

our environment *it's a living thing*



SUSTAINABILITY ADVANTAGE

Resource efficiency

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



Successful organisations continually identify and implement efficiencies in the use of resources to drive down costs and boost competitiveness.

The **Resource efficiency** module in the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) NSW **Sustainability Advantage** Program helps you improve your bottom line by focusing on more efficient delivery of products and services. You identify and implement ways to reduce how much water, energy and materials you use and reduce the volume and toxicity of your waste.

This module looks at resource issues specific to your organisation. You can complete this module at the same time as the **Vision, commitment and planning** module. By doing so, you will establish meaningful goals aligned to clear, achievable targets and key performance indicators.

The **Resource efficiency** module generates momentum for sustainability in your organisation. It also helps build stronger business relationships in the supply chain.

This module includes the Sustainability Advantage **Energy Saver** component. Part of the NSW Government's \$150 million Energy Efficiency Strategy, Energy Saver offers an energy audit and free technical support to undertake effective and practical power and money saving projects.



Visit www.savepower.nsw.gov.au

Outcomes

This module is designed for managers who seek greater efficiency in their existing processes and who want to improve their environmental performance.

You will:

- achieve tangible savings in your resource use and operating costs
- gather and monitor baseline data on production and service inputs and outputs
- increase productivity and build staff morale
- enhance reputation and credibility with your major stakeholders, customers and suppliers
- promote marketing advantage through more sustainable products and services
- identify eco-efficiency opportunities in your value and supply chain.

What is involved?

Resource efficiency is delivered as a combination of facilitated work sessions and ongoing support.

After preliminary meetings to exchange information and a site 'walk-through', a brainstorming session identifies potential savings or opportunities. Efficiency teams are established to pursue the most promising opportunities. Continual review ensures that new projects can be added.

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY MODULE

Preliminary meeting

Site survey

Staff briefing
(optional)

Resource efficiency
planning

Implement
actions

Final review

Training and technical support

See the back page for a roadmap of activity for this module.

Participants in this module include:

- a Resource Efficiency Team established by your senior managers for this program
- your Sustainability Advantage champion or the Resource Efficiency Team's leader
- a facilitator from DECC
- resource efficiency, business and environmental specialists sourced by DECC
- other businesses you meet at our cluster network meetings.

Preliminary meeting with management

Our contractor meets with senior managers to discuss your organisation's priorities and how you will implement the module. Your senior managers then establish a Resource Efficiency Team and choose a team leader or champion.

The champion gives our contractor baseline data on major resource use and costs eg power, gas, fuel, waste, water, materials, consumables etc.

Site survey

Our resource efficiency and energy specialist 'walks-through' your site and helps to identify potential cost-savings in your operations. In most cases an energy audit will also be completed. The site assessment is followed by a discussion with the site champion to plan the brainstorming session.

Staff briefing (optional)

We can assist you run a formal staff briefing on the purpose of the program and the role of the Resource Efficiency Team.

Brainstorming and development of your resource efficiency action plan

Our resource efficiency contractor helps to complete a business cost analysis using the baseline data provided by your champion. The Resource Efficiency Team, assisted by our contractor, then brainstorms resource efficiency opportunities. A key outcome of this effort is the creation of a resource efficiency action plan.

Implementation and team meetings

Following the workshops and initial staff meetings, you will be able to implement your resource efficiency action plan during the next 18 months, or longer. You may be able to access additional one-on-one specialist support provided you are progressing your action plan.

Energy Saver

Energy Saver involves an energy audit based on the Australian Standard for Energy Auditing (a level 1, 2 or 3 audit), and will take place within the **Resource efficiency** module. This level of audit is negotiated between your business, DECC and an expert energy auditor.

To be eligible businesses must:

- use between 160MWh and 10GWh of electricity a year at their largest site (sites that have to submit Energy Savings Action Plans (ESAPs) are not eligible)
- be an active Sustainability Advantage partner
- undertake the **Resource efficiency** module and have a fully functioning Resource Efficiency Team
- commit to undertaking an Energy Audit, contributing to part of the total cost and implementing cost-effective actions.

Support

The results you achieve depend on what you put in. To help you get the most for your efforts we also offer:

- financial support for energy audits and efficiency projects
- practical workshops
- guides, checklists and templates
- feedback and review of existing documents and processes
- information sharing and networking opportunities through cluster meetings with other participants
- professional support from DECC contractors, including specialist advice at key strategic points.

Recognition



You can promote your achievements through our Sustainability Advantage Partner recognition scheme. There are five levels of recognition.

Register or find out more

Resource efficiency is one of seven **Sustainability Advantage** modules that guide and focus your environmental improvements. All modules help you plan and deliver lasting benefits and continuous improvement as you adopt sustainability as a core business value.

Contact DECC's Business Partnerships by:

Email sustainbus@environment.nsw.gov.au

Phone 02 8837 6000

	Preliminary meeting	Site survey	Staff briefing (optional)	Brainstorming and resource efficiency planning	Implement actions	Final review
Outcomes	<p>Senior managers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand the module confirm your organisation's commitment establish a Resource Efficiency Team choose a Sustainability Advantage champion 	<p>DECC specialist understands your organisation, your processes and terminology.</p> <p>DECC specialist and Sustainability Advantage champion plan the brainstorming session</p>	<p>Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand the module objectives have an opportunity to take part 	<p>DECC resource efficiency contractor supports the Resource Efficiency Team to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete a business cost analysis brainstorm resource efficiency opportunities create a resource efficiency action plan 	<p>Resource Efficiency Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prioritises opportunities assigns roles establishes performance criteria implements initiatives reports progress 	<p>Together we review your projects and successes. You set new plans based on your results</p>
Who takes part?	Senior managers DECC resource efficiency contractor leads	Sustainability Advantage champion DECC resource efficiency contractor	Sustainability Advantage champion DECC resource efficiency contractor	Resource Efficiency Team DECC resource efficiency contractor	Resource Efficiency Team Support from DECC resource efficiency contractor	Sustainability Advantage champion Resource Efficiency Team DECC resource efficiency contractor
What is needed?	Agreement documents	Site access	Briefing papers Spokesperson to answer staff questions	Cost and usage data of energy, waste, water, materials, consumables etc	Output from brainstorming Resource efficiency action plan Resource approvals	Results from your resource efficiency projects Baseline and current data demonstrating environmental outcomes
Where and when?	At your workplace, at the start of the module	At your sites that have relevant processes, 2-4 weeks after the preliminary meeting	At your workplace, 2-4 weeks after the site survey	At your workplace, 2-4 weeks after the site survey or staff briefing	At your workplace, starting 2-3 months after the preliminary meeting	At your workplace, at 18 months
How long does this take?	1 hour	Up to 2 hours	1 hour	1 hour	Resource Efficiency Team decides meeting times. Continues for at least 18 months	1 hour

We provide practical, tailored support (workshops, training, technical assistance) to help you plan and implement your environmental projects and overcome issues. For additional support requests, you prepare a summary of your achievements to date and a short overview and supporting data explaining why you need assistance. As you undertake this module you will:

- attend 'cluster' network meetings three or four times a year, meeting with people in other businesses in your local area or industry sector
- report your progress every six months (including quantitative data, verbal reports at cluster network meetings and contributing to project reports)
- collect data and other information for evaluating projects.