



## MCC Climate Active Carbon Neutral Certification

### Introduction

The Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) is setting the pace on sustainability by becoming the country's first sporting club to achieve *Climate Active* certification.

This certification means that as an organisation we've taken action to reduce our emissions where possible and compensated for the remainder by investing in carbon offset projects to fully balance all emissions.

The Club's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint is fundamental in maintaining the status of the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCG) being a world-class stadium.

By reducing our carbon footprint, we are also helping to reduce the costs of managing and maintaining this valuable community asset for members and fans to enjoy now and in the future.

### Why did the Melbourne Cricket Club pursue carbon neutral accreditation?

As ground manager of the iconic MCG, we want to be regarded as one of the world's best stadiums.

*Climate Active* certification is a milestone on our journey and the culmination of the sustainability goals we have been pursuing for more than a decade. Our team has worked hard to reduce the environmental impact of the club's business operations in a number key areas such as energy use, waste management, water usage, food and catering, venue cleaning as well as maintenance and repairs.

But our journey doesn't stop here. We are committed to raising the bar and will continue to promote and contribute to the health and sustainability of our environment.

### There are lots of standards for sustainability – why is this one most suitable for the MCC?

*Climate Active* is an Australian Government certification program that recognises organisations for achieving carbon neutral operations. It is one of the most rigorous accreditation programs in the world, with all claims subject to independent third-party verification.

Administered by the national Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and Resources, *Climate Active* was previously known as the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS). [Find out more on the Climate Active website.](#)

### **What does the accreditation cover?**

This certification accounts for the emissions resulting from the business operations of the MCC as ground manager for the MCG, Australian Sports Museum and Yarra Park. Within this certification all emissions associated with the operations of the MCC are quantified and offset. This includes energy usage, waste, water consumption, maintenance, cleaning and staff travel.

### **What doesn't the accreditation cover?**

*Climate Active* certification does not cover our physical infrastructure including the MCG stadium. It also doesn't cover the operations of our partners and tenants who use the grounds we manage or the activities they undertake to host events like football, cricket and concerts. This includes the Club's 14 sporting sections and their external facilities which are under the operational control of a different entity — Melbourne Cricket Club Sports Limited.

### **What benefit does carbon neutrality create?**

The MCC is passionate about protecting and preserving the legacy and heritage of our iconic MCG and its expansive inner-city parklands.

By reducing our carbon footprint, we are helping to manage this valuable community asset sustainably for members and fans to enjoy now and in the future.

### **What did the MCC have to do, or change, to achieve carbon neutral certification?**

The MCC has been pursuing innovative ways to improve its environmental performance and address climate change for more than a decade. Onsite emission reductions and the offsetting of residual emissions have delivered huge benefits for the community and environment.

The club identifies and manages its impacts through an Environmental Management System (EMS) that aligns with the international standard ISO14001, incorporating evidence-based carbon accounting methods and value-added offset programs.

Our proactive approach is an important aspect of our team culture and we are constantly searching for practical and innovative solutions to reduce the carbon footprint of the MCG. Our environmental commitment involves every aspect of our business operations including innovative solutions to reduce energy use, manage waste, reduce water consumption as well as cleaning and maintenance emissions.

## What innovations has the MCC introduced into its operations?

The MCC has introduced a raft of initiatives to ensure our operations are environmentally responsible and sustainable.

As early as 2012, we installed our first water treatment plant to conserve potable water use in Yarra Park. Many innovations have followed including transitioning our systems to solar power and green energy, installing an organics dehydrator to create compost from waste, repurposing plastic bags into bollards and phasing out single use straws and cutlery.

Our Sustainability Action Plan 2022-2025 covers every aspect of our daily operations and focuses on these key areas:

- Energy and Emissions
- Waste
- Water
- Transport and Fleet
- Communication and Community Engagement
- Sustainable Procurement
- Culturally Significant Parklands and Places
- Health, Happiness and Equity

## What results have been achieved?

The Club has made changes in the way it does business to ensure its carbon emissions are accounted for and balanced to become carbon neutral.

