



THE STATE OF VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT **GREEN PURCHASING IN 2007/08**

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



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ECO-Buy, 20 May 2009

www.ecobuy.org.au

Disclaimer: The information presented in this report is based on data provided by reporting members of ECO-Buy's Local Government Program. No responsibility is taken for any inferences drawn from inaccurate data provided by submitters.

1. Foreword

I am delighted to present ECO-Buy's eighth local government green purchasing report, detailing the green purchasing successes of our local government members over the 2007-08 year.

ECO-Buy members demonstrate a practical commitment to sustainability in day-to-day operations and everyday purchasing decisions. This environmental leadership is clear in the organisational policies and targets set by Councils to guide staff purchasing behaviours, as well as in their annual expenditure on environmentally preferable products. This environmental leadership is more needed than ever.

In the wake of February's devastating bushfires, local governments have been tasked with looking after the immediate needs of affected communities, approving plans for new houses and developments, and managing forested areas and biodiversity in residential areas. Climate predictions are that conditions that create such destruction will become increasingly frequent.

At the same time, the Global Financial Crisis is putting even greater strain on local government budgets. As banks and governments are scrutinised more closely for their use of funds, so too are local governments under pressure to use ratepayer funding efficiently and strategically.

Green purchasing principles of avoiding unnecessary purchasing not only help the bottom line, but avoid needless waste and resource use, and present a major opportunity during an economic downturn. It may well be that over the next several years the economic cost effectiveness of buying more efficient products – products that reduce costs over the full lifecycle by using less electricity, fuel, water or consumables – is one of the central drivers for green purchasing.

This is where ECO-Buy plays such an important role in helping shape the demand and supply of green products in Victoria. Working with local governments, businesses and suppliers of verified green products, we support more sustainable purchasing practises throughout Victoria, and increasingly in wider Australia.

ECO-Buy Limited has been operating in this important area of practical sustainability since 2000. During this period over \$380 million has been invested in green products by local governments in the ECO-Buy program, with over \$71.5 million last financial year alone.

For ECO-Buy Ltd, this is the second year that the organisation is reporting to its members as an independent not-for-profit company. ECO-Buy Ltd is undertaking research and developing new and exciting services and aims to grow in a way that continues to be attractive to existing and to prospective members.

Our local government members are leading the way in environmentally preferable purchasing and are acting as leaders for the rest of Victoria and Australia. The success of ECO-Buy Limited and its members has brought about widespread recognition of the leading edge programs, and has led directly to the establishment of ECO-Buy as a Centre of Excellence in Environmental Purchasing.

I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of local government members in making the program such a success, and offer my congratulations to them on their progress. This is an area where local governments can be proud of the leadership role they have played. This has provided the starting point from which the other ECO-Buy programs have developed into business and State Government, and also forms the foundation for future programs across Australia.

I hope you enjoy the report, and are inspired to join with ECO-Buy Limited in making your own contribution to a more sustainable Victoria.

Mike Hill, Chair, ECO-Buy Ltd

2. Introduction

This eighth ECO-Buy Local Government Annual Report (formerly called the Great Report Cavort) details the green purchasing activities of 47 of ECO-Buy's 59 member councils in 2007/08, and highlights 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 \$71.5 million spent across a broad range of green products in 2007/08.

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

In short, green purchasing under the ECO-Buy Local Government Program is in a good state and reported expenditure on green products is increasing, by \$10 million in the last year. Compared to the average expenditure for all reporting members in 2006/07, green purchasing has grown by \$368,000 per member in the last year.

Over the history of the program at least \$383 million has been reported to have been invested by ECO-Buy member councils: an impressive collective effort to purchase environmentally preferable products and reduce the impacts of local governments.

The green purchasing results outlined in this report, and the individual reports and publicity generated by individual local government members 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.

Eight year headline accomplishments

The impressive green purchasing results in 2007/08 add to ECO-Buy's track record of success in supporting significant green purchasing outcomes in Victorian local governments since 2000. Cumulative eight year headline accomplishments for the ECO-Buy Program are shown below.

EIGHT YEAR HEADLINE ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2000/01 – 2007/08

Total Annual Reports submitted by local government members	281
Expenditure on green products	\$383,334,194

3. Key findings

- There were 59 local governments part of the ECO-Buy Local Government Program in 2007/08.
- Environmental concerns, demonstrating council leadership, and reducing costs were seen as the key incentives to be part of the ECO-Buy program and to purchase green products. The importance of cost savings through purchasing more environmentally preferable and efficient products has increased in the last year.
- 80% of ECO-Buy's local government members reported on their expenditure on green product in the 2007/08 year. Combined, this totalled \$71.5 million invested in green products in 2007/08, a \$10 million increase on total expenditure in 2006/07, despite eight fewer Annual Report submissions from members.
- Over the history of the Local Government Program, expenditure on green products has increased from \$5 million in 2000/01 to \$71.5 million in 2007/08. In total this represents at least \$383 million expenditure on products which are less damaging for the environment and human health than products that could have been purchased.
- Members' annual average expenditure on green products has increased from \$247,000 in 2000/01 to \$1.5 million in 2007/08. In the last year, green product expenditure has increased by \$368,000 per member on average.
- As a percentage of total council budget, the average expenditure on environmentally preferable products has increased from 1.9 to 2.4 per cent in the last year. Reporting members' average green purchasing per rateable property has also increased in the last year, from \$31 to \$45 per rate paying property.
- The highest green product spending areas were recycled and greenhouse friendly products.
- Expenditure in the 'other' green category, representing water saving and low toxic products, has increased by \$6 million in the last year. Expenditure on water saving products has increased by an impressive \$7.6 million since 2006/07, showing that reducing water use in a time of long term drought is becoming more of a priority for local governments.
- Local Government investment in accredited Green Power – electricity with no net greenhouse gas emissions – has increased by \$680,000 in the last year. Expenditure on greenhouse friendly products has also increased by \$3.4 million from 2006/07, particularly in the subcategories of low emissions building and construction materials, Energy Rated and hot water saving products, and efficient lighting and vehicles.
- Increased expenditure on Green Power, and greenhouse friendly and 'other' green products reflects the efforts of local governments to reduce their impact on climate change, to save water and to reduce toxicity.
- 88 per cent of members have a Green Purchasing Policy or are in the process of adopting a policy, with waste minimisation, energy efficiency, climate change and pollution the most common considerations.

4. ECO-Buy Excellence in Green Purchasing 2009 Awards

ECO-Buy holds an awards event for its members each year to recognise success in green purchasing. All local government members should be congratulated on their commitment to green purchasing and the successes they've achieved in the last financial year, represented in their submitted Annual Report results for 2007/08 and the individual progress report prepared by ECO-Buy.

Specific awards are presented to congratulate members on their performance in shifting their purchasing budget to environmentally preferable options in the 2007/08 year. This year's awards ceremony was held on 20 May 2009 at the National Gallery, with the following Awards presented to local government members:

Award	Winner
Excellence in Green Purchasing by a Metropolitan Council	Casey City Council
Excellence in Green Purchasing by a Regional Council	Mildura Rural City Council
Excellence in Green Purchasing by a Small Rural Council	Hepburn Shire Council
Excellence in Greenhouse Friendly Purchasing	Buloke Shire Council
Excellence in Recycled Product Purchasing	Mildura Rural City Council
Water Saving Champion	Greater Bendigo City Council
Green Powered Champion	Hepburn Shire Council

To illustrate the results presented in each section of green product expenditure in Section 8, a brief case study of each Award winner is included.

5. ECO-Buy and the State of Local Government Green Purchasing Report

ECO-Buy is an innovative program established to encourage the purchasing of green products across Local Government in Victoria. Green purchasing offers a great way for local governments to show leadership in environmental responsibility and demonstrate a practical commitment to sustainability with measurable results.

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.

ECO-Buy began in 2000 as the Local Government Buy Recycled Alliance (LGBRA). The LGBRA worked with Victorian local governments to increase the level of recycled content products purchased. In 2002, additional funding enabled the program to expand and encompass a full range of green products. The LGBRA then became the more comprehensive ECO-Buy program, which was funded by Sustainability Victoria, the Municipal Association of Victoria and through the Victorian Greenhouse Strategy.

In June of 2007 ECO-Buy became an independent not for profit organisation, funded by the Sustainability Fund, Sustainability Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment. As well as its central program with Victorian local governments, ECO-Buy also works with large businesses, Victorian State Government departments and agencies, and Associate members in Victoria, Australia and internationally, to improve green purchasing.

