resourceSmart

Fact file

Facts are a great way to capture people's attention

Facts will get people thinking about the environment, their impact and why they need to change their behaviour.

Sharp, short and to the point, this compilation of bite sized facts can be used in projects, presentations, newsletters and other documents. They will help emphasise the need for your organisation to get on board and introduce ResourceSmart practices.

Divided into sections that address energy, climate change, food sustainability, waste and recycling, water, buildings, business sustainability and facts for householders. These facts will help you get your point across quickly and simply.

There are also resources and details on where you can go for more information.

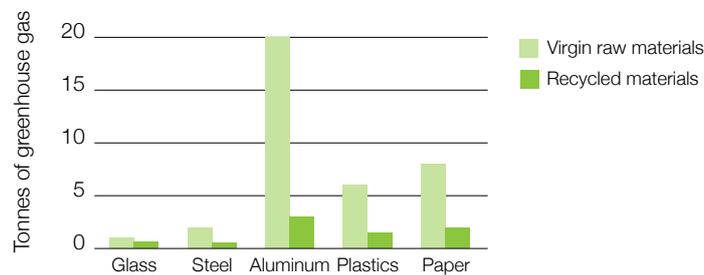| Source	Facts
Energy	
Green it Forward www.green-it-forward.com	• Heating and cooling accounts for 39% of the energy use in a typical office. In summer, close shades to keep the cool air in. In winter, open them to let the sunlight in. • Eat locally grown food. If the food doesn't have to travel far, there's less CO_2 from the trucks that ship it. • Turn off your computer. Of the $250 billion spent per year on powering computers worldwide, only about 15% of that power is spent computing, the rest is wasted idling. • By using 100% recycled paper that is processed chlorine free, three cubic metres of landfill space will be saved per ton of paper.
Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability State of the Environment: Energy www.ces.vic.gov.au	• Approximately one quarter of Australia's total greenhouse emissions come from Victoria. • Victoria generates over 90% of its electricity from brown coal, the most greenhouse-intensive fossil fuel energy source. • Over 50% of the total surface water use in the Latrobe Basin is extracted annually by brown coal electricity generators. On average, over 2 litres of water is used in the generation of every kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity sent out in Victoria; higher than in any other State or Territory. • Within the last 30 years, Victoria's total energy consumption has increased by more than 80%. • Electricity consumption has more than doubled over the past 20 years and now accounts for 19% of the State's energy consumption but more than 60% of energy related greenhouse emissions.

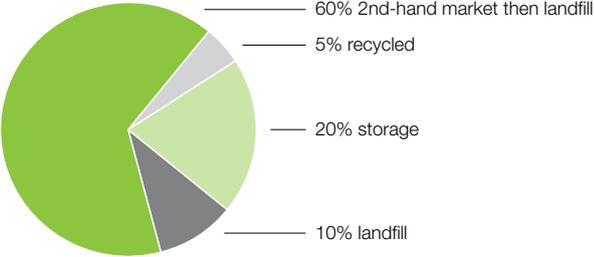| Source	Facts
Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts Green Office Guide www.environment.gov.au	• The major portion of the energy used by photocopiers is in the heating of components that fuse toner to paper. By choosing a photocopier that warms up quickly you are saving energy and money. • Paper (including toner) is the biggest cost associated with a photocopier and has the most environmental impact. • Producing a tonne of product from recycled stock produces significantly less greenhouse gas emissions than that produced from virgin materials. • The greenhouse gas emissions produced by the average office printer over its seven year life span are equivalent to those produced by the average Australian home in the same time frame. • By selecting efficient home office equipment and only switching it on when required, the average energy bill costs for a home office could be reduced by more than 90% over a one year period. • By selecting an efficient laptop computer and operating it efficiently you can reduce your energy use by 98-99%. • The average computer hard drive (not including screen) uses 49 watts of power when fully on, 29 watts when asleep and two watts when switched off. (These numbers reduce to 0 if the equipment is switched off at the power point rather than just at the off button on the equipment). The average laptop computer uses 15-25 watts when fully on. • Laptop computers are far more energy and materials efficient than a desktop computer and monitor. • Screen savers waste energy. They can use as much energy as a full screen of work, and may require considerable processing power as well. • Using 11 point type, 2.54cm (1 inch) left hand margins and 1.27cm (0.5 inch) right hand margins can increase the amount of information you can fit on a page by up to 27% and save paper. This still allows ample margins for binding and hardcopy filing.
Sustainability Victoria Energy use in Victoria fact sheet www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au	• Victoria's energy consumption has doubled since 1973. Current demand for final energy is growing by an average of 1.6% per year. At this rate demand for energy will increase by 50% by 2029-30. Final energy is the energy actually consumed by the end user and is also called end use energy. • Australian greenhouse emissions per capita were 28.2 tonnes in 2004 and the highest in the world. • Victoria's total annual greenhouse gas emissions are 123,025 kilo-tonnes. 66% of Victoria's emissions are from the stationary energy sector (non-transport). • The average Victorian household produces almost 12 tonnes of greenhouse gas from energy used in the home. • The average Victorian car produces four tonnes of greenhouse gas every year.

