



Be Waste Smart

Achievements 2019

- Sustainability
- Waste
- Natural Areas
- Parks

Renewable Energy

West Ryde Community Centre Solar Installation

A 26.15 kW solar PV system was installed on West Ryde Community Centre's roof which **offsets approximately 20% of the energy consumption on site**. The system is also expected to offset approximately 28 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per annum.



Home Waste and Sustainability Advisory Service

51 individual tailored assessments were delivered, assisting households to reduce waste, energy and water consumption. This program has also expanded to incorporate the SunSpot tool which assists in providing advice to residents on the solar potential of their home.








SunSPoT

Sunspot

1,000 residents used the SunSPoT tool in 2019 to assess the solar potential of their home. Two workshops were also held in the library to help explain the tool and take residents through the process.



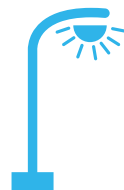
Council has continued with its membership to transform our energy future and **making the switch to clean energy**. We have continued to pursue five key actions over the coming years.

-  Provide Council resources to educate and support uptake of renewable energy
-  Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on Council buildings
-  Roll out energy efficient lighting, particularly street lighting, across the City of Ryde
-  Encourage sustainable transport use through Council transport planning and design
-  Implement an education and behaviour change program to drive the shift to renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.



Climate Emergency

In 2019 the City of Ryde has **declared a climate emergency** and has acknowledged that it will require urgent action by all levels of government.



Emissions Reporting

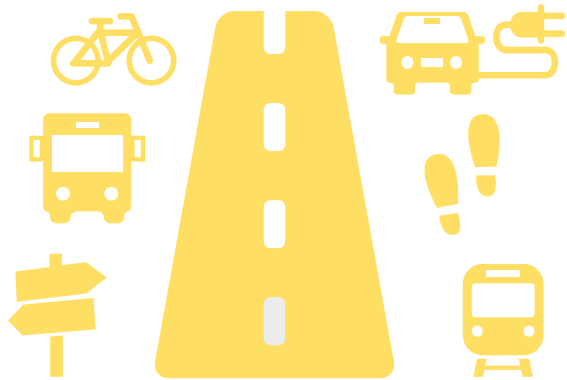
Our total emissions were **6.8 percent lower than the 2017/18**, and 15.5 percent lower than 2003/04. This decrease is largely due to continued improvements to streetlighting with LED retrofits, the installation of Solar PV at Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre, and energy efficiency improvements in buildings.



Fossil fuel divestment

Council has **divested 35% of its investment portfolio** away from fossil fuel aligned institutions. This represents an **increase of 70%** since January 2018.

Sustainable Transport



Travel Plans

We assessed **Green Travel Plans** for all new major developments and ensured developers have considered sustainable transport options in their new buildings, from car share pods to end of journey facilities to the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

PAMPs

We continued to improve **pedestrian accessibility and mobility** in Ryde through the delivery of capital works in Meadowbank and West Ryde as part of our **Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans (PAMPs)**. Works included treatments such as upgraded kerb ramps, pedestrian refuge islands and new footpaths.



Shop Ryder Free Community Bus Service



Approximately
56,000
passenger trips in 2019

PAMPs Audit



Council undertook Audits of three **Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans (PAMPs)** studies from the period of 2009 – 2016. It audited the original action plans and conducted site visits to identify both old and new pedestrian issues. The original PAMP reports for Eastwood, Gladesville, and Top Ryde town centres have now been updated for future capital works delivery.



Increasing Car Share

Council has finalised an application process for car share operators based on its adopted **Car Share Policy** and Guidelines. Applications are expected by early 2020 and the objective is to increase the uptake of car sharing in our City.

Make Parramatta River Swimmable

Parramatta River Masterplan endorsed

In October **Council endorsed the Parramatta River Masterplan** which aims to improve the health of the Parramatta River to make it swimmable once again. The plan has been the result of years of background research, community consultation and collaboration among our many partner and community groups. Under this plan **Putney Park is one of three priority locations for 'swim site activation' in 2020.**



Water Quality Monitoring

Before new sites on the Parramatta River can be declared safe for swimming, we need first to assess the risk and monitor water quality. We undertook a literature review to understand how water quality should be assessed which has provided the basis for a targeted Riverwatch Program. Water quality monitoring has now commenced at Putney with results expected in 2020.



Paddle on Parramatta River

Two 'Paddle on Parramatta River' events were held where community members were able to kayak from Kissing Point to Putney Park, learning about our plans to bring back swimming to the river by 2025 and ways in which we are working with our neighbouring Councils to improve water quality.