ECO-Buy also works with suppliers of green products to encourage the supply of such products and services. Suppliers who meet specified criteria and have independently verified accreditation of their green claims are listed on a comprehensive database of green products called ECO-Find. These suppliers not only provide environmentally preferable products and provide detailed information on the features of their products, but also work to improve their own supply chain and develop new and innovative green products to meet purchasers' needs.

A range of ECO-Find suppliers also provide discounts to local government members through ECO-Bonus incentives. These discounts make large-scale purchases of green products by local governments more competitive, supporting the shift to green purchasing.

The 2007/08 State of Victorian Local Government Green purchasing Report

This report covers the period from July 2007 to June 2008. At the end of the 2007/08 year there were 59 member councils participating in the program. ECO-Buy members are provided with support, tools and resources to help them implement effective green purchasing programs. A full description of the membership services and support offered to local government members is available at www.ecobuy.org.au. As part of their membership, local governments are required to commit to green purchasing and agree to track and report annually on their expenditure on green products.

THE ANNUAL REPORTING PROCESS AIMS TO:

- track members' progress in implementing the program and purchasing green products
- monitor the type and quantity of green products purchased by local government members
- help quantify the environmental benefits achieved by members
- determine future directions and strategies for the ECO-Buy program and its members.

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, and Green Fleet carbon offsetting expenditure, and excluding GST costs.

Following changes to the report template in late 2006, the reporting template is now in its second year of use, and allows 2007/08 results to be benchmarked against 2006/07 results.

Beyond the last two years, it is important to note that direct comparisons between different reporting years are constrained by changes in the ECO-Buy reporting template. In 2000/01 and 2001/02, only spending on recycled content products under the then Local Government Buy Recycled Alliance was reported. Different numbers of members have submitted annual reports each year, and the range of products that can be reported on has changed in a number of different reporting templates over the last eight years.

Each ECO-Buy Annual Report is divided into two sections: Section 1 reports include qualitative questions about the implementation of the ECO-Buy program, while the Section 2 spreadsheet records quantitative expenditure on green products.

Members were asked to return their completed report by 19 September 2008. Of the 59 members in the 2005/06 year, 47 (80 per cent) submitted a Section 2 expenditure report, 43 (73 per cent) returned a Section 1 implementation report, while 9 members (15 per cent) did not complete either report.

This represents less submissions than in 2006/07 (with 55 Section 2 reports), which had the highest return rate in the history of the Local Government Program. ECO-Buy will continue to work with members to support their tracking and reporting of expenditure on green products, in order to increase both data capture and the Annual Report return rate in future years. Despite the reduced numbers of submitted reports, ECO-Buy is pleased at the efforts that such a high proportion of our members are going to to track and report on their green purchasing performance; a challenging task.

The first part of this report outlines the benefits of green purchasing and details the expenditure on green products by ECO-Buy local governments in the 2007/08 year, based on findings from member annual reports. The second half of the report explores how ECO-Buy has been implemented and details some of the challenges and growing opportunities in green purchasing into the future.

5.1 Challenges in reporting green purchasing expenditure

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.

58 per cent of reporting local governments have an entirely decentralised purchasing system, with a further 37 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.

This report represents 47 of 59 ECO-Buy local government members' green purchasing expenditure. The data in this report is therefore a snapshot of the true extent of green purchasing within the ECO-Buy program, and amongst all 79 Victorian local governments.

6. What are green products?

'Green' product credentials can be a confusing area, particularly in an era of increasing green marketing and greenwash. Strict criteria are used to guide local government members in what types of green products they can report expenditure on.

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 THIS REPORT ECO-BUY CLASSIFIES GREEN PRODUCTS INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

1. Recycled content
2. Greenhouse friendly (including energy saving and fuel efficient products)
3. Other green (including water saving and low toxicity products)
4. Refurbished and second hand
5. Green Power

THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS APPLY TO GREEN PRODUCTS REPORTED IN THIS REPORT:

RECYCLED products are those made with recycled content.

GREENHOUSE FRIENDLY products are those that create fewer greenhouse gas emissions in operation.

OTHER GREEN 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 and non-toxic products).

GREEN POWER must have the government accredited Green Power tick

ENERGY RATED products must be rated FOUR STAR or above

WATER SAVING products must be rated FOUR STAR or above

GAS RATED products must be rated FOUR STAR or above.

FUEL EFFICIENT vehicles must be FOUR CYLINDERS or fewer and purchased to replace larger vehicles with more cylinders. (Hybrid, electric and LPG vehicles are listed separately).

This report also includes a number of green purchasing actions in the fleet area, where councils are downsizing their vehicles from 6 cylinders to 4 cylinders, and buying fuel efficient vehicles. Even though these are not green products like hybrid or electric vehicles, they represent a significant improvement in purchasing practice compared to previously purchased inefficient vehicles, leading to less environmental damage through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

7. Benefits of green purchasing

Considerable environmental, economic, social and organisational benefits can be achieved through purchasing greener goods and services.

BUYING GREEN HAS MANY ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:

- reduces the amount of resources used and the environmental effects of obtaining those resources
- reduces waste to landfill
- increases energy efficiency
- reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- saves water
- eliminates or reduces toxic materials entering the environment
- decreases air and water pollution
- improves indoor air quality
- preserves carbon sinks and habitat for flora and fauna.

PURCHASING GREEN PRODUCTS ALSO BENEFITS THE ECONOMY:

- expands the market for green products
- increases the availability of green products at cost-effective prices
- supports the growth of green industries and increases the number of green jobs
- strengthens local and regional economic development
- increases productivity and reduced time lost from illness because of healthier work environments
- increases demand for waste diversion and recycling services and helps 'close the loop' to make recycling viable.

7.1 Quantifying the environmental benefits of green purchasing

ECO-Buy has an ongoing program to better understand and, where possible, quantify the environmental benefits of green purchasing. ECO-Buy recently 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.

Through their combined purchasing of just four product types, out of a total of more than 400, - recycled content mobile garbage bins, compost, recycled content asphalt, and recycled paper - ECO-Buy's 47 reporting local government members brought about the following environmental savings in 2007/2008.

QUANTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL SAVINGS BY COUNCILS THROUGH KEY GREEN PRODUCT PURCHASES

Product	Expenditure/quantity	Greenhouse gas savings (tonnes)	Land use savings (ha)	Water savings (litres)
Asphalt	\$7,082,652	83	-	-
Compost	\$39,595	557	2.9	898,812
Mobile garbage bins	\$4,802,366	1,250	-	-
Paper	239,932 reams	47	60.7	-
Cumulative savings		1,937	63.6	898,812

- 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: Quantity of compost is based on an average price of \$30 per tonne. 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 and reported recycled content. If quantity of reams was not provided, quantities were calculated based on an average cost of \$5 per ream of 10% recycled content paper and \$6 per ream of 80% recycled.

Mobile Garbage Bins: Quantity of bins is based on a typical price of \$47 per 240 litre bin. The environmental benefit is based on a typical 240L MGB with 30% recycled content compared to an equivalent sized virgin plastic content bin.

Asphalt: Quantity of asphalt is based on a typical price of \$130 per tonne of asphalt with recycled content. The environmental benefit is based on a typical 10% recycled content with a 20:1 bitumen ratio.

8. Local Government green purchasing expenditure in 2007/08

The following section looks at ECO-Buy members' expenditure on environmentally preferable products in the 2007/08 financial year.

The information in this section is drawn from members' Annual Reports, which lists quantitative expenditure data on a comprehensive range of green products. 80 per cent of ECO-Buy's membership submitted an Annual Report for the 2007/08 year.

The number of products that can be reported has grown from approximately 100 products in 2001 to just over 600 different green products in 2007/08, which are divided into recycled content, greenhouse friendly, and 'other' green (water saving and low toxic) products, refurbished and second-hand products, and Green Power.

8.1 Total amount spent on green products

Local government members have spent at least \$383 million on green products since the beginning of the ECO-Buy Local Government Program. In 2007/08, members invested an impressive \$71.5 million on products which reduce negative impacts on the environment.

