



# City of Fremantle One Planet Living<sup>®</sup> Progress Report 2021

Bioregional Review

March 2022



One Planet  
Living<sup>®</sup>

| A framework  
by Bioregional

## Introduction

This document provides a review of progress in the City of Fremantle (CoF) against its 2020 One Planet Action Plan. The review presents recognition and endorsement of CoF as a One Planet Living Global Leader for 2020/21.

Please note this is not a standalone document. It is best read in conjunction with the City of Fremantle's One Planet Living Annual Report 2020/21, found [here](#).

With a commitment to One Planet Living® since 2014, CoF has been a leader in sustainability for many years. In 2015, it became the world's second One Planet City with the City Council's One Planet Action Plan reviewed by Bioregional and recognised as demonstrating Global Leadership in One Planet Living®.

One Planet Living®, a framework by Bioregional, is a way to make it easy and attractive for all of us to lead happy and healthy lives within the environmental limits of our planet. Unlike certification schemes, it is a simple framework that enables everyone – from individuals to professionals – to collaborate on a sustainability strategy by drawing on their insights, skills and experience.

It is based on ten guiding principles of sustainability, which can be used to create holistic, joined-up solutions. Many of these principles relate to planetary boundaries (e.g. carbon dioxide emissions), many of which we have already passed and need to take urgent action on.

Others refer to social issues that need tackling such as encouraging personal wellbeing and community spirit and reducing local and global inequalities.

### This review

This is the fifth review of Fremantle City Council's One Planet Action Plan. In 2020, CoF updated its One Planet Action Plan, changing many of the outcomes, targets and actions in the process. Bioregional was involved in the process and had oversight of the agreed outcomes.

The current action plan is for five years (2020-2025), covering a period that will be vital if we're to mitigate - and adapt to - the worst effects of the climate and ecological crisis. This review is the first for the new action plan and therefore acts as a new base-lining exercise.

In beginning this review, we looked at the old action plan and compared it to the new; we were looking for connections between the two. Where possible, we wanted to be able to show progress across time. However, many of the new outcomes and targets don't directly correlate to the old, meaning that the monitoring effectively starts afresh.

We also set about creating new indicators for the outcomes and these were discussed with CoF. For several of the One Planet Living principles, we don't currently have sufficient data to show progress (or lack of) in achieving the outcomes, so this review will act as the starting point from which future action plans can be assessed.



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However, despite the challenges in the transition from the old plan to the new, CoF has shown consistent action and commitment across all 10 of the One Planet Living principles.

### **A review, not an audit**

This review is not an audit and is not intended to be. The aim is to provide a review of the City Council's own internal review and:

- critique the council's self-assessment of the One Planet Living® goals
- identify and highlight where there are positive trends and where targets are being achieved
- suggest ways for the council to improve performance where it is not meeting its targets

## **Review summary**

The new One Planet Action Plan 2020–25 has provided the City of Fremantle with an opportunity to refresh and reinvigorate its sustainability aims, targets and actions. Bioregional is pleased to see the ambition of the action plan, and that implementation continues apace. While 2020–21 held many challenges in relation to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Fremantle has managed to deliver impactful and bold action.

Key highlights are the support offered to residents during the pandemic, including grants for local communities and the Neighbour to Neighbour initiative. The rollout of FOGO, a food waste collection service, to 93% of residents is a great achievement and CoF has gone further by making this available to businesses too.

CoF insists on a sustainability review for every council procurement call. It has a detailed plan for achieving Water Sensitive City status. They have exceeded its tree planting targets and it is nurturing the sustainability leaders of tomorrow through its Emerging Industry Sustainability Cluster workshops.

As the City of Fremantle team moves into the new Walyalup Civic Centre, we look forward to hearing how these new premises increase community activity, while reducing energy and resource use.

Following a detailed review of the 'One Planet Action Plan 2020-25 Monitoring Spreadsheet' and the 'One Planet Living Annual Report 2020-21', we are pleased to endorse CoF as a One Planet Living Global Leader for 2021.

At the time of writing, carbon emissions data is not available, so this leadership status does come with a proviso that CoF provides carbon emission data for the review period. Once it is available, Bioregional will review and adapt the leadership status if required.