Community engagement

Council staff promoted the 'Our Living River' campaign and River Aware actions at multiple community events throughout the year including the Granny Smith Festival.



Foreshore Activation

Design for foreshore activation including steps to lead to the beach at Putney Park has begun and construction is expected to be completed in 2020. (An artist's impression is depicted below.)



'Get the Site Right' Campaign

Council joined **17 councils across four catchment areas** in a month long compliance blitz on soil erosion and sediment control at construction sites around the Parramatta River. This campaign highlights the role developers and builders have in keeping the river clean and helping to make it swimmable again by 2025. **1181 inspections** took place across the four catchments which is a **58 percent increase** from last year and there was a 13 percent increase in compliance from the 2018 campaign.



Terrys Creek

A water quality and creek restoration was delivered in sections of Terrys Creek to provide **support and stabilisation** to slumping creek banks and stormwater outlets. These works will assist to reduce flooding risk. Habitat for wildlife has been increased by removing weeds such as privet from the creek banks and replacing them with native vegetation.



Zero Litter to River by 2030

City of Ryde has become the first Council in Australia to adopt a 'Zero Litter to River' target by 2030. The target will result in the implementation a range of initiatives to reduce litter and the flow of pollution into local waterways. It will also help achieve our goal, with the assistance of the Parramatta River Catchment Group, to make the Parramatta River Swimmable again.

Bennelong Park Seawall Project

Since 2016 Council has been collaborating with the **Roads and Maritime Services** under a grant funded project to deliver an in-river seawall to ensure safe water entry and passage at the **Bennelong Park site** for long term recreational use by the community.



Stormwater Harvesting Rectification Works

In working towards climate resilience and **improving water quality** from surrounding upper catchments and for sportsfield irrigation use, City of Ryde has installed several stormwater harvesting systems in Ryde Park, Meadowbank Park and Bill Mitchell Park. This year additional works were completed to the Ryde Park and Meadowbank Park systems to optimise their capacity.



Environmental Education

Solar my School

Council partnered with award-winning initiative **Solar My School** to provide guidance and support for schools to install solar. This program is offered to schools participating in Council's Ryde Environmental Education Network. Benefits to a select number of schools participating in that engage with Solar My School include access to locally produced green energy, savings on energy bills that can be reinvested into learning equipment and facilities, a reduced carbon footprint, demonstration of leadership in the community and educational tools for students. Five local schools participated in the program this year and have received a free solar feasibility study and assistance with grant preparation and funding advice. We are looking forward to these schools progressing with solar installation in 2020.



Sustainable Waste to Art Prize (SWAP)

144 entries were submitted to **SWAP 2019** with **75 artworks** displayed at See Street Gallery, Meadowbank TAFE. Winners shared **\$4,500** in prize money. Judges this year included Marina Debris – Australia's leading waste to art practitioner, Oliver Watts – Chief Curator, Artbank and Dave West – Founder and National Policy Director, Boomerang Alliance.



144
Entries

75

Artworks exhibited



Ryde Environmental Education Network (REEN)

REEN provides schools and their teachers with tools, resources, and **support to embed sustainability across the curriculum**. The network meets once a term and is free to attend. Teachers who attend also receive accredited professional development hours. REEN members enjoyed guest presentations and the opportunity to participate in the Love Food Hate Waste – Waste Free Canteens Program, Parramatta River Catchment Group's 1 Million Turtles Program, National Tree Day, Sustainable Waste to Art Prize, the BnB highway for Birds and Bee's, Take 3 for the Sea school workshops, Keep Australia Beautiful schools program and Solar my School. 17 schools participated in the program in 2019.





Sustainability Festival

Council held its annual **Sustainability Festival** to **celebrate World Environment Day**. Held at Putney Park alongside the beautiful Parramatta River, the event featured live music, kids activities, face painting, food and stalls.



Sustainability Events

Rainwater harvesting and water sensitive garden design workshops were held to assist residents to effectively manage stormwater on their property, resulting in cost savings for them and cleaner creeks and waterways for the community.

Tutorial sessions were held for residents on how to access and use the **SunSPoT tool** to assess their homes potential for solar power.

Celebrations were held for **World Environment Day** and **World Water Day**.

Our Common Ground

We brought together 35 residents from four apartment complexes to **establish food gardens and share the produce** through the launch of our new sustainable apartments program Our Common Ground. We also held workshops and provided worm farms and compost bins, and specific knowledge on how to reduce energy, water and waste.

