

Quick facts

The ResourceSmart Government and ResourceSmart Healthcare programs are designed to meet Government requirements for the expansion of environmental management systems (EMS) to statutory agencies.

The **Program for Change** provides tailored support and guidance for Government agencies to organise and integrate environmental management with their strategic and operational management processes. The program provides a continual improvement framework to suit their individual needs and assist Government agencies to identify and address priority environmental impacts.

The Program for Change is further supported by **Tools for Change**. The tools provide background information, how-to guides and useful templates and examples to assist Government agencies to complete the program and implement actions to reduce their environmental impacts.

A critical component of any environmental improvement program is its monitoring and reporting functions. ResourceSmart **5 Star self-assessment** will allow each agency to measure its progress and success in the program for its own purposes and to report on its commitments and performance.

5 Star self-assessment will simply and clearly communicate where agencies are on their journey and help them to identify the next steps.

Victorian Government policy commitments

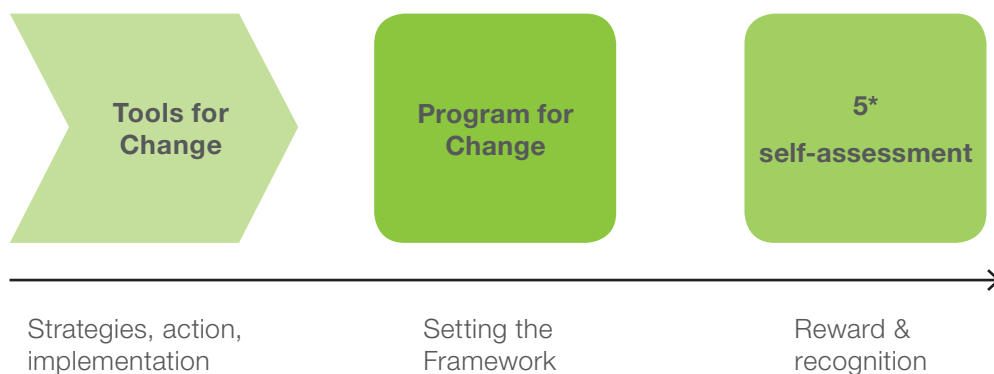
Victoria's Environmental Sustainability Framework (ESF)

- Commits departments and agencies to include strategic directions in all their business and operational planning, including their EMS.
- Commits the Government to build environmental sustainability into planning and operations of all departments as well as Government policies, programs, regulations, investments and budgets.

Our Environment Our Future: Environmental Sustainability Action Statement

- Commits to the expansion of EMS into statutory agencies by 2011.
- Commits to implementing the directions of the ESF into Government's own day-to-day operations.

The Program for Change in context



Frequently asked questions

Who can join the program?

The ResourceSmart Government and ResourceSmart Healthcare programs are open to all Victorian public service bodies and Victorian public sector entities which are established by legislation and which employ staff. These include statutory authorities, state-owned corporations, boards, advisory bodies, public hospitals and health services, TAFEs, police and emergency services, and water and land management authorities.

Tailored tools and support are being developed for specialist facilities such as health care, tertiary education and primary and secondary schools. Tools and resources are available online for all Government agencies and healthcare organisations to utilise.

What is the cost?

The ResourceSmart Government and ResourceSmart Healthcare programs are currently provided at no cost by Sustainability Victoria. Agencies will, however, be required to fund initiatives to reduce their environmental impacts. The program will assist agencies to estimate these costs.

The Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability has recommended that State Government agencies commit to energy, paper and waste minimisation actions that meet a four year payback period. DSE and Sustainability Victoria will jointly work with the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) to assess opportunities for additional resourcing.

What benefits will I receive by joining?

Joining the ResourceSmart Government and ResourceSmart Healthcare programs saves time and effort in developing and implementing an EMS consistent with Government policy commitments. The programs offer targeted assistance, including an action planning process, a comprehensive range of tools and resources, professional capacity building from environmental experts, networking workshops with colleagues from other Government agencies, and a reward and recognition scheme.

What are my obligations when I join?

Each participating agency will be responsible for developing and implementing an environmental management program. At least one environment representative with appropriate authority and time to undertake training will need to be nominated. The amount of time the representative will need to devote to environmental management will depend upon the size and operation of their agency.

ResourceSmart will assist each agency in estimating human and financial resource requirements.

