

TOWARDS CERTIFIED

>>NET ZERO<<<



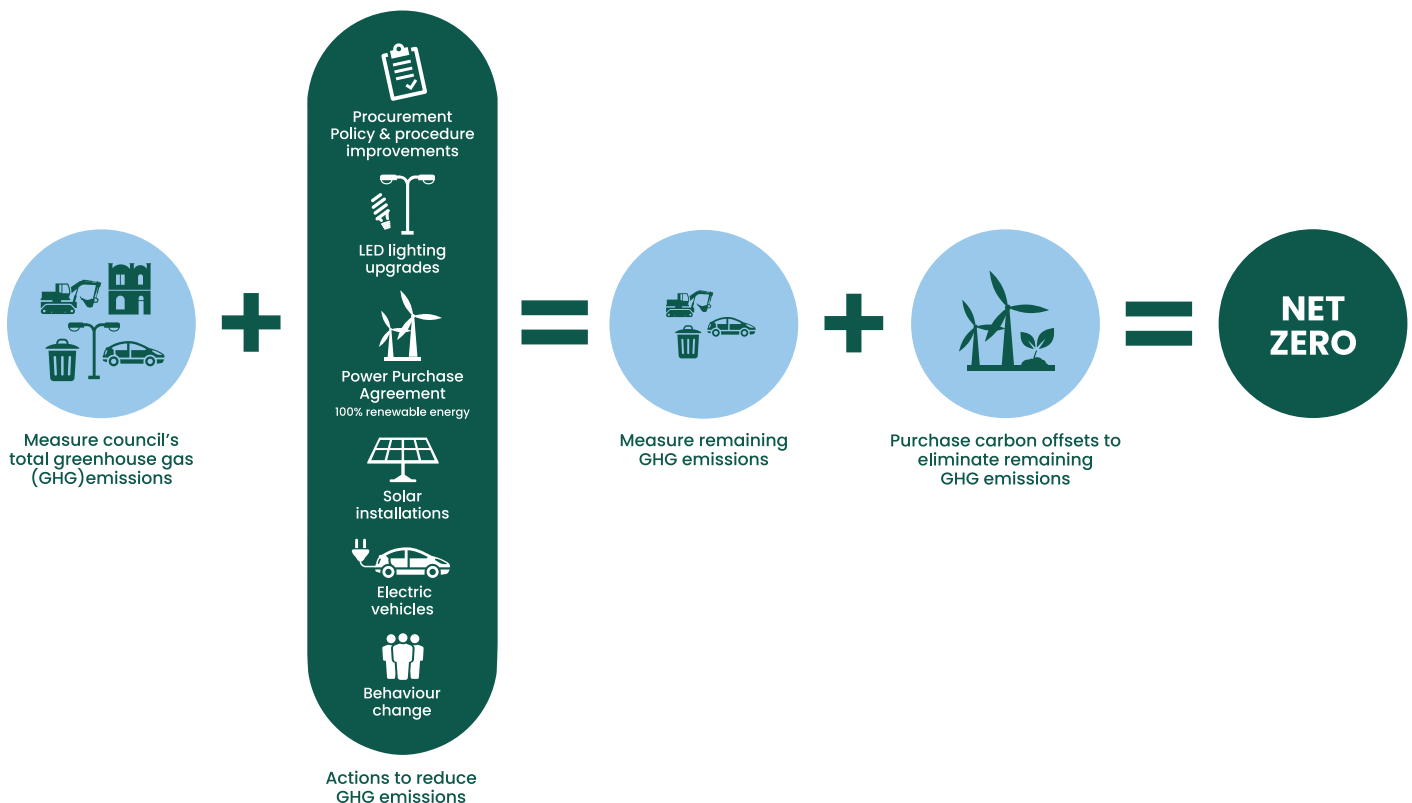
November 2021

In 2019, Indigo Shire Council declared a **Climate Emergency**. Central to Council's response is to demonstrate strong leadership within our communities by reducing the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from Council's activities and services. Accordingly, **Indigo Shire Council has set a target to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2035, or earlier.**

>> What are Indigo Shire Council's current GHG emissions?

In 2020, Indigo Shire Council engaged Ndevr Environmental to help develop an Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP). This involved identifying how much GHG emissions Council produces, where in the organisation they are produced (emissions profile) and what the opportunities are to reduce them (emissions reduction action plan). Using 2019/20 as the baseline year, **Indigo Shire Council's total GHG emissions were 6,366 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e)**. That's equal to 48 tCO₂-e for every full-time council employee.

