



THE STATE OF VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT GREEN PURCHASING IN 2008/09

An analysis of green purchasing by Victorian Local Governments
under the ECO-Buy Local Government Program



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1. Foreword

Having worked with local government on sustainability issues for nearly thirty years, I know the importance of recognising excellence and celebrating achievement. The ninth ECO-Buy State of Victorian Local Government Green Purchasing Report does just that by once again demonstrating the leadership being taken by local governments around Victoria in the area of green purchasing.

Community infrastructure investment was highlighted as a key component of the Australian Government's billion dollar Economic Stimulus Plan in 2008/2009, with \$800 million allocated to the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program to fund local governments to build and renew local infrastructure. These investments often have an impact for decades into the future and are therefore important opportunities in building more resilient communities by incorporating sustainable features into building designs.



There are a large number of innovative investments that local government members of ECO-Buy are making. The City of Casey has just finished building Australia's first 'drought proof pool' able to reuse 75 per cent of all backwashed water. The Rural City of Wangaratta has incorporated a state-of-the-art lighting and ventilation system into their new performing arts centre which saves greenhouse gas emissions through optimised temperature and lighting controls. Around the state, local governments are getting on with the task of sustainable building and are growing their confidence at incorporating green specifications into major contracts and capital works projects - as evidenced by a 15 per cent rise in infrastructure development contracts which have detailed environmental specifications reported by members in 2008/2009.

Local governments also continue to take strong action on climate change in the absence of national leadership, as demonstrated by the increase of \$3.14 million in purchasing of greenhouse friendly products from 2007/08. The range of greenhouse friendly products being purchased by local governments is also increasing, with members beginning to address the greenhouse gas emissions embodied in the goods and services they are purchasing by choosing low emission products such as warm mix asphalt and e-crete as part of their emissions management strategies.

Members' spending on Green Power also increased this year to \$4 million, reflecting the ongoing priority of emissions reductions through investment in renewable energy amongst local governments.

Since the ECO-Buy Program began in 2000, local government members have invested an impressive \$456 million in green products, with the flow-on effect of encouraging more and better green products to enter the market and the resultant green collar jobs and strengthening of the so-called 'green economy'. In 2008/2009 alone, members invested \$73.2 million on products which reduce negative impacts on the environment.

2010 sees ECO-Buy celebrating the ten year milestone of the ECO-Buy Local Government Program and also marks a transition point in our history whereby ECO-Buy is aiming to be more economically sustainable. ECO-Buy has consulted local government members about these changes and sought their support for the next phase of the program. Members have clearly expressed that they value the support, resources and award-winning experience offered by the ECO-Buy program and are keen to join us on the next part of this journey.

Congratulations go to all of our local government members for their ongoing contributions and commitments to green purchasing, we look forward to continuing to work towards a more sustainable future with you.

Mike Hill, Chair, ECO-Buy Ltd

2. Introduction

ECO-Buy aims to protect and enhance the environment by encouraging the increased demand for, and use of, environmentally preferred products and services. We do this by operating as a Centre of Excellence in Environmental Purchasing, influencing the market towards environmentally preferable choices by providing purchasing organisations with effective information, knowledge and tools.

With the recent launch of the State Government Program, ongoing success of the Business Program and supplier database ECO-Find, ECO-Buy's influence continues to grow. But it is the strength of the ECO-Buy Local Government Program that has paved the way for other levels of government and business. The annual reporting process is a cornerstone of this success, allowing us to monitor green purchasing progress over nearly a decade and observe emerging green product trends and opportunities.

This ninth ECO-Buy Local Government Annual Report details the green purchasing activities of 39 of ECO-Buy's 56 member councils in 2008/09, and highlights once again the progress made across many areas.

When the program began in 2000/01, members' expenditure on green products was \$5 million, and was exclusively spent on recycled content products. As this report shows, this figure has increased over the last seven years to at least \$73.2 million spent across a broad range of green products in 2008/2009.

In the last year ECO-Buy member councils have taken leadership in purchasing increased quantities of Green Power and greenhouse gas saving and water saving products.

This expenditure is complemented by good practice in implementing important elements of ECO-Buy's green purchasing program such as adopting Green Purchasing Policies and annual Action Plans, forming green purchasing Working Groups and including green specifications in contracts – all of which contribute to more environmentally preferable outcomes.

The green purchasing results outlined in this report are a demonstration to communities, businesses and other levels of government of what can be achieved with a genuine commitment to our environment and health into the future.

2.1. Ninth year headline accomplishments

The impressive green purchasing results in 2008/09 add to ECO-Buy's track record of success in supporting significant green purchasing outcomes in Victorian local governments since 2000. Cumulative nine year headline accomplishments for the ECO-Buy Program are shown below.

NINE YEAR HEADLINE ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2000/01 – 2008/09

Total Annual Reports submitted by local government members	320
Expenditure on green products since 2000	\$ 456,206,422

3. Key findings

- o There were 56 members of the ECO-Buy Local Government Program in 2008/09
- 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 \$73.2 million in environmentally preferred products in 2008/09 - \$1.72 million more than in 2007/08
- o 70 per cent of member reported to ECO-Buy in 2008/09 (10 per cent lower than 2007/08), reflecting the difficulty in collecting and reporting green purchasing expenditure
- o Over 3,800 tonnes of CO₂e were avoided 145,000 litres of water and 46.8 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 450 in 2008/09
- o There is an increase of over \$3.14 million in greenhouse friendly products in 2008/09 compared to 2007/08 with an ongoing trend in fleet management with members downsizing to smaller cylinder cars and emissions controlled plant vehicles
- o There was an increase of over \$1 million in water saving products in 2008/09 over 2007/08 levels, indicating the continued priority for conserving our water resources
- o Refurbished and second hand product expenditure has increased by 50 per cent of 2007/08 levels
- o 72 per cent of members reported having a formal green purchasing policy, with an increasing trend towards embedding green purchasing considerations into general procurement policies (in line with amendments to the Local Government Act 1989 which requires councils to have a publicly available procurement policy)
- o 59 per cent of members have developed or are developing tenders with detailed green specifications, indicating an increased capacity in the area of tender and contract development for embedding green considerations
- o 68 per cent of members have a system for tracking green purchasing, an increase of 19 per cent from 2007/08
- o Members are making increased effort to track green expenditure through capital works project, with 55 per cent of members reporting they track green expenditure from contracts despite this being a traditionally difficult area of green purchasing reporting.

The full findings of the 2008/09 State of Local Government Green Purchasing is presented in the following sections.

4. ECO-Buy Excellence in Green Purchasing 2010 Awards

ECO-Buy recognises member achievement each year at the Awards for Excellence in Green Purchasing. The ECO-Buy Awards are the only event in Australia dedicated to celebrating outstanding achievement in environmental purchasing.

There are seven awards presented to local government members, celebrating a range of green purchasing achievements. In all local government award categories, winners are determined on green expenditure as a percentage of available expenditure¹. We base the awards on investment as a percentage of available expenditure to account for the fact that there is often a large discrepancy in available budget between a metropolitan council and a small regional shire. The formula creates an equal playing field for all members irrespective of size and budget.

METHODOLOGY FOR DETERMINING AWARD RECIPIENTS

Council A spends \$1.5 million on recycled products in 2008/2009

Total available expenditure for Council A is \$73 million for 2008/2009

Percentage of available expenditure spent on recycled products for 2008/2009 is 2 per cent

The local government with the largest percentage in that expenditure category wins the award.

This year's awards ceremony was held on 6 May 2010 at the CUB Malthouse Theatre, Southbank, with the following Awards presented to local government members:

Award	Winner	%
Excellence in Green Purchasing by a Metropolitan Council	Glen Eira City Council	10.3
Excellence in Green Purchasing by a Regional Council	Greater Bendigo Rural City Council	4.8
Excellence in Green Purchasing by a Small Rural Council	Alpine Shire Council	7.0
Excellence in Greenhouse Friendly Purchasing	Darebin City Council	4.6
Excellence in Recycled Product Purchasing	Bayside City Council	4.4
Water Saving Champion	Glen Eira City Council	4.0
Green Powered Champion	Darebin City Council	1.5

5. About the Reporting Process

Reporting annual expenditure of green products is a key requirement of membership to the ECO-Buy Local Government Program. However, the benefits of tracking and reporting green spend are much broader in that it:

- o Assists organisations to monitor their green purchasing year to year, allowing them to benchmark progress, monitor the implementation of their Green Purchasing Policy and Action Plan and set targets for increasing green purchasing
- o Assists organisations to identify what green products they are currently buying, and where opportunities exist to expand the range of green products being purchased
- o Supports internal monitoring and reporting on the implementation of sustainability programs (e.g. Climate Change Action Plans)
- o Helps to quantify the environmental benefits achieved through green purchasing
- o Assists organisations to communicate green purchasing successes in tangible terms and seek recognition for achievements (e.g. at the ECO-Buy annual awards for Excellence in Green Purchasing).

¹ Expenditure figures are derived from council Annual Report financial statements and are calculated as the total revenue for that financial year (including recurrent and non-recurrent revenue) less employee benefits (excluding contractors) and less depreciation.

CASE STUDY 1 – SHOWTIME FOR THE RURAL CITY OF WANGARATTA

The recent \$7.5 million redevelopment of the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre has capped off a terrific year in the performing arts sector for the residents of Wangaratta. Of particular note in the development of the facility was the commitment by the Council to improving the 'greenness' of the building with \$229,000 designated solely for the inclusion of green features.

One of the primary means of improving the environmental credentials of the centre was the incorporation of a state of the art heating, cooling and lighting system. Infra-red motion sensors installed in each room enable heating/cooling and lighting to turn off and on as required, thus wasting no energy when a room is vacant. This system autonomously functions and adapts in accordance to changing external factors such as natural light and air quality, to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.



Further features of the building include an integrated waste management system, clever use of natural light and a grey water recycling system. All lights are energy efficient T5/T8 incandescent lights and a contract condition with the City's local electricians ensures that non-

5.1. Section one – qualitative survey

The section one survey requires members to provide a self-assessment of their progress in implementing a green purchasing program within their organisation. It focuses on nine broad areas of operational control including:

- o A description of the main barriers and incentives for local government members to improve their green purchasing
- o The existence of a cross-organisational working group
- o Whether the organisation has a green purchasing policy, including level of implementation and review
- o The existence and breadth of a green purchasing action plan
- o Targets that have been set for green purchasing
- o The use of environmental specifications in contracts
- o The degree to which green purchasing is tracked

5.2. Section two – green product expenditure

The primary indicator used by ECO-Buy to track green purchasing progress is the annual expenditure on green products, also known as 'green spend'. The section two report requires members to track and report their annual green spend for an entire financial year. ECO-Buy has set criteria around the types of products that qualify as 'green'.

WHAT CAN BE REPORTED

- o Products with 10 per cent or higher recycled content
- o Equipment with 4 stars or higher energy rating (as per the Energy Rating scheme)

- o Products that save energy
- o Products with 4 stars or higher gas rating (as per the Gas Rating scheme)
- o Products with 4 stars or higher water rating (as per the WELS scheme)
- o Vehicles that have 4 stars or higher as per the Green Vehicle Guide, or downsized vehicles (e.g. 6 cylinder to 4 cylinder cars)
- o Products that are non or low toxic, water saving, sourced from renewable resources, are compostable, biodegradable or certified organic
- o Refurbished or second-hand products
- o Accredited Green Power and Renewable Energy Certificates.

WHAT CANNOT BE REPORTED

- o GST is excluded from all reported expenditure
- o Investment in services (e.g. woodchipping, e-waste recycling)
- o The provision of environmental advice to your council (e.g. energy audits)
- o Installation costs from contracts that include green products
- o Training, theatrical performances used to promote environmental programs
- o Products used to promote environmental programs (thermometers, timers, publications etc) UNLESS they are less damaging to the environment and/or health than other similar products
- o Waste management products (ashtrays, litter bins etc) UNLESS they are less damaging to the environment and/or health than other similar products (e.g. contain recycled content)
- o Staff salaries.

