Program Report **2024**

CITYUSWITCH

Welcome message

With mandatory climate reporting commencing 1 January 2025, many of our members and partners have been preparing for the effects. We learnt from some businesses that they're feeling comfortable with the new requirements. This is testament to our members' diligence and proactivity.

In this report, we highlight some of the amazing collective work of our CitySwitch members. This year members maintained the already low average emissions intensity of 31kg Co2 per sqm. It was great to see members acquiring 48% of their electricity from renewable sources. Also, 72% of our members have scope 1 and 2 targets and 73% are quantifying their scope 3 (excluding waste).

An important part of our work is the educational program to build capacity within businesses and embed climate action in their operations. These past 12 months we presented material on reducing energy use, connecting with other members and reducing travel emissions. It was great to have so many of our members attend our various events, both online and in-person, and take advantage of the resources. 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.

The City of Port Phillip joined us this year. CitySwitch enables all levels of government to work together, and supports businesses moving towards net zero.

Well done to all our members who continue to inspire us with the action they take. We love working with you in this important decade of climate action.

This year, we continued to partner with the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to help reduce emissions in the office sector. CitySwitch members will be well equipped in the event the Commercial Building Disclosure (CBD) Program expands to office tenancies. We will continue to support members understand mandatory climate reporting and the flow on effects for smaller businesses.

This report provides you with a snapshot of member results and achievements for 2024. Please feel free to talk further with your program manager if you'd like to know more about the results.



Champions breakfast event in Sydney

National Program Managers:

Annie Mack, greater metro and regional Jack Blackwell, City of Melbourne Ifan Jones, City of Sydney Louella Carr, North Sydney Council

National Steering Committee:

Ishita Singh, City of Sydney Julia Lipton, City of Sydney Zoe Baker, NABERS Libby Phillips, City of Melbourne Danielle Birkbeck, North Sydney Council Fiona Stevenson, Ballarat City Council Aaron Gray, Yarra City Council Julian Donlen, City of Port Phillip CitySwitch is a free business sustainability program supported by councils and our associate, NABERS.

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

Objective 1	Members reduce their emissions every year and achieve key milestones on their journey to net zero
Objective 2	Councils reduce emissions from office-sector businesses in their area
Objective 3	Yearly increase in members 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 🕚











Program reach

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.

In 2024 we reviewed our membership base again to confirm their commitment to the program and reducing emissions. We have 179 members managing 672 office tenancies across Australia.



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Set your team up for success

Businesses with internal working

groups driving net zero ambitions

Member impact

Establish your baseline

Members measuring

Members with scope

1 and 2 targets

scope 1 and 2 emissions

96%*

72%

We help businesses reduce emissions by mapping a pathway to net zero.

Members report yearly on their progress. These results reflect the impact from 103 members across Australia.

Reduce office emissions

31 kg CO₂-e **** Average emissions intensity per square metre

5 stars**** Average accredited NABERS energy tenancy rating

78%*****

Businesses carrying out resource recovery programs



66%

Shift to renewables

48% of reported electricity is from renewable sources

Offset emissions

17%^{**} Organisations certified by Climate Active or undertaking certification

Commit across value chain

73%***

Quantifying scope 3 emissions (excluding waste)

Play a leadership role

28%

Signatories committed to Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) or to robust targets aligned to the 1.5°C Paris Agreement

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

- * Based on members reporting any non-zero value for electricity, gas, diesel,or lpg.
- ** Includes those who were seeking accreditation at the time of reporting.
- *** Calculated based on any reported tracking of scope 3 sources.
- **** Based on electricity & stationary emisions.
- ***** Based on NABERS data.

****** Based on any reported action related to waste.

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2024 campaigns

Each year we help our members upskill and achieve best practice. These were our focus areas for the year.



Energy efficiency

Key challenges to reduce energy use are identifying opportunities and getting buy-in from senior managers and other partners.

