



ACT
Government

2023-24 Minister's Annual Report

under the Climate Change
and Greenhouse Gas
Reduction Act 2010



© Australian Capital Territory, Canberra 2024

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission from:
Director-General, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate,
ACT Government, GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601.

Telephone: 13 22 81

Website: www.climatechoices.act.gov.au

Produced by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Accessibility

The ACT Government is committed to making its information, services, events and venues as accessible as possible.

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, such as large print, please phone Access Canberra on 13 22 81 or email the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate at: EPSDDComms@act.gov.au

If English is not your first language and you require a translating and interpreting service, please phone 13 14 50.

If you are deaf, or have a speech or hearing impairment, and need the teletypewriter service, please phone 13 36 77 and ask for Access Canberra on 13 22 81.

For speak and listen users, please phone 1300 555 727 and ask for Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

For more information on these services visit:
<http://www.relayservice.com.au>



Acknowledgement of Country

Yuma

*Dhawura nguna ngurumbangu gunangu Ngunnawal.
Nginggada dindi dhawura Ngunnawalbun yindjumaralidjinyin.
Mura bidji mulanggaridjindjula.
Naraganawaliyiri yarabindjula.*

Hello

*This country is Ngunnawal (ancestral/spiritual) homeland.
We all always respect elders, male and female, as well as
Ngunnawal country itself.
They always keep the pathways of their ancestors alive.
They walk together as one.*

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as Traditional Custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We respect the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, and their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Contents

Minister's Foreword	3
2023-24 at a glance.....	4
Introduction.....	6
Part A: Actions taken in 2023-24.....	7
Renewable electricity supply	7
Preventing new fossil fuel gas network connections	7
Launch of the Integrated Energy Plan	8
Delivery of the Big Canberra Battery Project	9
Delivery of the ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030 and the Circular Economy Act 2023.....	9
Supporting households and businesses to improve energy efficiency	10
Targeted household support to lower energy bills and lower emissions	12
Reduced emissions through engagement and innovation	13
Supporting ACT Government agencies to transition to zero emissions operations.....	16
Zero emissions vehicle fleet.....	16
Supporting active travel and the uptake of Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEVs)	17
Collaboration to support the community and advance action on climate change.....	19
Part B: Effectiveness of Government Actions	22
ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory	22
Government specific performance.....	22
ACT Renewable Energy Target Compliance	23
Part C: Cost Benefit Statement	24
Climate change policy costs and benefits.....	24
Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)	25
Sustainable Household Scheme.....	26
Emission reductions and industry development	27
Households and businesses	28
Appendix A -Progress on actions.....	30
ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25	30
Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City	50
ACT's Zero Emissions Vehicles Strategy 2022-2030	55

24
MORT



Minister's Foreword

The ACT is recognised nationally and internationally for its climate leadership. This Annual Report showcases significant achievements made by the previous ACT Government and the ACT community in responding to climate change in 2023-24. As the incoming Minister I am pleased to present this report in the spirit of our continuing commitment to transparency and accountability for the work we do to address climate change.

Over the last year the ACT has marked significant milestones in our journey towards a net zero emissions Territory. We took a bold step by commencing a regulation to prevent new fossil fuel gas network connections in all residential, commercial, and community facility land-use zones. We also released the Integrated Energy Plan 2024–30 which outlines our strategic approach to phasing out fossil fuel gas. This plan helps set the long term pathway for the transformation of the ACT's energy system to achieve net zero emissions by 2045.

We are continuing to make progress in the waste and transport sectors. The ACT Government has released the ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-30 outlining actions and opportunities to build a circular economy for the ACT. A circular economy will improve the natural environment and community wellbeing and support the transition to a net zero city. A circular economy will also promote opportunities for innovation, economic growth and job creation.

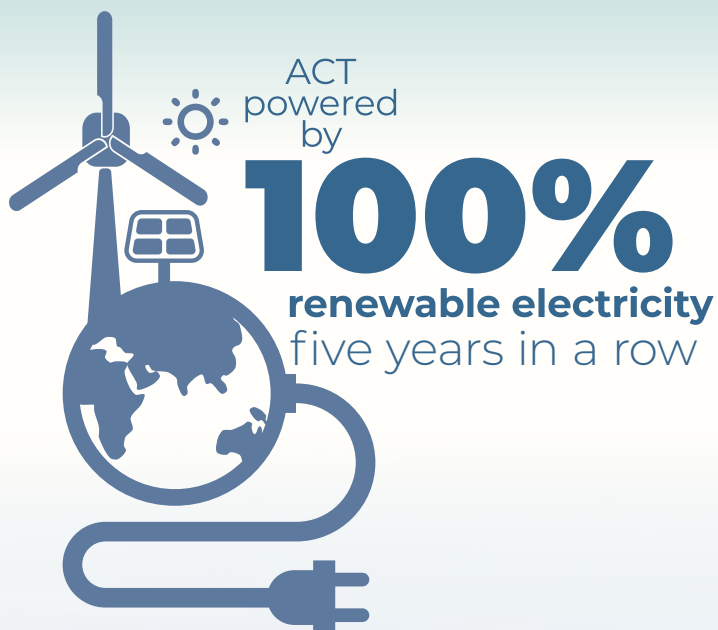
In 2024 the government released the Active Travel Plan 2024-30 which identifies ways to make walking and riding more safe, accessible, convenient and enjoyable. The accompanying Design Guide sets a high benchmark on how intersections and streets across the ACT should be designed to safely support all modes of transport and prioritise people who walk and ride. In the zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) space, our work has continued under the ACT's Zero Emissions Vehicles Strategy 2022–30 and the government is on track to deliver 180 public EV chargers by 2025 and is continuing to develop measures to support multi-unit dwellings to install charging infrastructure.

The achievements of 2023-24 are a testament to the collective efforts of our government, community, and industry. As we approach the final year of the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment to reflect on our progress and identify new opportunities and directions. I look forward to undertaking this work and future reports detailing how our community is successfully making the net zero transition.



Suzanne Orr MLA,
Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

2023-24 at a glance



released the
**Active
Travel
Plan**



Supported



700
households through
home energy
assessments

Greenhouse
gas emissions

50%

lower than
1989-90 levels





The Sustainable Household Scheme

financed



\$44.3million

zero-interest loans to
4,250 recipients in
2023-24

the Home Energy Support Program



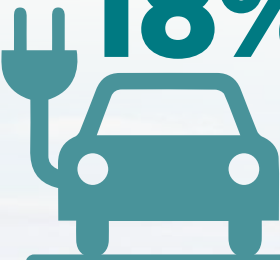
delivered rebates or upgrades
for improving the energy efficiency of

 **2,019**

households, including
community housing tenants
low-income homeowners
and low-income renters



introduced
a regulation
to prevent
new gas network
connections
from December 2023

 **18%** of all
newly registered
vehicles
in 2023/2024 were
ZEVs

 up from **14%**
the previous year



released
**the Integrated
Energy Plan (IEP)**

in June 2024

Introduction

In 2010, the ACT Legislative Assembly passed the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* (the Act). The purpose of the Act is to promote the development of policies and practices to address climate change, to set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to provide monitoring and reporting in relation to the targets. For each financial year, the Minister must prepare a report on:

- ▶ the actions taken during the year to exercise the functions required of the Minister under the Act;
- ▶ the effectiveness of government actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- ▶ the findings of a cost-benefit analysis of any government policies or program implemented to meet the targets.

This report outlines the ACT Government's actions against the requirements of the Act for the 2023-24 financial year.

Part A: Actions taken in 2023-24

Renewable electricity supply

The ACT maintained the target of 100% renewable electricity 'on and from' 2020, with 12 Large-scale Feed-in Tariff Scheme supported projects completed to date.

New Large-scale Feed-in Tariff supported projects have continued to progress. In September 2020, the ACT Government announced 2 successful winners of the fifth ACT Renewables Auction to deliver 200MW of renewable electricity to the ACT and ensure the ACT's electricity supply remains 100% renewable into the future. Global Power Generation's Berrybank Stage 2 wind farm on Victoria's Western Plains provides a total capacity of 109MW from 26 wind turbines and started generating electricity in August 2022. Neoen's Goyder South Wind Farm in South Australia commenced generation in April 2024 and is expected to reach construction completion in late 2024.

The Large-scale Feed-in Tariff Scheme largely protected the ACT community from the extreme price volatility in wholesale electricity prices experienced in other jurisdictions. In 2023–24 it returned approximately \$150 per household to ACT electricity consumers (based on average electricity consumption of 6,500 kWh a year).

As the ACT's population grows and our city electrifies as a result of government's policies promoting the uptake of electric vehicles and transitioning away from fossil fuel gas use, we expect to see an increase in electricity consumption. This increase will be monitored to ensure the ACT maintains its 100% renewable electricity status into the future.

Preventing new fossil fuel gas network connections

The ACT Government commenced an Australia-first regulation in December 2023 to prevent new fossil fuel gas network connections in all residential, commercial and community facility land-use zones. Under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*, the regulation restricts Evoenergy from providing new fossil fuel gas (or natural gas) network connections in certain circumstances, stopping new sources of emissions from fossil fuel gas use.

The majority of Canberrans use fossil fuel gas for heating, hot water, and cooking and there are more efficient electric alternatives to these appliances available right now. The new regulation places the ACT at the forefront of national electrification efforts and ensures investment in the right infrastructure to support electrification. It will also help Canberrans save on future transition costs and help them save on energy bills over the long term.

Launch of the Integrated Energy Plan

In June 2024, the ACT Government released the first [Integrated Energy Plan 2024–30](#) (IEP). The IEP outlines the approach to phasing out fossil fuel energy while ensuring an affordable and reliable energy supply. Designed to be implemented in three stages (2024–2030, 2030–2035, 2035–2040) the plan builds on existing programs and policies to transition and help adapt our city to a changing climate. It builds on the ACT's success in reaching 100 percent renewable electricity in 2020 and aims to ensure all Canberrans benefit from the transition, not just those most able to afford the necessary changes involved. Some of the new actions under the first IEP include:

- ▶ A commitment to electrify all feasible public and community housing by 2030.
- ▶ \$5.2 million for a pilot to electrify the appliances of households that most need support.
- ▶ Interest free loans for multi-unit buildings to become Electric Vehicle (EV) ready.
- ▶ A new program to help multi-unit buildings develop a plan to electrify.
- ▶ Rebates of up to \$3,000 for fleet operators to install EV chargers.
- ▶ Verification of optimal sites for fast EV charging hubs.
- ▶ Support for skills development, including a scoping study for a Future Energy Skills Hub at CIT, and targeted training subsidies for priority trades.

The ACT Government undertook public consultation to seek detailed feedback on the proposed policy directions and key focus areas of the IEP. More than 440 engagements were recorded during consultation. Feedback informed the guiding principles for decision making and the actions we have committed to. In 2027, the ACT Government will undertake a mid-point review of the Integrated Energy Plan 1 to assess progress and update the community.



Delivery of the Big Canberra Battery Project

The ACT Government is delivering the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th ACT Legislative Assembly commitment for large-scale batteries. The Big Canberra Battery Project will support reliable and affordable electricity supply for the ACT as we transition to net-zero emissions.

The Government has partnered with Eku Energy to deliver a 250-megawatt, 500 megawatt-hour battery energy storage system in Williamsdale for Stream 1 of the project. The battery will improve energy security for Canberrans, create a revenue stream for the Territory, and grow jobs in our renewable energy sector. Construction will start in late 2024 with completion expected in 2025.

For Stream 2 of the project, the Government has finalised installation of batteries at nine government sites, with a further two batteries to be installed at Mount Stromlo High School and 255 Canberra Avenue, Fyshwick in early 2025. The batteries capture energy generated from rooftop solar panels. This will help power the sites and will reduce government spend on electricity, benefitting the broader network during peak electricity consumption times. The ACT Government has also partnered with the Commonwealth Government and Evoenergy through the Community Batteries for Household Solar Program. Through this, three medium-sized neighbourhood-scale batteries will be installed in Casey, Dickson and Fadden. A battery operator will be selected in late 2024 following a procurement process.

Delivery of the ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030 and the Circular Economy Act 2023

In August 2023, the ACT Government released the ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030 (the Strategy and Action Plan), which outlines actions and opportunities to build a circular economy for the ACT. The Strategy and Action Plan is underpinned by three strategic objectives:

- ▶ to grow extended producer responsibility
- ▶ to grow markets for recovered materials and goods, and circular business models
- ▶ to create high-value jobs and attract innovative new enterprises.

The Strategy and Action Plan comprises 56 actions across six key themes: food and organics; the built environment; consumer goods; emerging and problematic waste streams; creating space to showcase our commitment to the circular economy; and procurement, skills, innovation and governance.

In October 2023, the *Circular Economy Act 2023* (the CE Act) was passed by the Legislative Assembly, delivering on one of the ACT Government's Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th ACT Legislative Assembly commitments. The CE Act introduces a power for the Minister to create waste reduction requirements and waste processing requirements for businesses and provides a legislative framework to reduce waste and retain the value of resources. In September 2023, a Consultation Draft Circular Economy Regulation 2023 was released for comment. It contains draft provisions under the new powers of the CE Act that would require: food businesses to have a food waste reduction plan; all businesses to have a recycling collection to divert co-mingled recycling from landfill; and food businesses to have a food waste collection to divert food waste from landfill. The lead time to introduce these requirements has been extended.

Supporting households and businesses to improve energy efficiency

Sustainable Household Scheme

The [Sustainable Household Scheme](#) offers ACT residents and community groups zero-interest loans from \$2,000 to \$15,000 for buying/installing energy efficient products like rooftop solar, battery storage, electric heating and cooling, hot water heat pumps, electric stove tops, electric vehicles (EVs), EV charging infrastructure and ceiling insulation. In 2023-24, the Scheme provided \$44.3million in zero-interest loans to 4,250 recipients.

Solar for Apartments Program

Launched in April 2024, the Solar for Apartments Program offers body corporates in the ACT up to \$100,000 in financial support to install rooftop solar. Half of this support is in the form of a Commonwealth grant or rebate and half is provided as an interest-free loan through the Sustainable Household Scheme. Body corporates in the ACT can request quotes on rooftop solar installations from eligible vendors on the Brighter Marketplace via the program. More than 2,100 households will benefit from this program, which could provide a 35 per cent reduction in energy bills for those living in apartments.

