2025

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

2024-25 Minister's Annual Report

Under the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010

Presented by
Suzanne Orr MLA
Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
December 2025

ACT Government

2024-25 Minister's Annual Report

Under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*

The ACT Government acknowledges 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 acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Produced by the City and Environment Directorate. Enquiries about this publication should be directed to the City and Environment Directorate:

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Contents

Minister's Foreword

I am proud to present the 2024–25 Annual Report, which highlights the ACT's continued leadership and progress in climate action. Over the past year, we have taken meaningful steps to reduce emissions, strengthen resilience, and support a fair and inclusive transition to net zero emissions by 2045.

The ACT continues to be powered by 100 percent renewable electricity, a foundational achievement that is driving down emissions across the Territory. In the waste sector, we maintained high-performance landfill gas capture, generating clean energy while reducing emissions. These efforts were supported by circular economy initiatives, including infrastructure development and resource recovery programs.

We took decisive steps to prepare for a changing climate. The release of the ACT Disaster Resilience Strategy 2024–30 and the Sustainable Buildings Pathway marked important milestones in preparing our community and infrastructure. These initiatives are part of a broader suite of strategies that lay strong foundations for our long-term climate goals.

Throughout the year, we supported households, businesses, and vulnerable groups through targeted programs and partnerships. Our commitment is clear; climate action must benefit all Canberrans equitably and consistently.

The ACT is leading the way with climate action and has ambitious targets. While we did not meet our interim emissions reduction target of 50 to 60 percent by 2025, we did achieve a 47 percent reduction and have made significant progress. This shows that the government's policies are working, but there is more work to be done. Emissions from key sectors such as transport and gas continue to decline, reflecting the impact of targeted policies and strong community action.

Our interim targets for 2030 and 2040, along with our net zero goal for 2045, provide a clear framework for action. These milestones guide decisions, investments, and community efforts, ensuring the ACT stays on track to meet its long-term climate objectives.

In the coming years, we must navigate complex challenges and seize new opportunities to meet the needs of Canberrans while delivering a consistent and equitable transition across businesses, industry, households, and the broader community.

To support this transition, the ACT Government is developing a new climate change strategy. This strategy will outline our continued vision for achieving net zero emissions by 2045 and to adapt to our changing climate while bringing together our climate ambitions into a coordinated plan through to 2035.

The progress made in 2024–25 reflects the collective efforts of government, industry, and the community. I thank everyone who has contributed and look forward to continuing this important work together.

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

2024-25 at a glance

ACT powered by
100%
renewable electricity
six years in a row

Greenhouse gas emissions
47%
lower than **1989-90 levels**

The Sustainable Household Scheme
financed
$37 million
loans to **3,562** recipients in 2024-25

The
Home Energy Support Program
delivered rebates or upgrades **to improve the energy efficiency of**
3,836
vulnerable households, including community housing tenants, low-income homeowners and low-income renters

Fossil fuel gas emissions decreased by
↓10%
from the previous year
These emissions are from **fossil fuel gas use** (e.g. from cooking and heating) and **leakages from fossil fuel gas distribution**

Released the
ACT Sustainable Buildings Pathway

Exceeded ACT Government target of at least **180 public EV chargers** in the ACT by **2025**

There are now
198
chargers powering
274 charging bays

Released the
ACT Disaster Resilience Strategy 2024-2030

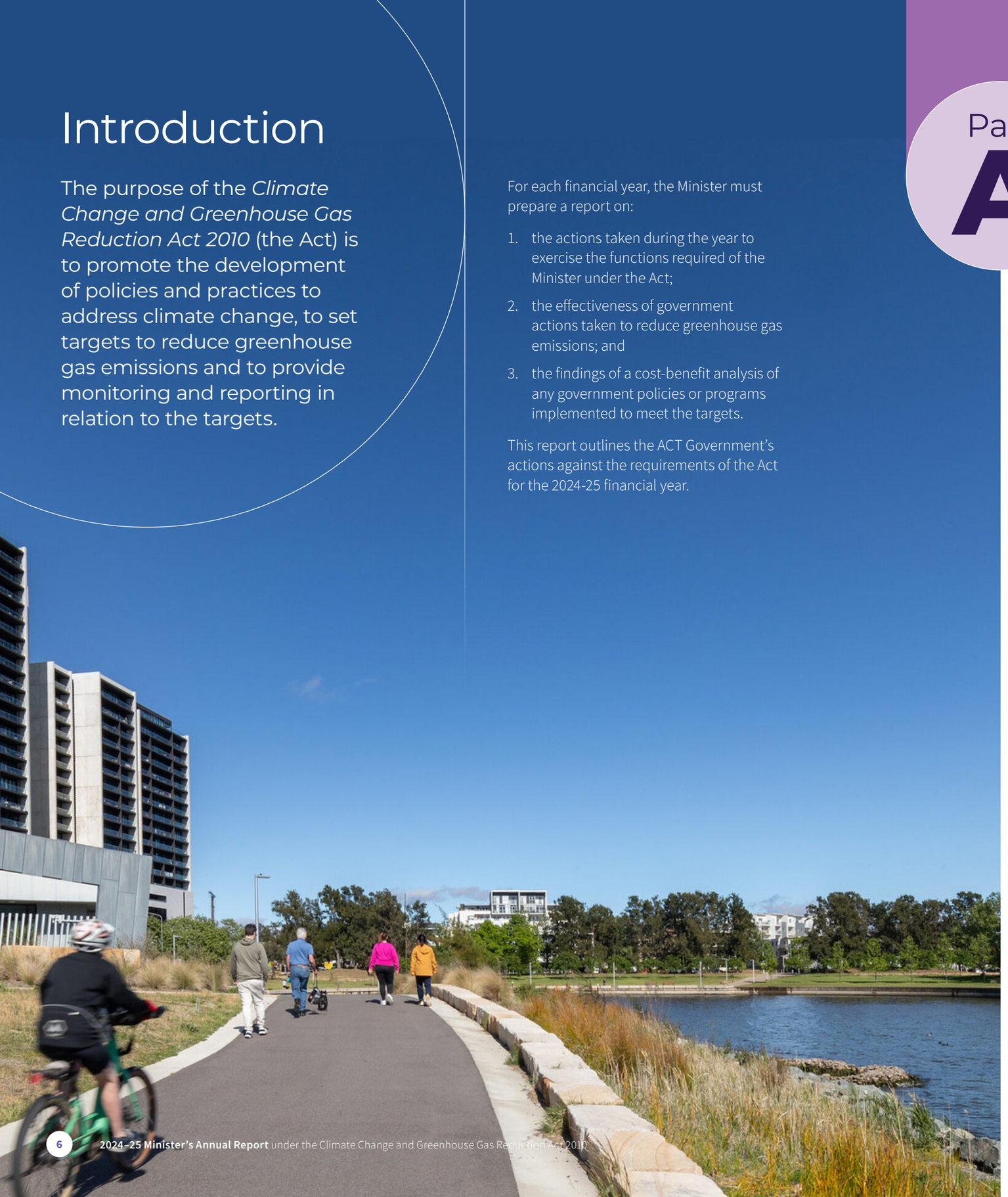
Introduction

The purpose of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* (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:

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

This report outlines the ACT Government's actions against the requirements of the Act for the 2024-25 financial year.



Part A

Actions taken in 2024-25

In 2024–25, the ACT Government continued to deliver on its climate commitments through the adoption and implementation of key policies, plans and programs, and active engagement with the community and other jurisdictions. Efforts included public education, research and innovation, and consultation to support a coordinated and evidence-based response to climate change. This section presents major climate actions undertaken across thematic areas.

A1 - Disaster resilience and social recovery

Release of the ACT Disaster Resilience Strategy

In response to the ACT's changing risk-scape, and to align with national guidance, the ACT Government released the ACT Disaster Resilience Strategy 2024-2030 in September 2024, to provide an overarching framework for building resilience to disasters across all parts of society in the ACT. This strategy is the first of its kind in the ACT and has transformed the way disaster resilience is addressed in the region. It establishes a common vision for a disaster resilient Territory and a shift in focus to shared responsibility – one where government, industry and community all have a role to play.

The ACT Disaster Resilience Strategy 2024-2030 is guiding action and embedding consideration of disaster resilience across all policy contexts and settings and has informed the delivery of a range of initiatives. This includes improving disaster risk and information for communities, businesses and non-government organisations through the establishment of an ACT Disaster Resilience Hub, which provides a central point for the community to access all hazard information on disaster resilience. Partnerships are being strengthened with a range of stakeholders, including local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure their voices are embedded into disaster management planning and practice.

Delivering disaster resilience projects via the Disaster Ready Fund

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is the Australian Government's initiative for disaster risk reduction, managed by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). Over five years, the Australian Government has committed $1 billion to the DRF. Each year, $200 million is distributed to States and Territories, with the ACT Government eligible to secure up to $7.5 million through approved applications.

During the 2024–25 financial year, the ACT Government successfully secured funding for nine new projects through the DRF. This builds on the 13 projects funded in the 2023–24 financial year. These initiatives are closely aligned with the priorities outlined in the ACT Disaster Resilience Strategy 2024–2030, and focus on key areas such as community education for enhancing resilience, flood risk reduction infrastructure, urban forest resilience, installation of thermally backed curtains to improve resilience of vulnerable households, strengthening the preparedness, planning, coordination and response capacity of the ACT Government and social recovery partners, supporting community service organisations in preparing for climate change impacts, and integrating climate considerations into land use and infrastructure planning.

Preparing community service organisations for climate change

Community Service Organisations (CSOs) play a critical role in supporting community resilience. The ACT Government is committed to building the adaptive capacity of CSOs to reduce community vulnerability and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The City and Environment Directorate (formerly the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate) are working with ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS) and local CSOs and Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations (ACCOs) to co-design and trial a "toolkit". The toolkit contains resources that will assist CSOs to assess climate change impacts to their organisation and undertake adaptation planning to identify and implement actions that will lower their risk and increase their resilience. The trial includes a grant pilot program, the evidence from which will inform a sector wide adaptation plan, authored by ACTCOSS and support potential future rollout of the toolkit.

The pilot is supported and part-funded by the DRF.

Release of ACT climate projections

The ACT Government's ongoing partnership in the NSW and Australian Regional Climate Modelling (NARCliM) project reached a major milestone in August 2024 with the release of updated regional climate projections for the ACT. These climate projections, presented in Figure 1, are based on best practice methods and the latest global climate models used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The release also included communications, guidance and visualisation material such as the ACT Climate Change Snapshot and the interactive map.