In the table below, Bioregional uses a simple red/amber/green traffic-light approach to indicate overall progress in meeting outcomes and targets. In the following pages, more detailed tables provide commentary on progress against outcomes and indicators, highlighting some of the key activities.

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|  | Substantially/entirely completed, or high degree of certainty over delivery |
|  | Likely on track for a long-term target                                      |
|  | Substantially incomplete, behind schedule or doubt over delivery            |

| Principle                         | RAG rating |      | Summary and highlights   |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------|--|
|                                   | 2019       | 2020 |  |
| <b>Health and Happiness</b>       |            |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CoF continued to support staff and residents to live happy, healthy lives, despite the pandemic challenges and lack of indicator data</li> </ul>        |
| <b>Equity and local Economy</b>   |            |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A challenging year for this principle, but plans are in place to ensure progress during the next review period.</li> </ul>                              |
| <b>Culture and community</b>      |            |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CoF plays a key role in the local community, with many groups and classes supported.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Land and nature</b>            |            |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CoF has a clear commitment to nature and natural services.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Sustainable water</b>          |            |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although CoF works to reduce water-use in a water-stressed area, we would like to see monitoring of waterways.</li> </ul>                               |
| <b>Local and sustainable food</b> |            |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food culture is important to CoF, and it continues to encourage local and sustainable food.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Travel and transport</b>       |            |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bioregional believes CoF could go further in delivering sustainable transport for residents, and we would like to see it as more of a focus.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Materials and products</b>     |            |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CoF sustainable procurement process enables it to ensure all procurements are as green as possible.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Zero waste</b>                 |            |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CoF's focus on reducing waste and encouraging recycling has been impressive over the period.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Zero carbon energy</b>         |            |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bioregional was unable to clearly see progress here due to lack of data at the time of writing.</li> </ul>  |

## City of Fremantle One Planet Living review in detail

| Principle and CoF outcomes   | Indicators  | Summary of activities  | RAG Rating |
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| <p><b>Health and happiness</b></p> <p>Fremantle residents and visitors live safe, active and fulfilling lives, supported by the community.</p> <p>City of Fremantle is welcoming of diversity and is an inclusive workplace.</p> | <p>Wellbeing index score</p> <p>Annual average scores of employee engagement surveys (when data is available)</p> | <p>For both indicators, CoF was unable to supply sufficient data for this review year, though data will be available in the future. It is clear, however, that many activities related to this principle have been happening, especially in response to COVID-19.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Neighbourhood Quick Response Grants (NQR: grants for initiatives that encourage active participation in the local community and create opportunities for people to connect with each other in their local neighbourhoods</li> <li>- Neighbour to Neighbour (N2N): launched to provide assistance to members of the community facing unprecedented challenges and increasing isolation due to COVID-19.</li> <li>- Cultural Awareness Workshops run for staff &amp; culture change program in progress, including delivery of corporate training calendar and other opportunities for skill development.</li> <li>- Staff volunteering opportunities</li> <li>- EEO and Diversity Management Plan implemented in October 2020.</li> <li>- The Age Friendly City Plan 2019-2024 promoted 36 activities and 3959 participation hours were logged.</li> </ul> <p>Bioregional overall opinion:</p> <p>CoF has a clear commitment to supporting staff to be happy and healthy in their work and provides services and support to residents. There are, however, other ways CoF can support residents to live one planet lifestyles – see Appendix 1 additional actions document.</p> |            |
| <p><b>Equity and local economy</b></p>   | <p>% of procurement from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned</p>  | <p>For the first indicator, current procurement from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned businesses, managed and/or staffed businesses stands at 0.4%. CoF is investigating ways to increase and monitor towards 2%. For the second indicator, the average % (across 20/21) of employees who are Indigenous/Torres Strait Islander people was 3.58%, which equates to 12 staff. A joint traineeship program being developed with Department of Communities to engage local indigenous trainees.</p>  |            |

