

**Media Release: City of Sydney**

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Greening 2008 Sydney New Year's Eve.

The City of Sydney has for the first time, ordered a Carbon Audit into 2008 Sydney New Year's Eve, to ensure the event is carbon neutral.

"The City of Sydney is already Australia's first carbon neutral council. This thorough and comprehensive audit will quantify the impact of Sydney New Year's Eve so we can offset it with the purchase of GreenPower and carbon credits," said Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP.

"New Year's Eve is a time we should all be thinking about our future, take action to fight global warming and think about making a green resolution with Sydney New Year's Eve charity partner Planet Ark."

The Carbon Reduction Institute has been contracted by the City to conduct the review, which will measure all emission sources the City of Sydney can control through policy, technology choice or direct authority.

This includes emissions from:

\*Fuels combusted during the event\*Fireworks combusted during the event\*Consumption of electricity incurred in running the event\*Third-party contractor services consumed by City of Sydney in the delivery of the event\*Materials consumed by City of Sydney in the delivery of the event\*Vendor travel\*Waste created during the event and by City of Sydney in the lead up to the event

The City of Sydney will use the information gathered during the environmental audit to improve the efficiency of our New Year's Eve celebrations.

"Sydney New Year's Eve is the most spectacular annual fireworks celebration anywhere in the world and this audit will help ensure the event also helps our sparkling Sydney Harbour celebrate a happy and sustainable New Year," Ms Moore said.

Other environmentally aware measures for 2008 Sydney New Year's Eve include:

\*The purchase of 100% GreenPower accredited renewable energy to match electricity use (the City has been using GreenPower for New Year's Eve celebrations since 2004). \*80% of rubbish collected at the end of the event is recycled. \*Recycled water from the City's rainwater tanks and collection pits is used to clean City the streets after the event. \*Personal ashtrays are distributed on the night to help reduce littering of cigarette butts. \*People are encouraged to take public transport, cycle or walk and leave the car at home. \*Partnership with Planet Ark, official charity of 2008 Sydney New Year's Eve. \*People are encouraged to be a Zero Waster on the night by bringing a reusable drink container before they head out to avoid buying bottled water. \*Encouraging picnickers to bring reusable cutlery, plates, cups, containers and bags and taking them home again at the end of the night. \*Avoid littering - particularly glass and cigarette butts for both safety and environmental reasons

Sydney New Year's Eve Charity Partner Planet Ark is also asking people to make 2009 a green New Year by visiting [PlanetArk.org](http://PlanetArk.org) and make a practical resolution for living a greener lifestyle.

Resolutions you can make today:

\*Fit energy saving light bulbs at home and turn appliances off at the wall. \*Install water saving devices in showers, taps and toilets. \*Use natural cleaning, pest control and body care products. \*Bring empty aluminium cans home or back to work for - recycling when out and about. \*Eat locally grown and/or organic produce. \*Take my reusable bags to the shop and say no to plastic bags. \*Walk more, cycle more, catch public transport more and drive less. \*Switch my electricity to GreenPower.

For more information or images of Sydney New Year's Eve celebrations, visit the website: [www.sydneynewyearseve.com](http://www.sydneynewyearseve.com) [<http://www.sydneynewyearseve.com>]

Find out more about the City of Sydney and the environment, by visiting the website: [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment) [<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment>]

"Sydney New Year's Eve 2008 is proudly sponsored by Network Ten, The Sydney Morning Herald and The Sun-Herald, 2Day FM, Roads & Traffic Authority, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, NSW Maritime, Sydney Opera House Trust, Bytecraft Entertainment, Swatch, Cointreau, Hardys, [Coca-Cola Amatil](#), Foster's Australia and Medibank Private."

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