



# Responding to Climate Change: Programs and Resources for the Tourism Industry

**These Australian Government programs and resources may benefit the tourism industry when responding to climate change issues.**

## Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism

- *The Climate Change Guide*: Provides practical information for Australian tourism businesses to use to help them deal with climate change. For further information:
  - Visit the [Climate Change Guide](#).
- Tourism Australia provides a number of sustainability and energy efficiency tools, resources and messages for the benefit of the tourism industry. For further information:
  - Visit: [Tourism Australia](#).

## Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

On 10 July 2011 the Australian Government announced its plan for tackling climate change, “*Securing a Clean Energy Future*”. For further information:

- Visit: [Securing a Clean Energy Future](#) or Phone 1800 057 590.

Subject to the passage of appropriate legislation, elements of the plan that will assist the Australian tourism industry transition to a clean energy future will include:

- *Increases to the small business instant asset write-off threshold*. For businesses with an aggregate turnover of less than \$2 million a year, the small business instant asset write-off threshold will be increased from \$5,000 to \$6,500 for depreciable assets from the 2012-13 income year. Increasing the amount that small businesses can write off immediately to \$6,500 will increase cash flow and assist small business to grow and invest in new equipment.
- *The Renewable Energy Target (RET) Scheme* is designed to ensure that 20% of Australia's electricity supply will come from renewable sources by 2020. The RET uses a mechanism of tradable certificates which are created by eligible sources of renewable energy. For further information:
  - Visit: [Renewable Energy Target Scheme](#), [Office of Renewable Energy Regulator](#), or Phone 1800 808 571.

The RET scheme operates as two separate parts:

1. The *Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET)*, which supports the deployment of renewable energy projects like wind farms, and commercial solar and geothermal power stations.
2. The *Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES)*, which provides support for installations of small renewable energy systems such as rooftop solar panels and solar water heaters. For further information:
  - Visit: [Support for small-scale renewable energy systems](#).



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- The *Tax Breaks for Green Buildings* program for eligible businesses that invest in improving the energy efficiency of their existing buildings. The Tax Break will cover specified expenditure which is incurred as part of a qualifying retrofit of an existing office building, hotel or shopping centre. For further information:
  - Visit: [Tax Breaks for Green Buildings](#).
- *Low Carbon Australia* has been established by the Australian Government as an independent company with over \$100 million initial funding. Low Carbon Australia provides financial solutions and advice to Australian business, government and the wider community to encourage action on energy efficiency, cost-effective carbon reductions, and accreditation for carbon neutral products and organisations. For further information:
  - Visit: [Low Carbon Australia](#) or Phone Low Carbon Australia's office in your nearest capital city:

Brisbane	07 3188 1600	Adelaide	08 7070 1420
Sydney	02 9191 9315	Perth	08 6500 0120
Melbourne	03 9938 8220	Canberra	02 6171 2020
Hobart	03 6111 0520		

Low Carbon Australia manages two innovative programs:

1. *Energy Efficiency Program*: Finance and advice to eligible businesses and the public sector for the retrofit of non-residential buildings. For further information:
    - Visit: [Energy Efficiency Program](#).
  2. *Carbon Neutral Program*: Accreditation for organisations that have products or operations certified as carbon neutral under the Australian Government's National Carbon Offset Standard. For further information:
    - Visit: [Carbon Neutral Program](#).
- The *National Building Framework*: Aims for consistency on how buildings are assessed and rated for energy efficiency and set out a pathway for increasing minimum performance standards over time. For further information:
    - Visit: [National Building Framework](#).
  - The *Energy Efficiency Grants Program*: Provides information to small and medium businesses and community organisations on practical measures they can take to reduce their energy costs. This program will be delivered through competitive grants to industry associations and non-government organisations that work with small businesses and community organisations. These groups will deliver information about the impacts of a carbon price on small businesses and community organisations and practical steps to manage these impacts. Examples could include:
    - sector-specific information and recommendations on energy efficient processes and equipment for small businesses or community sector organisations;
    - workshops and training courses on key energy efficiency issues, including case studies and success stories; and
    - provision of energy efficiency advice.



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- The *Clean Energy and Other Skills Package*: Enables tradespeople and professionals in key industries to develop the skills needed to deliver clean energy services, products and advice to Australian communities and businesses. For further information:
  - Visit: [Clean Energy and Other Skills Package](#).
- The *Small Business Support Line*: Provides small business owners with a single point of contact for access to information and referral services to improve their business sustainability and better manage their business. Support Line advisers link into the network of Business Enterprise Centres and other small business advisory services around Australia. For further information:
  - Telephone: 1800 77 7275 (Monday-Friday 8am-8pm AEDST), or
  - Email: [SBSL@innovation.gov.au](mailto:SBSL@innovation.gov.au).
- Information and advice is also available online at [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au). The website, which includes a grants finder is a free service and provides information, tools and resources from the Australian and State and Territory Governments to assist in planning for, starting and running a small business.



