



## Advancing the SDGs in practice

### Melbourne Water



Melbourne Water aspires to make a meaningful contribution to advance the SDGs. By supporting the SDGs, Melbourne Water is building a solid foundation provided by its vision of 'Enhancing Life and Liveability' and a strong history of sustainability.

The SDGs provide a broad lens for planning and a common framework for communicating with partners, enabling shared value outcomes and fostering innovation. Melbourne Water stakeholders, customers, and staff contributed to an understanding of what is important and where opportunities for leadership lie in relation to the SDGs. Following broad engagement, mapping of strategies and activities helped identify areas of activity for the most impact.

#### Implementation

Melbourne Water has signed up to the United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. Linked to this, the Corporation also signed a public CEO Statement of Support for the SDGs along with over thirty other leaders in the Australian business community.

To continue to enhance their contribution to the SDGs, Melbourne Water has identified three broad areas of focus that align its strategy, culture and day-to-day operations to the SDGs:

#### 1. Melbourne Water aims to increase its contribution across all the goals

Melbourne Water has embedded the SDGs into strategy development and business planning processes. Using the SDGs as a lens in planning facilitates a broader perspective and encourages innovative solutions.

#### 2. Melbourne Water will be leaders for SDGs 6, 11 and 15.

Melbourne Water seeks to have a significant impact on SDG 6, SDG 11 and SDG 15. These three goals closely

align with the three pillars to drive the organisation's strategic direction, to demonstrate leadership against these goals, and assess performance in progressing these goals using strategic KPIs.

#### 3. Melbourne Water will advance the goals through strong partnerships

Valuable outcomes can be realised with a strong commitment to partnership and co-operation. Melbourne Water intends to actively promote the SDGs throughout their supply chain and in delivery of services through the customer value chain.

Specific examples of how Melbourne Water is contributing to the goals include:

- Partnering with the Hope City Mission to use Melbourne Water land for a community garden project that will help feed over 100 hundred families a week.
- Transforming 27 kilometres of the decommissioned Main Outfall Sewer pipeline into a parkland for the growing western suburbs.
- Applying best practice adaptive management to sites of biodiversity significance, more than 9,000 ha, which has led to improved

environmental health scores at 21 of the sites.

- Generating renewable electricity by installing mini hydroelectric power stations.
- Trialling co-digestion to assess new organic waste management opportunities that enable new revenue streams, reduce waste to landfill and create extra renewable energy.

#### Benefit / Outcome

- Promotion of SDGs through leadership of how they can be embedded in organisational strategy.
- Improved outcomes for customers and communities through programs that link to SDGs.
- Broader value outcomes for customers by aligning SDGs to corporate strategy.

#### Further References

For more information please go to Melbourne Water's website ([melbournewater.com.au/aboutus/whoweare/Pages/United-Nations-Global-Compact.aspx](http://melbournewater.com.au/aboutus/whoweare/Pages/United-Nations-Global-Compact.aspx)).



Healthy People

Strengthening the wellbeing of the community



Healthy Places

Co-creating the world's most desirable places to live



Healthy Environment

Enhancing the natural environment

