City of Melbourne

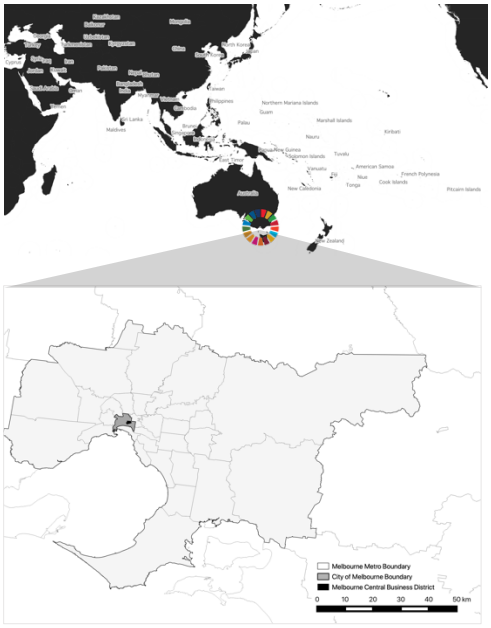
SDGs Cities Challenge Snapshot

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
CITIES CHALLENGE

Challenge Overview

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Climate change is already having far reaching impacts across the world and Melbourne has experienced these impacts over recent years; including drought, flooding and extreme heat events. Experts warn that these events are not only going to become more intense, but they are also going to occur more often, regardless of strong action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The City of Melbourne and its partners must ensure they minimise the adverse impact of future events and harness opportunities for the city and its people.



The City of Melbourne's challenge is using or modifying SDG targets and indicators to track and understand how well they are adapting the city to climate change impacts.

Robust monitoring and evaluation is fundamental to understanding the success of their implementation activities, helping to prioritise and guide future decisions. By aligning the SDGs with the city's adaptation efforts it can achieve multiple objectives – integrate SDGs and adaptation considerations across City of Melbourne and have a better understanding of how effective it is in adapting the city to climate change.

Key City Characteristics

- Population: Almost 180,000 (as of 2019) in the Municipality. The entire Greater Melbourne area covers 9992.5 km2 and has a population of around 4.96 million.
- City Classification: Melbourne is Victoria's capital city and the business, administrative, cultural and recreational hub of the state. The City of Melbourne as a council (Melbourne City Council) oversees the municipal area that includes Melbourne's city centre and several inner suburbs. As a capital-city council, it also speaks on behalf of Melbourne in local, national and international forums.
- Governance: Melbourne City Council is the local government body responsible for the municipality of Melbourne. The Council consists of a lord mayor, a deputy lord mayor and nine councillors. Elected by the community, the Council is the decision-making body that sets the strategic direction and policy of the municipality.
- Climate & Geography: Melbourne is located in the south-east of Australia. Focused around a central business district, metropolitan Melbourne's suburbs spread more than 40 km to the south, are hemmed in by the Dandenong ranges 30 km to the east, extend up to 20 km to the north and sprawl across vast, flat basalt plains to the west. Melbourne enjoys a temperate climate with warm to hot summers, mild and sometimes balmy springs and autumns, and cool winters. The key climate hazards for Melbourne are heat and heatwaves, sea level rise and flooding, drought and storm events.
- Economy: The dominant industry by establishment and employment is business services, with the most common occupation amongst residents listed as Professional.
- Languages: The official language is English, but more than 100 languages are spoken by the city's residents.
- Cultural Features: The City of Melbourne's population is made up of many groups of people of all ages and from many different cultures. Residents include young professionals, international students and older couples. The City of Melbourne works with other local councils and the Victorian Government to ensure that Melbourne is one of the safest, healthiest and cleanest cities in the world. It supports Melbourne's position as Australia's pre-eminent centre for arts and culture, education, dining and shopping.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
CITIES CHALLENGE

CONNECTED CITIES – LAB

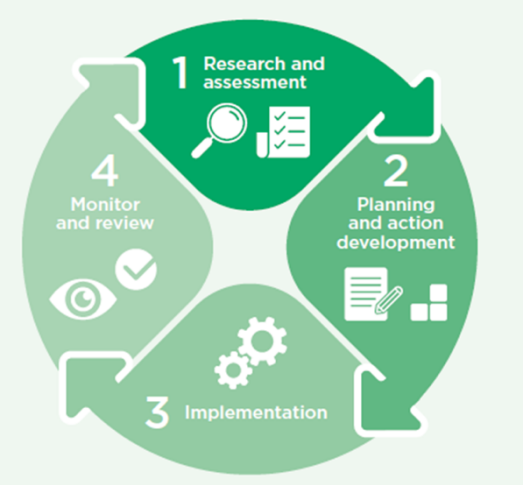
Melbourne School of Design
The University of Melbourne

Existing Data & Challenge Data Needs

City of Melbourne collects a comprehensive amount of data relating to its organisational and municipal indicators. The gaps in knowledge relate to impact and work happening in the private realm. Having data and information on action occurring in the private realm is crucial to its understanding of the city's ability to adapt to climate change impacts.

