

Woollahra Municipal Council

SDGs Cities Challenge Snapshot



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
CITIES CHALLENGE

Challenge Overview

The challenge for Woollahra Municipal Council is setting community emissions reduction targets and developing a strategy to meet these targets.



We would like to set community emissions reductions targets which are ambitious but achievable. We would like to understand which processes within Council's control will help us in reaching these targets and will be the best use of resources i.e. funding towards uptake of renewable energy, changes to the LEP and/or DCP, (spell out acronyms) lobbying state and federal government. Measuring Council's emissions is relatively simply but is much more complex for the entire LGA. Therefore, we need a formalized system to do so and to develop partnerships with state government and private organizations to ensure we have accurate data.



We need assistance in developing a formalized system of measuring emissions as well as determining where is the best

emissions in an efficient manner. We also need to determine whether Council has control over whether emissions reductions targets can be met (i.e. we don't have direct control over greening of the electricity grid.)

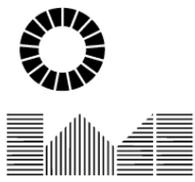
Key City Characteristics

- **Population:** The population of Woollahra Municipal Council is 59,387 and a population density of 48.47 persons/hectare.
- **City Classification:** Woollahra Municipality is located in Sydney's eastern suburbs, about 5 kilometres from the Sydney GPO. The Municipality is bounded by Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) in the north, the Waverley Council area in the east, Randwick City in the south and the City of Sydney in the west. The Woollahra Municipality includes the suburbs of Bellevue Hill, Darling Point, Double Bay, Edgecliff, Paddington (part), Point Piper, Rose Bay (part), Vaucluse (part), Watsons Bay and Woollahra.
- **Governance:** Woollahra has an elected Council which appoints the mayor.
- **Climate & Geography:** The climate for Woollahra is temperate, with more moderate weather based on our close proximity to the ocean. Hot summers and temperate winters are common, with the key climate hazards being storm surges, heat waves and inundation.
- **Economy:** In Woollahra Municipal Council area, Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest employer, generating 3,991 local jobs in 2018/19.
- **Languages:** English is the official language and the main language spoken, but other languages spoken at home include Mandarin, French, Greek and Spanish.



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Key City Characteristics contd.

- **Cultural Features:** The traditional custodians of the Woollahra area are the Gadigal and Birrabirragal people. European settlement dates from 1790, although development was minimal until the 1860s. Land was used mainly for dairy farming and market gardening, with some fishing. Expansion took place in the 1880s and 1890s, continuing into the early 1900s and the inter-war period. Significant development occurred during the immediate post-war years, from the 1950s to the mid 1960s. The population gradually declined from the late 1960s, falling from 63,000 in 1966 to 53,000 in 1976 and then to 51,000 in 1986, but has risen since to 58,456 in 2017. The Woollahra community traditionally has had less uptake of sustainability and environmental initiatives as compared to other Greater Sydney Councils, leading Council to attempt to find behaviour change solutions to their environmental impacts and changes.

Existing Data & Challenge Data Needs

We do not have the adequate tools to compile all the necessary data. We also don't have the expertise to analyze what are the best projects we can put our resources towards to reduce community emissions while using Council's resources efficiently



Source: Woollahra Municipal Council

Existing Challenge Partners

Our council is currently engaged as partners, or can use the data of, multiple community energy use organisations including Ausgrid, Jemena and Kinesis.

We need assistance from emissions, policy and behaviour change experts to assist in understanding how to make the biggest impact in community emissions reductions within Council's budget.

Key Linkages

Understanding the linkages to state and federal government is important in understanding what levers Council can control to reduce community emissions. For example, we are limited in capacity to mandate energy reductions of housing stock beyond the state government BASIX (spell out acronym) program. Understanding this would enable us to determine if we are best placed to spend our resources to lobby state government for an improved system. We may instead be better placed to focus on what is within Council's control i.e. encouraging uptake of solar PV and energy efficiency technologies within the community.

The SDGs Cities Challenge Pitch

In working toward a carbon neutral economy, we need assistance in establishing ambitious but achievable community emissions reductions targets as well as developing a strategy to meet those targets by understanding in what areas we should invest Council's financial and staff resources to efficiently deliver emissions reductions initiatives.

Key Challenge questions:

1. How do we develop a community emissions reductions pathway/plan?
2. What tools are available to monitor and track progress against emissions reductions pathway/plan?
3. How do we identify priority projects that are the best use of Council's resources?
4. How do we develop simple language narratives for different stakeholder groups to drive uptake of renewable energy within the community to lower community emissions?

Key Literature & References

[Community strategic plan](#)

[Delivery Program and Operational Plan](#)