

Queensland Programs

Queensland has a variety of State programs and initiatives to assist businesses to deal with the threats of climate change and to reduce their carbon footprint. A number of these programs and initiatives are described below.

Environmental Protection Agency – [ecoBiz Programme](#)

The Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Sustainable Industries Division assists Queensland industry to invest, compete and profit from sustainability. The EPA has developed the ecoBiz programme, a free tool providing a range of ways to reduce water, waste and energy use including spreadsheets and funding assistance for businesses to implement eco-efficiency improvements. Rebates are available to ecoBiz participants for amounts of \$1,000 - \$150,000 (to a maximum of 30% of total eligible costs).

The Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland works with the EPA to provide business and industry with:

- On-going industry education via workshops, seminars and forums (e.g. [QWESTNet](#) workshops); and
- Efficiency and environmental solutions that provide financial savings (e.g. through ecoBiz facilitation).

[Smart Energy Savings Program](#)

The Queensland Government's Smart Energy Savings Program (SESP) is a legislative initiative effective from 1 July 2009 introduced through the Clean Energy Act 2008. The program aims to drive energy saving improvements in Queensland businesses. The program will require participating businesses to undertake an energy audit, develop an Energy Savings Plan and publish their actions for each relevant site, on a five-year cycle.

[Solar Bonus Scheme](#)

The Queensland Government's Solar Bonus Scheme is a program that pays domestic and other small energy customers for the surplus electricity generated from roof-top solar photovoltaic (PV) systems that is fed into the Queensland energy grid. The scheme rewards customers whenever they generate more electricity than they are using - not just the balance at the end of the quarter, but whenever generation exceeds consumption during the day. Customers wishing to claim the solar bonus should contact the electricity retailer that supplies them with grid-connected electricity.

[Home and Garden Water Wise Rebate Scheme](#)

The Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme, which offers cash rebates for the purchase of water-saving devices was introduced in two stages:

- Stage 1, implemented in South-East Queensland, offers rebates for products purchased on or between 13 June 2006 and 30 June 2009
- Stage 2, which extended the program to include all of Queensland, offers rebates for products purchased on or between 16 August 2006 and 30 June 2009.

[Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund](#)

The Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund has been designed to assist Queensland based organisations to develop innovative technologies that reduce consumption of fossil fuels, water or greenhouse gas emissions.

National Programs

Caring For Our Country

The Australian Government is investing \$2 billion to achieve a real and measurable difference to Australia's environment. Caring for our Country funds projects across the country to achieve national targets - projects that improve biodiversity and sustainable farm practices. Caring for our Country supports communities, farmers and other land managers protect Australia's natural environment and sustainably produce food and fibre.

The goal of Caring for our Country is to achieve an environment that is healthier, better protected, well managed, resilient, and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate.

Clean Business Australia

The Australian Government has allocated \$240 million over four years to establish *Clean Business Australia* a partnership with Australian business and industry for tackling climate change. *Clean Business Australia* supports a range of activities aimed at improving energy and water efficiency and increasing sustainability, with a focus on productivity and innovation.

There are three elements to *Clean Business Australia*:

1. **Climate Ready** which supports small and medium sized Australian businesses to undertake research and development, proof of concept and early stage commercialisation projects, in order to develop new technologies and services responding to climate change. Climate Ready is currently closed for application.
2. **Re-tooling for Climate Change** which supports small and medium sized Australian manufacturers to reduce their environmental footprint, by improving the energy and/or water efficiency of one or more production processes.
3. **Green Building Fund** which supports owners of existing commercial office buildings to reduce their energy consumption and green house gas emissions. Support is also available for relevant industry organisations to develop industry capability in order to reduce emissions. The Green Building Fund is currently closed for application.

Climate Change Action Fund

The Climate Change Action Fund will be available to businesses to help them make the transition to a cleaner economy. Provided by the Australian Government, the fund will provide partnership funding for a range of activities including:

- Capital investment in innovative new low emissions processes
- Industrial energy efficiency projects with long payback periods
- Dissemination of best and innovative practice among small to medium sized enterprises

Energy Smart Allies Program

The Energy Smart Allies Program aims to facilitate the development of the sustainable energy industry as a whole by linking the suppliers of sustainable energy products and services with customers of the same.

The Internet edition of the Energy Smart Allies Directory includes over 400 organisations in Australia that can provide energy efficient products and services that help improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

Greenhouse Challenge Plus

Greenhouse Challenge Plus is a partnership program between the Australian government and the industry. Through tools, workshops as well as shared knowledge and experience the program is helping businesses to achieve the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and energy savings. Businesses signing up for free for the program commit themselves to:

- Measure and monitor their greenhouse gas emissions,
- Deliver maximum practical greenhouse gas abatement,
- Continuously improve their management of greenhouse gas emissions and sinks,
- Work towards specific, individually agreed milestones,
- Provide annual reports on the amount of emissions and on abatement activities,
- Promote activities in terms of greenhouse gas management.

Upon sign up the business develops an agreement with the Australian government on its commitment to manage and reduce greenhouse gases. An industry adviser helps the business to develop the agreement including an action plan to reduce the businesses greenhouse gases. The sign up also enables the business' access to the Online System for Comprehensive Activity Reporting (OSCAR) to track and report its energy, waste and greenhouse data. Public recognition is achieved through the Greenhouse Challenge Plus marketing of the Australian government. The program also includes the Greenhouse Friendly Certification which recognizes services and products with zero net greenhouse gas emissions. The businesses product or service has to undergo a Life Cycle Assessment where all greenhouse gases attributed to the production of the product or service are measured. Subsequently the business has offset those emissions by either buying offsets from an approved abatement project or by offsetting the emissions in house through an approved abatement project. The Greenhouse Challenge Plus program is more suited to larger enterprises (Qantas, Virgin Blue, and Jetstar have all been certified using this program).

Green Office Guide

The *Green Office Guide* helps businesses buy environmentally friendly office equipment which can be used to reduce operating and environmental costs, including greenhouse gas emissions. This guide has been produced as part of the National Appliance and Equipment Energy Efficiency Program supported by the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments.

Green Vehicle Guide

For the first time, potential car buyers will be able to go online to find out the environmental performance of new cars sold in Australia. The Green Vehicle Guide provides ratings on the environmental performance of new vehicles sold in Australia.

The site can be used to see how vehicles compare on greenhouse and air pollution emissions. For new car buyers, the site identifies the vehicle with the highest ratings which meets the purchasers needs.

Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (RRPGP)

The Renewable Remote Power Generation Program supports the installation of renewable energy generation systems in those areas of Australia not close to the main grid via rebate of up to 50 per cent of capital costs.