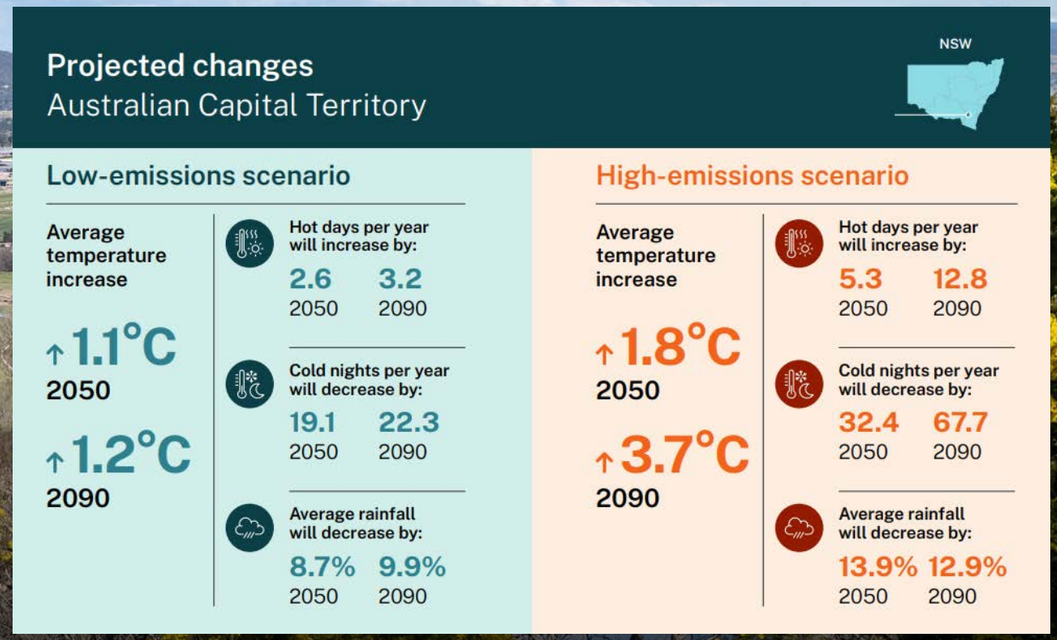


Figure 1: Climate projections for the ACT

Source: NARCliM2.0 NSW climate change infographics

The NARCliM project data and material enables the ACT Government and community to understand, plan for, and adapt to climate change. The availability and use of this data and material has been communicated internally with several projects already utilising it to improve adaptation outcomes.

A2 - Communities

‘Living Well with a Changing Climate’ longitudinal survey

The results of the 2023 ‘Living Well with a Changing Climate’ longitudinal survey, were published this year. The survey is conducted every 5 years, starting in 2018 and repeated in 2023, and is designed to help government understand how prepared and resilient the Canberra community is to the impacts of climate change. By tracking resilience over time, the ACT Government can better meet the community’s needs as we face climate challenges. It also ensures that government support is focused on those in our community who need it most.

Results of the 2023 survey showed that despite increases in drought and extreme weather resilience, overall community resilience fell slightly since the 2018 survey. Slight dips in access to individual and community resilience resources were noted, likely the result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ACT Government has a range of work underway that strengthens community resilience and programs that support vulnerable populations. Further, the ACT Government has developed annual climate resilience indicators to support more timely policy and program responses to changes in community resilience, which will be implemented in the coming year.

Community Grant Programs

The ACT Government funds community grant programs that are available to eligible not-for-profit organisations and individuals to support community action on climate change.

The Community Zero Emissions Grants Program supports community projects that offer replicable solutions that reduce emissions and/or increase resilience to climate change. In 2024-25, five projects received a total of $151,040.

The ‘Nature in City: Cooling your Suburb’ Grant supports projects which aim to make urban areas cooler and more resilient to climate change through nature-based means. In 2024-25, four projects received a total of $152,957 in funding.

The ACT Community Gardens Grants Program, which commenced in 2015-16, supports the delivery of community gardens which focus on enhancing community places and spaces. In 2024-25, twelve projects received a total of $99,831.

Community Partnerships

The ACT Government provides funding to the Canberra Environment Centre, SEE-Change and Conservation Council ACT Region through Service Funding Agreements. These organisations engage the local Canberra community on a range of environmental and sustainability issues, initiatives, policies and programs. For example, the Conservation Council ACT Region co-chairs the Biodiversity Network Forum, contributes submissions to areas of ACT Government interest, and brings a community and environment voice to meetings such as the Light Rail Reference Group. The Canberra Environment Centre hosts regular garden workshops, promotes skill development through Adapt-to-Climate podcasts, and runs the Recyclery. SEE Change works with a network of 150 volunteers and manages 18 groups focusing on sustainable behaviour change, such as repair cafes, sustainable house tours and waste reduction initiatives.

Canberra Electric Bike Library

The Canberra Electric Bike Library is funded by ACT Government to promote cycling in everyday life, where people not only transport themselves but also their children or additional cargo such as shopping or deliveries for businesses. It is currently delivered by SEE-Change, who lends utility E-bikes to Canberrans for a trial period of two weeks from its Downer office. In 2024-25, the Electric Bike Library facilitated 327 loans. The Library expanded into South Canberra with the opening of the Kambah branch on 22 September 2024.

Energy Assistance Community Partnership

The Energy Assistance Community Partnership (EACP) Program is funded by the ACT Government and delivered by St Vincent de Paul and Care Financial. The program builds capacity of the community sector to identify and support vulnerable energy consumers in the ACT with advice and connecting them with energy support, concessions and rebates. In 2024-25, the EACP delivered seven energy literacy training sessions to community organisations and attended 184 community events to provide energy advice.

Integrating traditional knowledge into landscape management for climate adaptation

The Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) is engaging with Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians and local First Nations people on the new Namadgi and Murrumbidgee River Corridor reserve management plans, with workshops to identify cultural values.

As part of the Conserving Canberra initiative led by Office of Nature Conservation, four Ngunnawal Cultural Advisors were engaged in a part-time capacity in 2024-25 for the *“Healing Country, Healing Community”* project. The Cultural Advisors led on-ground activities such as community seed collection, tree plantings and culture days and provided input into habitat restoration and monitoring. The Cultural Advisors won a NAIDOC award in July 2025 for this work.

The Office of Nature Conservation and Traditional Custodian Engagement Team have been working closely with Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians to incorporate cultural knowledge in the review of the *Nature Conservation ACT 2014* and the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy.

A3 - Businesses

The ACT Government continues to support small to medium-sized businesses to achieve net zero, providing expert advice and financial incentives to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency. This year has seen an increased focus on hard-to-transition sectors in the business community such as complex buildings and hospitality businesses, through the Solar for Apartments Program, the Sustainable Apartments Pilot, the Commercial Kitchen Showcase and Gas Exemption technical support and the Sustainable Business Program. The Government also continues to ensure Canberra is a nation-leading hub for innovation in the energy transition and investment through the Energy Innovation Fund grants program.

The Sustainable Business Program

The Sustainable Business Program continues to be the primary contact point with businesses, and in 2024/25 the program supported 442 businesses across the areas of energy, waste, water and transport. In 2024–25, the program:

- supported 110 businesses to improve their energy efficiency with 30 claiming rebates, saving $26,877 in annual bills, 82 MWh of electricity and 3.5 tonnes of CO2. Additional rebates were introduced to support businesses to transition off gas.
- accredited 298 businesses, diverting more than 72,179m^3 to recycling from waste to landfill
- advised 29 businesses on transitioning fleet vehicles to electric vehicles or other zero emissions vehicles.

Energy Innovation Fund

The **Energy Innovation Fund**, formerly known as the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund (REIF), invested $12 million between 2016 and 2024 to promote a vibrant renewable energy sector in the ACT. In March 2024, an additional $17 million was committed to the Fund following the fifth round of the ACT renewables auction to support innovative energy technologies and solutions for net zero transformation. The Fund provides grants for innovation and new business models to solve clean energy challenges and accelerate the uptake of clean energy initiatives. In 2024/25 seven new grants were announced, totalling $2,736,641. This includes:

- **Arup Australia** received $255,453 to enhance the adoption of efficient electric heating and cooling solutions by developing practical tools and strategies that address noise mitigation.
- **Advanced United Technologies** received $662,010 to develop an Australian-made AI-driven online battery health monitoring system that will improve the safety, reliability, and sustainability of lithium batteries.
- **University of Canberra** received $270,000 to identify behavioural and structural policy options to speed a just transition for ACT households from gas to electric appliances.
- **Flash Home Energy** received $33,344 to support the development of innovative technology that will help renters to understand their energy needs, use and costs through real time data.
- The **Australian National University** received $465,692 to develop a holistic and integrated apartment decarbonisation tool for decision-makers.
- **New Frontier Technologies** received $750,143 to develop an innovative storage solution for hydrogen.
- **RenewMap** received $300,000 to support further development of their web-mapping platform that connects projects across the Australian and New Zealand energy landscape.

Sustainable Events Program

The Sustainable Events Program provides advice and equipment to make Canberra events more sustainable. The program loans-out free equipment such as signage, water units, Container Deposit Scheme collection bins and bin covers. It aims to reduce waste, emissions, energy and water use, increase recycling and educate and raise awareness of sustainability for event attendees. In 2024/25, the program supported 67 public events with approximately 1 million people in attendance.

The Community Clubs Program

The Community Clubs Program provided eligible community clubs with rebates up to $100,000 for energy efficiency, rooftop solar and electric vehicle chargers. In 2024–25, 11 clubs undertook upgrades and claimed rebates, saving 764.5 MWh of electricity, $199,000 in bills and 45 tonnes of emissions. This program closed at the end of June 2025 and over four years supported a total of 21 clubs to collectively save 1,600 MWh of electricity, $407,000 in bills and 86 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

Workplace Travel Toolkit

With construction ramping up across the city and cost of living pressures, many employees are looking at alternative, cost-effective travel options for getting to work.

Transport Canberra's Workplace Travel Toolkit has a range of resources to help people promote and adopt sustainable workplace travel options. Benefits include increasing productivity, easing traffic congestion and improving sustainability.

The toolkit was shared with businesses in the city, with a particular focus in April and May 2025. Engagement with businesses and employers included sharing collateral such as postcards and hosting four pop-up information sessions in late May and early June 2025. The pop-up information sessions were held at 40 Marcus Clarke Street, 220 London Circuit, 255 London Circuit and 111 Alinga Street.

