

Sustainability Fund Projects

Supporting Victorians to take action on Sustainability



Round Three 2008

\$7.24 million for
37 sustainability
projects across
Victoria

**Sustainability
Fund** Managed by
Sustainability Victoria



Supporting Victorians to take action

Environmentally friendly retirement villages, a model EcoMuseum, innovative energy and water saving cleaning processes in milking dairies and a new green office relocation service are among the recipients of \$7.24 million in support from Round Three of the Victorian Government Sustainability Fund.

The Sustainability Fund is jointly administered by the Victorian Treasurer and Minister for Environment and Climate Change and managed by Sustainability Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Government.

A total of 37 projects will be funded under Round Three of the Sustainability Fund.

Established by the Victorian Government in 2002, the Fund supports initiatives that foster sustainable resource use and have economic and social benefits for Victorians.

The successful applicants will deliver practical and affordable solutions to tackle climate change and help Victoria reduce its environmental impact.

The projects supported in this round will help Victorians to reduce waste, energy and water use, develop and trial new sustainable technologies, develop new models for communities across Victoria to engage in sustainability and provide greener buildings and community centres, showcasing sustainability to new sectors.

The projects incorporate a strong partnership focus, have significant in-kind support and have detailed project plans for tackling sustainability across a number of different sectors.

Round Three received 239 applications from businesses, community groups and local government across Victoria. The applications were of an extremely high standard and are an indication of the Victorian community's commitment to sustainability.

Established from the landfill levy, the Sustainability Fund has to date provided over \$49.2 million in funding to support 136 diverse projects in schools, businesses, local government and community groups across Victoria.

Previous recipients include the successful ABC TV program *Carbon Cops*; safe and sustainable cleaning in childcare facilities, recycling services for high rise housing; a project to reduce greenhouse emissions from beef and dairy farms; new technology that cuts paint and water waste in car manufacturing and a new utility to make buying solar hot water easier.

Sustainable Technologies

Green Cleaning for Dairies - New Sustainable Systems for Cleaning Farm Milking Equipment

GippsDairy Board

Sustainability Fund Support: \$497,691

New green cleaning milking equipment will change the way that dairies are cleaned and reduce energy, water and chemical use in this sector.

Currently dairies are cleaned twice a day using a hot water wash. The new system will switch from hot water washes to a mix of cold and warm water washes by using (reusing) formulated chemical solutions that work in warm and cold water - achieving 90 per cent reduction in the use of chemicals, 50 per cent reduction in water, and saving 28 tonnes of greenhouse gas per farm annually.

The project will work with 50 farms in Gippsland to trial the technology and the industry partners involved in the project will help to encourage adoption of the technology throughout the dairy industry.

Zero Emissions Electric Vehicles for Four Victorian Councils

Maribyrnong City Council

Sustainability Fund Support: \$96,000

Four councils will trial electric vehicles in this new research project that will measure the performance, efficiency, running costs and greenhouse gas savings from using electric vehicles in council vehicle fleets.

Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Ballarat and Bendigo local councils will use seven electric vehicles for the short local trips undertaken daily by staff in local laws, aged care and community services.

Renewable Cooling and Power Generation Systems

Rinnai Australia

Sustainability Fund Support: \$150,000

CSIRO, Rinnai and The Energy and Resources Institute (India) will join forces to develop a prototype solar cooling system to convert solar heat into cooling and electricity for residential and light industrial use.

Solar cooling uses the sun's energy to drive a thermal driven cooling process to produce cool air that can be used in air-conditioning and cooling systems.

This project will develop a prototype specifically for Australian conditions.

Geothermal Foundations System for Heating and Cooling of Buildings

Monash University, Department of Civil Engineering

Sustainability Fund Support: \$250,000

Monash University will trial a new renewable energy technology to heat and cool buildings by using geothermal thermopile technology.

Thermopile technology allows for energy to be extracted from the ground by a means of fluid filled pipes incorporated into building foundations, energy is then extracted and used within the building.

The project will trial the technology at a commercial building.



Saving Energy

EcoLighting for Victorian Businesses

The Environment Shop

Sustainability Fund Support - \$111,818

Greener lighting choices will be promoted to 1000 Victorian businesses through this project led by The Environment Shop and involving lighting manufacturers, universities and councils.

