



reducing our everyday environmental impacts

THE FACTS:

- The World Wildlife Fund *Living Planet Report 2004* ranked Australia's ecological footprint as the fourth largest in the world after the United Arab Emirates, US and Kuwait - it is 3.5 times the global average.
- Victorians are amongst the most intensive users of natural resources in the world. Victorians need 8.1 hectares to support their lifestyle, while only 1.8 hectares is actually available. In other words if everyone in the world lived like Victorians we would require 4 planets to sustain us.
- The average number of people in each household is getting smaller but new houses are larger- growing by 25 per cent in the last 20 years.
- Around 26 per cent of the water we use inside the home is in the bathroom, so it's the best place to start saving water.
- Compared to the average Australian, Victorians use three times more natural gas and one tenth less electricity, although the predominant fossil fuel in Victoria used for electricity is brown coal, which is more emissions-intensive.
- By making a choice to switch to Green Power Australians have saved 2,440,000 MWh since 1997. The impact is equivalent to removing 540,000 cars from roads across Australia for one year.
- Switching appliances off at the power point when not in use can save an average household \$100 a year.

Reducing our everyday environmental impacts

We all have an impact on the environment and we all have a responsibility to reduce our impact. Government, business, industry, community groups and individuals can all make more sustainable choices – so why don't we?

Through *Our Environment, Our Future*, we are embarking on a new approach to bring about a fundamental shift in behaviour, together with a suite of tools and levers to help us take action to live more sustainably. Information alone will not lead to behaviour change. We must also give recognition to the barriers Victorians face in the challenge to living more sustainably.

Understanding what changes behaviour and then equipping Victorians with the knowledge and skills to make those changes are the keys to building a sustainable state. Through *Our Environment, Our Future*, we will try to get a much better understanding of how Victorians can recycle more, compost organic waste, take shorter showers, use public transport and buy more durable and sustainable goods.

Buildings account for 35 per cent of the world's CO₂ emissions, a quarter of all timber harvest and 40 per cent of our municipal solid waste. To live more sustainably, we need to design more eco-friendly houses and buildings, carefully plan our communities, cut wasteful use of energy and water and produce goods and services more efficiently.

Transport is also a major contributor to pollution. Transport contributes 16.5 per cent of Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions, and this is influenced by our car-dependence when compared to other forms of transport, increased congestion, fuel consumption rates, and types of fuel. We will need to tackle all these issues to reduce the impacts of transport on the environment.

The State Government uses a range of approaches including information and education, financial incentives, regulation, pricing and other market-based measures such as trading schemes. It is important that these approaches are targeted and designed so as to maximise sustainability outcomes and minimise administrative and other costs.

We will target these approaches to fit the many different ways people learn to do things differently.

What we have done

We have already made significant progress towards living more sustainably. Melburnians now use 22 per cent less water than a decade ago, we recycle half our household waste and have cut our plastic bag use.

Many towns have now gone plastic bag free, all new homes are 5 Star water and energy efficient and major projects such as the new Melbourne Convention Centre will reach 6 star environmental performance.

Over 100,000 Victorian families and small businesses have switched to accredited Green Power – the most of any State; two car-sharing schemes are up and running in Melbourne and public transport use has grown by 43 per cent over the past two decades.

We have introduced smarter performance-based regulatory approaches – such as energy efficiency standards for all new commercial buildings and the EPA energy and greenhouse requirements – to let businesses and individuals find the most cost-effective way to achieve compliance.

In June this year, we launched the first phase of a long-term ‘black balloon’ campaign to raise community awareness of the importance of saving energy, to fight climate change.

Victorian departments are now incorporating environmental considerations into their purchasing decisions, and we have helped 59 local councils purchase sustainable products through the ECO-Buy program.

Forty schools are involved in our *Sustainable Schools Challenge* where students learn about 10 sustainable actions they can do at home. We have supported the Port Phillip Eco-House and the CERES centre in Brunswick to provide practical examples of sustainability in the community while VicUrban is developing an entire sustainable suburb, Aurora, in Epping North.

An urban growth boundary to control housing sprawl and protect flora and fauna has been set as part of *Melbourne 2030* – our strategy to manage future growth in a sustainable way, and a new Growth Areas Authority has been created to develop well-planned new communities.

Transit Cities are being developed across 13 locations to encourage high quality urban environments linked close to public transport, while the *Travel Smart* program has helped more Victorians use public transport.