A4 - Government

Electrification of government gas assets

The Electrification of Government Gas Assets (EoGGA) program is a centralised Whole-of-Government program of works delivered by Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR). The program includes gas asset replacement works and coordination of associated electricity network upgrades in ACT Government owned and operated facilities, supporting the ACT Government in meeting its target for net zero emissions from ACT Government operations by 2040.

Key achievements during the 2024–25 reporting period include:

- Preliminary site investigation reports prepared for 36 ACT Government owned sites, enabling the scope of electrification works to be further refined;
- Detailed Designs completed for three ACT Government owned sites, providing specifications and a comprehensive plan to inform future construction;
- Removal of 85 assets powered with fossil fuel gas and replacement with electric solutions across seven ACT Government owned sites; and
- Commencement of construction on the Weetangera Primary School Geothermal Project. This pilot project will be the first geothermal solution installed on an ACT Government owned site. The works involve installation of in-ground heat source technology to allow the removal of the existing gas fired boiler and central chilled water pump on the site.

Zero Emissions Government Loan Fund

The Zero Emissions Government Loan Fund (ZEG Fund) is available to all Government Agencies and Directorates to provide financing for projects that reduce emissions or support the net zero transition.

Operating as a zero-interest loan, the operational and financial savings generated by projects are used to repay the loan, making projects cost-neutral and generating ongoing savings for Directorates and Agencies.

In 2024-25, seven projects were approved under the ZEG Fund with an average payback period of eight years. These projects are expected to generate combined annual savings of $109,276 each year, and include:

1. Solar PV - Bimberi Youth Justice Centre
2. Solar PV and Battery - West Belconnen Child and Family Centre
3. Electric Forklifts – Stromlo, Tidbinbilla and MPC Depots
4. LED lighting upgrade and solar PV - Bonython Primary School
5. Solar PV – Bonython Primary School
6. Solar PV - Domestic Animal Services
7. Solar PV - Condor Health Centre.

To complement the Electrification of Government Gas Assets (EoGGA) program, the ZEG Fund focuses on solar PV, battery, and energy efficiency projects that generate cost savings for government and reduce the costs of electrification. A further 24 projects are currently being scoped or considered across Directorates, with early-stage feasibility assessments underway.

Case study:

100% renewable and all-electric – West Belconnen Child and Family Centre

The West Belconnen Child and Family Centre is a holistic project combining energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy projects. This facility became a 100% renewable, all-electric facility through installation of a new solar PV and battery system in 2025 under the Zero Emissions Government Loan Fund and previous work under the EoGGA program, including an LED lighting upgrade, existing solar PV and wind turbine systems, installation of electric vehicle charging equipment, and electrification of the hot water system.

The 78.32kW solar PV and 51.2kW battery system helped offset increasing electricity demand as the site transitioned off gas, with the facility now able to generate 124% of its energy needs, thereby reducing impacts on the grid. The project is expected to deliver annual savings of $19,176 with a payback period of 9 years. Over the expected 25-year lifespan of the panels, this system will achieve savings of $479,400, with an additional $5,862 per year in battery returns.

Zero emissions vehicle fleet

To contribute to the achievement of the ACT Government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2040, passenger Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) fleet vehicles are replaced with zero emissions alternatives where fit for purpose. The ACT Governments passenger fleet now consists of 573 vehicles of which, 255 are battery electric vehicles (BEV) and 190 are low emission plug in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV). This is an increase from 193 BEVs in July 2024. This is supported by 600 electric vehicle chargers installed by July 2025, predominantly to support the ACT Government's passenger fleet. Over the same period, conventional ICE vehicles have reduced to 75 vehicles from 125.

In 2024-25, Transport Canberra continued to trial zero emission vehicles in the commercial, heavy vehicle, plant and equipment fleet. This included completion of an electric utility trial, used by the City Services mowing team; electric panel van trial with Libraries ACT and Yarralumla Nursery for deliveries; low-floor battery electric mini-bus for Flexible Transport; 2-tonne electric forklift with Roads ACT; and 2.5 tonne excavator for Urban Treescapes. Trials continuing beyond 2024-25 includes a 6-tonne truck and 7.3-tonne electric tipper truck and a 4.5 tonne electric litter collection truck.

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, building resilience 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 2024–25, the Council members were Emeritus 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 five formal meetings in 2024–25 and provided climate change advice to the Minister, the City and Environment Directorate (formally the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate) and the broader ACT Government. This included:

- Updated advice on the latest climate change science and alignment with 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 to the Council provided to the Minister.
- Providing input and advice on negative emission technologies and offsets, cultural burning practices, establishment of the Office of the ACT Landscape architect and development of the new climate change strategy.

Further information on the work of the Council is available on the Council's webpage.

A5 - Natural Resources and Environment

EPA Statement on Climate Change

In May 2025, the ACT Government released the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Statement on Climate Change as part of the continual development and review of the EPA policies and guidance documents.

The EPA Statement provides clarity on how the EPA will consider climate change and greenhouse gas emissions during statutory decision-making processes. The Statement sets out the EPA's approach for years 2025-27 to climate change and how the EPA plans to deliver on the approach.

Pollen monitoring

In 2024-25 ACTHD began progressing a multi-jurisdictional pollen monitoring project funded through the National Emergency Management Agency's DRF and will continue to be progressed by the newly established Health and Community Services Directorate. This project, led by the Victorian Department of Health will introduce automated pollen monitoring across Victoria, southern NSW, and the ACT.

The intended outcome is for real-time pollen monitoring across South-Eastern Australia to identify high risk periods for health impacts, including epidemic thunderstorm asthma. This data source will enable pollen risks and health impacts to be identified, managed and appropriately communicated.

Introducing the Urban Forest Amendment Regulation

The Urban Forest Amendment Regulation 2024 (No 1) was developed to support the operation of the Urban Forest Act 2023, which commenced on 1 January 2024. While it is an object of the Act to increase canopy cover to 30% by 2045, the amendments recognised the need to balance this with imposing as little burden as possible on individuals and ensure fair outcomes. The amendments introduced changes for conditions that must be imposed under a Canopy Contribution Agreement for homeowners with heavily planted blocks that do not have space to plant more trees and homeowners in unit titled developments.

An internal review of the Urban Forest Act began, in line with the government's election commitment to bring forward the review. The review is considering feedback from the community and industry during the first year of the Act's operation and seeks to identify improvements that can be made to the application process and the operation of the Act. A key outcome of the review is to ensure that the objects of the Act support decision-making that leads to an appropriate balance between protecting or enhancing the urban forest while also supporting government priorities.

Tree planting program

City Services continued to strive towards the Urban Forest Strategy target of a 30% tree canopy cover in Canberra by 2045.

With the completion of the previous program to plant 54,000 trees by June 30, 2024, the planting program shifted focus to young tree care in conjunction with tree planting for the 2024–25 Urban Treescapes annual planting program. The planting stock for these programs is grown and sourced by Yarralumla Nursery.

A total of 9,011 trees were planted in the urban environment under programs managed by City Services, including 3,261 trees planted in street verges and laneways and 3,737 trees planted in urban open space. An additional 3,719 young trees, planted as part of the development of new suburbs and through urban infill projects, were handed to City Services for ongoing management. Therefore, 12,730 trees were planted across all ACT Government programs.

Since November 2019 and continuing throughout 2024–25, the community has identified where trees should be planted. Using the YourSay Conversations website, residents drop pins on an interactive map, with 182 suggestions made in 2024–25.

Planting locations will focus on areas with low canopy cover or where existing trees are ageing or dying.

Climate Smart Agriculture Program

Under the Regional Delivery Partners Program – ACT NRM (Natural Resource Management) has begun a Climate Smart Agriculture Program that demonstrates the use of multispecies grazing systems that encourage deep rooting and biologically active pasture species that reduces synthetic fertilisers and improve resilience to climate shocks, whilst improving soil carbon. Landscape rehydration and water quality outcomes are also being addressed through the Dams to Wetlands program. Through the National Soils Initiative, NRM also delivered the peer-to-peer learning group 'Soil Champions'. NRM also is actively promoting the naturalisation of winter active dung beetles through the Dung Beetle Friendly Farms Program and the sequestration of organic carbon. Through ACTNRM's RAMPS program (Regenerative Agriculture Monitoring and Planning System) farmers are assisted to make incremental improvements to all aspects of farm management including sequestering carbon into the landscape and improving on farm biodiversity.

Increasing resilience of terrestrial and aquatic habitats at risk from climate change

ACT NRM initiated activities on the Australian Government funded project *Managing threats to high country wetlands.* This project delivered in partnership with PCS will inform conservation management of the Ginini Flats Wetland Complex Ramsar site and the listed ecological community of Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens. It will build on recovery efforts initiated after the 2003 and 2020 fires by trialling sphagnum transplants combined with leaky weir installation to determine if these are meaningful interventions to improve the rate of vegetation recovery following fires and thus improve resilience of the bogs under a changing climate. The project runs until June 2028.

Carbon capture via sustainable forestry practices

During 2024-25, the ACT Governments *Pinus radiata* estate increased in size by 41 hectares to 8046 hectares total planted area, within the commercial forestry management unit of 11,632 hectares of land. The increase is the net result of annual harvesting and replanting program supporting a sustainable annual cut of 90,000 tonnes of timber. In 2024-25, 282 hectares were planted within the total planted area, replacing trees in those areas that were harvested.

Climate Adaptation for Nature Initiative

EPSDD's Climate Adaptation for Nature (CAfN) Initiative has been underway for three years, led by the Office of Nature Conservation Climate Adaptation team in partnership with CSIRO. The initiative is focused on building capacity and knowledge, building climate resilience across ACT conservation programs, policies, and strategies.

To date, CAfN has focused on four key areas:

- **Fire in the Landscape** – Published and informing strategic fire planning.
- **Namadgi National Park** – Written up and informing the Reserve Management Plan. A climate adaptation framework - scenario planning - is being integrated into the Namadgi Reserve Management Plan for the first time.
- **Nature Conservation Strategy** – A co-developed climate adaptation action plan is under consideration for inclusion.
- **A Climate Adaptation Yarning Circle** with the Ngunnawal community explored climate impacts on Country and cultural priorities. Insights are shaping future work, including the *Conserving Canberra* initiative.

A6 - Built environment

Launch of the ACT Sustainable Buildings Pathway

In August 2024, the ACT Government released the ACT Sustainable Buildings Pathway. It is a directional strategy reflecting that sustainable buildings are a business-as-usual expectation for Canberrans, as we are already working towards Net Zero emissions by 2045. It is a living and evolving ten-year strategy subject to three yearly updates, ensuring it adapts as the benchmarks for sustainable buildings evolve.