Information kits and hands on workshops will promote the energy efficient lighting choices available to small and medium sized businesses.

EcoLighting makeovers at 10 sites will demonstrate the options available, while saving 350 tonnes of greenhouse gas and a total of \$36,000 in energy bills.

Solid State Lighting Trial Energy Doctor

Sustainability Fund Support - \$49,920

This trial will retrofit a community centre in Frankston with new energy efficient solid state lighting bars as a replacement for standard fluorescent lamps.

Solid state lighting is a new lighting technology that uses up to 66 per cent less energy than standard fluorescent lighting. This is the first time that solid state lighting will be tested in a public building.

The trial will evaluate power consumption, illumination levels and occupant perception of the light effectiveness. The results will provide a case study of an energy efficient public lighting solution that can be promoted to other public venues.

Victorian Sustainable Streetlight Project

Nilumbik Shire Council

Sustainability Fund Support - \$506,306

Public street lighting is a large source of greenhouse gases for local councils and can contribute between 30-50 per cent of a council's total greenhouse emissions.

This project will enable four local councils to reduce their greenhouse emissions from street lighting; the first ever large scale replacement of mercury vapour street lights with more energy efficient street lighting.

The project will replace 3,680 80W street lamps with 2 x 14W lamps; reducing power consumption by 68 per cent and saving 28,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas over the 20 year life of the lamps.

The project will provide a vital case study and act as a catalyst for further large scale street lighting change overs throughout Victoria by demonstrating the costs and savings to be made by installing more efficient street lights.

Sustainable Retirement Village of the Future

Southern Cross Care Victoria

Sustainability Fund Support - \$85,000

This project will support the installation of a cogeneration unit at Southern Cross Care's new Lynbrook Retirement Village, to generate electricity for onsite needs.

The new 197 unit retirement village will have a 6 star energy rating, incorporate a range of sustainability features and provide a benchmark for sustainable construction in the retirement village sector.

On-Site Co-Generation: Improved Profitability Whilst Reducing CO₂ Emissions

Australian Engineering Solutions

Sustainability Fund Support - \$454,000

This project will prove the economic and environmental benefits of onsite cogeneration by installing a new 1.2 MW gas fired cogeneration plant at Godfrey Hirst Carpets in Geelong.

Waste heat generated from the engine of the gas fired plant will be used in steam boilers on site – reducing the need for heating, cutting electricity use almost in half and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 4,000 tonnes per annum.

The project will help to develop a business case for the installation of cogeneration plants at other manufacturing sites.

Greening Frankston's Children Centres

Frankston City Council

Sustainability Fund Support - \$147,920

Childcare centres in the City of Frankston will soon be a little greener with the installation of a range of energy and water saving technologies at 50 childcare centres across the city.

The project will demonstrate to staff and families the sustainability choices that can be made at childcare centres and also at home.

The project includes a strong monitoring and evaluation stage; measuring the energy, water and financial savings to form part of a case study on sustainability in child care centres.



Reducing Waste

Sustainability Gains Through Food Recovery and Reuse Expansion One Umbrella Australia

Sustainability Fund Support: \$35,000

Food rescue services like One Umbrella provide a valuable social service by collecting unused food and using it to prepare meals for Melbourne's needy. In 2007, One Umbrella provided 428,000 meals to agencies working with the homeless and hungry at no cost.

Along with providing an important social service, food rescue services also have an added environmental benefit by saving usable food from becoming waste in landfill. However, until now, the environmental value of food rescue services is unknown.

By quantifying the environmental value of food donations, One Umbrella will be able to rescue more food and identify sources for additional donations while helping to reduce the estimated 750,000 tonnes of food waste sent to landfill each year.

FanPlastic Future Employment Opportunities

Sustainability Fund Support: \$52,620

Future Employment Opportunities will recycle an additional 360 tonnes of plastic each year at Eaglehawk Recycle Shop and create local employment opportunities by developing a new plastics handling system and working with local plastics recyclers.

Recyclable plastics will be sorted and bailed before being landfilled and sold to local recyclers to remanufacture into plastic products such as park benches and traffic bollards.

Applying the Waste Hierarchy to Organic Waste Management in North East Victoria

North East Victorian Waste Management Group

Sustainability Fund Support: \$172,387

Victorians continue to be great recyclers, however we also continue to generate more waste.

