

Key findings

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. This includes the following achievements:

- 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.

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