Sustainable Home Advice Program

The [Sustainable Home Advice Program](#) provides free, independent guidance on how to reduce utility bills, minimise emissions, improve household comfort and access ACT Government supports. In 2023–24, residents received advice via email, phone and in-home energy assessments on 2,716 occasions. The program also delivered 45 free workshops to 808 attendees. This advice also supports households accessing interest-free loans through the Sustainable Household Scheme to make energy efficiency upgrades.

Wood Heater Removal Program

The [Wood Heater Replacement Program](#) was reviewed in 2023. Changes were made to eligibility criteria and rebate amounts to better target financial incentives to low-income homeowners. The program was renamed the Wood Heater Removal Program in December 2023.

Approximately 1,320 wood heaters have been removed since the program started in 2004, with 33 rebates paid in 2023–24 for wood heater removal under the program.

A trial was delivered to replace wood heaters in public housing properties with energy-efficient electric heating systems. Letters inviting tenants to participate in the trial were sent in April 2024 to properties that were deemed suitable by Housing ACT; 16 wood heaters were removed in 2023–24.



Renters' Home Energy Program

The [Renters' Home Energy Program](#) provides free in-home or phone-based energy assessments for renters in the ACT. In 2023–24, 239 assessments were delivered to renters across the ACT. The program also provides an online [home energy self-assessment webtool](#). In 2023–24, the webtool was used by 371 ACT households, including 126 rental households, 233 owner-occupiers and 12 rental property owners. In addition to home energy assessments, the program also delivered thermal-backed curtains and pelmets to 170 low-income rental households.

The Community Clubs Program

The [Community Clubs Program](#) provides eligible community clubs with rebates up to \$100,000 for energy efficiency, rooftop solar and electric vehicle chargers. In 2023–24, 9 clubs installed 18 electric vehicle chargers and 10 clubs claimed rebates, saving 288.8 MWh of electricity, \$64,615 in bills and 9.14 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

The Sustainable Business Program

The [Sustainable Business Support Program](#) supports businesses in the areas of energy, waste, water and transport. In 2023–24, the program:

- ▶ Supported 96 businesses to improve their energy efficiency with 34 claiming rebates, saving \$58,425 in bills, 147 MWh of electricity and 20 tonnes of CO₂. Additional rebates were introduced to encourage businesses to transition off gas.
- ▶ Accredited 242 businesses, diverting more than 16,310m³ to recycling from waste to landfill.
- ▶ Advised 46 businesses on transitioning fleet vehicles to electric vehicles or other zero emissions vehicles.

Targeted household support to lower energy bills and lower emissions

Home Energy Efficiency Program

The ACT Government is supporting low-income households to transition to electric alternatives and make their homes more energy efficient. The program provides free education and practical support to help vulnerable and low-income households reduce their energy and water bills while improving thermal comfort in their homes. In 2023–24, 700 households were supported through home energy assessments. The program also provides draught proofing, curtain installation and other energy saving materials.

Home Energy Support Program

The Home Energy Support Program is a \$50 million commitment over four years to improve building energy efficiency and sustainability for social and public housing, low-income owner occupiers and low performing rental properties. A further \$3.1 million has been committed to provide financial support for low-income homeowners to install rooftop solar.

Eligible homeowners can access a rebate of up to \$2,500 to install rooftop solar and an additional rebate of \$2,500 for the installation of ceiling insulation or efficient electric appliances including reverse cycle heating and cooling, hot water heat pumps and electric stove tops/ovens. In 2023–24, 238 rebates for rooftop solar and 373 rebates for insulation and energy efficient appliances were delivered to the community.

Under the program, the ACT Government also delivered ceiling insulation upgrades at 940 public housing properties and 287 gas-to-electric appliance upgrades in 2023–24. The program also delivers fully funded energy efficiency upgrades for households with chronic health conditions and upgrades to eligible community housing properties. In 2023–24, upgrades were completed in 39 households with chronic health conditions and 142 community housing properties.



Minimum energy efficiency standards

Regulation for new [minimum standard for rental properties](#) came into effect in April 2023. The standard requires all residential rental properties in the ACT, including public and community housing, to have a minimum level of ceiling insulation. The standard will help to keep homes warm in winter and cool in summer. Because homes will require less energy to maintain a comfortable, healthy temperature, the standard will also result in savings on energy bills.

Initial monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the standard across the first twelve months since commencement of the regulation has concluded, showing that the standard has had no observable impact to date on rental property prices or volumes (based on trends of historical and ongoing rental and sales listing data). Disclosure of compliance with the standard in rental advertising has remained high, as has electrical safety compliance during installation.

Reduced emissions through engagement and innovation

Energy Innovation Fund

In March 2024, the ACT Government announced \$17 million in grants under the Energy Innovation Fund to develop innovative, emerging energy technologies and solutions to support the net zero transformation and the growth of a vibrant energy innovation sector in the ACT. Previously known as the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund or REIF, the fund has invested \$12 million in the ACT's renewables sector since 2016. The additional funding was committed following the fifth round of the ACT renewables auction.

The Fund's objectives are to:

- ▶ Support energy transition innovation to export outside the ACT.
- ▶ Support energy transition policy innovation in the ACT.
- ▶ Build energy innovation ecosystems in the ACT.
- ▶ Deliver ACT's energy innovation policy and industry development strategy.

To guide the operation of the fund, an industry advisory board was appointed in July 2023. The board comprises 7 leaders from the renewable energy business, academic, and innovation community. First round assessment outcomes were announced in July 2024.

Working towards electrifying the health sector

ACT Health is continuing to implement the Canberra Hospital masterplan, which includes a pathway for the campus to meet the net zero emissions target by 2040. Any new facilities on the campus will be all-electric, and existing facilities will be progressively upgraded to remove gas power. The new northside hospital project includes a requirement for all new infrastructure to be electric. In addition, ACT Health is delivering several new community health facilities over the coming years that will be all electric.

ACT Health has Asset Management Plans in place for current ACT Health assets and will progressively (over the coming decade) plan for the rebuild/refurbishment of these assets to ensure existing facilities are transitioned to zero emission facilities.

Waste education and outreach

In 2023-24, ACT NoWaste delivered a strong program of waste education and community outreach activities to support Canberrans to avoid waste and increase resource recovery. A priority has been the development and delivery of the 'Don't Bin Batteries' campaign due to the escalating risk of batteries being incorrectly disposed in household bins. Early market research has indicated a small positive change in community awareness of correct disposal options for batteries in the ACT as a result of the campaign.

Further key achievements in 2023-24 included:

- ▶ Targeted waste education through information sessions and pop-up events to over 4,000 people in the community. This was supported by a program delivered by Envirocom on green waste and food organics and garden organics (FOGO) education which reached an additional 1,000 people.
- ▶ Hosting information stands at local events including university open days, community events, conferences and festivals.
- ▶ Engaging with the 5,300 FOGO pilot households across Belconnen, Bruce, Cook and Macquarie including virtual and in-person information sessions and pop-up community information stalls at local shops.
- ▶ Delivering communication activities on additional green waste disposal options and services in response to the January 2024 storms.
- ▶ Delivering 1,197 new education signs to multi-unit developments to increase education about how to dispose of waste properly in apartment complexes.

The ACT's Recyclopaedia web page on the City Services website continues to receive a high volume of traffic serving the community with direction and up-to-date advice on what can be recycled in kerbside recycling bins or through dedicated product-specific recycling programs. Recyclopaedia received 277,800 page views from 110,000 active users in 2023-24.

Expanding the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) pilot

Planning is underway to support an expansion of the FOGO pilot to an additional 1,150 multi-unit dwellings, building on the pilot currently underway in Belconnen. The expansion is expected to be delivered across the first two quarters of the 2024-25 financial year and will expand the benefits of the FOGO pilot by increasing the number of households who can recover their excess food waste through the program.

A Recycling and Waste Reduction Trial in eight Multi Unit Developments (apartment buildings) commenced in June 2024. It aims to educate residents about how to recycle to reduce waste to landfill. Apartment buildings were chosen from all regions of Canberra to ensure a representative sample was used for the trial. The trial includes waste audits, educational signage and information and the introduction of collection options for batteries and the ACT Container Deposit Scheme.





Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) Electric Vehicle Centre of Excellence

Under the landmark National Skills Agreement, the Federal Government is investing \$9.66 million, which will be matched by the ACT Government, to establish the CIT Electric Vehicle Centre of Excellence which will help train EV technicians for the net zero transformation. CIT will receive an additional \$4.8 million to fast-track the work on the Centre of Excellence, due to the urgency of this important initiative. As part of the Federal Government's TAFE Technology Fund, CIT will also receive \$3.2 million to update automotive facilities for EV training at its Fyshwick campus.

This is in addition to the CIT Renewable Energy Centre of Excellence which commenced as a project funded by a previous renewable energy auction. It continues to be a national centre of excellence in training for wind, solar and battery maintenance.

Vehicle to Grid (V2G)

Enabling V2G technology is a commitment in the ACT's first Integrated Energy Plan. The [Realising Electric Vehicle-to-grid Services](#) (REVS) trial is ongoing. The world-leading trial is a collaboration between ACT Government, ActewAGL, Evoenergy, Nissan, SG Fleet and Jet Charge, and the Australian National University, with funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA). The trial, which includes the installation of 50 V2G chargers to support 50 ACT Government Nissan Leaf vehicles, is testing V2G reliability and viability to support the grid in the transition to EVs.

In what may be a world-first, 16 ACT Government fleet EVs that were part of the REVS trial fed power back into Australia's electricity grid during a major power emergency in February 2024. The 16 government fleet EVs were plugged into V2G smart chargers at locations across the ACT and started supplying power back into the grid within seconds of receiving a signal from the grid. This demonstrates the viability of V2G technology in supporting the security of the electricity grid.

Supporting ACT Government agencies to transition to zero emissions operations

Zero emissions vehicle fleet

The ACT Government fleet transition is continuing, with more than two-thirds of the passenger vehicle fleet now comprising zero or low emissions vehicles. In 2023-24, there were 96 new ZEV leases, making up 100% of new passenger vehicle leases where a fit-for-purpose ZEV was available. The ACT Government Fleet Procurement and Management Policy (FPMP) has been updated and since 1 January 2023, plug-in hybrid vehicles are no longer considered zero emissions vehicles. Currently, non-passenger vehicles are exempt from the policy however the FPMP has been amended to encourage fleet managers to procure zero emissions non-passenger vehicles where fit for purpose.

Zero emission buses

Implementation of the Zero Emission Transition Plan (ZETP) for Transport Canberra continues, including procurement and delivery of 16 leased Battery Electric Buses (BEBs) and delivery of the first 4 of 90 purchased BEBs. Each bus takes approximately five hours to fully charge and can operate up to 400 kilometres on a full charge, cutting noise pollution and harmful emissions at public transport interchanges and on Canberra streets.

All 20 BEBs are in service as of 30 June 2024. The remaining 86 electric buses are due to be delivered between now and the end of 2026. Work has commenced to upgrade existing bus depots including finalising the construction of the new Woden bus depot to be capable of accommodating a battery electric fleet of up to 100 buses. Transport Canberra is also finalising a refresh of its 2020 ZETP and roadmaps for release later in 2024.

Electrification of Government Gas Assets

The [Electrification of Government Gas Assets Program](#) is a 17-year commitment by the ACT Government to replace all gas-powered assets used within Government owned and operated buildings. The program will abolish and electrify over 1,000 gas assets and will contribute to the goal of net zero emissions from Government operations by 2040. Since its commencement at the start of the 2023-24 financial year, work has been completed at 12 sites with 11 gas assets electrified. The first sites include a number of Family & Child Centres where gas hot water units have been replaced with more efficient, electric alternatives.

The Social Cost of Carbon Fund

The Social Cost of Carbon Fund had \$1,120,000 of funding available in 2023–24. Funding is based on the interim price of \$20 per tonne of CO₂ from government operations. The funds are used in emissions reduction projects, such as the electrification of gas space heating systems. Five building-based projects commenced under the fund to reduce emissions:

- ▶ Curtin Wood Yard – Off-grid solar PV system with battery storage to reduce emissions from an on-site diesel generator.
- ▶ Education Directorate Building Analytics – Identification of inefficient HVAC operation and opportunities for energy and emissions savings at 18 Education Directorate sites.
- ▶ Canberra Health Services Building Analytics – Identification of inefficient HVAC operation and opportunities for energy and emissions savings at three 24/7 clinical buildings at The Canberra Hospital (buildings 10, 11 and 12).
- ▶ Greenway Ambulance Station – Domestic hot water electrification.
- ▶ South Tuggeranong Fire and Rescue Station – Domestic hot water electrification.

In addition, \$400,000 of funding was provided to Transport Canberra and City Services to trial 4 non-passenger zero emissions vehicles.

Supporting active travel and the uptake of Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEVs)

Release of the Active Travel Plan and Design Guide

The ACT Government released the Active Travel Plan and Design Guide in February 2024. The Active Travel Plan outlines ways to make it safer, more accessible, convenient and enjoyable to walk or ride – whether for transport, recreation or social activities. The Plan sets out 13 key actions under 5 priority areas and includes walking and cycling maps that guide investment and decision making to support more walking and riding. Delivering on a key action from the Active Travel Plan, the new best-practice Design Guide for intersections and streets in the ACT has also been released. The Guide sets a high benchmark on how intersections and streets across the ACT should be designed. It aims to safely support all modes of transport with a focus on safety and priority for people who walk and ride.

Active travel includes walking, cycling, scooting, skateboarding and other types of micromobility and is an important part of enhancing quality of life and our city's unique character. Supporting and promoting active travel also helps to reduce congestion and cut harmful emissions, benefitting all Canberrans. Together, the Active Travel Plan and Design Guide will help prioritise new active travel infrastructure improvements for our city.

Making ZEVs more affordable

With transport emissions now the ACT's single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, the ACT's [Zero Emissions Vehicles \(ZEV\) Strategy 2022–30](#) was launched in July 2022 to reduce emissions from transport. The strategy is an ambitious plan to support the ACT community's transition to ZEVs with the target that 80–90% of new light vehicle sales in the ACT will be ZEVs by 2030 and phase-out of light internal combustion engine vehicles will commence from 2035.

The ACT offers a number of incentives to encourage the uptake of ZEVs including stamp duty exemptions for new and used ZEVs (including electric scooters, motorbikes and trikes), \$15,000 zero-interest loans for ZEVs and charging equipment and lower registration fees for lower-emissions vehicles through the [ACT's emissions-based registration](#). Supporting early uptake of ZEVs will help develop a strong second-hand market for ZEVs sooner, making ZEVs more affordable for the community. As of 30 June 2024, 8,692 newly registered vehicles in the ACT were ZEVs. The ACT community continues to lead the country in the transition to ZEVs and, as they become more affordable and supply improves, this trend is set to continue.

