

## Sustainable Supply Chain Management Initiative

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***The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), Operational Management and Reporting Committee, supported by EPA Victoria, is undertaking an initiative to facilitate the development of an agreed approach to sustainable supply chain requirements across the finance sector.***

In recent years many Australian companies have developed sustainability requirements and evaluation processes into their supply chain management, using a variety of criteria and assessment models. These differing expectations can be challenging for suppliers to address and become a disincentive to compliance. This risk to the effective implementation of sustainability in the sector requires a cross-sector resolution. By reviewing Australian and global best practice approaches to sustainability in the supply chain, it is hoped that a more streamlined approach can be agreed and adopted that will be highly beneficial for suppliers and their corporate customers.

NAB, Westpac and ANZ are leading an initiative to achieve this, with the support of supplier representatives Telstra, Corporate Express Australia and Elizabeth Andrews Catering, representing suppliers of various sizes and sectors. Input is also being sort from all corporate members of the Operational Management and Reporting Committee. EPA Victoria, as provider of UNEP FI secretariat services in Australia, is chairing this process.

To ensure that best practice supply chain mechanisms are reviewed, a number of acknowledged Australian and global leaders in sustainable supply chain management will be interviewed, including representatives from the finance sector and other sectors. Key stakeholder organisations will also be engaged and outcomes from other sustainable supply chain management initiatives will be reviewed and possible points of leverage identified.

Through this process the Steering Committee will gain an understanding and insight into the issues faced by suppliers, identify current developments, and explore options for improved sustainable supply chain management across the financial services sector. The Steering Committee will then develop recommendations for efficient and effective sustainable procurement.

It is envisaged that the outcomes will be applicable to other industries.

If you wish to provide information to the Steering Committee, or be advised of the project outcomes, please contact [unep.fi@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:unep.fi@epa.vic.gov.au). This project will take place throughout early-mid 2008.