5.3. Reporting categories

Determining what makes a product ‘green’ can be a confusing area, particularly in an era of increasing green marketing and ‘greenwash’. ECO-Buy works from the premise that every product purchased impacts the environment in some way. Our definition of a green product is one that is less damaging for the environment and/or human health than competing products that serve the same purpose.

In order to simplify the reporting process and enable benchmarking year on year, ECO-Buy uses the following categories to capture green product expenditure.

ECO-BUY REPORTING CATEGORIES

Category	Details
Recycled	<p>Definition: Products made with recycled materials (as opposed to recyclable).</p> <p>Key Environmental Benefits: Reduces demand for virgin materials (i.e. timber, plastics etc) Diverts waste from landfill and help close the recycling loop Reduces litter and pollution in the natural environment Provides an alternative to more resource intensive alternative materials</p> <p>Examples: Composts and mulches that meet the Australian Standard 4454 Paper and cardboard products such as copy paper, napkins, toilet tissue.</p>
Greenhouse Friendly	<p>Definition: Products that create fewer greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Key Environmental Benefits: Products that use less energy, produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions to reduce the threat of climate change and reliance on fossil fuels</p> <p>Examples: Appliances that are 4 stars or higher energy and gas rated Products that reduce the need for heating and cooling for example insulation and draft stoppers Fuel efficient transportation for example bikes or hybrid vehicles.</p>

<p>Other Green</p>	<p>Definition: Products are less damaging to the environment and/or human health than similar products but do not fit into the 'recycled' or 'greenhouse' categories (for example, water saving, biodegradable, organic and non-toxic products).</p> <p>Key Environmental Benefits: Low toxic products have low less impact on human health, eco-system health and water quality. Products made with renewable resources have a reduced impact on biodiversity through less demand on forest reserves. Water saving products reduce consumption or assist collection of scarce water resources. As products that would otherwise find their way into the litter stream, compostable and biodegradable products are environmentally preferable as they do not persist in the environment and create hazards for wildlife. Organic farming eliminates the use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides and genetically modified organisms</p> <p>Examples: Non-toxic and biodegradable cleaning products Dishwashers with a minimum 4 star water saving rating Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accredited timber Biodegradable dog-poo bags Organic and Fair Trade certified catering products.</p>
<p>Refurbished and Second-hand</p>	<p>Definition: Products that have been re-used in place of sending to landfill and/or procuring new products.</p> <p>Key Environmental Benefits: Re-using products extends the life of the product and reduces demand for virgin materials that would have been used in the manufacture of replacement products and diverts waste from landfill.</p> <p>Examples: Re-furbished signs and playground equipment Second-hand carpet tiles</p>
<p>Green Power</p>	<p>Definition: Energy products that are sourced from renewable energy and have the accredited Green Power tick</p> <p>Key Environmental Benefits: Reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants into the air and atmosphere</p> <p>Examples: Green Power is electricity purchased from an accredited energy retailers where Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) are purchased and surrendered on the consumer's behalf. Eligible Green Power is sourced from recently built renewable source such as wind or solar. Buying Green Power does mean that less electricity from conventional sources is needed to meet customer demand.</p>

5.4. Data consistency

It is important to note that direct comparisons between different reporting years are constrained by changes in the ECO-Buy reporting template over time. In 2000/01 and 2001/02, only spending on recycled content products under the then Local Government Buy Recycled Alliance was reported.

It is also worth noting that different numbers of members have submitted annual reports each year (see Appendix), and the range of products that can be reported on has increased in a number of different reporting templates over the last nine years due to an increase in the range and availability of green products.

In early 2007 a review of the reporting template was undertaken. A range of changes were made as a result of this review, including removing reused products, products with a sleep function (energy star), Green Fleet carbon offsetting, and excluding GST costs.

Following these changes, the reporting template is now in its third year of use, and allows 2008/2009 results to be benchmarked against 2006/07 and 2007/08 results.

Significant changes in the 2008/09 reporting template include a review of the 'total budget' figure. To date, members have reported their projected annual budget for that financial year. However there were some concerns that members were interpreting this guidance inconsistently.

In a bid to create a consistent framework to which all members reported, total expenditure figures are now derived from council's Annual Report financial statements and are calculated as the total revenue for that financial year (including recurrent and non-recurrent revenue) less employee benefits (excluding contractors) and less depreciation.

The total budget figure has been re-named as 'total available expenditure' and means that the budget results for 2008/2009 cannot be benchmarked against previous reporting years.

5.5. Challenges in reporting

ECO-Buy members continue to experience some difficulty in tracking and recording their green purchases. When reading this report it is important to keep in mind that some members are capturing only part of their actual expenditure, and the figures provided are best possible assessments of current green purchasing expenditure. It is therefore more likely that this report under represents rather than over represents spending on green products by local government members.

73 per cent of reporting local governments have an entirely decentralised purchasing system, with a further 22 per cent operating a hybrid decentralised and centralised system. This presents particular challenges to reporting full and accurate green purchasing expenditure, as under decentralised purchasing systems ECO-Buy coordinators rely on data capture of green purchases by all staff, who are each responsible for recording the green features of a product when they record each purchase they make. Contractors, who purchase green products on behalf of a local government, also rarely collect and report green purchasing data for what can be large scale capital works projects of considerable expenditure.

While most organisations report only on parameters such as energy and water use and waste production, Victorian local governments report on their green purchasing more comprehensively than any other sector. Therefore, while the reporting process isn't simple or perfect, ECO-Buy is unique in its work to help its members collect and report quantified green purchasing expenditure data. ECO-Buy will also continue to help members improve the accuracy of their tracking and reporting of green product purchases over time, as well as improving the value of the reporting process to members.

6. Expenditure Findings

This report covers the period from July 2008 to June 2009. At the end of the 2008/2009 year there were 56 member councils participating in the program.

TABLE 1 – RETURN RATES

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Expected to return a report	30	42	48	50	59	62	59	59	56
Returned a report	25 (83%)	38 (90%)	42 (88%)	45 (90%)	54 (92%)	54 (87%)	54 (91%)	47 (80%)	39 (70%)
Completed both sections	24 (80%)	30 (71%)	39 (81%)	40 (80%)	41 (69%)	41 (66%)	53 (90%)	42 (71%)	39 (70%)
Completed section one	25 (83%)	38 (90%)	41 (85%)	43 (86%)	49 (83%)	49 (59%)	54 (91%)	38 (64%)	39 (70%)
Completed section two	24 (80%)	30 (70%)	40 (83%)	42 (84%)	46% (78%)	52 (83%)	53 (90%)	46 (78%)	39 (70%)
Did not return a report	5 (17%)	4 (10%)	6 (13%)	5 (10%)	5 (8%)	5 (8%)	5 (8%)	12 (20%)	17 (30%)

Members were asked to return their completed report by 18 September 2009. Of the 56 members in the 2008/09 year, 39 (70 per cent) submitted both a section one survey and section two expenditure report. 17 members (30 per cent) did not complete either reports and one council (2 per cent) submitted a late section two report that could not be included in the combined analysis. This represents 12 per cent fewer submissions than in 2007/2008 and is indicative of the difficulty involved in collecting and reporting green purchasing expenditure.

This report therefore represents 70 per cent of ECO-Buy local government members' green purchasing expenditure and is a snapshot of the true extent of green purchasing within the ECO-Buy program, and amongst all 79 Victorian local governments.

6.1. Quantifying the environmental benefits of green purchasing

In 2007, ECO-Buy engaged the Centre for Design at RMIT University to develop a methodology for quantifying the environmental outcomes of purchasing environmentally preferable products. The project included life cycle analysis of some of the top expenditure areas in the Local Government Green Purchasing Report, the results of which are included below.

To capture the environmental savings from these product purchases, their tracking system must be able to record the quantity or volumes purchased (e.g. cubic metres/tonnes or number of reams etc).

ECO-Buy's 39 reporting local government members brought about the following environmental savings in 2008/2009 through their combined purchasing of just four product types.

TABLE 2 – QUANTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL SAVINGS THROUGH KEY GREEN PRODUCT PURCHASES

Product	Quantity	Greenhouse gas savings (tonnes)	Land use savings (ha)	Water savings (litres)
Asphalt	473,143 tonnes	2637	-	-
Compost	305 cubic metres	90	0.5	145,577
Mobile garbage bins	102,627 units	1,093	-	-
Paper	142,649 reams	36	46.3	-
Cumulative savings		3,856	46.8	145,577

- indicates where an environmental saving is not relevant, or where life cycle assessment data is poor quality or does not contain information on water or land use impacts for the product type.

Compost: Environmental benefits are based on the avoidance of 2.2 tonnes of organic matter from landfill for every tonne of compost purchased.

Paper: Greenhouse and land use savings are based on reported number of reams of paper.

Mobile Garbage Bins: The environmental benefit is based on a typical 240L MGB with 30per cent recycled content compared to an equivalent sized virgin plastic content bin.

Asphalt: The environmental benefit is based on typical 10 per cent recycled content with a 20:1 bitumen ratio.

6.2. Total expenditure on green products

The number of products that can be reported has grown from approximately 80 products in 2000/2001 to around 450 different green products in 2008/2009. The biggest growth can be seen in the 'greenhouse friendly' and 'other green' (water saving) categories, consistent with local government policy in these two areas.

Local government members have spent over \$456 million on green products since the beginning of the ECO-Buy Local Government Program. In 2008/2009, members invested an impressive \$73.2 million on products which reduce negative impacts on the environment.

While this report uses expenditure results to assess the state of Local Government green purchasing, it should be noted that successful green purchasing can often lead to environmental benefits from decreasing the amount of products purchased. Of the 32 local governments who reported that they have a Green Purchasing Policy, 75 per cent require staff to minimise waste where possible in purchasing decisions, which includes preventing unnecessary purchases.

CASE STUDY 1 – SAVING RESOURCES A GOOD SIGN

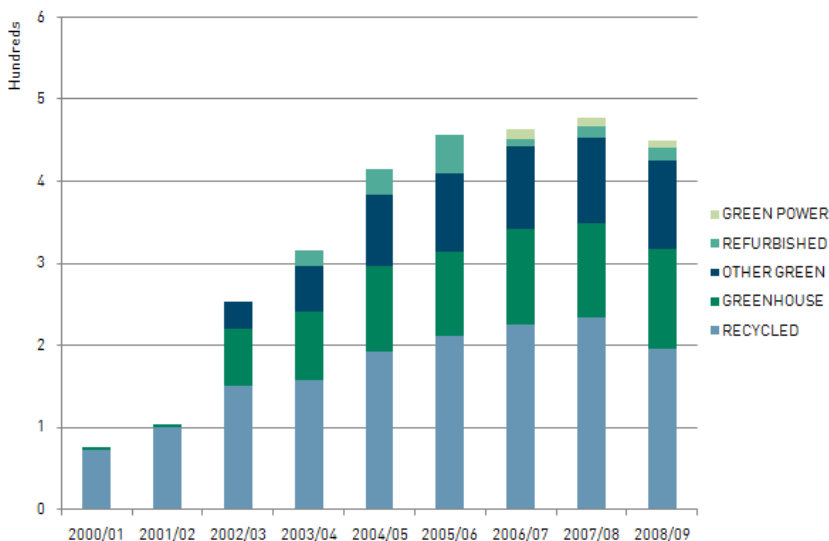
Hepburn Shire Council considers extending the life of products and equipment before replacing an item. When the Shire’s signage in one of their reserves needed replacing, they chose to repair the existing signage instead of buying new equipment in line with their policy.