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| <p>Fremantle is a prosperous and fair place to live, work and visit.</p>   | <p>businesses, managed and/or staffed businesses</p> <p>% of employees who are Indigenous/Torres Strait Islander people</p>  | <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainability Cluster Workshop: two workshops with Fremantle’s emerging and established sustainability leaders to generate understanding and connection.</li> <li>- Corporate Fairtrade subscription maintained</li> </ul> <p>Comment:</p> <p>CoF continues to foster its unique local identity and economy. The aim to increase the number of Indigenous/Torres Strait Islander people working at CoF has stalled slightly. More information for why this has occurred and other issues related to this principle will be included in the Walyalup Reconciliation Action Plan (WRAP) annual report.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Culture and community</b></p> <p>Fremantle celebrates and nurtures its local identity, heritage, culture, and building a sustainable community.</p> <p>The City of Fremantle fosters an internal workplace culture that values the environment and One Planet principles</p> | <p>Projects and classes established</p> <p>% increase in My Say Freo</p> <p>No of active groups</p> <p>Active internal groups (such as champions group); no of internal workshops and lunchtime sessions</p> | <p>Several new projects and classes were established in 2020/21, including the aforementioned NQR and N2N. My Say Freo saw an increase in both visitors (up 60%) and in engaged visits (up 38%). There are at least eight active precinct groups. CoF continues to support internal sustainability groups and training sessions.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ‘What’s in a Name’ Renaming Walyalup Koort/Kings Square.</li> <li>- Sustainability working group meets monthly</li> <li>- Lunch and learn sessions on sustainability held in June 2021</li> <li>- Delivered two Conservation Management Plans (the Roundhouse and Fremantle Arts Centre) and the brief for a third is in development (Fremantle Oval) – to manage city heritage sites.</li> </ul> <p>Bioregional overall opinion:</p> <p>CoF plays a key role in the local community, supporting groups and running events. CoF ensures there is engagement in city decisions from residents via various routes.</p> |  |
| <p><b>Land and nature</b></p> <p>Fremantle is a biophilic city that integrates</p>   | <p>Trees planted per year</p>  | <p>CoF continues to increase the number of trees in the city, passing the target of 1000 trees planted per year, with an additional 477. The number of trees planted is one measure, but that doesn’t help determine the positive impacts of trees – their cooling and air-cleaning effect (new trees take a long time to realise these benefits). Canopy cover is a good way to monitor the positive ecological impacts. Unfortunately, CoF has not had canopy cover mapped for several years.</p>   |  |

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| <p><b>biodiversity with the built environment</b></p> <p>City of Fremantle advocates on behalf of its community for a safe climate and protected ecosystems</p>   | <p>% canopy cover</p> <p>Examples of submissions to State/Federal Government on sustainability/CC issues, CoF actions/projects, surveys/questionnaires.</p>  | <p>CoF plays a key part in encouraging local businesses and residents to cherish the natural world. Examples include community planting events and the native species subsidy.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1477 trees planted</li> <li>- City accepted a \$3.25m WA Recovery Plan grant via Department of Transport to progress a large-scale Sand Nourishment via Dredge project in partnership with Fremantle Ports.</li> <li>- Native plant subsidy scheme was fully expended.</li> </ul> <p>Bioregional overall opinion:</p> <p>A lot of the work CoF does is in mitigation to tackle the climate and ecological crisis. Within the land and nature principle, there is also scope to address adaptation. Planting of trees and creating nature-rich places can reduce the effect of warming, enhance biodiversity and reduce the likelihood of flooding events. We look forward to seeing canopy cover information when it is made available and encourage CoF to continue to map canopy cover on a semi-regular basis. This will help monitor progress towards the outcomes. The care plan for trees also ensures they get to adulthood. We are also pleased to see that CoF has retained its biophilic city status.</p> |  |
| <p><b>Sustainable water</b></p> <p>City of Fremantle uses water in the most efficient and effective way.</p> <p>Implementing a continuous program of efficiency and improvements to water management across our reserves and facilities</p> | <p>Exceeding allocation set by Department of Water (713,735 kL)</p> <p>Corporate Scheme water use (data provided by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation)</p> <p>Community Scheme Water Use (data provided by Department of Water)</p> | <p>Water is an issue of huge importance in Western Australia. Water use is well measured in the city, and data is readily available to determine progress. The city's use of water is below the allocation set by the Dept for Water. Residential water use has increased a little over the period (even taking into account new homes). Water use at schools and by commercial companies was lower than previous years, perhaps as a result of COVID-lockdowns and homeworking. CoF corporate water use has also decreased by 4.6%, meaning CoF is halfway to its 10% reduction target; CoF used 753,399kL of water.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water Efficiency and Management Plan 2020-2025 adopted</li> <li>- The City was benchmarked using the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC) Water Sensitive City (WSC) Index Tool in May 2021. Fremantle is a Water Supply City, Sewered City and Drained City.</li> <li>- Real-time water monitors installed in locations throughout the City to monitor any increases in water use/leakages.</li> <li>- Walyalup Civic Centre water efficient fixtures.</li> </ul>  |  |

