

The City of Melbourne is seeking four high-rise apartment buildings to participate in its new Sustainable Living in the City project.

Project objective

Sustainable Living in the City aims to reduce the environmental impact of high-rise residential buildings by:

- coordinating a focused and well designed environmental education program covering waste, water, energy, transport, and biodiversity; and
- providing funding for small scale environmental retrofits on buildings and/or apartments; designed and implemented in consultation with bodies corporate, owners, building managers and residents.

Did You Know?

Your building can reduce its operational costs through small-scale environmental retrofits.

Why has Council developed this project?

Although more than 70 per cent of Council's residents live in apartments, there are few programs aimed at reducing the environmental impact of apartment buildings.

The residential sector in the City of Melbourne accounts for around:

- 22 per cent of the city's water consumption;
- 7 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions; and
- More than 14,000 tonnes of waste sent to landfill each year.

Results from a recent residential survey conducted by Council indicated that residents want to help improve the natural environment.

This program will help to provide people associated with high-rise apartments with the knowledge, skills and resources to reduce the impact on the environment.

Did You Know?

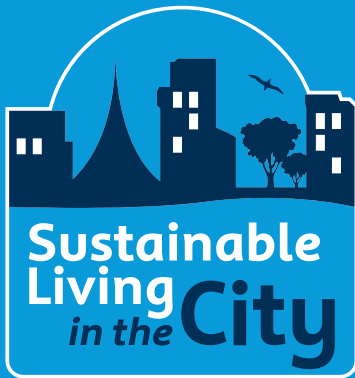
Apartment vacancy rates can be reduced through environmental renovations with increased household comfort and more sustainable energy use.

Who can get involved?

The program is available to all multi-level apartment buildings in the City of Melbourne. Ideally, Council would like to partner with bodies corporate and/or building managers to deliver the program, but other suggestions are welcome. Also invited to participate in the program are residents living in the apartment buildings and non-residential owners.

The benefits

Sustainable Living in the City offers participants free environmental training and facilitation of environmental assessments on both high-rise buildings and individual apartments. Funding will also be available to participants for minor retrofits that will aim to reduce the environmental impact of their buildings.



How can you get involved?

For more information or to register your interest, please contact Fran Gibilisco on 9658 9603 or fragib@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Did You Know?

More people are considering environmental values when purchasing property. Therefore increasing the sustainability of apartments can increase market value.

The buildings involved in this program will also have the opportunity to influence a leading City of Melbourne project. The results of your building will be written as a case study and promoted accordingly. The case study will also form the basis of a larger report focusing on achieving long term environmental improvement in residential buildings.

In summary, the expected benefits for participation in this project are:

- A plan for improved building infrastructure that includes the implementation of some tactics such as better recycling and bike facilities;
- Reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions;
- Reduced water consumption and waste water generation;
- Reductions in total waste, as well as improved recycling rates;
- Financial savings for residents;
- Increased awareness about how to reduce your impact on the environment;
- Healthier lifestyles for residents through active forms of transport;
- Reduced building costs associated with waste collection and management;

- Increased social capital and sense of community; and
- Opportunities to market and promote the building as a clean and green place to live, leading to greater occupancy rates.

What are the expectations of participants?

Although there is no cost for participation in the program, Council requires a commitment from four high-rise apartment buildings to participate in the environmental education program and apply to access funding for the minor retrofits.

Decisions on retrofit funding will be based on the age of building infrastructure, the quality of any building visions or infrastructure plan submitted, and a commitment to provide independent funding for future projects and initiatives. Assistance will be provided by Council in the preparation of infrastructure plans.

Selection of the participating buildings will be based on:

- Body Corporate commitment to the project;
- Building manager interest in the project; and
- Residents interest in participating.

Required information

Buildings selected to participate in the project will need to provide the City of Melbourne with the following information:

- State of infrastructure/age of stock;
- Owner occupier levels; and
- Permission to access water, energy use and waste data.