The timber signs were re-routed, sanded and painted at a cost of \$625 per sign. By prolonging the life of the signage through repair, the Shire saved an estimated \$175 per sign. Not only was the initiative good for Hepburn Shire’s bottom line, it is also the most environmentally preferable option as the embodied resources in the signs were preserved.

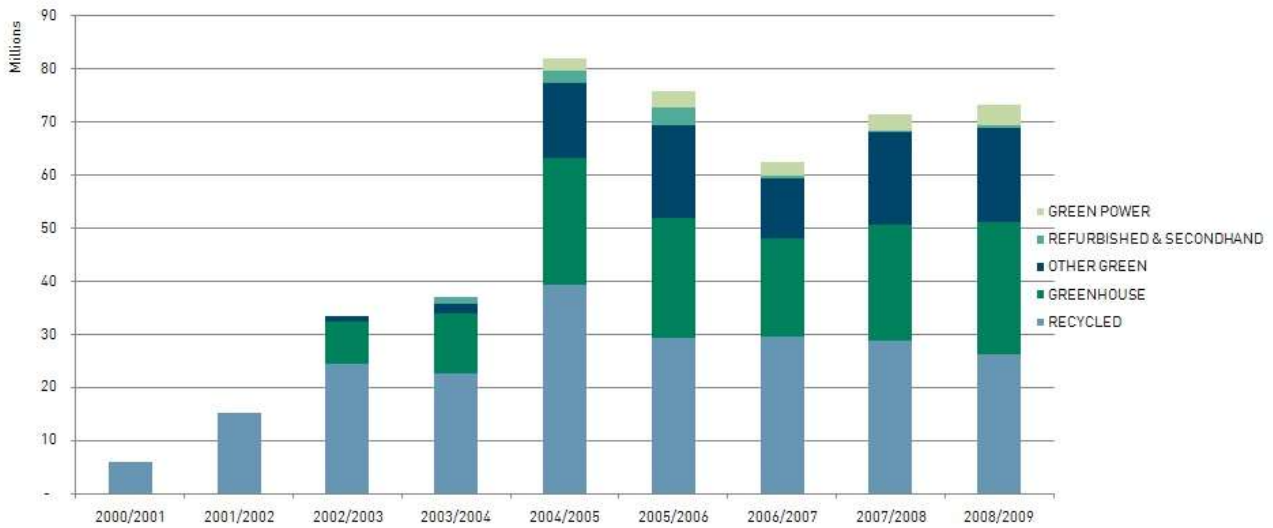


Courtesy Hepburn Shire Council.

GRAPH 1 – NUMBERS OF PRODUCTS REPORTED OVER TIME



GRAPH 2 – TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON GREEN PRODUCTS 2000/01 – 2008/2009



This is an increase from the previous year’s expenditure of \$1.72 million despite fewer report submissions. This reflects a degree of increased capacity of members to report a wider range of green expenditure, with 55 percent of reporting members able to capture the larger amount of green spending that occurs through capital works projects in 2008/09.

TABLE 3 – TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON GREEN PRODUCTS 2000/01 – 2008/2009

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/2008	2008/2009
Recycled	5,914,164	15,302,295	24,533,043	22,670,556	39,204,717	29,198,300	29,444,457	28,802,092	26,165,037
Greenhouse			7,933,446	11,341,947	23,900,073	22,660,232	18,551,167	21,915,945	25,051,190
Other green			1,063,938	1,679,982	14,261,247	17,483,792	11,409,229	17,361,836	17,728,416
Refurbished and second-hand				1,295,068*	2,357,201*	3,303,530*	348,204	188,215	379,528
Green Power					2,242,323^	3,177,981^	2,599,778	3,278,475	3,952,065
Total	5,914,164	15,302,295	33,126,424	36,987,548	81,965,561	75,734,797	62,352,834	71,546,563	73,276,236

* Figure included calculated dollar values for reused products, which were removed from the reporting template in 2006/07

^ Figure included Green Power service charges, which were removed from the reporting template in 2006/07

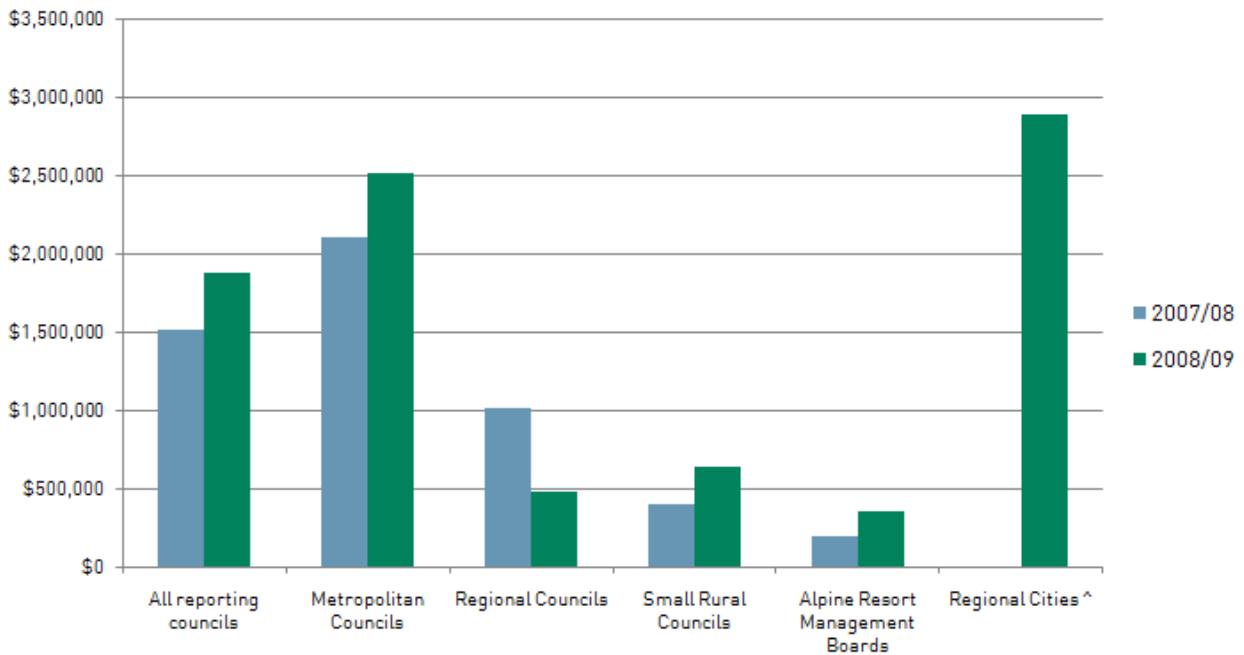
TABLE 4 – CUMULATIVE TOTAL SPEND BY PRODUCT CATEGORY 2000/2001 – 2008/2009

Green product category	Cumulative reported expenditure
Recycled	221,234,661
Greenhouse Friendly	131,354,000
Other green	80,988,440
Refurbished and second-hand	7,871,746
Green Power	15,250,622
Total	456,699,469

6.3. Benchmarked green purchasing results – council category

Benchmarking green purchasing results against year-to-year performance is useful for establishing key trends. However, comparing results against the average expenditure, total available budget and rateable properties of all ECO-Buy local government members is also useful for making comparisons across different sized/resourced councils.

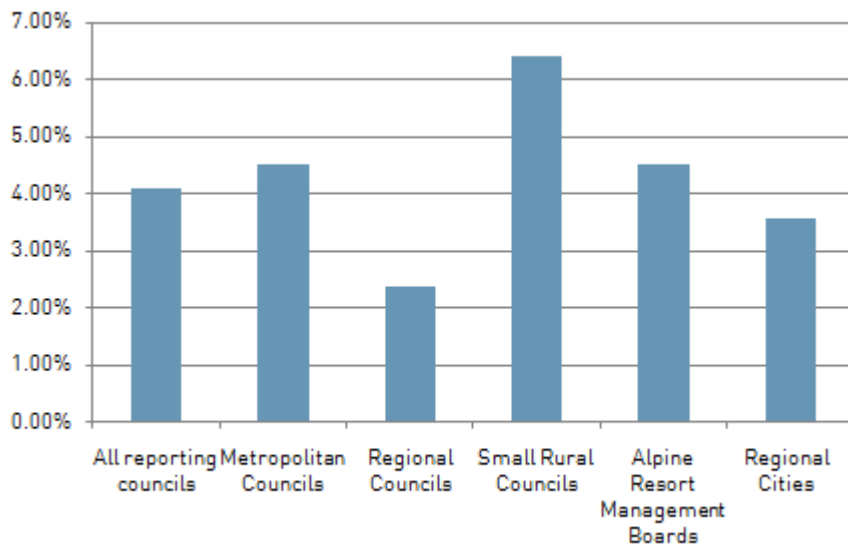
GRAPH 3 – AVERAGE EXPENDITURE BY COUNCIL CATEGORY 2007/2008-2008/2009



^Regional cities are a new council category in 2008/2009 and have been removed from the 'regional council' category.

It is pleasing to see that the average expenditure on green products has increased for all council categories in 2008/2009 with the exception of regional councils. This is primarily due to the removal of regional cities into its own category and who on average have a much higher expenditure on green products than regional councils – bringing the average down significantly for regional councils.

GRAPH 4 – AVERAGE GREEN SPENDING AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AVAILABLE EXPENDITURE



The average reported spending on environmentally preferable products as a percentage of total available expenditure (all councils) is 4.1 per cent for 2008/2009. As the methodology for calculating total available expenditure had changed, results cannot be benchmarked with 2007/2008 results. However we can report that small rural councils are on average spending the highest percentage of available expenditure on green products (6.4%) followed by Alpine Resort Management Boards and metropolitan councils (4.5%).



Courtesy of City of Greater Bendigo

CASE STUDY 2 – A PLACE IN THE SUNLIGHT

Greater Bendigo is a major regional centre servicing the towns and rural areas of the Loddon region, about 150 kilometres North West of Melbourne.

The region experiences comparatively good solar exposure, making investment in products powered by solar energy a logical choice.

The big tick on Councils action plan last year was the purchase and installation of 22 solar powered ticket machines to replace the City's 100 conventional mains power operated machines.

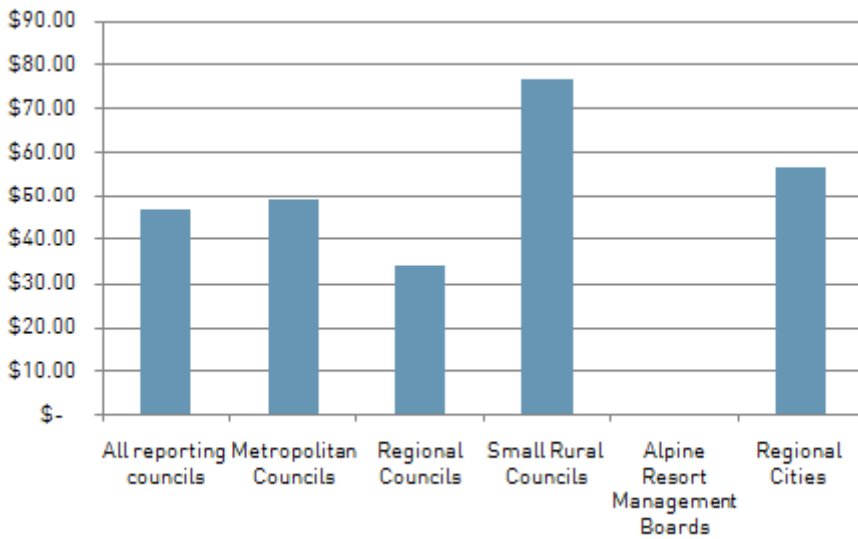
In addition to making the most of an abundant natural resource in sunlight, these highly visible pieces of necessary infrastructure have allowed Council to reduce non-renewable energy consumption, save emissions and achieve financial and environmental savings during installation of the machines.

