



Global Footprint Network

Sustainability Covenant



Global Footprint Network
Advancing the Science of Sustainability



Sustainability Covenant

This voluntary SUSTAINABILITY COVENANT is a statutory agreement under section 49AA of the *Environment Protection Act 1970* ('The Act') made on the 28th day of July 2008.

Between:

Environment Protection Authority ('EPA Victoria'), a body corporate incorporated pursuant to the *Environment Protection Act 1970* (Victoria) of 40 City Road Southbank in the State of Victoria;

-and-

Global Footprint Network Limited of 312 Clay Street, Suite 300 Oakland, CA 94607-3510 USA

In which the parties agree to:

- Increase the efficiency with which the parties use resources to produce products and services
- Reduce the ecological impact of those products and services and of the processes by which they are produced
- Increase the capacity of the parties to influence the resource efficiency and ecological impact of the communities, including business, government and non-government organisations they work with.

EPA is of the opinion that this Sustainability Covenant is likely to be effective in increasing the resource use efficiency and reducing the ecological impact of the parties and their stakeholders and as such is a signatory to this Sustainability Covenant.

Background

EPA has a vision of the Victorian community living sustainably. The most recent estimate of Victoria's Ecological Footprint indicates that if everyone in the world lived the way Victorians currently do, we would need four planets to sustain the global community. This is clearly a long way from "living sustainably".

Victoria is not alone in facing this challenge. Societies all around the world are realising the need to pursue economic and social objectives within nature's limits. They need to identify new and better ways to produce the goods and services they want in order to lead the lifestyles they aspire to.

One key to doing this is to foster and harness innovation. To this end, EPA is establishing mutually beneficial relationships with leading international organisations through the creation of 'Global Innovation Partnerships'. This Global Innovation Partnership with Global Footprint Network will position each partner as innovative leaders in advancing the science of sustainability.

An ongoing relationship

EPA Victoria is a founding member of Global Footprint Network - a partnership to strengthen the value of Ecological Footprint as a catalyst for sustainability. EPA values the Network's commitment to incorporate the environment into decision-making (as society does with money) and its efforts to put in place tools, resources and support to help businesses and individuals reduce their impact. The Skoll Foundation recently recognised the Network through its Award for Social Entrepreneurship, for 'the most innovative and effective approaches to resolving critical social issues'.

Through this Partnership, EPA will draw on the experience of Global Footprint Network and its partners to support EPA's resource efficiency programs. EPA will continue to partner with the Network over the duration of the Covenant. This partnership will help the Victorian community develop innovative strategies to one planet living.

Parties to the Covenant

Global Footprint Network

Global Footprint Network is committed to fostering a world where all people have the opportunity to live satisfying lives within the means of Earth's ecological capacity. The organisation is dedicated to advancing the scientific rigor and practical application of the Ecological Footprint, a tool that quantifies human demand on nature, and nature's capacity to meet these demands.

Global Footprint Network's vision is to make the Ecological Footprint as prominent a metric as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Through the participation of its partners, Global Footprint Network:

- coordinates research
- updates and strengthen the National Footprint Accounts
- standardises methodologies
- extends the Footprint into new domains
- shares tools
- builds the technical capacity of footprint practitioners
- develops strategic initiatives that benefit the entire sustainability community.

EPA Victoria

EPA is a statutory body that was established under an Act of the Victorian Parliament – the *Environment Protection Act 1970* – in response to community concern about pollution.

EPA's vision is *The Victorian community living sustainably.*

A community living sustainably knows the impacts of the decisions it makes and the actions it takes on the environment and:

- **efficiently** uses and renews resources.
- **understands** how what is good for the environment is good for the economy and society.
- **lives in a healthy environment** that provides clean air, water and land.
- **meets the needs of today** without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

EPA's purpose is to protect, care for and improve our environment.

EPA's values are collaboration, innovation, integrity and respect.