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| <p>Fremantle's waterways are healthy and free from pollutants</p> <p>The Fremantle community is empowered to use water wisely</p>   | <p>and Environmental Regulation)</p>  | <p>Bioregional overall opinion:</p> <p>We would like to see a way to monitor the health of Fremantle's waterways, ensuring they are healthy and free from pollutants. Currently there is no analysis of this, only of water at swimming beaches, data for which will follow. The move to the new Walyalup Civic Centre, with its water-efficient fixtures and fittings, will reduce corporate water further. Can the 10% reduction target be surpassed? We would also like to see CoF use water recycling technologies – we'd like to encourage CoF to find ways to store and reuse rainwater</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Local and sustainable food</b></p> <p>Fremantle supports and promotes local and ethical production and consumption of food, and regenerative agriculture practices.</p> | <p>No. of community gardens</p> <p>Local and Fairtrade suppliers for corporate catering</p> | <p>What we eat can have a huge influence on reducing our environmental impact. CoF has a great approach to promoting ethical and sustainable food, but these outcomes and targets are lacking in clear monitoring and, arguably, ambition. We have opted to measure community gardens – of which there are three – but this does not indicate the wider food culture in Fremantle. CoF's own One Planet Living report doesn't mention food at all in the 20/21 highlights, showing that perhaps this area needs more consideration. The need for Western societies to move to diets that are majority plant-based has been well-documented by the IPCC, and this shift needs to be reflected in CoF's internal operations as well as external influence.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community gardens: Hilton Harvest and White Gum Valley APACE Community Garden</li> <li>- Food purchased at CoF offices is sourced locally and often organic. Vegetarian options are always available.</li> </ul> <p>Bioregional overall opinion:</p> <p>Beyond its current commitments, we believe that CoF could play a bigger part in promoting and encouraging low animal protein diets. For example, has CoF been able to influence the vendors at the new Walyalup Civic Centre? Can CoF ensure plant-based options are always available at events? Part of the outcome here is about regenerative agriculture, but there are no clear actions to help achieve this or a way to monitor its progress. Can CoF run an education campaign on RegAg, for example?</p> |  |
| <p><b>Travel and transport</b></p>  |   | <p>Moving to more sustainable forms of transport across both corporate teams and the wider city has been slow. Some new facilities have been installed – bike parks and the like – but electrification of CoF fleet is behind schedule and the Active Safe Streets project is not yet up and running.</p>  |  |



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| <p>A connected sustainable transport network that supports the integration of walking, cycling and public transport</p> <p>Staff are supported to minimise their transport impacts through end of trip facilities and flexible work arrangements and incentives</p>                      | <p>% commute by mode</p> <p>% commute by mode</p> <p>Sites with EV facilities</p>   | <p>We were unable to clearly see progress towards the two outcomes due to a lack of data for the chosen indicators.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Installed Parry Street off-street path 'bypass'. Additional bike rack parking at South Beach and city centre activity areas</li> <li>- Information on sustainable transport options and facility tour provided to new employees.</li> </ul> <p>Bioregional overall opinion:</p> <p>CoF can have a strong influence on how the residents of the city move around. Through investment in new services and communications campaigns, people can be encouraged to adopt new modes. Travel and transport doesn't feature highly in the Annual Report, showing that perhaps it requires more input. Most importantly, creating modal shift in the way citizens travel will be accelerated with two things: convenience and affordability. CoF could do more to facilitate this. The Annual Report doesn't refer to EVs much and this seems to be an opportunity missed.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Materials and products</b></p> <p>City of Fremantle leads local governments in sustainable procurement.</p> <p>Events in Fremantle use best practice waste minimisation.</p> <p>Fremantle is known for its high quality, sustainable buildings and streetscapes and precincts.</p> | <p>% of tenders using sustainability procurement guidance</p> <p>Events following Sustainable events policy</p> <p>Examples of new developments/ precincts/building</p> | <p>CoF has continued to highlight the importance of sustainability for all procurement by ensuring that all tenders are reviewed by a sustainability officer before being sent out. This forms part of the sustainable procurement policy.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All tenders are reviewed by a sustainability officer before they are approved for release to the market</li> <li>- Waste Education Program – teaching people how to reduce waste.</li> <li>- Modern Cloth Nappy Rebate – offering up to \$150 for the purchase of cloth nappies.</li> </ul> <p>Comment:</p> <p>CoF is well on its way to achieving the outcomes for this principle. The new tender review process means that sustainability is considered in all tenders. However, most of a local authority's carbon emissions can be Scope 3. Is CoF able to estimate this impact and influence suppliers more? Events are governed by the Sustainable Events Policy, which started as a trial and has now been adopted. Fremantle has a crop of highly sustainable buildings, not least its own new Civic Centre.</p> |  |