Participating agencies are expected to:

- attend a series of four workshops and additional coaching sessions over a 3 - 4 month period which will provide comprehensive information and training to enable development of an environmental management program
- start developing an environment management program covering all major aspects of agency operations. It should include:
 - an environment policy
 - a formal statement of commitment and support from senior management
 - identification of major environmental impacts resulting from operations
 - an environmental improvement plan to effectively minimise these impacts
 - an agreed process for monitoring and review, and continual improvement
- submit and review a formal strategy every second year and report annually on its implementation
- as part of the strategy development process:
 - gain senior management commitment
 - establish an environmental reporting baseline
 - set environmental management priorities and implement actions
 - implement communication processes
 - undertake evaluation, monitoring and reporting to ensure continual improvement
- apply the strategy to include all operations and service delivery, such as:
 - public space management
 - policy/legislation/regulation development and enforcement
 - asset management – including natural capital
 - education/information provision programs
 - campaigns/programs/grants
 - planning for infrastructure and development
 - undertaking major events
 - facilities operation, construction and demolition.

What ongoing assistance will be provided?

Following the initial workshops, participants will have access to:

- a capacity-building program using environmental experts to assist in understanding environmental impacts and opportunity identification
- ongoing seminars and workshops providing technical assistance
- a ResourceSmart strategy template to strategically deliver change and minimise environmental impacts.

Is it compulsory to join ResourceSmart Government or ResourceSmart Healthcare program?

These programs are not compulsory, although agencies that choose not to participate must demonstrate that they meet Government policy requirements through other means, such as existing environmental management programs. Other systems such as a formal EMS may be more suitable for some operations, depending on their environmental aspects and impacts of the individual agency. Information on different programs will be provided.

Agencies are welcome to join ResourceSmart Government or Healthcare whilst maintaining their other programs. The ResourceSmart Government or Healthcare programs can be used to address environmental impacts in areas not covered by existing programs. Should agencies choose not to implement any type of environmental management program, they will be in breach of Government policy commitments.

When will my agency be able to join?

DSE, Department of Health and Sustainability Victoria have drafted a staged implementation program which has run since 2008 and will continue until 2011. Wherever possible, ResourceSmart training and coaching will be arranged with similar agencies. Participation in different stages may not provide relevant information to all individual agencies.

Are there any reporting or auditing requirements?

Agencies will be required to collect data on key environmental impacts and report this on at least an annual basis. Specific reporting requirements consistent with current departmental requirements will be advised. Data collection and analysis tools will be provided to assist this process. Agencies will also be required to ensure auditing of their programs is undertaken.

The Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability (CES) is required to:

- conduct annual audits of the implementation of Government environmental management systems
- annually review Government progress against integrating ESF strategic directions into planning and operational processes.

The CES is expected to include selected statutory agencies in future annual audits and reviews. The initial review is likely to report on the progress of agencies implementing environmental management programs as well as a more detailed audit of selected agencies.

Links to other requirements

WaterMAP

Statutory agencies are required to develop a WaterMAP plan for any sites consuming 10ML of water or greater annually. WaterMAP plans include formal commitments to efficient water management, measurement of water consumption and development of an action plan to reduce consumption.

WaterMAP obligations are consistent with ResourceSmart requirements. A WaterMAP plan can be used as the water management component of a ResourceSmart action plan.

Participating ResourceSmart agencies are expected to commit to implementing water management solutions as part of their action plans. Reports provided to water authorities under WaterMAP requirements will assist agencies in ResourceSmart reporting.

Energy Reduction and Efficiency Program

Statutory agencies sites consuming over 120 ML of water and/or 100TJ of energy are obliged to develop and implement reduction strategies under the Government's Energy Reduction and Efficiency Program (EREP). These sites are required to identify reduction opportunities for energy, water and waste, and implement any opportunities with a payback of three years or less.

EREP obligations are consistent with ResourceSmart commitments. An EREP action plan can be used as the energy, water and/or waste management component of a ResourceSmart environmental management strategy.

Reports provided under EREP requirements will assist agencies in ResourceSmart reporting.

My statutory agency doesn't have any environmental impacts. Why do I need to comply with these policies?

Although your operations may not focus directly on environmental issues, all agencies have a range of environmental impacts. The use of energy, water and office supplies, travel, procurement, construction or renovation of facilities, waste production and many other day-to-day activities can all lead to significant environmental impacts.

Agencies without a large physical presence may still have significant environment impacts through the influence they have on the community, their suppliers and their stakeholders. Their policies, programs and planning may influence the decisions of others and the impacts these stakeholders have on the environment.

The ResourceSmart and ResourceSmart Healthcare programs will enable you to effectively address these impacts, save money through reduced energy, water and resource consumption, and provide a healthier, more productive environment for your staff.

Further information

- *Our Environment, Our Future – Sustainability Action Statement* is available on the Department of Sustainability and Environment website www.dse.vic.gov.au/ourenvironment-ourfuture
- For information on sustainability actions, resource and tools, visit *Victorian Government* on Sustainability Victoria's website www.sustainability.vic.gov.au or www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au