The Pathway is part of the ACT's existing program of building reforms which make sure our buildings are safe and fit for the purpose now and into the future, and protect consumers from poor building quality.

Reducing the emissions profile of buildings is one of three integrated focus areas.

The Pathway's initial action plan identifies approaches to increase operational energy efficiency, reduce embodied carbon, phase out the use of on-site fossil fuels and manage the impact of refrigerant leakage. Work has begun to:

- Consider how innovation in sustainable construction techniques can increase the productivity of the construction industry,
- Model how higher new home efficiency standards could meet a net zero standard whilst reducing cost of living pressures for ACT households,
- Draft a voluntary pathway to disclose embodied carbon in the National Construction Code. This includes supporting national modelling to inform the benefits of mandating disclosure and minimum standards in new buildings, and to develop an Embodied Carbon standard appropriate for existing buildings.

Demonstrating climate-wise building practices

Climate-wise building practices and low-carbon materials have been incorporated into the Suburban Land Agency's (SLA's) built form projects and showcase precincts. All 23 homes in the first stage of the North Wright Sustainable Precinct are designed to net zero and feature recycled bricks and pavers and Greenstar Concrete with a 30% recycled fly ash content and a fully recycled foundation and pod-system underneath the slab instead of styrofoam. Sustainable and healthy materials have been chosen internally, such as ECO carpet and natural marmoleum flooring with lower Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emission rates and lower embodied carbon. Homes showcases high-performance building envelopes tested to 3 air changes per hour and heat recovery ventilation to reuse indoor heat and bring in fresh, filtered air. The display homes also feature recycled timber doors, sourced from local provider Thor's Hammer. The remaining 20 dwellings in Stage 2 will feature a high-performance mass-timber prefabrication system with wood chip insulation from sustainably forested spruce trees for an energy efficiency rating of 8 Stars (NatHERS) or above, and select homes will demonstrate Passivhaus Classic standard.

Adopting sustainability ratings for infrastructure projects

To support emissions reduction and strengthen resilience, large infrastructure projects are adopting sustainability ratings. For example:

- The Light Rail Stage 2A: Raising London Cct Project is pursuing an Infrastructure Sustainability Rating (IS Rating) from the Infrastructure Sustainability Council (ISC).
- The Athllon Drive project is pursuing an IS Rating from the ISC. iCBR is developing initiatives through the project's design phase for delivery by the contractor.
- The Monaro Highway Upgrade project is pursuing an IS Rating from the ISC. Initiatives are being developed, monitored and tracked through the construction phase by the construction contractor.
- The Molonglo River Bridge project is pursuing an IS Rating from the ISC. iCBR is developing initiatives through the project's design phase for delivery by the contractor. The first report has been lodged with the ISC and feedback is expected in Q3 2025.
- The CIT Woden Campus achieved a 6 star Green Star Buildings v1.0 Designed Assessment by the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) on 26 March 2025.
- Gugan Gulwan Community project was delivered under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy (ATSIPP), exceeding targets and exploring new opportunities for First Nations businesses. This project has also been designed to achieve 5-star Green Star Certification through an innovative approach to design and construction including large curved precast concrete panels that act as façade and structural elements.

Climate resilient infrastructure development

The designs of the City Renewal Authority projects - Garema Place, City Walk and Dickson Shops promote environmental and social sustainability through retaining existing mature trees and planting more trees and garden beds. In particular, the final designs for the Garema Place upgrade demonstrated a 38% increase in permeable surfaces. This reduces the urban heat island effect and provides a cooler, greener, more comfortable urban environment.

Transport modelling and household travel survey

During 2024-25, the Development Coordination Branch in the City and Environment Directorate (formerly Transport Canberra and City Services) completed the Connected and sustainable Canberra – Modelling transport across Canberra initiative that was funded over four years in the ACT Budget 2021-22. The initiative comprised of the development of the Gungahlin Reference Traffic Model, delivery of the 2022 Household Travel Survey and the enhancement and recalibration of the Canberra Strategic Transport Model (CSTM 2.0) based on the 2021 ABS Census data.

The Gungahlin Reference Traffic Model helped inform planning, development and infrastructure projects in the Gungahlin district and various transport impact assessments of development applications.

The ACT and Queanbeyan Household Travel Survey Data Dashboard was updated to include a comparative analysis of the 2017 and 2022 survey outcomes and includes insights on why, how, when and where residents travel. It is available on the Transport Canberra website to support additional analysis and sharing outcomes with relevant entities.

The Canberra Strategic Transport Model (CSTM 2.0) enhancements work included updates to zoning, networks and volume-delay functions, capacity-constrained public transport, expansion of AM/PM time periods into all day, light rail calibration and inclusion of walking, freight and visitor trips, as well as recalibration of the model based on 2023 conditions. The work included development of future model scenarios at five yearly intervals from 2026 up to 2051 and the development of an Outputs/Data Analysis Toolkit and Dashboard.

Use of low carbon concrete in infrastructure projects

The ACT Government Low Carbon Concrete (LCC) Policy commenced on 1 January 2025. This policy aims to reduce embodied carbon emissions in ACT Government projects through increasing the use of LCC. LCC was successfully used in projects at different scales including the Molonglo River bridge, North Wright Sustainable Precinct, public housing and Raising London Circuit. Roads ACT has implemented LCC in the delivery of concrete footpath maintenance works in the ACT.

The Infrastructure Planning team in the City and Environment Directorate (formerly Transport Canberra and City Services) undertook a series of consultation workshops with the industry on the new draft sustainable concrete specifications, which are expected to be published in Q3 2025. This work aims to transition the industry to the use of LCC and the incorporation of recycled materials in concrete as business-as-usual practice in the ACT.

A7 - Transport

Expanding the Light Rail network

Construction of Light Rail Stage 2A, which extends the line from Alinga Street to Commonwealth Park, is underway. Planning and design for Stage 2B, which aims to deliver a Light Rail alignment across Lake Burley Griffin, through the National Triangle, along Adelaide Avenue and Yarra Glen, before terminating at Woden Town Centre, are ongoing. The Draft Concept Design, including consideration of two route alignment options through the Parliamentary zone, State Circle East and National Triangle Barton, was endorsed in October 2024. The Draft Concept Design formed the basis of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted to Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water and Territory Planning Authority in December 2024. Public exhibition of the Draft EIS will be conducted in Q3, 2025. Feedback from submissions, in addition to consideration of environmental and social impacts and benefits, place outcomes and other criteria, will inform an evaluation of the final route alignment. The selected final route alignment will be a decision of government. The route alignment decision and refinement of the concept design will inform a revised, final EIS to be submitted for consideration to Commonwealth and ACT governments in 2026.

Expanding the public EV charging network

The ACT Government has committed a further $887,000 under the Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Fund to deliver publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) chargers across the Territory. The Fund prioritises the installation of chargers at shopping centres, tourist destinations, community facilities, near high density residential buildings, and in areas with limited existing chargers. Grant funding was announced for 40 new electric vehicle chargers capable of supporting more than 70 charging bays. The projects include a mix of fast chargers in network gaps, and slower chargers to provide a lower-cost option for drivers who can't charge at home.

In May 2025, it was announced that the Government had exceeded its target of at least 180 public EV chargers in the ACT by 2025. There are now 198 chargers powering 274 charging bays in the ACT. There is one fast charging bay for every 107 registered electric vehicles in the ACT, which exceeds the Australian Government's suggested 2025-26 target of 165 EVs per fast charging plug for the ACT.

Canberra EV Drive Days

EV Drive Days were held in late 2024 and early 2025 in collaboration with the NRMA, to help raise awareness for the benefits of electric vehicles. The events provided Canberrans with the opportunity to 'try before you buy' and get accustomed to the new technology. It included test driving a range of EVs at the Sutton Road driving range and information stalls showcasing vehicles. The event successfully reached segments of the community that had never driven an electric vehicle before and those who are considering an EV as their next purchase.

Global Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles

The ACT is the first jurisdiction in Australia to sign a Global Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles. The MOU is a non-binding agreement to accelerate the decarbonisation of the Medium- and Heavy- Duty Vehicle industry to help achieve global net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Movement and Place Assessment Guide

An ACT Movement and Place Assessment Guide and Tool was developed to support and guide the implementation of the Movement and Place approach in the ACT planning, design and delivery processes. 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 and undertake social activities. The assessment guide and tool are strategic instruments that supports designers, planners, engineers and other built environment practitioner to design streets and roads according to their identified movement and place typology. The Assessment Guide and Tool also provide guidance to complete the Movement and Place requirements in the ACT Transport Impact Assessment (TIA) Guidelines. The Guide and Tool are being trialled for one year from July 2025 and more comprehensive Movement and Place Framework will be further developed based on industry feedback and interstate and international guidance and best practice.

Supporting active travel

Active travel in schools

Ride or Walk to School (RWTS) and It's Your Move Safe Cycle (IYMSC) programs continued, along with the coordination of active travel events, newsletters, and teacher professional learning sessions with participating ACT schools. The Active Streets for Schools program continued, as did the School Crossing Supervisor Program, which delivered infrastructure improvements and provided supervisors at 25 school crossings in the ACT.

Active travel – age friendly suburbs

Public consultation was completed in 2022 seeking guidance as to where path connections, crossings and access could be improved in the suburbs of Scullin, O'Connor, Reid, and Chifley. In 2024-2025 construction across all 4 suburbs was completed. Improvements were made to a total of 33 sites across the four suburbs including new path connections, improved access and the installation of seating to support people of all ages and those with limited accessibility.

Active travel infrastructure

The backbone of the Active Travel Network is comprised of community paths, and shared and cycle paths which form an integral part of the transportation system designed to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, mobility users, and equestrian uses. There is a strong emphasis on prioritising walking, cycling, and public transport with currently developed Multimodal Network Plan and Movement and Place Framework (currently in development). The Active Travel Plan identifies prioritisation of investments with the key investment criteria assigned to investment types such as strategic network improvements, community paths, schools, safety, accessibility and the need for renewals and replacement.

Projects progressed this year include feasibility and preliminary design for Hall Off Road shared path, Canberra Quick Build Cycleways – Key Studies and Designs Feasibility Study Report, Lake Burley Griffin raised crossings designs and Civic Pedestrian Friendly Crossings, construction of a new shared path through Telopea Park, feasibility and design of 14 identified priority routes throughout the Gungahlin Town Centre and detail design of the Kingston C2 cycleway, which will provide a priority link extending from Bowen Drive past the Kingston Foreshore.

