



Bioregional
Championing a
better way to live

City of Fremantle
One Planet Progress Report 2017
Bioregional Review

April 2018

Introduction

With a commitment to One Planet Living since 2014, the City of Fremantle has been a leader in sustainability for many years. In 2015, it became the world's second One Planet City with its One Planet Action Plan endorsed by Bioregional.

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 which enables everyone – from the general public to professionals – to collaborate on a sustainability strategy drawing on everyone's insights, skills and experience. It is based on ten guiding principles of sustainability which we can use to create holistic, joined-up solutions. Many of these principles relate to planetary boundaries, beyond which we should not go, or which we have already passed so that we need to take urgent action to return within the boundary (e.g. carbon dioxide emissions). Others refer to social issues that need tackling such as encouraging personal wellbeing and community spirit and reducing local and global inequalities.



One Planet Living's ten principles¹

¹ Bioregional has recently updated the names of the ten One Planet Living principles. City of Fremantle's original action plan uses the previous names. Previous names are referred to in brackets.

What is this progress report: Peer review

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

- Critique the council's self-assessment with regard to the One Planet Goals
- Identify and highlight where there are positive trends and targets are being achieved
- Suggest ways for the council to improve performance where it is not meeting its targets

While this is a standalone document, it will be best understood if read in conjunction with the City of Fremantle's internal review.

Peer review summary

While this is the second peer review of the City of Fremantle's annual progress report in delivering its One Planet Action Plan the first year set the baseline and so this is the first year where progress can specifically be tracked. Bioregional use a simple 'traffic-light' approach to review progress in meeting their targets.

	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

In this first year it is to be expected that the majority of the targets would be judged as 'amber', yet 2017 saw a lot of specific successes:

- The Corporate Energy Plan, Waste Management Plan, Waterwise commitment and Urban Forest Plan were all completed providing a great deal more clarity on how Fremantle and the City Council can reach their ambitious targets
- The implementation of the new procurement procedure has ensured that sustainability makes up a minimum of 10% of the selection criteria for tenders over \$150,000 is a consideration
- A new cultural festival was launched

Being a One Planet City is about more than just delivering project and programmes. It is about demonstrating leadership and influencing a greater change; this is an area where the City of Fremantle is excelling:

- Their repeated efforts to ban single-use plastic bags has led to this being taken up at the state level.
- The sustainable procurement procedure has helped facilitate a state-wide local government initiative. If other local governments instigate a similar policy this will start to create sufficient purchasing power to really influence the supply chain.
- Bespoke initiatives, such as supporting the WGV One Planet Community and the development of a solar farm on council land, are helping to change the perspective of what is possible

There is of course room for improvement. While Fremantle may have more sustainable transport options than the local norm it is still a car-dominated city. Changing this will require a strategic approach that promotes sustainable modes of transport over the fossil-fuel car in all policies and planning decisions. Likewise the City Council is fortunate to have an engaged and aware population, but can they be further engaged to ensure that sustainable diets, reducing consumption and conservation issues actually influence their purchasing decisions and daily habits. This is a huge challenge, and not the responsibility of the City Council per se, but it is what is required to create a One Planet City.

Overall Bioregional are impressed by the progress made and initiatives started this year and look forward to seeing further progress through 2018.

Zero Carbon Energy

	Outcome	Target / Indicator	Baseline	2017
Corporate	The City of Fremantle will maintain its pledge of carbon neutrality for corporate emissions to 2020 and have in place a plan to being 100% renewable energy by 2025	Fuel use, CO ₂ eq emissions	2016: 6,350 tonnes CO ₂ eq ²	4550 – 30% reduction
Community	The City of Fremantle will support the community to access a range of green power purchase options, renewable energy and energy-efficiency measures with a goal of Fremantle’s buildings becoming zero carbon by 2025.	Increase household solar installations	2016: 389 installations to total of 4,722	443 installations

City of Fremantle’s energy data management has significantly improved in 2017, though there is still work to do in being able to gather and analyse data in a timely fashion. There is a 30% reduction in electricity use – almost entirely due to reduction at the Leisure Centre – but the reason for this unclear. It is worth nothing thought that electricity consumption in all categories of uses (buildings and lighting) has fallen – which is great to see.

At a community level the City Council has been estimating the number of solar installations (PV and solar thermal) in Fremantle as a way of estimating community engagement with green energy. They are further supporting the community through the 1 Million Women carbon reduction app and collaborating on low carbon housing projects – such as the WGV One Planet Community.

The City Council commissioned an energy strategy and are working on delivering this, for example by pushing forward a 5 MW solar farm on council land. The electricity it generates would be available for sale to the community and would meet the demand of approximately 10% of households in Fremantle.