resourceSmart

Source	Facts
Climate Savers Computing Energy Saver Guide www.climatesaverscomputing.org	• Fight phantom power; by plugging all your computer peripherals into one power strip and turning the strip off when you are finished using your computer, you will be saving energy costs. • Turn down the brightness setting on your monitor. The brightest setting on a computer monitor consumes twice the power used by the dimmest setting.
Climate change	
Sustainability Victoria Business Plan 2007-2010 www.sustainability.vic.gov.au	• Year on year, Victoria's greenhouse emissions are growing by about two per cent, but it is estimated that they need to drop by 60% to ensure long term sustainability. • The use and production of energy remains the largest single contributor to greenhouse gas emissions –making up 84.4% of total emissions. Victoria's demand for energy continues to escalate with population and economy growth. • More than 200,000 Victorian households are now using GreenPower – each reducing emissions by up to 70%. • Australian state governments now purchase at least 10% of electricity from renewable GreenPower accredited sources. • Australian households consume more water than any other nation. • 16% of Victorian household greenhouse emissions are caused by hot water heating.
CSIRO and The Bureau of Meteorology Climate Change in Australia www.climatechange.gov.au	• Over the course of the 20th century, the average global temperature has increased by 0.6°C, making it the warmest in the last 1,800 years. In Victoria, 2007 was the hottest year on record. • Both maximum and minimum temperatures have increased by 0.8°C since 1950. At the same time, Victoria has experienced a decline in total rainfall of 13%. • Average temperatures will increase by around 0.8°C by 2030, with a range of 0.6-1.2°C. By 2070 this increase is projected to be around 1.4°C under a low emissions scenario or around 2.7°C under a high emissions scenario. • The chance of at least a 1°C warming in 2030 is around 20-30%. This rises to 80-90% for the 2070 low emission scenario and over 90% for the 2070 high emission scenario. • By 2030 annual rainfall is projected to decrease by around four%. By 2070 the change is projected to be a decrease of six per cent. On the other hand, rainfall intensity is most likely to increase in summer and autumn. • The chance of an annual average decrease of at least 10% increases over time. There is a one to 10% chance by 2030, 20-30% by 2070 for the low emission case, and 50-60% by 2070 for the high emission case.
Sustainable food	
Victorian Eco-Innovation Laboratory Secure and Sustainable Food Systems for Victoria www.ecoinnovationlab.com	• Victorian food production accounts for more than 60% of land used and almost 80% of harvested water. • 28% of household greenhouse emissions are embodied in food compared to 10% directly from power and transport, and 50% of household water-use is embodied in food compared to 11% used directly on the garden. • Environmental impacts can be reduced through organic and other low-input farming systems for many foods. Choose foods with environmental credentials and labelling where available.