The Government’s recently released transport statement, *Meeting our Transport Challenges*, is a \$10.5 billion plan for a sustainable and efficient transport system, which includes \$70 million for the development of the Principal Bicycle Network in Melbourne.

learning to live sustainably

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> A package of measures to break habits and kick-start change for a more sustainable victoria

Enable

- | Establishment of EcoBuy Environmental Purchasing Website
- | Sustainability Fund Grants Program
- | Neighbourhood Renewal Sustainability Projects Grants Program
- | Expansion of 'Byteback' initiative
- | Detox Your Home
- | Smart Energy Zones – Green Communities
- | Learning to Live Sustainably
- | Greenhouse and Eco-footprint Calculators
- | Training for Tradies for electricians/ air conditioner installers and home sustainability assessors

Encourage

- | Premier's Business Sustainability Awards
- | Victorian Renewable Energy Target
- | Retailer Partnerships to Promote Energy Efficient Products
- | Pilot incentives program to replace and/or removing old, inefficient refrigerators:
- | Victorian Local Government Sustainability Accord
- | 6 Eco-Centres
- | Victorian Solar Innovation Initiative
- | Gas Hot Water Rebate
- | Water Smart Gardens and Homes Rebate Scheme
- | Enhancing Sustainability Considerations in New Investment Program
- | Resource Smart Business Program
- | Plastic Bag ban



The Victorian Government is committed to becoming the sustainable state, and to do this, we need leadership at all levels – business, community and government
Steve Bracks, Premier

Exemplify

- Response to the Commissioner's procurement recommendations (including 150 hybrid cars)
- Continuous improvement through EMS
- All new Government buildings built to 5 Star standards
- Ensuring the environment is considered in all government decisions
- State-wide coordination and leadership of behaviour change strategy (including regional strategies)
- Investment in resource efficiency of hospitals and housing



Engage

- Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Campaign
- GreenHome Program
- The Sustainables Household Challenge
- The Sustainables Schools Challenge
- Learning to Live Sustainably business and industry, workplaces, farming programs
- *Our Water Our Future* Communication Campaign
- Travel Smart
- Litter Campaign
- Recycling in public places program
- Waste Wise program
- Water Learn It Live It program



action 13: communities with a water, energy and materials saving ethic

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Every Victorian can reduce their impact on the environment by recycling more, composting organic waste, taking shorter showers, using public transport and buying more sustainable goods and services.

Every Victorian can reduce their impact on the environment. To help people make more sustainable choices they need better information about the environmental impact of their decisions.

A priority for becoming a sustainable state is to embrace the many different ways that people learn and change behaviours. To do this, we must focus on the everyday lives of all Victorians at – home, work, school, and in the community.

What we will do

13.1 Learning to live sustainably

We will invest \$5.9 million on *Learning to Live Sustainably*, a package of state-wide actions to help Victorians live more sustainably.

Learning to Live Sustainably is a 10-year strategy focused on the everyday lives of Victorians at school, home, work and in the community.

It facilitates joined up approaches to changing behaviour by supporting a range of organisations and individuals across the community, government, education and business sectors, to promote long-term change.

The skills of farmers, Landcare volunteers, local neighbourhoods, councils and professional educators will all be involved to help make small but vital changes in the way we live.



A range of incentives – from seed funding, awards and accreditation to locally targeted behavioural change campaigns – will be used, backed up by comprehensive research and evaluation programs.

Learning to Live Sustainably is linked to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

The Government's \$5.9 million investment will:

- Establish a package of coordinated state-wide action programs focusing on:
 - households and neighbourhoods;
 - schools, families and local communities;
 - local councils and regional agencies;
 - higher education and the professions;
 - workplaces, businesses and vocational learning;
 - community organisations (including environmental, landcare, community service, recreational, religious, cultural organisations); and
 - farming and rural communities.
- Provide practical support for education and behaviour change practitioners and managers
- Deliver a comprehensive evaluation and research program to:
 - Assess and report on actions and achievements across the state; and
 - Provide feedback on achievements to motivate future efforts by all involved and attract new participants.
- Provide a range of incentives for participation and change including:
 - seed funding;
 - awards;
 - accreditation; and
 - locally targeted behaviour change campaigns using appropriate communications tools.



13.2 Energy efficiency and sustainability campaign

We will invest \$7.4 million over the next two years to deliver a Victoria-wide awareness raising campaign.

Government media campaigns have made a significant impact on community behaviour change in areas of health and safety and more recently on issues of environmental sustainability – demonstrated through major shifts in attitudes and behaviour regarding water conservation.

In June this year, the Government launched the first phase of a major, long-term campaign raising community awareness of the importance of saving energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – (the “black-balloons” campaign).

Over the next two years we will expand these campaigns which will be underpinned by a range of measures – including more information to help Victorians make the right choices. A guide will be sent to all Victorians on the simple actions they can take in their everyday lives to be more sustainable.

