero framework to help members reduce emissions.

In this report we highlight some of the amazing collective work of our CitySwitch members. This year we achieved an average emissions intensity of 30 kg Co2 per sqm. It was great to see 47% of reported electricity from renewable sources. Also, 35 members are Climate Active carbon neutral certified and 51 either committed to the Science Based Targets initiative or have Paris aligned targets.

Another important part of our work is the educational program to build capacity within our businesses and embed climate action in their operations. These past 12 months we presented material on setting teams up for success, reducing office waste and committing to emissions reduction in supply chains. It was great to have two thirds of you attend our various online events and take advantage of our practical, how-to resources and case studies available on our new website. We also saw an increase in the value of the program to your net zero ambitions.

We hope you share these results with your executive teams and are inspired to learn from other members to accelerate your organisational priorities toward net zero. It would also be great to hear from you about how your business compares to the average 70 kWh of electricity use per sqm that emerged from our shared reporting.

Waverley Council, Ballarat City Council and Yarra City Council joined us this year. CitySwitch enables all levels of government to work together, and support businesses move towards net zero. We love working with you in this important decade of climate action.

Looking forward, we are excited to be partnering with the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to help reduce emissions in the office sector in the coming years. CitySwitch members will be well equipped in the event the Commercial Building Disclosure program expands to office tenancies and the Commonwealth introduces mandatory climate-related financial reporting. Both of these policy directions we look forward to seeing this year or in the not-too-distant future.

This report provides you with a snapshot of member results and achievements for 2023. Please don't hesitate to talk further with your program manager if you'd like to know more about the results.



CitySwitch local council workshops and events

### 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 and Manveer Singh, City of Adelaide

### National Steering Committee:

- Katie Shammas, City of Sydney
- Melinda Dewsnap, City of Sydney
- Zoe Baker, NABERS
- Emma Robinson, City of Melbourne
- David Bills, City of Adelaide
- Danielle Birkbeck, North Sydney Council
- Rachel Oleary, Waverley Council
- Fiona Stevenson, Ballarat City Council
- Aaron Gray, Yarra City 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	Members reduce their emissions annually and achieve key indicators on their journey to net zero
Objective 2	Councils reduce emissions from office-sector businesses in their LGA
Objective 3	Annual increase in members who are using relevant ratings and certifications
Objective 4	CitySwitch and friends work collaboratively to strengthen business networks, share resources and build intellectual and social capital towards net zero
Objective 5	Increase council membership and impact, and demonstrate commitment to continuous improvement



CITY OF SYDNEY



CITY OF ADELAIDE



WAVERLEY COUNCIL

CITY OF BALLARAT

# Program reach

CitySwitch is for all office-based businesses. Our members come from many sectors – finance, legal, engineering, advertising, health and more. They come from the private and public sectors and include not-for-profits. 80% of our members have one office and the remaining have multiple offices across the country.

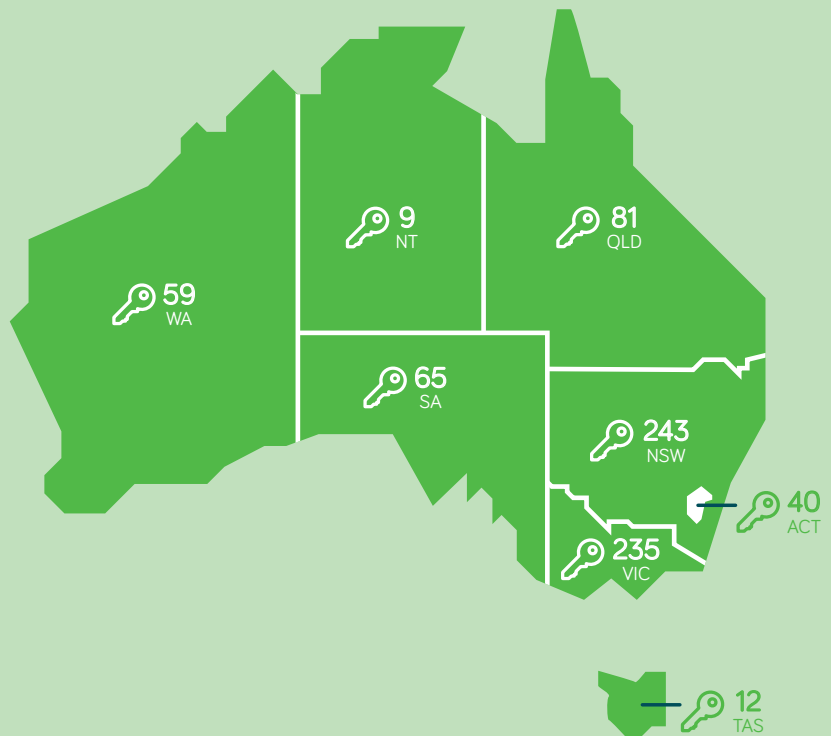
In 2023, we reviewed our membership base. We wanted to find out which companies are committed to the program and reducing emissions. We have 213 business members managing 744 office tenancies across Australia. This will be our new baseline membership from which we will expand the reach and impact of our program.