According to Neville Zimmer, Manager, Parking & Animal Control, solar powered ticket machines are simpler to install than conventional machines. "There is no need to disturb pavements or footpaths install pits and plug into the grid. That alone reduces the installation costs and environmental disturbance."

Solar powered ticketing machines also have the benefit of lasting longer than conventional machines, reducing maintenance and disposal costs and maximising the embodied resources used to manufacture the machines.

The average green spending per rateable property for local government members is \$47 (up from \$45 in 2007/08), but ranges between extremes of \$13 up to \$139 reported green spend per rateable property in different local governments. Again, small rural councils are performing the best with the average of \$77 green spend per rateable property. As Alpine Resort Management Boards do not have rateable properties they are excluded from this analysis.

GRAPH 5 – AVERAGE GREEN SPENDING PER RATEABLE PROPERTY



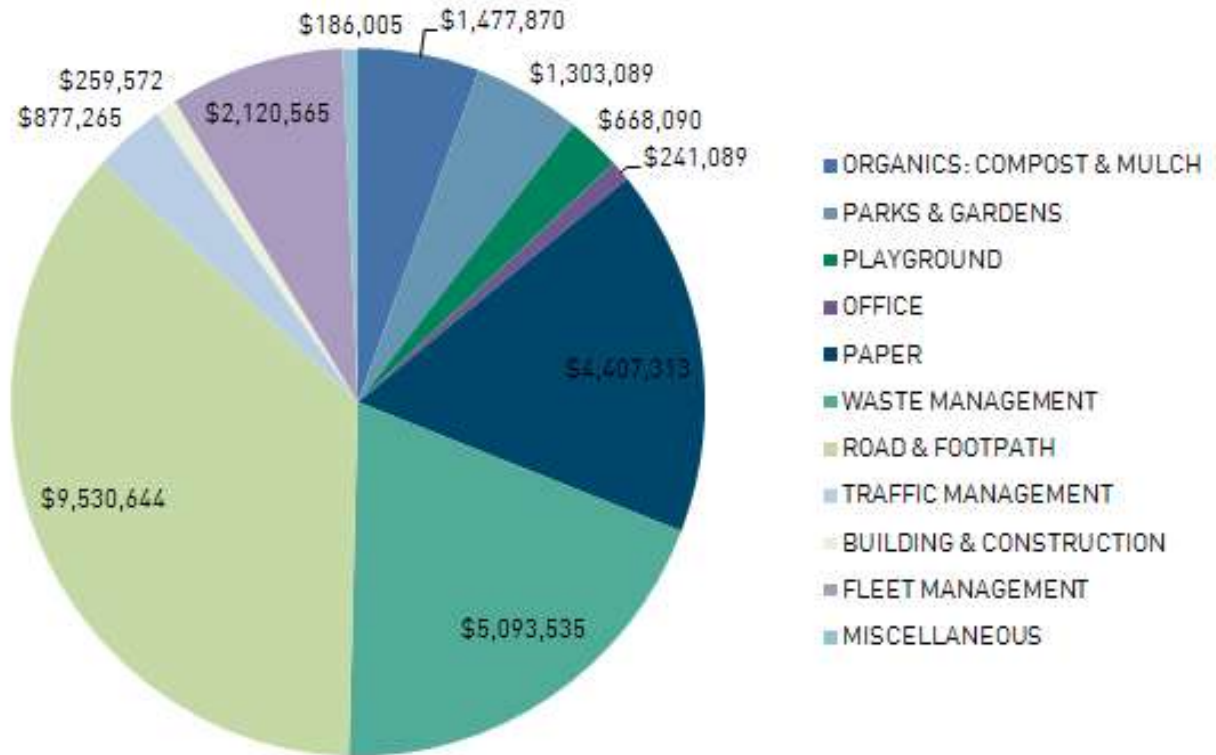
6.4. Recycled product purchasing

Total expenditure on recycled content products was \$26,165,037. This was slightly down on the recycled content product expenditure of 2007/08. Despite the overall decrease, there were increases in the purchase of recycled products for playgrounds, traffic management and fleet management. This includes increased spending on recycled content play structures, safety mats, soft fall pavers, bollards, crash cushions, speed humps, biodiesel and re-treads.

TABLE 5 – RECYCLED PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2000/01 – 2008/2009

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Organics: Compost & Mulch	343,318	960,873	1,456,945	1,193,927	2,359,483	2,643,645	3,145,110	1,928,246	1,477,870
Parks & Gardens	67,830	352,653	591,075	546,194	1,032,252	1,123,504	915,537	1,399,794	1,303,089
Playground	42,058	299,727	364,397	300,351	739,880	1,294,322	830,773	495,352	668,090
Office	177,238	140,863	252,130	352,569	598,531	632,439	452,632	534,954	241,089
Paper	610,547	1,318,797	2,210,100	2,692,968	4,894,953	6,062,132	5,122,601	4,864,844	4,407,313
Waste Management	1,154,954	6,028,640	11,253,978	11,648,135	7,806,132	7,410,717	7,698,654	5,698,037	5,093,535
Road & Footpath	3,075,854	5,432,359	7,462,574	5,046,481	6,336,624	4,527,057	8,725,185	10,926,160	9,530,644
Traffic Management	442,365	768,383	461,287	361,720	354,063	661,435	538,162	689,548	877,265
Building & Construction	-	-	246,354	94,750	14,561,953	4,372,980	947,322	562,065	259,572
Fleet Management	-	-	221,653	155,880	411,462	377,127	665,056	1,406,844	2,120,565
Miscellaneous	-	-	12,550	277,581	109,384	92,942	403,425	296,248	186,005
Total	5,914,164	15,302,295	24,533,043	22,670,556	39,204,717	29,198,300	29,444,457	28,802,092	26,165,037

GRAPH 6 – RECYCLED PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2008/2009



6.5. Greenhouse friendly product purchasing

Greenhouse friendly products are defined as those that create fewer greenhouse gas emissions in their operation. Many recycled content products can also be classified as greenhouse friendly, as products made from recycled materials generally create fewer greenhouse gases than new products.

There has been an impressive increase of \$3.14 million in purchasing of greenhouse friendly products from 2007/08.

These increases reflect the leadership many local governments are taking in purchasing efficient and less carbon intensive products to help combat climate change.

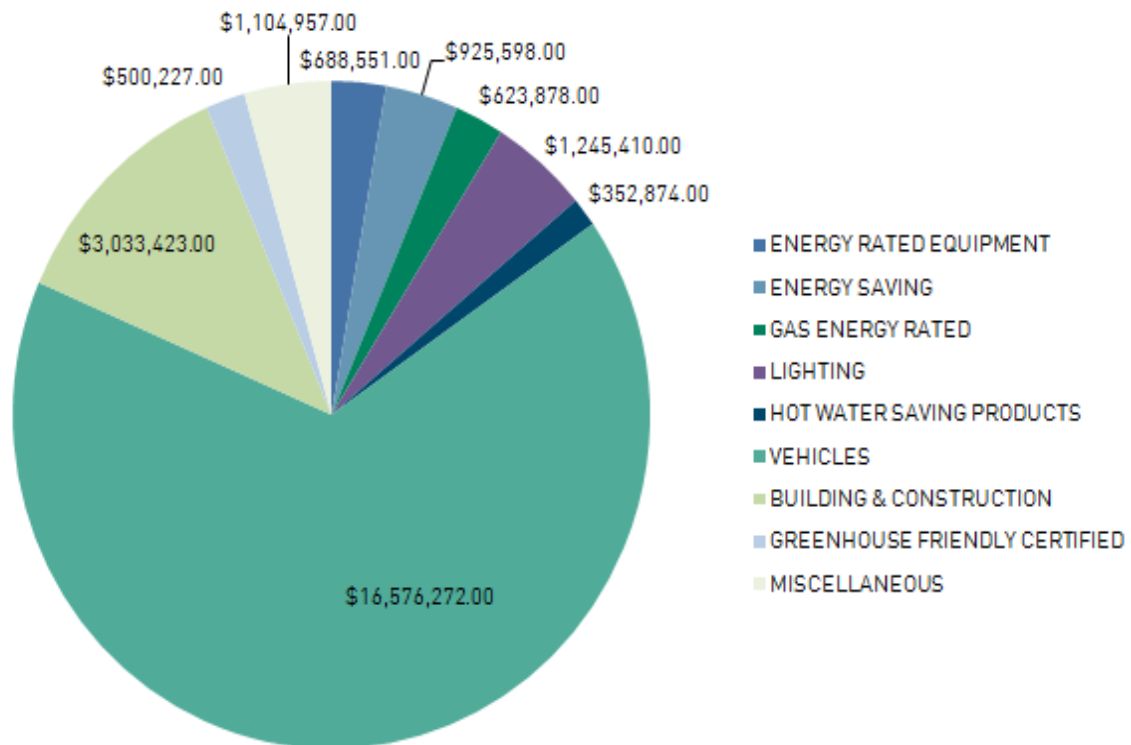
There is an ongoing trend amongst local governments to downsize to smaller cylinder vehicles and emissions controlled trucks, with the purchasing on environmentally preferable vehicles increasing from \$16.2 million to \$16.4 in the last year. There has also been an dramatic increase in the energy efficient building and constructions materials such as solar panels, air conditioners/HVAC systems and insulation.

TABLE 6 – GREENHOUSE FRIENDLY PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2002/03 – 2008/2009

	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009
Energy Star Equipment	1,172,702	2,418,839	5,390,319	5,435,001	-	-	-
Energy Rated Equipment	63,056	149,779	319,984	221,441	548,064	773,259	688,551
Energy Saving	-	156,415	409,227	829,859	1,207,822	930,074	925,598
Gas Energy Rated	38,892	39,114	78,502	60,177	446,402	103,875	623,878
Lighting	499,417	315,812	722,035	521,345	652,452	1,255,425	1,245,410
Hot Water Saving Products	57,569	129,759	109,402	25,346	73,338	279,891	352,874
Vehicles	5,520,610	7,927,764	5,612,385	8,847,425	13,699,321	16,159,617	16,576,272
Building & Construction	581,200	68,558	10,886,220	6,205,885	806,616	1,781,863	3,033,423
Greenhouse Friendly Certified	-	20,442	25,268	390,720	1,018,535	474,772	500,227
Miscellaneous	-	115,465	346,731	123,033	98,617	157,169	1,104,957
Total	7,933,446	11,341,947	23,900,073	22,660,232	18,551,167	21,915,945	25,051,190

* Energy Star Rated IT equipment was removed from 2006/07 given that these energy saving features are reliant on set up and operation, rather than inherent energy saving features of the products themselves.

GRAPH 7 – GREENHOUSE FRIENDLY PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2008/2009



CASE STUDY 3 – MEETING FUTURE EMISSIONS STANDARDS IN WASTE MANAGEMENT

When the City of Whittlesea's waste removal contract came up for renewal, they used the opportunity to bring it into line with their green procurement commitments. The winning tender came to them with two choices - a Euro four and Euro five compliant trucks.

The Council conducted a cost benefit analysis of the two options, and based purely on cost savings, the Euro four vehicles seemed to fit the bill. However the City of Whittlesea took a different perspective.



Euro five trucks meet future emission standards
(courtesy of City of Whittlesea)

While the Euro four trucks meet current Australian emission standards, the Euro five trucks comply with emission standards that won't be required in Australia until 2011, are quieter, more fuel efficient, require less maintenance and have subsequently less downtime.

Also, with waste management as a key interface with the community, the City of Whittlesea could see the clear benefits of the greener trucks in promoting Council's commitment to environmental

6.6. 'Other' green product purchasing

'Other' green products are those that have less impact on the environment and often human health compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose, but don't fit in the recycled or greenhouse friendly categories. Water Rated and water saving products are included in this category. Lower toxicity products leading to improved air quality and less harm in ecosystems and waterways are also included in this section.