13.3 Right advice at the right place

We will enlist the help of hardware stores, appliance and lighting retailers to give consumers energy saving options in a \$2 million consumer awareness campaign.

This will arm Victorians with the best energy-saving advice at the point of sale, to encourage them to buy what’s best for the environment and their own power bills.

This will complement the ‘black balloon’ energy saving campaign to raise awareness of the environmental impacts of our energy use and encourage householders to purchase more sustainable products.

Victorians want to see tangible demonstrations of how easy it is to be sustainable in the home. VicUrban is building a demonstration house at Werribee Fields, to be ready in 2007 and an entire sustainable suburb, Aurora, in Epping North.

13.4 Eco-living

We will invest \$3 million to set up six Eco-living demonstration houses.

Seed funding will be provided to local councils to establish community buildings that demonstrate sustainability in action, based on the successful Port Phillip Eco-House and the CERES centre in Brunswick. Funding will also be provided for practical examples of sustainability improvements in kindergartens, libraries, community centres, offices and small shops.

Victorians want to see tangible demonstrations of how easy it is to be sustainable in the home. VicUrban is building a demonstration house at Werribee Fields, to be ready in 2007 and an entire sustainable suburb, Aurora, in Epping North.



> Victorian Local Government Green purchasing expenditure 2001-2005

13.5 It's easy being green

We will make it easy for Victorians to be green with \$1.5 million for an ECO-Buy Environmental Purchasing Centre in Melbourne.

A simple web page showing how green products are, will help Victorians, businesses and government shop with the environment in mind.

This project builds on the success of ECO-Buy, a green purchasing scheme for local government that has grown from \$5.9 million in 2001 to \$81.9 million in 2005, involving 75 per cent of councils.

10 things you can do to save the planet

So you want to help the environment but think there's not much you can do?

Below is a list of just ten things you can do in and around your home. Victorians are encouraged to try to do at least three of these actions.

1. Take four minute power showers – instead of the average seven minutes
2. Avoid plastic bags, and take reusable ones shopping
3. Turn off lights and appliances when you don't need them
4. Switch to Green Power by calling your electricity retailer
5. Choose efficient appliances
6. Put your food and plant scraps in a worm farm or the compost
7. Avoid unnecessary packaging
8. Walk, cycle or use public transport – and leave the car at home
9. Grow plants native to your area
10. Go chemical free when you clean – and use low salt content soap and detergent.

13.6 Rebates for being green

We will invest \$1.5 million on targeted rebates to encourage Victorians to replace the main household culprits of energy inefficiency.

The rebates will focus on those household items that have the biggest impact on energy use and could include old fridges, upgrading old gas-ducting and insulation.

13.7 GreenHomes

We will invest \$4.2 million to convert more Victorian homes into *GreenHomes*[®] – a hands on program showing Victorians how they can make small changes to save water, energy and waste.

In partnership with environment groups and local government, we will help residents make eco-friendly choices covering energy, waste, packaging, transport, gardens and water. This project builds on successful pilots in Bankstown and Parramatta in NSW.

We will tailor the program to suit the needs of different regions in Victoria and boost the capacity of local government, communities and key organisations in each region to deliver these programs in the long term.

GreenHome literally brings experts into your home to identify ways you can make a difference. The Victorian program will start in the Westernport region, before being rolled out to other regions following evaluation.

13.8 Sustainability fund grants

Round 1 of the Sustainability Fund allocated \$6.9 million to 26 applicants for community, business and local government projects which will help Victorian businesses and the community to use their resources more efficiently and reduce everyday impacts. A further \$12 million over the next four years will be allocated in grants to the community, and the following projects have received funding in Round 2.

\$400,000 for Earth Utility Pty Ltd to provide an Earth Utility Solar Hot Water Service to Australian Homes, through a new innovative model of funding the asset with investor funds and charge a quarterly service fee for usage.

\$80,000 for Bicycle Victoria Incorporated to undertake a state wide community program, which supports behaviour change in young people riding and walking to and from school.

\$120,000 for Australian Sustainable Industry Research Centre Ltd to develop raw material substitution as an attractive and sustainable solution to managing prescribed industrial wastes.

\$1 million for Greenfleet Australia to work in partnership with local government and regional waste management groups around Victoria to establish the Victorian Greenhouse Forest at closed municipal landfill sites which are in serious need of rehabilitation, to sequester greenhouse gasses.

\$167,000 for Victorian Association of Forest Industries to assist 20 small and medium enterprises to develop and implement an Environmental Management System for forests, and develop an industry wide reporting framework to measure enterprise and industry performance against sustainability goals and targets.