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## Australian Capital Territory

### Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, ACT Government

- *ACTSmart*: A one-stop-shop for ACT Government rebates and assistance that will help businesses save energy and water, reduce waste and cut greenhouse gas emissions. For further information:
  - Visit [ACTSmart](#)
- *ACTSmart Business Recycling Program*: Assistance and accreditation for efficient waste management and recycling for businesses. For further information:
  - Visit [ACTSmart Business Recycling Program](#)
- *The CitySwitch Green Office program*: Assists office tenants to improve energy efficiency for a positive impact on climate change. For further information:
  - Visit [CitySwitch Green Office Program](#)

### Canberra Institute of Technology

- *Diploma of Sustainability*: Develops skills and knowledge to incorporate fundamental principles and emerging developments in sustainability into the workplace. For further information:
  - Visit [Diploma of Sustainability](#)
- *Carbon Accounting Statement of Attainment*: Course provides the knowledge and skills to produce an account of the carbon emission for an organisation, in line with accepted methodologies and within the business environment of that organisation. For further information:
  - Visit [Carbon Accounting Statement of Attainment](#)
- *Waste and Recycling (Collection and Disposal) Statement of Attainment*: Program provides the skills and knowledge to identify, collect and dispose of waste and recyclable materials in a safe manner and in accordance with statutory requirements. For further information:
  - [Visit Water and Recycling Statement of Attainment](#)



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## New South Wales

### Sydney Water

- *NSW hospitality training DVDs*: Provides a quick guide to water efficiency, with details of the free and subsidised Sydney Water program to improve water efficiency. For further information:
  - Visit [Hospitality Training DVDs](#)

### Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

- *NSW Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program*: Offers eligible businesses rebates of up to \$5,000 (including GST) for the purchase of energy-wise equipment. It provides businesses with an energy assessment and action plan. For further information:
  - Visit [NSW Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program](#)
- *NSW Sustainability Advantage*: Helps business understand sustainability, successfully manage for a better environment and add business value. For further information:
  - Visit [NSW Sustainability Advantage](#)
- *NSW Sustainability Advantage Energy Saver*: Assists businesses to become more energy efficient and save money. The program offers hands-on assistance – independent energy audit and helps develop sustainable business practices. For further information:
  - Visit [Sustainability Advantage Energy Saver](#)
- *NSW Eco Clubs Program*: Promotes environmental sustainability within the club industry and the sharing of environmental achievements. For further information:
  - Visit [Eco Clubs Program](#)
- *Green Business Program*: Encourages (through funding) education and technology projects which improve resource efficiency. For further information:
  - Visit [Green Business Program](#)

### Department of Education and Training

- *NSW Energy Efficiency Training Program*: Educates businesses on how to improve their sustainability. For further information:
  - Visit [Energy Efficiency Training Program](#)

## Northern Territory

### Department of Business and Environment

- *ecoBiz NT*: Informs and encourages (through financial incentive) local SMEs to achieve cost savings by improving their environmental efficiency. For further information:



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- Visit [EcoBiz NT](#)

## **Alice Springs Town Council, Northern Territory Government, Power and Water Corporation, Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre, Arid Lands Environment Centre, Tangentyere Council, Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

- *Alice Solar City program*: The Program enables small businesses to undertake an energy survey to identify energy efficiency opportunities for the business premises. For further information:
  - Visit [Alice Solar City](#)

## **Queensland**

### **Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Resources Centre**

- *Local Government Pathways to Sustainable Tourism Program*: Provides information to assist councils to undertake sustainable tourism planning. The Program includes; A Health Check based on the principles of destination management to assess councils' tourism approach against best-practice benchmarks and identify priority areas, a workshop program and a range of implementation and monitoring resources and tools to assist local governments to monitor and improve their approach to sustainable tourism. For further information:
  - Visit [Local Government Pathways to Sustainable Tourism Program](#)

### **Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation**

- *QLD ClimateSmart Business Service*: Helps Queensland businesses prepare for a low-carbon economy, reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and reduce costs. For further information:
  - Visit [ClimateSmart Business Service](#)

### **Tourism Queensland**

- *QLD Sustainability and Climate Change Online Resource Centre*: Informs and educates industry about steps to become sustainable. For further information:
  - Visit the [Online Resources Centre](#)
- *QLD Sustainable Regions Program*: Empowers businesses to understand how to improve their resource efficiency. Involves working with regions and their tourism operators and communities following key steps including regional audit and sustainability health check on the region, stakeholder workshop, and preparing an action plan for the region. For further information:
  - Visit [Sustainable Regions Program](#)

### **QLD Water and Energy Sustainable Technologies Network (QWESTNet)**

- *QWESTNet Forums*: Helps businesses and industry to find out how bottom-line savings can be achieved through sustainable practices and technologies. For further information:



