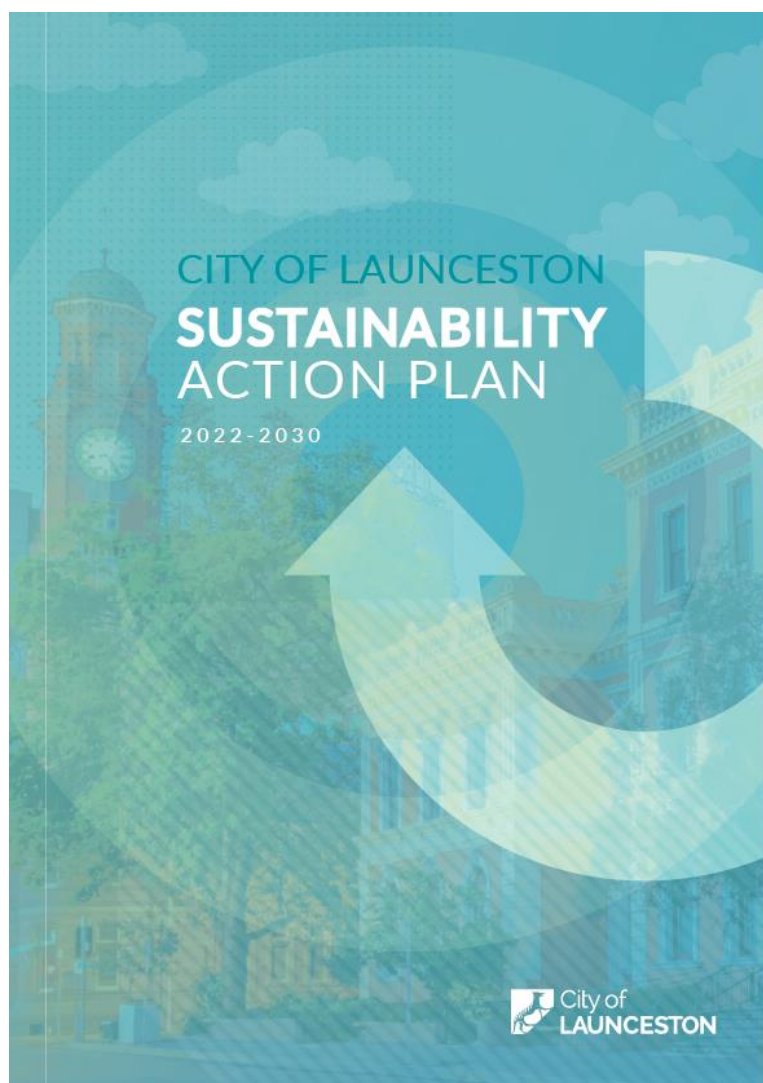


City of Launceston Sustainability Action Plan Review January 2023



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Introduction

In January 2022, the City of Launceston Council formally endorsed the **Sustainability Action Plan 2022-2030** as the full implementation plan of the Sustainability Strategy. It sets out how we will improve environmental sustainability across the City of Launceston's operations, service delivery and assets, and how we will support and advocate for our community.

The City of Launceston Sustainability Team is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Sustainability Action Plan and reporting on progress. The Sustainability Team implements the Action Plan in collaboration with all internal teams at the City of Launceston, as well as relevant industry, business and community groups.

Each year, City of Launceston will report on the progress towards the implementation of the Action Plan and review the actions. This is the first progress report which shows progress made from January 2022 to January 2023.



Summary of Progress

The Sustainability Action Plan has 139 actions across six key priority areas. The purpose of the Review is to show progress against actions and review the relevance of each action.

The status of each action is shown as: In progress, Achieved, Ongoing, Not yet commenced, Behind and Discontinued.



Not yet commenced



In progress



Behind



Achieved



Ongoing



Discontinued

Since the endorsement of the Sustainability Action Plan in January 2022, 24 actions have been achieved (including 13 ongoing) and one action is behind planned timeframes (Action 2.16). All other actions are in progress or not yet commenced (as per planned timeframes). One action has been discontinued (Action 1.4 and 5.17 have been combined and Action 5.17 is discontinued).

The action reported as behind its scheduled timeframe (Action 2.16 *Calculate annual community emissions*) is due to delays in the provision of data from utility companies which is required for Council to calculate community emissions. Discussions are underway with utility companies and other Tasmanian Councils to improve data collection and the reporting of community emissions.

1. Leadership & Advocacy

This key priority area aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Communicate, monitor and assess the City of Launceston's progress in sustainability performance
2. Build our capacity in delivering sustainability outcomes
3. Enhance the sustainability outcomes of our procurement process and supply chain
4. Advocate for the community on sustainability related matters outside of the City of Launceston's control.

The Sustainable Development Goals that this key area contributes to include:

The Leadership & Advocacy key priority area will focus on improving the City of Launceston's performance score in SDGs:



Action	Timeframe	Cost	Commentary (Jan 2023)	Status
1.1a Develop a framework to monitor and assess actions and provide publicly available updates on the progress of the Sustainability Action Plan annually - develop framework	Short term / ongoing	\$	Tracking framework developed	Achieved
1.1b Develop a framework to monitor and assess actions and provide publicly available updates on the progress of the Sustainability Action Plan annually - provide public updates annually	Short term / ongoing	\$	Ongoing publication of updates (this progress report) on the Council website	Achieved / ongoing
1.2 Review and update the City of Launceston's sustainability content on Council's website and social media platforms	Short term / ongoing	\$	Updated and additional sustainability content added to Council's website	Achieved / ongoing
1.3a Undertake a follow up review at the mid and end point of this Action Plan (2026/27) to ensure we are on track to achieving a higher performance score for the relevant SDGs. Publicly report on our progress - mid point assessment in 2026/27	Moderate to long term	\$	Due to commence in 2026	Not yet commenced
1.3b Undertake a follow up review at the mid and end point of this Action Plan (2026/27) to ensure we are on track to achieving a higher performance score for the relevant SDGs. Publicly report on	Long term	\$	Due to commence in 2026	Not yet commenced