\$205,000 for The Active Reactor Company Pty Ltd to undertake a large scale street lighting trial in the Latrobe Valley, Victoria – the device to be trialled is the Active Reactor which is expected to reduce street lighting energy consumption by 25%.

\$246,300 for Parkland Albury Wodonga Ltd to implement an IMBY Project Coordinator and support requirements to empower individuals to make sustainable choices in what they eat, how they live in their homes and how they get around.

\$230,000 for Indigo Shire Council to undertake rehabilitation of the closed Yackandandah Landfill which has been identified in the Business Plans of Indigo Shire Council and the NevRwaste as a priority for rehabilitation.

\$150,000 for Greater Shepparton City Council to develop the Greater Future Sustainability Park, and link the site to existing bike and walking tracks to provide a prime observation platform of the Goulburn River and floodplain.

\$100,000 for the University of Ballarat to survey Hopetoun's current and projected power demand, collect solar access, wind speed data, biomass potential, investigate potential local alternative renewable energy technologies, and develop a model for other communities to apply in such studies.

\$1,000,000 for The Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) to undertake household energy use monitoring and reporting for the Central Victorian Solar Cities Program.

\$150,000 for the Buloke Shire Council to advance the Donald Neighbourhood Environment Improvement Plan, including water conservation and reducing environmental impacts from a number of sources including stormwater pollutants, waste and salinity.

\$50,000 for Nillumbik Shire Council to evaluate their kerbside organic recycling contamination reduction. It will document their experience (positives and negatives), drawing on this experience to develop education/marketing templates for metropolitan Councils considering moving to full organic collection systems.

\$330,139 for Darebin City Council to develop a Sustainable Homes Program focused on low cost practical measures to achieve environment outcomes including reductions in energy, greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption and waste, as well as improving biodiversity and increasing sustainable transport usage.

\$250,000 for Brotherhood of St Laurence to undertake Stage #4 of the Phoenix Fridge Project – a repair and recycling scheme which promotes the use of energy efficient fridges, provides collection of unwanted and underused fridges, removes and recycles inefficient fridges from circulation.

\$184,545 for Fresh Green Clean to undertake the Safe and Sustainable Indoor Cleaning Project, which will assist the implementation of 'green' cleaning products and practices in childcare centres.

The National Centre for Sustainability, Environmental Design and Land Management at Swinburne will create new and refurbished energy-efficient buildings catering for up to 850 full-time students.

\$350,000 for Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd (MEFL) to take action on electric hot water and air conditioning – undertaking research to increase understanding, then trialling and rolling out innovative approaches to reduce electricity and greenhouse gas emissions from these appliances.

\$125,360 for Darebin City Council to implement Community Power 6000 Plus which will increase the uptake of Community Power Energy Plans through innovative promotional and resource efficiency activities – the targets include greenhouse savings of 40,700 tonnes per year and 6000kl of water per year.

\$70,000 for One Umbrella Australia Inc to construct a centralised model kitchen to rescue, produce and distribute food, overcoming their current limitations in the amount of food they can collect and distribute to charities.

\$173,460 for City of Melbourne to pilot a Building Improvement Partnership Program, to reduce energy and water consumption, and waste production in ten existing commercial office buildings in the City of Melbourne.

\$5,000 for St Vincent De Paul Fitzroy to run a Conference and reduce landfill by using green bags in lieu of plastic for the 130 food and clothing parcels they distribute every week.

\$380,000 for International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives - Australia/New Zealand Limited to establish The Centre for Public Agency Sustainability Reporting - Incubator Project (The Centre).

\$210,000 for Origin Energy to undertake a program for approximately 20,000 domestic energy consumers to identify simple ways to

live more sustainably by saving energy and water, and equip consumers with tools to show them how it can be done.

\$99,000 for RMIT University (Centre for Design) to develop an Online Rapid Assessment Tool which will assist product designers, engineers and manufacturers to consider environmental issues during product development.

\$195,000 for Boroondara City Council to undertake the Living for our Future program, which promotes sustainable behaviour change through provision of practical resources and action-learning workshops.

\$147,000 for Sustainable Gardening Australia Inc to develop a Sustainable Gardener Certification – an industry relevant audited system for garden designers, landscape gardeners, maintenance and public garden staff to undergo training, implement environmental best practice guidelines and to educate clients.

\$30,000 for Yarra Ranges shire council to conduct a detailed study into the creation of a sustainable transport link, using an innovative, high-tech solar powered ultra light rail (the Green Rail), to improve access for residents and tourists to the Yarra Valley connecting the townships of Lilydale, Coldstream and Healesville.