This is an increase from the previous year's expenditure of \$62 million despite being composed of eight fewer report submissions; a very impressive growth in purchasing environmentally preferable products by our local government members in the last year.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON GREEN PRODUCTS 2000/01 – 2007/08

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
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
Greenhouse friendly			\$7,933,446	\$11,341,947	\$23,900,073	\$22,660,232	\$18,551,167	\$21,915,945
Other green			\$1,063,938	\$1,679,982	\$14,261,247	\$17,483,792	\$11,409,229	\$17,361,836
Refurbished and second-hand				\$1,295,068*	\$2,357,201*	\$3,303,530*	\$348,204	\$188,215
Green Power					\$2,242,323^	\$3,177,981^	\$2,599,778	\$3,278,475
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

* 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

CUMULATIVE TOTAL SPEND BY PRODUCT CATEGORY, 2000 - 2008

Green product category	Cumulative reported expenditure
Recycled	\$195,069,624
Greenhouse Friendly	\$106,302,810
Other green	\$63,260,024
Refurbished and second-hand	\$7,403,179
Green Power	\$11,298,557
Total	\$383,334,194

To see the top 100 products purchased by local government members, and the 50 products with the highest expenditure, see Appendices 11.2 and 11.3.

8.2 Key trends in Local Government green purchasing

Over the history of the Local Government Program, expenditure on green products has increased from \$5 million in 2000/01 to \$71.5 million in 2007/08. In 2007/08 expenditure on Green Power, greenhouse friendly and 'other' green (water saving and low toxic) products has increased, representing the good practise amongst local government members in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing water use.

EXPENDITURE IN THE FOLLOWING PRODUCT AREAS HAS INCREASED IN 2007/08:

Greenhouse friendly: building and construction, Energy Rated, lighting, hot water saving, vehicles, miscellaneous

'Other' green: Water saving, office, catering and events, indoors, building and construction

Refurbished and second-hand products

Green Power

Increases in purchasing in these product areas represent the achievements of local government members in working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save water, and reduce the quantity of toxic cleaning chemicals entering workplaces and waterways, through choosing to purchase more environmentally preferable products in these product areas.

Expenditure in the subcategories of recycled, greenhouse friendly, other, refurbished and second-hand products, and Green Power is presented in the following pages.

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. An example of this is the purchase of multifunction devices set up to print and photocopy double sided, which saves paper and ink, and therefore reduces the quantity of paper and toner cartridges purchased. Of the 38 local governments who reported that they have a Green Purchasing Policy in place in 2007/08, or are in the process of signing one off, 87 per cent require staff to minimise waste where possible in purchasing decisions, which includes preventing unnecessary purchases.

8.3 Comparative measurements of green expenditure

It has proved difficult in the past for members to capture the total product (green and non-green) expenditure of their organisation. Collecting data on total council revenue is an easier proxy to assess the proportion of local government spending that is going towards environmentally preferable products. In 2006/07 members were therefore asked to submit the total revenue and number of rateable properties in their council area for the first time.

This information allows green product expenditure to be measured against the total income available for product expenditure, as well as compared to the number of properties that contribute to a council's rating base. This enables smaller local governments with smaller budgets to be compared more accurately with those who are larger and have much bigger budgets. As well as an average expenditure on green products by all members, this helps put the state of Victorian Local Government green purchasing into better perspective.

Average expenditure on all green products

Members' average annual expenditure on green products has increased from around \$246,424 in 2000/01 to \$1.2 million per local government in 2006/07 and \$1.5 million in 2007/08.

Green spending as a percentage of total revenue

The average local government reported spending on environmentally preferable products as a percentage of total revenue is 2.4 per cent, up from 1.9 per cent in 2006/07. Between members however, expenditure on green products ranges from 0.2 per cent to 6.4 per cent of total revenue.

Green spending per rateable property

The average green spending per rateable property for local government members is \$45 (up from \$31.20 in 2006/07), but ranges between extremes of \$6 and \$142 reported green spend per rateable property in different local governments.

8.4 Recycled product purchasing

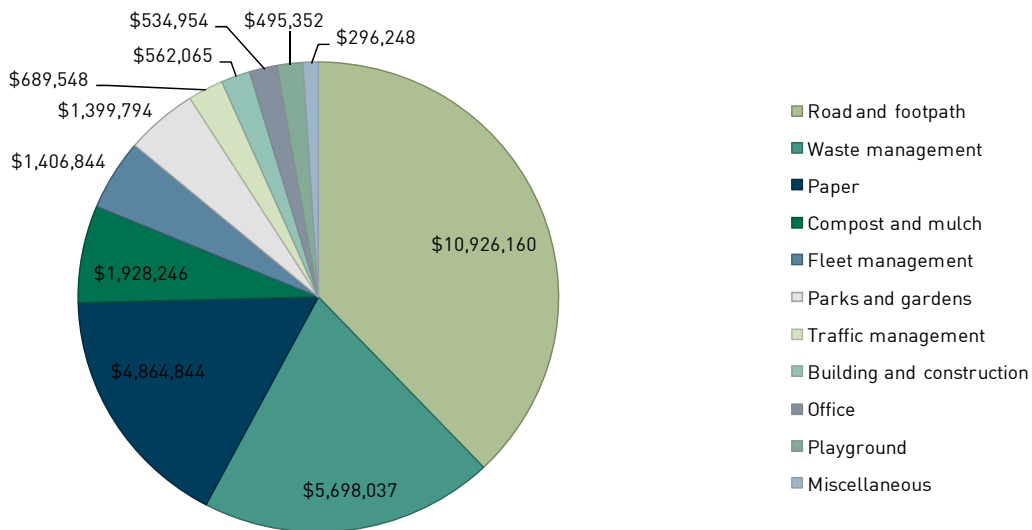
Total expenditure on recycled content products was \$28,802,092. This was slightly down on the recycled content product expenditure of 2006/07.

Despite the overall decrease, there were increases in the purchase of recycled products for roads and footpaths, office use, fleet management, traffic management and parks and gardens. This covers products such as crushed rock, recycled content asphalt, rubber paving, compost, mulch, remanufactured toners and cartridges, biodiesel from waste products, recycled lubricants, degreasers and retreads, and recycled plastic bollards.

RECYCLED PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2000/01 – 2007/08

Recycled content product categories	2000/01	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Building and construction		\$94,750	\$14,561,953	\$4,372,980	\$947,322	\$562,065
Waste management	\$1,154,954	\$11,648,135	\$7,806,132	\$7,134,600	\$7,698,654	\$5,698,037
Road and footpath	\$3,075,854	\$5,046,481	\$6,336,624	\$5,572,135	\$8,725,185	\$10,926,160
Paper	\$610,547	\$2,692,968	\$4,894,953	\$6,086,082	\$5,122,601	\$4,864,844
Compost and mulch	\$343,318	\$1,193,928	\$2,359,483	\$2,714,705	\$3,145,110	\$1,928,246
Parks and gardens	\$67,830	\$546,195	\$1,032,252	\$1,158,552	\$915,537	\$1,399,794
Playground	\$42,058	\$300,352	\$739,880	\$1,291,427	\$830,773	\$495,352
Office products	\$177,238	\$352,569	\$598,531	\$686,579	\$452,632	\$534,954
Fleet management		\$155,880	\$411,462	\$412,837	\$665,056	\$1,406,844
Traffic management	\$442,365	\$361,720	\$354,063	\$657,435	\$538,162	\$689,548
Miscellaneous		\$277,577	\$109,384	\$91,144	\$403,425	\$296,248
Total	\$5,914,164	\$22,670,556	\$39,204,717	\$29,198,300	\$29,444,457	\$28,802,092

RECYCLED PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2007/08



Case study: Mildura Rural City Council

Mildura purchased over \$2.7 million recycled content products in 2007/08, which accounts for 4.7% of their total available budget.

This recycled product expenditure was made up of impressive quantities of mulch and compost, rubber surfacing, and a wide range of products such as mobile garbage bins, outdoor furniture, animal shelters, decking and bollards made from recycled plastic. For their offices, Mildura purchase remanufactured toners and cartridges, recycled paper, publications printed on recycled paper, and a wide range of stationery items.

But it is in the infrastructure area that Mildura Rural City Council is really leading the way, using large quantities of recycled materials in road and footpath construction, such as crushed concrete and rock, asphalt with recycled bitumen, clean fill, recycled road base and crushed glass.

8.5 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. However, for the purposes of reporting, greenhouse friendly is defined by the following criteria.

'GREENHOUSE FRIENDLY' PRODUCTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Energy Rated – only four star and above
- Gas Energy Rated - only four star and above
- Hot water saving – only four A and above
- Fuel efficient vehicles – only four cylinders or fewer and purchased to replace larger cylinder vehicles.

There has been an impressive increase in purchasing of greenhouse friendly products from 2002/03 (when greenhouse friendly products were included for the first time), increasing from \$7.5 million to \$18.5 million in 2006/07, and to \$22 million in 2007/08. This equates to \$3.4 million more purchasing on products with lesser contributions to climate change in the last year.