our progress - end point assessment in 2030				
1.4 Develop and roll out a sustainability education and awareness program across Council	Short to moderate term / ongoing	\$	Actions 1.4 and 5.17 now combined (Action 5.17 is now discontinued). Internal working group formed to develop a training package to address environmental risk and sustainability. External training facilitators shortlisted in Jan 2023	In progress
1.5 Develop a Sustainability Working Group within Council to help implement the Sustainability Action Plan	Short term / ongoing	\$	A sustainability working group has been established consisting of staff leading the implementation of actions	Achieved
1.6 / 6.2 Update Council's procurement policy and strategy to ensure goods and services purchased by Council meet criteria for environmental, social and governance responsibility	Short term	\$	Updated procurement policy and procedure in development	In progress
1.7 Assign sustainability weighting / evaluation criteria in tender evaluations to encourage the procurement of sustainable goods and services	Short term / ongoing	\$	Sustainability weightings and evaluation criteria applied to several tenders. Council will continue to include sustainability weighting in future tenders and add this function in the new corporate application program for procurement	In progress
1.8 Communicate with the City of Launceston's supply chain on our sustainability targets; include sustainable procurement awareness in our induction program for suppliers, and encourage transparency from suppliers on their sustainability targets and achievements	Short term / ongoing	\$	Sustainability content for suppliers and contractors drafted for induction package; sustainability content drafted for tender package; and worked directly with suppliers to increase our sustainable procurement	In progress
1.9 Participate in industry research, round table discussions, conferences, working groups etc. that contribute to delivering sustainable outcomes for the community	Short term / ongoing	\$	Some examples of Council's participation include: PIA Tasmanian Built Environment Climate Action Summit; Exploring Sustainable Cities (Sustainable Cities conference; NTWVG Waste Conference; NESP2 Sustainable communities and waste hub; Climate Emergency Australia various webinars; Hydrogen CRC Industry Partner Workshop; Zero Waste Events Tasmania (ZWET) workshop and working group; presented at the LGAT Climate Change Conference; Tas Gov NRE Tas Catchment Yield Science Update project; Tas WMRR Forum; participated in UTAS Masters research project, "Auditing built environments for vulnerability to heatwaves"	Achieved / ongoing
1.10 Continue the divestment from all direct fossil fuel aligned investments and further explore the divestment from indirect fossil fuel aligned activities e.g. banking	Moderate to long term / ongoing	\$	No direct investment in fossil fuel investments. Investigating Council's indirect investments through banking and super funds	In progress

and superannuation (in line with Cities Power Partnership pledges)				
1.11 Share and emphasise our sustainability and collaboration wins to encourage similar rollout across the community	Short term / ongoing	\$	Ongoing promotion of Council's sustainability wins including: Waste videos on YouTube ; Natural capital wins such as the Kings Meadows rivulet sign ; Bike week activities; Sustainable Community Working Group and other collaborating groups ; Council's sustainability news	In progress
1.12 Participate in a working group with local stakeholders in which sustainability is a key theme	Short term / ongoing	\$	Council's Sustainability Officer is a member of the Sustainable Community Working Group (SCWG) who meet monthly and aim to connect, educate and mobilise the community to enhance sustainability outcomes for Launceston	Achieved / ongoing
1.13 Increase funding allocation to community sustainability projects	Short to moderate term	\$\$	Due to commence in 2023	Not yet commenced
1.14 Advocate for State and Federal Governments to increase sustainable transport outcomes across the region including the introduction of rigorous minimum vehicle emissions standards; incentives for low and zero emission vehicles; change in legislation to support electric scooters; and the provision of funding for sustainable transport infrastructure (in line with Cities Power Partnership pledges)	Short term / ongoing	\$	Advocated for the change in legislation to support electric scooters; supported lobbying the Federal Government to reduce remove local government Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) for EVs (successful) and emissions standards (TBC); supported lobbying Metro and the State Government Minister for the extension of the free public transport that occurred in April 2022; currently supporting Metro's Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) trial in Launceston	In progress
1.15 Advocate for product stewardship at State and Federal levels to minimise waste generation from product and packaging manufacturing	Moderate term / ongoing	\$	Advocated through the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group (NTWMG) and the new program (NTWMP) e.g. e-waste, household batteries, paint, and drum muster stewardships	In progress
1.16 Support the delivery of a major sustainability event for the local community to increase the awareness of sustainable lifestyle choices	Moderate term	\$	Sponsored the Sustainable Living Festival Oct-21 and sits on the Sustainable Communities Working Group who delivered the festival	In progress
1.17 Undertake community engagement to further understand the sustainability priorities of the community and where the City of Launceston's support is most needed. Include actions as part of the first Sustainability Action Plan review (to be achieved biannually)	Short term / ongoing	\$\$	Council completed another community survey "A Well Designed City" in Dec-22 via the Tomorrow Together community engagement program. Results will be analysed to understand community priorities and further engagement to follow	In progress

2. Towards Zero Emissions

This key priority area aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Measure, monitor and track our emissions profile and progress in reducing emissions
2. Avoid and reduce our consumption of energy and materials and maximise efficiencies
3. Transition to electrification and renewable energy
4. Increase the diversion of waste to landfill
5. Explore and support emission capture and sequestration technologies and initiatives.

The Sustainable Development Goals that this key area contributes to include:

The Towards Zero Emissions key priority area will focus on improving the City of Launceston's performance score in SDGs:



Action	Timeframe	Cost	Commentary (Jan 2023)	Status
2.1 Calculate City of Launceston's annual emissions from operations	Ongoing	\$	Achieved for the 2021/2022 financial year	Achieved / ongoing
2.2 Develop a framework to track emission reduction actions and provide publicly available updates on the progress of actions	Short term / ongoing	\$	Framework developed and updates published on the Council website	Achieved
2.3 Undertake a desktop audit of City of Launceston's high energy consuming facilities to identify energy opportunities	Short term / ongoing	\$	Energy data collated and annual comparisons underway	In progress
2.4 / 6.6 Continue upgrading the City of Launceston's facilities to increase energy efficiencies e.g. efficient heat, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, adequate insulation and ventilation, window glazing, high efficiency LED lighting and de-lamping etc.	Moderate term / ongoing	\$\$\$\$	Upgrade of Lighting and HVAC systems underway. Windows and insulation to be investigated	In progress