Data gaps in the private realm include % green cover, m2 of publicly accessible open space, water capture and use, irrigation water sourced from non-potable sources, air quality, permeability (m2 and % permeable surfaces), insurance coverage. Social indicators that help understand community behaviour in response to extreme weather is also an information gap external organisations could help fill.

Further data gaps will be easier to identify once targets, indicators/metrics are selected to monitor and evaluate adaptation efforts.



Source: Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Refresh 2017

Existing Challenge Partners

City of Melbourne has existing partners that could support its challenge but also would like to establish new relationships to share information and data relating to climate change adaptation and SDG indicators.

- Partnering with other local and state governments to seek consistent strong policy and action on climate change adaptation. This includes Victorian Planning Authority, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Department of Health and Human Services, Department Jobs, Precincts and Regions, Emergency Management Victoria, Major Projects Victoria.
- Key research organisations and academic partners such as the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities and Low Carbon Living CRC, the University of Melbourne, RMIT and Monash University (in particular through the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities).
- Strong connections with other cities through various international networks such as C40 cities network and Global Resilient Cities network.
- Partner with community Service organisations – VCOSS, Red Cross, SES Victoria – to help build resilience in the community.
- Further work on partnerships with developers i.e. Lendlease and the insurance industry – Insurance Council of Australia would be valuable.

Key Linkages

Melbourne City Council is the local government body responsible for the municipality of Melbourne. The Council consists of a lord mayor, a deputy lord mayor and nine councillors.

Key Linkages contd.

Elected by the community, the Council is the decision-making body that sets the strategic direction and policy of the municipality. It delivers the four-year Council Plan, which sets out what the Council will achieve during its four-year term to further the community vision; and the Annual Plan and Budget, which describes the Council's key objectives and activities for each 12-month period.

City of Melbourne is currently partnering with universities and global cities to determine how best to integrate and embed the Sustainable Development Goals into strategies, planning, reporting and benchmarking practices and explore the development of a localised index. This project involves establishing an SDG indicator matrix, developing a Voluntary Local Review and an SDG Planning and Prioritisation Framework.

The Challenge Pitch

It is hoped this challenge will:

- Identify SDG targets and indicators that can be used or modified to track climate change adaptation outcomes
- Connect City of Melbourne with relevant partners and stakeholders to identify adaptation and SDG metrics and share data and information
- Prioritise climate change action by demonstrating the links between adaptation and the delivery of the SDGs and council priorities i.e COVID-19 recovery response and climate emergency
- Develop a narrative on climate change and sustainability (and the SDGs) and why the community and private realm has a role to play

Key Challenge questions:

1. Which SDG targets and indicators measure climate change adaptation and resilience? How could these be modified to be relevant to City of Melbourne (CoM) to aid in understanding how effective actions are at adapting the city to climate change impacts.
2. Are there any additional ways or sources CoM could collect data from, sources that are not open? If targets are identified that CoM cannot collect data against, how do we collect data from organisations external to CoM?
3. Suggestions about how to communicate to external stakeholders on the SDGs to maximise engagement and understanding of the SDGs and climate change? Can you provide any guidance on examples of communication techniques on the SDGs that we can learn from?
4. Looking to the future, how do the SDGs enable climate change adaptation action? How can they be used to fast track climate change action for Melbourne?

Key Literature & References

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Refresh 2017
Response to the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency (2020)
Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Refresh 2017 – 2017 - onwards
Climate Change Mitigation Strategy to 2050 (completed in 2018)
Municipal Integrated Water management Plan – 2017 - onwards
Urban Forest Strategy – 2012-2032 and Precinct Plans – to 2025
Nature in the City – 2017 onwards
Green our City Strategic Action Plan – 2017-21
Open Space Strategy – 2012- onwards
Council Plan (and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) – 2017-21
Asset Management Strategy – 2012-2025
Transport Strategy (completed 2019)
Fishermans Bend Framework
Draft Arden Structure Plan – June 2020
Melbourne facts and figures: https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-melbourne/melbourne-profile/Pages/facts-about-melbourne.aspx