

Hume City Council corporate greenhouse gas emissions 2023/24

Council's current greenhouse gas reporting

Hume City Council has been reporting its greenhouse gas emissions since 2018/19 through the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS). While local governments are not obligated to report, Council chooses to do so voluntarily as its emissions are high enough to trigger NGERS reporting thresholds. The NGERS reporting thresholds are 25,000 tCO₂e p.a. (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, the standard measure for greenhouse gases) in one facility, or 50,000 tCO₂e p.a. across the entire organisation.

NGERS scope

The National Greenhouse Emissions Reporting Act (2007) establishes a single, national framework for reporting corporate emissions.

The NGER scheme accounts for scope 1 and 2 emissions only (see below for more information).

This scheme considers grid-based electricity use to have the same state-based emissions intensity regardless of whether or not GreenPower (accredited renewable electricity) is voluntarily purchased by the reporting organisation.

The greenhouse intensity of electricity is calculated each year using a coefficient for each state that reflects the mix of renewable and non-renewable electricity produced. Currently all of Hume's electricity contracts are for 100 per cent GreenPower. Find out more about GreenPower here: [greenpower.gov.au](https://www.greenpower.gov.au)

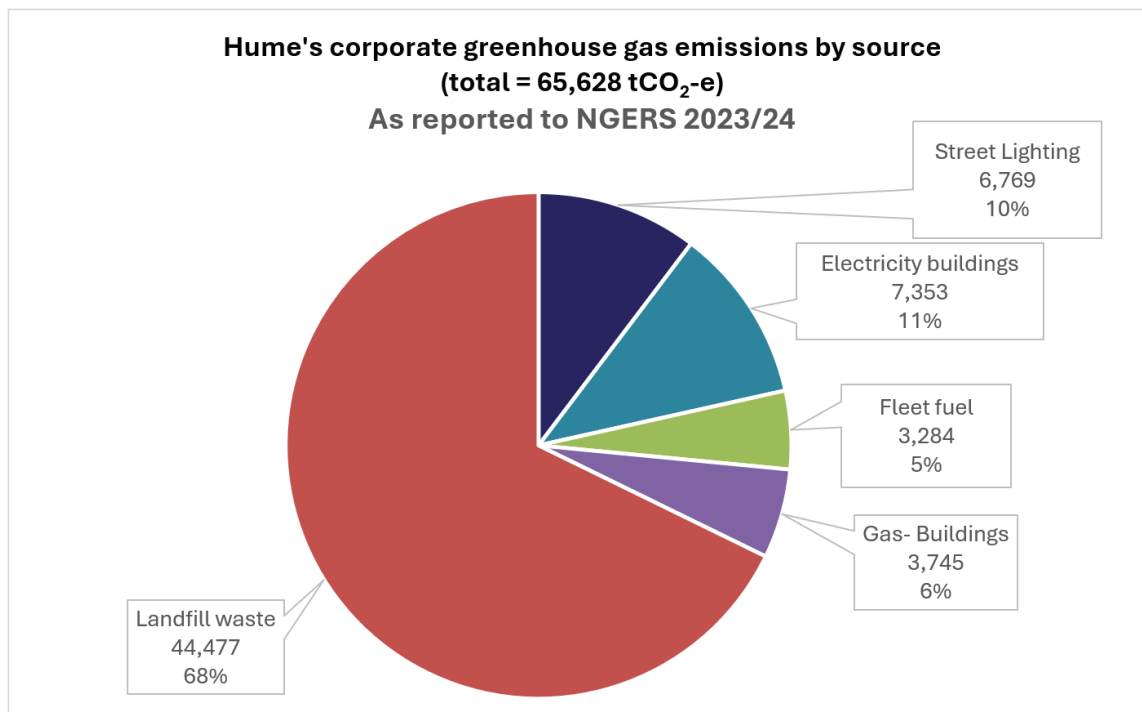
Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions

There are three different categories of greenhouse gas emissions:

- **Scope 1** refers to emissions an organisation produces on site. These include emissions from fuel use in vehicles, gas used in building appliances and escaping methane from landfill.
- **Scope 2** refers to emissions that arise from electricity production offsite but are attributed to the organisation using that electricity.
- **Scope 3** refers to emissions that are not within an organisation's direct operational control (as are Scope 1 and 2) but the organisation has the potential to influence emissions from these sources. For example: emissions from purchased goods and services, contractor vehicles, embodied emissions in building and road materials and/or emissions that arise from staff commuting all fall within scope 3. All of Council's scope 3 emissions contribute to other organisations' (or individual's) direct scope 1 or 2 emissions.

Council's emissions breakdown as per NGERs guidelines for 2023/24

Hume City Council's emissions as reported under the NGER scheme for the 2023/24 financial year are summarised in following pie chart:



Overall emissions decreased slightly from 67,141 tCO₂e in 2022/23, a 2.3 per cent decrease. This decrease is largely due to a reduction in the greenhouse gas intensity of Victorian electricity.