A new 4 kilometre long and 3-metre-wide asphalt, off-road shared path for walkers, cyclists and micro mobility users was completed on the southern side of Sulwood Drive between Drakeford Drive and Athllon Drive. The new path opened to public in March 2025.

Garden City Cycleway

The first 3 stages of the Garden City Cycleway were progressively opened in 2024–25. This meant changed pedestrian and traffic arrangements from Cooyong Street in Braddon to Majura Avenue in Ainslie. To help alert people to the changes, safety information was shared with the local community and a survey was released that asked about their experiences along the cycleway following construction.

The survey was live from February to May 2025 and had 34 responses. It asked respondents about their usage of the cycleway as well as safety concerns and potential improvements. The feedback will be used to inform any future messaging on the cycleway as well as the design of the next stages.

Dockless Shared Micromobility Policy

The Dockless Shared Micromobility Policy was updated in 2025, supporting mode shift and considering the inclusion of e-bikes. Shared micromobility is a convenient option for short trips on their own or combined with public transport. It also provides a healthy and affordable choice, and reduces the many problems associated with car travel.

Transitioning to zero emission public transport

The Zero Emissions Transition Plan for Transport Canberra was refreshed in August 2024, providing an updated pathway for achieving a fully zero-emissions public transport network before 2040.

The battery electric bus fleet continued to expand, with 79 buses as at 30 June 2025 providing cleaner and more efficient operations. It is expected there will be 106 battery electric buses in the fleet by the end of 2026.

Construction of the new Woden Bus Depot was completed in April 2025. It is a purpose-built facility designed to house up to 100 buses with capability to charge 96 battery electric buses simultaneously. This achievement contributes to enabling the ACT's zero-emissions transition by 2040 and improves long-term transport strength.

A8 - Energy

Integrated Energy Plan

In June 2024, the government released the Integrated Energy Plan 2024–30, a key milestone in Canberra's pathway to an all-electric, net zero emissions future. The plan was shaped by robust community and industry consultation that included public surveys, targeted workshops, focus groups and an industry forum. This engagement process ensured the perspectives of vulnerable community members, industry stakeholders and those most impacted by the transition away from fossil fuel gas were incorporated. The insights gathered informed the plan's guiding principles and actions, supporting a fair and equitable energy transition for all Canberrans.

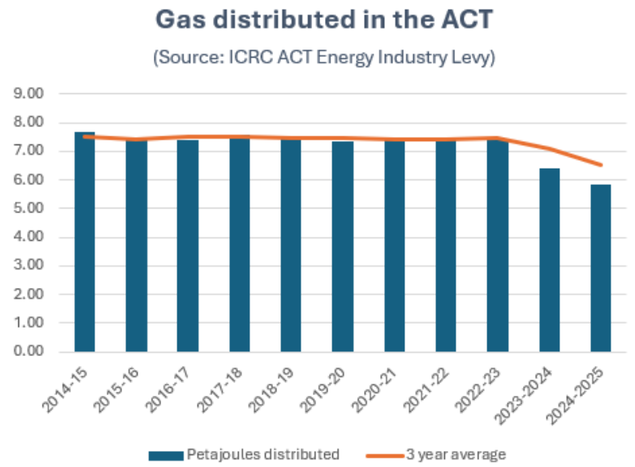
The Integrated Energy Plan sets out a staged roadmap for transforming the ACT's energy systems, with the first stage (2024–30) focused on accelerating electrification, supporting vulnerable energy consumers and maintaining secure, reliable and affordable energy. The plan's objectives include enabling all households and businesses to benefit from electrification, prioritising support for those least able to transition independently, and removing barriers to the energy transition.

To ensure continued progress and adaptability, the government has committed to a mid-point review of the plan in 2027 that will assess achievements and update actions as needed to keep the Territory on track towards its legislated net zero emissions target by 2045.

Through a range of coordinated actions under the Integrated Energy Plan, including the implementation of a regulation preventing new gas connections, the sustainable household scheme, direct assistance for households and businesses, and government action on electrification, 2024-25 saw the following progress towards our transition from fossil gas use:

- Almost 2,100 customers left the gas network in 2024-25 (588 permanently abolished gas connections and 1,508 additional customers recorded no gas use in over 12-months)
- 15,565 gas connections (or 10% of all gas connections) had not been used in more than 12-months at the end of 2024-25.
- 3rd consecutive year of declining gas customers on the network, from a high of 157,309 in 2021-2022, down to 151,607 at the end of June 2024-25.

Demand for fossil gas dropped to an all-time low of less than 6PJ per annum, after hovering around 8PJ per annum for the past 10 years. 2024-25 is the 2nd year of strong decline in gas demand, partially driven by warmer weather, but also by strong community messaging and incentives to electrify.



SLA Home Energy Rebates in new suburbs

SLA's Home Energy Rebate encourages residents to build all-electric homes powered by their own renewable energy in the new suburbs of Whitlam and Jacka. 90 residents successfully applied for and received the $10,000 Whitlam Energy Rebate between 1 July 2024 and 6 June 2025, bringing the total number of approved applications for the Whitlam Energy Rebate program to 214, covering 27% of Whitlam homes completed so far. In addition to these residents enjoying energy bill savings from living in all-electric homes powered by their own solar energy, there are also suburb-scale benefits for Whitlam including reducing the urban heat island effect with the package's light-coloured roof requirement. Worth $7,000, the Jacka Energy Rebate program commenced in 2024-25. Additionally, a solar bond of $2,000 will be returned to Jacka residents who purchase land from SLA and show evidence of installing at least 5.5 kWh of solar panels on their completed home. Applications for the Jacka Energy Rebate and solar bond started being received by SLA from March 2025. Between March and June 2025, five residents had successfully applied for the Jacka Energy Rebate, and seven residents had applied for the solar bond.

No new fossil gas network connections

A regulation preventing new connections to the fossil gas network was enacted in the Territory in December 2023. Made under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*, the Regulation prevents new connections to all residential, commercial and community facility land planning zones in the Territory. It is a key instrument to prevent growth in, and facilitate the reduction of, emissions from fossil gas.

The Regulation includes an exemptions framework that allows proponents in commercial and community facility land planning zones to apply to the Minister for an exemption. The exemption process is facilitated by the Climate Change, Energy and Water Division. The exemption process requires applicants to contact the Sustainable Business Team for advice prior to submitting an application. The process ensures businesses have access to information about electrification options, as well as providing broader advice and information on a range of efficiency and sustainable business matters, including access to rebates and other resources.

Since the introduction of the Regulation, Climate Change Energy and Water has facilitated applications as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Exemptions from Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Regulation

Interactions with Sustainable Business Team	2023-24	2024-25
Pre-application electrification advice sought by business sector:		
• Hospitality (café/restaurant)	3	14
• Laundromat	0	1
• Total	**3**	**15**
Exemption applications requested by business sector:		
• Hospitality (café/restaurant)	1	5
• Total	**1**	**5**
Exemption applications under assessment at end of financial year*	1	2
Exemption evaluation completed	0	4
Exemptions refused	**0**	**4**
Exemptions granted	**0**	**0**

*Note: Applications received towards the end of the financial year may be assessed and finalised in the following financial year.

Supporting households and businesses to improve energy efficiency

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme

In August 2024, the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction announced the 2025 settings for the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS). The targets continue to help households and small-to-medium businesses save energy and cut emissions. 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 and businesses in 2024-25:

- Ceiling insulation was upgraded in 683 properties.
- 1,626 energy efficient space heating and cooling activities were commissioned.
- 1,072 efficient hot water systems were installed.
- 530 inefficient refrigerators or freezers were decommissioned and disposed.

Following the 2024 scheme review, the priority household definition was expanded to include individuals on an energy retailer's payment plan and residents of rental properties. These changes came into effect on 1 January 2025. An annual customer satisfaction survey was conducted with households and businesses that received EEIS upgrades. For the 2023 compliance period, overall customer satisfaction with installations was approximately 87%. Survey results for 2024 installations are yet to be finalised.

Sustainable Household Scheme

The Sustainable Household Scheme offered 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, EVs, EV charging infrastructure and ceiling insulation. In 2024-25, the Scheme provided $37 million in zero-interest loans to 3,562 recipients. The Scheme changed on 1 July 2025. Under the new terms, a 3% interest rate applies on loans, and rooftop solar systems are excluded, with some exceptions.

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 rebates. In 2024–25, residents received advice via email, phone and in-home energy assessments on 2,763 occasions. The program also delivered 36 free workshops to 792 attendees. This advice also supports households accessing interest-free loans through the Sustainable Household Scheme to make energy efficiency upgrades.

Renters' Home Energy Program

The **Renters' Home Energy Program** provides free in-home or phone-based energy assessments for renters in the ACT. In 2024–25, 176 assessments were delivered to renters across the ACT. This figure includes 60 low-income rental households who also received thermally backed curtains and pelmets. The program also provides an online **home energy self-assessment webtool**. In 2024–25, the webtool was used by 313 ACT households, including 95 rental households, 216 owner-occupiers and 2 rental property owners.

Sustainable Apartments Pilot

Under the 2024 Integrated Energy Plan, the ACT Government committed to developing example electrification pathways for apartment buildings. The Sustainable Apartments Pilot, jointly funded by the ACT and Commonwealth Governments and other jurisdictions, engaged GHD in December 2024 to conduct feasibility studies into seven selected apartment complexes in Canberra. The studies will provide site-specific electrification pathways and detailed costings for the participating buildings. Additionally, a summary report outlining key insights and learnings will be shared with the broader Owners Corporation community to provide guidance on the transition from fossil fuel gas to electric systems. Pilot findings and the results of monitoring and evaluation are expected by the end of 2025.

Solar for Apartments

The ACT Government and the Commonwealth Government jointly launched the Solar for Apartments program to support apartment residents in Canberra through shared solar installations. The program aims to overcome barriers to solar adoption by offering financial support and innovative solutions, ensuring more residents, including both owner-occupiers and renters, can benefit from renewable energy and ease cost-of-living pressures. Owners corporations can access up to $100,000 in grant funding and a zero-interest loan. To date, seven apartment complexes have installed 265.6 kW of solar, saving $83,207 annually and benefiting apartment 168 residents. With several projects underway, the program is seeking an extension beyond the original Federal Funding Agreement, which ended on 30 June 2025, to continue supporting owners corporations and expanding access to clean energy.

Phasing-out wood heaters

Wood Heater Removal Program

The Wood Heater Removal Program aims to improve the ACT's air quality by offering rebates for the removal and disposal of older high emission wood fuel heaters. Households can access further financial incentives from complementary programs to install an electric energy efficient alternative heating source if required. Since the program started in 2004, 1,353 wood heaters have been removed, with 32 rebates paid in 2024–25 for wood heater removal under the program.