Members' expenditure on 'other' green products has increased from \$17.4 million in 2007/2008 to \$17.7 million in 2008/2009.

The largest increase in reported 'other' green expenditure was on water saving products, which has grown by \$1 million over the last year. The increase in water saving products is a good reflection of the efforts local governments are making to reduce their water use. Water saving products include drought resistant plants, dual flush toilets, waterless urinals, composting toilets, water harvesting equipment such as water tanks and grey water systems, and flow regulators, low flow shower heads, and 4 Star and above dishwashers and washing

machines. Expenditure on green building and construction materials, such as FSC certified timber products, low VOC paints and adhesives also continues to increase in 2008/2009, with members becoming more confident in reporting expenditure from capital works program.

TABLE 7- 'OTHER' GREEN PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2002/03 – 2008/2009

	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009
Indoor	15,702	33,320	9,957	679,708	188,930	285,449	188,388
Outdoor	276,360	471,125	2,443,034	2,522,661	2,388,434	2,270,352	2,034,831
Building & Construction	420,000	68,547	8,092,730	11,235,294	11,218	159,213	472,398
Water Saving	238,821	771,159	2,437,405	2,654,362	3,391,253	10,968,689	11,987,637
Cleaning Products	53,055	47,908	192,143	50,486	126,684	39,559	20,002
Catering / Food / Events	-	-	36,018	15,626	26,725	38,068	27,922
Office	-	-	580,744	170,772	27,002	125,608	157,280
Computer Equipment With Green Features	-	-	-	-	4,951,120	3,245,377	2,220,528
Miscellaneous	60,000	287,923	469,216	154,883	297,863	229,521	619,430
Total	1,063,938	1,679,982	14,261,247	17,483,792	11,409,229	17,361,836	17,728,416

CASE STUDY 4 – JUST ADD WATER: A PARTNERSHIP IN PROGRESS

With its leafy streetscapes and biodiverse urban corridors, Boroondara City Council has a longstanding public commitment to protecting its natural assets and enhancing the environment.

So when the Glen Iris Bowling Club closed, a significant area of public land became available to the City of Boroondara and the obvious project was to establish the Glen Iris Wetlands in partnership with Melbourne Water and Stockland Property Group.

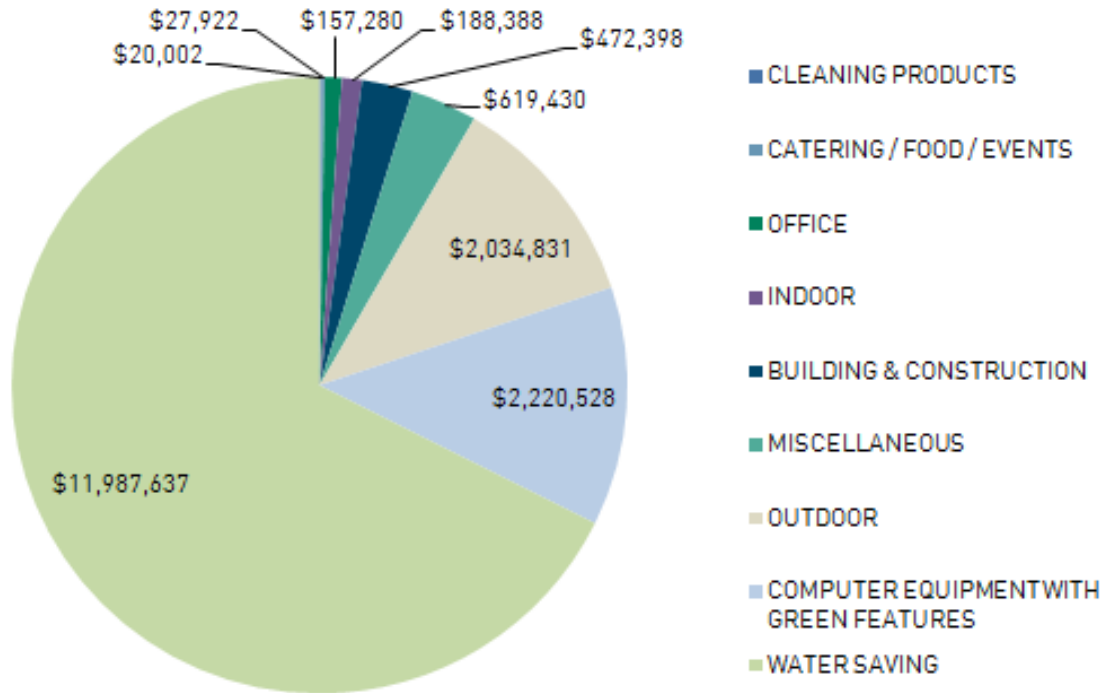
The project partners have invested approximately \$1.5 million in green products to establish the Wetlands, which act as a biological filter to remove and convert contaminants of urban stormwater while providing a habitat for a variety of bird and animal species.

Despite operating for less than a year, the project has already provided demonstrable benefits to the community in the areas of biodiversity protection, improved visual and recreational amenity, improved water quality in Gardiners Creek, and reduced potable water usage in the maintenance of community sporting facilities.



The Glen Iris Wetlands help capture nitrogen and other pollutants before they can head into stormwater (courtesy Boroondara City Council)

GRAPH 8 – OTHER’ GREEN PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2008/2009



6.7. Refurbished and second-hand purchasing

Using a refurbished or second-hand product prevents usable material being sent to landfill, and saves new products, made from virgin materials, from being purchased.

All products listed under refurbished and second-hand spending were purchased from an external organisation, rather than reused within council operations.

Refurbished and second-hand product expenditure has increased by around 50 per cent in the last year. This is primarily due to the increased reporting of refurbished signs, second-hand playground equipment and furniture.

TABLE 8 – REFURBISHED AND SECOND-HAND PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2003/04 – 2008/2009

	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009
Total	1,295,068*	2,357,201*	3,303,530*	348,204	188,215	379,528

* Figure includes expenditure on re-used products, which was removed from reporting in 2006/2007.

6.8. Green Power purchasing

Green Power is a national accreditation program for renewable energy products offered by electricity suppliers to businesses and households across Australia. Many local governments actively encourage their residents to choose Green Power for their electricity purchasing, as well as purchasing Green Power electricity for council buildings and street lighting.

Purchasing Green Power, along with more energy and fuel efficient products, is one of the main avenues local governments have to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with their operations. Green Power is particularly significant in the strategies of those local governments aiming to become ‘carbon neutral’ in the coming years.

Members' spending on Green Power was \$4 million in 2008/2009. This is a positive increase of \$674,000 in Green Power purchasing from 2007/08, which reflects the ongoing priority of emissions reductions amongst local governments.

TABLE 9 – EXPENDITURE ON GREEN POWER 2004/05 – 2008/2009

Green Power	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009
Total	2,242,323*	3,177,981*	2,599,778	3,278,475	3,952,065

* 2004/05 and 2005/06 figures include service charges which were removed from reporting in 2006/07

CASE STUDY 5 - THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF CARBON NEUTRALITY

Achieving carbon neutrality is no mean feat. It requires a significant commitment to sustainability and a methodical approach to detail.

In order to achieve carbon neutrality at the East Reservoir Neighbourhood House, careful planning was required from the outset.

Council used the Green Building Council's green star rating tool as a starting point for the project and in most cases went well beyond the Section J Building Code energy specifications in the building.

A project management team was created, including a Project Manager, Climate Change Action Officer and ESD Officer, to keep track of every nut and bolt, each decision made, and their resultant sustainability and efficiency.

Every stage of the process needed to be checked and re-checked, from the architect and designers to builders, suppliers and contractors, to make sure everyone was on board and understanding the end vision for the project- carbon neutrality.

While the Neighbourhood House is Council owned, it is a community-operated building. The supportive building manager receives ongoing training from the Darebin Climate Change Action Officer to help monitor and ensure all groups using the building understand its use and requirements – right down to using the automated lights, the waterless urinal and computer systems that turn themselves off out of regular-use hours.



The carbon neutral East Reservoir Neighbourhood House (Courtesy Darebin City Council)

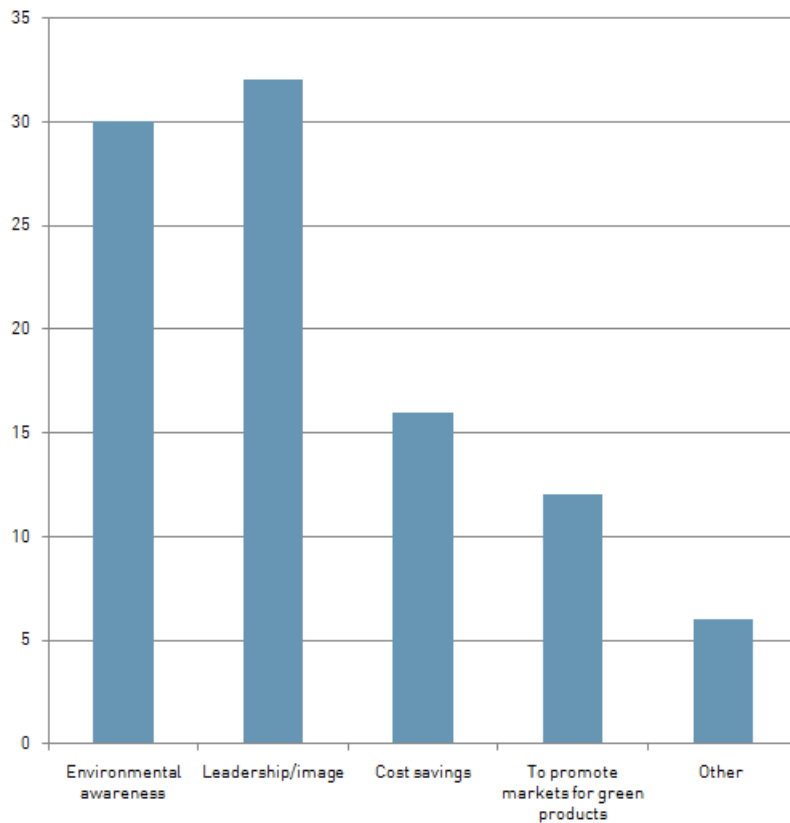
7. Implementation Findings

This section focuses on members' implementation of ECO-Buy and the factors that influence green purchasing within their council. 39 local governments completed the section one survey in 2008/2009.

7.1. Drivers for green purchasing

There are a range of organisational green purchasing drivers. A majority of members (84 per cent) indicated that they are motivated to undertake green purchasing to ensure they are demonstrating to their community and supply chain that they are committed to environmental sustainability. A further 79 per cent are driven by concern for the environment, usually values that are led by senior management. Cost saving was also cited as an incentive for green purchasing, with leading organisations looking more closely at the total cost of ownership and benefits from investing in green products.