>> How is Indigo Shire Council going to achieve net zero?



>> How does Indigo Shire Council produce GHG emissions?

Indigo Shire Council produces GHG emissions right across the organisation – from electricity used in Council buildings, fuel used in Council fleet and trucks, and emissions produced by Council’s contractors. Indigo Shire Council’s GHG emissions profile has been defined in consultation with Ndevr Environmental, in line with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol and Australian Government Climate Active Organisational Standard. Our emissions profile includes Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

Scope 1 emissions

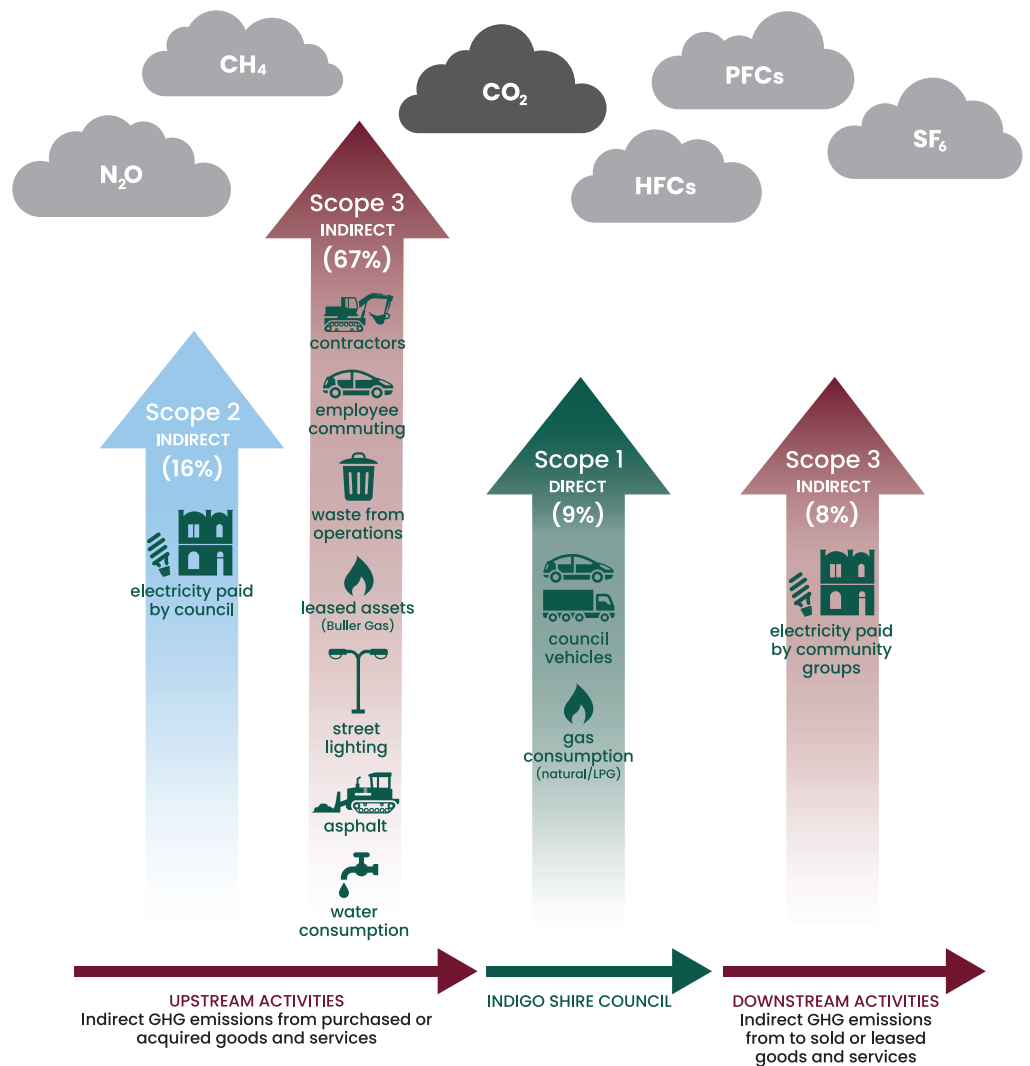
direct emissions from sources that Council owns or controls, including fuel consumption from fleet, energy consumption from natural and liquefied petroleum gas, and landfill emissions.

Scope 2 emissions

indirect emissions from electricity purchased for use in Council’s buildings and facilities, where Council pays the bills.

Scope 3 emissions

all other **indirect emissions** that occur in Indigo Shire Council’s value chain as upstream or downstream activities.