Source	Facts
	• Cutting food waste, growing fruit and vegetables in the backyard, and composting can make a big difference.
	• A balanced diet with less saturated fat (meat and dairy) and more fruit, vegetables and legumes is generally better for people's health and the environment.
	• Maintaining an ideal weight and cutting down on excess calories means cutting down on food waste.
	• Fast food snacks, sweets and drinks have little nutritional value but account for up to a third of the total energy used in the food supply chain.
	• Packaging or refrigerating food for long periods can lead to nutrient depletion and also means extra fossil fuels and waste.
	• Overseas research suggests that intensified production methods may have contributed to lower nutrient levels in many fruits and vegetables. A study of trace mineral content in fruits and vegetables grown in the UK between 1940 and 1991 found a decline of 12% in some foods to up to 76% in others.
	• The full life-cycle of food and beverages accounts for just under a third of Europe's total greenhouse emissions, and it is estimated that 25% of emissions from raw material production are associated with packaging.

Waste and recycling

Source	Facts
Sustainability Victoria Recycling in Victoria www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au	• Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) modelling has shown that by substituting secondary-use materials for virgin materials in 2005-06, Victoria saved more than 91 million gigajoules of energy.
	• In 2005-06, Victoria saved 56 thousand mega litres of water – enough to fill more than 22,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools.
	• During 2005-06, Victoria prevented more than 4.6 million tonnes of greenhouse gases being emitted into the atmosphere – this is equivalent to taking 774,000 cars off the road.
	• Recycling in 2005-06 saved more than 91 million gigajoules of energy and 56 thousand mega litres of water, and prevented more than 4.6 million tonnes of greenhouse gases being generated.
	• Victoria's reprocessing industries contributed more than $68 million to the state's economy during 2005-06 through capital investment and expenditure on research and development.
	• Victorians recycled a record 60% of the total solid waste stream in 2005-06, and reduced the quantity of waste sent to landfill.
	• The total amount of wastepaper recovered for recycling in Victoria reached a new high, with recovery for the 2005–06 financial year surpassing 1 million tonnes (1.09 million tonnes). Paper and cardboard packaging makes up the largest proportion of this recovery.

Composition of paper/carboard (by weight) recovered for reprocessing. Victoria 2005-06

Newsprint & magazines 21%
Paper & writing 22%
Telephone books 1%
Other (mixed paper) 13%
Paper/cardboard packaging 43%

resourceSmart

Source	Facts
	• 85% of material recovered in Victoria in 2005-06 is being converted into new products by Victoria's reprocessors. The remainder was exported overseas or interstate for reprocessing.
	• 2005-06 saw a steady increase in metals recovered for reprocessing to reach a new record high of 1.44 million tonnes. This is an increase of 25% over the previous year.
	• Glass recovery in Victoria has shown strong growth, increasing by more than 50% to greater than 167,000 tonnes in 2005-06.
	• The majority of paper recovered from Victoria's waste stream during 2005–06 was converted into cardboard products, principally for use by the food and beverage industry. The production of new newsprint uses a mixture of old newspapers and magazines with virgin pulp.
Byteback www.bytebackaustralia.com.au	• Electronic products, such as computers, copiers, mobile phones and fax machines, are one of the fastest growing waste problems in Australia. • There are approximately 14 million computer and related items in Victorian households, with 11% of these not being used or not working. By recycling these old products, we can save valuable resources, such as precious metals, petroleum, water and energy – and make new products with recycled materials again and again.
Clean Up Australia Waste Fact Sheet www.cleanup.com.au	• 20% of unused computers are held in storage (rather than being recycled or disposed of) 60% 2nd-hand market then landfill · 5% recycled · 20% storage · 10% landfill • In 2001 - 2002, Australian paper manufacturers used one litre of water for every seven sheets of A4 paper produced. • It takes 13.5 Gj of energy to make one tonne of paper. This is the equivalent of using 552 litres of heavy crude oil. • Recycling one tonne of paper and cardboard saves 13 trees. • Use recycled paper whenever you can. Making paper from virgin pulp can use up to 300 cubic metres of water for every tonne of paper produced. • Every year around 3.5 million tonnes of paper and cardboard is used in Australia, enough to fill 160,000 large semi trailers. • Australians throw away up to 1.2 million ink jet cartridges and 250,000 laser cartridges per month. We recycle a mere15% of them, while the US recycle around 30%. • Almost 20% of the water used in cities is used by businesses. • Making glass from recycled material requires only 40% of the energy necessary to make glass from sand.