**3 million**  
sqm of net lettable area covered



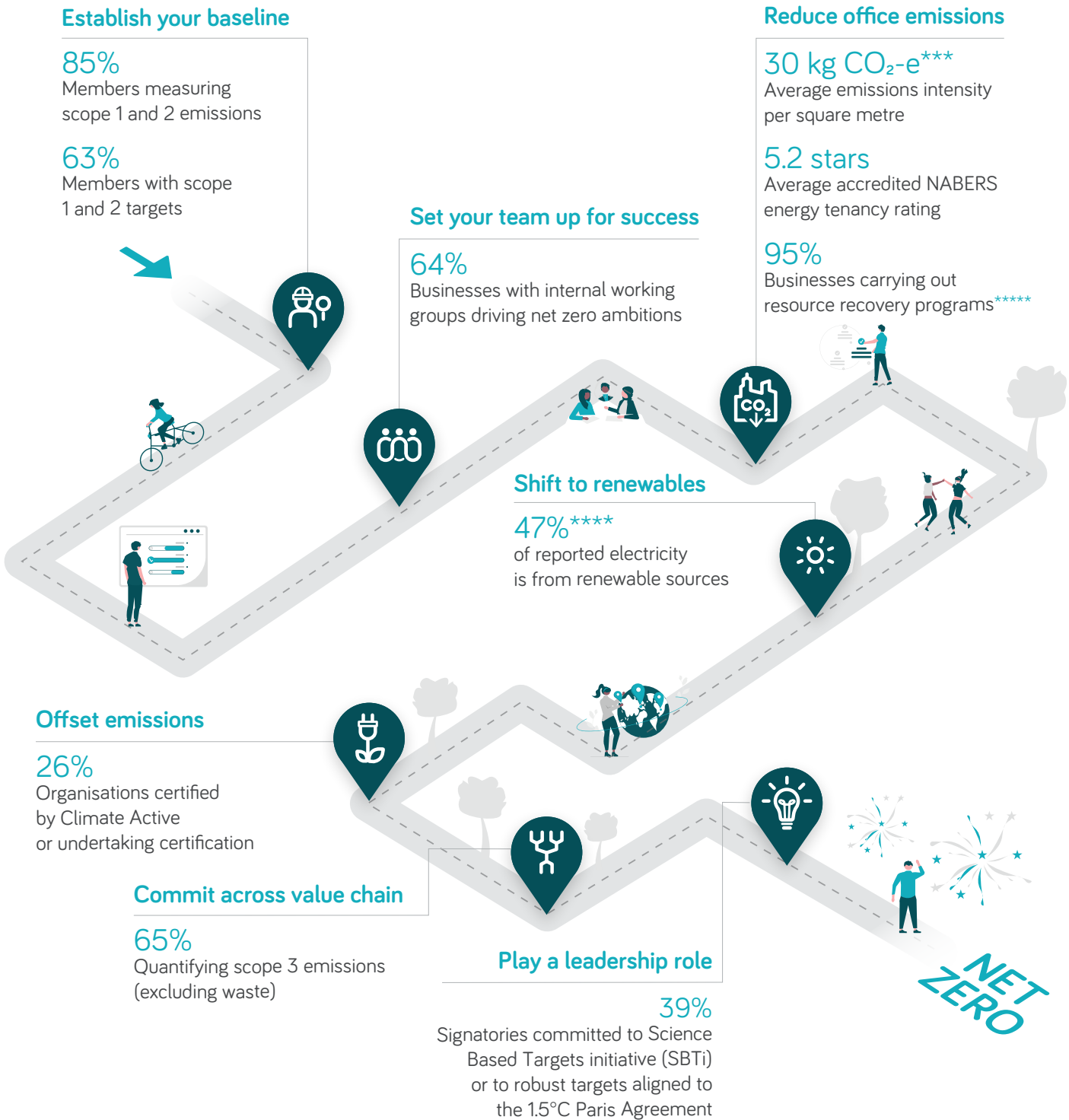
**10%**  
Amount of Australian office spaces signed up to CitySwitch



