



CONSULTATION PAPER

# EPA WASTE REDUCTION FUND – INDUSTRY CONSULTATION

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## WHAT IS THE WASTE REDUCTION FUND?

On 24 March 2010, the Victorian Government announced \$14 million funding over four years to assist businesses to reduce the waste they send to landfill through innovations that reduce the waste they generate from daily operations.

EPA Victoria will be the agency responsible for administering the new Waste Reduction Fund. EPA will work closely with Sustainability Victoria to ensure consistent outcomes under the Victorian Government's Towards Zero Waste strategy.

## BACKGROUND

The Victorian Government has committed \$53.7 million, raised by a new landfill levy over the next five years, to help businesses, councils, households and communities address waste and its environmental impacts and assist in the transition to the higher levy rates.

Other landfill levy reinvestment programs include:

- \$14 million to support councils and recyclers with new resource recovery investments and initiatives to complement the levy and accelerate recycling;
- \$5.5 million to assist councils in metropolitan Melbourne implement best practice waste collection and management systems in line with the metropolitan waste plan;
- \$3 million to assist councils in regional Victoria to implement a range of collection and waste management initiatives;
- \$6 million to establish a Strike Force to address illegal dumping and a further \$5.5 million to clean up contaminated legacy sites; and
- \$5.69 million to environment agencies to further support households, councils and industry to tackle waste and sustainability issues. This includes \$1.14 million for both the Metropolitan Waste Management Group and Regional Waste Management Groups.

## PURPOSE OF CONSULTATION

The purpose of this consultation is to determine the most effective way to deliver EPA's Waste Reduction Fund to help reduce business' generation of waste and exposure to the landfill levy.

## OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

The aim of the consultation process is to ensure the funding program aligns closely with the priorities of industry and the Victorian Government, and effectively supports on-site resource efficiency programs and waste avoidance initiatives.

In undertaking this consultation with industry, EPA is seeking to understand:

- The waste avoidance opportunities in industry and the obstacles to implementation
- The priorities and needs of the sector
- The preferred funding model and governance structure for industry

## TIMING OF CONSULTATION

| Consultation Activity                                                                                                  | Target Dates                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Round table discussions co-hosted by EPA and key stakeholders and attended by industry and peak industry associations. | 1 August - 16 August 2010     |
| Industry feedback to EPA and key stakeholders. Key priorities and preferences are established by key stakeholders.     | 16 August - 30 August 2010    |
| Priorities and preference are reported to EPA.                                                                         | 31 August - 30 September 2010 |
| EPA considers the feedback and carries out further consultation as required.                                           | 31 August - 30 September 2010 |
| EPA reports back on finalisation of program details to industry. First funding round opened.                           | 4 October - 29 October 2010   |

Visit [www.epa.vic.gov.au/wastereductionfund](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/wastereductionfund) for full details of consultation sessions.

## CONSULTATION TOPICS

There are 6 broad topics for consultation.

### Financial impact of the landfill levy

Over 4 years, \$14 million raised by the increased landfill levy will be designated to EPA's Waste Reduction Fund. The fund will be designed to optimise outcomes for Victorian businesses in response to the higher landfill levies. It will assist businesses with the potential to specifically avoid waste and to find new solutions that deliver savings and better environmental outcomes.

How will the landfill levy impact your business or industry?

Will some industry sectors be impacted more than others? Which ones?

### Interest in waste avoidance

The Waste Reduction Fund focuses on maximising economic value and environmental outcomes from the increased levies, while contributing to the Victorian Government's Towards Zero Waste (TZW) strategy. This will be achieved through EPA co-funding new waste reduction initiatives and will target businesses seeking to avoid the generation of Commercial & Industrial (C & I) and Construction & Demolition (C & D) wastes in the first instance.

What is industry's appetite for waste avoidance (compared with energy and water)?

What are the typical commercial timelines and barriers for waste avoidance projects?

What capacity exists in Victoria to provide expertise on material efficiency?

What C & I and C & D waste streams present the greatest opportunity? Are there C & I or C & D wastes that cannot be diverted from landfill?

What level of motivation exists in industry to design for zero waste?

How should EPA define and measure targets and outcomes for the fund?

### Existing initiatives

EPA's Waste Reduction Fund will enhance the ability of the industrial and commercial sectors to avoid the generation of waste. This will be achieved by supporting site-based resource efficiency initiatives that may include:

- better materials handling (and disposal) practices;
- improved technologies and systems; and
- substitution of materials and products that are materials-inefficient.

What work/initiatives are already happening in this space?

How can EPA most effectively work complementarily with these?

Which businesses or industries are likely to benefit the most from the additional EPA Waste Reduction Fund?

### Level and type of support

The fund will help businesses set up new processes (eg workplace practices and technologies), products and use of feed stocks that avoid the generation of waste in the first instance.

What type of support is most needed?

For example, knowledge and capacity building, research and development, demonstration or infrastructure/capital.

What level of government support is needed to enable waste avoidance?

### Models of funding

The HazWaste Fund was established to support the Victorian Government's commitment to eliminating disposal of high hazard waste to landfill by 2020. The fund is administered by EPA, but applications are judged by an external panel which makes funding recommendations to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Innovation.

A similar process is currently proposed for EPA's Waste Reduction Fund.

How is this funding best structured and directed?

How prescriptive should the application process be? Application template or guidance only?

How often should the funding rounds be?

What form of reporting on outcomes from projects is preferred?

What is your experience with other grant programs?

### Communicating to industry

How should we communicate to you?

What does "Waste Reduction" mean to you?

Who else should we consult with?

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information contact  
EPA's Sustainable Solutions team  
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Email [wastereductionfund@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:wastereductionfund@epa.vic.gov.au)

Or visit EPA's website [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)