\$607,500 for City of Casey on behalf of the Western Port Greenhouse Alliance and regional partners, to build on existing programs and regional partnerships to engage, educate, support and extend landholders operating large beef and dairy businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption and waste landfill.

\$150,000 for CSR Building Products Limited to install a briquette plant which enables solid waste generated from the Rockwool manufacturing process to be recycled.

\$350,000 for December Films Pty Ltd to develop Carbon Cops - Transforming Energy Usage – a multi platform media project that takes a variety of households through a series of steps to highlight energy consumption.

\$440,000 for Orica Australia to develop a program for elimination of paint solid waste in the auto industry.

\$110,000 for the Surf Coast Shire to implement practical steps towards sustainability in the home for typical Surf Coasts residents through workshops, home visits, monitoring and evaluation & information sharing.

13.9 Training for tradies

We will invest up to \$1 million on training and accreditation to bring more tradespeople and professionals up to speed on sustainable practices.

We will offer more training and information for tradespeople. This will complement proposed developments at the national level and support the implementation of 5 Star building regulations by working with electricians, residential heating and air conditioning installers and home sustainability assessors. Sustainability Victoria will work with training providers to give apprentices and trainees sustainable practice updates.

13.10 Maintaining the Advantage – Skills Statement

We will invest \$10 million to develop a National Centre for Sustainability, Environmental Design and Land Management at Swinburne TAFE's Wantirna campus and appoint a State-wide Sustainability Skills Advisor.

The National Centre for Sustainability, Environmental Design and Land Management at Swinburne will create new and refurbished energy-efficient buildings catering for up to 850 full-time students. Once completed, the centre will focus on developing skills in sustainable land management and design that reduce impacts on the environment. The centre will also provide opportunities across the state through partnerships with regional TAFE institutions.

More than \$240 million has also been provided by the Government towards the *Maintaining the Advantage – Skills Statement* which includes specific actions with regard to environmental sustainability training.

- ▮ The appointment of a state-wide Industry Skills Advisor in environmental technologies to facilitate training in small to medium sized enterprises.
- ▮ Establishment of a Specialist Centre for Building and Construction in Ballarat to support development of skills in the design, installation and maintenance of sustainable building technologies and practice relating to both restoration works and new developments.
- ▮ Extension of activities in dry land farming, natural resource management and water management at the National Centre for Sustainability's Sunraysia Institute of TAFE campus.

- ▮ Development and delivery of training programs for the design, installation and maintenance of water recycling and water efficient technologies and practices at the Centre for Environmental Technology at the Geelong Gordon Institute of TAFE.

13.11 Sustainable schools

We will expand environmental sustainability programs to more Victorian schools through an investment of \$500,000.

We will evaluate a number of key environmental education programs, including the *Sustainable Schools Challenge* and the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI Vic), to provide direction for the roll out of environmental sustainability across all Victorian schools.

We will extend methods used by AuSSI Vic in programs like *Waste Wise Schools*, into the areas of biodiversity, energy use and water use. This will provide schools with stronger links between schools, their communities and the environment.

The Sustainable Schools Challenge is currently being trialled in 40 schools, encouraging Victorians to undertake 10 sustainable actions in the home.

The AuSSI Vic program is aligned with the Department of Education and Training's curriculum directions as outlined in the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS).

action 14: liveable cities and towns

Through the responsible development of our cities and towns, we can live more sustainably than we do now. We can be more productive with our natural resources and land, and reduce our impact on the natural environment, while improving the social and economic well-being of our communities.

What we will do

14.1 Melbourne 2030

We will map the native vegetation of Melbourne, secure the first reservation of grasslands and develop management plans for all the green wedges around Melbourne as part of the implementation of *Melbourne 2030*.

Improved environmental management is fundamental to *Melbourne 2030* - the Government's strategy to manage future growth in a sustainable way.

Implementing *Melbourne 2030* will play an important role in ensuring we remain one of the world's most liveable cities by minimising our urban impacts on the environment.

The continued implementation of *Melbourne 2030* will:

- map the native vegetation of Melbourne to allow for better conservation and to assist developers to minimise impacts on biodiversity;
- investigate the location of a grasslands reserve west of Melbourne to secure the first reservation of this endangered ecosystem; and
- upgrade the protection of urban rivers and streams through a review of land development standards.

Green Wedge Management Plans will be developed for all the green wedges around Melbourne, to integrate land management, conservation and development activity.

Melbourne 2030 has established an urban growth boundary to help protect important flora and fauna habitat and landscapes that make Melbourne a great place to live and raise a family.

The environmental objectives in *Melbourne 2030* are being comprehensively considered in the development of new communities.