Wood heater removal from public housing

A trial was delivered in 2023-24 and 2024-25 to replace wood heaters in public housing properties with energy-efficient electric heating systems. Nineteen wood heaters were removed under the trial.

Targeted household support to lower energy bills and lower emissions

Home Energy Efficiency Program

The Home Energy Efficiency 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 2024–25, 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 (HESP) is a $50-million commitment to improve building 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 2024-25, 130 rebates for rooftop solar and 299 rebates for insulation and energy efficient appliances were delivered to the community. Additionally, three rebates were paid to property owners for the installation of insulation in rental properties participating in the Affordable Community Housing Land Tax Exemption Scheme.

Under the program, ACT Government delivered ceiling insulation upgrades at 1,535 public housing properties and 1,700 gas-to-electric appliance upgrades (across 1,103 properties) in 2024-25. The program also delivered fully funded energy efficiency upgrades for households with chronic health conditions and upgrades to eligible community housing properties. In 2024-25, upgrades were completed in 158 community housing properties. Eleven households with chronic health conditions had upgrades completed in 2024-25, before this stream of the HESP was superseded by the Access to Electric Program.

Access to Electric Program

As part of the ACT Government's Integrated Energy Plan, $5.2 million has been committed over 2 years from 2024-25 to deliver the Access to Electric Program to trial electrification in up to 350 owner-occupier households experiencing extreme and sustained financial hardship. The Program covers the full costs to replace gas appliances with efficient electric appliances in eligible households. Ceiling insulation is also provided where required. Twenty-seven households received upgrades under the program in 2024-25.

First Nations Home Energy Support Pilot

Yeddung Mura was engaged by EPSDD in 2024-25 to co-design and pilot free culturally appropriate home energy support activities for First Nations households. There were 20 households that participated in the pilot and several sets of materials were developed to support the delivery of activities.

Energy storage

The Big Canberra Battery Project has delivered the commitment for 250 megawatt (MW) of battery storage, through three streams:

- Stream 1: a 250MW/500MWh Utility Scale battery

  In 2023, the ACT Government contracted Eku Energy under a 15-year revenue sharing agreement to install a 250MW/500MWh battery storage system at Williamsdale. In November 2024, Eku Energy reached financial close on its 250MW/500MWh Williamsdale Battery Storage System project in the ACT. Construction of the battery is currently underway with the storage system scheduled to be operational in later 2026.

- Stream 2: 11 behind-the-meter (BTM) batteries

  Nine small BTM batteries were installed at government sites in early 2024. One large-scale BTM battery was installed at 255 Canberra Avenue, Fyshwick in June 2025. Installation of another large-scale BTM battery at Mt Stromlo High School is expected to be completed in late 2025.

- Stream 3: Neighbourhood-scale batteries

  The ACT government has entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth (under the Australian Government's Community Batteries Program) and Evo Energy to install three neighbourhood-scale batteries in the suburbs of Casey, Dickson, and Fadden.

  Community engagement was completed in all three suburbs between April 2025 and May 2025. No specific concerns were identified during the engagement. Construction of the batteries is expected to commence in early FY25-26.

All contracts require suppliers to provide the Territory with decommissioning plans for large batteries and associated infrastructure that meet strict reuse and recycling criteria. Under the Procurement Reform Program, a Template Modernisation Project is underway. The Contract Template Suite will be updated to require that end-of life battery and solar panel recycling is considered under government contracts involving procurement of large batteries. In addition to this, the Charter of Procurement Values Guide will be updated to ensure that these considerations are made in accordance with the Environmental Responsibility Procurement Value.

A9 - Waste

Circular economy and innovation

Implementation of the Circular Economy Strategy

Implementation of the ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030 is well underway. This strategy and action plan comprises 56 actions across six key themes which provide an opportunity to drive the circular economy transition in the ACT. The themes are:

- 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.

Actions within this strategy and action plan are being delivered by relevant areas across the ACT Government. For example, some of the key achievements from the first year for ACT NoWaste include:

- Delivering Action 4.10 with Goodies Junction commencing operation of the two reusable facilities at the Mugga Lane and Mitchell Resource Management Centres; and
- Delivering Action 6.4 seeing the ACT Strategic Waste Infrastructure report being finalised, which will inform future waste and resource recovery planning.

Reuse of construction materials

City Renewal, as part of design of the Dickson Shops upgrade has incorporated the reuse of paving bricks throughout the project to retain the unique character of Dickson, and support reduction in waste of construction materials.

City Renewal, as part of the Garema Place upgrade is delivering performance-based solutions to allow for the re-use of subgrade materials in paving. This is reducing the volume of construction waste as part of the project.

Investigating circularity potential of textiles

The ACT generates approximately 6,500 tonnes of textile waste annually, with covered furniture, mattresses, and carpet/underlay being the largest contributors of textiles to landfill. In 2024-25 ACT NoWaste undertook a project to investigate textile waste and potential pathways to increase the circularity of textiles within the ACT as part of delivering an ACT Government commitment to investigate the feasibility of a textiles hub to reduce problematic textile and clothing waste, in addition to supporting the ACT craft community. A workshop was held with approximately 45 stakeholders from across the textile supply chain to help inform this work.

Infrastructure and facility development

Material Recycling Facility

Delivery of the new Material Recycling Facility at Hume has commenced with the signing of a contract with Veolia in January 2025 to finalise design, seek relevant approvals, demolish the existing facility within 2025-2026.

The Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) Facility

The Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) facility delivery model was confirmed, with Advanced Tender Notice released in Q1 2025, with procurement commenced in July 2025.

Recycling and Waste Reduction Trial

A Recycling and Waste Reduction Trial in 8 multi-unit developments (apartment buildings) commenced in 2024 to measure the effectiveness of engagement on contamination rates. The trial, which involved 1,341 households, included a series of information packages, information sessions, signage and meetings. Over the 5-month trial, overall contamination reduced in 5 of the 8 complexes. The average contamination rate in recycling was between 7.0% and 12.4%, which was down from 21% in 2022.

Landfill gas recovery

The Mugga Lane Landfill contains a system to capture gases created by the decomposition of putrescible waste. Landfill gases consist primarily of methane and carbon dioxide, which are harmful to the environment and therefore require appropriate management. The gas is piped to an onsite power station that combusts the gas to drive turbines that generate electricity that is fed into the ACT's electricity grid.

In 2024-25, 38,000 megawatt hours of electricity was generated from the gas captured at the Mugga Lane landfill, an increase of 4,000 megawatts hours of electricity from the previous year. This is enough electricity to power approx. 8,459 homes for one year.

In late 2024 stage 1 of the Landfill Gas Expansion project was completed with two additional 1 Megawatt gas to energy generators installed at the gas plant as well as a 20 Megawatt grid connection with Evoenergy. An additional 12 Megawatt of battery storage is expected to be commissioned in early 2026.

Waste Education

In 2024-25 Act NoWaste delivered a large program of waste education across the ACT. The education specifically focused on recycling and correct disposal options for hazardous waste, including batteries, and implementation of a trial in multi-unit developments to measure the effectiveness of targeted education to reduce contamination. The Don't Bin your Batteries campaign continued into 2024-25 and was supported by an increase in community outreach and partnership opportunities with ACT Fire and Rescue. Some elements of the campaign have also extended into NSW through an arrangement with the NSW EPA.

Other outreach included:

- Waste education through information sessions and pop-up activities to over 4,000 people in the community supported by a program from Envirocom on green waste and FOGO education reaching an additional 900 people;
- Hosting an information stand at local events: Seniors Expo, Woden Children's Fair, University of Canberra Open Day, Sustainable Canberra Expo, National Multi-Cultural Festival, South Fest, Careers Expo, Jacka Open Day, Sustainable House Day and Canberra Institute of Technology Orientation Week, Chief Minister's Student Welcome; and a Multi-cultural Welcome to Canberra event;
- Development and delivery of a pack of translated resources in 12 different languages;
- Delivering an education program for National Recycling Week including pop-ups, a webinar and dedicated program on ABC Radio Canberra;
- Support provided to the Sustainable Schools Program (former Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate) through attending waste audits at local schools and being a waste educator at the Schools Climate Action Conference;
- Support provided to local circular economy stakeholders through improved education and cross-promotion including Lids4Kids, Roundabout Canberra and Goodies Junction;
- Delivery of regular e-newsletters; a fortnightly program on ABC Radio Canberra called 'Trash Talk'.

Urban Forest Wood Reuse Plan

The need to plan for the sustainable reuse of urban felled trees was identified in the ACT Urban Forest Strategy 2021–45 and the ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023–30.

An average of 1,000 tonnes of solid timber by-product and 10,000 cubic metres of mulch are produced each year from urban forest activities. This by-product is from trees that have reached the end of their useful life and are removed so young trees can be planted in their place and from ongoing maintenance of the growing urban forest (now more than 845,926 trees).

The ACT Government has woodyards in Curtin and Mitchell where urban felled timber is stored and, where possible, processed and disseminated for further use. Unless the material is repurposed as wood products and an ongoing resource, this by-product creates a waste stream.

The government is committed to the sustainable reuse and repurposing of harvested wood to increase resource efficiency and decrease the carbon footprint. Reusing the wood can significantly reduce costs associated with dumping and purchasing new materials for the maintenance and development of Canberra's built and landscaped environment.

The newly drafted Urban Forest Wood Reuse Plan identifies actions that will ensure this urban forest by-product will be converted into the highest value material such as milled timber for furniture as well as a variety of lower value products to service government and community needs.

Part

B

Effectiveness of Government Actions

B1 – ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory

In 2024-25, the ACT's total net greenhouse gas emissions were 1,658 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO2 -e), representing a 46.9% drop in emissions from the 1990 baseline level. This reduction is mainly due to the continued use of 100% renewable electricity in Canberra for six years. Per capita emissions for 2024-25 were 3.4 tonnes CO2 -e, representing a 69% decrease from the 2012-13 baseline. Compared to the previous year, total net greenhouse emissions fell by 1.5%, from 1,684 kt CO2 -e in 2023-24 to 1,658 kt CO2 -e in 2024-25.

The main sources of emissions were ground transport (61.1%) and stationary energy (18.5%), which included fossil fuel gas combustion (16.7%), fugitive gas emissions (1.1%), and other stationary fuels (0.6%). Industrial processes and product use (refrigerants), waste including wastewater, agriculture, and aviation contributed 10.9%, 6%, 1.9%, and 1.7% of emissions, respectively. 5% 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 over 10%, while ground transport emissions decreased by over 1%.