Comment:

The City of Fremantle is showing impressive leadership in driving zero carbon buildings forward, and Bioregional look forward to seeing further improvements being verified by accurate data analysis in 2018.

² This is for all council buildings and facilities many of which are not controlled by the council

Zero Waste

	Outcome	Target / Indicator	Baseline	2017
Corporate	The City of Fremantle will aim to reduce its corporate waste by 25% by 2020 and increase its co-mingled recycling and organic waste diversion from landfill to at least 70% in all Council buildings and facilities by 2020.	25% total waste reduction	Total waste: 343 t, 19 kg/employee/week (2010)	Admin centre: 12.8kg/employee/week (30% reduction)
		Recycling rate: 70%	TBC	Admin centre: 80%
Community	The City of Fremantle will support the community to reduce waste generation by 10% against 2015 levels by 2020, and will embark on a city-wide education campaign and waste reduction strategy by 2017 with a goal of a 70% recycling rate by 2020.	10% total waste reduction	12,000 tonnes, e.g. 395 kg/capita (2015)	11,900 tonnes 376
		Recycling rate: 70%	63% (2015)	63%

The data available to the City Council is high level which makes measuring progress challenging – therefore they have instigated an annual audit of the council’s main administration centre. This showed both an impressive reduction compared to the 2010 baseline, though it is not a direct comparison, and a high recycling rate. Fremantle is participating in a food waste collection trial and instigated construction and verge collection recycling schemes. This is likely to have contributed to the 5% reduction in per capita waste production, though the recycling rate remains unchanged.

The City Council continues to show leadership in this area again pushing through single use plastic bag legislation that is now on hold due to the potential for state-wide legislation.

Comment:

Management of the City Council’s own waste and resident’s waste is being directly addressed and is improving. The City Council’s commitment to banning single use plastic bags has highlighted them as a leader in eliminating waste.

Materials & Products (Local & Sustainable Materials)

	Outcome	Target / Indicator	Baseline	2017
Corporate	The City of Fremantle will implement its sustainable procurement procedure for assessing suppliers against local, ethical, social, economic and environmental criteria and develop a sustainable events policy to minimise the impact of events.	% of tenders covered by policy	None	> \$150,000 35% of tenders
		70% reduction in paper	TBC	2,765 reams A4, 110 A3
Community	The City of Fremantle will encourage and enable the community to achieve high levels of sustainable material use through a range of activities including the opening of a community reuse store at the Fremantle Recycling Centre. The City Council will continue to review and update development policy to show alignment with best practice building standards.	Number / success of initiatives	e.g. 10 responsible cafés (2015)	1,166 boomerang bags, 33 new responsible cafés

The City Council's new procurement procedure ensure that sustainability performance accounts for a minimum 10% of the selection criteria for tenders over \$150,000. This is the only Local Government Purchasing Policy in Western Australia that has a mandated sustainability weighting, and the City of Fremantle participated in an initiative to promote this to other Local Governments in the region so hopefully the City of Fremantle can inspire a larger impact in this area. Another noteworthy initiative is the Green Tyre project to ensure tyre recycling. The City Council continues to support the community to reduce material consumption through the Responsible Café Initiative, but it may be worthwhile investigating further initiatives.

Comment:

The current \$150,000 threshold for the sustainability criteria seems high and it would be good to lower that to capture a greater percentage of City Council tenders. Further initiatives that the City Council could facilitate, or support, are unwanted goods exchanges or toy and tool libraries – these could be on-line or in-situ initiatives.

Travel & Transport (Sustainable Transport)

	Outcome	Target / Indicator	Baseline	2017
Corporate	The City of Fremantle will increase staff sustainable transport use by 15% by June 2016 and 30% by 2020, from a 2010 baseline.	Commuting modes	2010: 85% private car	Not measured
	The City Council will also reduce corporate transport emissions by at least 30% by 2020, (2010 baseline).	Tonnes CO ₂ eq	2016/17 – 315 t CO ₂ eq	As baseline
Community	The City of Fremantle will encourage and enable the community to reduce emissions from transport by at least 30% by 2020 in line with the sustainable carbon footprint target	Community commuting mode	2011: 54% car, 27% 'sustainable' 2015: CAT bus: 1mi trips	2016: little change: 56% & 29% 900,000 trips

The need to gather baseline data was identified as a key issue last year and it is encouraging to see some progress in this area, showing that compared to building energy use the City Council's direct transport impact is relatively minimal. As the staff are in a temporary office before a move to a new building staff travel is not a key focus – but the opportunity presented by the move to the new office needs to be maximised.