Source	Facts
	• Recycling a glass jar saves enough energy to light a bulb for four hours. • Glass can be recycled an infinite number of times without any loss of quality. • Each glass bottle recycled keeps valuable non-renewable resources such as bauxite, iron-ore and sand in the ground.
Choice Magazine Where to recycle your computer www.choice.com.au	• Extend the life of your computer by buying an upgradeable model. If your computer isn't up to scratch, think about what you could add to it — video card, extra RAM or hard drive — rather than replacing it. • Your old computer contains parts, such as circuit boards, RAM and a central processing unit (CPU) that can be reused, as well as metal, plastic and other materials that can be recycled.
Towards Zero Waste, WA www.zerowastewa.com.au	• Recycling a kilogram of paper into newsprint saves up to a kilogram of greenhouse gas. • Producing 20 cans from recycled materials uses the same energy as making one can from raw materials. • Steel cans can be recycled into railways tracks and car parts as well as new cans. • Making new steel from recycled cans uses 75% less energy than making steel from raw materials, cutting down greenhouse gas emissions and saving raw materials such as iron ore and coal. • Steel can be recycled again and again without reducing the quality of the end product. • Cans and foil are excellent for recycling because the recycling cost is much less than the manufacture from raw materials. • Recycling a kilogram of aluminium saves over 20kg of greenhouse gas. • By recycling one aluminium can you are saving enough energy to run your television for three hours. • All steel cans made in Australia contain 25-40% recycled steel.
Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council Recycling fact sheet www.a3p.asn.au	• Waste paper can be recycled about five to ten times before it cannot be re-used anymore. We can't go on recycling the same piece of paper forever, because the fibres break down and cannot form a strong enough "web" to make paper. • Recycled paper makes up approximately half of the fibre used in paper production in Australia. • Paper makes up between 10% and 15% of the rubbish that is taken from houses to the rubbish tip. Rubbish from houses makes up just under half of the total rubbish produced in Australia. The other half of the rubbish comes mainly from building sites but also from offices, shops and factories. • Australia is a world leader in recycling newspapers. Australia recovers for recycling more than 70% of newsprint. In contrast, the average recycling rate in Western Europe and the US is approximately 50%. • More than 1.6 million tonnes of waste paper is collected each year, most of which is used in making paper. Collecting this paper saves the cities and towns we live in about $80 million per year in reduced rubbish disposal costs. • Recycled paper can be used for things like fuel, house insulation, building materials (in doors, furniture and walls), potting mixture for gardening, insulation in cars and shoes.