In the last year expenditure has increased in every greenhouse friendly category other than Greenhouse Friendly Certified products and Gas Rated products, which is likely to be a reflection of the decline in recognition of these two certifications.

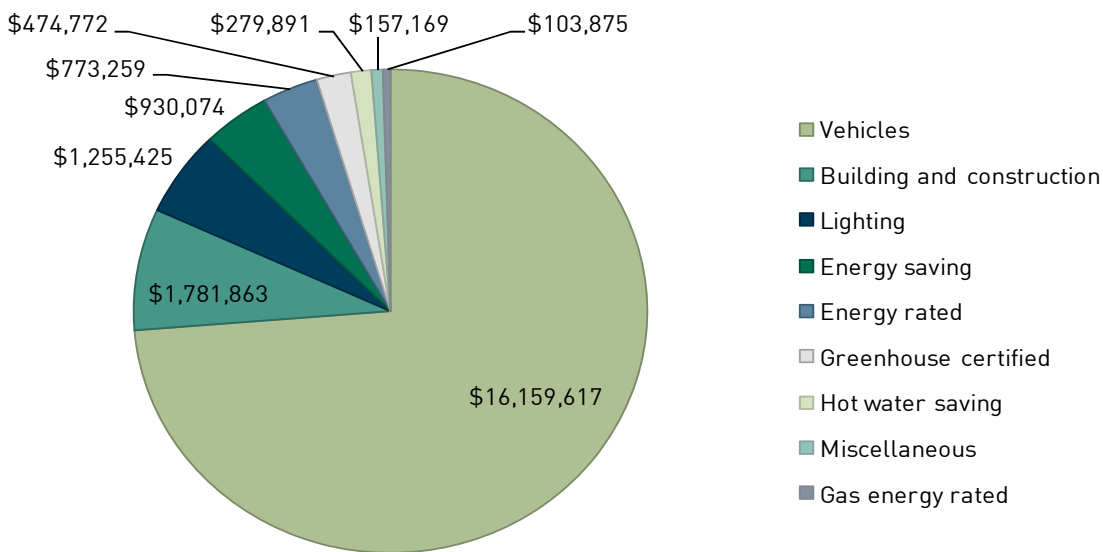
These increases reflect the leadership many local governments are taking in purchasing efficient and less carbon intensive products to help combat climate change. There is a widespread shift amongst local governments to downsized smaller cylinder vehicles and hybrid, electric, fuel efficient and dual fuel vehicles, with purchasing on environmentally preferable vehicles increasing from \$13.7 million to \$16.2 million in the last year. Many local governments are also purchasing large quantities of compact fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts, efficient street lighting and solar and LED lights for outdoor uses.

GREENHOUSE FRIENDLY PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2002/03 – 2007/08

Greenhouse friendly product categories	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Building & construction	\$581,200	\$68,558	\$10,886,220	\$6,211,885	\$806,616	\$1,781,863
Vehicles	\$5,116,610	\$7,927,765	\$5,612,385	\$9,707,588	\$13,699,321	\$16,159,617
Energy Rated	\$1,172,702	\$2,418,839	\$5,390,319	\$5,335,375	\$548,064	\$773,259
Lighting	\$499,417	\$315,812	\$722,035	\$520,748	\$652,452	\$1,255,425
Energy saving		\$156,415	\$409,227	\$841,315	\$1,207,822	\$930,074
Energy Star	\$63,056	\$149,779	\$319,984	\$222,631	N/A*	N/A*
Hot water saving	\$57,700	\$129,759	\$109,402	\$25,346	\$73,338	\$279,891
Gas Energy Rated	\$38,829	\$39,114	\$78,502	\$60,177	\$446,402	\$103,875
Greenhouse Friendly Certified		\$20,442	\$25,268	\$460,720	\$1,018,535	\$474,772
Miscellaneous		\$115,466	\$346,731	\$122,912	\$98,618	\$157,169
Total	\$7,529,514	\$11,341,949	\$23,900,074	\$23,508,697	\$18,551,167	\$21,915,945

* Energy Star Rated IT equipment was removed from the 2006/07 and 2007/08 reporting template given that these energy saving features are reliant on set up and operation, rather than inherent energy saving features of the products themselves.

GREENHOUSE FRIENDLY PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2007/08



Case study: Buloke Shire Council

Despite their relative small size, Buloke Shire Council directed 3.5% of their total revenue towards greenhouse friendly products in 2007/2008. Given the average for reporting ECO-Buy members last financial year was less than one per cent of Council budget invested in low emissions products, this is an impressive result, and shows smaller local governments are able to punch above their weight in the fight against climate change.

Included in Buloke Shire’s greenhouse friendly purchasing was a 3 kilowatt solar system, downsized 4 cylinder cars and LPG vehicles, and over 100,000 litres of Greenhouse Friendly Certified BP Autogas.

Although it’s not included in their expenditure, Buloke Shire is also undertaking some innovative initiatives such as recycling sump oil for use in heating their local swimming pool. This is oil that was used as a lubricant in engines, and has been cleaned of contaminants so it can be used again, preventing the use of more non-renewable fuels to heat their swimming pool.

8.6 ‘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 increased from \$11.4 million in 2006/07 to \$17.4 million in 2007/08.

The largest increase in reported ‘other’ green expenditure was on water saving products, which has grown by \$7.6 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, retrofitted dual flush toilets, waterless urinals, composting toilets, water harvesting equipment such as water

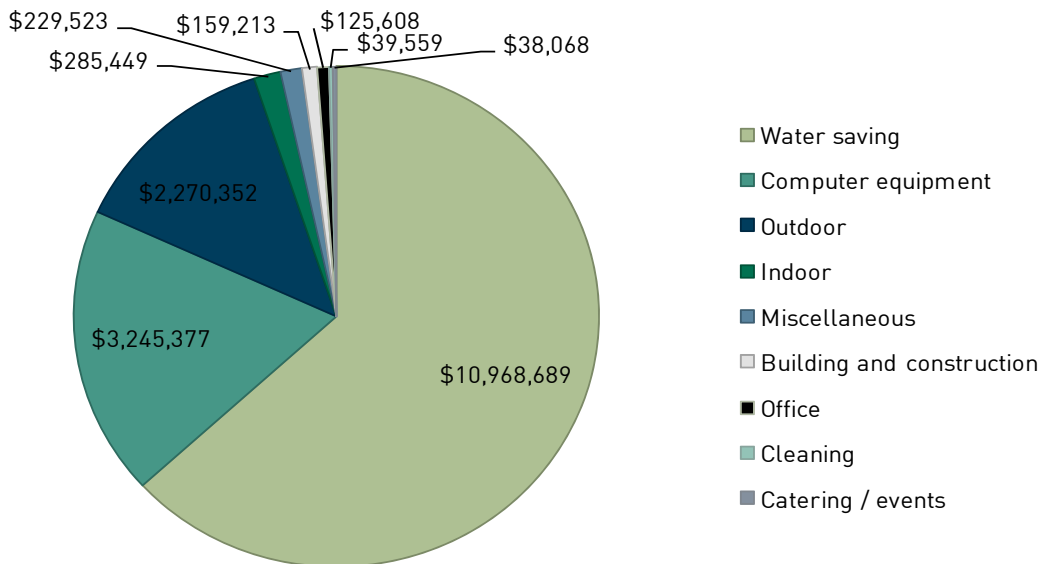
tanks and grey water systems, and flow regulators, low flow shower heads, and 4 Star and above dishwashers and washing machines.

Expenditure on green building and construction materials has also increased in 2007/08, along with office products (such as rechargeable batteries or refillable, xylene free or cardboard casing whiteboard pens), catering and events (such as organic tea, coffee and catering, paper cups or compostable food packaging), and indoor products (such as furniture made from Forest Stewardship Council certified timber, or with evidence of low volatile organic compounds).

'OTHER' GREEN PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2002/03 – 2007/08

'Other' green product categories	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Building and construction	\$420,000	\$68,547	\$8,092,730	\$11,235,294	\$11,218	\$159,213
Outdoor	\$276,360	\$471,125	\$2,443,034	\$2,522,661	\$2,388,434	\$2,270,352
Water saving	\$238,821	\$771,159	\$2,437,405	\$2,654,362	\$3,391,253	\$10,968,689
Office			\$580,744	\$170,772	\$27,002	\$125,608
Computer equipment					\$4,951,120	\$3,245,377
Cleaning	\$53,055	\$47,908	\$192,143	\$50,486	\$126,684	\$39,559
Catering/events			\$36,018	\$15,626	\$26,725	\$38,068
Indoor	\$15,702	\$33,320	\$9,957	\$679,708	\$188,930	\$285,449
Miscellaneous	\$60,000	\$287,923	\$469,216	\$154,884	\$297,863	\$229,523
Total	\$1,063,938	\$1,679,982	\$14,261,245	\$17,483,793	\$11,409,229	\$17,361,836

OTHER' GREEN PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2007/08



Case study: Greater Bendigo City Council

As one of Australia's major inland regional centres, Bendigo is particularly at risk from drought. In 2007 Greater Bendigo's Environmental Task Force, made up of Directors, Councillors and the Environmental Policy Unit, made a special effort to focus on water and energy saving upgrades in Council facilities, including toilets, child care centres and sports facilities.