40
applications
received

+

4
apartment
complexes
participated

+

35
sustainable
living
champions



Smarter Cleaner Greener e-newsletter

The success of our sustainability e-newsletter, 'Smarter, Cleaner, Greener' – now in its second year – grew delivering to over 3,000 residents each month the latest sustainability, waste and environmental news and topics, green living tips and free Council-run events from our sustainability, bushcare, waste and active recreation teams.

To sign up visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/scgnews

Granny Smith Festival

The Green Hub hosted **all things waste, sustainability and resilience**. Visitors to the Green Hub were able to get tips on how to lower their waste, improve biodiversity and get prepared with the Red Cross and the City of Ryde Resilience team. Kids could get their photo taken behind the wheel of a replica waste truck and adults could look under the bonnet of a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle.



Ryde Resilience Plan 2030

Council is preparing a **local resilience action plan**, consistent with the Resilient Sydney regional strategy. The plan will strengthen the ability of our community to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of local shocks and chronic stresses. This includes collaboration and greater self-reliance to better plan, prepare and respond to extreme weather events under climate change and other emergency situations. Over 300 local people contributed towards development of the local resilience plan through community engagement activities. This has included residents, schools, local business and Advisory Committees.



Ryde Citizen Scientists National Project

City of Ryde was one of **22 councils** that collaborated with the University of NSW and RMIT University on a national **Citizen Science Urban Climate Project**. Students from Epping Boys' High School, Ryde Secondary College and Macquarie University participated by measuring air temperature, relative humidity and surface temperatures in selected precincts. Project results can assist policy makers and council in predicting future health needs and impacts, and in planning for the future built urban environment and open space in Ryde. The results will also assist council in responding to these issues in future strategies such as the local **Ryde Resilience Plan 2030**.



Emergency Preparedness

To assist the community in becoming more resilient in the face of increasingly extreme weather, Council launched the Climate Wise Communities website featuring the 'Get Ready' tool. This online tool allows community members to enter their address and find out what hazards their property is exposed to.

A series of questions are then asked to assist in developing a plan should a bushfire, flood, storm or heat wave occur.

Visit www.climatewisecommunitiesryde.com.au



Towards Zero Waste



Waste Management Strategy

Our 2019-2024 Draft Waste Management Strategy outlining Council's vision for a smarter, cleaner, greener City of Ryde was adopted by Council. The strategy focuses on diversion of waste from landfill through avoiding, reducing, reusing and recycling.

Litter Free Laurel Park

Council addressed the issue of litter from vehicles and stormwater in Laurel Park through beautification, education and community engagement. We removed graffiti, created two murals, planted 1,000 indigenous plants, returned the kerbside, fixed the retaining wall, established two cigarette butt litter bins, conducted five community clean-ups and hosted a very successful National Tree Day event. The project engaged with three local schools, three community groups, Ryde bus depot and local businesses. All this work achieved an overall 96 percent reduction in litter.



Be fantastic. Cut single-use plastic! Education Program

In November 2019, Council launched the **'Be fantastic. Cut single-use plastic!'** education program. The program also included toolkits to assist business owners and the community members looking to start their journey to reducing single-use plastics. On 7 November 2019, Council hosted a sustainable solutions expo for alternatives to single-use plastics for our community. Over **100 individuals** registered to attend the expo on the night, which saw the launch of the toolkits to the community.



Waste Wise Events

As part of the City of Ryde's commitment to phasing out single-use plastic, all Council events have now been designated as 'Waste Wise Events'. Single-use items including plastic bags, straws, water bottles and balloons are banned, and reusable alternatives are provided in place of these items.

Composting and Worm Farming

111 residents bought a subsidised compost bin or worm farm from Council and started reducing their organic waste.



Waste Workshops

23 free workshops were held for residents about topics including waste and recycling, composting and worm farming and reducing plastic. **Over 400 residents attended** these workshops throughout the year.



Waste and Recycling

Bower Collection Service

70 households booked a free kerbside collection of homewares in good condition and diverted **approximately 4.8 tonnes of materials from landfill.**



Community Recycling Centre (CRC)

2,468 City of Ryde residents dropped off **47.4 tonnes of material** to be recycled or responsibly disposed of at the Artarmon CRC.



Clothing Bins

Approximately 180 tonnes of clothing was diverted from landfill and given to people in need.



Problem Waste Recycling Stations

1,340 kg of batteries, 384 kg of ink cartridges, 341 kg of light globes and 315 kg of mobile phones were collected through our seven problem waste recycling stations and taken to the CRC for recycling.