Expanding the public EV charging network

In 2023, the ACT Government committed at least \$1.5 million under the Public Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Fund to deliver publicly accessible EV chargers across the Territory. In May 2024, the first recipients of funding were announced, funding 39 EV chargers capable of supporting 78 charging bays. Further grant funding will be announced in 2024–25 to ensure the government hits its target of at least 180 public EV chargers in the ACT by 2025. As of June 2024, there were 162 public EV charging stations in the ACT.

EV charging infrastructure in multi-unit dwellings

The [Residential Strata EV Ready Pilot Study](#) provided 10 multi-unit developments with costed feasibility reports to determine the cost and viability of an EV ready solution. EV ready ensures all unit owners can install EV charging at a time that is right for them. The reports will help inform future support for multi-unit developments to be announced in 2024–25.

The revised ACT Territory Plan came into effect in November 2023. The Territory Plan 2023 and planning technical specifications include a requirement for new multi-unit developments and commercial buildings to include charging infrastructure in the parking area. The 2022 edition of the National Construction Code was fully implemented by the ACT on 15 January 2024 and facilitates the future installation of on-site renewables and EV charging infrastructure. A concessional loan program to encourage the installation of EV charging in multi-unit dwellings is under development and due to be released in the 2024-25 financial year.

Support and informing ZEV uptake

The Business Fleet Advisory Service continued to provide advice to businesses on the transition to zero emissions vehicles. This advice includes total cost of ownership, charging infrastructure, fit-for-purpose alternatives and fleet transition planning. The Business EV charger program has been established to provide rebates of up to \$3,300 to businesses to support the cost of EV charging infrastructure.

Emissions based registration

The ACT has developed an emissions-based registration system for light vehicles commencing 1 July 2024. Under emissions-based registration, low and zero emissions vehicles will have cheaper registration fees compared to higher emissions vehicles in the same weight range. Changes to the system will be made over several years to allow Canberrans to adjust and consider their next vehicle purchase. The implementation of this system coincides with the end of the 2-year free registration period for EVs.

Collaboration to support the community and advance action on climate change

Community partnerships

The ACT Government funds three organisations with a particular focus on reducing emissions (Canberra Environment Centre, SEE-Change and Conservation Council ACT Region) to engage the community on a range of environmental and sustainability issues, initiatives, policies and programs.



Climate Change Council

The [ACT Climate Change Council](#) (the Council) is an advisory body to the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water on matters relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing and adapting to climate change. The Council plays an important role in informing climate change policies in the ACT, liaising with business and the community and scanning the horizon for the challenges and opportunities associated with creating a prosperous, climate-ready, net zero emissions Territory. It seeks to provide leadership by listening to community views and attitudes, understanding best practice on climate change and raising awareness of climate change risks and community benefits from effective climate action.

During 2023-24, the Council members were Professor Mark Howden (Chair), Dr Paul Bannister, Associate Professor Cris Brack, Ms Sophia Hamblin Wang, Dr Tom Longden, Dr Arnagretta Hunter, Ms Mia Swainson, and Associate Professor Aparna Lal. The Council had two observers from the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee: Ms Roslyn Brown and Mr Djibin Mudford. The Council held six formal meetings in 2023-24 and provided climate change advice to the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and broader ACT Government. This included:

- ▶ Reviewing and updating advice on the latest science of climate change and the ACT's emissions reduction targets.
- ▶ Implementing an engagement strategy to ensure the views of the Canberra community and business are reflected in the advice the Council provides to the Minister.
- ▶ Providing input and advice on negative emission technologies and offsets, lithium battery risks, cultural burning practices and in relation to the appointment of First Nations members to the Council.

The Council prepared formal advice, including to the Climate Action Subcommittee of Cabinet, related to a behavioural insights approach to net zero and electrification and equity.

In March 2024, the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Membership) Amendment Bill 2024* was endorsed and enacted by the Legislative Assembly. This Bill provided amendments to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that the Council includes at least two Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. In July and August 2024, ACT Government sought feedback from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to inform the recruitment of the two new members to the Council. Feedback will be used to ensure a fair and transparent recruitment process is developed and ensure that people with the critical skills and cultural knowledge base are recruited to the Council.

Further information on the work of the Council is available on the [Council's webpage](#).



The Energy Assistance Community Partnership

The Energy Assistance Community Partnership, or Home Energy Tune Up, is an initiative funded by the ACT Government and delivered by St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies) and Care Financial. The program increases capability to support vulnerable energy consumers in the ACT with energy advice while increasing access and visibility of energy concessions and rebates.

In 2023-24, Care provided support to 336 households facing energy-related issues through both financial counselling and financial capability programs. Home Energy Efficiency Assessors from Vinnies assisted 700 Canberrans with energy efficiency assessments, supporting low-income households to reduce their energy bills through education about energy usage and modifying homes to become more energy efficient. Both organisations processed a total of 718 energy vouchers which offer low-income earners a \$100 reduction on their next energy bill. Care and Vinnies also delivered energy literacy training to other community sector organisations and to Origin Energy to improve their understanding of the Energy Assistance Community Partnership and of ACT Government and other ACT energy initiatives.



Part B: Effectiveness of Government Actions

ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory

In 2023-24, the ACT's total net greenhouse gas emissions were 1,489 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO₂-e), representing a 50% drop in emissions from the 1990 baseline level. This reduction is mainly due to the continued use of 100% renewable electricity in Canberra for five years. Per capita emissions for 2023-24 were 3.1 tonnes CO₂-e, representing a 72% decrease from the baseline. Compared to the previous year, total net greenhouse emissions fell by 4%, from 1,550 kt CO₂-e in 2022-23 to 1,489 kt CO₂-e in 2023-24.

The main sources of emissions were ground transport (65.5%) and stationary energy (21.7%), which included fossil fuel gas combustion (19.2%), fugitive gas emissions (1.8%), and other stationary fuels (0.7%). Waste including wastewater, industrial processes and product use, aviation, and agriculture contributed 6.5%, 2.5%, 2%, and 1.8% of emissions, respectively. Nearly 10% of these emissions were offset with net carbon sequestration by land use, land use change, and forestry sector. Compared to the previous year, emissions from stationary fossil fuel gas (including fugitive emissions) fell by nearly 14%, while ground transport emissions decreased by over 3%.

Government specific performance

The ACT Government aims to demonstrate leadership in the transition to net zero emissions. Achieving government's 100% renewable electricity target in 2020 saw government emissions cut by around 60%. Efforts to achieve zero emissions from government operations are now focussed on replacing fossil fuels, such as petrol and gas, with renewable electricity. Key measures supporting the government transition to zero emissions are:

- ▶ The Zero-Emission Transition Plan for Transport Canberra, which outlines the approach to a zero-emissions bus fleet by 2040;
- ▶ The ACT's Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy which outlines the transition of the government's passenger fleet to ZEVs;
- ▶ The Electrification of Government Gas Assets (EoGGA) Program which coordinates gas asset replacement and associated electricity network upgrades at ACT Government owned and operated facilities as well as supporting community electrification readiness and Evoenergy network planning across the Territory. The comprehensive program of work will help deliver the ACT Government's target of net zero government operations by 2040.

Table 1: Shows ACT Government 2023–24 (financial year) performance against the baseline.

2019 baseline emissions (tCO ₂ -e)*	FY23 – 24 emissions (tCO ₂ -e)**	Emissions % change from baseline
65,416	62,204	- 4.9%

Footnotes

*The calendar year 2019 baseline figure has been adjusted to include refrigerant emissions. Therefore, the baseline figure presented above may differ from earlier reports.

* Emissions for FY23-24 currently exclude North Canberra Hospital and Clare Holland House, as these were acquired in 2023 and accurate historical data for baseline emissions needs to be calculated for these sites. Baseline data and total emissions will be updated in FY24-25 to account for these sites.

ACT Renewable Energy Target Compliance

The ACT Government committed to deliver 100% renewable electricity for the Territory from 2020 under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*. In 2023–24, the ACT Government successfully met its target to source 100% of the Territory's electricity from renewable sources for the fifth consecutive financial year. This means voluntarily surrendering 2,218,905 large-scale generation certificates (LGCs) to the Clean Energy Regulator on behalf of all ACT electricity users.

The ACT Government publishes a methodology ([the acquittal methodology](#)) for assessing compliance with this 100% renewable electricity target. It should be noted that LGCs are surrendered based on an estimate of the ACT's electricity consumption each financial year (see Table 2). Any discrepancy between LGCs surrendered and ACT electricity consumption is reconciled at the end of that financial year. If too many certificates have been surrendered, the excess LGCs are carried forward to the following year.

Consideration is being given to an alternative methodology for calculating LGCs. This is also provided in Table 2. This alternative methodology has a different approach to the treatment of landfill gas and ACT grid solar and may be used in future years.

Table 2: 100% Renewable Electricity Target Acquittal 2023-24

100% Renewable Electricity Target Acquittal 2023-24	Original methodology (in MWh)	Alternative methodology (in MWh)
Electricity received from the NEM	2,630,257	
Electricity supplied to ACT customers		3,069,553
Greenpower purchases in the ACT	-	
ACT's share of below baseline NSW region NEM renewable generation	99,665	99,665
ACT's share of Commonwealth Policies (LRET)	492,384	492,384
Electricity generated by renewable sources in the ACT and exported to the distributor (<100kW)		322,435
Electricity generated by renewable sources in the ACT and exported to the distributor (100-200kW)		11,930
Total supply other than LGCs	592,049	926,414
Additional LGCs to surrender for ACT grid solar	70,924	
Additional LGCs to surrender for ACT landfill gas	34,007	
	104,931	
LGC's to be surrendered	2,143,139	2,143,139
Actual LGCs surrendered	2,218,905	2,218,905
Carried forward from previous year	7,214	7,214
Carried forward to next year	82,980	82,980

Part C: Cost Benefit Statement

Climate change policy costs and benefits

ACT Government actions to reduce emissions are designed to benefit industry, households, businesses and the community. For example, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS) is continuing to deliver energy and cost savings for participating ACT households and small to medium businesses for the lifetime of installed technologies. Other programs have delivered additional savings for households and businesses, and the ACT's Large-scale Feed-in Tariff (FiT) system has provided support to the renewable energy industry while also delivering substantial emission reductions for the ACT.

Pass through costs associated with the administration and operation of the ACT Government's Large-scale Feed-in Tariff Scheme resulted in a payment to ACT electricity consumers of \$23.14 per megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity consumed, or around \$150 a year for an average household consuming 6,500 kilowatt hours of electricity a year. This payment to electricity consumers was due to high wholesale electricity prices experienced in early 2022 as a result of the conflict in Eastern Europe. When the wholesale cost of electricity exceeds the feed-in tariff rate, renewable electricity generators are required to pay the difference back to the ACT electricity distributor. This is then passed back to electricity consumers.

The cost of the administration and operation of the Small and Medium Feed-in Tariff Scheme in 2023-24 was \$5.38/MWh, or \$34.97 a year for the average household. Taken together, the cost impact of the Large-scale and Small/Medium-scale FiT schemes for average ACT household was a rebate of \$115.44 in 2023-24.

Table 3: Climate change policy cost impact per representative household in 2023-24, compared to 2022-23

	Large-scale and small-scale FiT pass-through costs	EEIS pass-through costs	Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Standing Offer
2022-23	\$ 272.24	\$ 19.76	\$ 1,807.00
2023-24	-\$ 115.44	\$ 18.85	\$ 1,882.00

Based on a representative household consuming 6,500kWh of electricity annually.

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)

In June 2023, the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction published scheme settings for the EEIS for 2024. These targets continue to deliver more benefits at no greater cost to ACT consumers than in previous years of the EEIS.

The EEIS delivers energy efficiency benefits to households and businesses. This supports the ACT by reducing emissions associated with energy use as well as reducing energy use and costs. Over 1.4 million energy saving items have been installed since the scheme commenced in 2013.

The following eligible activities were undertaken in ACT Households in 2023-24:

- ▶ Ceiling insulation was upgraded in 760 properties.
- ▶ 1,359 energy efficient space heating and cooling appliances were installed.
- ▶ 755 efficient hot water systems were installed.
- ▶ 598 inefficient refrigerators or freezers were decommissioned and disposed.

From November 2023 to March 2024, a review of the operation and future direction of the EEIS was undertaken by Frontier Economics. The findings of the independent review will be used to improve the EEIS, ensuring the right activities are promoted. The review will also guide how priority households can be efficiently supported. The final report was published on the [Everyday Climate Choices website](#).

Annual post-implementation and customer satisfaction surveys were conducted with households and businesses that received energy efficiency upgrades under the EEIS. Overall customer satisfaction with installations was 89% for the 2022 compliance period. Customer satisfaction surveys for 2023 installs are yet to be finalised.

Delivery of activities under the EEIS is complemented by ACT Government programs like the Sustainable Household Scheme. ACT Government energy efficiency initiatives are working together to help the ACT reduce energy consumption and meet emissions reduction targets.

Sustainable Household Scheme

The Sustainable Household Scheme (SHS) aims to improve bill savings, emissions reductions, and comfort for existing ACT homes. Since its inception in July 2021, the SHS has saved Canberrans over \$57million on their energy bills. By the end of the 2023-24 period, the scheme had provided \$214.5million in loans to 19,420 households and community groups. In addition to these savings, the scheme provides zero interest loans providing further savings to household budgets.

Before July 2023, solar installations made up two-thirds of the products installed under the SHS. In 2023-24, the eligibility criteria were revised to better align with the government's electrification priorities, restricting solar eligibility to those most in need of assistance. As a result, the dominance of solar installations has decreased, while the proportion of reverse cycle heating and cooling installations has increased. In 2023-24, the following products were installed:

- ▶ 1,487 reverse cycle heating and cooling appliances
- ▶ 1,247 solar power systems
- ▶ 468 batteries
- ▶ 388 hot water heat pumps
- ▶ 317 electric cars (new and used)
- ▶ 212 insulation installations
- ▶ 72 electric stove tops
- ▶ 56 electric vehicle chargers

The SHS complements other Government programs supporting energy efficiency and electrification upgrades for households, including the Home Energy Support Program, Solar for Low Income Program and the Solar for Apartments Program.



Emission reductions and industry development

Under the *Electricity Feed-in (Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation) Act 2011*, and through five rigorous and competitive reverse auctions, the ACT Government has contracted 13 solar and wind projects which secure 841MW of renewable electricity capacity per year. Of these 13 projects, 12 are completed; Neoen's Goyder wind farm in South Australia commenced generation in April 2024 and is expected to reach construction completion in late 2024.

