

Victorian Government policy and targets

Government achievements

Since 2002, the Government has taken significant steps to improve resource efficiency of its own operations. Government departments have already achieved a 15% improvement in the energy efficiency of their buildings and are meeting at least 10% of their electricity needs with GreenPower, exceeding Government targets.

Ten Victorian Government departments have been utilising formal environmental management systems (EMS) since 2003 to improve the environmental outcomes of their office facilities. Each year, the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability (CES) independently assesses the progress and benefits of these measures. Between 2005-06 and 2006-07, the Commissioner found that:

- energy consumption per square metre decreased by 9% and associated greenhouse emissions by 13%
- waste production per full time equivalent staff person (FTE) decreased by 13%
- water consumption per FTE decreased by 21% following a considerable focus on water conservation activities across agencies
- paper consumption per FTE decreased by 7%.

Key Government policy commitments

The ResourceSmart Government and ResourceSmart Healthcare programs are designed to assist statutory agencies to achieve Victorian Government policy commitments by identifying their key environmental impacts and implementing actions to reduce these.

Some Government policy commitments apply only to agencies, some are specific to departments, while others apply to both. Those commitments which do not explicitly apply to agencies should still be considered for implementation as part of good environmental practice.

Our Environment Our Future – Environmental Sustainability Framework

Our Environment Our Future – Environmental Sustainability Framework (ESF, April 2005) identifies key strategic directions for all government agencies to build environmental considerations into their planning and operations. All departments and agencies are to:

- integrate these ESF directions in their day to day operations
- include the directions in all their business and operational planning
- build environmental sustainability into government policies, programs, regulations, investments and budgets.

Targets and commitments	Agencies these apply to	Notes & support available
Include the strategic directions of the ESF in all business and operational planning from July 2006.	Departments and statutory agencies.	Guidance and support is available through the ResourceSmart program. Inclusion of the strategic directions in business and operational planning is reiterated in the ESAS (see over).
Build environmental sustainability into planning and operations, and government policies, programs, regulations, investments and budgets.	Departments and statutory agencies.	

Our Environment Our Future – Environmental Sustainability Action Statement

Following on from the ESF, the Our Environment Our Future – Environmental Sustainability Action Statement (ESAS, July 2006) is a key step by which the government is integrating sustainability in its activities and programs. It includes specific commitments to Government Leadership, including Action 16.1 committing Government

to consolidating the success of the EMS program by expanding environmental management programs into statutory agencies. This commitment covers all agencies. The ResourceSmart Government and ResourceSmart Healthcare programs are the key strategy by which this commitment is being implemented.

Targets and commitments	Agencies these apply to	Notes & support available
16.1 Expansion of EMS		
Expand EMS to statutory agencies.	All statutory agencies.	ResourceSmart Government program.
16.3 Sustainable procurement		
Measures to improve sustainability of procurement include:		Dept of Treasury & Finance (DTF) Environmental Procurement Policy and Framework, containing policy, principles and guidelines to assist procurement officers in accounting for environmental factors in procurement of goods and services. Various specifications for key office products developed. Further specifications for goods and services being developed by Dept of Sustainability & Environment (DSE) in consultation with DTF and other relevant entities. ECO-Buy State Government sustainable procurement program.
Removing all restrictions on purchasing hybrid cars within the Government fleet.	Departments.	
Recycling or reusing all Government-owned computers following replacement.	All agencies on WoVG Computers and Notebooks contract.	Clauses in State purchasing contracts to facilitate recycling or reuse of computers. Costs of services from a range of suppliers are available.
Using ethanol-blended petrol in Government car fleet vehicles where practical, available and cost-effective.	All agencies on WoVG Computers and Notebooks contract.	Clauses in State purchasing contracts to facilitate recycling or reuse of computers. Costs of services from a range of suppliers are available.
Using ethanol-blended petrol in Government car fleet vehicles where practical, available and cost-effective.	Departments.	Whole of Government fuel contract includes access to E10 fuel. Communication products available to assist in promotion.
Incorporating green standards into all new Government leases.	Departments and statutory agencies.	Standard Government Lease now includes a green leasing schedule, with associated Green Leasing Guidelines – both available through Victorian Government Services Group (DTF website). These are also to be used when renegotiating leases.
Meeting or exceeding minimum energy and water efficiency standards when purchasing new whitegoods and other major appliances.	Departments.	Standards under development.

Targets and commitments	Agencies these apply to	Notes & support available
Supporting suppliers who will take back their products and packaging for recycling or reuse.	Departments.	
Encouraging each department and agency to produce its own action plan outlining how it will implement more sustainable practices to reduce consumption and minimise waste.	Departments and statutory agencies.	ResourceSmart Government and ResourceSmart Healthcare programs.
16.8 Green Offices and Major Projects		
All new purpose-built Government office accommodation to achieve at least a 5 Green Star rating.	Departments and statutory agencies.	Victorian Government Property Group's <i>Victorian Government Office Accommodation Guidelines</i> and <i>Office Building Standards</i> .
Victorian major projects to be built using Green Star Tool for Public Buildings – a minimum star rating to be set on a project-by-project basis.	Departments and statutory agencies.	Green Star Tool under development. DSE will produce additional guidelines if required.
Victorian major events will also strive to be environmentally friendly.	Departments and statutory agencies organising major events.	Will be a focus of ResourceSmart phases where venues participate.
16.11 Resource efficiency in operations		
Implement all cost-effective energy efficiency opportunities identified with a payback period of four years or less by 2010 (and publicly report on progress towards implementing these initiatives in departmental annual reports and EMS action plans for offices covered by the WoVG EMS program)*.	Departments.	Guidelines under development – expected late 2008.
Integrate environmental assessment into all Government decision-making.	Not specified.	Action plan guidelines under development – expected late 2008.
Develop goals for operations with respect to reducing water and paper consumption, and waste disposal.	Departments.	

