

Wednesday 21 November 2018

CITY OF RYDE ACHIEVES SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN EMISSIONS

The City of Ryde has reduced its carbon footprint, with new figures showing Council's greenhouse gas emissions dropped substantially in 2017/18.

According to the City of Ryde's Annual Environment Update for 2017/18, Council's CO² emissions for the year were 12,614 gigajoules (GJ). This was 10% lower than Council's annual greenhouse gas emissions in the previous 12-month period which amounted to 14,082GJ.

The decrease was largely due to lighting upgrades that included the installation of energy-efficient LEDs at a number of facilities, including at the Ryde Aquatic and Leisure Centre (RALC) and Peel Park.

Other carbon emission reduction initiatives included savings from the very efficient cogeneration facility at the RALC, where heat and power is produced at the same time resulting in a 10% reduction in electricity consumption at the RALC.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said Council was committed to reducing its carbon emissions and by doing so was helping prevent the damaging impacts of climate change.

"While politicians at a federal level continue to drag their heels on tackling climate change, I am delighted to report that the City of Ryde is continuing to work hard to reduce its carbon emissions, and the figures released in the Annual Environment Update show that this hard work is paying off," Cllr Laxale said.

"And I am pleased to confirm that we are not stopping here, with Council rolling out several new initiatives – particularly around renewables – that should reduce our greenhouse gas emissions even further."

In July 2018, the City of Ryde completed the installation of a new solar power system at Eastwood Hall, which will offset an estimated quarter of the building's annual consumption, while a solar harvesting system has also been introduced at North Ryde Library.

In addition, the largest solar harvesting power station has recently been installed at the RALC. This project has seen the installation of 826 solar panels on the RALC's roof, which will generate more than 300 kilowatts and save close to 66 equivalent tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

"Since a new Council was elected in 2017, the City of Ryde has led the way in improving the environment and delivering real action on climate change for the benefit of the local community both today and for generations to come," Cllr Laxale added.

"Aside from our reduction in emissions, Ryde has also become one of the first local government authorities in Australia to divest its term portfolio from fossil fuel aligned financial institutions as a way of limiting global warming and help prevent the damaging impacts of climate change. This has been done with no impact on the City of Ryde's financial position.

"We are also phasing out single-use plastics and joined the Cities Power Partnership, which is Australia's largest network of local councils tackling climate action."

Media Contact: Michael East, City of Ryde Communications
p • 9952 8083 m • 0466 091 059 e • meast@ryde.nsw.gov.au