As a result, Greater Bendigo City Council spent 1.4% of their total budget on water saving products in 2007/08, which included the purchase of water tanks, drought resistant plants and warm season grasses for sports fields, recycled water and irrigation systems.

8.7 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.

Unfortunately refurbished and second-hand product expenditure decreased in the last year. This may reflect that buying second-hand is still relatively uncommon in Councils, and that refurbishing used products to extend their use is rarely undertaken.

While only 26% of reporting councils reported purchasing of second-hand and refurbished products in 2007/08, products that are reported on by some Councils year to year include second hand faxes, filing cabinets, furniture, and track bodies, and refurbished playground equipment, furniture, litter bin cages and litter bins.

REFURBISHED AND SECOND-HAND PRODUCT EXPENDITURE 2003/04 – 2007/08

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Total spent on refurbished and second-hand products	\$349,660*	\$308,782*	\$124,621*	\$348,204	\$188,215

* Figure only includes expenditure on refurbished products, not second-hand products

8.8 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 \$3.3 million in 2007/08. This is a positive increase of \$680,000 in Green Power purchasing from 2006/07, which reflects the ongoing priority of emissions reductions amongst local governments.

EXPENDITURE ON GREEN POWER 2004/05 – 2007/08

Green Power	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Total spent on Green Power	\$2,242,323	\$3,173,546	\$2,599,778*	\$3,278,475*

* 2006/07 and 2007/08 figures exclude service charges and only represent actual power costs

ECO-Buy hopes that the design of the Federal Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme will continue to support the efforts of local governments to reduce emissions by taking permits freed up by Council's buying Green Power out of the market for polluters. Without this, Green Power is likely to become marginalised in future years as an emissions reductions tool.

Hepburn Shire Council case study

In 2001 Hepburn Shire Council audited their energy use and found that their main Council office, administration centre and the Daylesford Visitor Information Centre and Town Hall accounted for just over 20% of Council's total greenhouse gas emissions. Switching over to Green Power was an action Hepburn could undertake immediately to reduce their emissions, as well as demonstrate their leadership on climate change to staff and the wider community.

In 2007/2008 Hepburn Shire Council purchased \$45,000 of accredited 100% Green Power for their 4 main Council buildings. This represented 0.24% of Hepburn's total available budget – a higher percentage of budget going towards emissions-free electricity than at any other reporting member.

9. Implementing green purchasing

This section focuses on members' implementation of ECO-Buy and the factors that influence green purchasing within their council. 43 local governments completed a Section 1 Annual Report for 2007/08, focusing on their implementation of the ECO-Buy program.

In Section 1 Reports members were asked to provide updates on their increases in green purchasing over the history of their membership and in the last financial year, as well as their progress in establishing a Green Purchasing Policy, including environmental specifications in contracts and setting up an ECO-Buy Working Group. This section also presents the main incentives for local government members to improve their green purchasing, and the green product areas that are rated as most important by members.

9.1 Progress in purchasing green products

Purchasing green products is the key focus of ECO-Buy. ECO-Buy members are encouraged to continually improve their green purchasing efforts and spend a larger portion of their budget on environmentally preferable products. Members have access to a database of green products and green product discounts through ECO-Find, and are able to network regularly with other local government members who have experience of using particular green products. An online [ECO-Guide](#) also includes tools and resources on how to buy green, including a product assessment tool which helps select products based on their environmental features, and green specifications to require green product use through contracts and tenders. In 2007/08 ECO-Buy also offered in-house training to all local government members to increase staff awareness of green products and green purchasing considerations.

In 2007/08, 89 per cent of members reported what they perceived as an increase in their purchasing of green products since joining ECO-Buy. This is encouraging, and suggests there is a growing awareness about green

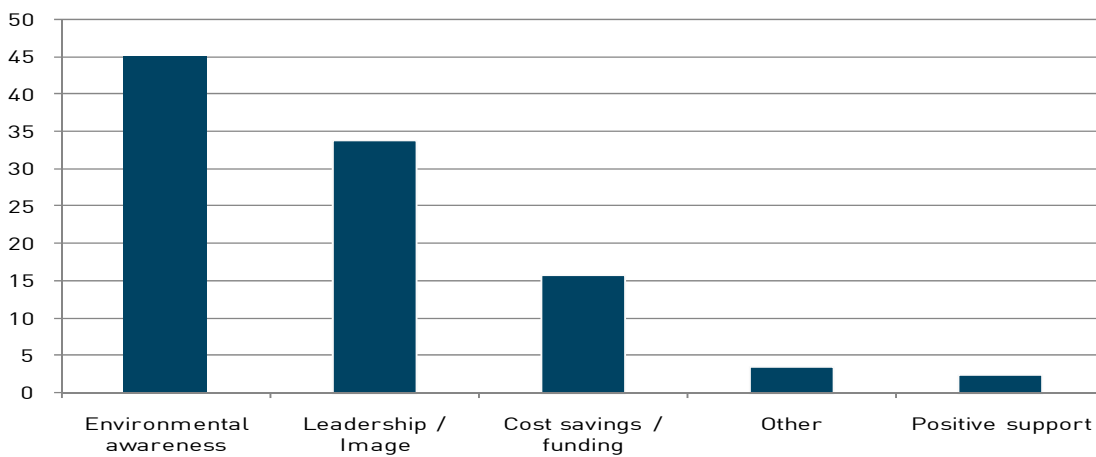
purchasing across member councils, along with a flexible approach to using new products. 61 per cent of members also reported an increase in their purchasing of green products in the 2007/08 financial year.

35 members (58 per cent) have targets in place for increasing their green purchasing, or are in the process of doing so. Green purchasing Action Plans for 2008/09 were in place or in the process of being signed off at 81 per cent of member Councils in September 2008. Actions around green product purchasing (70% of reporting Councils), communication and staff education (70%), tracking (63%) and the use of environmental specifications in contracts and tenders (51%) were the most common areas for improvement included in Action Plans.

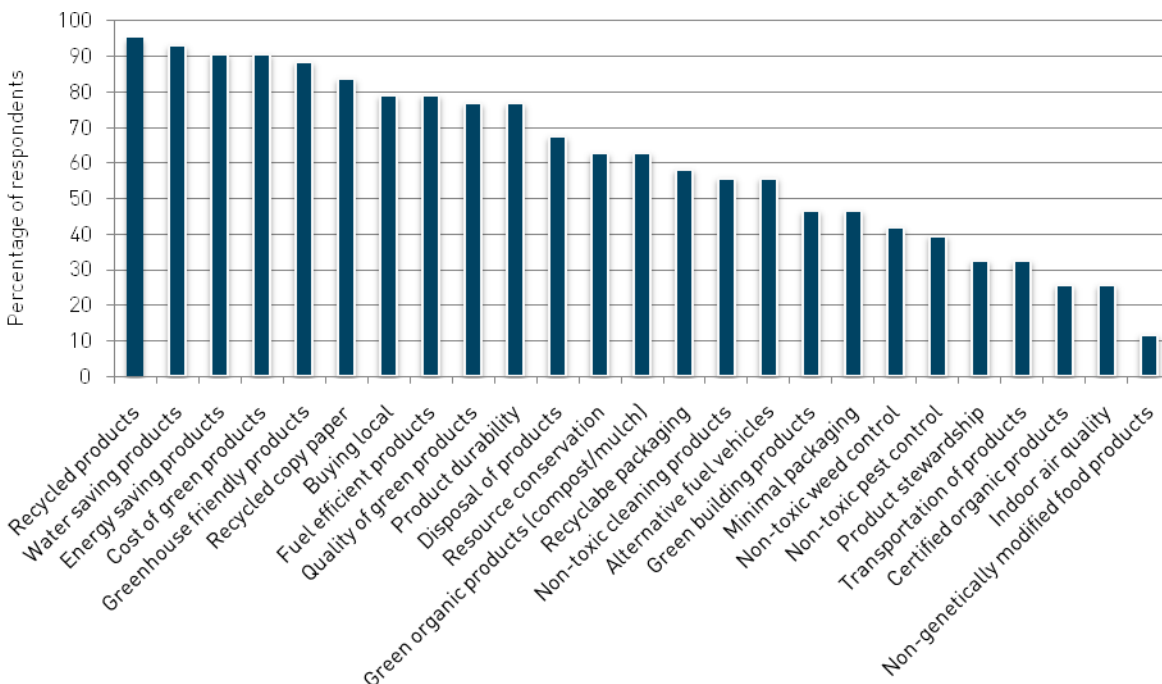
96 per cent of members reported that they expected to increase their purchasing of green products over the next 12 months. Together, this reflects a confidence in the continued improvement in green purchasing amongst local governments.

