



The Victorian Institute of Sport

Climate Action Plan

2025 - 2030+



PHOTO: RHYDIAN COWLEY
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Victorian Institute of Sport heartfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work and play, and recognise the continuous (continuing) holistic connection they have to their land, water, and sky Country.

We acknowledge Traditional Custodians have prospered for over 60,000 years on these lands and have and continue to provide examples of living sustainably through caring for Country.

The Victorian Institute of Sport is actively committed to the continuous caring for Country through our Climate Action Plan 2025-2030 and beyond to ensure the sustainability of sport and active lifestyles for another 60,000 years.

We pay our sincerest respect to Elders, past and present and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.



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KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

PHOTO: TOKYO 2020,
WOMEN'S FOUR
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Carbon Footprint - A measure of the amount of greenhouse gases that are emitted by an individual, a company, or an activity. The carbon footprint can be calculated by considering the amount of energy that is used, the type of energy that is used, and the way that energy is used.

Climate Change - A long-term change in the average weather conditions of a place. Climate change can be caused by natural factors, such as volcanic eruptions and changes in the Earth's orbit, or by human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels.

Decarbonisation - Reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that a society produces, as well as increasing the amount that is being absorbed. It entails changing many, if not all, aspects of the economy, from how energy is generated, to how goods and services are produced and delivered, to how buildings are built and lands are managed.

Extreme Weather Event - A weather event that is outside the normal range

of variation. Extreme weather events can be caused by natural factors, such as changes in the Earth's orbit, or by human activities, such as climate change. Extreme weather events can have a devastating impact on ecosystems and human communities.

Global Warming - The gradual increase in temperature of the Earth's air, surface, and oceans due to human-caused increases in CO² and other greenhouse gas levels.

Greenhouse Gas - A gas that traps heat in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Greenhouse gases are essential for life on Earth, but they can also contribute to climate change.

Net-Zero Emissions - Balancing greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activity with emission reductions.

Paris Agreement - An international agreement that was adopted in 2015 to combat climate change. The Paris

Agreement aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

Scope 1, 2 & 3 - Scope 1 are those direct emissions that are owned or controlled by a company, whereas scope 2 and 3 indirect emissions are a consequence of the activities of the company but occur from sources not owned or controlled by it.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - A universal set of goals, targets and indicators approved in 2015 that UN member states will be expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the period through to 2030.

Sustainability - The ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability is essential for addressing climate change and other environmental challenges.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

In January this year the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) confirmed that 2024 was the warmest year on record. We have seen first-hand how extreme weather has dramatically impacted sporting events around the globe and it is only a few months ago that Los Angeles our next Summer Olympic and Paralympic host city was devastated by wildfires.

Blazing temperatures require trail-blazing climate action, and the Victorian Institute of Sport is acting now. As the leader in high-performance sport in Victoria we are in a unique position to set an example for our state-wide partners and for the broader Victorian community.

The Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) Climate Action Plan has been developed to address the growing concerns about climate change and its impact on sports and athletes. The plan has been developed by the VIS Sustainability Squad and in 2025 we will take the first steps to implement the plan and deliver the key action points that will enable the VIS to be at the forefront of the sport & recreation sector's journey to net-zero.

This Climate Action Plan is intended to be the first of many, and future plans will build on the foundation created by this inaugural framework. As our Olympic medal-winning racewalker Rhydian Cowley recently said in an interview with the ABC: *"It's one thing to be concerned about it and know about it, and another thing to do something about it."*

Adapting to climate change is an ongoing process, there is always more work to be done, and we must continue to be agile in our response to the changing climate and its impacts on our communities and environment. At the VIS we are dedicated to leading the way for climate action in high-performance sport and we want to be part of the solution.

Our team is committed to rigorously working to ensure that sports can thrive in a changing climate while promoting sustainability and resilience within the community.

Nicole Livingstone OAM

Nicole Livingstone



BACKGROUND

The global sports community is increasingly committed to combating climate change. We have seen first-hand the impact that climate change is having on sporting activities. From rescheduling and cancellation of events, destruction of venues, to health impacts for our athletes. Initiatives like the UNFCCC's Sports for Climate Action Framework highlight the role of sports in driving climate action and raising awareness. The Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) has developed this Climate Action Plan to address the growing concerns about climate change and its impact on sports and athletes. We recognise that sport and organisations such as ours have a carbon footprint that contribute to the problem. But we can also be part of the solution. By developing a Climate Action Plan, we are taking a proactive stance to ensure that sports can thrive in a changing climate while promoting sustainability and resilience within the community.