Chipping and Mulching Service

823 residents took advantage of this free service which diverted **approximately 65.8 tonnes of waste from landfill.**

823
Residents



Filtered Water Stations

13 new filtered water stations were installed in parks and sporting complexes across the City. Residents filled their reusable bottles with **57,861 litres of water.**



Second Hand Garage Sales

70 Second Hand Garage Sales were held which rehomed unwanted household items otherwise destined for landfill.



TV and Computer Collections

665 kerbside bookings were made and **33.3 tonnes** of electronic waste was collected and recycled.

Medical Waste Service

14 pharmacies participated in our free medical waste drop-off service.



Recycling in Multi-unit Dwellings

With over **25,000 multi-unit dwellings** in Ryde, the Waste team worked with managing bodies and engaged with residents to help them to reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose of their waste correctly.

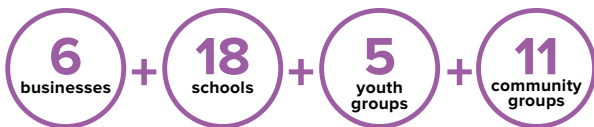
100+
properties
visited

5000
signs,
stickers
and flyers
delivered

Conducted
extensive
recycling
tub trial

3
illegal
dumping
hot spots
targeted

Clean Up Australia Day – 26 February to 3 March 2019



removed rubbish from **40 locations** throughout the City of Ryde.



Household Chemical CleanOut – 30 & 31 March 2019

751 participants dropped off over **27 tonnes of hazardous substances** such as chemicals, paints and oils to be disposed of responsibly.

751
Participants

27
tonnes of
chemicals were
recycled or safely
disposed of



Recycling and Garden Organics

Council collected **7,978 tonnes of recycling** and **8,926 tonnes of garden organics** from **48,727 residential properties**.

7,978
tonnes of
recycling

8,925
tonnes of
garden organics

from **48,727 residential properties**

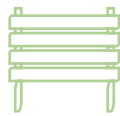
Natural Areas



Wildlife Protection Areas

Council's declaration of **Wildlife Protection Areas at Field of Mars Reserve, Kittys Creek corridor and Terrys Creek corridor** will help protect native wildlife and their habitat. With close links to the Lane Cove National Park these areas have a high diversity of native animals, including a number of threatened species. By promoting responsible pet ownership Council hopes to improve the wildlife corridors throughout the city.

Bushland Signage



Nine timber signs were installed to highlight the significant features of bushland areas at Portius Park, Pryor Park, Kittys Creek Reserve, Martin Reserve, Kobada Park, Marsfield Park and Stewart Park. Through the implementation of the Ryde Biodiversity Plan initiatives such as this help promote our bushland areas and encourage their protection. Interpretive signage was installed at Brush Farm Park, with a map of the walking trails and a large entry sign was installed at Field of Mars Reserve along Pittwater Rd.



Terrys Creek Walking Trail

Further improvements have been made to the Terrys Creek Walking Trail with this second stage of works between Abuklea Rd and Wood St. New fibre-mesh boardwalk sections, steps and viewing platform at the waterfall have improved access and usage along this popular trail. Come and explore the bushland along this significant corridor linking Eastwood with Browns Waterhole in the Lane Cove National Park.



Community Partnership activities

Volunteers from **Ericsson, SAP Concur, Hotel Inn** and students from **St Ignatius College** helped with planting activities along Shrimptons Creek at North Ryde. Further upstream staff from Johnson & Johnson assisted with mulching, removal of woody weeds and installation of log edging at Santa Rosa Park. We hope to see them back again next year to continue the good work in our bushland reserves.

Bush Regeneration



Contract bush regeneration works were undertaken in **47 parks, helping restore 92 hectares of bushland.**

Bushcare volunteers worked hard throughout the year at their bushcare sites throughout the City, helping to restore **11 hectares of bushland.** Their dedication and enthusiasm is commended, with noticeable improvements across the board. We look forward to continuing the good work in 2020.



Feral Animal Control

The feral animal control program continued with great success, targeting foxes and rabbits at Brush Farm Park, Darvall Park, Denistone Park, Dunbar Park, Field of Mars Reserve, Forrester Park, Forsyth Park, Glades Bay Park, Kittys Creek Reserve, Lambert Park, Portius Park, Ryde Park, Tasman Park and Tyagarah Park.

The program was delivered to ensure the safety of the community and native wildlife.