resourceSmart

Source	Facts
Visy www.visy.com.au	• It takes just one hour to make a new 100% recycled paper reel from waste paper, which is approximately 14 kilometres in length. The paper reel is ready to be made into new boxes, cartons and displays
Total Environment Centre www.tec.org.au	• Computers contain lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmim, pvc, brominated flame retardants, solvents, acids and other toxic materials. They also have approximately 28 rare and non-renewable materials including gold, platinum, silver, palldium and antimony. It's a waste to dump them.
Cleanaway Plastic Fact Sheet www.cleanaway.com.au	• Manufacturing plastics from recycled materials save 70% of the energy required to make virgin plastic products from fossil fuels. • 6.9 billion plastic bags are used in Australia every year. If they were tied together, they would circle the globe 42 times. • It takes 125 recycled plastic milk bottles to manufacture one 120-litre wheelie bin from recycled plastic.
Plastics and Chemicals Industry Association www.pacia.org.au	• Plastics are not biodegradable in landfill. Plastics are benign, and no known organism has big enough jaws to eat the molecules, however most plastics are photodegradable and will break down if exposed to strong sunlight or adverse temperatures. • There are many products made from recycled plastic, including: wheelie bins, outdoor furniture, timber substitute planking used in jetties and walking tracks, pipes, mud flaps, traffic calming equipment, water meter covers, pots for plants, crates, pallets, garden edging, bags, worm farms, compost bins and a developing stream of goods as more recycled material becomes available.
ACT Department of Territory and Community Services Aluminium can recycling fact sheet www.tams.act.gov.au	• In Australia in 2003, approximately 63% of aluminium drink cans were recycled. • Recycling a can 19 times still uses less energy than is needed to make one new can • 40,000 tonnes of aluminium is used to make aluminium cans in Australia each year - about 2.6 billion cans.
Can Smart www.cansmart.org	• Steel is one of the world's most recycled products. In fact, steel is 100% recyclable, which means its lifecycle is potentially continuous. • Steel is easily picked out of garbage and recycling waste by magnetic separation offering a cost efficient alternative to manual separation used for other materials. • Each Australian disposes on average about six kilograms of steel cans each year. About 3.5kg of this amount is disposed to landfill. • Making steel from recycled cans uses 75% less energy than when producing steel from raw materials. • Every tonne of steel recycled saves 1131 kg of iron ore, 633 kg of coal and 54 kg of limestone. • 15,000 steel cans is around 1 tonne of steel. • In Australia, steel makes up approximately 2.5% of the waste that goes to landfill. • Australia is ranked 12th in the world for steel can recycling. • A study in Sydney and Melbourne showed 86% of teenagers in the two cities report some involvement in family recycling.

resourceSmart

Source	Facts
	• 17.5 million steel cans are recycled each week in Australia. This is equivalent to the amount of steel needed to build 900 family sedans. • Steel can recycling currently has a 56% recycling rate with 381 of the 685 councils in Australia representing 94% of the whole population offering their residents access to steel can recycling. • Aerosols are one of the easiest of all the steel cans to recycle yet only 35% on average are being recycled. • Awareness of steel can recyclability has increased 11% from 71% to 82% since 2000. In that time the number of councils collecting steel cans has increased from 353 representing 16.8 million people, to 381 councils representing 18.4 million people. • 57% of consumers get their recycling information from packaging - the rest from their local council, the internet and friends.
Recycle Now Aluminium www.wrap.org.uk	• Recycling one kilogram of aluminium saves up to six kg of bauxite, four kg of chemical products and 14kWh of electricity. • A used aluminium can takes only six to eight weeks to be recycled and appear back on the shelves. • Aluminium foil when recycled is mostly used to make cast components for cars – like cylinder heads and engine blocks.
Sustainable Steel www.sustainable-steel.org	• Steel is the most commonly recycled material throughout the world. More steel is recycled annually than all other materials, including aluminium, glass, and paper combined. • Steel has a virtually 100% recycling rate in automobiles, more than 80% recycling rate in appliances and the more than 60% recycling rate in steel packaging.
BlueScope Steel www.bluescopesteel.com	• In the past three years, the Australian steel industry has been using an average of 30% recycled steel in the manufacture of new products.
Water	
Melbourne Water www.melbournewater.com.au	• Only run the dishwasher when it is full to make the best use of water, energy and detergent. Use short cycle and save up to 75% of water per wash.
National Water Commission Water Account, Australia, 2004-05 www.water.gov.au	• In 2004–05, rainfall for Australia was 2,789,424 GL and run-off was 242,779 GL. Compared to 2000–01 and average levels of rainfall, 2004–05 was a dry year, with drought or below average rainfall experienced throughout much of Australia. • Water consumption was 18,767 GL in 2004–05, a decrease of 14% from 2000–01 when it was 21,703 GL. • The agriculture industry consumed the largest volume of water with 12,191 GL, representing 65% of water consumption in Australia in 2004–05. This is a decrease from 2000–01 when it was 14,989 GL and 69% percent of water consumption. • New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory combined showed the largest fall in water consumption from 8,783 GL in 2000–01 to 5,978 GL in 2004–05. This is mostly because of a 2,661 GL or 39% decrease in the consumption of water by the agriculture industry in these jurisdictions.

