

Key findings

This eleventh ECO-Buy Local Government Annual Report details the green purchasing activities of 26 of ECO-Buy's 55 member councils in 2010-11, and highlights once again the progress made across many areas. This includes the following achievements:

- o There were 55 members of the ECO-Buy Local Government Program in 2010-11
- o Demonstrating leadership and environmental concern are seen as the key drivers for local government members to undertake green purchasing.
- o Members have invested over \$58.7 million in environmentally preferred products in 2010-11 – which reflects a \$8.8 million drop from 2009-10, noting that the number of reporting local governments has fallen. However the average expenditure has remained the same.
- o 47 per cent of members reported to ECO-Buy in 2010-11 (18 per cent lower than 2009-10), reflecting the continuing difficulty in collecting and reporting green purchasing expenditure.
- o Over 28,365 tonnes of CO₂e were avoided 3.4 mega litres of water and 34 hectares of land saved through the combined purchase of recycled content asphalt, compost, mobile garbage bins and paper.
- o The number of green products purchased by members has grown from 80 in 2000-01 to over 399 in 2010-11.
- o Recycled product spend has decreased by \$5.7 million since 2009-10, in part due to the decrease in fleet management (e.g. bio fuels) and paper products. However the average spend of this category has increased by 11 per cent to 46 per cent.
- o There is a decrease of over \$2.9 million in greenhouse friendly products in 2010-11 compared to 2009-10. This is indicative of the large amount of investment in the previous year on one off purchases that do not require annual replacement, such as vehicles and hot water saving products.
- o Investment in water saving products has continued to drop. This year it has reduced by 51 per cent compared to 44 per cent in 2009-10. As the drought restrictions have been lifted and the large amount of investment in previous years it is perhaps not surprising to see this product category drop.
- o Reported spending in refurbished and second hand products has increased by 49 per cent from the previous reporting year, increasing to \$500,318.
- o Four councils have reported spend in the new category of Green Services with a total of \$109,163. These were all for green printing services.
- o 79 per cent of local government members have strong sustainable procurement priorities and strategies in place. 36 per cent scored Gold level in the policy dimension of the Sustainable Procurement Assessment Tool (SPAT) through their own self-assessment.
- o 15 of the 28 members who returned a Part 1 analysis of the SPAT have analysed their expenditure, with the majority of the remaining councils in the process of completing this analysis.
- o 11 per cent of members have scored silver during self-assessment of their measurement and results in the SPAT. While the majority have scored bronze (53 per cent) this suggests that there is opportunity to improve reporting and tracking processes for these local governments and therefore making significant progress in this area.

To read the full report, go to www.ecobuy.org.au/publications