Although the Sunbury landfill has closed, previously deposited organic waste in the landfill continues to break down and release methane. Emissions for the site dropped only a small amount, from 45,050 last year to 44,477 tCO₂e this year.

Key actions

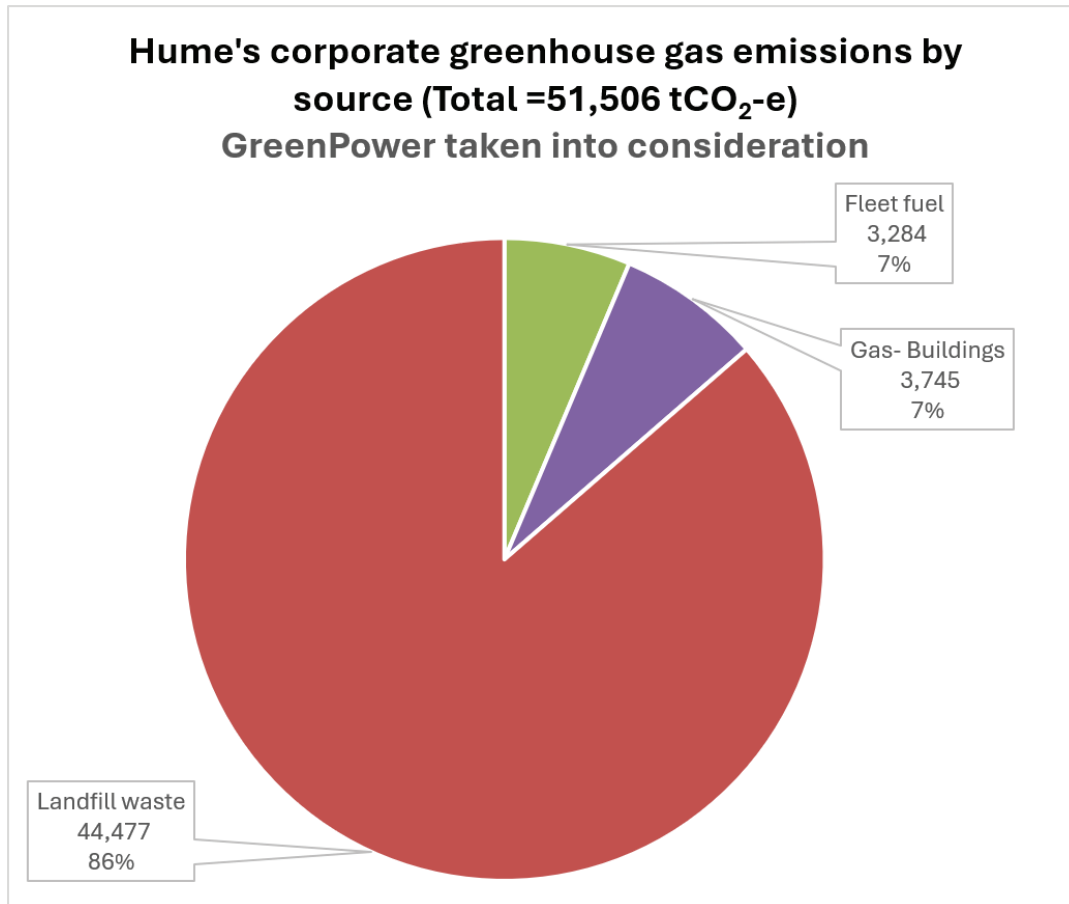
Some of the key actions Council is taking to reduce its greenhouse emissions are:

- Installing over 127 solar power systems totalling 4.1MWh of solar capacity (to date) on Council buildings, including those leased to community organisations
- Ensuring that, as of 2023, all new Council buildings are fully electric and, where possible, replacing end-of-life gas storage hot water and other gas appliances with electric
- Purchasing 100% GreenPower energy for all of Council's electricity
- Delivering the energy efficiency program for Council buildings and upgrading street-lighting to LED
- Rolling out electric vehicles (EVs) and recharging stations for Council's fleet
- Investigating methane capture and treatment options at the Sunbury landfill

For more information, including actions Council is taking to support emission reductions across the municipality, see the Climate Action Plan 2023–2028: hume.vic.gov.au/ClimateActionPlan

Council's emissions profile with GreenPower

Council's solar production and purchase of GreenPower means all of Council's electricity use is carbon neutral (for reporting requirements under Climate Active which accredits carbon neutral organisations). When this is considered, Council's emissions total decreases substantially by around 14,000 tonnes to 51,506 tCO₂-e and the emissions profile changes.



Carbon neutral target for 2030

Council has set a carbon neutral target for Council operations by 2030. To be carbon neutral accredited under the Climate Active scheme Hume will need to include a number of scope 3 emissions in our inventory – including asphalt, concrete and fuel emissions from contractors. So, our emissions profile will increase with these inclusions.

It is anticipated that at least some carbon offsets will need to be purchased to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, but Council is aiming to reduce emissions as much as possible to minimise offset purchase.