2.5 Transition gas powered facilities to electrification	Short to moderate term	\$\$\$\$	Launceston Leisure and Aquatic Centre (LAC) transitioned off gas to heat pumps and solar; UTAS stadium gas showers to be upgraded to electric; QVMAG gas boiler replacement to electric now has budget allocated for 2023/2024; working with stakeholders on the transition of Council's cremator off gas (no electric cremators currently exist in Australia)	In progress
2.6 / 6.17 Investigate opportunities to utilise low embodied emission, reusable and recycled materials for City of Launceston's construction works, including the construction of assets, asset upgrades and maintenance works whilst adhering to design and construction standards	Short term / ongoing	\$	Council is currently investigating the procurement of road surfacing products that incorporates otherwise landfill-bound materials such as soft plastics, crumbed rubber, ground glass, road millings, reclaimed asphalt, and ink toners. Council attended information sessions with Austral and Boral to understand lower embodied carbon alternatives to current material usage (e.g. concrete and bricks). Council is increasing knowledge in sustainable timber products (e.g. scientifically engineered timber). LCA and embodied carbon calculation tools have been researched for future use	In progress
2.7 / 6.18 Continue the transition of powering buildings, fleet, plant and equipment by renewable energy sources	Long term / ongoing	\$\$\$\$	Council is continuing the transition of buildings to renewable energy with three facilities remaining on gas and ongoing installation of solar panels on Council-managed facilities (installed more than 1,785 panels or 466kW across 13 Council facilities). Council fleet consists of two electric vehicles and internal working group established to increase the number of electric vehicles	In progress
2.8 Set targets to increase the level of renewable power for the City of Launceston's operations over time (in line with Cities Power Partnership pledges)	Short term	\$	Data being collated on market availability and approximate costs of renewable energy powered vehicles and equipment	In progress
2.9 / 6.22 Investigate and trial alternative transport options for work travel e.g. introduction of electric bikes and scooters to City of Launceston's fleet	Short term / ongoing	\$\$	Micromobility working committee established and initial work completed on developing policy for staff to use micromobility devices for work travel	In progress

2.10 Promote and incentivise sustainable and active employee travel to and from work (e.g. discounted Greencards, explore salary sacrificing electric bike, scooters and vehicle purchases, and conduct cycle and hands on maintenance education programs etc.)	Short to moderate term	\$	The construction of the Town Hall End of Trip facility is nearing completion (Mar-23) and will provide staff with appropriate amenities to support sustainable and active travel to and from work (e.g. showers, change rooms, lockers and secure micromobility device storage). Council is also investigating other programs for staff incentives	In progress
2.11 Coordinate the increase of gas capture capacity and efficiencies in the existing landfill gas extraction system	Long term / ongoing	\$	Scoping plans in progress with LMS (operators of the landfill gas capture system). Some delays have occurred in the expansion of gas capture infrastructure due to various site factors	In progress
2.12 / 4.4 Promote commercial FOGO services for organisations generating large volumes of organic waste	Long term	\$	Several commercial companies onboarded including: LGH, Harvest Markets, local events and Peppers Silos. In discussions with several more organisations to onboard in 2023	In progress
2.13 / 4.5 Continue to expand kerbside FOGO collection services to cover entire municipality	Moderate term	\$\$	All of municipality made eligible for voluntary kerbside FOGO from July 2022	Achieved
2.14 Investigate the technology available to assess City of Launceston's carbon sinks and sequestration capacity	Moderate term	\$\$	Consultant currently engaged to investigate Council's options	In progress
2.15 Establish the City of Launceston's carbon offset options to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025	Short to moderate term / ongoing	\$\$	Carbon offsets scoping study completed and a decision support tool developed for comparing carbon offset options. Carbon offset options and decision booked for Council workshop in mid 2023	In progress
2.16 Calculate annual community emissions	Ongoing	\$	Delays in receiving data and finalising calculations	Behind / ongoing

2.17 Set emissions reduction targets for community emissions	Moderate term	\$-\$	Waiting on Tomorrow Together survey results (and possible community workshop).	Not yet commenced
2.18 In partnership with key stakeholders, develop and promote communication tools to educate the community on climate change and climate mitigation actions that can be undertaken in homes and businesses to reduce emissions	Short to moderate term	\$\$	Partnerships include with ClimateClever, the Sustainable Community Working Group and the Van Diemen Project. Tools available on Council website " Living Sustainably "	Achieved
2.19 Explore publically available data on the proportion of energy type used in the municipality to identify opportunities for the City of Launceston to support the community in transitioning to clean, safe and affordable energy	Moderate term	\$	Due to commence July 2025	Not yet commenced
2.20 Promote any upcoming state and federal grant funding to the community to stimulate locally driven emissions reduction actions	Ongoing	\$	Several grants promoted including: Solar sports complexes grant; Business Resource Efficiency Program (BREP); and Healthy Tasmania Fund - Healthy Focus Grants - includes climate change consideration	Achieved / Ongoing
2.21 Support schools and businesses in the delivery of emissions reduction initiatives e.g. ClimateClever	Short term / ongoing	\$\$	Continued promotion of the ClimateClever platform with homes, schools and businesses in 2021 and 2022 including direct engagement, promotion on the Council website, and hosting of a community online webinar presentation	In progress
2.22 In partnership with key stakeholders, support local industry to transition to low emissions farming and regenerative agriculture practices	Short to moderate term / ongoing	\$	Financially supported by Council, Tamar NRM is set to deliver a series of "On Farm" forums in 2023 aimed at local farmers and interested community members. These sustainable agriculture workshops will focus on topics relevant to small and new land holders, such as fire, forestry, fences, carbon farming, soil, succession planning, water, waste, and weeds.	In progress

3. Adaptation & Resilience

This key area aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Improve understanding and communication of climate change risks and impacts across the City of Launceston's services, operations, assets, local community and the region
2. Increase the resilience of the City of Launceston's service delivery, operations and assets to a changing climate
3. Increase the resilience of residents and businesses enabling better preparedness, response and recovery from the impacts of climate change
4. Seek opportunities to collaborate on climate adaptation with key stakeholders and all levels of government.