EPA's objectives are to increase resource efficiency, reduce emissions impact, enhance our reputation and benefit the economy.

Commitments of the Covenant

The following commitments are intended to achieve the overall objective of this Covenant. They are designed to ensure that international expertise on Ecological Footprint is consistently applied to the strategies and approaches adopted by the Victorian community. The following table sets out the specific deliverables of the three partnership commitment areas under this Global Innovation Partnership.

General Commitments	Specific Commitments
Innovate in Ecological Footprint research, development and application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Footprint Network will continue to deliver the following core programs that increase the effectiveness of the Ecological Footprint as a tool for promoting ecological, social and economic sustainability: National Footprint Account Research, International Standards, Network Building and Outreach, and Strategic applications. • EPA will continue to participate in standards committees coordinated by Global Footprint Network. • EPA will apply and promote Ecological Footprint where it aligns with business priorities and delivers value to the Victorian community. • In conjunction with the Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, EPA will produce and publish an Ecological Footprint study of Victoria, and contribute key aspects of that study to Victoria's first State of the Environment Report.
Build technical and communicative capabilities in Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Footprint Network will support technical skills development for consultants in Australia and EPA business partners. • Global Footprint Network will promote upcoming events and resources to drive and implement effective Footprint applications, including guidance on community engagement, planning and implementing an Ecological Footprint project.
Commit to sharing knowledge and expanding international sustainability networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Footprint Network will continue to widely communicate the applications and learnings of Network partners. • Global Footprint Network will participate in EPA's informal network connecting sustainability science research groups and practitioners, through its Sustainability Covenant/ Global Innovation Partnership with the Centre for Water and Waste Technology at the University of New South Wales.
Promote the benefits achieved in using the Ecological Footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Footprint Network will promote strategic applications of Ecological Footprint, for example the Ecological Footprint study of VicUrban's Aurora - a residential urban development, and The GPT Group's retail tenant calculators to measure how much of the planet's resources The GPT Group uses to create and manage a retail store. • Where it aligns with strategic priorities, EPA will support community applications of Ecological Footprint. For example in 2007, EPA Victoria supported the Planet 2025 prize and Global Footprint Network's application to the McCarthur Institute to develop a world Ecological Footprint calculator. • EPA will continue to promote the use of life cycle tools that help the Victorian community understand opportunities to reduce their impact, for example EPA's Personal, Office, Home, School, and Retail Ecological Footprint Calculators.
As needed, advise and comment on development and proposed implementation of specific programs of both parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Footprint Network will guide EPA uses of Ecological Footprint approaches and tools to influence sustainability in decision-making.
EPA will ensure that the Global Footprint Network is supported financially	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA commits to remain a partner of the Network for the life of the Covenant, to continue its functions of coordinating national Footprint Account research, international standards, network building and outreach, and strategic applications. These core programs go toward increasing the effectiveness of the Ecological Footprint as a tool for promoting ecological, social and economic sustainability.

Life of the Covenant

This sustainability covenant will be in place for a period of three (3) years. This period may be extended if agreed by both parties.

Management of the Covenant

The parties to the Covenant will jointly be responsible for the management of the over-arching performance of the Covenant.

The parties will continually review the progress of the Covenant and the implementation of the commitments to identify any additional and/or replacement actions required or any future focus required including, if appropriate, the future relationship of the parties beyond the life of the Covenant.

The parties to the Covenant will report following each review covering the achievements of each Covenant commitment along with any lessons learned and anticipated future actions to be undertaken. These reports will be made available to all stakeholders via EPA and Global Footprint Network websites.

More information

In accordance with section 49AC(b) of the Act, the parties will ensure that this Covenant is readily accessible to the public and that it is published on the internet.

In accordance with section 49AC(c) of the Act, the parties authorise the copying of all or any part of the Covenant by any person who wishes to do so. The parties also authorise the use by such a person of any copies made by the person.

Contact Information



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