Partnerships

Council partnered with Macquarie University on their research program 'Which Plant Where' which aims to test the performance of existing and new urban plant species under future climatic scenarios and stress tolerance for future planting programs.



Bushcare Training

Training for Bushcare volunteers included a **Powerful Owl workshop** with Dr Beth Mott and a **Microbat workshop** with Dr Joanna Haddock, both held at the Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre.

A **Biodiversity Awareness workshop** for Council staff was held to assist the conservation of our bushlands and to enhance biodiversity in our parks and reserves.

National Tree Day 2019 at Field of Mars Reserve



Over **175+** Volunteers
Planted **1000** Plants



Volunteers from the local area helped transform a mown area at **Field of Mars Reserve** to a habitat haven with **1,000 native plants being planted in just 1.5 hours**. The plantings will help complement the 2017 National Tree Day site that has flourished and helped create another connection in the Buffalo Creek wildlife corridor. **At schools Tree day at ELS Hall Park**, over **350 plants were planted** with the help of **70+ students** along the Shrimptons Creek corridor. The plantings will help thicken the habitat for birds and other native animals.



Weed Biosecurity - A shared Responsibility

70
kilometres
of High risk
pathways

69
high risk sites
inspected

6
new weed
incursions

With funding from the Weeds Action Program, Council engaged a Biosecurity Weeds Officer this year. A draft weed biosecurity policy and plan has been developed along with educational material and an updated Weeds webpage.

Inspections and mapping of state and regional weeds along high risk pathways included Victoria Road, Lane Cove Road, Pittwater Road, Delhi Road, Epping Road, Terrys Creek, Shrimptons Creek and Buffalo Creek. High risk sites inspections were undertaken at all florists, aquariums, garden suppliers, lakes, development sites and boat ramps in the City of Ryde along with online marketplaces. As our Biosecurity Weeds Officer says, "Early detection is the best form of weed management". Our 2019 Granny Smith biosecurity weeds stall was a great success, attracting over 400 individuals who walked away with expert advice on controlling weeds in their gardens.

For more information please visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/priorityweeds

Help protect our community, bushlands and waterways

Weed Biosecurity is the protection of our economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of priority weeds.

You can:

- RECOGNISE weeds
- REPORT priority weeds
- REPLACE with local native plants

Have you seen these weeds?

- Boneseed
- Chrysanthemoides monnifera (In flower)
- Pampas Grass
- Cortaderia species (In full seed)
- Asparagus
- Sicklethorn
- Asparagus foliolosus (Sickle-shaped thorns)

Have you seen these water weeds?

- Alligator weed
- Water primrose
- Frogbit
- Water lettuce
- Kidney-leaf mud plantain
- Water hyacinth

Parks

New Park Masterplans

New park Masterplans were adopted for **Meadowbank Park, Memorial Park, ELS Hall Park, Greenwood Park, Booth Reserve, Gannan Park and McCauley Park.**

New Parks

The design and delivery of **Kings Park** (Denistone East) and **Catherine Hamlin Park** (Macquarie Park) are well underway.

Park Upgrades

Major park upgrades were undertaken at **Meadowbank Skate Park (>\$3M), Morrison Bay Park (>\$1M) and Wilga Park (>\$2M).**

Meadowbank Skate Park underwent a major park upgrade.

Playgrounds were upgraded at **Kotara Park, Blamey Park, Kathleen Park and Glades Bay Park.**



Meadowbank Skate Park Upgrade



Wilga Park Upgrade



Children's play

The Children's Play Implementation Plan (2019) was updated to incorporate the **Everyone Can Play guidelines** into the City's playground designs.



Plans of Management

Generic Plans of Management are progressing for Parks, General Community Use, Sportsgrounds and Natural Areas. Specific Plans of Management are also progressing for Parramatta River Parklands and Meadowbank Park.



Feedback sessions

Multiple community consultation sessions were held to integrate community feedback into park planning and upgrades.



Greenspace Program Grant

A **\$200,000 Metropolitan Greenspace Program Grant** was awarded by the NSW Government to improve the open space corridors between Eastwood and Macquarie Park.



Street Tree Planting Program

230 native trees were planted along Morrison Road and other streets to increase the tree canopy cover in the City of Ryde. Planning is progressing for more tree plantings including Marsfield and Ryde.



Spring Garden Competition

This year's competition saw more than **200 entries**. The competition has been running for over 25 years now and is a much anticipated event in the City of Ryde's calendar.



Be Waste Smart

 City of Ryde

www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/SCGAchievements