The Sustainable Development Goals and Cities Power Partnership pledge that this key area contributes to include:

The Adaptation & Resilience key priority area will focus on improving the City of Launceston's performance score in SDGs:



Action	Timeframe	Cost	Commentary (Jan 2023)	Status
3.1 Participate in a working group to collaborate and progress climate adaptation at a regional or state level	Short term / ongoing	\$\$	Council led the development of the Northern Tasmanian Climate Change Group. The group was formed to collaborate across councils in Northern Tasmania on Climate Change Action Planning (CCAP) and align with work undertaken by the Southern Tasmanian Council Authority (STCA) Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI). Northern Tasmanian Councils have contributed funding to appoint a Northern Tasmania Climate Change Coordinator to progress climate adaptation planning at a regional and state level	In progress
3.2 Develop publically available climate change educational resources targeted at the local level	Short term	\$	Launceston climate projections project finalised and published on the Council website . Information to be shared with community groups and schools in 2023	In progress

3.3 Develop a climate change communication plan for internal and external purposes (at either a municipal or regional level)	Moderate Short term	\$-\$	This action was due to commence in 2024, however, Council has updated the timeframe to be short term to align with best practice governance. Action will now commence in 2023	Not yet commenced
3.4 Utilising the most recent climate projections for the municipality, review the City of Launceston's climate vulnerabilities and risks (including physical, transition and liability risks) to operations, services and assets, and update adaptation actions (as needed) to increase resilience (e.g. heat island affect and water availability)	Moderate term	\$\$- \$\$\$	Updated physical, transition and liability risks have been drafted. Council is awaiting state-wide instructions on the risk assessment process to be led by the Tasmanian State Government	In progress
3.5 In partnership with NRM groups, utilise the most recent climate projections for the municipality and review the City of Launceston's previous vulnerability assessments on its natural resource management, including high value and susceptible vegetation communities, and adapt management practices to increase resilience	Moderate term	\$- \$\$\$	Due to commence in 2025	Not yet commenced
3.6 Work with local Tasmanian Aboriginal people to increase Council's understanding of culturally significant sites on the City of Launceston's managed land and the need to protect them from the impacts of climate change.	Long term / ongoing	\$\$	Due to commence in 2023/2024. Action has also been included in the review of Council's Draft Aboriginal Partnership Plan	Not yet commenced
3.7 Review and update the public risk register in relation to climate change risks (as needed)	Short term / ongoing	\$	Due to commence in 2023/2024	Not yet commenced
3.8 Review the City of Launceston's service delivery to determine whether additional or modified climate responsive services are required to adapt to a changing climate	Moderate term	\$	Discussions underway with Council's Governance team for inclusion in Council's risk register	In progress

<p>3.9 Review the City of Launceston's emergency management planning and emergency response and recovery plans to ensure they are based on the most recent climate projections</p>	<p>Short term / ongoing</p>	<p>\$</p>	<p>The Launceston Municipality Emergency Management Plan was updated in 2022. Other emergency management documents currently being developed to include climate change considerations</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>3.10 Review the alternative emergency egress roads from residential areas that are vulnerable to bushfire and flooding</p>	<p>Short term / ongoing</p>	<p>\$</p>	<p>Tas Fire Service is hosting bushfire planning information sessions. Council is working closely with the SES to review the Launceston Flood Evacuation Plan and the SES is undertaking a state-wide flood mapping project to inform flood risk at a state-wide level. Council is a member of the working group investigating the risk assessment component</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>3.11 Undertake a review of land use planning in levee protected areas to minimise the flood risk for future developments</p>	<p>Short term</p>	<p>\$</p>	<p>The draft Specific Area Plan was presented at Council workshop Dec-22. The scheme amendment will be undertaken early 2023. Standard provisions will apply across the levee protected areas and development will have restrictions based on the flood risk zone</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>3.12 Integrate updated climate risks and adaptation actions in the City of Launceston's future strategic documents</p>	<p>Moderate Short term / ongoing</p>	<p>\$</p>	<p>This action was due to commence in 2024, however, Council has updated the timeframe to be short term to align with best practice governance.</p> <p>Reference to climate risks and adaptation actions are included in some specific strategy documents including: Transport Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy, Storm System Management Plan, and Urban Waterway Program. Climate risks are included in several individual asset management risk registers. However, there is limited reference to climate change/ environmental sustainability in the Strategic Plan, the Long Term Financial Management Plan (including Financial Management Risks), and the Asset Management Policy. Climate risks and adaptation actions will be integrated into these strategic documents as part of upcoming document reviews</p>	<p>In progress</p>

<p>3.13 As part of developing the Environmental Sustainable Buildings Policy or Guideline for the design, construction and major refurbishments of City of Launceston buildings, ensure the climate adaptation component includes key adaptation solutions such as adaptive building location, use of future climate appropriate building materials, and engineering solutions to increased extreme weather events and a changing climate (e.g. increased guttering and downpipe capacity, increased roof durability, water sensitive urban design (WSUD), rainwater harvesting, thermal comfort, increased tree canopy cover in adjacent areas, self-sufficient powered emergency facilities etc.)</p>	Short term / ongoing	\$	Due to commence in 2023	Not yet commenced
<p>3.14 Target priority areas for design alternatives to the use of hard impermeable surfaces (e.g. concrete/asphalt infill to road verges, car parks, stormwater drains etc.) to adapt to the impacts of climate change and increase green cover throughout the city (e.g. WSUD for improved filtration of stormwater runoff in heavy rainfall events and green infrastructure to moderate microclimates during heatwaves while providing habitat for local biodiversity)</p>	Moderate term	\$-\$\$\$	Various projects have included alternatives to hard impermeable surfaces e.g. CBD raingardens, Newnham reserve stormwater mitigation project, and the urban waterways program	In progress
<p>3.15 Review and update our insurances and indemnities in regards to liability of property damage in flood, storm and bushfire events</p>	Short term / ongoing	\$	Due to commence in 2023	Not yet commenced
<p>3.16 In partnership with the Tasmanian Fire Service, investigate treatment options for fuel modified buffer zones within the City of Launceston's managed reserves to appropriately reduce fuel loads around infrastructure and assets</p>	Short to moderate term	\$-\$\$	Council is progressing fire management and fuel reduction activities for adaptation and resilience	In progress