This project will address this imbalance with households, by focusing at the top of the waste hierarchy – how to avoid waste – rather than solely focusing on recycling and or composting.

The project will research community consumption and disposal patterns for organic materials and design programs to target particular behaviours; developing a practical behaviour change model to encourage the avoidance of food waste and improve disposal habits.

The results will help to foster a shift to more sustainable consumption and management of food waste in Victoria.

Green Office Move Green Collect

Sustainability Fund Support: \$250,000

Commercial relocations often generate a large amount of waste, as old and outdated materials, stationary and furniture are discarded to make way for new items at the new location. Many of the items discarded are reusable, but until now there has been little opportunity for reuse.

Green Collect will develop a new social enterprise, *Green Office Move* to provide a collection and redistribution service for the reusable office materials that are usually discarded in office relocations.

Reusable stationary, small appliances and furniture will be collected and made available for community groups. The model will save up to 280 tonnes from landfill during the trial stage, provide valuable and reusable resources to community groups and employment opportunities for long term unemployed.

Regional Victoria's Mobile Landfill Waste Shredder - Beast into Beauty Ausplastik

Sustainability Fund support: \$292,670

A new mobile plastics shredder will enable the recycling, collection and reprocessing of 3000 tonnes of plastic waste from local vineyards and farms surrounding Mildura.

The material will be used by local plastics recyclers for reprocessing into products for the local agricultural industry such as bollards, vineyard posts and oyster posts.

The project will reduce waste transport costs and encourage development of a regional plastics industry.

Regional Data Collection and Performance Reporting

Gippsland Regional Waste Management Group

(On behalf of the Association of Victorian Regional Waste Management Groups)

Sustainability Fund Support: \$368,250

This project will assist Regional Waste Management Groups to develop a consistent data collection and reporting program to accurately measure the amount of waste disposed of to landfill and materials recycled in Victoria.

The project will conduct audits at landfill sites and transfer stations across Victoria and develop tools and metrics to enable consistent, comparable data to be easily collected and reported throughout the year to measure Victoria's progress towards zero waste.