The Government recently established the Growth Areas Authority (GAA) to help plan and manage the development of new communities in the designated growth areas on the suburban fringe. The GAA will support the development of and review Precinct Structure Plans that will form the basis for the land use and infrastructure and service provision for new communities.

Included in those plans will be provisions to protect important areas of native vegetation. The opportunity will now exist for planning, investment in infrastructure and development in Melbourne's growth areas to be integrated and help communities to be more energy efficient, use less water, be less car dependent, and more protective of the natural environment.

Governments around the world are grappling with how to maintain a city's accessibility, while reducing traffic congestion and related environmental impacts
John Brumby, Treasurer

I want to see our beautiful planet preserved for our children and our children's children
Olivia Newton John

14.2 Transit cities

We will continue to promote high quality residential development close to transport and other services through 13 Transit Cities across Victoria.

The 2006 State Budget contained a further \$219 million to be invested in 13 *Transit Cities*, a key demonstration project of *Melbourne 2030*.

It is a joint land-use and transport initiative to encourage high quality, liveable and sustainable urban environments in Footscray, Geelong, Ringwood, Ballarat, Bendigo, Box Hill, Broadmeadows, Dandenong, Epping, Frankston, Latrobe Valley, Sydenham, and Werribee.

VicUrban

VicUrban is the Victorian Government's sustainable urban development agency. Its aim is to create sustainable communities in regional and metropolitan Victoria, consistent with Government initiatives

VicUrban has an important role in the Government's metropolitan strategy, *Melbourne 2030*, and in the implementation and delivery of the *Transit City Program*. VicUrban has been nominated as the lead agency in four Transit Cities.

VU is currently working with Housing Associations to pursue affordable rental housing opportunities in VicUrban communities for low income and disadvantaged households across VicUrban communities in growth corridors or in the established urban area. VU is continuing to implement market based strategies to deliver a range of well-located, diverse and affordable land and housing opportunities.

In the past year, VicUrban has developed a draft Sustainability Charter, to ensure that its developments achieve sustainable outcomes consistent with government policy. Other sustainability initiatives include a demonstration house at Werribee Fields, expected to be ready 2007 and VicUrban is building a model sustainable development at Aurora, Epping North.

By consolidating development, the *Transit Cities* program will simultaneously help coordinate urban growth and meet the rising demand for smaller households. As well as being more convenient, encouraging wider use of public transport is critical to controlling car-dependence, looking after the environment, and the long-term sustainability of Victoria.

14.3 Cutting environmental red tape

We will pursue regulatory changes in the areas of building, planning and environment that improve environmental outcomes for all Victorians.

The Government will continue to pursue regulatory changes in the areas of building, planning and environment that are aimed at enhancing environmental outcomes for all Victorians – and these will be designed so as to provide individual households and businesses with clarity, certainty and flexibility.

To achieve this Government will review all building, planning and environment regulation and cut red tape by a minimum of 15 per cent over the next three years.

Through this review areas in need of updating and strengthening will be identified and acted upon and supported by targeted outcomes, clear information and appropriate enforcement.



14.4 Better buildings

All buildings have environmental impacts that can be minimised. Buildings consume or are responsible for:

- 40% of the world's total energy use;
- 30% of raw material consumption;
- 25% of timber harvest;
- 35% of the world's CO₂ emissions; and
- 40% of municipal solid waste destined for local landfills.

The Government has already made a strong start in Victoria with the implementation of 5 Star energy and water efficiency requirements for new housing as part of the building regulations since 2004, and the introduction of energy efficiency standards for new and refurbished commercial buildings from May 2006.

To kick-start the implementation of our next phase we will:

- Ensure new office buildings in Victoria meet a four star environmental rating (for buildings more than 5,000 metres)
- Further develop the 5 star approach to new houses, with a view to establishing sustainability performance standards for residential buildings, incorporating energy and water efficiency; (consistent with Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission recommendations)
- Implement a flexible tool as part of building and planning regimes to reduce energy, materials and water use in residential buildings. During the development of this tool the Government will examine the case for new homes and homes that are undergoing major renovations (inclusive of plumbing) to install a gas-boosted solar hot water system.

- Conduct a pilot program to provide consumers with information about the environmental performance of residential buildings at point of sale, lease or rental as agreed through the National Framework for Energy Efficiency. This will commence with the introduction of a national process for disclosure of house energy ratings.

14.5 Supporting new suburbs

We will support more than \$10 billion in new infrastructure and services to meet population growth and maintain housing affordability in Melbourne's growth corridors over the next 25 years.