<p>3.17 Engage with local Tasmanian Aboriginal people on the use of traditional knowledge to better manage the landscape (e.g. cultural burning practices) and explore the opportunity for a collaborative trial on City of Launceston's managed land</p>	Short to moderate term	\$	Council attended cultural burning workshops held by NRM North in 2022. Further work will be undertaken as part of the review of Council's draft Aboriginal Partnership Plan in 2023	In progress
<p>3.18 Review all strategy documentation relevant to flora to ensure the impacts of climate change have been considered in future planning and works (e.g. species tolerant to increased temperatures, extended dry periods, and high intensity rainfall events, species with higher sequestration rates, species that provide greater shade)</p>	Moderate to long term	\$	Due to commence in 2025. The Urban Forestry Strategy will include these considerations	Not yet commenced
<p>3.19 / 5.8 Develop and implement an Urban Forestry Strategy (with the inclusion of a baseline assessment, setting of targets to increase tree canopy cover, applying a climate adaptation approach and increasing green infrastructure)</p>	Short term	\$\$- \$\$\$	Stakeholder consultation conducted and strategy in development. A draft strategy will be available for public consultation early 2023	In progress
<p>3.20 Support the capacity building of the community to be prepared for, adapt, and build resilience to the impacts of climate change (e.g. extreme storms, bushfire, flooding, drought and increased temperatures) on health, lifestyle and physical assets</p>	Short term	\$\$- \$\$\$	Internal Council working group established to progress this action. Activities to date include: initial discussions held with community groups to host community information sessions and workshops on disaster preparedness and resilience; recovery stakeholder contact spreadsheet for emergency management in development; as part of Council's ABCDE Learning program, planning is underway to host an initial community discussion in Invermay about emergency preparedness; the latest Tomorrow Together survey, "A Well Designed City" includes questions about the community's resilience (climate change adaptation, and emergency management and preparedness)	In progress
<p>3.21 Promote and share community climate adaptation initiatives and achievements</p>	Short to moderate term	\$	Discussions on content sharing through the Sustainable Community Working Group (SCWG) is underway	In progress

4. Material Efficiency, Recovery & Optimisation

This key priority area aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Avoid and reduce community waste generation
2. Increase the diversion of waste to landfill and reduce contamination within waste streams
3. Avoid and reduce waste generation from the City of Launceston’s operations and owned facilities
4. Support the development of new technologies in alternatives to landfill.

The Sustainable Development Goals and Cities Power Partnership pledge that this key area contributes to include:

The Material Efficiency, Recovery & Optimisation key priority area will focus on improving the City of Launceston's performance score in SDGs:



Action	Timeframe	Cost	Commentary (Jan 2023)	Status
4.1 Using a waste hierarchy lens, develop and implement a Council wide communication, awareness and education plan and program to build staff capacity to minimise material usage and increase material recovery and optimisation	Long term / ongoing	\$\$	Due to commence in 2023/2024 (following the construction of the Town Hall waste storage hub)	Not yet commenced
4.2 Review sustainable landfill and FOGO pricing to drive higher waste avoidance, reduction, reuse, recycle and composting rates, and implement changes if necessary	Short to moderate term / ongoing	\$	The future Landfill Development Plan contains information on pricing which is near completion. It is also noted that the State wide levy (implemented July 2022) has impacts on price increases (e.g. user pays system)	In progress
4.3 Review kerbside collection stream types and frequency, and implement changes if necessary	Long term	\$\$\$\$	Due to commence in 2027	Not yet commenced
4.4 / 2.12 Promote commercial FOGO services for organisations generating large volumes of organic waste	Long term / ongoing	\$	Several commercial companies onboarded including LGH, Harvest Markets, local events and Peppers Silos. Discussions occurring with local supermarkets and additional hotels	In progress

4.5 / 2.13 Continue to expand kerbside FOGO collection services to cover entire Local Government Authority boundary	Moderate term	\$\$	All of municipality made eligible for voluntary kerbside FOGO from July 1 2022	Achieved
4.6 Invest in expanding the composting facility to cater for increases in materials	Moderate to long term	\$\$\$\$	Due to commence in 2025	Not yet commenced
4.7 Plan for and establish a construction and demolition recovery facility	Moderate term	\$\$\$\$	Scoping/feasibility study and business case in development	In progress
4.8 Conduct kerbside (general waste), landfill and transfer station audits to increase understanding of waste materials and opportunities to divert from landfill	Short to moderate term	\$\$\$	Audit completed. Next audit due in 2024/25	Achieved / Ongoing
4.9 Upgrade waste transfer stations to meet best practice standards	Long term	\$\$\$\$	Due to commence in 2027	Not yet commenced
4.10 Include best practice waste management practices in tender specifications	Short term / ongoing	\$	Several tenders published in 2022 contained best practice waste management conditions in tender specifications. Council is working to include best practice waste management practices in our procurement policy/guideline	In progress
4.11 Conduct an audit of the City of Launceston's operational waste (generation and disposal) to identify material usage minimisation, reuse, recovery and optimisation	Short term	\$\$	Due to commence 2023	Not yet commenced
4.12 Increase our knowledge of the life cycle analysis for a selection of Council's frequently used materials or products (e.g. building foundation materials, road base, timber, office paper etc.) and determine whether a more sustainable alternative is available (e.g. lower embodied energy and emissions, higher recycled content, forest stewardship certified (FSC) etc.)	Moderate term	\$\$-\$	Council is currently investigating the procurement of road surfacing products that incorporates otherwise landfill-bound materials such as soft plastics, crumbed rubber, ground glass, road millings, reclaimed asphalt, and ink toners. Council attended information sessions with Austral and Boral to understand lower embodied carbon alternatives to current material usage (e.g. concrete and bricks). Council is increasing knowledge in sustainable timber products (e.g. scientifically engineered timber). LCA and embodied carbon calculation tools have been researched for future use	In progress