GRAPH 9 – DRIVERS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERS TO PURCHASE GREEN PRODUCTS

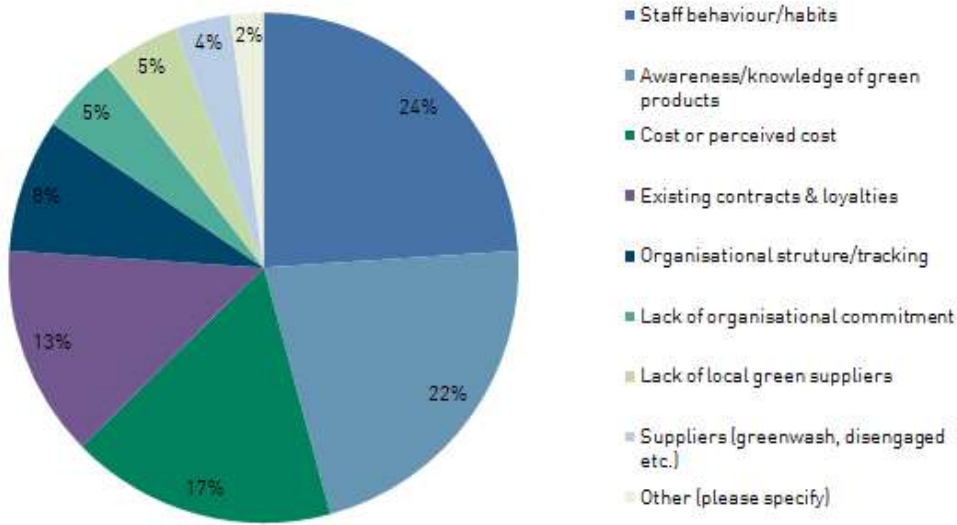


7.2. Barriers to green purchasing

Members identified a number of barriers they felt they faced in improving green purchasing practices in their organisation. The most common barrier cited was poor staff awareness of both the need for green purchasing (24 per cent) and what green products are available that relates to their role (22 per cent). Other barriers include cost or perceived cost (17 per cent) existing contracts and loyalties (13 per cent) and organisational structure preventing effective tracking and reporting of green spend (8 per cent)

ECO-Buy will continue to offer staff awareness training, resources and support to all members as part of its program of engagement, as well as working at a strategic level to raise the profile of green purchasing more generally.

GRAPH 10 – BARRIER TO GREEN PURCHASING



CASE STUDY 6 - EMBEDDING GREEN INTO CORPORATE CULTURE

Green purchasing is now embedded in Glen Eira City Council’s corporate culture. But it has been a gradual process over seven years – requiring the support and leadership of staff at all levels of the organisation.

Since joining the ECO-Buy program in 2002-03, the Council has increased its green expenditure from \$112,000 to more than \$4.5 million in 2008-09.

From simple inclusions such as recycled paper for in-house printing and publications to using recycled rock in road base construction, Council staff have investigated and adopted products from suppliers across the ECO-Find supplier database.

Council’s success is in looking at each business area for green potential and, using the ECO-Buy reporting template, identifying and researching green products and suppliers.

Products such as recycled rock and concrete for road base materials were trialed to overcome any scepticism of their practicality and usability. Trials proved conclusively that the products were better and they’re now used almost exclusively in Council works

Attitudes towards green products, and the need to purchase products that are less damaging to the environment, have also changed over time. More than ever, the community expects the Council to take the lead in environmental sustainability



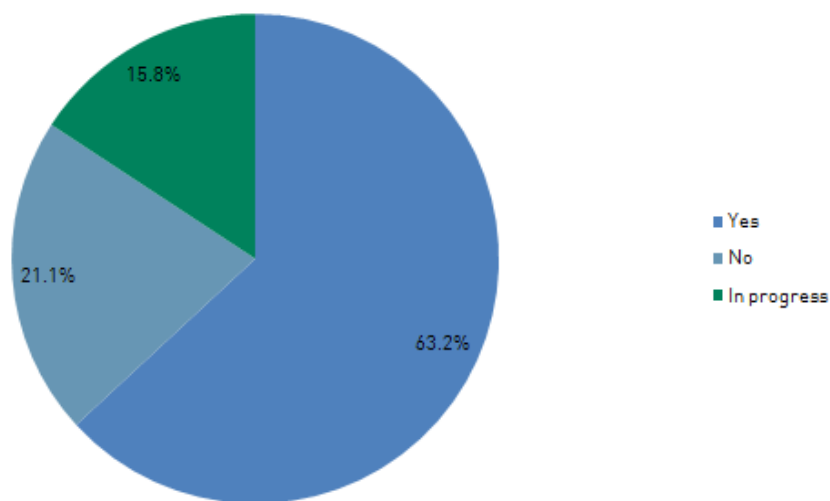
Green purchases at Glen Eira include drought resistant turf for sporting ground (courtesy Glen Eira City Council).

7.3. Green purchasing working group

Over 73 per cent of members reported having a decentralised purchasing structure, meaning there are many staff with purchasing responsibilities within council organisations. This create an additional challenge for green purchasing in that it can be difficult to communicate green purchasing information across many different functions.

One of the ways in which this challenge can be overcome is through communicating green purchasing priorities through a working group. 63 per cent of reporting members have such a working group in place, with a further 21 per cent in the process of establishing a working group. The average working group size was 12 people, with good cross-council representation reported by members.

GRAPH 11 – DO YOU HAVE A GREEN PURCHASING WORKING GROUP?



Environment and sustainability staff continue to represent the largest proportion of working group members with other commonly reported participants including staff from building maintenance, customer services, engineering, finance, information services, procurement, contracts and planners.

7.4. Green Purchasing Policies

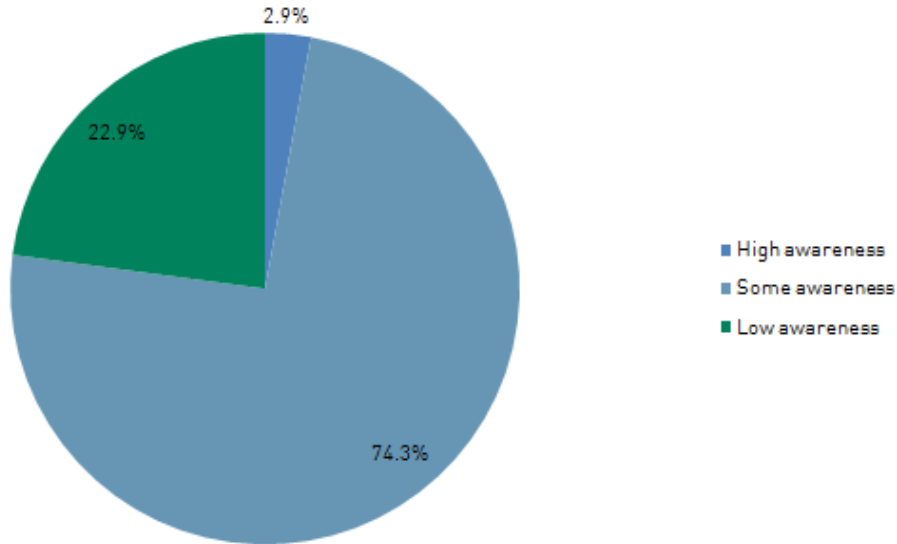
ECO-Buy members agree to adopt a Green Purchasing Policy when they join the ECO-Buy program. The policy confirms the member’s commitment to give preference to purchasing green products whenever possible, and provides a framework for staff to help select green products in their everyday purchasing decisions.

31 ECO-Buy members (72 per cent) had adopted a purchasing policy in 2008/09. 20 of those members with policies have embedded green purchasing considerations in their generic purchasing policy, whereas 11 members have a stand-alone green purchasing policy.

With a new legislative requirement under section 186A of the Local Government Act 1989 (which requires all Victorian local government to have a publicly available procurement policy), there is an increased trend towards embedding green purchasing into general procurement policies. This is a positive development as the legislatively required Procurement Policy is both a public document and reviewed annually – increasing its likelihood of being implemented and updated regularly.

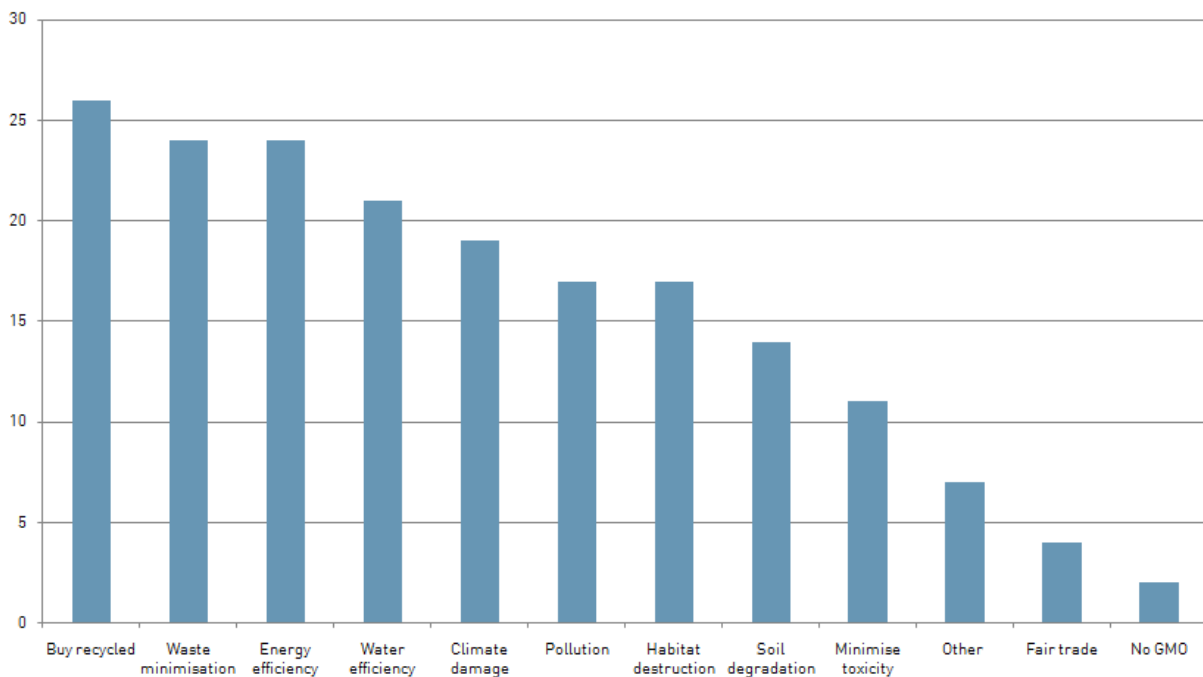
Ensuring that all staff have awareness of council's green purchasing policy and what it means for them in practice remains an ongoing challenge for ECO-Buy coordinators, as demonstrated by only three per cent of reporting members indicating staff have a high-awareness of their green purchasing policy commitments.

GRAPH 12 – LEVEL OF STAFF AWARENESS OF COUNCIL POLICY COMMITMENTS



The main considerations included in members' purchasing policies in 2008/2009 were buy recycled (26 councils) waste minimisation (24), energy efficiency (24), water efficiency (21) climate change (19), pollution (17) and habitat destruction (17). 'Other' considerations include life cycle costing, packaging and green energy.

GRAPH 13 – ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDED IN GREEN PURCHASING POLICY

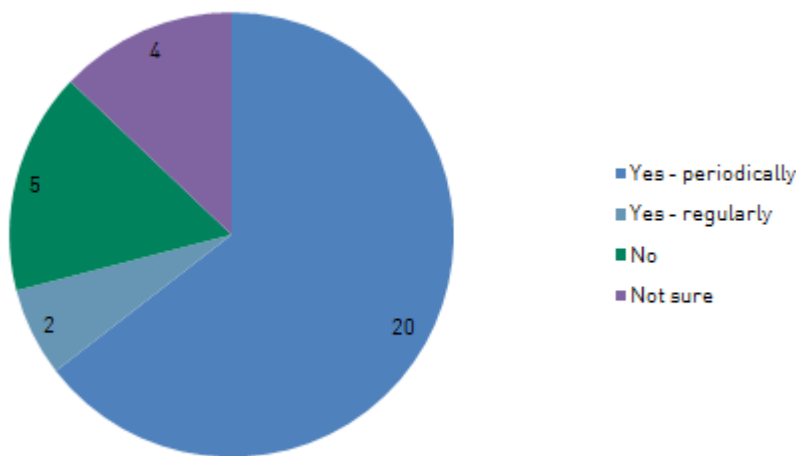


7.5. Action plans and targets

23 reporting members have a green purchasing action plan to guide their implementation of green purchasing with a further nine members in the process of developing an action plan. A majority of members (66 per cent) with action plans reported their plans cover a one year period of time, with other members reporting a period of two (14 per cent) and three (14 per cent) years.