The recently released *A Plan For Melbourne's Growth Areas* recognises that the character, amenity and economic value of neighbourhoods is improved by establishing green spaces and by preserving sites of significant environmental value for people to walk or cycle to shops, employment, recreation and services. Views to hills, ridges, and the countryside will be protected where practical.

Open space 'corridors' along creeks and streams will be created, and important trees and bushland retained. Preserving these features will provide protection for the waterways and related environmental features, as well as create the potential for walking and cycling paths. Residential development around public transport, shopping and commercial centres will minimise impacts on the natural environment and protect nearby agricultural, conservation and recreation areas.

All of Victoria's councils will be invited to develop a Local Environmental Sustainability Priority Statement to recognise the unique character and local priorities and build relationships with the State on environmental sustainability.

A Growth Areas Authority has also been established with \$21 million over five years to make sure Melbourne's rapidly growing new suburbs are great places to live, work and raise a family.

14.6 Victorian Local Sustainability Accord

We will allocate up to \$5 million from the Sustainability Fund to support local environmental priorities as part of agreements with local government.

The Victorian Local Sustainability Accord is a landmark partnership agreement between the Government and local government on environmental sustainability.

The Accord aims to increase the effectiveness of State and local environmental sustainability programs by resolving issues of responsibility and supporting each other.

All of Victoria's councils will be invited to develop a Local Environmental Sustainability Priority Statement to recognise the unique character and local priorities and build relationships with the State on environmental sustainability.

Local Environmental Sustainability Priority Statements formed under the Accord will be supported through the Sustainability Fund until 2008.

The first funding round under the Accord for 2006/07 will provide grants to the following councils:

- \$292,000 for Hobsons Bay City Council for the Kororoit Creek sustainable catchment management implementation program. Led by Hobsons Bay City Council in partnership with Melton, Brimbank, and Wyndham councils as well as the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria this project will develop an agreed management approach to coordinate and implement actions within the Kororoit Creek Regional Strategy 2005 – 2030.
- \$110,000 to Moyne Shire Council to carry out a land capability and biodiversity program. This project will enable the mapping of sustainable land use within Moyne Shire with findings aimed at being incorporated as planning scheme overlays within the council's planning scheme.
- \$121,000 to Moorabool Shire Council to complete a current landscape risk and biodiversity asset mapping program. This project will enable identification and mapping of natural areas of significance (including threatened species, high value habitat and erodible land) for the purpose of protecting these assets through the council's planning scheme.
- \$93,500 to City of Greater Bendigo to assess the feasibility of reclaiming mine despoiled crown land sites in Bendigo. This project will identify decontamination approaches and potential future uses for despoiled sites to realize maximum community benefit and will inform other gold-fields councils and inform some of the future issues that accompany the current resurgence in mining activities across Victoria.

- \$55,000 to Nillumbik Shire Council to develop a Masterplan for Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre. This project will provide a strategic Master Plan to guide the future management and development of Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre within the broader context of the state-wide 'Learning to Live Sustainably' program.
- \$143,000 for Darebin City Council and the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) to create a 2006-09 Public Lighting Action Program. Through the creation of Sustainable Public Lighting Action Plans for each NAGA member council: Banyule, Hume, Manningham, Melbourne, Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Moreland, Darebin and Yarra – this project will build capacity within local government to deliver large scale public lighting improvements in Melbourne's north.
- \$88,000 Buloke Shire Council to lead the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Councils (CVGA) with the CSIRO in the Reaching for Renewables project. This strategic work enlists the help of CSIRO to identify current and future renewable energy opportunities for four central Victorian councils – Buloke, Bendigo, Ballarat and Loddon councils – for community and institutions to utilise.
- \$88,000 for Moreland City Council in partnership with City of Port Phillip and Darebin City Council to evaluate approaches to sustainability assessment in the planning system. This project involves evaluation of council approaches to sustainability in the planning system and the development of council networks to encourage dialogue on sustainable built environment outcomes through planning approaches.

14.7 Regional sustainability

We will invest \$2.5 million over four years to develop Regional Sustainability Strategies.

Our regions can contribute enormously to putting Victoria on a sustainable path and it is vital that decision-making is at the right level. Our regional strategies will set out the contribution each region will make to the State's sustainability objectives, identify regional needs, challenges and priorities and set out actions for driving better outcomes.

In addition, the Government will support the development of integrated knowledge to underpin regional strategic land use planning and associated risk assessment to ensure the long-term sustainability of Provincial Victoria economically, socially and environmentally. A case study involving Warrnambool and Moyne Shires will develop appropriately-scaled land capability, biodiversity and land suitability data and will examine the fit between locally collected data and similar data available at landscape scale. It will also support the integration of this knowledge into planning schemes and regional sustainability strategies.

