



To read the full report
The State of Local Government Green Purchasing in 2006/2007,
and for more information on ECO-Buy's programs and members,
please visit our website.

www.ecobuy.org.au

Victorian local governments: taking practical leadership through green purchasing

A summary of The State of Local Government Green Purchasing in 2006/2007

Metcards • non-toxic paint • recycled plastic compost bins • mulch
• waterless urinals • recycled content insulation • low emission MDF •
recycled rubber playground mats • 4 cylinder vehicles • publications on
recycled paper • LED lights • low toxicity cleaning products • recycled
rubber paving • low emission vehicles • 4 Star Water Rated dishwashers •
recycled plastic water tanks • recycled plastic pipes • compact fluorescent
lights • water efficient toilets • multi function devices • remanufactured
printer cartridges • double glazed windows • recycled asphalt •
refurbished computers • recycled water • second hand office furniture



compost • recycled steel •
Green Power • recycled concrete
• motion detectors • biodiesel •
recycled plastic outdoor furniture
• 4 Star Energy Rated air conditioners • LCD computer monitors •
flow regulators • solar hot water systems • potting mix • recycled paper
• recycled plastic wheelie bins • solar lights • grey water systems •
hybrid cars • recycled plastic bollards • Power Management Systems
• low flow shower heads • efficient street lighting • organic coffee •

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What is....

The state of local government green purchasing in Victoria?

Victorian local governments have made great progress in shifting their purchasing towards environmentally preferable products under the ECO-Buy Local Government Program. Nationally, Victoria's local governments are leading the way on green purchasing.

- Since 2000, ECO-Buy local government members have purchased over \$300 million worth of green products.
- In 2006/07, members spent at least \$62.4 million on 436 different types of green products.
- Members' average annual expenditure on green products has increased from around \$246,424 in 2000/01 to \$1.154 million in 2006/07.

This brochure highlights some of the key outcomes achieved by ECO-Buy's local government members in their seventh year of buying green.

Full results are available in the report *The State of Local Government Green Purchasing in 2006/2007*.

Local governments are acting on climate change

In 2006/07 local governments have increased their green purchasing in environmental areas of concern to their communities: reducing their contribution to the impacts of climate change, saving water and reducing waste. Expenditure on recycled content products increased in 2006/07. Purchasing of water saving products and a wide range of greenhouse friendly products has also increased. These products include efficient lighting, vehicles, Greenhouse Friendly Certified and energy saving products.

ECO-Buy is a not for profit Centre of Excellence in Environmental Purchasing and runs practical programs to assist governments and businesses to green their purchasing. ECO-Buy is funded by the Sustainability Fund and by Sustainability Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The ECO-Buy Local Government Program has been assisting Victorian local governments since 2000 – this is the seventh annual showcase of the state of local government green purchasing.

In 2006/07 there were 59 local government members and 400 staff involved in the ECO-Buy program. More members are tracking and reporting on their green purchasing than ever before: 92% of members in 2006/07.

Buying green makes a real difference

Research by ECO-Buy, in partnership with the RMIT Centre for Design, has been undertaken to measure the environmental benefits of some of local governments' main green purchasing areas. This research shows that:

- Local government members purchased 100,000 mobile garbage bins with a minimum of 30% recycled plastic content in 2006/07. This recycled plastic is estimated to have saved 970 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions when compared to buying bins with no recycled content.
- Last year members purchased over 32,000 tonnes of recycled asphalt, which is estimated to have saved 24 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.
- In 2006/07 members purchased 464 tonnes of paper with recycled content. By purchasing paper with a high recycled content, members are estimated to have saved 43 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and preserved the equivalent of 56 hectares of forest habitat.

Green purchasing is essential in the battle against climate change

Prepare now for 2010!

The introduction of an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in 2010 will catapult the importance of green purchasing to even greater levels. The price placed on carbon will mean the cost of many goods will rise. Those organisations buying green, low carbon intensive goods will find their costs will rise less as a result of the introduced ETS.

Green purchasing makes economic as well as environmental sense, and is an important way Victorian local governments are taking leadership locally and collectively, at a regional, state and national level.

Approaching 2010, the challenge for Victorian organisations is to now really embed green purchasing into their purchasing processes so that every purchasing decision takes the environment into account.