Influencing the travel habits is the area where the City Council can most likely have the largest impact. The free 'CAT' buses continue to be well used though patronage has fallen 10% from 2015. Traffic calming measures have been implemented through highly visible 'fun' symbols and cycling is supported through cycle lanes and the offer of free bikes for hire as part of the Fremantle Free Wheeling initiative. The City Council is also advocating for light and heavy rail.

Comment:

Sustainable transport is a huge challenge globally and particularly in Australia. The City of Fremantle is supporting sustainable transport locally, but is probably pushing this issue less than other One Planet Principles. Reviewing existing policies to understand how they support or conflict with the goal of promoting sustainable transport would be a useful exercise and the first step in developing a clear sustainable transport plan for Fremantle.

Local & Sustainable Food

	Outcome	Target / Indicator	Baseline	2017
Corporate	The City of Fremantle will ensure that 50% of food by value purchased by the council is compliant with the One Planet Strategy, Procurement Policy and Fair Trade City status by 2015 and 100% by 2020 and will support community actions to increase local and sustainable food purchase and achieve better nutrition.	Local and organic percentage	Unknown	100% local Approx. 60% organic (always offer a veggie option)
Community	The City of Fremantle will support community actions to increase local and sustainable food purchase and production, community and edible verge gardening and healthy food choices.	Number of community events	N/A	5
		% of houses within 400m of community garden	2017: 26%	26%

Fremantle has a vibrant local food culture and the City Council has now identified clear targets and indicators to track progress. The City Council's sustainable sourcing policy ensures that all food purchased for meals at the council offices is local and the majority organic. The workshop of the Heart Foundation's [Healthy Active by Design Tool](#) was another excellent initiative to promote local and sustainable food.

Comment:

Fremantle and its City Council are clearly good examples of how sustainable food systems can be promoted. Yet food is responsible for about a third of an individual's ecological carbon and in general Australia has a meat orientated culture, so a radical shift is required. It would be good to see how the City Council can support this change through engagement with their own staff and the community and to see the impact that the Healthy Active workshop has on urban planning.

Sustainable Water

	Outcome	Target / Indicator	Baseline (2010)	2017
Corporate	The City of Fremantle will measure its annual water use and set targets for absolute reduction in line with best practice benchmarks, or at least 50% against 2010 levels by 2020.	Mains water use (m ³) – 50% reduction	122,500 m ³	128,000m ³ – 5% increase
		Groundwater use (m ³) – 10% reduction	708,500 m ³	665,000m ³ – 6% decrease
Community	The City of Fremantle will encourage and enable the community to achieve a 10% per capita reduction in potable water use by 2020 from a 2010 baseline level.	Mains water use (m ³ , or kL/ person/ year)	4.1 mi m ³ 154 m ³ / person/ year	3.7 mi m ³ , 115 m ³ /person /year (25% reduction)

Water is an issue of huge importance in Western Australia and the City Council has acknowledged this by achieving Waterwise Council Status. There is a slightly conflicting picture for the council's own water use with an increase in potable water consumption but a reduction for groundwater. Potential reasons have been identified and the situation will continue to be monitored; improved irrigation and the move into a new council building should manage both these issues.

At a community level there has been an impressive 25% drop in per capita water consumption, but it remains at about 320 litres per person per day, which is high for domestic water use compared to other countries – much of Europe averages around 150 litres/person/day.

Comment:

Water is an issue of great strategic importance in Western Australia, so it is reassuring to see the City Council address this issue head on. A 50% reduction in the council's own water use is a very ambitious target and a detailed strategy for achieving that is required. Additionally, the community target may need to be strengthened.

Land & Nature (Natural Habitats & Wildlife)

Outcome (no differentiation between corporate and community)	Target / Indicator	Baseline	2017
The City of Fremantle will contribute to increasing levels of biodiversity and space for wildlife through measures carried out on local government owned properties or through staff time or financial support for appropriate conservation groups or community initiatives.	Public open space per resident	3.5 ha/1,000 residents	Two new parks created
The City of Fremantle will contribute to increasing levels of biodiversity and space for wildlife through its own strategies, guidelines and practices. The City Council will increase tree canopy cover across Fremantle to achieve up to 20% coverage by 2020. The City Council will develop an Urban Forestry Plan and deliver the outcomes of the Green Plan by 2020.	20% tree canopy cover	12-13% (2016)	4,500 trees planted
	Plan	None in place	Developed

The City Council and the wider community have made impressive steps in increasing the amount of green areas in Fremantle. Two new parks were created and 4,500 trees were planted, 3,000 by volunteers, equivalent to a 30% increase in the number of trees in Fremantle! The Urban Forest Plan identified a number of key strategies which will be implemented over time though the tree survey has been undertaken already. The City Council's commitment to Integrated Pest Management should reduce chemical use. Extending the steam weeding programme to playgrounds is a sensible initiative.