Our energy efficiency campaign helped members identify quick wins, develop longer-term plans for continuous improvement and build a business case, including energy savings calculations.

We partnered with Meiklejohn Consulting to help members create a more energy efficient office.

Highlights

- Sydney and Melbourne workshops
- Webinar: Reduce your energy
- Energy calculator tool
- Creating an energy efficient office guide



Member insights

- Average energy intensity of 69kwh per square metre
- 48% of total energy consumed from renewable sources and 58% of reported offices tenancies use some portion of renewable energy
- 185 NABERS energy tenancy ratings were achieved over a 20-month period
- Average accredited NABERS energy tenancy rating was 5.1 stars
- 60% of CitySwitch tenancies reported on their electricity use in 2024
- 96% of reporting members measured their scope 1 and 2 emissions



Roger Stamford at EML George Street Sydney offices. Photography by Dave Sheerman

EML worked with its building owner to upgrade lighting. This slashed energy use by as much as 20%.



Connecting members

We worked with Edge Impact to help members share knowledge and learn from each other.

Highlights

- Networking events in Sydney and Melbourne
- Webinar: Click and connect
- Community event handbook
- Sydney workshop

Member insights

- 33% connected with another member
- 41% would like to connect with other members





Reduce your travel emissions

This campaign aimed to help members create practical, sustainable travel strategies that reduce emissions and promote employee health, wellbeing and productivity. It included guidance on scope 3 travel emissions, recording data and measuring results, and encouraging employees to cut work-related travel.

We partnered with BWD Strategic to help members work with procurement teams and their supply chains.

Highlights

- Webinar: Reduce your travel emissions
- Sydney and Melbourne workshops
- Reduce your travel emissions guide
- Travel emissions policy template
- Reduce your staff travel campaign guide: small steps, big impact

Member insights

• 24% measured their fleet fuel emission with an average emissions intensity of 1,439 kg CO2e per FTE



Peter Guirreri of Boston Scientific. Photography by Abril Felman

Boston Scientific switched from using air freight to sea freight to import its goods. The team has also worked with its customers to consolidate orders, leading to reduced costs, as well as emissions.



CitySwitch Champions

Congratulations to all our CitySwitch Champions. We loved hearing about your accomplishments and stories. We recognise the significant work you are doing on the net zero pathway.

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Victorian and Tasmanian branches)

Airmaster

Akamai Technologies

Barry Nilsson

Boston Scientific

BWD Strategic

Baenziger Coles

Climate Zero

EML

Epson Australia





Fotoworks School Photography Fraser Property Australia Focus Group Green Energy Trading Green Moves HDR **INNOCEAN** Australia ISPT Knight Frank KPMG Lovehoney Australia Optiver Pangolin Associates **Plus Architecture Property NSW** Royal Flying Doctor Service (Queensland section) SQC Group Surface Design Group **Tract Consultants**





National Australian Built Environment Rating (NABERS)

NABERS is a long-time associate of CitySwitch.

All members are encouraged to get NABERS tenancy or whole-building energy ratings. NABERS provides a discount to CitySwitch members.

Thank you to the CitySwitch team in Sydney for their support throughout the year. The in-person event organised in Sydney for scope 3 travel emissions was engaging and informative.

Nihar Chandorkar, Property and Development NSW

Our sincere thank you to all at CitySwitch and also the councils that support it - a very valuable program to be involved with.

Yoshiko Komatsuzaki, PICA Group

Thanks for all the work you do to empower businesses to make progress towards net zero.

Ben Hanley, Trace

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HDR, Sydney office Photography by Abril Felman

What's next for CitySwitch

We'll recruit new members across council areas. 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.

Email us cityswitch@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Upcoming campaigns



Green leasing (August/September 2025)



Resilience (November 2025)



Circularity (May/June 2026) 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.

The data presented in this report was analysed by Kinesis.



Questions?

Email us at cityswitch@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

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