4.13 Promote waste avoidance and resource efficiencies to employees and at the City of Launceston's owned community facilities through education and awareness programs and effective signage	Short term	\$	Education and awareness has been conducted through bin signage and volunteers stationed at bins at events on Council land. Further education and awareness raising will occur once the construction of the Town Hall waste storage hub is completed. Employees are reminded of Council waste education videos on YouTube	In progress
4.14 Introduce and implement a policy to have mandatory best practice waste collection systems at the City of Launceston's main buildings (e.g. recycling and FOGO, tender specifications, lease agreements)	Moderate term	\$	Due to commence July 2024 (following completion of waste audit)	Not yet commenced
4.15 Increase the accessibility of electronic document programs to reduce paper usage e.g. e-forms, e-sign and file share	Short term	\$\$	Council electronic signature procedure (for internal documentation purposes) developed and implemented. QR codes used as an alternative to paper noticeboards. Council is investigating the development of electronically editable PDF files and e-signatures for public-facing Council forms	In progress
4.16 Develop a Landfill Plan to understand future capacity and timeframes	Short term	\$\$	The Landfill Development Plan has been developed (Dec 2022)	Achieved
4.17 Explore, review and participate in research and development in alternatives to landfill technologies e.g. bioenergy and waste to energy	Long term	\$\$	Council participating in research discussions	In progress
4.18 Expand Action 4.1 to develop and implement a community wide communication, awareness and education plan and program to build the community's capacity to minimise material usage, reduce contamination within waste streams, and divert waste from landfill	Long term / ongoing	\$\$	Council has conducted waste education at local schools and supports: Tamar NRM's Plastic Free Launceston working group; waste education at Harvest Market. Council; and the Tasmanian State Government's Business Resource Efficiency Program (BREP). Council also hosts the Waste NoT Awards . Further community education to be delivered following the commencement of Action 4.1	In progress
4.19 Support community reuse and/or repair projects e.g. Tool Library, Repair Cafe etc.	Moderate term	\$	Council supported the opening of Launceston's first Tool Library (Nov 2022) and provided The Redress Hub with textiles waste audit data	Achieved

<p>4.20 Increase community recycling opportunities e.g. public place recycling hubs and mobile units</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>\$\$</p>	<p>Council's current community recycling programs include hosting community recycling hubs, the Lilydale recycling trailer, and bike tyre recycling pilot program</p>	<p>Achieved / Ongoing</p>
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5. Natural Capital

This key area aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Increase understanding of our natural capital
2. Protect and improve our air, land, water and ecosystems
3. Enhance the resilience of natural systems to change
4. Utilise our natural capital to increase community resilience and liveability.

The Sustainable Development Goals and Cities Power Partnership pledge that this key area contributes to include:

The Natural Capital key priority area will focus on improving the City of Launceston's performance score in SDGs:



Action	Timeframe	Cost	Commentary (Jan 2023)	Status
5.1 Undertake a biocondition assessment of the City of Launceston's key reserves to evaluate biodiversity	Moderate term	\$\$	Due to commence July 2024	Not yet commenced
5.2 In line (and if needed) with the findings from the City of Launceston's biocondition assessment, undertake improvement works to increase biodiversity values	Moderate to long term	\$\$-\$\$\$\$	Due to commence July 2024	Not yet commenced
5.3 Incorporate biocondition assessment findings into reserve management practices (with the inclusion of invasive species management)	Moderate term	\$	Due to commence July 2024	Not yet commenced
5.4 Assess vegetation management practices to optimise soil and plant health and carbon sequestration (e.g. species selection and watering schedules adapted to future climate projections, the use of pesticides and fertilizers and the impact to soil and plant growth)	Moderate term	\$	Due to commence July 2024	Not yet commenced

5.5 Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Natural Science Department to register 5,000 biological specimens per year, with up to 10% of specimens from the Launceston municipality	Short term / Ongoing	\$\$	5,000 biological specimens per year, with up to 10% of specimens from the Launceston municipality	Achieved / Ongoing
5.6 Develop a procedure to manage the finding of listed threatened species on Council owned and managed land	Moderate term	\$	Due to commence in 2025	Not yet commenced
5.7 Continue bi-annual macroinvertebrate monitoring of urban waterways to evaluate waterway health	Short term / ongoing	\$	Biannual sampling completed in 2022	Achieved / Ongoing
5.8 / 3.19 Develop and implement an Urban Forestry Strategy (with the inclusion of a baseline assessment, setting of targets to increase tree canopy cover, applying a climate adaptation approach and increasing green infrastructure)	Short term	\$\$-\$\$\$	Stakeholder consultation conducted and strategy in development. A draft strategy will be available for public consultation early 2023	In progress
5.9 Develop and implement an updated Public Open Space Strategy (with the inclusion of a baseline assessment, setting of targets to increase inclusivity and accessibility to public open space, applying passive cooling principles, and utilising recycled and sustainable materials in infrastructure design and construction)	Short term	\$\$\$	Due to commence in 2023	Not yet commenced
5.10 Develop site specific water quality objectives for turbidity and dissolved oxygen (DO) based on historic water quality results	Short term	\$	Due to commence in 2023/2024	Not yet commenced
5.11 Undertake sediment and erosion control measure improvements for developments	Short term	\$	Due to commence in 2023	Not yet commenced
5.12 Increase riparian vegetation in urban watercourses including targeted restoration of threatened species	Ongoing	\$\$	Riparian restoration and revegetation works completed in 2022 included: Newnham Reserve Stage 1 (civil works and revegetation); landfill open drain (revegetation 8,000 plants); Queechey Lake (weed removal and revegetation) and Jinglers Drive Jingle Creek tributary (earthworks and revegetation)	In progress

5.13 Facilitate and support further reinstating and expanding wetlands	Moderate term	\$- \$\$\$\$	Commencement date to be confirmed (based on external funding availability)	Not yet commenced
5.14 Target priority areas for daylighting of stormwater pipe assets (e.g. expose the flow of a previously covered stormwater drainage) into urban watercourses when assets reach end of life	Moderate to long term	\$\$\$\$	Commencement date to be confirmed (based on asset failure)	Not yet commenced
5.15 Support revegetation projects to reduce fragmentation of native vegetation and improve connectivity for fauna populations that have become isolated due to land clearing	Moderate to long term	\$- \$\$\$	Revegetation projects completed in 2022 included: landfill revegetation project (8,500 plants); landfill open drain (8,000 plants); and Council's Bushland Crew annual revegetation program (3,000 plants). Further revegetation projects planned for 2023/2024	In progress
5.16 Continue implementation and review of the Willow Management Plan	Short term / ongoing	\$\$	Willow management works ongoing. Willow Management Plan under review and to be finalised by June 2023	Achieved / Ongoing
5.17 Improve environmental awareness among our employees	Short to moderate term	\$\$	Actions 5.17 and 1.4 are now combined and this action is discontinued. Refer to Action 5.17 for relevant update	Discontinued
5.18 Explore options for community education around urban waterways including educational signage in high foot traffic areas	Short term	\$\$	Community education delivered including: installation of Stormwater pollution educational signage at two locations in Kings Meadows; Council supported Tamar NRM Source to Sea project ; Council participated as subject matter experts providing exercises and talks on macroinvertebrates and waterway health, the impacts of changing land use on waterways and flood infrastructure and the impact of urbanisation on hydraulic capacity and flow; hands-on education on reducing our waste in waterways (from QVMAG Museum) to primary school students as part of the school's sustainability studies; and QVMAG Big Day of Science, educational and interactive stall on urban waterways	Achieved / Ongoing