The regular review of member action plans continues to be an ongoing issue affecting the effective implementation of green purchasing actions. Some members have embedded green purchasing actions in other management plans (such as Sustainable Management Plans and Environment Strategies) which have a regular process of review and reporting. ECO-Buy will be encouraging members to use these types of documents to progress green purchasing actions where appropriate.

GRAPH 14 – DO YOU REVIEW YOUR ACTION PLAN?



Member action plans primarily covered seven areas of implementation including:

- o Organisational change/education/training (27 members)
- o Communication (25)
- o Product purchases (24)
- o Tracking (23)
- o Contract/tender development (18)
- o Purchasing policy updates (18)
- o Monitoring and review (1)

Eight members reported having targets in place for increasing their green purchasing, with a further 11 in the process of doing so. This is a relatively low number of councils and reflects the need for green purchasing to be aligned with other corporate strategies and targets (such as greenhouse gas reduction targets). The types of targets for green purchasing members are setting vary greatly in ambition, but on the whole are based on green purchasing expenditure results such as:

- o Targets for increasing expenditure on accredited Green Power
- o Five to 30 per cent of all expenditure on green products by 2010
- o 1.5 to 10 per cent increase in purchasing per year
- o Staggered targets such as 10 per cent green purchasing by 2010 and 20 per cent by 2012.

84 per cent of members reported that they expected to increase their purchasing of green products over the next 12 months, reflecting a confidence in the continued improvement in green purchasing amongst local governments.

7.6. Green contracts and tenders

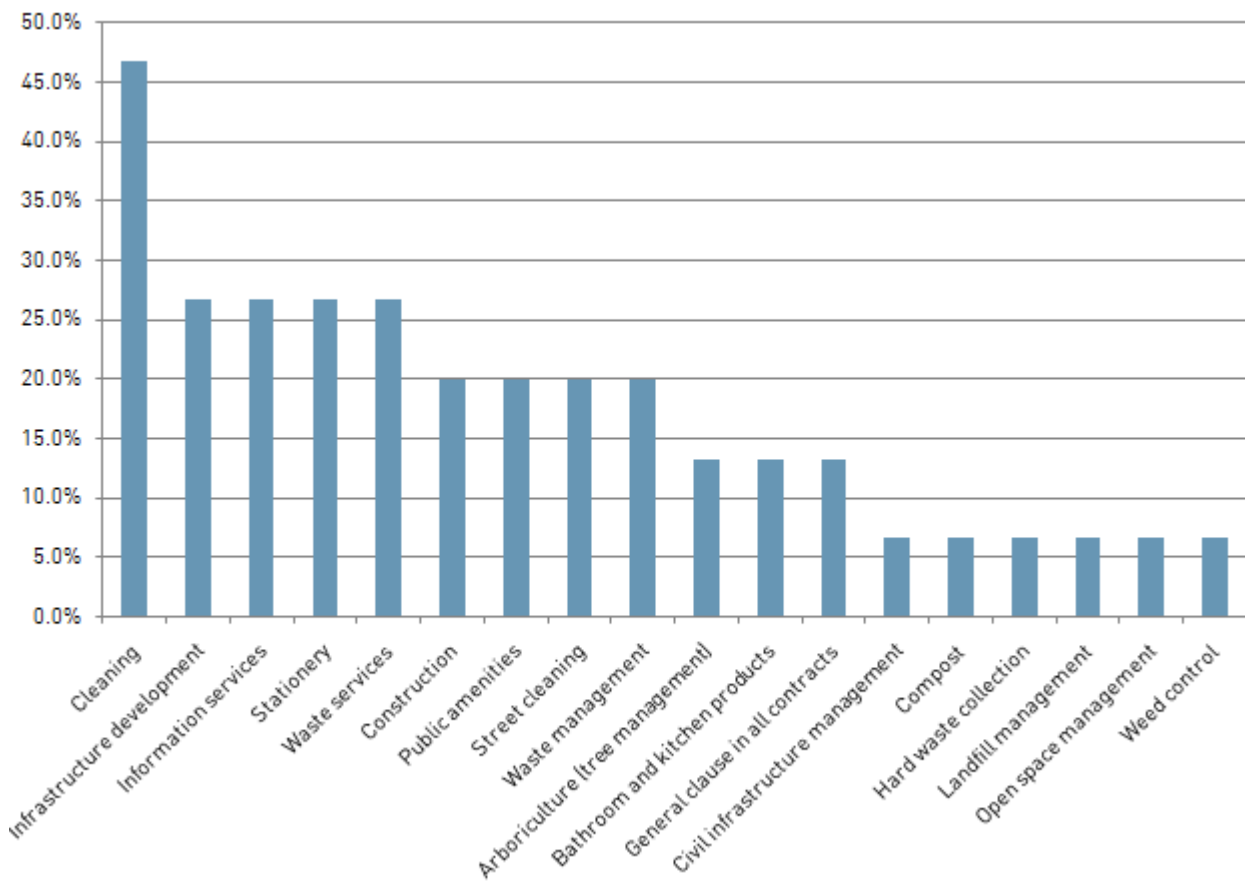
Most large scale purchasing in local governments is undertaken by a tender process. ECO-Buy has developed a range of model specifications and encourages council staff to use these when writing contracts and tender documentation. Green specifications are one of the most effective ways councils can ensure preference is given to green products in large-scale purchases, conveying a clear message to tendering organisations, contractors and the public that council is committed to giving preference to green products.

33 per cent of members reported including environmental specification in contracts and tenders in 2008/09, which is down from 51 per cent in 2007/08. However, 26 per cent of reporting members indicated they were in the process of developing tenders with environmental considerations, bring the combined total to 59 per cent.

The range of contract types including green specifications has increased from 11 in 2001/02 to 23 in 2008/09. The most common contracts where detailed environmental specifications were included last year are cleaning (46 per cent of reporting Councils), infrastructure development, information services, stationary and waste services (27 per cent of reporting Councils), and construction, public amenities, street cleaning and waste management (20 per cent).

There has been increased interest from members for guidance on specifying environmental criteria for service contracts, an area that ECO-Buy is currently developing.

GRAPH 15 - CONTRACTS INCLUDING GREEN SPECIFICATIONS IN 2008/2009



CASE STUDY 6 - CITY OF YARRA PAVES THE WAY FOR COOLER ROADS

With mounting public pressure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the community level, many local governments are setting emission targets to reduce their impact on climate change. With the aim of promoting both environmentally friendly materials and working methods throughout the council area, the City of Yarra addressed these targets by initiating an innovative asphalt program in their locality.

Known as 'warm-mix' asphalt, the process involves laying asphalt at a much lower temperature than that of the standard 'hot-mix' practice. With decreased mixing temperatures there is a reduction in the oxidation of the asphalt cement during the manufacturing and laying down process, which then translates into reduced greenhouse gas emissions and a longer service life without compromising the quality of the paving mix.

Using this method, the City of Yarra was able to reduce its carbon emissions on the Bell Street, Fitzroy works by more than one tonne when compared to that of standard practice¹.

In addition to the benefits of reduced emissions, the warm asphalt itself includes up to 15% recycled content. The use of warm mix technology also provides a safer working environment for employees due to the lower temperatures experienced and reduced fumes during production and placement.

As organisations begin to look to their supply chain as part of their carbon management strategy, the City of Yarra are certainly leading the way towards greener (and cooler) road asphalt practices.

7.7. Tracking green purchasing

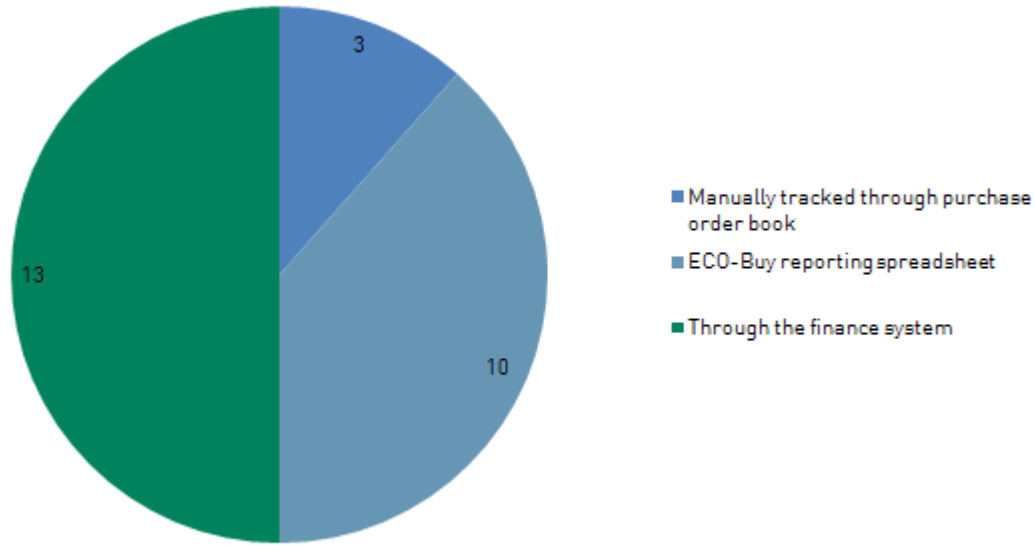
The majority of ECO-Buy members have decentralised purchasing systems, which often make reporting and tracking difficult. In 2008/2009 only two members had a centralised purchasing system, while 27 had decentralised systems and eight a mixture of both.

A decentralised system makes compliance with a green purchasing policy more difficult than under a centralised system, where purchasing decisions can be more easily guided and tracked because they are made by a small group of staff. In a decentralised purchasing environment, purchasing decisions are made across all departments by a large number of staff. Unless all these staff are aware of the green product alternatives that can be selected, and the importance of recording their purchase of green products, they may not be reported.

However more members are now using electronic purchasing systems, which can help to simplify the tracking of green product purchases. Members who have electronic purchasing systems with the ability to record whether staff purchases are green or not generally find that the completion of their annual report is easier and the data is more accurate.

In 2008/2009 26 members (68 per cent) have a system for tracking green purchasing, an increase of 19 per cent from 2007/08. 13 reporting members use their electronic purchasing systems to track green purchasing, followed by 10 members who use the ECO-Buy reporting spreadsheet. A final three track green purchasing manually through a stamp or tick box on their carbon copy purchase order books.

GRAPH 16 – TRACKING METHODS USED BY MEMBERS



The most common finance software used by local government members is Computron/AXSOne (11 reporting members), followed by Technology One (9), Finance One (5) and Authority (4). In total over 14 different types of software are used by local government members.

Members have reported great difficulty in tracking green spending on capital works projects. This is because payments made under contracts do not often have the level of detail required. Rather, a total figure is given on the invoice, which may include services as well as the 'green' product. Members are making greater efforts to track green expenditure through capital works projects through working collaboratively with suppliers and contract managers. A total of 18 reporting members (55 per cent) are tracking green purchasing through capital works projects, with 2008/09 being the first year this information is reported.

8. Conclusion

This report has presented considerable achievements made by ECO-Buy's local government members in 2008/2009. Expenditure reports from 70 per cent of ECO-Buy's members show that expenditure on green products has increased by \$1.72 million to \$73.2 million in the last year, despite fewer expenditure report submissions. The average Local Government expenditure on environmentally preferable products has increased from \$1.5 million in 2007/08 to \$1.9 million per member on average, with highest spending on recycled and greenhouse friendly products. This represents approximately four per cent of the average council available expenditure being invested in green products.