Under the large-scale FiT scheme, the ACT electricity distributor, on behalf of ACT consumers, make FiT support payments to generators for the eligible electricity they generate and sell on the National Energy Market (NEM). In return, the ACT Government receives Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) and voluntarily surrenders them to meet the Territory's commitment for 100% renewable electricity. The large-scale FiT scheme aims to provide security and stability for investment in the renewable industry. In addition, it helps offset the impact of fluctuating wholesale prices on Canberra consumers. This means that when wholesale prices fall under the agreed FiT price, the ACT consumers pay a proportionately higher amount on their electricity bills to compensate the FiT support payment. Conversely, when wholesale prices are above the agreed FiT price then generators pay the difference back to ACT electricity consumers.

The ACT small-and-medium scale FiT scheme supports the generation of electricity by eligible solar systems with less than 200 kW capacity. A total of 9,919 solar systems were registered as FiT generators in 2023-24, with a total generation of 44,111 MWh from combined capacity of about 34.7MW. Similar to the large-scale FiT scheme, the small-scale FiT scheme contributes to the ACT's 100% renewable electricity target.



Households and businesses

The cost impact of climate change measures, while being marginal on the community as a whole, may have disproportionate impacts on lower income households. To address this, a diverse and effective suite of programs, rebates, legislation and regulation is being delivered to support those on low incomes; renters; people living in public and community housing; the elderly; and people with disabilities and illness. These policies help to reduce costs and improve thermal comfort in the home.

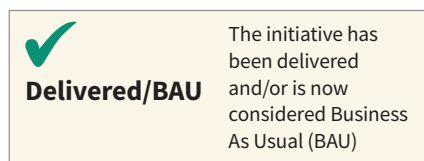
Monetary savings and environmental benefits will accrue from the EEIS expenditure for many years and are difficult to quantify until monitoring results are available. Benefits in terms of community engagement can be summarised in terms of the number of residents and businesses accessing each program in 2023-24, as detailed in table 4.



Table 4: Monetary savings and environmental benefits

Program	Focus	Benefits in 2023/24
Sustainable Household Scheme	Provides interest-free loan to households and community groups for energy-efficient upgrades.	\$44.3million interest-free loans provided to 4,250 households and community groups.
Sustainable Business Program	Supports businesses in the areas of energy, waste, water and transport.	384 businesses supported
Sustainable Home Advice Program	Guidance on how to access ACT Government rebates to reduce utility bills, minimise emissions, and improve household comfort.	Residents received advice via email, phone and in-home energy assessments on 2,716 occasions. The program also delivered 45 free workshops to 808 attendees.
Wood Heater Removal Program	Rebates for replacing wood heaters with an efficient electric heating system, or permanently closing off and removing a wood heater.	33 wood heaters removed.
Renters' Home Energy Program	Cost-effective assessment and advice that improve comfort while reducing energy bills and emissions.	239 assessments were delivered to renters. 371 ACT households, including 126 rental households, 233 owner-occupiers and 12 rental property owners used the webtool. The program also delivered thermal-backed curtains and pelmets to 170 low-income rental households.
Home Energy Efficiency Program	Free education and practical support to help vulnerable and low-income households reduce their energy and water bills while improving thermal comfort in their homes.	700 households were supported through home energy assessments.
Home Energy Support Program	Energy efficiency upgrades, rooftop solar PV, efficient electric appliances, heat pumps and insulation.	The program delivered 238 rebates for rooftop solar and 373 rebates for insulation and energy efficient appliances. 940 public housing properties received ceiling insulation upgrades; 287 received gas-to-electric appliance upgrades. Upgrades were completed in 39 households with chronic health conditions and 142 community housing properties.
Community Clubs Program	Rebates for energy efficiency, rooftop solar and electric vehicle chargers.	9 clubs installed 18 electric vehicle chargers and 10 clubs claimed rebates.

Appendix A -Progress on actions



The majority of actions in the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25 are "Delivered/BAU" (57), followed by "Work progressing" (26). Of those "Delivered/BAU", 46 were already delivered on or before 2022-23 and an additional 11 actions were delivered in 2023-24.

Similarly, actions in Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan are "Delivered/BAU" (7) or "Work progressing" (8).

Further, the majority of actions in the ACT's Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy 2022-30 are "Delivered/BAU" (16), followed by "Work progressing" (12).

ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
1.01	Expand the scope of the Community Zero Emissions Grants to support community projects that reduce emissions and / or increase resilience to climate change and prioritise projects that offer replicable solutions.	 Delivered/BAU	The ACT Government has committed \$600,000 over four years (2021-22 to 2024-25) for the grant program that is available to eligible not-for-profit organisations and individuals to support community action on climate change. The latest recipients were announced in May 2024. Four projects were funded totalling \$149,758 and included the Australian National University, Belconnen Model Aero Club, SEE Change and The Women's Shed Canberra.
1.02	Support and enable community action on climate change by providing tools and resources and recruiting a dedicated climate change community liaison in the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.	 Delivered/BAU	This work is embedded across the programs and policy branches of Climate Change and Energy in Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. Each team that works on community programs, for example the schools, business and households teams, is a point of contact for the community on that issue. The Everyday Climate Choices website has a range of free tools and resources to support the community to take small steps, make informed choices and engage with the range of sustainability programs.
1.03	Deliver the Actsmart programs to encourage and support community efforts to reduce emissions and improve sustainability outcomes.	 Delivered/BAU	The Everyday Climate Choices programs (which includes the previous Actsmart programs) continues to enable community action on sustainability and to reduce emissions, including through home and business assessments, tailored advice, education workshops and financial support/incentives. In 2023-24 the Climate Choices teams and web tools engaged with 5,662 households and over 393 businesses. The Sustainable Schools Program provided advice, resources and support to ACT schools via an online platform, through in-person site visits and events such as professional learning for teachers, conferences and awards.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
1.04	Enable community members to share ideas for ongoing improvements to the strategy via Government digital platforms.	 Delivered/BAU	A Community Projects online portal about local projects that are making a big contribution to our environment was launched on 12 July 2023. The online portal showcases climate action projects being delivered by community organisations and everyday Canberrans. The case studies feature climate mitigation or adaptation activities located in the ACT using an interactive map.
1.05	Work with the ACT Climate Change Council to encourage community participation in climate change initiatives.	 Delivered/BAU	The ACT Climate Change Council continues to be a strong advocate for engagement with the Canberra community and business groups so that their views are reflected in the Council's advice to the Minister to allow for more informed decision making. In December 2022, the Council finalised their Community Engagement Strategy to continue this work. The ACT Government works closely with the Council to encourage community participation in efforts to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate impacts.
1.06	Work with the local Traditional Owners and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to integrate traditional knowledge into landscape management.	 Delivered/BAU	ACT Natural Resource Management (NRM), in partnership with Parks and Conservation Service and Transport Canberra and City Services, ran a series of workshops for environmental volunteers. The workshops included on-Country tours with a Ngunnawal Traditional Custodian, and Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage training. The workshops were designed to foster a greater sense of cultural awareness and sensitivity in volunteer's land stewardship activities. The Sullivans Creek Re-naturalisation Plan envisions creating an ecological corridor through the city, that celebrates Ngunnawal culture, and enhances our climate resilience. The ACT Government is also working closely with the Ngunnawal community to deliver several specific sites along Sullivans Creek that express Ngunnawal culture as it relates to the waterway. As part of the Conserving Canberra initiative led by Office of Nature Conservation, a new partnership with the Ngunnawal community focused on habitat restoration has been developed, called "Healing Country, Healing Community". Under this program four Cultural Adviser roles are being established, which will guide and advise the integration of cultural values and practices into restoration work.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
2.01	Partner with community service organisations to identify vulnerable and disengaged sectors of the community and implement measures to support their participation in shifting to net zero emissions.	 Delivered/ BAU	Under the Chronic Health Conditions: Energy Efficiency Upgrades Pilot, 39 households received energy efficiency upgrades by 30 June 2024. The Energy Assistance Community Partnership Program has continued to deepen its networks with the most vulnerable sectors such as First Nations and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse cohorts, helping them access energy support programs and reduce their electricity bills. The Utilities Hardship Fund was expanded in early 2024 to allow hardship customers with gas accounts to access the \$100 vouchers as well as customers with electricity accounts. In total, 4,505 vouchers were issued in 2023-24. The Energised Consumer Project received funding of \$25,000 annually over two years to 30 June 2024 via an Energy Consumers Australia (ECA) grant. The Project represents the experiences and needs of ACT low-income households in energy policy processes and shares information on energy support policies and programs.
2.02	Engage with industry and workers to identify sectors likely to be affected by the transition to a net zero emissions economy and support re-training of workers where needed.	 Work progressing	In June 2024, the ACT Government released the Integrated Energy Plan 2024-2030 as part of its investment in an all-electric zero-emission future for Canberra. Part of the Integrated Energy Plan includes ensuring an appropriately skilled workforce and increase in training subsidies for the Certificate III in Electrotechnology Technician.
3.01	Expand the Actsmart Home, School and Business programs to include travel choices and integrate with the work of the Active Travel Office.	 Delivered/ BAU	The Everyday Climate Choices programs, that have replaced the Actsmart programs, include information about travel choices. The Canberra Electric Bike Library loans bikes to community members for two-weeks and promotes utility cycling, where people not only use an electric bike to transport themselves but also carry additional cargo like their children, shopping or deliveries for businesses. The Business Fleet Advisory Service, launched in April 2022, supports Canberra businesses and community organisations to transition their vehicle fleets to zero emissions vehicles. The Sustainable Schools Program provides resources to support schools to embed sustainable travel actions across their community.
3.02	Explore options for implementing a reward scheme for community members who increase their use of public transport and/or active travel.	 Delivered/ BAU	In 2019-20 the Australian National University delivered a report exploring options to reward active travel. The report identified several challenges with implementing such an approach, including privacy concerns, technical limitations, and potential high resourcing requirements. While there are no plans to implement a reward scheme at this time, ways to increase the rates of active travel and public transport have been prioritised through the Active Travel Plan 2024-2030, released February 2024. The new best-practice Design Guide for intersections and streets in the ACT has also been released. Community and stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the draft Active Travel Plan and Design Guide throughout 2022-23.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
3.03	Plan for a compact and efficient city with improved access to sustainable transport options by delivering up to 70% of new housing within our existing town and group centres and along key transit corridors.	 Delivered/ BAU	Information on this work is available at: Compact and efficient city - ACT Planning Strategy
3.04	Prioritise improving public transport services and supporting infrastructure, including buses, light rail stage two and connecting services.	 Work progressing	In December 2023, Major Projects Canberra entered a Head Construction Contract for Light Rail Stage 2A with delivery partner, Canberra Metro. Construction has continued to progress for the raising of London Circuit, to enable Light Rail Stage 2A to travel from Alinga Street to Commonwealth Park. Planning and approvals work has commenced for the Light Rail Stage 2B Project, which will bring the Light Rail from Commonwealth Park to Woden. Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) continues to implement the Zero Emission Transition Plan (ZETP) where work to upgrade electrical infrastructure to support the bus network is a priority. Work has commenced to upgrade existing depots, finalise the construction of the New Woden Bus depot to be capable of accommodating up to 100 electric buses and looking forward to future infrastructure requirements including new bus depots in line with the pathway/roadmap outlined in the ZETP 2020. Additionally, TCCS is committed to progressing future light rail planning for future light rail expansions after stage two is completed.
3.05	Maximise accessibility to the rapid bus and light rail networks through feeder services and expanding the Park and Ride network.	 Work progressing	Transport Canberra remains committed to and is continuing to plan future bus and light rail networks and is supporting feeder public transport services and other multimodal connectivity (including, but not limited to, park and ride, bike and ride) to provide continued service improvements and enhanced customer experience.
3.06	Expand and promote the Active Travel Office and schools-based active travel initiatives.	 Delivered/ BAU	TCCS continues to deliver the Active Travel Office and the Schools Safety Program to make walking and cycling safer and more attractive. Dedicated active travel positions are embedded across TCCS in policy, planning and infrastructure delivery teams. TCCS Development Coordination Branch continued to deliver the Ride or Walk to School and It's Your Move Safe Cycle programs in-house, with the coordination of active travel events, newsletters, and teacher professional learning sessions with participating ACT schools. Development Coordination also continued to deliver the Active Streets for Schools program, and the School Crossing Supervisor Program, which provided supervisors at 25 school crossings in the ACT.
3.07	Finalise an active travel strategic plan and update the Active Travel Framework to provide coordinated active travel networks across the Territory.	 Delivered/ BAU	The ACT Government released the Active Travel Plan 2024-2030 including the strategic cycle network and walking intensity areas, in March 2024. These provide a reference for investment of new facilities as well as facilities delivered through other development and construction projects that can support active travel.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
3.08	Implement the Municipal Infrastructure Standards for Active Travel and develop best practice guidance for industry and stakeholders to inform better design outcomes for active travel infrastructure.	 Delivered/ BAU	The ACT Government released the Design Guide - Best practices for urban intersections and other active travel infrastructure in the ACT , in March 2024. Taken together with the ACT Urban Design Guide (planning reforms) and the Municipal Infrastructure Standard - Active Travel Facilities Design , these will better inform active travel infrastructure outcomes.
3.09	Prioritise walking and cycling and enhance active travel infrastructure to improve safety and connectivity of the active travel network.	 Delivered/ BAU	See also 3.07 and 3.08 above. Projects delivered during 2023-24 ranged from local shops, sport and recreation facilities, playgrounds and walking and cycling infrastructure. Key major infrastructure priorities from 2022-23 were progressed. This included upgrades and increased maintenance activities to the path and cycle networks to improve accessibility and connectivity with paths, delivery of the Active Streets for Schools and the School Safety Program, upgrade of sport and recreation facilities, and design and safety improvements at priority intersections in the ACT.
3.10	Support bike share schemes and other measures to improve the effectiveness and accessibility of cycling as a 'last kilometre' solution.	 Delivered/ BAU	Shared e-scooter services were expanded to all Town Centres at the end of 2022. The Active Travel Plan contains a key action to explore options including e-bikes to provide more choice and use cases for shared micromobility.
3.11	Finalise and implement the End-of-Trip Facilities General Code to encourage improved bicycle parking and end-of-trip facilities in commercial developments.	 Delivered/ BAU	Development applications with a requirement for End of Trip facilities are reviewed against the code in the development review (referrals process).
3.12	Trial and evaluate innovative approaches to planning and development that prioritise active travel and public transport.	 Work progressing	The new planning system will deliver better outcomes for communities, the environment and people across Canberra, including consideration of strategic movement to support city growth. There is work underway to implement the actions in the ACT Planning Strategy 2018 and District Strategies 2023 in relation to prioritisation of active travel and public transport through various integrated transport and land use projects for infill and greenfield areas. Examples of projects underway include: Southern Gateway Corridor; Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment; Western Edge investigations; various housing studies.
3.13	Implement car free days and consider car free areas, shared zones and traffic calmed streets.	 Work progressing	Opportunities for shared zones and traffic calmed streets in the Dickson Group Centre are being considered as part of the Dickson Streetscapes project. Opportunities for shared zones, car free areas and traffic calmed streets are being considered as part of the Alinga Streetscapes project. In March 2024, the Sustainable Travel Street Party was held in Braddon to showcase car-free travel options including walking, cycling, scooting, skateboarding and public transport. Sections of Mort St and Elouera St were car-free for the event.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
3.14	Support car share schemes and transport-on-demand solutions across the ACT region.	 Delivered/ BAU	Two car share providers commenced services in the ACT in 2018. One operator has withdrawn from the market while the other continues to provide services in the ACT in a parking arrangement with the ACT Government. A peer-to-peer service also operates in the ACT as part of the sharing economy but is not subject to any regulatory oversight.
3.15	Investigate and implement options for encouraging a shift to public transport and active travel through planning and a smarter approach to parking.	 Work progressing	The development of the Multimodal Network Plan (MNP) was substantially progressed, and it is now in its final stage with the aim to be finalised early in 2024-2025 financial year. The MNP will provide a transport network plan that will support achieving the vision and objectives of the ACT Transport Strategy 2020 .
3.16	Explore and implement new approaches to improving the productivity of key transport corridors through prioritisation of public transport and/or active travel.	 Work progressing	The Movement and Place Framework has been developed for implementation. The framework is intended to be used as guidance for urban and transport planners to ensure that the desired network function and local needs for people and communities is well balanced. This is in recognition of the principle that the transport network is not just about movement of people and goods but also about places where people spend time doing various activities. The development of the Gungahlin Transport Plan commenced in early 2024. The purpose of the transport plan is to articulate the vision and objectives for the town centre's future transport network and to guide transport investment to achieve this over the next 20 years.
3.17	Improve efficiency and usability of public transport through the adoption of emerging smart cities technologies such as smart street lights, congestion monitoring, real time data and optimisation of timetables to reduce journey times.	 Delivered/ BAU	Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) has further advanced the rollout of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV), variable message signs and Bluetooth journey time monitoring devices. TCCS are currently exploring options to improve the promulgation of traffic and journey time information for the public and for TCCS operations.
3.18	Investigate options for dedicating a greater proportion of road space and public realm space to sustainable transport modes.	 Work progressing	See also 3.09 above. Projects delivered during 2023-24 ranged from local shops, sport and recreation facilities, playgrounds and walking and cycling infrastructure. Key major infrastructure priorities from 2022-23 were progressed. This included upgrades and increased maintenance activities to the path and cycle networks to improve accessibility and connectivity with paths, delivery of the Active Streets for Schools and the School Safety Program, upgrade of sport and recreation facilities, and design and safety improvements at priority intersections in the ACT. Construction of the new bus depot in Woden was well progressed to support commencing operations in 2024-25. Designs for Garden City Cycle Route have progressed throughout the 2023-24 financial year with construction of the first stage, from Cooyong to Ipima Streets, commencing in July 2024.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
3.19	Consider options for reforming car registration fees to incentivise efficient road use.	 Delivered/BAU	The ACT moved to an emissions-based registration system for light vehicles on 1 July 2024. Under emissions-based registration, low and zero emissions vehicles have cheaper registration fees compared to higher emissions vehicles in the same weight range. Changes to the system will be made over several years to allow Canberrans to adjust and consider their next vehicle purchase. The implementation of this system coincides with the end of the 2-year free registration period for EVs. The fee calculator is available online: Calculate your vehicle registration - Access Canberra. Work continues with Access Canberra on vehicle emissions identification, and with the CMTEDD Communications and Engagement team on ongoing public engagement.
3.20	Explore and trial financial incentives such as increased registration discounts, rebates and low interest loans to encourage the uptake of zero emissions vehicles and electric bikes.	 Delivered/BAU	The ACT's Zero Emissions Vehicles Strategy 2022-30 includes a range of incentives that benefit business and the community sector including extending the stamp duty waiver to used ZEVs and electric motorbikes, funding for public EV charging, incentives for charging in multi-unit developments and streamlining land access processes for public EV charging on Government land. The Zero Emissions Vehicles Fleet Advisory Service has been working with businesses and community organisations. Financial incentives for Community Organisations to participate in the Sustainable Household Scheme to support the purchase of EVs commenced in 2022. The Business EV Charger rebate pilot was established in 2023 and was established as a program for 2024-25, offering businesses and community organisations rebates towards the cost of the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
3.21	Implement the Zero Emissions Vehicles Action Plan 2018-2021 and explore ways to encourage investment in public EV charging stations, identify new actions to support the uptake of zero emissions vehicles from 2021 onwards.	 Delivered/BAU	The Zero Emissions Vehicles Action Plan 2018-21 was delivered and the ACT's Zero Emissions Vehicles Strategy 2022-30 sets out a range of actions that will make owning a zero emissions vehicle a more affordable and accessible option for all Canberrans.
3.22	Amend Road Rules to facilitate the safe use of new sustainable personal mobility options, such as electric scooters.	 Delivered/BAU	The Road Transport (Road Rules) Regulation 2017 was amended in December 2019 to provide for a broad range of devices, including e-scooters to be used in the ACT.
3.23	Investigate regulatory options to drive the transition to zero emissions commercial vehicle fleets.	 Delivered/BAU	Changes have been made to the registration fees for private and business registered light (<4.5t) passenger and goods carrying zero emission vehicles from 25 May 2023 and introduce new concessions of 40% and 20% for plug-in hybrids and hybrids respectively from 1 July 2023.
4.01	Legislate a 100% renewable electricity target from 2020 onwards.	 Delivered/BAU	The <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Renewable Electricity Target) Amendment Bill</i> was tabled in 2020 to amend the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010 to legislate an ongoing 100% renewable electricity target post 2020.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
4.02	Develop and implement a Sustainable Energy Policy 2020-25 that sets out actions to deliver sustainable, affordable and reliable energy to the Territory and drives the continued development of the renewable energy industry in the ACT.	 Delivered/ BAU	This was superseded by the Integrated Energy Plan 2024-2030 (IEP). The IEP was released in June 2024.
4.03	Amend planning regulations to remove the mandating of reticulated gas in new suburbs.	 Delivered/ BAU	This was delivered in 2020, with planning regulations updated.
4.04	Conduct a campaign to support the transition from gas by highlighting electric options and savings opportunities to the ACT community.	 Delivered/ BAU	To help households start to plan their own switch from gas appliances, the ACT Government partnered with CHOICE to create an online tool – Make your next choice electric. The online tool helps Canberrans to develop their own energy transition plan, including providing information on when gas appliances will need to be swapped out, showcasing the latest energy efficient appliances on the market, as well as providing estimated emissions savings and savings on bills as a result of upgrades. An 8-week community education campaign was also launched in 2022-23.
4.05	Develop a plan for achieving zero emissions from gas use by 2045, including setting timeframes with appropriate transition periods for phasing out new and existing gas connections.	 Delivered/ BAU	The Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Regulation 2011 was amended on 8 December 2023. The regulation prohibits new gas connections in prescribed areas. The Integrated Energy Plan, that outlines the future pathway for the energy transition, was released in June 2024.
4.06	Introduce mandatory disclosure of energy performance for all rental properties	 Delivered/ BAU	The ACT has the world's oldest Energy Efficiency Rating Disclosure Scheme (the scheme). The scheme applies to properties being sold and when being leased. The Residential Tenancies Act 1997 applies to rental properties and mandates that an energy efficiency rating must be declared when leasing a residential property, where the property already has an energy efficiency rating that is not false or misleading. The ACT is supporting the Commonwealth's work on a National Disclosure Scheme and will consider updates to the ACT Scheme on finalisation of the national scheme. Since the introduction of the minimum energy efficiency standard for ceiling insulation in rental homes on 1 April 2023, landlords are required to disclose whether their property meets the standard or not or has an accepted exemption in rental advertisements and also in lease documentation.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
4.07	By 2021 introduce legislation for staged minimum energy performance requirements for rental properties to come into force in 2022-23.	 Delivered/BAU	The ACT Government introduced a new minimum standard for rental properties in 2023. The standard requires all residential rental properties in the ACT, including public and community housing, to have a minimum level of ceiling insulation. The standard will help to keep homes warm in winter and cool in summer. Because homes will require less energy to maintain a comfortable, healthy temperature, the standard will also result in savings on energy bills. The requirement to meet the standard is staggered, with properties needing to meet the standard within 9 months of signing a new lease. For safety reasons, only certified installers may undertake upgrades and electrical safety inspections are also required. All rental properties in the ACT are expected to comply by the end of 2026. Initial monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the standard across the first twelve months since commencement of the regulation has concluded, showing that the standard has had no observable impact to date on rental or sales volumes or prices. Disclosure of compliance with the standard in rental advertising has remained high, as has electrical safety compliance during installation.
4.08	Expand the Actsmart Household Energy Program to provide free, tailored in-home energy assessments for renters.	 Delivered/BAU	Contractors engaged under the Home Energy Efficiency Services (HEES) panel continue to deliver free phone or in-person home energy assessments (HEAs) to ACT renters. Participants receive a HEA report with tailored actions they can take to be energy efficient, save on energy bills and improve their thermal comfort. In 2023-24, 239 rental households accessed the program. The online HEA webtool was accessed by 126 rental households. Additionally, St Vincent de Paul installed thermally backed curtains in 170 low-performing rental properties via service orders under the HEES panel.
4.09	Continue to upgrade to efficient-electric appliances in existing public housing properties where technically feasible and assess the cost and benefits of shifting to all-electric public housing.	 Delivered/BAU	Under the Home Energy Support Program, EPSDD delivered ceiling insulation upgrades to 940 public housing properties and 287 gas-to-electric appliance upgrades in 2023-24. This project is being delivered in collaboration with the Office for Climate Action and the Community Services Directorate.
4.10	Ensure all newly constructed public housing properties are all-electric (fitted with electric appliances) from 2019.	 Delivered/BAU	The Public Housing Design Brief requires that electricity will be the primary energy source for all new public housing dwellings. All fittings, fixtures and appliances are specified as electrical.
4.11	Continue to deliver the solar for low-income program and investigate options for providing solar to public housing.	 Delivered/BAU	In 2023-24, 238 rebates for rooftop solar and 373 rebates for insulation and energy efficient appliances were delivered to the community as part of the Home Energy Support Program. The program also delivers fully funded energy efficiency upgrades for households with chronic health conditions and upgrades to eligible community housing properties. In 2023-24, upgrades were completed in 39 households with chronic health conditions and 142 community housing properties.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
4.12	Trial facilitating access to interest free loans or other innovative finance for gas to electric upgrades and deep retrofits of low-income homes.	 Delivered/BAU	The Sustainable Household Scheme provides zero-interest loans of up to \$15,000 for households and not-for-profit community organisations to assist with the upfront costs of investing in: rooftop solar panels; household battery storage; zero emission vehicles and efficient electric appliances. The Sustainable House Scheme was expanded by \$80million in 2023-24 to a total government commitment of \$280million. Over \$225million in loans have been settled which represents over 19,000 installations. Under the Home Energy Support Program in 2023–24, 238 rebates for rooftop solar and 373 rebates for insulation and energy efficient appliances were delivered to the community.
4.13	Provide information and training tailored to first home buyers, homeowners and owner-builders to support higher awareness of zero emissions, climate-wise homes.	 Delivered/BAU	The Sustainable Home Advice Program provides ACT households free tailored advice on energy efficiency and sustainability. This is through a phone and email hotline, home energy assessments, workshops, online tools and resources, and home energy action kits. The program has supported 3,524 households in the ACT during 2023/24. The program has exceeded their annual target for 2023/24 by 16%.
4.14	Facilitate demonstration projects showcasing zero (or negative) emissions climate-wise homes.	 Delivered/BAU	The Suburban Land Agency Innovation Precinct in the Whitlam Display Village has continued to showcase demonstration low-carbon and multi-generational living through open homes and engagement activities. Construction has commenced on Stage 1 of the North Wright Compact Housing precinct demonstrating 'missing middle' landscape-orientated climate-wise housing, designed and built with the aim of achieving net zero carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions over their life cycle. Display homes, buyer education marketing and sales are all scheduled for late 2024. Modelling the carbon performance of the homes and landscape using Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) has been completed in addition to energy efficiency performance (7-8.6 Star NatHERS rating). More ambitious designs are in scope for Phase 2 (procurement in progress) including prefabricated Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and Passivhaus.
4.15	Design, and commit to a timeframe for implementing, higher minimum energy performance and climate resilience standards for new buildings that will deliver efficient, zero emissions buildings.	 Delivered/BAU	The ACT Government adopted the new energy efficiency provisions in the 2022 edition of the National Construction Code (NCC) on 15 January 2024. In June 2024, the Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction obtained agreement to include in the 2025 edition of the NCC a voluntary pathway for commercial buildings to measure and report on embodied carbon. The Minister also obtained agreement to the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) investigating how to incorporate and fund inclusion of a future minimum standard for embodied carbon in the 2028 edition of the NCC to further support Australia's transition to net zero. The ACT Government continues to participate in national discussions through the ABCB on the inclusion of building resilience provisions in the NCC to address future weather events and climate risks. In June 2024, Building Ministers have agreed to include climate resilience as a specific objective of the ABCB from 2025 which will give the ABCB a clear mandate to develop future NCC requirements that reduce the impact of natural disasters on housing and other critical community facilities.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
4.16	Provide information and facilitate education and training of developers and design and construction practitioners in zero emissions technologies and systems and climate-wise design.	 Work progressing	The ACT Government is developing a 10-year pathway to shift to world's best practice on climate-ready and environmentally-sustainable buildings. The pathway includes actions to incorporate sustainability practices into building design and build capability within the building and construction sector. The ACT's new planning legislation and design guides, along with the Suburban Land Agency's sustainable show homes, advocate for adaptive re-use, low carbon footprints and more climate resilient materials. Sustainability is one of ten key design principles to be considered by the National Capital Design Review Panel when undertaking design review of significant development proposals in the ACT. The ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030 highlights the importance of reduce and re-use opportunities and the ability of the ACT Government to influence the construction of buildings through procurement processes.
4.17	Develop a new residential energy assessment tool that adequately assesses the year-round thermal performance of buildings in the Canberra climate.	 Work progressing	The National Residential Efficiency Scorecard has been trialled as a residential assessment tool for the ACT. Trials were undertaken through the Sustainable Household Scheme with over 100 assessments completed. Evaluation of the trial has shown positive results to indicate that in-home scorecard energy assessments have a positive impact on a household's knowledge, motivation and confidence. 68% of households adopted behaviour change to reduce energy costs and 63% went on to make at least one energy efficient upgrade to their home in the following months. The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate continues to engage with interjurisdictional work being undertaken under the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) Steering Committee to develop assessment tools for energy performance disclosure purposes.
4.18	Trial incentives and other measures to encourage all-electric, high efficiency apartment and commercial buildings.	 Work progressing	Since 2022 Suburban Land Agency (SLA) incorporates clauses into commercial sales contracts to require purchasers and developers to implement sustainability elements into the construction of buildings, landscaping and public realm on the blocks sold. These clauses include requirements for delivering all-electric developments with infrastructure to support electric vehicle charging, solar panels and energy efficient design. On certain sales of a higher value with a bigger development, clauses are included to require purchasers/developers to register the project with the Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star Building or Communities rating tools. These rating tools are a well renowned third party, and when a project registers with one of these tools, they are signing a contract to meet a series of credit requirements (spanning all elements of environmental and social sustainability) that drives a better, more sustainable outcome for the development. The ACT Government has commenced a regulation to prevent new fossil fuel gas network connections in most areas, ensuring that all new apartments, and most commercial buildings, will be all-electric. From 8 December 2023, the regulation prevents new gas network connections in all residential, commercial and community facility land-use zones, and all residential use buildings in non-residential zones (Class 1-4 buildings, as classified under the National Construction Code).