# Member impact

We help office-based business reduce emissions by mapping a pathway to net zero.

Members report yearly on their progress. These results reflect the impact from 136 members across Australia.\* \*\*



\*Members report on a 12-month period within the past 20 months to allow for calendar or financial year reporting.

\*\*47% of members reporting in the 2022 report provided their data again in 2023.

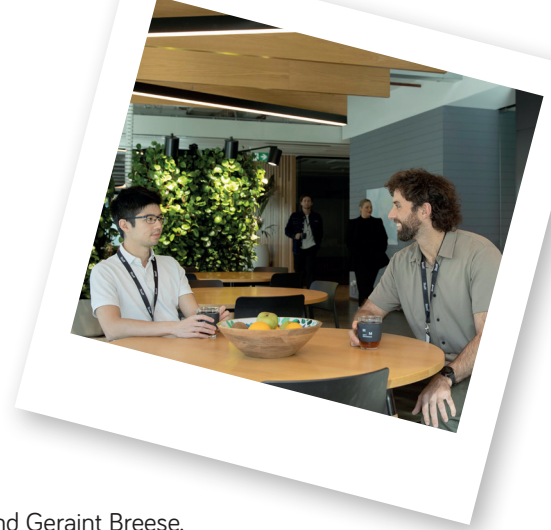
\*\*\*The calculation for carbon emissions this year includes stationary emissions covering emissions from electricity, gas, diesel and LPG used for stationary energy. It does not include emissions from fleet fuel use. There was a 58% reduction in carbon emissions since 2022, noting that members who report fluctuates from year to year.

\*\*\*\*The decrease in the carbon emissions intensity is due to the increase of renewables. 72% of tenancies purchased renewables.

\*\*\*\*\*The increase in the percentage of resource recovery initiatives is likely due to additional options added to the response list.

# 2023 campaigns

Each year we run educational programs to help members upskill and achieve best practice. This year we focused on the following three areas on our net zero pathway.



Eugene Wai and Geraint Breese,  
Mott MacDonald Sydney office.

Photography by: Stefanie Zingsheim



## Get your team on board

Getting internal support is often one of the most challenging aspects of reducing environmental impact.

We partnered with Work for Climate to equip employees to create change within their businesses.

### Highlights

- Mobilising teams for climate action national webinar
- Sydney workshop
- Case study – Adelaide firm JPE Design Studio
- Case study – Mott MacDonald, offices around Australia
- New guides: Tools to get your team onboard;  
How to motivate teams to take more climate action

## Member insights 2023

- 60% updated company mission, policy and/or strategy to reflect commitment to climate action
- 65% set up an internal working group or cross-functional team
- 52% inducted new employees to organisation climate commitments
- 68% regular internal communication about organisational commitments and actions
- 13% designed incentives or pay bonuses to integrate climate goals
- 37% empowered employees to act on climate in their day-to-day roles such as updated job descriptions

## Champions

- Akamai
- Aurecon
- Baenziger Coles
- MI Global Partners
- EcoVantage
- Green Energy Trading
- Arup
- Intellihub
- JLL





## Reduce your waste

We partnered with Green Connect to create a refreshed guide about best practice waste management and how to think beyond waste to circular economy principles.

### Highlights

- Rubbish rehab: practical actions for better waste management national webinar
- Sydney workshop
- Mirvac building tour in Melbourne
- New guide: Waste guide for offices - shifting to a circular economy
- Case study – Talking rubbish: CitySwitch waste heroes
- Case study – Learn how SHAPE Australia uses circular economy principles
- New customisable bin signs
- Guide to recycling services across Australia



Arup with reusable cups, SHAPE and their Returnr containers and EML use the container deposit scheme.