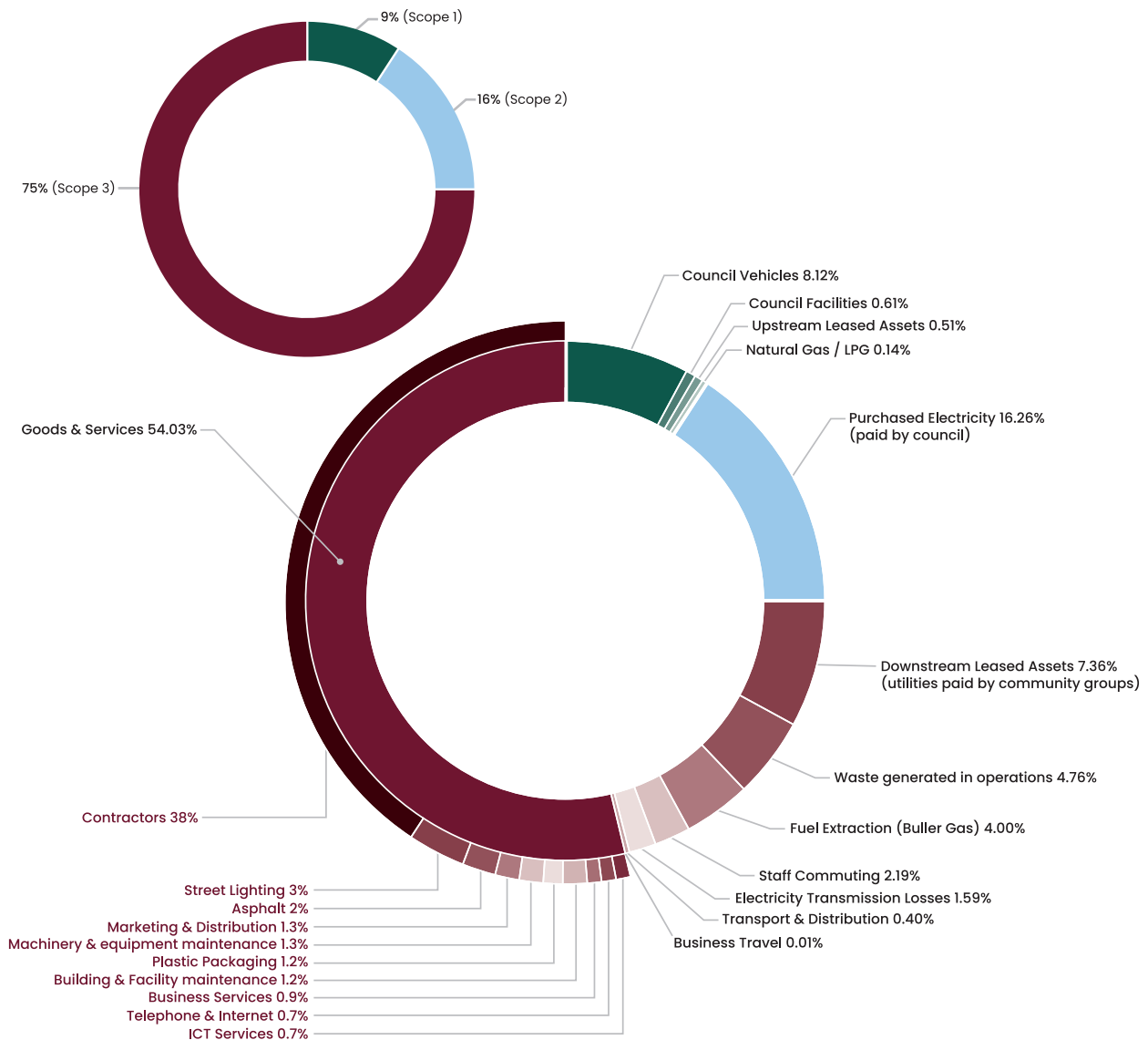


>> What has Indigo Shire Council done so far to reduce its GHG emissions?

