



## **ECO-Buy State Government Sustainable Procurement Program – Invitation to Information Session Tuesday 30 March 2010 at 10.30am**

The need to improve the sustainability of operations is now a key management focus for all levels of government. Public concern about climate change and its impacts, dwindling water supplies, resource constraints, waste disposal and tightening regulations are just some of the sustainability pressure points facing government today.

Purchasing decisions are integral to success in improving organisational sustainability. It was estimated in a 2008 NHS study in the UK<sup>1</sup> examining the sources of its 18 million tonne annual carbon footprint that 60% of emissions were generated by procurement. Systematically considering the environmental impacts of goods and services in environmentally sound purchasing decisions can not only reduce environmental impacts associated with organisational procurement but can also reduce risks and save you money! However green procurement is a complex area and this is where ECO-Buy can help you if you decide to join this award-winning program.

ECO-Buy is a not for profit organisation established to encourage the purchasing of environmentally preferable products and services. Formed in 2000 and with support from the State Government, ECO-Buy now delivers green procurement programs not only to Local Government but to State Government departments and agencies as well as businesses. A pilot schools program is also running in 2010.

The Victorian Government spends around \$5 billion each year on operating supplies and consumables alone. In driving better value for money the Government has the opportunity to significantly reduce its own environmental 'footprint' and that of its suppliers. ECO-Buy works with state government to encourage procurement of environmentally preferable products and services. Green procurement is an ideal way for state government to demonstrate to their communities, and suppliers, that they are taking positive steps to create a more sustainable future by choosing to buy products and services that are less damaging to our environment and human health.

The Victorian Government has a range of commitments to improve the environmental sustainability of its procurement processes, including specific policy commitments, and recommendations adopted from assessments undertaken by the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability.

The ECO-Buy State Government Sustainable Procurement Program has been developed to support Victorian government departments and agencies to green their purchasing practices, by positively influencing procurement processes and providing tools, resources and training to assist in decision making. It is a structured program which is designed to assist them in meeting Victorian Government policy commitments and supports the Victorian Government Purchasing Board's Environmental Procurement Principles and Guidelines. This fee-for-service program currently has 17 members for the 2009-10 financial year, its first year of operation after a successful pilot program in 2008-09.

ECO-Buy's green purchasing membership program for Victorian State Government consists of a base annual membership plus one of three packages depending on what stage of green purchasing implementation your department or agency has reached.

The typical membership journey would take three years, moving through each of the three packages, followed by recurrent use of the third package for continual assessment, improvement and staff

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<sup>1</sup> NHS England Carbon Emissions: Carbon Footprinting <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=817>, accessed February 17<sup>th</sup> 2010.

training. The three phases and resources within each are aligned with the principles of the Victorian Government Purchasing Board's Environmental Procurement Guidelines.



ECO-Buy's State Government program provides tools, resources and guidance to departments and agencies, which are currently responsible for developing their own approaches to sustainable procurement. The program also facilitates bench-marking and measurement of performance. Recognising that every organisation has its own strategic objectives and timelines, ECO-Buy's membership packages are flexible, with members able to purchase particular resources from each package if required.

For more detailed information about the ECO-Buy State Government Program services and costs please go to <http://www.ecobuy.org.au/director/stategovernment/How%20to%20Join.cfm>.

Becoming a member of ECO-Buy will provide a significant number of benefits to your department or agency including:

- Meeting Victorian Government Environmental Policy Commitments (see summary at [http://www.ecobuy.org.au/uploads/documents/Key\\_Vic\\_gov\\_env\\_policy\\_commitments3.pdf](http://www.ecobuy.org.au/uploads/documents/Key_Vic_gov_env_policy_commitments3.pdf))
- Saving money and improving resource efficiency
- Improving Environmental Management System and ResourceSmart performance and reporting
- Enhancing market development for recycled products
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Showing leadership and building strong partnerships
- Enhancing environmental quality
- Contributing to employment creation and economic development
- Positive contribution to staff morale

As a member of ECO-Buy your department or agency will:

- Gain access to the extensive range of ECO-Buy resources and tools, including an experienced ECO-Buy Green Purchasing Program Manager who will provide guidance and advice throughout the process
- Become a member of Australia's leading green purchasing program
- Become part of a state government network who share their knowledge, experiences and achievements
- Participate in forums with other ECO-Buy members and suppliers of green products

Now is the perfect time to start planning for ECO-Buy State Government Sustainable Procurement Program membership for the 2010-11 financial year. A FREE information session for all Victorian government departments, agencies, administrative offices and statutory bodies will be held at the Treasury Theatre (Melbourne CBD) on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30am- 12.00pm. Join us over morning tea to hear more about ECO-Buy, the work we do with Victorian State Government, anticipated government funded subsidies for the 2010-11 financial year program and a case study on real experiences from an ECO-Buy State Government program member.

For more information about the the ECO-Buy State Government Sustainable Procurement Program or to register your interest in attending the information session, please contact Cara Horner on (03) 9349 0410 or [chorner@ecobuy.org.au](mailto:chorner@ecobuy.org.au).