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| <p><b>Zero waste</b></p> <p>The City and community reduce consumption and waste to sustainable levels</p> | <p>Domestic waste recovery rates - includes kerbside pickup, recycling bins and drop offs at the recycling centre</p> <p>% of residents with access to FOGO</p> <p>Tonnes of waste created</p> | <p>Through programs, rebates and new waste services, CoF continues to push for waste reduction. Our calculations show that 43% of waste is being sorted by residents for recycling, and that figure has improved year on year. Recovery rates for waste in Fremantle are 62% and the city is making good progress towards the Western Australia target of 67%. However, this rate hasn't improved greatly year-on-year. We can see, however, that the amount of waste per household and individual has reduced slightly to around 1 tonne per household and roughly 360kg per person. 93% of properties have access to FOGO (Food Organics &amp; Green Organics). Schools and commercial properties are now able to access FOGO, also, though most aren't using the services. Of the FOGO collected, 86% was recovered. A new waste to energy plant is being built, which will incinerate 50% of Fremantle's waste.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waste Education Program – teaching people how to reduce waste.</li> <li>- Modern Cloth Nappy Rebate – offering up to \$150 for the purchase of cloth nappies.</li> <li>- Cash for Containers Scheme was introduced in 20/21</li> <li>- Developing a plan for FOGO for commercial business.</li> </ul> <p>Bioregional overall opinion:</p> <p>We are impressed with the rollout of FOGO to residents. We welcome the commercial plan that's been developed and would encourage CoF to find innovative ways to get more businesses and schools using FOGO. We also note that while the waste-to-energy plant that is in construction has its place, reducing waste in the first instance is vital. We would like to push CoF to consider surpassing the targets set by WA.</p> |
| <p><b>Zero carbon energy</b></p> <p>The City of Fremantle's operations are carbon neutral</p>             | <p>Carbon emissions</p> <p>Activities and processes to assist residents to use low carbon technologies</p>   | <p>Data on carbon emissions from CoF operations were unavailable for this review. No new EV charging points were installed last year. Residential small generation units (SGU) solar installations increased by 23% compared with 2019. Across all renewable energy residential installations, 9% of households have one or more installations. Education and engagement programmes in the climate crisis were developed and delivered. No new renewable energy installations were made on City builds, though the CoF portion of the Walyalup Civic Centre's electricity will be net-zero carbon. Offsets were purchased to cover emissions generated by CoF. Information on the RENEW Nexus — Power Ledger can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>  |

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| <p>City of Fremantle advocates on behalf of its community for urgent action to address climate change.</p> <p>City of Fremantle supports community carbon reduction</p> | <p>EV charging points</p> <p>Residential solar energy technology uptake (2019 as baseline: 692)</p> | <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CoF is partnering with Climate Clever so that residents/businesses/schools receive 50% off the Climate Clever app, which helps users to calculate carbon emissions.</li> <li>- Stage 1 project approved and progressing using federal government COVID stimulus funding for LED lighting replacement programme</li> </ul> <p>Bioregional overall opinion:</p> <p>We are pleased that CoF has recently begun to procure renewable energy for its contestable sites - this is a very positive move. Although offsets have a part to play, we encourage CoF to continue to reduce its carbon emissions instead of relying on offsets. We are disappointed to hear that the 6MW solar farm (mentioned in the last review) has not progressed, and hope that a viable business model can be found. Unfortunately, progress on supporting local businesses to use renewable energy stalled.</p> |
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