Indigo Shire Council has been undertaking energy efficiency and GHG emissions reduction measures for many years, including:

- **Solar power installations** on at least 18 Council and community buildings, with a combined 135kW capacity.
- **Energy efficient lighting upgrades** of Council streetlights, buildings and facilities.
- **Purchase of two electric vehicles.**

>> Breakdown of Indigo Shire Council's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions according to activity

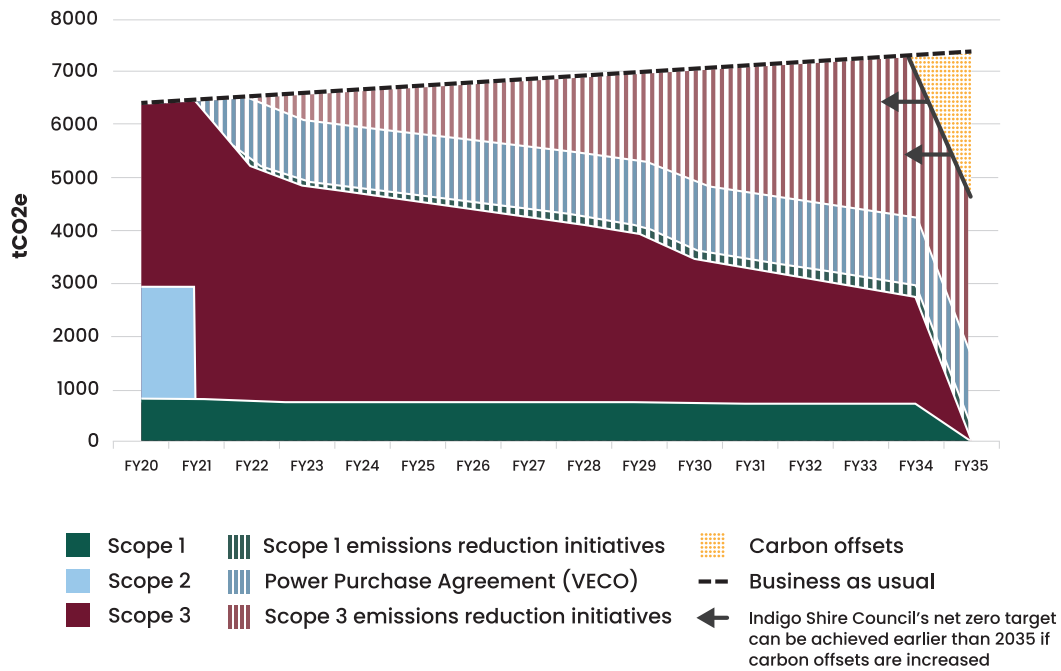


>> How is Indigo Shire Council going to achieve net zero?

Indigo Shire Council will achieve net zero through undertaking a range of actions across the organisation, as identified in our Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP), including:

- Purchasing of 100% renewable energy for Council buildings through the Victorian Electricity Collaboration (VECO) via Red Energy. This started 1st July 2021, and applies to around 20% of Council's total GHG emissions.
- Sustainable procurement – strengthening environmental sustainability measures in Council's procurement policy and procedures. Contracted goods and services account for over half of Council's emissions.
- Capturing, tracking and reporting on our GHG emissions using the Trellis carbon accounting platform, and using this knowledge to scope, implement and evaluate emissions reduction actions.
- Reviewing our ERP annually to evaluate progress and ensure new technologies and opportunities are being considered.

>> A projection of how Indigo Shire Council will achieve net zero by 2035, or earlier



>> What happens if Indigo Shire Council doesn't achieve net zero by 2035?

- Carbon offsets will be purchased for the GHG emissions that Indigo Shire Council, despite its best efforts, can't eliminate. Net zero is achieved through balancing a measured amount of GHG emissions released, with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset. Offsets must be purchased every year and represent a continuing investment.
- If no further action is taken by Council to reduce emissions (this precludes VECO), carbon offsets could cost approximately \$146,000–\$255,000 per annum (based on AUD2020 prices). The variance is explained by either local/national offsets (more expensive) vs international offsets (cheaper).
- Indigo Shire Council also recognises the cumulative effect of higher GHG emissions, year after year. One alternative to steadily reducing emissions is simply to purchase carbon offsets immediately. International and national carbon credits are expected to increase in price in future years, presenting a financial risk to council in the achievement of its target without a strong focus on emissions reduction.

>> Will Indigo Shire Council be certified carbon neutral?

- **YES.** Indigo Shire Council's emissions profile has been established in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol and Australian Government Climate Active Organisational Standard. Emissions categories (and associated emissions sources) follow the GHG Protocol framework.
- Indigo Shire Council can also take its net zero target further and seek carbon neutral certification through the Australian Government's Climate Active Program by applying to the Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and Resources (DISER). This incurs annual certification fees and additional periodic auditing requirements. Certified organisations can use the Climate Active Certification Trademark, providing a credible stamp of approval for environmental stewardship.

Find out more by visiting our website >>

indigoshire.vic.gov.au/Residents/Environment-and-Sustainability/Climate-change-and-you