Comment

The City Council and the Fremantle residents are making great efforts to improve the biodiversity value of their local area.

Culture & Community (Culture & Heritage)

Outcome (no differentiation between corporate and community)	Target / Indicator	Baseline	2017
The City of Fremantle will promote an understanding of the One Planet Council program with its staff and commit to supporting community projects and targets based on increasing the number of community and / or sustainability projects and / or the level of support (financial or staff time) by 2020.	Number of attendees at cultural events	2017: 200,000	150,000 at Street Arts Festival, 60,000 at four other festivals
The City of Fremantle will promote an understanding of the One Planet Council program with the community and commit to enabling at least 3,000 people per year to engagement in one planet related activities (10% of population) - including community and cultural events.	Number of people	140 people at 6 one-off events, 24/week at two weekly events	As baseline

The City of Fremantle is a cultural hot-spot and alongside the International Street Arts Festival the City Council launched a new 'One Day in Fremantle' Festival in January 2017. Further events included the 'High Tide' festival for site responsive art and workshops with the Walyalup Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

The City Council runs and supports a range of community initiatives. Workshops were run in creating communities and sustainability and the Living Smart workshops were attended by 55 people. A particularly noteworthy event was the opening of the Sustainable Housing for Artists and Creatives at the WGV One Planet Community.

Comment

While Fremantle is a cultural hot-spot and the City Council is supporting and running sustainability events and workshops the numbers of attendees suggest that this is not yet creating the cultural shift that is needed to create a truly sustainable city.

Equity & Local Economy

	Outcome	Target / Indicator	Baseline	2017
Corporate	The City of Fremantle will provide a full package of support, training and engagement mechanisms to foster staff development by 2020 and to support equality in the workplace	Number of initiatives	2017: two initiatives	Reward and recognition, Training programme, inc. change management training
Community	The City of Fremantle will continue to provide a broad range of support and incentive mechanisms to foster new and existing local business. It will support the community in its drive towards economic, environmental and social sustainability. It will provide a full package of support, training and engagement mechanisms in accordance with its Economic Development Strategy by 2020.	Maintain % of independent shops	2017: About 70%	As baseline
		<5% retail vacancy rate	2015/16 9.2%	11%

Fremantle is a Fair-trade City and is well-known for its independent shops. A walk-up survey of the High Street and Market Street showed 70% of shops to be independently owned and run. The City Council has supported this via:

- Fremantle Business Improvement District project which has run events to support the local economy.
- Freo Alternative, an award-winning project aimed at providing housing solutions for those that the market is not providing for, particularly smaller housing units.

Internally a Reward and Recognition programme was established with over 50 winners and training has been run in change management, report writing and disability awareness.

Comments:

While the internal initiatives are in themselves excellent, additional clarity on how the programme meets the needs of all staff may be beneficial, potentially through a strategic review of staff skills and training needs.

Health & Happiness

	Outcome	Target / Indicator	Baseline	2017
Corporate ³	The City of Fremantle will promote and support health and wellbeing in the workplace by providing increased access to opportunities for staff to participate in programs relevant to their needs and will monitor the success of these programs through annual productivity / days lost to sickness / wellness and wellbeing statistics.	Maintain or increase training and wellness programs	Employee engagement 57% (2015) 3 wellness programmes (2016)	n/a 3 – 95 participants
Community	The City of Fremantle will promote and support health and wellbeing in the community by providing increased access to opportunities for community members to participate in programs relevant to their needs. The City Council will monitor increase in uptake of relevant health and wellbeing programs on offer through the various City Council and community organisations which offer opportunities.	Increase in leisure centre annual use	460,000 visits (2015/16)	488,660 leisure centre visits - 6% increase

The City Council has expanded its programmes to support the health and wellbeing of its staff including; 19-day work month, social club, health checks and free off-peak leisure centre use. The wellness programme was repeated with 95 participants, up on the previous year's 92.

The library and leisure centre continue to be well attended and the City Council supported youth culture with a skate clinic and a girl's skate night. At the other end of the ate scale the Positive Ageing programme had 630 participants to its 62 activities.

Comments:

Health and wellbeing is more than specific programmes; it is about encouraging and enabling healthy lifestyles with targeted interventions where required. The City Council's initiatives in local food, promoting cycling, and supporting culture and the local economy all help create an environment where residents can lead healthy lifestyles.

³ A second outcome specifying a survey of well-being needs has been deleted as it was too specific and not deemed the appropriate solution