While we are currently exempt from mandatory reporting, VIS also recognises its responsibility to meet the objectives set out in Victorian Government legislation and policies. This includes obligations set out in the Climate Change Act 2017, Gender Equality Act 2020 and

legislation that supports the operations of our landlord, the State Sport Centres Trust.

We are at the beginning of our Sustainability journey. We have formed a Sustainability Squad, made up of 18 enthusiastic staff and athlete representatives and are in the early stages of implementing our Climate Action Plan. In our first meeting, the group came up with almost 50 initiatives we could take direct action on, spanning from procurement to travel to education. We prioritised the calculation of our GHG emissions in order to determine our biggest problem areas and work towards impactful emissions reduction. As a leading sports organisation, VIS has the opportunity to set an example for other institutions and the broader community. By taking decisive action on climate change, VIS can inspire others to follow suit and contribute to a more sustainable future.

The priorities of this Climate Action Plan provide a road map to achieving the VIS decarbonisation vision for the next five years (and beyond) and we look forward to celebrating our learnings and achievements as we walk this important path together.



PHOTO: LIAM TWOMEY
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CASE FOR CHANGE

The effects of climate change, such as increasing seasonal temperatures and the frequency of extreme weather events, are projected to continue and escalate over the coming decades. Climate change is already affecting sports in various ways. Storms and flooding damage facilities, low-snow winters cause ski events to be cancelled, and the incidence of heat stroke is rising. Events are being rescheduled, relocated, or cancelled due to extreme heat and bushfire smoke³. Climate change not only impacts sport, but sport also contributes to climate change through greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with travel, energy use, construction, catering, and various goods and services⁴.

The Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change adopted by 196 parties at COP21 in Paris, France in 2015, addresses climate change mitigation, adaptation, and finance. Its central aim is to keep the global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. The VIS Climate Action Plan priorities

will reflect the timelines and goals set by the Paris Agreement.

The Victorian Government has committed to an ambitious Climate Change Strategy aimed at reducing emissions while creating new jobs and opportunities⁵. The impact of climate change poses dire consequences for Victoria, including predicted increases in average temperature, more intense downpours paired with decreased cool season rainfall, a decline in alpine snowfall, and longer, higher-risk fire seasons. These risks negatively impact sport by damaging facilities, causing event cancellations, and increasing health risks for athletes.

As Australian Olympic Committee CEO Matt Carroll stated in the AOC Climate Action Plan⁶, "sport has an obligation to adapt our operations to achieve climate neutrality." There is rapidly increasing social pressure for organisations within the Sport & Recreation sector to drive innovation in the net-zero transition. The ASC Megatrends Report highlights increased societal expectations that sports organisations and athletes

receiving public money must act in a socially and environmentally responsible manner³.

The biggest barrier to innovation in the Sport & Recreation sector is the perceived high upfront investment required to decarbonize. This includes additional staff requirements, player support, travel, and energy transformation³. However, further delays in reaching net-zero emissions will only result in higher future costs.

We have the opportunity to be at the forefront of the Sport & Recreation sector's journey to net-zero. Doing so will help improve our reputation, reach, and social significance, thereby boosting staff and athlete recruitment and aligning us more closely with government priorities to support future funding bids. By developing a Climate Action Plan, VIS aims to reduce its carbon footprint, promote sustainable practices, and ensure the long-term viability of sports in Victoria and across the Globe.

STRATEGIES & MEASURES

To achieve our vision for net-zero emissions we have mapped out a broad overview with 4 key phases. We are currently in Phase 3.