Source	Facts
	• In 2004–05, Australia's large dams had a capacity of 83,853 GL. They contained 39,959 GL of water at 30 June 2005, a decline of 10% from 30 June 2004 when they contained 44,164 GL.
	• Water consumption in 2004–05 was 22% of the storage capacity of large dams and 47% of the volume in storage at 30 June 2005.
	• In 2004–05, there were 413 water providers in Australia, supplying 11,337 GL of distributed water.
	• Of the 11,337 GL of distributed water, 1,005 GL were supplied to the environment, while 10,332 were supplied to industry and Household users.
	• Reuse water made up 425 GL of total water supplied by water providers in 2004–05, compared to 507 GL in 2000–01. In both reference years it represented just under 4% of total water supplied by water providers. This compares to 134 GL and 1% in 1996–97.
	• The decline in the use of reuse water between 2000–01 and 2004–05 is mostly due to a reduction by the agriculture industry (from 423 to 280 GL) and is largely a reflection of the decrease in the availability of water.
	• Between 2000–01 and 2004–05 there was an increase in the volume of reuse water use by the manufacturing (7 to 13 GL) and mining (5 to 7 GL) industries.
	• Households experienced a ten-fold increase in the use of reuse water (167 ML to 1,767 ML), but the volumes involved were small.

Buildings

Source	Facts
Investa Green Lease Guide www.investa.com.au	• Over the life of an average office building, floor finishes have the greatest single environmental impact of any fixed item. Australians install 60 million m2 of carpet and send 60,000 tonnes of used carpet and off-cuts to landfill every year.
	• Heating, ventilation and air conditioning accounts for around a third of total energy costs in commercial buildings.
	• Heating, ventilation and air conditioning thermostats should be set to: 22–25°C (summer); 20–23°C (winter).
	• Office waste is approximately 55% paper.
	• Efficient lighting design and management can reduce office lighting energy bills by between 40 and 80%.
	• Lighting accounts for more than 60% of the average office's energy costs.
	• Approximately 90% of Australia's electricity is generated by burning coal, a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.
	• Transport is responsible for 13% of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and significant air pollution.
	• Office workstations can have a significant environmental impact, particularly if they are not designed for easy disassembly, reuse and recycling. A significant percentage of the waste going to landfill in Australia is from office 'churn'. This includes office furniture.
	• On average, kitchen appliances only account for two per cent of office energy use, but it still makes sense to choose the most efficient models.
	• Office equipment accounts for 31% of the average tenancy's energy use.
	• Computers and monitors account for about 85–95% of office equipment energy costs.

resourceSmart

Source	Facts
	• Office equipment uses between 20–80% of its energy when activated but doing nothing useful.
	• Over 10 years, a one-star rated toilet will require approximately 100,000 litres more water for flushing than a four-star rated equivalent.
	• Waterless urinals typically save 150,000 litres per year per urinal.
	• Water-based air conditioning systems can account for around a third of a building's total water consumption.
	• Approximately a quarter of water consumed by Australia's commercial buildings is due to leaks and wastage.
	• Fluorescent lamps contain mercury which is toxic to the human nervous system, but by recycling, up to 99.9% of the recovered mercury can be reused.
	• Every tonne of paper recycled saves about 13 trees, 2.5 barrels of oil, 4100 kWh of electricity, four cubic metres of landfill and 31,780 litres of water.