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- Visit [QWESTNet Forums](#)
- *Ecobiz QLD*: Enables businesses to measure their resource use and identify where improvements can be made. They also provide rebates to encourage businesses to implement ecoefficiency improvements. For further information:
  - Visit the [Ecobiz Factsheet](#)
- *Ecobiz Rebates* Financial incentive to encourage businesses to implement eco-efficiency improvements.
  - Visit the [Ecobiz Rebates](#)
- *QLD Solar Bonus Scheme*: Pays domestic and other small energy customers for the surplus electricity generated from roof-top solar photovoltaic (PV) systems that is exported to the Queensland grid. For further information:
  - Visit [QLD Solar Bonus Scheme](#)

## South Australia

### Department of Trade and Economic Development, SA Water, Zero Waste SA and the Environment Protection Authority (SA)

- *SA Business Sustainability Alliance*: Provides information and funding to help businesses achieve long term profitability and growth, using fewer resources. For further information:
  - Visit [Business Sustainability Alliance](#)

### South Australian Tourism Industry Council

- *SA Climate Action Certification Program*: Educates and empowers industry to take action to reduce their carbon footprint and gain recognition for their actions. For further information:
  - Visit [Climate Action Certification Program](#)

### Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Sustainability and Climate Change Division

- *SA Solar Feed-in Scheme*: Small electricity customers, with electricity systems on their premises, are able to receive a premium price for any excess electricity returned to the electricity grid as an incentive to switch to renewable energy. For further information:
  - Visit [SA Solar Feed-in Scheme](#)

## Tasmania

### Tasmanian Climate Change Office

- *Tasmanian Climate Change Office*: Information service for businesses, with information on changes in regulatory environment. For further information:
  - Visit [Tasmania Climate Change Office](#)



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- *Climate Connect*: A grants program to encourage projects that facilitate reduced energy use within communities. For further information:
  - Visit [Climate Connect](#)

## Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

- *CleanBiz Tasmania*: Educates businesses on actions they can take to reduce resource use. For further information:
  - Visit [CleanBiz Tasmania](#)

## Huon Valley Kingborough Tourism Association

- *Green Tea*: Encourages and supports tourism businesses to achieve eco or climate change certification. For further information:
  - Visit [Green Tea](#)

## Victoria

### Tourism Victoria

- *Tourism Excellence*: Tourism Excellence is a free self development program. The Sustainability in Tourism module provides practical advice, tools and case studies to assist tourism businesses to become more environmentally sustainable. For further information:
  - Visit [Tourism Excellence](#)

### Sustainability Victoria

- *ResourceSmart Business*: A website providing solutions, ideas and advice on reducing environmental impacts, information on rebates for energy and water-saving devices, how and where to recycle things, and how to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. For further information:
  - Visit [ResourceSmart Business](#)
- *Sustainability Fund*: Supports projects that foster sustainable resource use and have economic and social benefits for Victorians. For further information:
  - Visit [Sustainability Victoria](#)

### Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI) and Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA Victoria)

- *Grow me the Money*: Guides SME businesses through the steps necessary to become more sustainable and benefit from their efforts. Grow me the Money is a 12 step on-line plan, including progress review after 12 months. For further information:
  - Visit [Grow me the Money](#)

### Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Sustainability Victoria





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- *Carbon Down*: Informs and educates businesses to reduce their carbon footprint through innovative, practical solutions. They offer knowledge, funding and support to help small and medium sized businesses find new ways of thinking and operating in a resource constrained economy. For further information:

- Visit [Carbon Down](#)

## **Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

- *Carbon Compass*: Carbon Compass is an on-line resource which provides small and medium sized businesses with access to practical solutions which have been implemented by other businesses and organisations. For further information:

- Visit [Carbon Compass](#)

## **EPA Victoria**

- *Carbon Innovators Network*: Stimulates debate and innovation in carbon management and provide the support and tools businesses require to develop appropriate carbon management strategies. For further information:

- Visit the [Carbon Innovators Network](#)

## **Western Australia**

### **Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre**

- *The Impact of Climate Change on the Margaret River Region - Developing Adaptation and Response Strategies*: To increase understanding of climate change impacts on regional tourism (economic and non-economic) and to inform and prioritise adaptation strategies which can be undertaken by destinations and by tourism businesses. For further information:

- Visit [The Impact of Climate Change on the Margaret River Region](#)

### **Small Business Development Corporation**

- *WA Small Business Big Impact*: Website designed for small business enterprises providing information and practical ways to reduce their carbon emissions. For further information:

- Visit [Small Business Big Impact](#)

### **Tourism Western Australia**

- *WA Sustainability and Climate Change*: Website designed specifically for tourism businesses to access information on climate change and to be made aware of practical ways in which their carbon footprint can be minimised. For further information:

- Visit [Sustainability and Climate Change](#)