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
4.19	Expand the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme to increase support for low-income priority households and further encourage a shift from gas to high efficiency electric appliances.	 Delivered/ BAU	A review of the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS) was conducted in May 2024 outlining potential future pathways to optimise the EEIS. An immediate outcome of this review is the expansion of the priority household definition to cover certain private renters and customers accessing a retailer's hardship program. Further work to analyse the best option for changes to the EEIS is occurring in the second half of 2024. This work will result in adopting a position on the future state of the EEIS and proposing specific changes and a work package to achieve these changes by November 2024.
4.20	Encourage the use of smart financing by medium and large businesses and organisations to support energy efficiency improvements, space heating upgrades and zero emissions vehicle fleets.	 Work progressing	Work is underway to develop factsheets on innovative ways to finance sustainability-oriented upgrades for medium-large businesses including energy efficiency improvements, space heating upgrades, solar panel installation and shifting to electric vehicle fleets.
4.21	Review planning regulations and identify opportunities to require sustainable, climate-wise built environment and landscaping including through developing a Climate-wise Code.	 Delivered/ BAU	The review of planning regulations was completed in 2020 by the Centre of Urban and Regional Futures at the University of Canberra. The review identified opportunities in areas such as living infrastructure, housing design and natural hazards. The 2023 new planning system delivered a large number of 'climate wise' provisions including strengthened tree canopy and permeability provisions, new urban heat provisions, new electric vehicle charging provisions, clearer planning pathways for batteries and hydrogen to support electrification and improved housing design provisions. The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate will continue to take up opportunities for climate wise planning provisions as they arise.
4.22	Implement Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan to achieve 30% urban canopy cover, increase surface permeability, account for the value of living infrastructure and assess local needs for managing heat.	 Work progressing	Recommendations from a 2023 review of the Municipal Infrastructure Standards (MIS) to increase tree canopy cover and permeability will be implemented by TCCS and SLA and coordinated by EPSDD over the next few years.
5.01	Reflect climate change projections and risk vulnerabilities in disaster and emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, particularly for extreme heat, bushfire and flash flooding.	 Delivered/ BAU	The ACT Government is a partner in the NSW and Australian Regional Climate Modelling (NARCLiM) project which provides region specific climate change projections. In 2024 an updated set of regional climate projections (NARCLiM2.0) was released. The ACT Government is developing a rollout plan to ensure these projections are used in adaptation planning and risk management across the ACT Government.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
5.02	Encourage community preparedness for climate risks through targeted Emergency Services Agency outreach and the Actsmart sustainability programs.	 Work progressing	EPSDD delivers a range of programs that support households and businesses to adapt to, and be resilient to the effects of climate change. Strategies include energy education to prompt behaviour change and financial incentives to make energy efficiency upgrades. Communication on how to access these programs continued during 2023-24, especially during the winter and summer months to support community resilience to the impacts of extreme temperatures. Given the critical role of Community Sector Organisations (CSOs) in supporting community resilience, EPSDD is working with ACT Council of Social Services and CSOs to co-design a Climate Change Risk Management Adaptation Planning Toolkit. The Toolkit will enable CSOs to better understand their climate risks and associated impacts to their operations, clients, staff, volunteers, and assets, and to develop climate change adaptation action plans to mitigate those impacts. The Toolkit will be piloted in 2024-25.
5.03	Reduce staff travel needs by co-locating staff in centralised offices, providing facilities for teleconferencing, exploring co-working hubs and supporting flexible work arrangements and explore incentives to support staff use of public transport and active travel.	 Delivered/BAU	Activity based workspaces are available for staff to access across the Canberra region. Flexible work arrangements are available if required. The ACT Government has established FlexiSpaces in Tuggeranong, Belconnen, Woden, Dickson and a Family Friendly Space in 220 London Circuit. An additional FlexiSpace will open in Gungahlin in the first quarter of the 2024-25 financial year. FlexiSpaces build upon existing flexible working options by providing fully equipped, bookable work settings closer to where our staff reside. The use of these spaces is supported by a wayfinding system which enables staff to reserve desks at these locations for the day.
5.04	Implement a user-friendly sustainable procurement approach for goods and services and capital works that ensures greenhouse gas and adaptation outcomes are considered in all procurement decisions.	 Work progressing	Procurement ACT, under the auspices of the Procurement Reform Program, is reviewing and enhancing procurement policies for consistency with the Procurement Values Direction. The Direction includes the Environmental Responsibility Value.
5.05	Ensure the social cost of carbon and climate change adaptation outcomes are considered in all ACT Government policies, budget decisions, capital works projects and procurements.	 Work progressing	In April 2023, the ACT Government agreed to implement a Climate Impact Analysis (CIA) for all Government Bills and Private Members' Bills, and to trial this approach for the remainder of the 10th Assembly. A CIA is a qualitative self-assessment of the climate impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation outcomes, both positive and negative, that may result from proposed legislation. The CIA is embedded in the Wellbeing Impact Assessment and is undertaken at policy approval stage for Government Bills, and included in the Explanatory Statement.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
5.06	Ensure all new Government capital works projects with a budget of more than \$10 million either seek or are consistent with an independent sustainability rating such as an Infrastructure Sustainability rating from the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA), or a Greenstar rating from the Green Building Council of Australia or equivalent, and review ratings at least every five years.	 Delivered/ BAU	Major Projects Canberra's (MPC) designated projects seek an environmental rating and MPC procurement templates refer to this requirement.
5.07	Foster partnerships with sub-national governments and non-government organisations locally, nationally and internationally to promote climate action and increased ambition.	 Delivered/ BAU	The ACT Government continues to engage with the Under2Coalition and Council of Capital City Lord Mayors – Climate Action Working Group. The ACT Government engages on interjurisdictional forums and working groups to progress the climate action agenda and foster and maintain partnerships with other states and territories and the Commonwealth. The ACT Government also engages with NGOs including the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, and with sub-national governments to share knowledge on climate action priorities and progress, including engagement with the Mekong Australia Partnership.
5.08	Join the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network to improve sustainability performance and reduce emissions from ACT health facilities.	 Delivered/ BAU	The ACT Government is a member of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) - an international network of hospitals, health care facilities, health systems, and health organisations dedicated to reducing their environmental footprint and promoting public and environmental health.
5.09	Develop and implement a roadmap for transitioning Transport Canberra buses to zero emissions by 2040 at the latest while continuing to improve service levels, and review progress every five years.	 Delivered/ BAU	Implementation of the Zero Emission Transition Plan (ZETP) for Transport Canberra continues including procurement and delivery of 16 leased Battery Electric Buses (BEBs) and delivery of the first 4 of 90 purchased BEBs. All 20 buses are in service as at 30 June 2024. The remaining 86 electric buses are due to be delivered between now and the end of 2026. Transport Canberra is also finalising a refresh of its 2020 ZETP and roadmaps for release later in 2024.
5.10	Establish and implement a pathway to a zero emissions ACT Government health sector by 2040 informed by an assessment of all current and planned public health facilities	 Work progressing	ACT Health is continuing to implement the Canberra Hospital masterplan, which includes a pathway for the campus to meet the net zero emissions target by 2040. Any new facilities on the campus will be all-electric, and existing facilities will be progressively upgraded to remove gas power. The new northside hospital project includes a scope for all new infrastructure to be electric. In addition, ACT Health is delivering several new community health facilities over the coming years that will be all electric. ACT Health's Infrastructure Delivery Branch has Asset Management Plans for current ACT Health assets and will progressively (over the coming decade) plan for the rebuild/ refurbishment of these assets to ensure existing facilities are transitioned to zero emission facilities.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
5.11	Invest an interim price of \$20 per tonne of emissions from Government operations into measures to meet the Zero Emissions Government target from 2020-21 and arrange for an independent body to develop a social cost of carbon for application from 2025.	 Work progressing	The Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) Fund was established in the 2021-22 budget. The SCC Fund applied \$20/tonne for each tonne of emissions from Government operations. It was used for emissions reduction projects in government operations. In 2023-24 the SCC Fund supported the following projects: → Electrification of Woden Police Station (\$2,525,000). → Electrification of glasshouses at CIT Bruce (\$600,000). → Electrification of domestic hot water at Aranda Fire and Rescue (\$85,000).
5.12	Establish a pathway to zero emissions ACT Government schools supported by an interim emissions reduction plan to 2025.	 Work progressing	The Government has commenced a whole-of-government gas to electric asset replacement program to support the transition to net-zero emissions from ACT Government operations by 2040. Over the next 15-20 years, the program is expected to replace and electrify over 1,000 space heating and hot water gas assets across 170 ACT Government owned and operated sites, including schools. The Government's Zero Emissions Government team continues to work closely with the Education Directorate to achieve this target.
5.13	Ensure all newly built or newly leased Government buildings and facilities are climate-wise and all-electric (where fit for purpose).	 Delivered/BAU	ACT Property Group have developed guidelines to ensure new leases are for fossil fuel gas free buildings or that those buildings will transition to fossil-fuel free when practicable. These guidelines were agreed by Cabinet Subcommittee in May 2022.
5.14	Replace all space and water heating systems in Government facilities with electric systems at the end of their economic lives (where fit for purpose).	 Work progressing	The ACT Government is delivering a rolling program of works to replace aging gas assets with all electric options across ACT Government facilities under the Electrification of Government Gas Assets Program, to be delivered by Major Projects Canberra. This action has been further supported by the Zero Emissions Government and Social Cost of Carbon Funds.
5.15	Ensure all newly leased ACT Government passenger fleet vehicles will be zero emissions vehicles from 2020-21 (where fit for purpose).	 Delivered/BAU	The ACT Government is leading by example with one of the largest passenger zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) fleets in Australia. In 2023-24, there were 96 new ZEV leases, making up 100% of new passenger leases where a fit-for-purpose ZEV was available. The ACT Government Fleet Procurement and Management Policy (FPMP) has been updated and from 1 January 2023, plug-in hybrid vehicles will no longer be considered zero emissions vehicles. Currently, non-passenger vehicles are exempt from the policy, the FPMP has been amended to encourage fleet managers to procure zero emissions non-passenger vehicles where fit for purpose.
5.16	Investigate the use of innovative finance options such as Energy Performance Contracting as a method of reducing costs and emissions in Government assets.	 Delivered/BAU	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) in collaboration with Justice and Community Safety (JACS) commissioned a review into the suitability of Energy Performance Contracting in FY2022-23 and the findings were presented to the Asset Management Working Group. In 2024, EPSDD received a further presentation on Energy Performance Contracting for consideration across government sites.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
6.01	Support food rescue organisations to avoid food waste.	 Delivered/ BAU	Food rescue organisations, including OzHarvest, are promoted on the ACT NoWaste Recyclopaedia page to provide alternatives to disposing food waste.
6.02	Implement the Actsmart programs and household waste education programs to reduce waste generation and increase recycling.	 Work progressing	In 2023-24 ACT NoWaste delivered a strong program of waste education and community outreach activities to support Canberrans to avoid waste and increase resource recovery. A priority has been the development and delivery of the 'Don't Bin Batteries' campaign due to the escalating risk of batteries being incorrectly disposed in household bins. Given that behaviour change campaigns need to be ongoing to be effective, early market research has indicated a small positive change in community awareness of correct disposal options for batteries in the ACT as a result of the campaign. Elements of the campaign will continually be revisited to continue to address this.
6.03	Introduce a food and garden waste collection for all households (including multi-unit dwellings) from 2023, and support with an education program from 2020.	 Work progressing	Planning is underway to support an expansion of the FOGO pilot to an additional 1,150 multi-unit dwellings. The expansion is expected to be delivered across the first two quarters of the 2024-25 financial year and will expand the benefits of the FOGO pilot via increasing the number of households who can recover their excess food waste through the program. A Recycling and Waste Reduction Trial in eight Multi Unit Developments (MUDs) (apartment buildings) commenced in June 2024. It aims to educate residents about how to recycle to reduce waste to landfill. Apartment buildings were chosen from all regions of Canberra to ensure a representative sample was used for the trial. The trial includes waste audits, educational signage and information and the introduction of collection options for batteries and the ACT Container Deposit Scheme.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
6.04	Develop and consult on a scheme for requiring large organic waste producers such as hospitality and food retail businesses to have a separate organic waste collection.	 Work progressing	The <i>Circular Economy Act 2023</i> (the CE Act) was passed by the Legislative Assembly in October 2023. The CE Act introduced a power for the Minister to create waste reduction requirements and waste processing requirements for businesses which provides a legislative framework to reduce waste and retain the value of resources. In September 2023, a Consultation Draft Circular Economy Regulation 2023 was released for comment. It contains draft provisions under the new powers of the CE Act that would require: → food businesses to have a food waste reduction plan → all businesses to have a recycling collection to divert co-mingled recycling from landfill → food businesses to have a food waste collection to divert food waste from landfill. In August 2023, the ACT Government released the ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030 (the Strategy and Action Plan), which outlines actions and opportunities to build a circular economy for the ACT. The Strategy and Action Plan is underpinned by three strategic objectives, which are to grow extended producer responsibility, to grow markets for recovered materials and goods, and circular business models, and to create high-value jobs and attract innovative new enterprises.
6.05	Identify opportunities to reduce emissions from organic waste treatment including sewage such as through the use of anaerobic digestion and composting and investigate potential sites for organic waste processing.	 Work progressing	The progress on the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) facility procurement has seen the project team release a Request For Information (RFI) late in 2023 closing early 2024. There was significant market interest in the project with responses being evaluated and used to complete the remaining work for the next stage of procurement. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed and put on public exhibition with significant public consultation. This process concluded in early 2024 with comments from Authorities and the community currently being evaluated and responded to. The project team has also completed the Request For Proposal (RFP) with a view to release to market in 2024. However, due to the fire at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in December 2022, priority was given to the MRF procurement. As a result, the FOGO procurement has been delayed. It will be delivered through a two-stage process, Request For Expression of Interest (REOI) followed by a Request For Proposal (RFP) as per the ACT's Capital framework.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
7.01	Identify opportunities to increase resilience of terrestrial and aquatic habitats at risk from climate change and implement land management changes and relevant on-ground works with delivery partners.	 Work progressing	An EPSDD Climate Adaptation for Nature learning initiative has now been under implementation for two years, developed and implemented by Office of Nature Conservation in collaboration with CSIRO, seeking to prepare for climate change across our programs, policies and approaches. This initiative has been focused to date on two case studies: Fire in the Landscape, and Namadgi National Park. The first case study has been written up and is in the final stages of publication, and its outputs are being actively considered in fire-related strategic planning processes. Outputs of the second case study are being written up and being considered in the current development of a revised Namadgi National Park Plan of Management. A Climate Adaptation Yarning Circle has been held with the Ngunnawal community to discuss the impacts of climate change on natural values and Ngunnawal priorities and culture in relation to approaches to adaptation. Insights from this yarning circle are being embedded into future work, including the Conserving Canberra initiative (see below).
7.02	Ensure action plans for threatened species and communities consider the impact of climate change.	 Delivered/BAU	Climate change, including the presence of climate refugia in the ACT, remains routinely considered in developing and reviewing action plans for threatened species and communities. As part of woodland restoration, climate ready species are considered, for example white box is increasingly being incorporated in the planting list, and provenance is increasingly used to guide restoration efforts (e.g. plants from the areas to the north west of the ACT). Climate adaptation actions were also integrated into the recently finalised High-Country Bogs and Fens Action Plan, and are integrated into the forthcoming Grey-headed Flying Fox Action Plan.
7.03	Identify suitable sites in the ACT for 'carbon sinks' and develop a plan for planting trees or using soil carbon in these areas to sequester carbon with consideration of biodiversity outcomes and competing land uses.	 Delivered/BAU	The Strategic Plantation Management Plan 2017-2022 identifies goals and objectives for forestry operations. The objective for Climate Change and Carbon is to 'Maximise carbon stocks within ACT plantations and ensure clear felled areas are re-established as plantations, continuing the cycle of carbon sequestration'. The ACT government currently owns and manages 11,632 hectares of land called the total area of management unit. Within this management unit 8,311 hectares of land are designated permissible land for pine plantation. 8,005 hectares of this area is planted with <i>Pinus radiata</i>, 306 hectares are fallow comprising of recent clear felled stands undergoing site preparation for second rotation planting. There are smaller patches of plantable land that sit within current mid-rotation stands that will remain fallow until larger harvesting and replanting activities are undertaken. The production forest area includes 50 hectares of other <i>Pinus</i> species planted in arboreta trials between the 1920s and 1960s. The Forestry team continues to explore modelling to understand and inform the abatement potential of suitable planting sites across the Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) Estate. During 2023-24, 360,000 new seedlings were planted across 351 hectares of second rotation plantation.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
7.04	Encourage sustainable farming practices which are fit for the current and future climate and enhance soil and water quality, and work with farmers to identify opportunities for net zero emissions farming and innovation to increase resilience.	 Delivered/BAU	EPSDD ACT Natural Resource Management (ACT NRM) continued to support the ACT Grazing Group which promotes sustainable agriculture and carbon farming practices. During 2023-24, ACT NRM held a series of forums, and provided training sessions, field trips and field days for ACT farmers to demonstrate regenerative agriculture best practice. In 2023-24, The ACT Government introduced the Canberra Region Local Food Strategy 2024-2029. This Strategy aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the food system through a range of measures including improving sustainable urban and rural agricultural practices and ensure that any diversification of the local food economy takes into consideration future climate scenarios to ensure sustainability.
8.01	Work with industry to support innovation, research and partnerships that will enable and accelerate the transition to a net zero emissions economy.	 Delivered/BAU	The Energy Innovation Fund, formerly known as the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund (REIF), supports early stage and emerging projects to develop and commercialise innovative and efficient solutions to support the ACT and the community on its energy transition. In March 2024, three new grants were announced under the Fund, totalling \$17 million over 5 years: Technology Demonstration Grant: Up to \$10 million available over five years to support a broad range of new and emerging technologies to support the energy transition. Policy Challenge Grant: Up to \$3.75 million available over five years for solutions to key policy challenges the ACT faces in the transition to renewable energy. Innovation Ecosystem Grant: Up to \$3.25 million available over five years to projects that facilitate ecosystem, and business acceleration, collaboration and investment opportunities. The grants are open to business, research institutions, think tanks and non-profit organisations. On 6 May 2024, Minister Steel together with the Federal Minister, the Hon Brendan O'Connor, announced Australia's first National Centre of Excellence (CoE) for electric vehicles to support the electrification of the ACT. The CoE will develop higher apprenticeship pathways targeting the electric vehicle technology sector. The CoE will work with universities, other TAFEs, Jobs and Skills Councils and industry to equip Australians with skills to support increased electric vehicle uptake and the transition to net zero. Further concept design work is underway at Fyshwick for a Future Energy Skills Hub that will address skills shortages and skills gaps in net zero industries.
9.01	Improve data capture, integration and sharing across Government to enable accurate tracking and reporting of progress.	 Delivered/BAU	The Government is committed to full transparency and maintaining a rigorous approach to reporting on emissions from government operations. In 2022-23, the Government's data for 2019 to 2023 has been amended to include emissions from refrigerants. The current emissions data in the Enterprise Sustainability Platform (ESP) is a complete representation of a directorate's actual emissions baseline. The ESP continues to track emissions from Government operations accurately.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
9.02	Collect and report ACT travel data at least every two years on a range of journey types.	 Delivered/ BAU	The Household Travel Survey was undertaken in 2022. Results are available at Household travel survey - Transport Canberra (act.gov.au) .
9.03	Collect and report data to monitor progress against resilience indicators, including continuation of the longitudinal survey and climate-related health impacts and costs.	 Work progressing	The second instance of the 5-yearly 'Living well with a changing climate' longitudinal survey on climate change was completed with release expected in 2025. The survey measures and assesses community resilience as an outcome of adaptation over time. The survey findings enhance the ACT Government's understanding of community vulnerability to climate impacts and inform the development of future policies, programs and actions aimed at helping people in the ACT region live well in a changing climate. Recognising the interface across commonwealth, states and territories, and the not for profit and private sectors, the National Health and Climate Strategy will provide guidance to support consistent data monitoring. The ACT Government is also working to develop the ACT Health and Climate Action Plan (Action Plan) as described in the Government response to the Climate Change Impacts on Health - Assembly Resolution of 20 October 2022. The ACT Health and Climate Action Plan will look to leverage these national efforts and progress will be monitored through governance arrangements for the National Strategy and Action Plan.
10.01	Investigate opportunities for implementation of negative emissions technologies in, or supported by, the ACT.	 Delivered/ BAU	Spatial analysis and detailed research was completed in 2023/24 on the deployment prospects of various negative emission technologies (NETs) in or supported by the ACT. Further NET policy research is ongoing.

Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
1	Complete inventory and mapping of living infrastructure and expand the public urban infrastructure asset management system to include urban living infrastructure to inform investment decision making, whilst investigating steps to implement an accounting framework, such as the United Nations System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA), to value urban living infrastructure.	 Delivered/BAU	Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) continue to maintain the urban tree asset register and have recently commenced a 12-month project to review and update the data related TCCS Reference Documents. The purpose of the update is to ensure alignment with all TCCS Standards and Specifications, TCCS information systems and to support future ACT Government adoption of emerging technologies such as Building Information Modelling (BIM). This project includes improvements to how we receive and capture living infrastructure asset information gifted to the Territory or constructed by the Territory with Capital funding. Furthermore, TCCS are mapping all sub-surface irrigation systems on their estate to further support the delivery of maintenance activities in irrigated living infrastructure areas.
2	Achieve 30% tree canopy cover (or equivalent) and 30% permeable surfaces in Canberra's urban footprint by 2045.	 Work progressing	In 2023-24, over 23,000 trees were planted by Transport Canberra and City Services in the urban environment to increase tree canopy cover. Tree plantation and surface permeability have been considered in all streetscapes and public realm upgrades projects. In 2020, tree canopy cover across Canberra's urban footprint was assessed to be 22%. In early 2025, the 5 yearly LiDAR capture and analysis will enable the next assessment of progress towards the tree canopy and surface permeability targets and highlight areas for priority action.
3	Prepare a Microclimate Assessment Guide and mandate its use to inform policy and forward planning studies for centres, urban renewal projects and urban intensification precincts, with initial assessment of priority locations to inform a city cooling works program.	 Work progressing	A draft Microclimate Assessment Guide was released during the year. The Guide is now being finalised to align with the new planning system. During the year, a pilot microclimate assessment was underway for an ACT Government land release project (North Curtin Residential Area). The results of this pilot are expected in the 2024/25 financial year. The pilot will guide future use of microclimate assessment in ACT Government projects.
4	Introduce requirement(s) for microclimate assessments of significant developments located in centres, urban renewal projects and urban intensification precincts, to assist with development assessment.	 Delivered/BAU	The 2023 new planning system includes assessment outcomes relating to the microclimate of public spaces and the urban heat island. These will improve urban heat outcomes and encourage take-up of microclimate assessment by developers. Further urban heat provisions, for example for residential zones, will be investigated through Living Infrastructure Plan (LIP) Action 6.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
5	Prepare a guide for use by the community and built environment professionals to support effective landscape plans, and increase the opportunity for healthy, climate resilient and biodiverse gardens and public lands.	 Delivered/ BAU	The Gawari Ngilanmanyin: Remembering the Bush (A Climate-wise Landscape Guide for the ACT) is available on the Everyday Climate Choices website.
6	Require multi-dwelling, mixed use and commercial development applications (DA) to have landscape plans that demonstrate how surface treatments and tree canopy cover targets will be met, and change the processes for certification of DA compliance accordingly.	 Work progressing	Strengthened planning provisions for tree canopy and surface permeability were included in the 2023 new planning system for the following zones and settings: residential zones, commercial zones, Community Facility Zone and subdivision. Work is continuing on potential future stages of implementing this action.
7	Expand Actsmart web-based information and programs to incorporate the Climate-wise Landscape Guide to encourage and support community efforts to improve sustainability outcomes.	 Work progressing	The Everyday Climate Choices website provides advice for community and industry on how to improve climate resilience, including advice on water sensitive urban design and building a more climate resilient home.
8	Review and update the ACT Tree Protection Act 2005 to ensure consistency with the objectives of the Plan and suitability to Canberra's changing climate.	 Delivered/ BAU	The <i>Urban Forest Act 2023</i> came into operation on 1 January 2024 and aims to protect more trees by ensuring that when trees are removed, they are replaced. The legislation will have a positive, ongoing wellbeing impact on the community, with healthy sustainable trees in our city providing numerous physical and psychological benefits. To ensure positive customer experiences for the community and industry when interacting with the legislation, resources were invested in building the capacity of the directorate to administer the legislation, mainly by increasing the staff within Urban Treescapes to administer the legislation and the development of a new ICT solution to manage administration and provide for reporting. The introduction of the Act was supported by an extensive communications strategy. In addition to direct engagement with key stakeholders, information was issued to the general community to advise them of the changes under the Act. This included, but was not limited to, a review of the information on the City Services website, paid digital display advertising, social media, media announcements and releases, radio interviews, case studies including on the Our Canberra website, newsletter articles in various publications, digital screens in libraries and shopfronts, poster and postcard distribution. These communication activities were undertaken from November 2023 to April 2024 and communications on this topic will be ongoing, with reminders to be issued on the requirements under the Act.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
9	Develop a strategic plan for the public urban forest that outlines how the urban forest can be maintained and enhanced to improve amenity in a changing climate and deliver biodiversity outcomes.	 Delivered/ BAU	The Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2045 outlines a framework of management for urban trees in the ACT, setting out key objectives to realise a vision of “resilient and sustainable urban forest that supports the liveability of the city and the well-being of the community into the future”. To meet this vision, the current condition of public trees on unleased territory land must be understood to guide the renewal of trees reaching their end of life. In January 2024, high resolution multi-spectral and thermal imagery was remotely captured to establish a vegetation condition index for trees managed by the Territory, as part of an Urban Forest Condition Report to be delivered in early 2024-2025. This innovative analytic tool will help direct and prioritise tree maintenance activities as we continue to enhance and protect Canberra’s unique urban environment and strive toward a 30 per cent tree canopy coverage for Canberra by 2045. As part of the continued implementation of the Strategy, City Services have invested in the growth of the inhouse planting team, including new site facilities, machinery, and vehicles, to help maintain and renew existing tree canopy cover and support the establishment of juvenile trees planted across the city. Tree planting has exceeded the 2023-24 annual target through improved budget efficiencies gained by redirecting contractor planting budget to invest in the growth and activities of the inhouse planting team. It is recognised that management of our urban trees is not done in isolation of hard infrastructure and City Services continue to expand the program to repair and install permeable paving around public trees to increase stormwater infiltration, promote a healthy canopy and support pedestrian safety.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
10	Trial city cooling initiatives in high priority locations.	 Work progressing	The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) has completed an investigation into living infrastructure and Water Sensitive Urban Design measures in past SLA or Land Development Authority (LDA) developments. Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) staff participated in site visits with the consultant team to provide feedback on maintenance of these measures, which was considering the project's final report. Based on the findings from the investigation and a literature review of living infrastructure innovations and opportunities, the final Report includes 22 recommended trials that could be implemented in upcoming SLA developments (or other ACT Government Projects) that would either improve tree canopy, increase permeability, increase living infrastructure or improve water sensitive urban design outcomes. SLA will now consider how to implement select trials in upcoming developments in Gungahlin and Molonglo Valley. The CRA has completed an outdoor thermal comfort index study that provided baseline heat measurements for several sites in the City Centre and Dickson. The CRA will use this data to inform the design development for future public realm upgrades. This is currently being used to inform the designs for Alinga/Cooyong Streetscapes, City Walk and Garema Place, and Dickson Shops upgrades. The data also included Civic Square and Glebe Park. The CRA intend to conduct further studies to assess the impacts post-upgrades.
11	Trial local park upgrades in high priority locations including watered grass, trees, seats, lights and drinking fountains.	 Delivered/BAU	With three years funding provided in the 2021-22 ACT Budget, the TCCS Adopt-a-Park grant program continued through 2023-24 with program delivery ongoing into 2024-25. The ongoing program is providing support and funding to nine community and conservation groups across 17 projects designed to foster environmental resilience and increase community use in our local parks and open spaces.
12	Support the amenity and safety of active travel on trunk cycle and pedestrian routes with tree canopy shade and water points at key destinations.	 Work progressing	As part of the continued implementation of the <i>Urban Forest Strategy 2021-45</i>, City Services has invested in the growth of the inhouse planting team, including new site facilities, machinery, and vehicles, to help maintain and renew existing tree canopy cover and support the establishment of juvenile trees planted across the city. The City Services' planting program prioritises planting in locations that will have the greatest impact for the community, including prioritising tree planting to increase shade along cycle and pedestrian paths. In 2023-24, the following activities were completed: → detailed design of Kippax Skate Park was completed which included preliminary design of an active travel path → the Tuggeranong Foreshore Upgrade between Bartlett Place and the jetty near the library, which included path widening, low carbon and water permeable pavement, new lighting, landscaping and street furniture.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
13	Showcase best practice climate-wise design through display houses and exhibition sites in Government projects.	 Delivered/ BAU	The Suburban Land Agency's (SLA) Innovation Precinct at the Display Village in Whitlam is planted with a climate-wise garden design - inspired by the SLA's 'Climate Wise Garden Designs' booklet. The garden is open to the public year round, while the Display Village homes and SLA Sales Suite at the Innovation Precinct are open to the public each week from Thursday to Sunday. In October 2023, a verge makeover with community was completed at the Innovation Precinct - replanting a grassed verge into climate-wise landscaped garden bed that is mulched - to demonstrate alternate planting outcomes for a nature strip that can improve amenity, microclimate and permeability of streets. In June 2024, a suite of informative signage was installed around the climate-wise garden, detailing information about the plants used and about benefits of a climate wise gardens including microclimates for gardens and pollinators.
14	Support trials and demonstration projects to retrofit infrastructure to allow hydration of open spaces using stormwater.	 Work progressing	Seven wetlands and other water quality infrastructure projects were built in the last three years including three in the past year. These included retrofitting outlets into roadside kerbs to water adjacent green space, and recycling stormwater for use in irrigating playing fields. Work began on a plan to reduce blue-green algae in Lake Tuggeranong.
15	Investigate ways to encourage and incentivise living infrastructure on existing and future buildings in Canberra.	 Work progressing	The Nature in the City: Cooling Your Suburb grants will demonstrate ways to encourage and incentivise living infrastructure on public and private land.