Business and sustainability

Source	Facts
Greener World Media State of Green Business 2008 report www.greenbiz.com	• Today's office buildings use about 16% more energy per square foot than those of 25 years ago. • Buildings are responsible for as much as 40% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. • Many global organisations are working to reduce their environmental impact through innovative campaigns such as: Setting carbon neutral targets (Barclays, HSBC, Nike, Yahoo!); Zero waste to landfill strategies (Wal-Mart, General Motors, Toyota, Coca Cola); Refurbishing buildings to be 'net-zero' energy use, where a building will generate as much energy as it uses; Committing to targets to be fully powered by renewable energy (IKEA). • Nearly a third of global companies currently have no way of monitoring their own direct carbon emissions, let alone the indirect emissions of their supply chains, and have no plan to begin doing so. • There are significant cost and environmental benefits in lessening the amount of packaging for manufactured products. Less packaging lowers costs across the entire supply chain, and incorporating more recycled materials can reduce total waste to boot.
Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Good Environmental Performance Benchmarking Report www.ces.vic.gov.au	• Every year, Australian corporate employees use on average more than twice the energy than is used by employees of the Commonwealth government.
Sustainability Victoria AIG Business Survey 2007 www.sustainability.vic.gov.au	• 56% of companies see climate change as an opportunity to promote their company as socially responsible and to improve energy efficiency and lower costs. • The vast majority of companies (78%) believe they have a responsibility to contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions, even if it adds some costs to the business. • 14% of companies stated they understood the concept of emission trading schemes (ETS) well or very well. Just under half of companies had a poor understanding and around 40%, no understanding and 69% of firms were undecided on their support for an ETS for Australia.

Source	Facts
	• Around one in three companies have a written environment policy, and about 14% of companies (60% of larger firms) doing so report their environmental performance to the community. • Around 15% of firms initiated changes that contributed to savings in electricity usage in 2005/6. The savings in electricity usage was equivalent to 5.8% of electricity costs in 2005/6, rising to 6.2% in 2006/7 and 6.6% in 2007/8. • Recycling of solid waste is common practice among many firms, with one in every two companies undertaking recycling.

Households

Source	Facts
Sustainability Victoria ResourceSmart appliances www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au	• By using compact fluorescent lamps you can save up to 80% on lighting bills. • Choose dishwashers with at least 3.5 star energy rating and a 3.5 star water rating. Save 30% on running costs with every extra star. • Choose washing machines with at least 3.5 star energy rating and 4 star water rating. Save up to 25% on running costs with every extra star. • Choose dryers with at least 2 stars. Save up to 15% on running costs with every extra star. • Install a 5 star gas hot water system. Save up to 15% on running costs with a 5 star system. • Thermostat control home heating and cooling. Just 1°C can save up to 10% on running costs. • Become a GreenPower customer at home. Immediately reduce household greenhouse gas emissions by up to 70%. • Turn off appliances at the wall. Save up to 10% on your energy bill – that's 7,800 black balloons a year.
Sustainability Victoria Green Light Report: Victorians and the Environment in 2008 www.sustainability.vic.gov.au	• Just over one in three (38%) of Victorians are 'very concerned' about the present state of the environment. A further 31% are 'fairly concerned' and 15% are 'slightly concerned'. • 42% of Victorians believe lack of water is the most important environmental issue for attention by the Victorian Government. • 92% of Victorians think the government should be taking account of environmental concerns when making decisions. • Most Victorians are prepared to take personal action on environmental issues— the great majority (90%) feel they can do something about the environment as individuals. • The immediacy of climate change is generally acknowledged, 84% do not feel the effects are too far in the future to worry about. • Sustainable water usage practices were more evident in regional Victoria, with rainwater tanks) and grey water recycling systems having a greater presence than in Melbourne. • In 2007, just on one in two Victorians had turned off their television set at the power point on at least one occasion. • In 2007, most Victorians had taken a short shower lasting four minutes or less with 64% claiming they 'often' took showers of this duration.

resourceSmart

Source	Facts
	• In 2007, 84% of Victorians had avoided using plastic shopping bags.
	• In 2007, 63% of Victorians had avoided buying a product with excessive packaging.
	• In 2007, one in two Victorians had travelled by air and of these, only 3% had offset their carbon emissions through an accredited offset scheme.
	• In 2007, 53% of Victorians said they usually use their car to make short trips rather than walking, cycling or using public transport.

resourceSmart

Further links and resources

Sustainability Victoria

Sustainability Victoria is a state government agency making it easier for Victorians to reduce their everyday environmental impacts by providing clear, logical advice and communicating no nonsense information.