B2 – 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 diesel, 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 Zero-Emission Transition Plan for Transport Canberra 2024 Refresh outlines key works to date since 2020 and new opportunities to support ACT's overall transition to zero emissions.
- 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.
- The Zero Emissions Government Fund, which supports energy efficiency, solar PV and battery storage works to support the transition to net zero.

Table 2 shows ACT Government's emissions performance in 2024-25.

Table 2: ACT Government's 2024–25 (financial year) performance against the baseline.

2019 baseline emissions (tCO2 -e)*	FY24 – 25 emissions (tCO2 -e)**	Emissions % change from baseline
65,416	62,840	-4%

B3 – 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 2024–25, the ACT Government successfully met its target to source 100% of the Territory's electricity from renewable sources for the sixth consecutive financial year. This means voluntarily surrendering 2,032,482 Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) to the Clean Energy Regulator on behalf of all ACT electricity users.

In 2024-25, in consultation with the Commonwealth Government, the ACT Government amended the methodology used for assessing compliance with the 100% renewable electricity target. The amendment more closely aligns the methodology with the market-based method presented by the Commonwealth Government in the *Australian National Greenhouse Account Factors 2023*.

The amendments include:

- Applying the Renewable Power Percentage (RPP) to all electricity flows in the ACT, rather than just that imported from NSW,
- Accounting for solar generation in the Territory from solar installations with a capacity less than 100 kilowatts as this scale of generation is not eligible to create LGCs under the Commonwealth's Renewable Energy Target (RET) scheme.

The amended methodology continues to account for the ACT's share of pre-existing hydro generation that is also not able to create LGCs under the RET (referred to as 'below-baseline' generation).

Table 3 outlines how the ACT achieved compliance with its 100% renewable electricity target.

Table 3 – 100% Renewable Electricity Target Acquittal 2024-25

100%Renewable Electricity Target Acquittal	Megawatt hours (MWh)
	2024-25
Electricity supplied to ACT customers	3,160,608
ACT share of Commonwealth LRET (RPP)	575,073
Grid connected renewables in the ACT <100kw	373,786
ACT share of NSW below baseline hydro generation	96,287
Total renewable electricity supply in the ACT	1,045,146
LGCs to be surrendered	2,115,462
LGCs carried forward from previous period	82,980
Total LGCs surrendered	2,032,482

B4 – Independent review of ACT Government action on climate change

Under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*, the Minister must, at least once every five years, ask an independent entity to assess, and report to the Minister about government policies, programs and practices to address climate change in the ACT, including actions taken to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Rooftop Social and the Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) at the University of Technology Sydney were engaged to review ACT Government action on climate change (the Review) to fulfil this requirement. The Review commenced mid-2024 and was completed in February 2025.

The Review found that the ACT has strong community support for climate action. It contains 13 recommendations that seek to enable Government to better develop and implement new and existing policies, programs and practices that mitigate and adapt to climate change. The recommendations were centred on creating an ACT climate action plan as a regularly updated, expanded version of the current Climate Change Strategy and creating structures to facilitate coordination, the building of partnerships, the sharing of expertise and involvement from the broader ACT community.

Part C

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 cost to ACT electricity consumers of $2.61 per megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity consumed, or around $16.97 a year for an average household consuming 6,500 kilowatt hours of electricity a year.

The cost of the administration and operation of the Small and Medium Feed-in Tariff Scheme in 2024-25 was $4.86/MWh, or $31.59 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 $48.56 in 2024-25 (Table 4).

Table 4: Climate change policy cost impact per representative household in 2024-25, compared to 2023-24

	Large-scale and small-scale FiT pass-through costs	EEIS pass-through costs	Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Standing Offer
2023-24	-$115.44	$18.85	$1,882.00
2024-25	$48.56	$22.75	$2,122.00

Appendix

A

Key climate policies and programs in effect in the ACT during 2024-25

SN	Policy/plan/program	Description	Year commenced
1	**The ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025**	This Strategy takes an integrated approach to climate change policy by bringing together adaptation, resilience and emissions reduction. It outlines 83 actions under 10 goals.	2019
2	**Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City**	This plan sets out the ACT Government's commitment to maintain and improve living infrastructure in Canberra. It outlines 15 different initiatives, to be implemented by the ACT Government between 2019 and 2045, that recognise the critical role that living infrastructure plays in our city, and the increasingly important role it will play, particularly in cooling the city as the climate warms.	2019
3	**Zero Emissions Vehicles Strategy 2022–30**	This Strategy sets out policies that commit the ACT to phasing out light internal combustion engine vehicles from 2035, expanding the public EV charging network to ensure that there are at least 180 publicly available charging stations in the ACT by 2025, and continuing advocacy for strong national policy.	2022
4	**Integrated Energy Plan 2024-2030**	The Integrated Energy Plan 2024-2030 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.	2024
5	**ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030**	This Strategy and Action Plan sets the high-level ambition with actions to drive the initial steps towards a more circular economy. The Strategy is underpinned by three strategic objectives, such as 1) grow extended producer responsibility, 2) grow markets for recovered materials and goods, and circular business models, and 3) create high-value jobs and attract innovative new enterprises.	2023
6	**ACT Waste Management Strategy 2011-2025**	This Strategy sets a clear direction for the management of waste in the ACT towards 2025. It outlines 29 strategies under four outcomes.	2011
7	**ACT Sustainable Buildings Pathway**	This is a ten-year pathway to lead the ACT towards international best practice on environmentally sustainable and climate resilient buildings.	2024
8	**Active Travel Plan 2024-30**	This Plan aims to drive a connected, safe and convenient active travel network in the ACT. It outlines ways to help Canberrans choose active travel options over other modes of travel.	2024
9	**Low Carbon Concrete Policy**	This policy requires designers, engineers and builders to provide options for using low carbon concrete in government projects, including detailed specifications where applicable.	2025
10	**ACT Disaster Resilience Strategy 2024-30**	This Strategy provides an overarching framework for building resilience to disasters across all parts of society in the ACT.	2024
11	**ACT Social Recovery Framework**	The Framework defines vision, principles, priorities, outcomes, and action areas of social recovery.	2024
12	**Canberra Region Local Food Strategy 2024-29**	This Strategy sets out actions under four goals, such as 1) increase local food production and consumption, 2) increase equitable access to local healthy food, 3) enhance social and economic outcomes through our local food system, and 4) support sustainable urban and rural farming practices.	2024
13	**Zero Emissions Transition Plan for Transport Canberra**	The Zero-Emission Transition Plan for Transport Canberra outlines the pathway to achieve the ACT Government's ambition of a zero-emission public transport system by 2040. It was refreshed in 2024.	2020
14	**ACT Planning Strategy**	This Strategy sets the long-term vision and strategic direction for land use and development across the Territory. It provides a framework for managing urban expansion, protecting Canberra's bushland character, and aligning planning decisions with broader government objectives. It aims to ensure that development was coordinated, responsive to community needs, and consistent with the principles of good planning embedded in the Act.	2018
15	**The Territory Plan 2023**	New planning rules to improve electrification, climate adaptation and resilience outcomes were implemented as part of the 2023 Territory Plan. These include new requirements for electric vehicle charging and urban tree canopy, clearer planning pathways for batteries and hydrogen and the introduction of urban heat provisions.	2023
16	**Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2045**	This Strategy sets out the ACT Government's vision for a resilient and sustainable urban forest that supports a liveable city and the natural environment. It guides how we care for all the trees in builtup urban areas and the vegetation, soil and water that support them.	2021
17	**Suburban Land Agency (SLA) Sustainability Strategy**	The SLA is committed to building smart, sustainable suburbs and urban renewal developments. The SLA Sustainability Strategy is designed to help Canberra become a sustainable city, while at the same time meeting growing housing needs. Through four themes of 'Resilient Communities', 'Zero Emissions Suburbs', 'Responsible Consumption and Production' and 'Healthy, Prosperous and Inclusive Places', the Strategy is used to guide all projects and sets priorities to ensure SLA places built now will be resilient, healthy and have a lower impact on the environment for the future thriving communities they need to support.	2021
18	**District Strategies**	District Strategies are a key strategic planning instrument under the ACT Planning Act 2023, designed to bridge the gap between the overarching ACT Planning Strategy and the statutory Territory Plan. Their purpose is to provide a long-term, place-based planning framework for each of Canberra's nine districts. These strategies support integrated planning by identifying where housing, infrastructure, services, and environmental protections should be prioritised to maintain liveability and sustainability as the city grows.	2023
19	**ACT Infrastructure Plan - Climate Action, Energy and Environment**	The Climate Action, Energy and Environment Infrastructure Plan Update outlines infrastructure projects necessary to deliver a resilient and environmentally responsible net-zero future for Canberra.	2024
20	**CBR Switched On: ACT's Economic Development Priorities 2022-2025**	CBR Switched On: ACT's Economic Development Priorities 2022–2025 has three missions: Mission 1: A city that gives you back time – a city of wellbeing and liveability Mission 2: Towards a net zero city and beyond – environmental responsibility and action Mission 3: Knowledge based economic growth – inclusive innovation and responsible investment.	2022
21	**ACT Waste-to Energy-Policy**	The Waste-to-Energy Policy was developed to inform industry and community about the energy recovery activities that are permitted in the ACT.	
22	**Minimum Standard for Rental Properties**	The ACT Government's Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard for Rental Homes in ceiling insulation commenced under the Residential Tenancies Regulation 1 April 2023. The standard requires rental providers of rental homes with no insulation or existing ceiling insulation below an R-value of R2, to install or upgrade the ceiling insulation to a minimum R-value of R5. There is a three year phase-in period to 30 November 2026, after which all ACT rental properties will be required to be compliant with the standard.	2023
23	**Emissions-based registration**	Following the conclusion of the free registration period for EVs in the ACT, the ACT Government has implemented emissions-based registration to reduce emissions and make fuel efficient vehicles more affordable for Canberrans.	2024
24	**Achieving 100% renewable electricity and phasing out fossil-fuel gas in the ACT**	The government has implemented a reverse auction process that achieved zero emissions from electricity by securing 100% renewable electricity from large-scale generators located across eastern and southern Australia as part of the National Electricity Market, with a legislated requirement to maintain 100% renewable electricity every year from 2020. The electrification pathway will be supported by continued growth and uptake of household and business solar photovoltaic systems and battery energy storage, as well as increased energy efficiency of buildings and appliances.	2011