Achieving carbon neutrality has been a journey and we are proud to say that today:

- The MCG is powered by 100% renewable electricity saving 12,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year — enough electricity to power the MCG light towers for nearly six years, or 835 homes annually.
- 80% of all waste is recycled via 1800 recycling bins and more than 25 waste diversion streams.
- Approximately 30 tonnes of organic waste is composted on site and the compost spread in Yarra Park.
- 250,000 plastic bags have been recycled into plastic bollards.
- A wastewater treatment plan creates sustainable supply for the MCG and Yarra Park grounds reducing potable water use by 50 percent.

### **How is the MCC using carbon credits?**

Reducing our environmental impact is also contributing to sustainability initiatives beyond the MCG and Yarra Park. Our reduced emissions are offset with 100% Australian Carbon Credit Units, which support environmental projects in Australian Indigenous communities.

Offsetting our residual emissions with Indigenous Australian carbon credit units is a strategic priority.

Projects supported include the Savanna Burning Project in Aurukun, Cape York and the Jawoyn Fire Project in the Northern Territory — both which focus on reducing wildfires and harmful emissions, protect important wildlife and deliver significant social, cultural and economic benefits.

We chose these projects to maximise a range of social, economic and environmental outcomes aligned with the MCC Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Benefits include access to employment opportunities and alternative income streams, improved health conditions, education opportunities, biodiversity retention and reinvigorated Indigenous cultural traditions.

### **Does this mean all of the activities and events at the MCG and Yarra Park will be carbon neutral?**

The MCC *Climate Active* Certification does not cover the activities of our partners and tenants who use the grounds we manage to host football, cricket, concerts and other events. For example, it doesn't consider transport of sporting teams on a match day or patrons attending a match. However, we are working closely to assist our stakeholders to improve the environmental outcomes of events at our facilities.

### **As sports industry leaders, how is the MCC using its position to assist its partners and other organisations to be more sustainable?**

Leadership — setting the standards, pushing the envelope and walking the talk — is central to our DNA. This extends to our environmental commitment.

The MCC is a proud signatory to the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework and actively supports and engages with the community in environmental education. This commitment ensures we are advocates for climate action, taking on a greater environmental responsibility in the community as an educator for a sustainable future.

The MCC Sustainability Plan aligns with relevant local, state, national and global sustainability goals and targets. Through the efforts of our people, our partnerships and our contribution to community, the MCC will continue to promote sustainability and environmental awareness to help create change in our industry and the wider community. We are striving for excellence and to achieve net zero by 2040.

## **How long has the MCC been working to achieve certification and what does it need to keep its accreditation?**

*Climate Active* certification was a key goal in the MCC's Sustainability Plan 2022-2025 and was achieved months ahead of schedule. To maintain accreditation, the club will continue to report annually on the progress of its emission reduction and carbon offsetting activities and to revise and refresh its annual plans and targets.

The MCC's carbon accounting and emissions capture, coupled with data analytics and targets, will be used to measure and monitor our performance, compare against benchmarks and ensure our legal and governance obligations are met. This includes setting Science-Based Targets (SBTs) and model SBTs to chart a path towards net zero.

## **What comes next for the MCC on its sustainability journey?**

The MCC's ultimate goal is to achieve net zero by 2040 — we firmly believe that effective environmental management will help secure the future of live sport and entertainment in Australia and reinforce the MCC's position as a sustainability leader in world sport.

We are committed to a 42% reduction in Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions by 2030 (from a 2021 baseline). This will be achieved by using renewable energy, switching cooking appliances to electric and switching to lower emission refrigerants.

MCC is also committed to reducing its Scope 3 footprint by diverting waste from landfill, reducing potable water consumption onsite and reducing food waste in catering.

We will engage with our suppliers to understand how emissions are produced along our supply chain and to identify opportunities for reductions.

The MCC's Sustainability Plan will be revised in 2025, setting a new vision and continuing to drive us forward on our sustainability journey.