

# MEDIA RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FREE ENERGY AND WATER MAKEOVERS**

The Victorian Government is providing free energy and water makeovers for approximately 4,300 low-income households in metropolitan and regional Victoria, CEO of Sustainability Victoria Anita Roper announced today.

“The Victorian Government is committed to responding to climate change in a way that supports vulnerable Victorians and ensures they are not left behind,” Mrs Roper explained.

“Overall, the funding to retrofit a further 4,300 homes is part of a total program spend of \$10.5 million provided by the Victorian Government. The retrofits will cut greenhouse emissions by more than 3,200 tonnes each year and shave \$500,000 off energy bills for all the households,” Mrs Roper said.

The free home improvements will help households to reduce their energy bills and stay warmer in winter and cooler in summer. The makeovers are provided as part of the Energy and Water Task Force to be delivered over the next two years in localities throughout regional and rural Victoria as well as metropolitan Melbourne.

This program is being delivered in Bairnsdale and Orbost, the Cities of Yarra and Darebin, Craigieburn, Cobram, Melbourne’s South Eastern suburbs, Seymour, Shepparton, the Shire of Buloke and parts of South Western Victoria.

The Energy and Water Task Force will provide multiple benefits for:

- residents, who will enjoy improved home comfort as well as lower energy and water bills
- jobseekers, through training and new jobs created to retrofit the homes
- the environment, through energy and water savings and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

“More than 50 job seekers will receive green skills training and employment in the retrofitting of homes in their local communities through this initiative. Experience shows that more than 60 per cent of newly-trained workers in this sector find ongoing employment and undertake additional training as a result of their participation in the Energy and Water Task Force,” Mrs Roper said.

Since the Energy and Water Task Force began in 2003, more than 5,500 low-income households are now warmer in winter and cooler in summer. Residents can expect to save around \$120 off their energy bills with installation of draught seals and other energy efficient items, such as energy saving globes and water saving showerheads.

The projects are a collaborative effort by Sustainability Victoria, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Planning and Community Development, the Victorian Property Fund and the project delivery organisations of Encompass Community Services, Low Energy Supplies, Mission Australia, UnitingCare Cutting Edge and Western District Employment Access.

Additional information about each locality’s project is on the following page.

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Sustainability Victoria is a Victorian Government Agency.

## ENERGY AND WATER TASK FORCE NEW PROJECTS

Delivery agency	Number of retrofits	Green jobs	Areas covered
Encompass Community Services	600	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whittington (Geelong)</li> </ul>
Low Energy Supplies	1000	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Yarra suburbs and parts of City of Darebin (Alphington, Fairfield and Northcote)</li> </ul>
Mission Australia	1400	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orbost, Cann River and neighbouring towns</li> <li>Ashwood, Ashburton, Chadstone, Doveton and Hampton Park</li> <li>Hastings, Cranbourne South, Tooradin and neighbouring towns</li> <li>Swan Hill and Birchip, Charlton, Donald, Wycheproof and Watchem</li> </ul>
UnitingCare Cutting Edge	736	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Craigieburn</li> <li>Seymour</li> <li>Shepparton South</li> <li>Cobram</li> </ul>
Western District Employment Access	600	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terang and neighbouring towns</li> <li>Penshurst and neighbouring towns</li> <li>Warrnambool</li> <li>Portland</li> </ul>

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