9.2 Incentives for green purchasing

THE BIGGEST INCENTIVES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERS TO PURCHASE GREEN PRODUCTS ARE:



THE FOLLOWING GREEN PURCHASING ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERS:



*Members were invited to nominate as many key issues as were relevant to their council from a list.

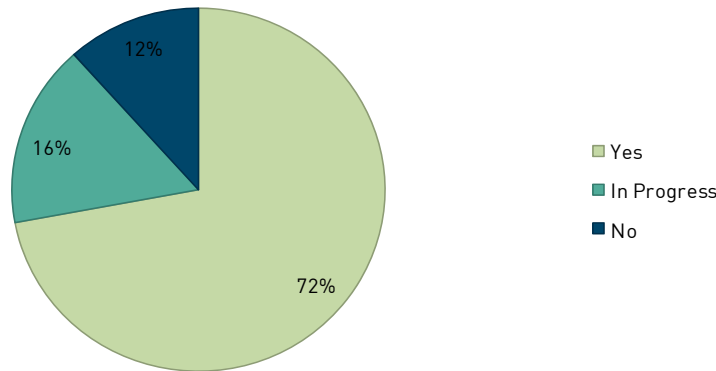
9.3 Green Purchasing Policies

ECO-Buy members agree to adopt a Green Purchasing Policy when they join the ECO-Buy program. The policy confirms the Council'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.

Thirty one ECO-Buy members (72%) had adopted a purchasing policy and seven (16%) were in the process of formulating and adopting a policy in 2007/08. Five members are yet to begin the process of developing and adopting a Green Purchasing Policy.

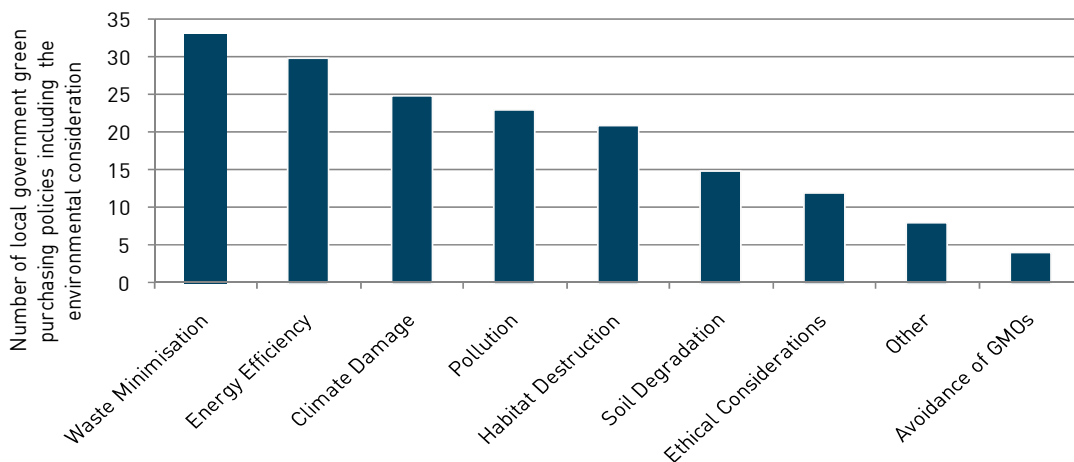
These figures show that Green Purchasing Policies are a core strength of the ECO-Buy program. However ensuring that all staff have good awareness of their Green Purchasing Policy and what it means for them in practice remains an ongoing challenge for ECO-Buy coordinators, and is something ECO-Buy will continue to support through training and education resources.

HAVE YOU DEVELOPED A GREEN PURCHASING POLICY?



The main considerations included in members' purchasing policies in 2007/08 were waste minimisation (33 Councils), energy efficiency (30), climate change (25), pollution (23) and habitat destruction (21). 'Other' considerations include maximum water efficiency (5) and buying local. These considerations reflect similar environmental concerns amongst the wider public.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDED IN GREEN PURCHASING POLICIES



9.4 Purchasing systems and tracking

The majority of ECO-Buy members have decentralised purchasing systems, which often make reporting and tracking difficult. In 2007/08 only two members had a centralised purchasing system, while 25 had decentralised systems, and 16 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 or a department. 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 2007/08 38 members are using an electronic purchasing system, with Finance One, AXS-1, and Technology One the most common types (each being used by 6 members), and Authority, Computron and AusSoft software types each used by 3 members.

49 per cent of members reported that they have a tracking system in place for recording green product purchases throughout the year, with a further 21 per cent in the process of implementing a tracking system. The majority of these Councils are integrating tracking codes of check boxes within their electronic purchasing software. ECO-Buy will continue to work with the 13 members that they did not have an established tracking process to help them get a system in place.

9.5 Green contracts and tenders

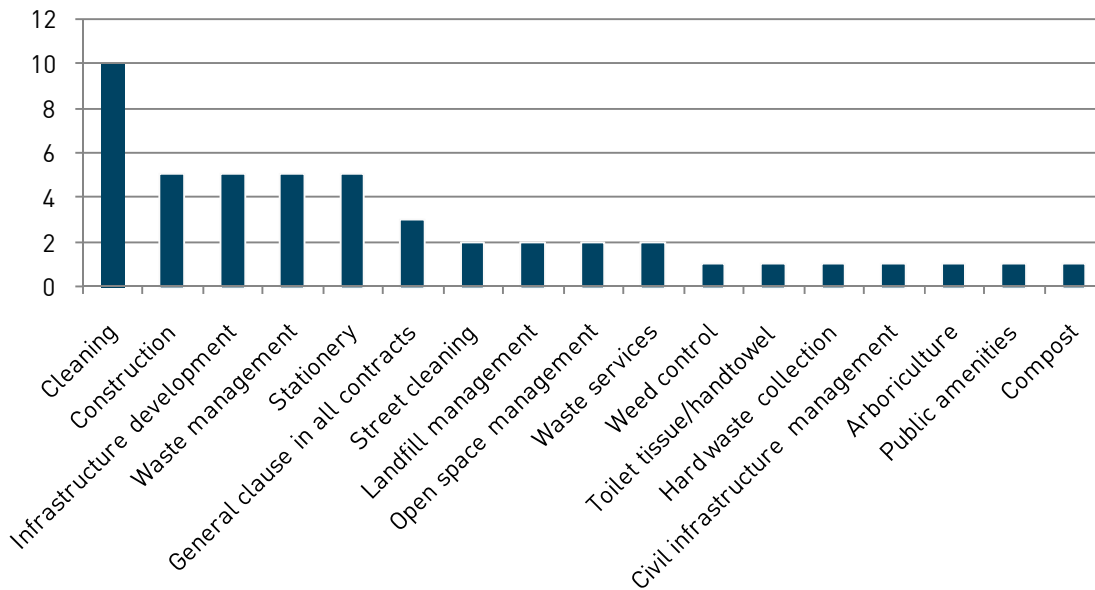
Most large scale purchasing in local governments is undertaken by a tender process. ECO-Buy has developed a range of model specifications and encourages Council staff to use these when writing contracts and tender documentation. Green specifications are one of the most effective ways councils can ensure 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.

There has been a continual increase in the number of members using or in the process of using green specifications in their contracts, from 36 per cent in 2001 to 79 per cent in 2006/07 and 2007/08.

The range of contract types including green specifications has increased from 11 in 2001/02 to 17 in 2007/08. The most common contracts where detailed environmental specifications were included last year are cleaning (23% of reporting Councils), stationery, construction, waste management and infrastructure development (12% of reporting Councils), and street cleaning, landfill management, and open space management (5%).

Only 7% of members submitting an Annual Report in 2007/08 have included a general statement in all contracts and tenders requiring the consideration of environmental impacts and stating Council's preference for purchasing environmentally preferable goods. This is something that ECO-Buy will work to improve with its members in coming years.

