



Our Environment Our Future

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:

- I Eco-houses:** learning and behaviour change package for sustainability, including the construction of six eco-houses
- I Greenhome program:** a hands on program showing Victorians how you can make small changes to save water, energy and waste
- I Energy efficiency and sustainability campaign:** motivating Victorians to reduce the environmental impacts of their everyday actions
- I Rebates for being green:** rebates targeting key areas of household energy efficiency and conservation
- I Better buildings:** assessing the sustainability performance of residential buildings as part of planning and building regimes to reduce energy, materials and water use
- I Promoting more sustainable transport choices:** building on improvements to public transport, integrated land-use and transport planning to reduce the need for fuel-based travel, and continuing the Travel Smart Program, a travel behaviour program

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:

- I Neighbourhood Renewal:** ensuring we integrate our social and environmental sustainability goals, particularly in areas of disadvantage through a new community grants program

For further information visit www.dse.vic.gov.au

Published by
the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment
Melbourne, July 2006
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Authorised by Minister John Thwaites, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne
Designed by Watts Design, Level 2, 66 Albert Road, South Melbourne
Printed by McLaren Press, 11-19 Lithgow Street, Abbotsford
This brochure is printed on recycled paper
ISBN 1 74152 502 0

For more information contact the DSE Customer Service Centre 136 186
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Support
for Victorian
Local
Government

environment
our
future



Victorian local government has a proud history of improving the liveability of their communities and encouraging individuals and businesses to reduce their everyday environmental impacts. Victorian local government is directly involved in many successful programs addressing environmental challenges including greenhouse gas emissions, water quality and resource management, waste management and procurement policies.

In 2005 the Victorian Government and local government signed a landmark partnership agreement on environmental sustainability. The *Victorian Local Government Sustainability Accord* is a key tool being used to implement *Victoria's Environmental Sustainability Framework*.

To further support the efforts of local government to help Victoria become a sustainable state, the Bracks Government is releasing *Our Environment, Our Future* - a \$200 million action plan to help Victorian communities reduce their impacts on the environment and deliver a lasting legacy for our children and theirs.

Key initiatives under *Our Environment, Our Future* to support Victorian local government 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:

- I Cities for climate protection:** grants for local government working with their local communities on greenhouse emission reduction measures
- I Local action:** working with local government to build local understanding about the impacts of climate change and help develop local solutions
- I Human health and climate change:** development of a Victorian Heat Wave Emergency Plan, involving communities and local government, to assist emergency planning and responses

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:

- I Landcare:** support for community landcare volunteers with the recruitment of a State Landcare Coordinator and 10 Regional Landcare Coordinators
- I Protecting our coastline:** helping coastal councils guide appropriate development by implementing the Coastal Spaces Settlement Framework

- I Native Vegetation Trust:** developing offset markets to facilitate urban and other developments that clear native vegetation
- I Upgrading our local parks:** partnerships with local councils to upgrade community parks across Victoria

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:

- I Phase out of plastic bags:** legislate to enable a ban on free plastic shopping bags
- I Take-back and recycling:** establishing twelve take back centres which will enable Victorian communities to recycle goods such as electrical items and household chemicals

Victorian local governments are directly involved in many successful programs addressing environmental challenges