

How to make your business green

Would you like to help to save the planet? business.gov.au's environmental information can show you just how easy it is for your business to make a difference.

Whether you call it global warming or climate change, whether you want to help make Australia more energy independent or just want to reduce your energy bills, going green makes good sense.

By introducing good environmental management practices and reducing your environmental impact overall, your business can profit from cost savings through efficiency or productivity gains.

Here are some simple tips on how you can step up to the plate to do your part.

Check out environmental legislation. Staying on top of environmental legislation, licensing and labelling requirements is an essential first step toward greening your business. In many cases, this means obtaining applicable operating permits and taking the necessary steps to protect the environment and employees from toxic emissions.

Conduct an environmental audit. An environmental audit can tell you exactly how much energy you use and the amount of waste you dispose of, and can give you a basic indication of how your business impacts the environment.

Rally the troops. Have a team meeting to promote and discuss environmentalism in your business, this way the green initiative is a team effort and everyone will know what is involved.

Develop a recycling and waste reduction culture. Set up a workplace recycling system for paper, plastics, aluminium, glass and even electronic equipment. Encourage employees to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Purchase eco friendly products. You can prove your commitment to the environment by using eco friendly products in your business.

Lower your water and energy needs. To save water, you should make sure that all dripping taps and leaks are repaired. Encourage employees to turn off lights, and other equipment when they are not in use.

Use energy efficient lighting and equipment. By using less electricity your business will save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The quickest thing you can do is to switch to low-energy use light bulbs. Next, if you have old equipment, it may be time to upgrade.

Dispose of toxics properly. You can create a plan to ensure that all your employees safely dispose of toxic substances such as cleaning supplies, computer and copier toner and solvents.

Take advantage of grants and assistance. Did you know that you can access grants and other funding programs for environmental projects from federal, state and territory governments and in some cases from your local council?

There are a number of funding programs that can help you deliver sustainable outcomes in energy, materials and water use.

Seek recognition for your environmental efforts. Put your business in the spotlight and apply for an environmental award. There are a range of awards offered by the Australian government that can benefit you by providing regular access to environmental management information, tools, training, newsletters and mentoring.

From starting an environmental plan to finding grants and financial assistance, you can find all the information you need to make your business green on business.gov.au.

business.gov.au is the Australian Government's award-winning business website that offers you simple and convenient access to government business information, transactions and services. business.gov.au is committed to making businesses green. Visit business.gov.au today to find out how you can help the environment.