Phase 1

Call to Action

Executive Support

Sustainability Squad

Alliances



Phase 2

Measure Carbon Footprint

Scope 1,2 & 3

Set Reduction Targets



Phase 3

Decarbonisation Plan

Impact Priorities

Staff Initiatives

Major Projects



Phase 4

Reporting

Measure Progress

Report

Review Plan



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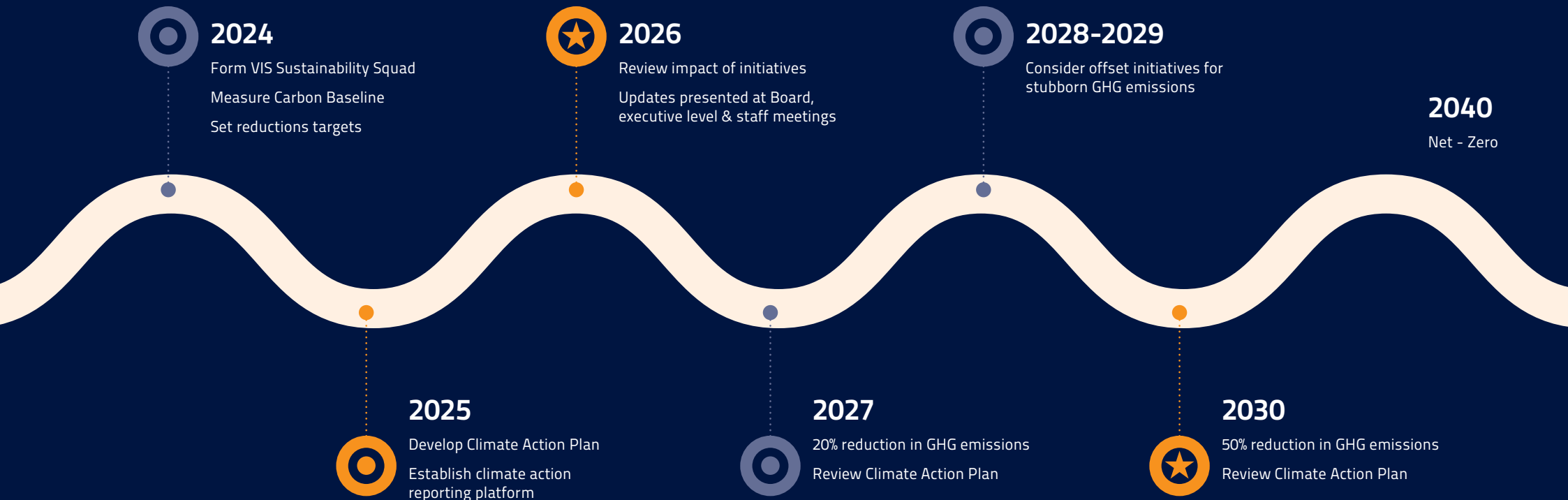
ROADMAP TO NET-ZERO

Our Mission:

The VIS is committed to embedding sustainability into our pursuit of success in sport and life. Our mission is to foster a greener, healthier future for all by actively contributing to a climate-resilient Victoria.

Our Commitment:

Develop and implement a Climate Action Plan in line with the Victorian Government and UN Sport for Climate Framework that embeds sustainability into the organisation and defines a roadmap to net-zero.



EXISTING SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES

It is important/We would like to acknowledge the climate action measures already embedded into our daily operations:

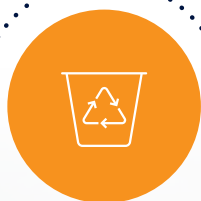


PHOTO: SCOTTY JAMES
CREDIT: GETTY IMAGES



Solar
Panels

Water-saving
Showerheads



Battery
Recycling
Scheme

E-waste
Recycling



Motion-sensor
Lighting



Indoor
Plants



Building
Efficiency
Rating



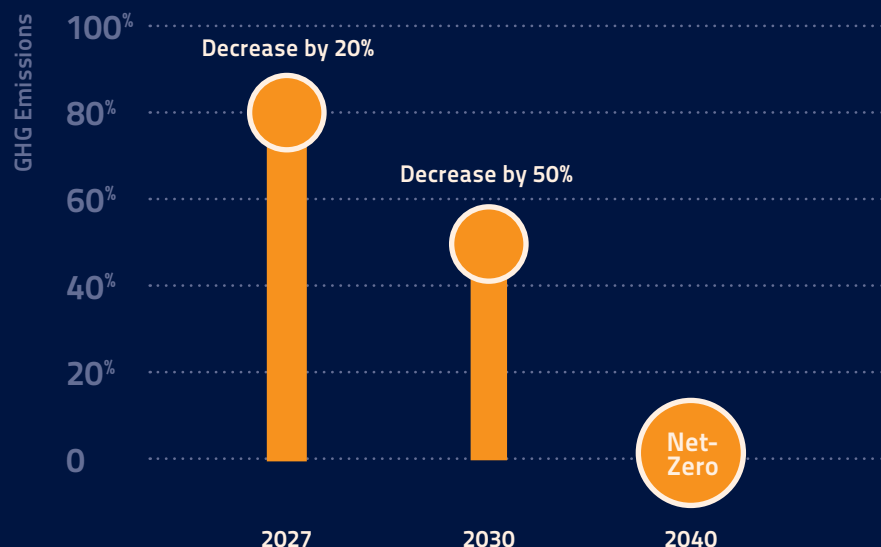
Bike
Storage

DECARBONISATION TIMELINE

In late 2024, the VIS contracted NettZero to calculate out GHG Emissions Baseline. They utilised the principles set out by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations as the protocol for this report. The report aims to present the Carbon inventory, and total emissions generated as a result of VIS operations over FY2023/24. We acknowledge the complexity in setting the organisational emission boundary and see this baseline as the first step in reporting our GHG emissions. We will continue to refine data collection and reporting practices to optimise accuracy.

We also acknowledge the added complexity in decarbonisation strategies for not-for-profit organisations, currently exempt from mandatory Government reporting, and tenants in Heritage listed buildings.

VIS Commitment:



Consistent with UN Sports for Climate Action Framework.

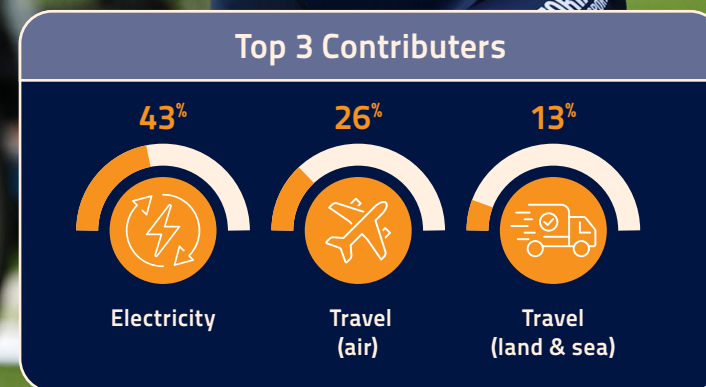


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IMPACT PRIORITIES

Measure and Report Emissions

Implement a system to measure and report GHG emissions from all VIS activities, including travel, energy use, and events.

2024-2026

Measure Carbon Baseline (Scope 1, 2, & 3)

Business Team to complete Carbon Accounting short course to ensure accurate ongoing reporting

Establish reporting platform

Beyond...

Review, refine and report measurement and reporting systems

Staff Initiatives

Small scale initiatives completed at very little cost with tangible actions providing visibility, accountability and a sense of accomplishment.

2024-2026

Support the Girls (sports bra donations)

Clean Up Australia Day

Impact checklist for catering

Beyond...

Review and update policies (travel, procurement, energy efficiency)

Major Projects

Larger scale projects with emissions reduction targets which require significant resourcing (time, expertise, budget).

2024-2026

Plastic-free Open Day

Staff Habits Survey (commuting)

Procurement Strategy collaborative project

Beyond...

Lighting upgrades to LED

Renewable energy sourcing

Divert waste from landfill (recycling, organic waste, apparel etc)

Education

Educate athletes, staff, and the community about the importance of climate action.

2024-2026

Join Sports Environment Alliance

Food Waste Lunch'n'Learn

Carbon Literacy training

Beyond...

Ride to Work incentives

Athlete experience reels

Tell Our Story

Celebrate our progress and advocate for broader environmental policies.

2025-2026

SSCT Tennant Sustainability Roundtable

Publish Climate Action Plan

Promote VIS initiatives and projects on socials

Beyond...

Promote Climate Action Plan review, setbacks and achievements

Promote athlete ambassadors

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Victorian Institute of Sport would like to acknowledge our consultants, NettZero, along with the VIS Business team who worked to build the capacity of the VIS to complete this work by calculating our Greenhouse Gas Emissions Baseline and providing emissions reduction advice when preparing this Climate Action Plan.

The Victorian Institute of Sport Executive would also like to acknowledge and thank the staff for their participation in the development of this Climate Action Plan. In particular, Sylvie Withers and the VIS Sustainability Squad who have led the organisation through this process and continue to implement action across all facets of the organisation.



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