### Member insights 2023

- 76% members have 3 or more ideas in place to reduce their waste
- 65% have a reusable coffee cup project
- 63% have a food and organics waste collection
- 29% have a container deposit scheme
- 31% have active waste champions
- 46% have a sustainable procurement policy

### Champions

- EC Sustainable
- Metis Design and Engineering
- Interrelate
- Cesar Australia
- Enviro DNA
- Barnardos
- EML
- Gilbert + Tobin
- Nous
- Surface Design





## Green your supply chain

Embedding sustainability and decarbonising your supply chain is a powerful way to create positive environmental impact and value for money. By measuring emissions in your supply chain, you may find emissions hotspots and opportunities to reduce cost.

### Highlights

- Green your supply chain national webinar
- Sydney workshop
- Precinct tour in Melbourne
- Tools for greening your supply chain
- Case study – How 3 businesses tackled the supply chain: Dsquared, MI Global and Eco Vantage
- New guide: How to green your supply chain 101
- New guide: Greening your supply chain - procurement support



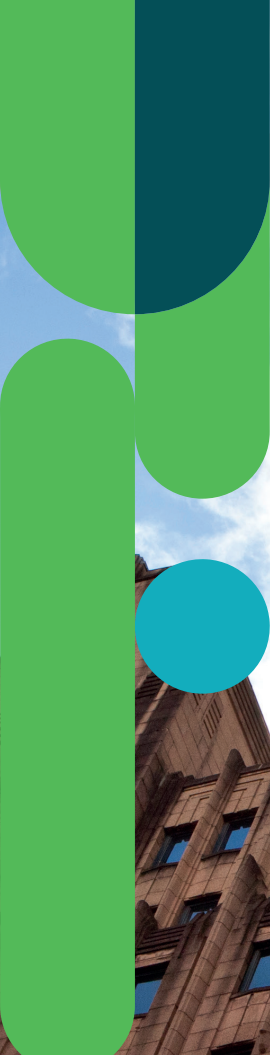
Jacob Potter, Dsquared

### Member insights 2023

- 49 members have 3 or more activities in place, including mapping their supply chain, collaborating with target suppliers, embedding sustainability into supplier assessments process and tracking supply chain emissions.

### Champions

- Green Industries SA
- Barry Nilsson Law
- Intellihub
- Pangolin Associates



## National Australian Built Environment Rating (NABERS)

NABERS is a long-time associate of CitySwitch.

We provide support to help you achieve accreditation, including a discount on your administration fee.

We encourage all members to get NABERS tenancy or whole-building energy ratings.

## How members rate CitySwitch

6.8 average rating out of 10

47%

Members rate the program's value to their net zero ambitions as 8 or above

### Most popular activities:

- Met local program manager
- Attended a CitySwitch webinar
- Used resources on the website
- Read the monthly newsletters

“ *Great session!*

*Looking forward to receiving the resources mentioned.*

*Really liked the simple/clear steps or how to get teams on board (inspire/educate/empower) and then the key principles.*

**CitySwitch member**



“ *This was a really easy to understand, super relevant webinar which added to my knowledge base and will help me apply these ideas in practice.*

*Thanks for providing a great session!*

**CitySwitch member**





Gilbert & Tobin, Barangaroo office.

Loise Schnierer, head of corporate social responsibility and Amy Byrne, sustainability analyst

Photography by: Stefanie Zingsheim

## What's next for CitySwitch

- We want to recruit new members across partner council locations. Please get in touch if you'd like your local program manager to present at your building committee meetings. We can support your whole building to become net zero.
- Carbon platform research project. This will include a workshop, webinar and checklist to help your business benchmark your emissions and reductions throughout your supply chain.
- By working closely with the federal government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, we hope to explore new ways to support the office-based sector through the National Energy Performance Strategy.

### Upcoming campaigns



**Reduce your energy**  
(May/June)



**Connect with other members**  
(August/September)



**Reduce travel emissions**  
(November)

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

A special thank you to members who completed the mandatory annual reporting. New members have until February 2025 to measure their scope 1 and 2 emissions.

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



## Got questions?

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Email us at [info@cityswitch.net.au](mailto:info@cityswitch.net.au) and we will help you with everything you need to know.

*CitySwitch respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands across Australia and pay our respects to Elders past and present.*