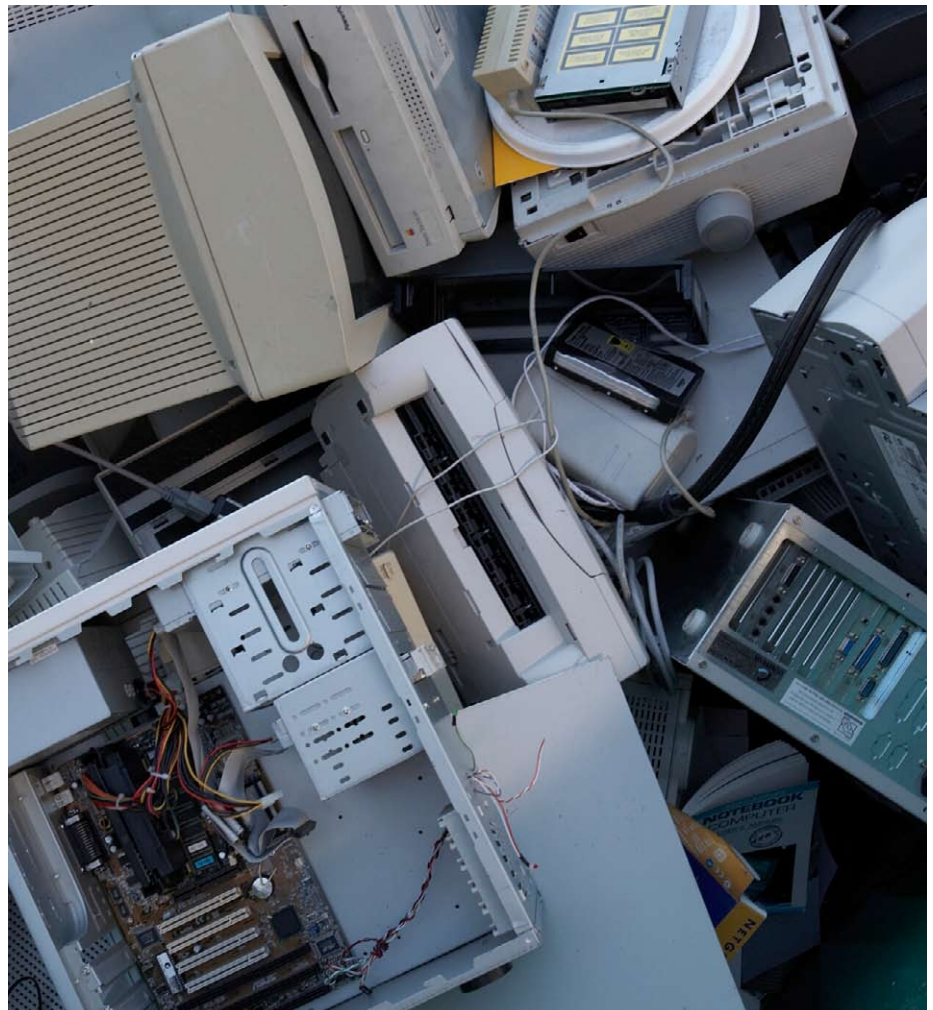
Gippsland Regional E-waste Collection

Gippsland Regional Waste Management Group

Sustainability Fund Support: \$84,630

E-waste collection services exist in metropolitan areas and major regional centres, but no collection is available in Gippsland. Community groups will work with local councils in Gippsland to develop a local solution to collect and recycle e-waste in ten communities in Gippsland.

This new collection model will enlist the support of local community and service organisations to act as collection agents for unwanted e-waste, collecting up to 30 tonnes of e-waste for recycling and reprocessing throughout the trial.



Sustainability Education and Awareness

Sort and Save - Transfer Station Promotional Campaign

Resource GV

(On behalf of the Association of Victorian Regional Waste Management Groups)

Sustainability Fund Support - \$162,100

This state-wide campaign will encourage Victorians to *Sort and Save* at Council waste transfer stations through a series of television and newspaper advertisements.

Transfer stations provide free recycling of materials such as wood, oil, glass and building products. The campaign will encourage greater recycling and reduce the incidence of illegal dumping by promoting transfer station services.

Carbon Sink Schools New Approaches to Sustainability in Schools Inner City Schools Network

Sustainability Fund Support - \$103,273

This project will build on the exemplary work of nine inner city schools to become more sustainable, by enabling them to work together to reduce their carbon emissions and investigate innovative local solutions to help them become carbon neutral.

All schools will develop school greenhouse strategies and action plans, reduce waste to landfill, investigate local carbon trading models, improve energy efficiency and work across the whole school to build sustainability into school planning and operations.

Bridging the Skills Gap Monash Sustainability Institute

Sustainability Fund Support - \$20,920

The increased focus on sustainability over the past year has brought with it an increased demand for professional development for environmental professionals.

This project will allow for the expansion of the *GreenSteps* program at Monash University, currently only provided to undergraduate students, to provide a tailored professional mentoring program for environmental professionals.

Sustainable Events Platform

Sustainable Living Foundation

Sustainability Fund Support - \$54,600

Event planners and managers will soon have access to improved information on how to conduct a sustainable event through the development of the online sustainable events platform.

The Sustainable Living Foundation will use their considerable experience planning, managing and delivering sustainable events, to develop a new sustainability program for the events sector.

Focusing on an online resource and supported by workshops, the *Sustainable Events Platform* will work with event organisers to facilitate sustainable events and provide a hub of information for sustainability services for events.

Sustainability in Victorian Catholic Schools

Sandhurst Catholic Education Office

Sustainability Fund Support - \$143,000

This project will facilitate the expansion of sustainability through the Catholic schools sector.

Sustainability will be embedded into the Catholic school curriculum in this project that will work with 50 schools to reduce waste by 50 per cent, water use by 40 per cent and energy use by 25 per cent.

Greener Buildings

Heide SMart Project

Heide Museum of Modern Art

Sustainability Fund Support - \$375,000

Sustainability will be incorporated into arts and education programs in this exciting project that will create a model green museum.

The *Heide SMart Project* at the Heide Museum of Modern Art will improve the management of waste, water and energy at the museum and incorporate sustainability into the development of a new café.

The project will break new ground in providing a model for incorporating sustainability in museums; in an environment where there are strict requirements for climate control systems and heritage preservation.

As part of this project Heide will redevelop its heritage Café and balance sustainability and heritage considerations into new building works.