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

Waste Management Groups

Victoria has 12 regional waste management groups and the Metropolitan Waste Management Group covering Melbourne. The groups play a key role in educating the community about waste and environmental issues.

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

Victorian Litter Action Alliance

The Victorian Littler Action Alliance (VLAA) provides information, tools and resources to help workplaces manage litter and in particular cigarette butts.

www.litter.vic.gov.au

Recycling service providers

Speak to your local council to find out about any recycling services available to small to medium businesses or local service providers or visit the 'Recycling Near You' website.

www.recyclingnearyou.com.au

Public access areas

If your organisation runs public events or manages public spaces, consider installing public place recycling. Use the Sustainability Victoria Public Place Recycling Guidelines for advice on setting up recycling infrastructure in public access areas.

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

Green Collect

Green Collect is a non-profit group that offers collection services for corks, aluminium, bottle tops, printer cartridges, mobile phones and accessories, batteries, and DVDs and CDs to businesses within the Melbourne CBD.

www.greencollect.org

Design your own signs and labels

Sustainability Victoria's Away from Home Signage Guideline provides information on custom design of educational signage.

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

Green procurement

Adopt sustainable procurement practices to help you move towards resource efficiency. Consider the life cycle impacts of product choices. This includes the product's recycled content, ease of maintenance and serviceability, take back options and recyclability at the end of its life.

www.ecooffice.com.au
www.greenpages.com.au

ECO-Buy

ECO-Buy is an award winning not-for-profit company that supports organisations in purchasing environmentally preferable products.

www.ecobuy.org.au

One Umbrella

One Umbrella collects food that cannot be used in serving and turns it into nutritious meals for the homeless and hungry of Melbourne.

www.oneumbrella.org.au

Testing communication materials

The Diagnostic Testing approach was developed by the Communications Research Institute of Australia (CRIA). Diagnostic testing will help assess whether educational pieces will be effective at communicating the intended message, and successful in helping change behaviours.

www.communication.org.au

Grow Me the Money

Grow Me the Money is a free program for Victorian businesses to help them to reduce their impact on the environment, save money and gain recognition for doing it. Businesses have access to online tools and resources that will help them assess environmental impacts at their own pace.

www.growmethemoney.com.au

Design by Nature

Design by Nature is an online resource to inspire, educate and empower Australian graphic designers to work towards more environmentally sustainable practices. The website contains a guide, brimming with new work practices to help designers select environmentally responsible paper, packaging, printers, inks as well as how to design with least waste.

www.designbynature.org

Byte back

This free Victorian Government service is available to residents and small business owners in Victoria who want to dispose of unwanted, old and unused computers in a safe and environmentally responsible way.

www.bytebackaustralia.com.au

Mobile Muster

This is the official recycling program for mobile phones in Australia. This free program collects mobile phone handsets, batteries and accessories to recover the plastics and metals for use in new products.

www.mobilemuster.com.au

My Green electronics

Established by the Consumer Electronics Association in the USA, this site assists consumers to make purchasing decisions based on environmental considerations. Use their energy calculator to work out the environmental cost of an electronic product.

www.mygreenelectronics.org

Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool

EPEAT is a system (used in the USA) to help purchasers in the public and private sectors evaluate, compare and select desktop computers, notebooks and monitors based on their environmental attributes.

www.epeat.net

Community-based social marketing

Community-based social marketing (CBSM) is an attractive alternative to information intensive campaigns that are effective at bringing about behaviour change. CBSM has been developed by Environmental Psychologist Doug McKenzie-Mohr, Ph.D.

www.cbsm.com