ACT's Zero Emissions Vehicles Strategy 2022-2030

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
1	Aim to achieve 80-90% of new light vehicle sales in the ACT being ZEVs in 2030.	 Work progressing	Zero emissions vehicles (ZEV) have accounted for over 20% of all new vehicle registrations in the ACT in the first half of 2024 as ZEV uptake accelerates.
2	Phase-out light internal combustion engine vehicles from 2035.	 Work progressing	The ACT has the highest uptake of zero emissions vehicles per capita in Australia.
3	Prohibit onboarding of new ICE vehicles to rideshare and taxi networks by 2030.	 Work progressing	The ACT Government will continue to work with rideshare and taxi operators to ensure fleets transition to zero emissions vehicles as soon as is practicable.
4	Provide two years free registration for battery electric and fuel cell electric vehicles and investigate potential for future reforms.	 Delivered/BAU	Owners of new or used zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs) in the ACT purchased or acquired between 24 May 2021 and 30 June 2024 were eligible to receive two years of free registration. From 1 July 2024, vehicle registration fees will gradually transition from the current weight-based vehicle registration system to an emissions-based system for most light vehicles.
5	Provide stamp duty exemption for new zero emissions vehicles.	 Delivered/BAU	In the ACT, the following vehicles receive a motor vehicle duty (stamp duty) exemption : → new or used zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs) → new plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs) and hybrid vehicles (HEVs) purchased or acquired from 1 August 2022 → used HEVs and PHEVs purchased or acquired from 1 July 2023.
6	Expand the stamp duty exemption to include used battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles (includes electric scooters, motorbikes, trikes).	 Delivered/BAU	See response to action 5. The stamp duty exemption and free registration were extended to used ZEVs in July 2023.
7	Offer \$15,000 interest-free loans for zero emissions vehicles and charging equipment and installation.	 Delivered/BAU	Zero-interest loans of up to \$15,000 will be available to eligible homeowners to invest in a range of sustainable products for their homes, including new and used zero emissions vehicles and household zero emissions vehicle charging infrastructure.
8	Introduce incentives to encourage the uptake of electric bikes, motorbikes and trikes.	 Delivered/BAU	In the ACT, the stamp duty exemption is now provided to new and used electric motorcycles from August 2022. Electric motorbikes are now available under the Sustainable Household Scheme.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
9	Develop streamlined license applications for EV charging stations on public land.	 Delivered/ BAU	The Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Operational Policy was released in July 2023. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the requirements for proposals seeking to locate EV charging infrastructure on ACT Government land. TCCS Development Coordination Branch has commenced implementation of its responsibilities under the new Policy. Seven applications were received for installation of charging facilities in ACT government carparks; five were approved and two deferred for further information or planning considerations.
10	Deliver more than 70 publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations across Canberra in 2022-23.	 Work progressing	Initial grant projects with two providers, Evie Networks and Engie, were extended to overcome challenges in identifying viable sites. As of June 2024, there were 40 Government-supported chargers, powering 71 charging bays. Installation of further chargers are underway and will continue into 2024 as part of this process to meet this commitment.
11	Expand the public EV charging network to ensure there are at least 180 publicly available charging stations in the ACT by 2025.	 Work progressing	The first projects from the \$1.5 million Public EV Charging Infrastructure Fund were announced in March 2024 to further expand the network. Funding was provided to: → ActewAGL (\$321,110) → BP (\$5,000) → ENGIE (\$103,719) → Evie Networks (\$196,446). Further opportunities will open in 2024-25 to access the remainder of the Fund. As of June 2024, there were 162 public electric vehicle charging stations in the ACT.
12	By 2023 at the latest, enact regulation in the Territory Plan to require electric vehicle charging infrastructure for new multi-unit residential and commercial buildings.	 Work progressing	The new planning system commenced on 27 November 2023. The Territory Plan 2023 and planning technical specifications includes a requirement for new multi-unit developments and commercial buildings to include charging infrastructure in the parking area. The 2022 edition of the National Construction Code (NCC) was fully implemented by the ACT on 15 January 2024 and facilitates the future installation of on-site renewables and electric vehicle (EV) charging.
13	Continue cross-jurisdictional engagement to make EV chargers available on common interstate, long distance transit routes.	 Work progressing	ACT Government continues to work with state and federal governments to ensure sufficient public charging infrastructure is being deployed on interstate routes.
14	Provide information to unit titles and apartment building owners on EV charger installation at apartment buildings, including build to rent.	 Delivered/ BAU	Advice for residents and owners of units in apartment buildings and townhouses is available on the Everyday Climate Choices website. The advice will ensure EV charging infrastructure can be installed in these settings in a safe and equitable manner.
15	Introduce \$2,000 incentives for installation of EV charging in multi-unit buildings.	 Work progressing	A concessional loan program to encourage the installation of EV charging in multi-unit buildings is under development and due to be released in the 2024-25 financial year.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
16	Deliver a community education and promotion program on zero emissions vehicles.	 Delivered/ BAU	Education programs, webinars and content have been developed to assist the public and businesses with planning for the transition to zero emissions vehicles. To assist businesses and the community to fully understand the costs involved with electric vehicle (EV) ownership, ACT Government has made a total cost of ownership tool available at no cost. The simple tool allows users to understand the upfront and ongoing costs of an EV compared to a petrol or diesel vehicle, based on driving and charging habits, energy prices and charging with solar energy where possible, as well as maintenance costs and expected resale value. An EV drive day operated by NRMA and ACT Government was held on 10-11 November 2023. The event allowed Canberrans to test drive an EV and experience the technology first hand.
17	Deliver the Zero Emissions Fleet Advisory Service to assist businesses and organisations.	 Delivered/ BAU	The Fleet Advisory Service continues to support ACT businesses and community organisations in planning their fleet transition to zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs). This includes planning for charging infrastructure, determining fit for purpose ZEV alternatives and total cost of ownership. The Business EV Charger Rebate was established, providing businesses with up to \$3,000 (excl GST) to support the cost of the installation of smart charging infrastructure.
18	Continue to advocate for strong national policy to support the zero-emissions vehicle transition including vehicle emissions standards.	 Delivered/ BAU	The ACT Government continued to advocate for the introduction of a meaningful fuel efficiency standard (FES) to support the uptake of zero emissions vehicles. The ACT Government welcomes the Commonwealth Government's commitment to introduce a FES in 2025.
19	Continue to ensure that 100% of all newly leased government passenger vehicles are zero emissions where fit for purpose.	 Delivered/ BAU	The ACT Government is leading by example with one of the largest passenger ZEV fleets in Australia. In 2023-24, the target of 100% of new passenger leases where a fit-for-purpose ZEV was available, was met. The ACT Government Fleet Procurement and Management Policy (FPMP) has been updated and from 1 January 2023, PHEVs will no longer be considered zero emissions vehicles. The passenger fleet of 614 vehicles includes 214 battery electric vehicles, 20 fuel cell electric vehicles and 201 plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Currently, non-passenger vehicles are exempt from the policy. The FPMP has been amended to encourage fleet managers to procure zero emissions non-passenger vehicles where fit for purpose.
20	Develop a strategic plan for long term (post 2030) charging needs for the ACT fleet (excluding buses).	 Work progressing	A strategic plan for the ACT Government commercial vehicle fleet is being developed for implementation from 2025-26.
21	Deliver the next stage of ACT Government fleet vehicle charging infrastructure.	 Work progressing	Charging infrastructure continues to be rolled out to support the ACT Government passenger fleet transition.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
22	Deliver a demonstration project for zero emissions commercial vehicles.	 Delivered/BAU	An electric tipper truck entered the ACT Government fleet in 2023-24. The vehicle will rotate across multiple business areas to evaluate its viability as a replacement to diesel alternatives and to familiarise fleet users with electric commercial vehicles. The demonstration will enable increased uptake of commercial vehicles as more affordable electric commercial vehicles become available to the Australian market.
23	Update the definition of zero emissions vehicle for the Government fleet to exclude plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs).	 Delivered/BAU	The ACT Government Fleet Procurement and Management Policy (FPMP) has been updated and from 1 January 2023, PHEVs will no longer be considered zero emissions vehicles.
24	Continue to provide information and support for Government fleet drivers.	 Delivered/BAU	Advice continues to be made available to fleet drivers as an increasing proportion of the Government fleet transition to zero emissions vehicles.
25	Implement a pathway towards a transition to zero emission waste trucks by the mid-2030s.	 Work progressing	The ACT Government executed a new contract for the collection of the red, yellow and green waste bins from households. This will begin in April 2025. The new contract includes the first zero emissions waste truck to be included in the fleet. Other emissions reduction actions within the new contract are the requirement to develop an emissions reduction plan, to comply with the 'Clean Fleet Program', to ensure all new trucks comply with the Euro VI emissions standards, and to work with ACT NoWaste on a zero emissions transition management plan to scope the requirements for the transition of trucks for the future service.
26	Explore opportunities to replace government commercial and heavy vehicles with ZEVs as models become available.	 Work progressing	Zero emissions commercial vehicles have begun to enter the ACT Government fleet including the Australian-first hybrid electric fire truck, electric lawn mowers and light trucks, utes and vans.
27	Reform parking regulations to enable enforcement of parking in EV only parking spaces.	 Delivered/BAU	Changes were made to the Road Transport (Road Rules) Regulation 2017 (the Regulation) in April 2022 to enable enforcement of parking in EV-only parking spaces. The relevant sections of the Regulation are 203B and 203C. Section 203B makes it an offence for the driver of a non-electric power vehicle to stop in a parking area designated for electric power vehicles. The maximum penalty for this offence is 20 penalty units. Section 203C makes it an offence for the driver of an electric powered vehicle to stop in the parking area designated for charging of electric-powered vehicles and not have the electric-powered vehicle plugged in to an external source of electricity. The maximum penalty for this offence is also 20 penalty units. The Road Safety Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024 contains the amendment to modify the ACT's electric vehicle signage from text-only displays to symbols. This will align the legislation with NSW and the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Operational Policy. This amendment will also give effect to ss 203B and 203C of the Road Transport (Road Rules) Regulation 2017.

Code	Action description	Status	Update for 2023-24
28	Investigate enabling zero emissions vehicles in the 'one-off' driver's test.	 Delivered/ BAU	Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEV), as well as many newer model Internal Combustion Engine vehicles come fitted with Electronic Park Brakes. Access Canberra amended its policy to allow for vehicles with Electronic Park Brakes (which by default captures zero emissions vehicles) to be used for 'one off' driver licence tests. This policy change occurred in June 2022. Vehicles with Electronic Park Brakes (including ZEVs) are still to be subject to existing requirements and assessment vehicle pre-checks. If a vehicle's Electronic Park Brakes is in the foot well or somewhere else beyond the reach of the driver licence examiner, the assessment will not proceed. This is to ensure the safety of Access Canberra driver licence examiner staff.



ACT
Government

2023-24 Minister's Annual Report

under the Climate Change
and Greenhouse Gas
Reduction Act 2010