Queens Park Green

Precinct

Moonee Valley City Council

Sustainability Fund Support - \$190,909

Queens Park in Moonee Ponds will become a green precinct by working with the local magistrate court, library, churches, police and swimming pool, all based around the park, to reduce waste by 75 per cent and save 570 tonnes of greenhouse gas.

The project will conduct audits on each of the 12 community facilities in the precinct and identify opportunities to reduce waste and save energy and water.

Renewable energy, recycling, shared composting facilities, green travel plans, bike storage and water capture will all be explored and provided to buildings in the precinct.

The *Queens Park Green Precinct* will provide a benchmark for sustainable facilities management and provide a case study for other councils, community groups and commercial precincts on a precinct approach to sustainability.



Sustainable Communities

Green Town - Multicultural Communities for Sustainability

Environment Victoria

Sustainability Fund Support - \$560,647

This unique project will help Victorian multicultural communities to take action on climate change by training 40 environmental champions from different cultural groups to deliver sustainability education programs to their communities.

The 'train the trainer' program involving 18 community organisations will train environmental champions to deliver sustainable living workshops in community languages such as Vietnamese and Arabic to households, businesses, places of worship, schools and community centres.

This project builds on the success of Environment Victoria's *Nha Dep Green Business Project* which has worked with Vietnamese businesses in Footscray for over two years to help small business to reduce waste, water and energy use.

Climate change action - a model for community action groups

Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions (BREAZE)

Sustainability Fund Support - \$152,767

Community climate change action groups are forming across Victoria as a way for local communities to take action on climate change.

BREAZE will work to deliver a local community action project for 200 Ballarat households and develop a model for other community climate change groups to follow.

The project will work with Environment Victoria to develop a network of community climate change groups and share the learnings with other groups.

Sustain-Ability: Environmental Action for People with Disability Living in Group Homes

EW Tipping Foundation

Sustainability Fund Support - \$80,000

EW Tipping Foundation provides training, support and residential services to 500 people with disabilities and their families, across Victoria.

The *Sustain-Ability* program will provide a practical, accessible and effective sustainable living program for people with disabilities, tailoring the sustainable living message to encourage and support people with a disability to make their own choices for a more sustainable lifestyle.

Starting with sustainability audits of 23 EW Tipping sites, the project will identify practical sustainability solutions and develop a program that accounts for the specialised needs and dynamics of shared disability support accommodation services.

Creating a Climate of Change

Mount Alexander Sustainability Group

Sustainability Fund Support - \$107,561

Communities in Castlemaine will work together to reduce their impact on climate change in this community driven project with the Mount Alexander Sustainability Group.

The project has three parts designed to increase the uptake of sustainability lifestyles in the Castlemaine region.

The project will promote greener houses through an ecodemonstration home; trial a new social marketing model to promote GreenPower to sporting clubs; and encourage household carbon budgeting by developing carbon rationing action groups (CRAGS).

Sustaining Coastal Communities - Connecting the Street to the Land

Phillip Island Landcare

Sustainability Fund Support - \$289,000

An island-wide sustainable living program will provide Phillip Island residents with practical ideas and solutions on how to live sustainably and minimise resource use.

The program will provide sustainability expos and seminar series, a sustainability trail of local homes and businesses and an annual awards dinner to showcase environmental achievements.

Furthermore the project will provide direct assistance to 100 homes and 20 businesses on the island, providing sustainability audits and energy and water saving retrofits.

Delivered by the local Landcare group, the project will also link the land and habitat restoration goals of Landcare with the sustainable living ethic, and work with the local farming community to identify options for a locally owned carbon sequestration program.

Retirement Village Communities - Safely Responding to Sustainability Challenges

UnitingCare Harrison Community Services

Sustainability Fund Support - \$265,000

UnitingCare will develop a new sustainable living program tailored to the needs of 300 older persons living independently in 15 UnitingCare retirement villages across Victoria.

The project will engage residents in retirement village communities to take action at home through workshops on sustainable living and developing village sustainability hubs, develop a newsletter to share sustainability success stories and spread the sustainable living message through the retirement village sector.

Capturing and sharing success stories will form part of a research paper that will explore the links between sustainability and the aging-in-place approach for older persons and will help to influence retirement village standards.