CONTRACTS INCLUDING GREEN SPECIFICATIONS IN 2007/08



9.6 ECO-Buy coordinators and Working Groups

ECO-Buy members nominate a staff member to coordinate and manage the ECO-Buy program within council. Environment, sustainability or waste management/education staff represent the largest group of ECO-Buy coordinators, with 77 per cent of all coordinators coming from this area in 2007/08. However it is pleasing to see 10 per cent of coordinators sitting in purchasing roles at reporting local governments, with another 5 per cent sharing the coordination role between purchasing and environment staff.

Working Groups support ECO-Buy coordinators to develop and implement the ECO-Buy program and promote green purchasing across council departments. Purchasing decisions are made by staff across the entire organisation, some of whom may not be aware of ECO-Buy or green purchasing. Working Groups are therefore an important forum to involve a wide range of staff in educating other staff about green products and helping improve green purchasing practices across council as a whole.

In 2007/08, 34 members had established or were in the process of establishing a Working Group to implement ECO-Buy. 311 staff from 26 different department types are participating in these Working Groups, with environment or sustainability staff continuing to represent the largest group of participants (27 per cent).

Other positions/departments most commonly involved are administration and business services (10%), planning (6%), works/depot (5%) purchasing/contracts (5%), building services/facilities management (5%), CEO/Director, customer service, finance and engineering (all 3.5%).

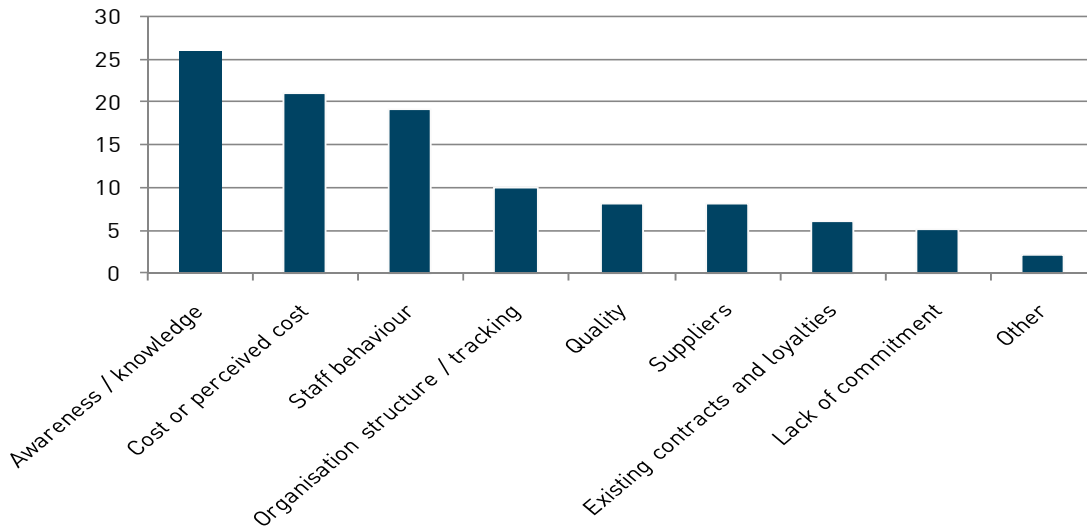
There was an increase in participants from areas such as CEO/Director positions, Special Projects, health, works/depot, fleet, child services and environment/sustainability/waste/greenhouse management. This indicates that green purchasing considerations are being taken up by a wide range of staff across the council, which will ideally continue to increase.

There were 9 members who did not have a Working Group in 2007/08. ECO-Buy will continue to encourage and support these members to establish Working Groups in the coming year, as these groups are an effective way to raise awareness and encourage people from all departments to become involved in implementing a successful green purchasing program.

9.7 Barriers to green purchasing

Despite these achievements, ECO-Buy coordinators in local governments identified a number of barriers they felt they faced in improving green purchasing practices in their organisation into the future.

THE THREE BIGGEST BARRIERS TO YOUR COUNCIL PURCHASING GREEN PRODUCTS ARE:



ECO-Buy will continue to help raise staff awareness of green products through providing newly updated training for all members annually and producing educational resources for member use. This will also help counter negative perceptions of quality and cost of green products, and assist staff ability to assess and select appropriate green product alternatives in their purchasing decisions.

10. Conclusion

This report has presented considerable achievements made by ECO-Buy's local government members in 2007/08. Expenditure reports from 80 per cent of ECO-Buy's members show that expenditure on green products has increased by \$10 million to \$71.5 million in the last year, despite eight fewer expenditure report submissions. The average Local Government expenditure on environmentally preferable products has increased by \$368,000 per member on average, with highest spending on recycled and greenhouse friendly products.

Members have increased 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 (\$7.6 million increase in the last year), greenhouse friendly products (\$3.4 million increase) and Green Power (\$680,000 increase).

These outcomes are generated by members' Green Purchasing Policies and staff purchasing choices, with 88 per cent of members having a policy in place, or in the process of adopting one. Green Purchasing Policies most commonly reflected members' commitment to waste minimisation, energy efficiency, reduced climate damage and minimised pollution in 2007/08.

It is likely that these environmental priorities will only increase in the coming years. At the same time, the Global Financial Crisis will put further strain on local government budgets, and it may well be that the economic cost effectiveness of buying more efficient products – products that reduce costs over the full lifecycle by using less electricity, fuel, water or consumables – will be one of the central drivers for green purchasing. ECO-Buy will continue to support its members' best practice green purchasing, helping maximise sustainability outcomes with tools such as life cycle cost calculators, purchasing assessments and training.

11. Appendices

11.1 Annual Report submission by ECO-Buy member councils 2007/08

Council	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Alpine	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓
Ararat	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Banyule	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bass Coast	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bayside	NM	NM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bendigo (Greater Bendigo)	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓
Boroondara	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brimbank	NM	NM	NM	NR	NR	✓	✓	S2 only
Buloke	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Campaspe	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓	X	X	X
Cardinia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Casey	NM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Central Goldfields	NM	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓	X	X
Colac Otway	NM	NM	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓
Corangamite	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Dandenong (Greater Dandenong)	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Darebin	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Falls Creek Resort Management Board	NM	NR	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Frankston	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gannawarra	NM	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓	NM
Geelong (Greater Geelong)	NR	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Glen Eira	NM	NM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hepburn	NM	NM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hobsons Bay	NM	NM	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Horsham	NM	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓	X
Hume	NM	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indigo	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kingston	NM	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Knox	NM	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Loddon	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	S1 only
Macedon Ranges	NR	NR	✓	X	✓	*	✓	✓
Manningham	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maribyrnong	NM	NM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maroondah	NM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Melbourne	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Melton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Mildura	NR	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	S2 only
Mitchell	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	NM	✓	X
Moira	NM	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓	S2 only
Monash	NM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Moonee Valley	NM	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓	NM	NR
Moorabool	NM	NM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Moreland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Mornington Peninsula	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mount Alexander	NM	NR	NR	X	✓	✓	S1 only	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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Towong	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wangaratta	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Warrnambool	NM	NM	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓
West Wimmera	NM	NM	NM	✓	✓	X	X	NM
Whitehorse	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whittlesea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wyndham	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yarra City	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yarra Ranges	NM	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Total submissions	23	29	40	44	54	54	54	47

