



# Our Environment Our Future

- Better advice:** small business forums to provide advice on effective ways to make your operations more sustainable
- Trade waste:** establishment of trade waste standards to help water recycling and reuse including closer partnership with industry peak bodies to provide better training and education on managing trade waste at the source. A specific initiative will look ways to help the food manufacturing and dairy industry

## Reducing Our Everyday Impacts

Everyone has an impact on the environment and everyone has a responsibility to reduce that impact. We can all contribute by taking a few simple actions.

**\$58 million has been allocated to a package of initiatives that will help Victorians to change their behaviour and reduce their everyday impacts.**

These include:

- Sustainability training:** offering sustainability training to tradespeople so that they can provide customers with more environmentally friendly choices
- Alternative fuels:** developing a strategy to develop and promote the use of alternative fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel in Victoria
- Greener vehicle choice:** positioning Victoria's automotive industry to lead the way in a low carbon future by encouraging fuel efficient and low greenhouse gas technologies produced vehicles

## Government Leadership

Government has an important role in delivering a more sustainable future in leading by example and ensuring that sustainability goals inform planning, decision-making and operations.

**\$14 million has been allocated to a package of initiatives to demonstrate the Government's commitment to being sustainable in its own operations.**

These include:

- Greening our Hospitals and Schools:** investing in energy and water efficiency activities within hospitals and energy reductions in schools, TAFE institutes and corporate offices

For further information visit [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)

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Industry has long been aware of the importance of energy supply and proper resource management for continued economic prosperity. As awareness of the vulnerability of water supplies and climate change grows, so does the need to rethink the way we conduct business.

Environmental challenges have brought out the innovative streak in our industry sectors with smart design for housing, water reuse and energy efficiency becoming increasingly popular. *Our Environment, Our Future* offers industry incentives to keep the momentum going and ensure industry leaders are supported and recognised.

Key initiatives under *Our Environment, Our Future* to support industry and business include:

### Responding to the Challenge of Climate Change

Climate change is one of the most significant environmental challenges facing the world. Large cuts in greenhouse gas emissions are needed by the middle of this century if we are to avoid dangerous levels of climate change.

**\$38 million has been allocated to a range of initiatives that will help Victorians to reduce their greenhouse emissions and adapt to a changing climate.**

These include:

- Emissions trading:** the establishment of an emissions trading scheme to provide industry with long term certainty and options to reduce and offset their emissions

- Renewable target:** support for the renewable energy industry and renewable research and development

- Climate change preparedness:** information on how climate change may affect business and tourism including advice on how to adapt to the impacts of climate change

- Greener appliances:** support for innovative appliance manufacturers to ensure products are energy efficient

- Low carbon ready business:** benchmarking and pilot greenhouse reporting to drive best practice in energy efficiency

### Maintaining and Restoring Our Natural Assets

Victoria's rich and diverse natural environments support our lives, communities, industries, jobs and economy.

**\$65.5 million has been allocated to a package of initiatives that will help all Victorians to maintain and restore our natural assets.**

These include:

- Transparent accounts:** working with the Australian Bureau of Statistics to provide better information about the stocks and flows of materials based on the National Accounts
- Protecting our coastline:** providing better guidance for coastal development including help for the Gippsland region to deal with inappropriate subdivision

- Eco training:** training opportunities for the fisheries industry to build its sustainability skills base

- Native Vegetation Trust:** a co-ordinated method for developers to offset clearing of native vegetation

### Using Our Resources More Efficiently

Victorians use an enormous amount of resources to support their lifestyles. We have a responsibility to use our resources more efficiently.

**\$28 million has been allocated to a package of initiatives that will help all Victorians to use our resources more efficiently.**

These include:

- Lifecycle management:** grants to help business look at the lifecycle management of products and services; and better labelling and accreditation of the resource efficiency of products
- Rewarding eco-innovation:** recognition for resource efficient business leaders
- An Environmental code of practice for manufacturing:** a joint initiative of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Australian Industry Group
- Reduced hazardous waste:** grants for businesses to make the transition to reduced hazardous waste use through an increased levy on high hazard prescribed waste
- Sustainable technology:** support for expanding businesses interested in adopting sustainable technology, including demonstration projects