Roadmap for Ecoliving Centres

Port Phillip EcoCentre

Sustainability Fund Support - \$140,000

EcoLiving Centres across Victoria will work together to establish a think-tank to share and improve the sustainable living programs at centres and promote the EcoLiving message to Victorian communities.

The think-tank will produce guidelines and a road map for new centres, provide an assessment of centre funding models, enable better coordination between centres and provide professional development opportunities for centre staff.

The project will link to the seven EcoLiving centres supported through the EcoLiving Centre grants.

Sustainability Ambassadors

City of Whitehorse

Sustainability Fund Support - \$157,372

Local community members will be trained as Sustainability Ambassadors to deliver sustainability programs to their own communities in this education project that builds on the successful *Living for our Future* Program.

Up to 60 ambassadors, will be provided with professional environmental training and resources, so they can deliver tailored workshops and information sessions on sustainability issues to their communities in a range of community venues and forums - reaching 2000 community members over the life of the project.

Sustainable Homes Community Enterprise

Brotherhood of St. Laurence

Sustainability Fund Support - \$300,000

The Brotherhood of St. Laurence will develop a new social enterprise to deliver sustainability assessments and improvements to homes across metropolitan Melbourne.

Through the 12 month program the Brotherhood of St. Laurence will train staff to deliver home sustainability assessments and retrofits to 200 households.

The project will also develop a range of information and demonstration materials for the Brotherhood's 30 community stores and a Sustainability Hub based out of the Footscray Community Store.



Saving Water

Growing Frog Golf Course Subsurface Irrigation Trial City of Whittlesea

Sustainability Fund Support - \$19,800

Golf courses are large consumers of water and while recycled water sources are available, health restrictions can limit the timing and use of recycled water in spray irrigation systems.

This project will overcome this issue by trialing the use of reclaimed water with a new subsurface irrigation system that also provides a 75 per cent saving in water consumption compared to traditional spray irrigation systems.

The trial will provide a case study to assist in the adoption of subsurface irrigation through the golf course industry – the first time this type of system has been used in a golf course.

The Sustainable Safe Recycling of Effluents from Regional Food Processors

KR Castlemaine

Sustainability Fund Support - \$230,000

This project will design a more sustainable effluent treatment system that will enable safe treatment and recycling of waste water from the KR Castlemaine plant.

The new system will treat waste water and make it available for reuse in the plant, avoiding use of 150,000 KL per year as well as processing 12,000 tonnes of liquid wastes and sludge.

This project will enable testing, verification and evaluation of the treatment system, promoting the treatment process to other regional industries with reduced water supply.

Sustainable Watering of Recreation Reserves using Treated Effluent and or Stormwater

Towong Shire Council

Sustainability Fund support - \$100,000

This project will provide the Walwa community with a healthier local environment by providing a water efficient watering system for the Walwa sporting ground and rehabilitating the Walwa landfill.

A water storage area will be excavated to capture stormwater and store treated effluent, using subsurface irrigation to use the water to water the Walwa Sporting Reserve.

The clay and soil excavated during the construction of the water tank will be used in the rehabilitation works of the former Walwa Landfill.

The new sub-surface irrigation system will be 75 per cent more efficient than standard watering systems and enable watering of the reserve throughout the year – providing a usable sporting ground for the Walwa community not possible in current drought conditions.

Macalister Community Demonstration Farm Demonstrating Subsurface Drip Irrigation to Gippsland Dairy Farmers

Sustainability Fund Support: \$190,340

Subsurface drip irrigation has the potential to reduce water use in irrigation, while also increasing forage production but is not generally used for forage crops (grown and then grazed) due to the potential damage to the drip system from animal hooves.

This project aims to demonstrate that sub surface irrigation can be used for forage dairy crops by trialing subsurface irrigation system at Macalister Community Demonstration Farm, a working dairy farm owned by the local farming community. The project will save an estimated 17,500 KL per year and involve 400 local farmers.

Note: The dates, amounts and project descriptions may change as projects are further developed and contracts are finalised between fund recipients and Sustainability Victoria.

About the Sustainability Fund

The Sustainability Fund, was established by the Victorian Government from the Victorian Landfill Levy to help secure our environmental future. The fund is managed by Sustainability Victoria.

Sustainability Victoria

Level 28 | Urban Workshop | 50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne | Vic 3000

Phone: 03 8626 8700

Email: sustainabilityfund@sustainability.vic.gov.au

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