



# City of Whitehorse

## SDGs Cities Challenge Snapshot



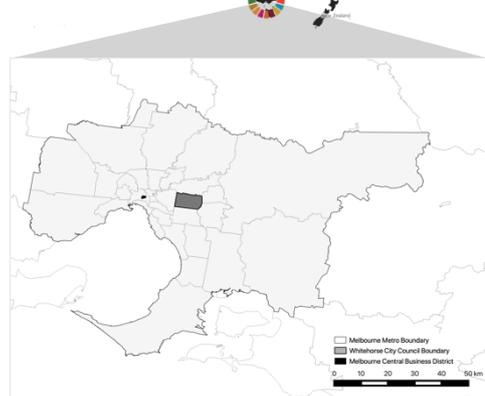
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
CITIES CHALLENGE

### Challenge Overview

*City of Whitehorse's challenge is to develop a robust sustainable procurement process that measures the whole life-cycle sustainability of procured goods and services and incorporates an effective assessment and monitoring system.*



The development of an effective assessment tool and monitoring system that could be incorporated into the procurement process to take into account embedded energy, emissions, transport and end-of-life capabilities, would be an important step to authentically embed sustainable practices throughout the organisation and support businesses that can then invest in further research and development. Ensuring we have a good understanding of the impact our purchasing choices have on the populations and environment of other cities, as well as our own, we can contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 11. Council is currently developing a Climate Response Plan that considers the impacts our local actions have in a global context.



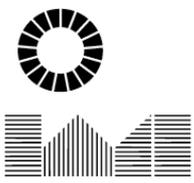
### Key City Characteristics

- **Population:** The City of Whitehorse has a population over 182,000 residents and a 25% growth rate forecast to 2041.
- **City Classification:** The City of Whitehorse is a local government area located in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
- **Governance:** Whitehorse City Council is elected every 4 years, with a Mayor chosen by the councillors elect.
- **Climate & Geography:** The City of Whitehorse has a temperate oceanic climate and the Melbourne region is well known for its changeable weather conditions. This is mainly due to Melbourne's geographical location. This temperature differential is most pronounced in the spring and summer months and can cause strong cold fronts to form. These cold fronts can be responsible for all sorts of severe weather from gales to severe thunderstorms and hail, minor temperature drops, and heavy rain.
- **Economy:** More City of Whitehorse residents work in health care and social assistance than any other industry.
- **Languages:** English. 38.4 per cent of residents were born overseas and a third from languages other than English speaking backgrounds. In total, more than 120 languages are spoken.
- **Cultural Features:** The Wurundjeri-Balluk Tribe are the traditional custodians of the land on which the City of Whitehorse is located. They have been the traditional custodians for 40,000 years. The traditional language to the tribe is Woi Wurrung and the tribe is now known as the Wurundjeri, being one of five tribes that make up the Kulin nation. The Wurundjeri are a deeply spiritual people and honour the creator spirit, Bunjil the Eaglehawk. Historically, the tribe would camp along the banks of the many creeks that flow through the City and named parts of the local area Namenarren or Nunawading.



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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CITIES CHALLENGE

### Existing Data & Challenge Data Needs

We need to be able to measure the following:

- **Value for money:** how do we measure the ‘value’ of inclusive wages and conditions for workers. Life-cycle emissions?
- **Community expectations and values:** have they been measured?
- **Environmental sustainability:** what mechanisms can we use to assess embedded energy, whole life-cycle analysis and ‘end of life’ options?

### Existing Challenge Partners

**Deakin University** - Whitehorse Council is currently undertaking a project with Deakin University to map how the city’s strategies and plans align with the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action** – Council is part of EAGA to maximise resources at a regional level and advocate for climate action from all levels of government.

**Climate Emergency Australia** – Whitehorse Council is currently active in the development phase of a national network for councils working to protect our communities from the impact of climate change. The network was seeded at the Climate Emergency Summit in Melbourne.

**Resilient Melbourne** – Council officers from a range of teams (sustainability, Parkside and transport) have undertaken training as part of the 100 Resilient Cities project with the City of Melbourne.

**Eastern Climate Action Melbourne** – This community group - supported by Council for many years - delivers events that educate and upskill the community about climate change, especially renewable energy. The group also advocates for sustainable outcomes by actively participating in local government consultation.

**Australian Energy Foundation** – Council has partnered with this organisation to provide resources for residents and businesses that have positive environmental outcomes, particularly by supporting the transition to renewable energy.

**Carbonetix** – Council currently employs a Utility Officer from Carbonetix who oversees the use and monitoring of corporate emissions, with potential to incorporate a community component.

**Organica Engineering** – Council employs an ESD (spell out) officer from Organica to assess planning applications and is currently part of a project to develop ESD guidelines for Council’s capital works projects.

### Key Linkages

#### Indicator 11.1.1: Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing

*Supporting industries that have decent working conditions, adhering to the UN Global Compact labour principles, will promote economic growth, equity and social progress with the ultimate goal of eradicating poverty.*

#### Indicator 11.6.1: Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities

*A whole life-cycle approach to assessing value for money will support a reduction in waste by prioritising longevity and promoting re-use and recycling.*

#### Indicator 11.6.2: Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)

*Consideration of pollutant emissions through the supply chain, and as a by-product of ‘whole life cycle’ use, will favour the purchase of products and services with minimal pollution.*

### The SDGs Cities Challenge Pitch

- The development of a Procurement Policy that values environmentally sustainable practice and fair working conditions at all stages of our supply chains.

#### We need a clear plan that guides us to implement the following:

- Staff development that educates technically and fosters a cultural shift toward an increasing value of environmental, economic and social sustainability
- Ways to upskill suppliers, manufacturers and contractors
- Leadership and commitment
- Transparency
- Community Education

#### Key Challenge questions:

1. How do we effectively assess the life-cycle environmental impact of goods purchased?
2. How can we quantify the sustainability of our purchases through information collected as part of the procurement process?
3. How do we develop a plan to upskill staff and foster a culture-shift around prioritising environmental and social sustainability?

### Key Literature & References

[City of Whitehorse Sustainability Strategy](#) – 2016

[City of Whitehorse Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#) – 2011