The regional strategies will bring together each local government priority statement under the Victorian Local Government Sustainability Accord and build on current natural management strategies.



Transport contributes 16.5 per cent of Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions – reducing these emissions is central to an effective greenhouse response in this state.

14.8 Werribee plains

We will invest \$654,000 to make Werribee Plains an international example of best practice urban sustainability.

A Regional Sustainability Framework for Werribee Plains will be developed in partnership with the Australian Conservation Foundation to identify specific opportunities within the region to pursue and market sustainable development practices and technologies and help make the Werribee region a unique sustainable location to live, work and invest. Regional targets will be developed as part of the comprehensive framework in collaboration with community, local government and industry.

Transport contributes 16.5 per cent of Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions – reducing these emissions is central to an effective greenhouse response in this state.

Transport plays a key role in the efficient functioning of the State's economy and in the daily lives of all Victorians. Victoria is also the mainstay of Australia's automotive industry. These facts highlight the challenges that must be addressed in moving the transport sector onto a sustainable, low emissions path – and doing so in a way that is consistent with the community's expectations of affordable accessibility and mobility.

action 15: sustainable and efficient transport systems

The Government's recently released transport statement *Meeting our Transport Challenges* sets out an action blueprint for shaping Victoria's transport system into the future. Under this blueprint the Government will inject more than \$10.5 billion over ten years into our transport system. Amongst other initiatives it sets out a \$710 million investment over ten years for a range of projects to create more accessible communities by improving access to the public transport network, creating better community connections and increasing the number of park and ride facilities. These initiatives will make an important contribution to achieving the objective of creating sustainable and efficient transport systems.

What we will do

15.1 More transport choice

We will help an extra 100,000 Victorians make environmentally smart travel choices with a \$135 million expansion of the Travel Smart program over the next four years.

Travel Smart is helping change travel behaviour by assisting households, schools, universities, workplaces and local government to reduce their dependency on the car and choose sustainable alternatives. We will extend this approach to achieve broader community change.

The Government is pursuing integrated land use and transport planning through *Melbourne 2030*, the *Metropolitan Transport Plan* and *Meeting our Transport Challenges* to improve opportunities for walking and cycling, reducing the need for cars.

Meeting our Transport Challenges provides \$10.5 billion over the next 10 years to create a sustainable and efficient transport system, with:

- \$2 billion for rail network and service improvements;
- \$1.4 billion for a better cross-town public transport network;
- \$1.3 billion for new trains and trams;
- \$1 billion for rail safety and security;
- \$510 million for better public transport in provincial Victoria; and
- \$135 million to promote greater use of public transport and to encourage people to walk and cycle on shorter local trips in bike tracks. This funding boost will see up to a further 100,000 Victorians getting access.

15.2 Alternative fuels

We will require drivers of Government vehicles to fill up with ethanol blended petrol wherever it is available as part of supporting alternative fuels that reduce pollution, and provide \$100,000 to develop a Biofuels Action Plan.

Victoria will develop a Road Map for the alternative fuels industry to assess the viability of a biofuels industry in Victoria. As well as requiring drivers of Government vehicles to use ethanol blended petrol (E10) wherever it is available, practicable and cost-effective, we will trial the use of biodiesel (B5) in our heavy vehicles depot and work in partnership with International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives to promote the use of biodiesel in heavy vehicles in the local government sector.

A Biofuels Action Plan for Victoria will focus on building the capacity of the local biofuels industry to increase production capacity in response to Victorian and Commonwealth Government programs that will increase demand for biofuels.

15.3 Hybrid bus trial

We will provide \$500,000 towards a hybrid bus trial in Melbourne to demonstrate the capability of this new technology.

15.4 Greening our automotive industry

We will commit \$300,000 to work with Victoria's automotive manufacturing industry to develop fuel efficient and low greenhouse gas emissions technologies in locally-produced vehicles.

Victoria is the mainstay of Australia's automotive industry and a major part of our economy. The demand for fuel efficient, low greenhouse gas emitting vehicles is growing, and we need to play our part in reducing the impacts of climate change while supporting our industry to be leaders in the field. In the short-term this will require increased use of currently available alternative fuels and technologies. In the longer term it will necessitate the use of technologies capable of major reductions in emissions.

As part of this global industry the Victorian automotive manufacturing industry supplies both the Australian and export markets. The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development will work with the automotive manufacturing industry to develop a series of initiatives on the application of fuel efficient and low greenhouse gas technologies in locally-produced vehicles. These initiatives will be incorporated into a comprehensive Automotive Manufacturing Industry Strategy covering the period 2006-2015.

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

Dr. Seuss