

Case study

Melbourne Water's on track with reporting of sustainable purchases

ECO-Buy surveyed 21 state government entities on how they track and report purchases that are classified as sustainable. Melbourne Water was one of the best performing Victorian state government entities surveyed. This case study gives a brief overview of its systems in place to track and report sustainable product purchases.

For more than two years, a separate check box has been part of Melbourne Water's finance system, Technology One. It has proved a simple and effective way to capture a sustainable product purchase. When such a purchase is made, the purchaser selects up to two sustainability attribute(s) from a drop down menu including: energy efficiency, maintain habitat, not applicable, other, packaging, supplier has sustainability principles, minimise toxicity, waste reduction and waste efficiency (refer to Image One over page).

The purchaser also completes the 'sustainable initiative' column by using the free text field (up to 40 characters) to describe the actual initiative or procurement decision, supporting the product sustainability attributes.

All purchases with a sustainable attribute assigned to it are compiled into a spread sheet for follow up by a procurement officer to verify the item's sustainability attributes.

Melbourne Water specifies which products with sustainability attributes are to be used in capital works projects, which are included in sustainable purchasing reports.

Environmental benefits achieved through purchasing sustainable products are measured using specific indicators. For example, the indicator used to measure environmental benefits of introducing more sustainable fleet vehicles is the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, while the indicator used to measure environmental benefits for switching to more energy efficient computers is the reduction in energy consumption.

Information gathered is compiled annually. It is used for Melbourne Water's annual report, publicity, and both internal and external benchmarking. Melbourne Water estimates that the tracking process captures approximately 61-80% of sustainable product purchases organisation-wide.

General User - Production Database direct - 11.08.04.007

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Home My Requisitions Enquire Reports My Workflow My Budgeting

General User
Melbourne Water Corporation

My Requisitions (Enquiry)

Entry help back home close clear

Summary
1 product(s) in your Shopping Cart
Total Price Inc: 0.00

Actions to Perform
Continue to Shopping Cart

Browse Products
Catalogue
Suppliers

Expand All Collapse All

Settings
Change Settings
Show ALL Supplier Products

ALERTS 2 Critical 1 Warning 6 Information 1 Workflow

Create Requisitions - Product Selection

Primary Criteria: All Products

Search: Retrieve Saved Search Clear Primary Criteria

Enter the details of your purchase to add products to the Shopping Cart (Products: 1)

Delete selected product(s)

Description	Account	GST	Comment	Contract Number	Delivery Point Type	Delivery Point Name	Sustainable 17*	Sustainable 2?	Sustainable Initiative
		C		NA	EMB	EMB			

Selection Code

Search: Retrieve Saved Search

Selection Type = PO_SUST

Status = Active

Add Criteria Clear Criteria Clear Values Save Search Load Search

Drag a column header here to group by that column

Selection Code	Short Description	Description	Status	Parent Selection
ENERGY	Energy Efficiency	Energy Efficiency	Active	
HABITAT	Maintain Habitat	Maintain Habitat	Active	
NA	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Active	
OTHER	Other	Other	Active	
PACK	Pack-aging	Pack-aging	Active	
SUPPLIER	Suppliers Subst Prin	Suppliers Sustainability Principles	Active	
TOXICITY	Minimise Toxicity	Minimise Toxicity	Active	
WASTE	Waste Reduction	Waste Reduction	Active	
WATER	Water Efficiency	Water Efficiency	Active	

Count: 9

OK Cancel

Image One. Screen shot of how products with sustainability attributes are coded at Melbourne Water