* Government response to Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Sustainable Procurement recommendation July 2006.

Tackling Climate Change – Helping Families Play Their Part

Tackling Climate Change – Helping Families Play Their Part (TCC, September 2006) is a Labor Party election policy commitment with requirements to further improve energy efficiency and the sustainability of procurement processes in Government departments and agencies.

Targets and commitments	Agencies these apply to	Notes & support available
<p>Improve energy efficiency by 20% by June 2010, with 1999-2000 as base year.</p> <p>Purchase 25% of electricity as GreenPower by June 2010.</p>	Departments and central-budget funded statutory agencies, including: Hospitals (energy efficiency only), educational facilities, correctional facilities, police stations and other facilities.	Guidelines to be distributed in October 2008.
Adopt purchasing strategies that minimise environmental impacts.	Departments and statutory agencies.	Procurement strategy being developed by DSE.
Use environmental performance outcomes as a criterion in tender evaluation.	Departments and statutory agencies.	DTF <i>Environmental Procurement Policy and Framework</i> and associated guidelines.
Incorporate minimum environmental sustainability principles into procurement objectives and processes.	Departments and statutory agencies.	

Draft targets - further policy guidance for target setting

The following are *draft* targets which have been proposed but not formally accepted across Government for office-based operations. They may be useful to agencies in setting their own targets.

Energy	Determine costs for energy-saving opportunities with payback of greater than four years.			
	Produce a Greenhouse inventory using existing tools for energy, transport and waste, adding two emission sources per year until all significant sources are covered.			
Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase a minimum 75% of white A4 office paper having a recycled content of at least 50% by December 2007 and a minimum 95% by July 2008. • Provide ink cartridge recycling services to all sites with more than 20 FTE's. • In specifications for products valued in excess of \$15,000, include a requirement to take back products and packaging for recycling or re-use or have a waste management plan developed. 			
	Minimum appliance standards:			
	Product	Minimum WELS	Minimum EnergyStar	EnergyStar
	Taps	4 Stars		
	Showers	3 Stars		
	Flow Controllers	4 Stars		
	Toilets	4 Stars		
	Urinals	3 Stars		
	Dishwashers	4 Stars	3 Stars	
	Washing machines	4 Stars	3 Stars	
Fridges		4 Stars		
IT equipment			Required	
Transport	Ensure more than 50% of passenger vehicles are LPG or low emission (hybrid or 4-cylinder).			
	Include in departmental environment management plans and regional action plans actions to reduce impacts from travel to, from and during work using results from TravelSmart Surveys and locations surveys.			
	Identify water-reduction initiatives with a payback of less than four years and publicly report on progress towards their implementation in departmental annual reports and in EMS action plans.			
Water	<p>For sites with more than 10 FTEs, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flow controllers all taps • low-flow showerheads (at least 3 WELS) • signage erected or other appropriate measures implemented notifying staff of correct contact to report leaks to • water efficient irrigation including drought resistant plants, moisture sensors and sub-surface irrigation for new gardens • the potential and costs for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - water-saving opportunities in cooling towers (biennial inspections thereafter) - amending the fire testing regime to comply with new standard (AS1851-2005) - installing water efficient urinals and dual flush toilets at all sites with more than 100 FTE's. 			

Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability recommendations

Since 2004, the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability (CES) has provided a range of recommendations and findings to improve the sustainability of Government operations. These have been provided in:

- annual Strategic Audits of Departmental Environmental Management Systems
- three reports on improving the environmental sustainability of Government procurement processes (covering motor vehicles, office accommodation and office goods and services).

For a list of recommendations and government responses contact DSE's Government Leadership Team.

Further information

Our Environment Our Future – Environmental Sustainability Framework (ESF, April 2005)

Our Environment Our Future – Environmental Sustainability Action Statement (ESAS, July 2006) at www.dse.vic.gov.au/ourenvironment-ourfuture

Government Sustainable Energy Targets Report (lots of good case studies)

The latest Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability *Strategic Audit of Victorian Government Agencies' Environmental Management Systems* at www.ces.vic.gov.au

Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability *Sustainable Procurement reports* at www.ces.vic.gov.au

Tackling Climate Change – Helping Families Play Their Part (TCC, September 2006) at www.alpvictoria.com.au

Sustainability at work – General information on improving sustainability in day to day business operations at www.dse.vic.gov.au

Department of Treasury and Finance *Green Procurement Framework and Guidelines* at www.vgpb.vic.gov.au

Department of Treasury and Finance *Government Accommodation Guidelines and Green Leasing documents* at www.dtf.vic.gov.au

Department of Treasury and Finance *Finance Financial Reporting Directive 24C* (for Annual Reporting of environmental impacts by departments) at www.dtf.vic.gov.au

For more information on whole of government targets, please contact the Department of Sustainability and Environment Government Leadership Team or visit their website at www.dse.vic.gov.au

For more information on the ResourceSmart Government and ResourceSmart Healthcare programs visit resourcesmart.vic.gov.au