Members continue to increase their green purchasing in areas of environmental concern to their communities, particularly reducing their contribution to climate change and their impacts on scarce water resources. This is reflected in increased expenditure on water saving products (\$1 million increase in the last year), greenhouse friendly products (\$3.1 million increase) and Green Power (\$674,000 increase).

Combined with the ongoing efforts to embed green purchasing into everyday council activities through policies, contracts, working groups and tracking systems, local government members continue to demonstrate their leadership in the area of green purchasing. And with the significant funding received through the Australian Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program being used to build more sustainable community assets, Victorian local government are ensuring this excellence is being continued into the future.

Melton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	NM
Mildura	NR	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	S2 only	✓ late
Mitchell	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	NM	✓	X	X
Moira	NM	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓	S2 only	X
Monash	NM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Moonee Valley	NM	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓	NM	NR	X
Moorabool	NM	NM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Moreland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Mornington Peninsula	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mount Alexander	NM	NR	NR	X	✓	✓	S1 only	X	X
Mt Buller Mt Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	✓	✓
Moyne	NM	NM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nillumbik	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	S2 only	✓
Port Phillip	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shepparton (Greater Shepparton)	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southern Grampians	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stonnington	NM	NM	NM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Surf Coast	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Towong	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Wangaratta	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Warrnambool	NM	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
West Wimmera	NM	NM	NM	✓	✓	X	X	NM	NM
Whitehorse	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whittlesea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wyndham	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Yarra City	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yarra Ranges	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Total submissions	23	29	40	44	54	54	54	47	39

✓ Report submitted (Section 1 and/or Section 2) for the financial year

X Report not submitted (Section 1 or Section 2) for the financial year

NM Not a member in that financial year

NR Not required. Submission of a report is not compulsory within the first year of joining the ECO-Buy program

* Report submitted after the data collation process was completed, therefore the results have not been included in the report

9.2. Top 100 green products reported on by local government members

Specific Item	Product Category	Section	Total Reported (out of 39)	% of Councils
Paper - Copy A4 50% or more recycled content	Recycled	PAPER	35	90%

MGB Bins (30% or higher recycled content)	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT	28	72%
Accredited Green Power (all providers)	Green Power	ACCREDITED GREEN POWER	27	69%
Indigenous Plants	Other Green	OUTDOOR	26	67%
Water Tanks	Other Green	WATER SAVING	25	64%
LPG Vehicles	Greenhouse	VEHICLES	24	62%
Mulch	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	24	62%
Paper - A3	Recycled	PAPER	24	62%
Cars - Downsized	Greenhouse	VEHICLES	23	59%
Newsletters - Community	Recycled	PAPER	20	51%
Drought Resistant Plants & Grasses (please specify)	Other Green	WATER SAVING	19	49%
Compact Fluorescent Lights	Greenhouse	LIGHTING	18	46%
Pens & Pencils	Recycled	OFFICE	18	46%
Envelopes (all)	Recycled	PAPER	17	44%
Notepads	Recycled	PAPER	17	44%
Letterhead	Recycled	PAPER	16	41%
Met Cards	Greenhouse	MISCELLANEOUS	16	41%
Soft Fall Mulch	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	16	41%
Brochures	Recycled	PAPER	15	38%
Asphalt	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH	14	36%
Calenders	Recycled	PAPER	14	36%
Fuel Efficient Vehicles	Greenhouse	VEHICLES	14	36%
Other Printed Materials*	Recycled	PAPER	14	36%
Business Cards	Recycled	PAPER	13	33%
Air Conditioners	Greenhouse	ENERGY RATED EQUIPMENT	12	31%
Archive Boxes (cardboard)	Recycled	PAPER	12	31%
Bollards	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	12	31%
Cleaning Rags	Recycled	MISCELLANEOUS	12	31%
Computers	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	12	31%
Crushed Concrete	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH	12	31%
Toilet Tissue	Recycled	PAPER	12	31%
Dual Flush Cisterns (retrofit)	Other Green	WATER SAVING	11	28%
Paper - Colored	Recycled	PAPER	11	28%
Promotional Material	Recycled	PAPER	11	28%
Recycled Water- Class A	Other Green	WATER SAVING	11	28%
Solar Hot Water Systems	Greenhouse	HOT WATER SAVING PRODUCTS	11	28%
Worm Farms	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT	11	28%
Compost Bins	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT	10	26%
Crushed Rock	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH	10	26%
Dual Fuel Vehicles	Greenhouse	VEHICLES	10	26%
MGB Lids	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT	10	26%
Water Saving Crystals	Other Green	WATER SAVING	10	26%
Hybrid Vehicles	Greenhouse	VEHICLES	9	23%

Insulation	Greenhouse	BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION	9	23%
LED Lighting	Greenhouse	LIGHTING	9	23%
Reusable Bags	Other Green	MISCELLANEOUS	9	23%
Signage	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	9	23%
Waterless Urinals	Other Green	WATER SAVING	9	23%
BP Autogas	Greenhouse	GREENHOUSE FRIENDLY CERTIFIED	8	21%
Dishwashing Liquid (please specify)	Other Green	CLEANING PRODUCTS	8	21%
Dog Poo Bags (biodegradable)	Other Green	MISCELLANEOUS	8	21%
Fluorescent Lights - triphospor	Greenhouse	LIGHTING	8	21%
Flyers	Recycled	PAPER	8	21%
Irrigation Systems (please specify)	Other Green	WATER SAVING	8	21%
Manila Folders	Recycled	PAPER	8	21%
Post-it Pads	Recycled	PAPER	8	21%
Suspension files	Recycled	PAPER	8	21%
Timers	Other Green	WATER SAVING	8	21%
Fluorescent Down Lights	Greenhouse	LIGHTING	7	18%
Hot Water Systems	Greenhouse	GAS ENERGY RATED	7	18%
Jute Matting	Other Green	OUTDOOR	7	18%
Lap Tops	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	7	18%
Organic Catering	Other Green	CATERING / FOOD / EVENTS	7	18%
Park Benches	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	7	18%
Plastic Folders	Recycled	OFFICE	7	18%
Retreads	Recycled	FLEET MANAGEMENT	7	18%
Tree Guards	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	7	18%
Biodiesel	Recycled	FLEET MANAGEMENT	6	15%
Blended Soils	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	6	15%
Compost	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	6	15%
Furniture	Recycled	OFFICE	6	15%
Hand Towel	Recycled	PAPER	6	15%
LCD Monitors	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	6	15%
Non-toxic Cleaning Substances (please specify)	Other Green	CLEANING PRODUCTS	6	15%
Organic Fertiliser	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	6	15%
Outdoor Chairs	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	6	15%
Paper Drinking Cups	Other Green	CATERING / FOOD / EVENTS	6	15%
Picnic Settings	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	6	15%
Post Cards	Recycled	PAPER	6	15%
Site-Pour Surfacing (rubber)	Recycled	PLAYGROUND	6	15%
Street Sweeper Brushes	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT	6	15%
With Comps	Recycled	PAPER	6	15%
Archive Boxes (plastic)	Recycled	OFFICE	5	13%
Bags	Recycled	OFFICE	5	13%
Bicycles	Greenhouse	MISCELLANEOUS	5	13%

Bin Liners	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT	5	13%
Bins - Other	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT	5	13%
Bluestone Pavers	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH	5	13%
Door Sealers	Greenhouse	ENERGY SAVING	5	13%
Energy Saving Lighting Controls	Greenhouse	LIGHTING	5	13%
Flow Regulators	Other Green	WATER SAVING	5	13%
Magazine Holders	Recycled	PAPER	5	13%
Micro Fibre Products	Other Green	CLEANING PRODUCTS	5	13%
Newsletters - Other	Recycled	PAPER	5	13%
Organic Coffee	Other Green	CATERING / FOOD / EVENTS	5	13%
Paper - Copy A4 less than 50% recycled content	Recycled	PAPER	5	13%
Play Structures	Recycled	PLAYGROUND	5	13%
Printing Paper (please specify)	Other Green	OFFICE	5	13%
Remanufactured Cartridges	Recycled	OFFICE	5	13%
Reports - Other	Recycled	PAPER	5	13%
Rubber Swing Pads	Recycled	PLAYGROUND	5	13%
Rubbish Bins	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	5	13%
Sensor Lighting	Greenhouse	LIGHTING	5	13%
Solar Panels	Greenhouse	BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION	5	13%
Speed Humps / Cushions	Recycled	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	5	13%
Street Benches	Refurbished and Secondhand	REFURBISHED AND SECONDHAND	5	13%
Tree Stakes	Other Green	OUTDOOR	5	13%
Window Sealers	Greenhouse	ENERGY SAVING	5	13%
Windows	Greenhouse	BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION	5	13%

9.3. Top 50 green products by total reported expenditure

Specific Item	Total Spent (\$)	Product Category	Section
Asphalt	6,773,934	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH
Cars - Downsized	4,898,007	Greenhouse	VEHICLES
LPG Vehicles	4,830,514	Greenhouse	VEHICLES
MGB Bins (30% or higher recycled content)	4,647,552	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT
Accredited Green Power (all providers)	3,879,503	Green Power	ACCREDITED GREEN POWER
Fuel Efficient Vehicles	3,341,804	Greenhouse	VEHICLES
Biodiesel	1,805,063	Recycled	FLEET MANAGEMENT
Drought Resistant Plants & Grasses (please specify)	1,679,732	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Recycled Water- Class A	1,646,680	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Indigenous Plants	1,622,973	Other Green	OUTDOOR
Water Tanks	1,428,739	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Crushed Rock	1,066,030	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH
Computers	1,052,083	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH

			GREEN FEATURES
Watering Systems	1,037,320	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Newsletters - Community	956,371	Recycled	PAPER
Paper - Copy A4 50% or more recycled content	889,208	Recycled	PAPER
Dual Fuel Vehicles	804,507	Greenhouse	VEHICLES
Hybrid Vehicles	797,356	Greenhouse	VEHICLES
Speed Humps / Cushions	794,585	Recycled	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
Crushed Concrete	743,834	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH
Mulch	663,853	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH
Irrigation Systems (please specify)	512,349	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Air Conditioners	492,038	Greenhouse	ENERGY RATED EQUIPMENT
Filtration Systems (water harvesting)	426,595	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Mopeds	417,709	Greenhouse	VEHICLES
BP Autogas	416,593	Greenhouse	GREENHOUSE FRIENDLY CERTIFIED
Ducted Heating	400,000	Greenhouse	GAS ENERGY RATED
Promotional Material	394,100	Recycled	PAPER
Solar Panels	356,480	Greenhouse	BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION
Concrete Aggregate	331,861	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH
DVD	324,811	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH GREEN FEATURES
Soft Fall Mulch	296,073	Recycled	COMPOST & MULCH
Framework (please specify)	294,250	Other Green	BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION
Dual Flush Cisterns (retrofit)	286,612	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Calenders	286,540	Recycled	PAPER
Play Structures	270,772	Recycled	PLAYGROUND
Retreads	269,813	Recycled	FLEET MANAGEMENT
Solar Hot Water Systems	265,945	Greenhouse	HOT WATER SAVING PRODUCTS
Air Conditioners	246,375	Greenhouse	BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION
Multi Function Devices	231,305	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH GREEN FEATURES
Solar Power Systems	224,734	Greenhouse	BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION
Lap Tops	222,516	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH GREEN FEATURES
Pool Blanket	222,498	Greenhouse	ENERGY SAVING
Compact Fluorescent Lights	213,078	Greenhouse	LIGHTING
LCD Monitors	211,453	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH GREEN FEATURES
Energy Saving Lighting Controls	207,190	Greenhouse	LIGHTING
Watering Systems	204,500	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS
Envelopes (all)	202,826	Recycled	PAPER
Insulation	202,577	Greenhouse	BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION
Other Printed Materials*	202,401	Recycled	PAPER
Wood Chips	195,100	Recycled	COMPOST & MULCH



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