SN	Policy/plan/program	Description	Year commenced
25	**Zero Emission Government Facility Guidelines**	The Guidelines are directed towards ensuring new ACT Government buildings and facilities are fossil-fuel-gas free, including new leases.	2022
26	**Electrification of Government Gas Assets program**	The Electrification of Government Gas Assets Program (EoGGA) involves gas asset replacement works and coordination of associated electricity network upgrade works, which are required for the electrification of over 1,000 gas assets in facilities owned and operated by the ACT Government. The purpose of this program is to assist in the transition of ACT facilities off fossil fuel gas in line with emissions reduction targets.	2023
27	**Zero Emissions Government Loan Fund**	The Zero Emissions Government Loan Fund provides funding to ACT Government agencies to undertake energy and resource efficiency projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of rising utility costs.	2020
28	**Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)**	Under this scheme, electricity retailers are required to deliver energy savings activities to households and small-to-medium businesses, or contribute to ACT Government programs.	2013
29	**Sustainable Household Scheme**	The Sustainable Household Scheme provides low-interest loans (and previously provided zero-interest loans) of $2000 to $15,000 to households and not-for-profit community organisations for a range of products, including household batteries, insulation, energy-efficient appliances, and new and used zero emissions vehicles and charging infrastructure.	2021
30	**The Home Energy Support Scheme**	The Home Energy Support Scheme is a $50 million program to improve building efficiency and sustainability for social and public housing, low-income owner-occupiers, and the lowest performing rental properties; this includes upgrades to government housing, and financial incentives to implement minimum energy efficiency standards in rental properties. Another stream of the Scheme is the Home Energy Support Program, which provides up to $5,000 in rebates for eligible homeowners to help with the costs of installing energy-efficient products. Eligible homeowners include those with an Australian Government Pensioner Concession Card, Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card or an Australian Government Health Care Card. If eligible, the rebate can be combined with a zero-interest loan of up to $10,000 to help with remaining costs.	2016
31	**Energy Innovation Fund**	The Energy Innovation Fund, formerly known as the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund (REIF), provides grants for new business models and innovation to solve clean energy challenges and accelerate the uptake of clean energy initiatives.	2016
32	**The ACT Community Zero Emissions Grants program**	The ACT Community Zero Emissions Grants program supports activities that increase community resilience to climate impacts and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the ACT.	2017
33	**Retrofit Readiness Program**	This program will provide education, advice and technical assessments of apartment buildings, to help the buildings develop a plan to electrify their gas assets. Advice and administrative support will help stakeholders understand and make their way through the ACT's unit title rules and regulations. Buildings will also receive a technical engineering report providing a recommended electrification solution that is tailored to the building's needs.	2024
34	**Sustainable Home Advice Program**	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.	2014
35	**Renter's Home Energy Program**	The Renter's Home Energy Program provides free in-home or phone-based energy assessments for renters. The program also provides an online home energy self-assessment webtool.	2020
36	**Home Energy Efficiency Program**	The Home Energy Efficiency 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.	2015
37	**Sustainable Business Program**	The Sustainable Business Program supports businesses in the following areas: Energy - provides free advice on ways to improve energy efficiency. Transport - provides administrative and procurement advice to transition business fleet to zero emissions vehicles. Waste - supports through auditing waste practices to look for new recycling opportunities, developing a waste management plan, educating staff, reporting and monitoring, and providing resources and signage for workplace. Water - provides advice on ways to improve water efficiency. The program also provides a certificate of recognition for undertaking at least one action area.	2012
38	**Energy Assistance Community Partnership Program**	The Energy Assistance Community Partnership (EACP) Program is funded by the ACT Government and delivered by St Vincent de Paul and Care Financial. The program builds capacity of the community sector to identify and support vulnerable energy consumers in the ACT with advice and connecting them with energy support, concessions and rebates.	2021
39	**Wood Heater Removal Program**	The Wood Heater Removal Program aims to improve the ACT's air quality by offering rebates for the removal and disposal of older high emission wood fuel heaters. Households can access further financial incentives from complementary programs to install an electric energy efficient alternative heating source if required.	2004
40	**Ride or Walk to School Program**	The Ride or Walk to School Program provides ACT schools with resources to teach students how to cycle safely and independently to school to increase active travel rates and improve safety on our roads around schools. Even better they can provide ACT schools with mountain bikes and helmets to loan for 4-week periods to encourage active travel.	2012
41	**Big Canberra Battery**	The Big Canberra Battery project will deliver an ecosystem of batteries across the ACT to ensure that our electricity grid remains stable. The project will deliver a 250 megawatt (MW)/500 megawatt-hour (MWh) battery located at Williamsdale ACT. The project also includes the installation of small and large-scale behind-the-meter batteries as well as neighbourhood-scale batteries.	2021
42	**Preparing Community Service Organisations for Climate Change Pilot**	This is a pilot program supporting community sector organisations to identify climate risks and implement actions that will support the ongoing viability and effectiveness of their operations in a changing climate. The pilot is co-funded by the Commonwealth Disaster Ready Fund and runs to mid-2027.	2023
43	**Nature conservation and protected areas projects**	A series of projects including: • adaptation pathways report on the Future of Fire in the ACT • adaptation pathways for Namadgi National Park.	2022
44	**Food and Garden Organic (FOGO) Waste Collection Pilot**	The Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection pilot enables participating households to segregate their organic food and garden waste into a separate bin to avoid methane generated from landfills and create a compost product.	2021
45	**Landfill Gas Capture**	LGI Limited (LGI) is contracted by the ACT Government to operate gas capture and power generation at the Mugga Lane landfill gas power station. This initiative contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, generating renewable energy, and decreasing reliance on fossil fuels, while also mitigating associated health and safety risks.	2020
46	**NARCLiM Project**	NARCliM is the NSW and Australian Regional Climate Modelling (NARCliM) project. It creates detailed climate change projections for south-eastern Australia, including the ACT. These projections help us prepare for the impacts of climate change. NARCliM is led by the NSW Government with support from the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia governments, as well as National Computational Infrastructure, the University of New South Wales and Murdoch University.	2011

Appendix **B**

Progress on actions

Previous reports under the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010 have provided status and progress updates on actions from key strategic documents. The following provides a status update on actions that were not considered ‘ delivered/ business as usual’ in previous reporting periods. Further information on climate actions is provided in the full report.

✔ **Delivered/BAU**	The initiative has been delivered and/or is now considered Business As Usual (BAU)
✔ **Work progressing**	Work on this inititive has begun
✔ **Work on hold**	Work has paused on this initiative

The majority of the 83 actions in the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25 are “Delivered/BAU” (67). Work is still progressing on 15 actions and work is on hold for 1 action.

Similarly, the majority of the 15 actions in Canberra’s Living Infrastructure Plan are “Delivered/BAU”. Work is still progressing on 4 actions.

Further, the majority of the 28 actions in the ACT’s Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy 2022-30 are “Delivered/BAU”. Work is still progressing on 8 actions.

ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25

Action	Action description	Status
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.	✔ **Delivered/BAU**
3.04	Prioritise improving public transport services and supporting infrastructure, including buses, light rail stage two and connecting services.	✔ **Work progressing**
3.05	Maximise accessibility to the rapid bus and light rail networks through feeder services and expanding the Park and Ride network.	✔ **Work progressing**
3.12	Trial and evaluate innovative approaches to planning and development that prioritise active travel and public transport.	✔ **Work progressing**
3.13	Implement car free days and consider car free areas, shared zones and traffic calmed streets.	✔ **Delivered/BAU**
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**
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**
3.18	Investigate options for dedicating a greater proportion of road space and public realm space to sustainable transport modes.	✔ **Work progressing**
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.	✔ **Delivered/BAU**
4.17	Develop a new residential energy assessment tool that adequately assesses the year-round thermal performance of buildings in the Canberra climate.	✔ **Delivered/BAU**
4.18	Trial incentives and other measures to encourage all-electric, high efficiency apartment and commercial buildings.	✔ **Delivered/BAU**
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**
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**
5.02	Encourage community preparedness for climate risks through targeted Emergency Services Agency outreach and the Actsmart sustainability programs.	✔ **Work progressing**
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.	✔ **Delivered/BAU**
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**
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**

Action	Action description	Status
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.	**Delivered/BAU**
5.12	Establish a pathway to zero emissions ACT Government schools supported by an interim emissions reduction plan to 2025.	**Work progressing**
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**
6.02	Implement the Actsmart programs and household waste education programs to reduce waste generation and increase recycling	**Delivered/BAU**
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**
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 on hold**
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**
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.	**Delivered/BAU**
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.	**Delivered/BAU**

Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City

Action	Action description	Status
2	Achieve 30% tree canopy cover (or equivalent) and 30% permeable surfaces in Canberra's urban footprint by 2045.	**Work progressing**
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**
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**
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.	**Delivered/BAU**
10	Trial city cooling initiatives in high priority locations.	**Work progressing**
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.	**Delivered/BAU**
14	Support trials and demonstration projects to retrofit infrastructure to allow hydration of open spaces using stormwater.	**Delivered/BAU**
15	Investigate ways to encourage and incentivise living infrastructure on existing and future buildings in Canberra.	**Delivered/BAU**

ACT's Zero Emissions Vehicles Strategy 2022-2030

Action	Action description	Status in 2024-25
1	Aim to achieve 80-90% of new light vehicle sales in the ACT being ZEVs in 2030	✔ **Work progressing**
2	Phase-out light internal combustion engine vehicles from 2035	✔ **Work progressing**
3	Prohibit onboarding of new ICE vehicles to rideshare and taxi networks by 2030	✔ **Work progressing**
10	Deliver more than 70 publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations across Canberra in 2022-23	✔ **Delivered/BAU**
11	Expand the public EV charging network to ensure there are at least 180 publicly available charging stations in the ACT by 2025	✔ **Delivered/BAU**
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.	✔ **Delivered/BAU**
13	Continue cross-jurisdictional engagement to make EV chargers available on common interstate, long distance transit routes	✔ **Work progressing**
15	Introduce $2,000 incentives for installation of EV charging in multi-unit buildings	✔ **Work progressing**
20	Develop a strategic plan for long term (post 2030) charging needs for the ACT fleet (excluding buses)	✔ **Delivered/BAU**
21	Deliver the next stage of ACT Government fleet vehicle charging infrastructure	✔ **Work progressing**
25	Implement a pathway towards a transition to zero emission waste trucks by the mid-2030s	✔ **Work progressing**
26	Explore opportunities to replace government commercial and heavy vehicles with ZEVs as models become available	✔ **Work progressing**

2024-25 Minister's Annual Report

Under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*

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