5.19 Communicate and share data on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity including listed species, threatening processes and plans to prevent degradation and species loss	Moderate term	\$\$	Due to commence 2023/2024	Not yet commenced
5.20 Establish engagement programs with local schools to improve the understanding off our natural capital and ecosystem services	Moderate term	\$	Delivered hands-on education on reducing our waste in waterways (from QVMAG Museum) to primary school students as part of the school's sustainability studies	In progress
5.21 Hold a native plant giveaway for residents to support the increase in urban forestry cover	Short term	\$-\$	Due to commence in 2024	Not yet commenced
5.22 Explore options to support the community in identifying opportunities to enhance local sustainable food systems	Long term	\$	Due to commence 2023/2024	Not yet commenced

6. Smart Assets

This key priority area aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Ensure our governance practices support smart and sustainable assets
2. Increase our knowledge on the current sustainability performance of our assets
3. Facilitate and support the sustainable operation and management of assets
4. Transition to more recycled, efficient and decarbonised assets
5. Apply a sustainability lens to the renewal, upgrade and construction of assets
6. Transition Launceston to a smart sustainable city.

The Sustainable Development Goals and Cities Power Partnership pledge that this key area contributes to include:

The Smart Assets key priority area will focus on improving the City of Launceston's performance score in SDGs:



Action	Timeframe	Cost	Commentary (Jan 2023)	Status
<p>6.1 / 3.13 Investigate opportunities to progress towards an Environmental Sustainable Buildings Policy or Guideline to support the design, construction and major refurbishments of environmental sustainable designed (ESD) for City of Launceston owned buildings (with the inclusion of best practice design guides (minimum design/operation rating system (Green Star, NABERs etc.), minimum renewable energy requirements, adequate building and window orientation, colour/material external fabric, external shading, enhanced natural light, green roof/walls, smart building systems, adequate insulation and ventilation, energy efficient lighting and appliances, rain capture systems, water efficient fittings, minimum reuse and recycled material content, maximum car park spaces, minimum greenspace allocation, vegetation increase/retainment, and climate adaptation principles etc.)</p>	Short term / ongoing	\$\$	Due to commence in 2023	Not yet commenced

6.2 / 1.6 Update our procurement policy and strategy to ensure goods and services purchased by Council meet criteria for environmental, social and governance responsibility	Short term / ongoing	\$	Updated procurement policy and procedure in development	In progress
6.3 Update our Strategic Asset Management Plan to include sustainability considerations	Short to moderate term	\$	Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) updated to include sustainability as one of the four over-arching objectives	Achieved
6.4 Develop a Smart City Strategy to provide a road map to transition the City of Launceston to a leading smart and sustainable city	Moderate to long term	\$\$-\$\$\$	Development of a draft Smart City Strategy underway	In progress
6.5 Review building access to promote diversity and inclusion	Moderate term	\$	Due to commence in 2025	Not yet commenced
6.6 / 2.4 Continue upgrading our facilities to increase energy efficiencies e.g. efficient heat, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, adequate insulation and ventilation, window glazing, high efficiency LED lighting and de-lamping etc.	Moderate term / ongoing	\$\$\$\$	Upgrade of Lighting and HVAC systems underway. Windows and insulation to be investigated	In progress
6.7 Continue to install smart meters and building control systems across our assets to understand energy usage, solar power generation, and increase energy efficiencies	Moderate to long term	\$\$\$\$	Smart meters installed on all rooftop solar PV systems to determine solar energy generation. Investigations underway to determine which buildings would benefit from the installation of smart meters and building control systems to identify future energy saving opportunities.	In progress
6.8 Procure an Energy Management Systems (EMS) to maximise data collection and optimise building efficiencies	Short to moderate term	\$\$-\$	Council is currently trialling an EMS	In progress
6.9 As required, upgrade corporate and commercial equipment (e.g. hot water cylinders, hand dryers, fridges, coolers) to modern energy efficient models	Short term / ongoing	\$	Council completed an audit of current equipment and no upgrades were identified	Achieved / Ongoing
6. 10 Conduct a lighting audit across the City of Launceston's assets and replace inefficient lighting	Moderate term	\$	Lighting audit underway. Inefficient lights replaced, sensor lights installed and de-lamping where possible	In progress
6.11 Review the City of Launceston's corporate building's health profile (e.g. lighting, acoustics, air quality, workspace, biophilic design) to support staff wellbeing	Moderate term / ongoing	\$\$	Due to commence 2024	Not yet commenced