- ✓ 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

11.2 Top 100 green products reported on by local government members

Green product type	Product Category	Report section	Total Councils purchasing (out of 47)	% of total reporting Councils
Paper - Copy A4 50% or more recycled content	Recycled	PAPER	37	78.7%
Cars - Downsized	Greenhouse	VEHICLES	33	70.2%
MGB Bins (30% or higher recycled content)	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT	29	61.7%
LPG Vehicles	Greenhouse	VEHICLES	29	61.7%
Indigenous Plants	Other Green	OUTDOOR	26	55.3%
Water Tanks	Other Green	WATER SAVING	25	53.2%
Mulch	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	24	51.1%
Soft Fall Mulch	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	22	46.8%
Paper - A3	Recycled	PAPER	20	42.6%
Bollards	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	18	38.3%
Newsletters - Community	Recycled	PAPER	18	38.3%
Toilet Tissue	Recycled	PAPER	18	38.3%
Pens & Pencils	Recycled	OFFICE	18	38.3%
Letterhead	Recycled	PAPER	18	38.3%
Crushed Concrete	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH	16	34%
Notepads	Recycled	PAPER	16	34%
Business Cards	Recycled	PAPER	16	34%
Brochures	Recycled	PAPER	16	34%
Envelopes (all sizes)	Recycled	PAPER	16	34%
Park Benches	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	16	34%
Paper - Coloured	Recycled	PAPER	15	321%
AGL Green Energy	Green Power	ActewAGL	15	32%
Compact Fluorescent Lights	Greenhouse	LIGHTING	15	32%
Worm Farms	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT	15	32%
Lap Tops	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH GREEN FEATURES	15	32%
Cleaning Rags	Recycled	MISCELLANEOUS	15	32%
Fluorescent Lights - triphospor	Greenhouse	LIGHTING	14	29.8%
Crushed Rock	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH	14	29.8%
Fuel Efficient Vehicles	Greenhouse	VEHICLES	14	29.8%
Asphalt	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH	13	27.7%
Dog Poo Bags (biodegradable)	Other Green	MISCELLANEOUS	13	27.7%
Computers	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH GREEN FEATURES	13	27.7%
Dual Fuel Vehicles	Greenhouse	VEHICLES	13	27.7%
MGB Lids	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT	12	25.5%
Archive Boxes (cardboard)	Recycled	PAPER	12	25.5%
Dual Flush Cisterns (retrofit)	Other Green	WATER SAVING	12	25.5%
Other Printed Materials	Recycled	PAPER	12	25.5%
Post-it Pads	Recycled	PAPER	12	25.5%

Non-toxic Cleaning Substances	Other Green	CLEANING PRODUCTS	12	25.5%
Hybrid Vehicles	Greenhouse	VEHICLES	12	25.5%
Site-Pour Surfacing (rubber)	Recycled	PLAYGROUND	11	23.4%
Met Cards	Greenhouse	MISCELLANEOUS	11	23.4%
Drought Resistant Plants & Grasses	Other Green	WATER SAVING	10	21.3%
Retreads	Recycled	FLEET MANAGEMENT	10	21.3%
Outdoor Chairs	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	10	21.3%
Air Conditioners	Greenhouse	ENERGY RATED EQUIPMENT	10	21.3%
Origin Energy – Green Earth	Green Power	ORIGIN ENERGY	9	19.2%
Promotional Material	Recycled	PAPER	9	19.2%
Wood Chips	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	9	19.2%
Tree Guards	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	9	19.2%
Hand Towel	Recycled	PAPER	9	19.2%
Tree Stakes	Other Green	OUTDOOR	9	19.2%
Calenders	Recycled	PAPER	9	19.2%
Paper - Copy A4 less than 50% recycled content	Recycled	PAPER	9	19.2%
With Comps	Recycled	PAPER	9	19.2%
Diaries	Recycled	PAPER	9	19.2%
Tree Stakes	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	9	19.2%
Jute Matting	Other Green	OUTDOOR	8	17%
Garden Soil	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	8	17%
Compost	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	8	17%
Batteries – Rechargeable	Other Green	OFFICE	8	17%
Signage	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	8	17%
Computer Monitors	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH GREEN FEATURES	8	17%
Remanufactured Toners	Recycled	OFFICE	7	14.9%
Shower Heads	Other Green	WATER SAVING	7	14.9%
Remanufactured Toner/Cartridges Combined	Recycled	OFFICE	7	14.9%
Water Saving Crystals	Other Green	WATER SAVING	7	14.9%
Irrigation Systems	Other Green	WATER SAVING	7	14.9%
Windows	Greenhouse	BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION	7	14.9%
Rubber Swing Pads	Recycled	PLAYGROUND	7	14.9%
LCD Monitors	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH GREEN FEATURES	7	14.9%
Hot Water Systems	Greenhouse	ENERGY RATED EQUIPMENT	7	14.9%
Skylight	Greenhouse	ENERGY SAVING	7	14.9%
Dishwashing Liquid	Other Green	CLEANING PRODUCTS	7	14.9%
Blended Soils	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	7	14.9%
Watering Systems	Other Green	WATER SAVING	7	14.9%
Waterless Urinals	Other Green	WATER SAVING	7	14.9%
Whiteboard Markers	Recycled	OFFICE	7	14.9%
Organic Catering	Other Green	CATERING / FOOD / EVENTS	7	14.9%
Suspension files	Recycled	PAPER	7	14.9%
Printers	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH GREEN FEATURES	6	12.8%
Timber Fencing	Other Green	OUTDOOR	6	12.8%
Compost Bins	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT	6	12.8%
MGB Wheels	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT	6	12.8%
Paper - Other	Recycled	PAPER	6	12.8%
Potting Mix	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	6	12.8%
Manila Folders	Recycled	PAPER	6	12.8%
Worms	Other Green	OUTDOOR	6	12.8%
Organic Fertiliser	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	6	12.8%
Topsoil	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH	6	12.8%
Information Cards	Recycled	PAPER	6	12.8%
Speed Humps / Cushions	Recycled	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	6	12.8%
Picnic Settings	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS	6	12.8%
Energy Saving Lighting Controls	Greenhouse	LIGHTING	6	12.8%
Timers	Other Green	WATER SAVING	6	12.8%
Recycled Water- Class A	Other Green	WATER SAVING	6	12.8%
Micro Fibre Products	Other Green	CLEANING PRODUCTS	6	12.8%
Compost - Mushroom	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH	6	12.8%
Flow Regulators	Other Green	WATER SAVING	6	12.8%
Newsletters - Other	Recycled	PAPER	5	10.6%
Flyers	Recycled	PAPER	5	10.6%

11.3 Top 50 green products by total reported expenditure

Specific Item	Dollar Value (\$)	Product Category	Report Section
Asphalt	7,082,652	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH
AGL Green Energy	6,693,821	Green Power	ActewAGL
Cars - Downsized	5,416,191	Greenhouse	VEHICLES
LPG Vehicles	5,376,866	Greenhouse	VEHICLES
MGB Bins (30% or higher recycled content)	4,802,366	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT
Water Tanks	3,525,488	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Fuel Efficient Vehicles	3,409,646	Greenhouse	VEHICLES
Recycled Water- Class A	1,889,171	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Indigenous Plants	1,685,211	Other Green	OUTDOOR
Computers	1,535,960	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH GREEN FEATURES
Drought Resistant Plants & Grasses	1,489,615	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Irrigation Systems	1,275,426	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Crushed Concrete	1,225,524	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH
Crushed Rock	1,201,264	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH
Dual Fuel Vehicles	1,078,207	Greenhouse	VEHICLES
Newsletters - Community	1,069,663	Recycled	PAPER
Bio Diesel	1,014,634	Recycled	FLEET MANAGEMENT
Paper - Copy A4 50% or more recycled content	940,120	Recycled	PAPER
Origin Energy - Green Earth	790,783	Green Power	ORIGIN ENERGY
Mulch	729,468	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH
Air Conditioners	582,275	Greenhouse	ENERGY RATED EQUIPMENT
Concrete Aggregate	539,810	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH
Hybrid Vehicles	519,316	Greenhouse	VEHICLES
Brochures	490,728	Recycled	PAPER
Filtration Systems (water harvesting)	486,014	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Outdoor Lighting	477,731	Greenhouse	LIGHTING
Energex Green Power	424,586	Green Power	ENERGEX
BP Autogas	422,851	Greenhouse	GREENHOUSE FRIENDLY CERTIFIED
Soft Fall Mulch	412,081	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH
Watering Systems	410,081	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Wood Chips	400,883	Recycled	ORGANICS: COMPOST & MULCH
Computers Monitors	397,268	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH GREEN FEATURES
Envelopes (all sizes)	340,061	Recycled	PAPER
Laptops	326,640	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH GREEN FEATURES
Dual Flush Cisterns (retrofit)	313,323	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Speed Humps / Cushions	305,800	Recycled	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
Calenders	275,151	Recycled	PAPER
Retreads	266,769	Recycled	FLEET MANAGEMENT
Bollards	261,578	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS
100% Wind Green Power	257,104	Green Power	TRUenergy
Bins - Other	234,109	Recycled	WASTE MANAGEMENT
Multi Function Devices	229,822	Other Green	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH GREEN FEATURES
Windows	227,469	Greenhouse	BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION
Glass / Concrete Mix / Glassphalt	226,125	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH
Solar Hot Water Systems	209,964	Greenhouse	HOT WATER SAVING PRODUCTS
Drainage Pipes	200,000	Recycled	ROAD & FOOTPATH
Promotional Material	192,894	Recycled	PAPER
Waterless Urinals	192,092	Other Green	WATER SAVING
Park Benches	189,527	Recycled	PARKS & GARDENS
2nd Hand Vehicles	189,264	Recycled	MISCELLANEOUS



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