6.12 Continue the roll out of rooftop solar PV installations on buildings with high daytime energy usage (>200,000 kWh)	Long term / ongoing	\$\$\$\$	Rooftop solar PV installed at 6 out of 7 buildings of high energy usage	In progress
6.13 Explore the use of solar batteries for buildings with high night time energy usage	Long term / ongoing	\$	Due to commence 2023	Not yet commenced
6.14 Update building leasing contract renewal terms to improve sustainability performance of Council leased facilities	Ongoing	\$	Internal discussions underway regarding information to be included in lease renewals e.g. sustainability scoring matrix, building is to be operated as per building guide, building induction to be provided by Council to tenants	In progress
6.15 Document and share operating guides for building occupants to maximise operating efficiencies	Short term / ongoing	\$	Due to commence 2024	Not yet commenced
6.16 Ensure end of life building, plant and equipment are disposed of in accordance to waste management hierarchy and policies	Short term / ongoing	\$	Due to commence 2023	Not yet commenced
6.17 / 2.6 Investigate opportunities to utilise low embodied emission, reusable, and recycled materials for Council construction works, including the construction of assets, asset upgrades and maintenance works whilst adhering to design and construction standards	Short term / ongoing	\$	Council is currently investigating the procurement of road surfacing products that incorporates otherwise landfill-bound materials such as soft plastics, crumbed rubber, ground glass, road millings, reclaimed asphalt, and ink toners. Council attended information sessions with Austral and Boral to understand lower embodied carbon alternatives to current material usage (e.g. concrete and bricks). Council is increasing knowledge in sustainable timber products (e.g. scientifically engineered timber). LCA and embodied carbon calculation tools have been researched for future use	In progress
6.18 / 2.7 Continue the transition of powering buildings, fleet, plant and equipment by renewable energy sources	Long term / ongoing	\$\$\$\$	Council is continuing the transition of buildings to renewable energy with three facilities remaining on gas and ongoing installation of solar panels on Council-managed facilities (installed more than 1,785 panels or 466kW across 13 Council facilities). Council fleet consists of two electric vehicles and internal working group established to increase the number of electric vehicles	In progress

6.19 Explore the transition of the City of Launceston's Tiger Bus to be powered by renewable energy (e.g. electric or hydrogen fuel cell)	Short to moderate term	\$\$- \$\$\$	Discussions underway on renewable energy options	In progress
6.20 Develop and implement a sustainable fleet guideline, including a fuel consumption rate of 6L/100km and a maximum tailpipe emission standard of 130g CO2/km for all new light vehicles	Short term	\$	Due to commence in 2023	Not yet commenced
6.21 Construct an End of Trip facility for the City of Launceston's employees at Town Hall to encourage an increased uptake of active transport to and from work. Promote the facility to the public to encourage other organisations to follow suit	Short term / ongoing	\$\$\$\$	End of Trip facility completed in Jan 2023	Achieved
6.22 / 2.9 Investigate and trial alternative transport options for work travel e.g. introduction of electric bikes and scooters to the City of Launceston's fleet	Short term / ongoing	\$\$	Micromobility working committee established and initial work completed on developing policy for staff to use micromobility devices for work travel	In progress
6.23 Conduct fuel efficient driver awareness for our employees	Moderate term	\$\$	Due to commence in 2024	Not yet commenced
6.24 Explore the use of smart sensors across the City to measure usage and improve user experience of Council facilities and assets e.g. people counters, river level sensors, public bbq usage sensors, public wifi, digital bus signage etc.	Moderate term / ongoing	\$\$- \$\$\$	Due to commence in 2024	Not yet commenced
6.25 Conduct a desktop water audit across Council assets and identify areas for increased efficiencies	Short term	\$	Due to commence in 2023	Not yet commenced
6.26 Develop and implement a water conservation and efficiency plan for the City of Launceston's assets and operations (e.g. parks and recreation areas, facilities, Town Hall, community centres etc.) exploring the use of water efficient technologies, smart meters, recycled/grey water, rainwater harvesting etc.	Moderate term	\$\$	Due to commence in 2024	Not yet commenced

6.27 Develop and implement a water and energy saving awareness program for employees	Moderate term	\$\$	Due to commence in 2024	Not yet commenced
6.28 Improve signage throughout the City promoting sustainability related assets and initiatives e.g. signs and maps of ecological systems, public transportation, public facilities, green infrastructure and open space placed in pedestrian zones	Moderate term	\$\$	As part of Council's ABCDE Learning Site project, the community aimed to improve public education around the health of the Kings Meadows Rivulet. Signs were installed to encourage residents to consider the waterway in their everyday activities. Further work is underway to increase signage	In progress
6.29 Facilitate and support the required infrastructure to support zero emissions vehicle uptake in Launceston	Long term	\$\$\$\$	Council has installed 7 public electric vehicle charging stations across the municipality: Lilydale, Cataract Gorge, Riverbend Park, Inveresk, York St car park, Paterson St East car park and Paterson St West car park. Council will continue to facilitate and support the roll out of infrastructure to further support zero emissions vehicle uptake in Launceston	In progress
6.30 Explore the roll out of a public trial on electric scooters in collaboration with other Councils	Short term	\$\$-\$	Public trial completed in 2021/2022	Achieved
6.31 In line with the Launceston Transport Strategy 2020-2040 (and in line with Cities Power Partnership pledges), support the roll out of sustainable and active transport infrastructure by industry and state government to increase zero emissions mobility uptake in the community	Long term	\$\$\$\$	Discussions underway with Tasmanian waste contractors and Metro Tasmania regarding zero emission large vehicle trials in Launceston	In progress
6.32 Communicate and share our progress on what Council is doing to encourage more public transport use throughout the city	Short term / ongoing	\$	Due to commence in 2023	Not yet commenced
6.33 Support cycling across the city through the provision of adequate cycle lanes, bike parking and end of trip facilities (in line with Cities Power Partnership pledges)	Long term	\$\$\$\$	Council to promote our End of Trip facility (constructed in Jan 2023) to encourage other companies and public end-of-trip facilities to be built in the community. Investigation is underway to determine how Council can support cycling across the city	In progress
6.34 In line with the Launceston Transport Strategy 2020-2040, develop and implement a public car-parking strategy that promotes sustainable transport modes	Long term / ongoing	\$\$\$	Due to commence in 2024	Not yet commenced

<p>6.35 Through the Intelligent Transport System upgrade, utilise the City of Launceston’s real-time data on traffic network utilisation and congestion for decision making on future transport infrastructure upgrades</p>	<p>Long term / ongoing</p>	<p>\$\$\$</p>	<p>Due to commence in 2024</p>	<p>Not yet commenced</p>
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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

BMS	Building Management System
CER	Clean Energy Regulator
ELT	Executive Leadership Team
ESD	Environmental Sustainable Design/ Development
EV	Electric Vehicle
FOGO	Food Organics and Garden Organics
FY	Financial Year
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
NABERS	National Australian Built Environment Rating System
NGER	The National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting
QVMAG	The Queen Victorian Museum and Art Gallery
SCWG	Sustainable Community Working Group
UTAS	The University of Tasmania
TBC	To Be Confirmed
T&D	Transmission and Distribution Losses