

Executive Summary

Over the last four years, the City Of Greater Bendigo has improved its knowledge and understanding of the energy services market through studies of the deregulation of the electricity market in Victoria and its impact on Central Victorian businesses.

Our original belief at the start of the deregulation process was that the major players (distributors and retailers) had responsibilities to provide energy services, such as energy management products and services, to their customers. Indeed, part of the anticipated benefits of deregulation was that retailers in particular would be providing price and service offerings to differentiate themselves in the competitive electricity market place.

It has become much clearer from the experiences and discussions that the City Of Greater Bendigo and the Bendigo Manufacturing Group has had with local businesses, retailers, distributors and regulators that it will be the responsibility of third parties to provide such energy efficiency services as the industry has deregulated.

Prior to deregulation, organisations such as the SECV and the Gas and Fuel Corporation were the main sources of energy management information and technical implementation assistance in the region. This source of expertise has dissipated over time in this region as the industry has deregulated.

The bigger energy users in the Central Victorian area are being targeted by Melbourne based energy services companies. However, this does not seem to be the case for Small to Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) in this area, presumably because of the relatively higher transaction costs associated with engaging and retaining such businesses.

The City of Greater Bendigo has tried to address this local skills shortage by developing an Energy - Climate Care Partnership with Origin Energy, which has included running an Energy Efficiency in Industry Program with local businesses to identify and implement energy management opportunities.

The current regulatory regime in place for the electricity industry is heavily focused on supply side econometrics and price capping issues. This does not encourage the consideration of demand side options as part of the development of the electricity industry. An alternative, revenue capping approach, which puts a ceiling on earnings from electricity sales, can encourage distribution companies to boost revenues by “selling” conservation whenever it is more profitable than selling electricity.

The City of Greater Bendigo also takes on an advocacy and promotional role in regard to energy services initiatives. One of the long standing initiatives the City Of Greater Bendigo's is proud to support is the GreenPlumbers® Training Program with 12 local plumbing organisations accredited with having completed one (or more) of the GreenPlumbers training courses held in the Municipality.

The City of Greater Bendigo also strongly supports the local 'Energy Information Partnership' between Access Employment and Sustainability Victoria over the provision of energy efficiency and renewable energy information to rural and regional residents, community groups and businesses in the Central Victorian Region.

Introduction

The City Of Greater Bendigo submission to the ENRC Inquiry into the Energy Services Industry is based on experiences and information gleaned from a number of related projects it has been involved with over the last four years with a primary focus on the deregulated electricity market.

Power Costs For Central Victorian Businesses

In April 2002, the City of Greater Bendigo produced its first electricity industry report that highlighted the impact of increased electricity costs on Central Victorian businesses¹. Anecdotal evidence collected from the report identified that local industry lacked an understanding of energy management opportunities, with one reason being the poor availability of energy services expertise in the Central Victorian region.

Having identified the lack of relevant skills in the region, the City of Greater Bendigo released a tender in late 2002 seeking a partnership with a suitably qualified organisation, or a consortium, to provide energy and climate care skills, expertise and knowledge not readily available in Central Victoria. See Appendix 1 for more information.

This tender was also in response to the City of Greater Bendigo commitment, as a member of the Cities for Climate Protection (CCPTM) Program, to assist its citizens, both business and residents, to reduce the greenhouse intensity of their energy consumption by becoming more efficient in their use of energy and/or using low greenhouse intensity energy such as renewable energy. Similarly, the City Of Greater Bendigo was interested to establish how it could reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of its own operations and services.

Three submissions were received and the eventual successful tenderer was Origin Energy. In June 2003, the City of Greater Bendigo/Origin Energy - Climate Care Partnership was successful in a funding application to the State Government's Greenhouse Community Action Fund in June 2003. The funding application covered opportunities to improve energy use in the industrial and residential sectors as well as in Council's own operations. See Appendix 2 for more information.

Energy Efficiency in Industry Program (EEIP)

Focusing on the Partnership's experiences with the Energy Efficiency in Industry Program (EEIP), an extensive marketing campaign was undertaken commencing with a mailout to 350 manufacturers and 40 motels/hotels and retail organisations describing the program and inviting them to program information sessions.

As well, adverts were placed in the Bendigo Advertiser inviting companies to attend information sessions at which information folders about the Program, including case study material of participants' experiences based on a similar program in Adelaide, were available. One to one visits were also conducted with various companies seeking their involvement in the program.

In the end eight companies participated, which was a very disappointing result based on the marketing undertaken. A similar program in Adelaide had been very successful in terms of company participation. The main difference in the South Australian approach was that the service was made available free of charge to participants through a 100%

¹ Power costs for Central Victorian Businesses - 22nd April 2002, City of Greater Bendigo.

subsidy from the Australian Greenhouse Office, whereas in the EEIP, participants had to pay for the auditing service (albeit at a subsidised rate) and was a real stumbling block in recruiting companies, many of which did not see the value in the services being offered when a cost was associated with participating.

The outcomes of the EEIP program were an estimated 480 tonnes per year of CO₂ saved through energy efficiency measures implemented by the participating companies.

Interesting feedback from some of these companies about their participation in the EEIP revealed that many of the energy management opportunities identified were not “rocket science” but were simply part of good management practice. See Appendix 3 for further information about this project.

Central Victorian Demand Tariff Energy (CVDTE) Project

Recently the City Of Greater Bendigo and the Bendigo Manufacturing Group conducted the Central Victorian Demand Tariff Energy (CVDTE) Project, funded by the Consumers Utilities Advocacy Centre (CUAC), a report containing the project findings and recommendations was published in September 2005².

The project involved 27 businesses and included some 30 sites in Central Victoria that had a combined annual spend on electricity of approx \$12.3 million.

The primary objectives of the project were to:

- establish the accuracy of the application of specific regulated charges on ‘demand-tariff’ business consumers;
- identify the standard of electricity management practices within these business consumers; and
- identify the impact on network charges from the reduction in the Transmission Equalisation Adjustment (TEA) payment for these business consumers.

The project findings included potential savings for the cohort of businesses of \$1.53 million through:

- improved electricity tendering and negotiating practices within businesses (\$990,000)
- ensuring businesses are on the most cost effective tariff (\$170,000); and
- more diligent management of electricity contract demand (\$358,000).

Included in the report were recommendations of particular relevance to this Inquiry:

3. In order to reduce the high transaction costs, provide local businesses with more information on the electricity market, network tariff structures, etc. In particular this could include:

- *Training workshops to more fully explain the operation of the deregulated electricity market and best practice techniques for negotiating retail electricity supply contracts plus account management and reconciliation processes.*
- *Provision of information on local network tariffs and rules of thumb on how these tariffs can be minimised. Again, this could be done via workshops.*
- *Facilitation of groups of SMEs who can jointly negotiate their retail electricity contracts. This will increase negotiating leverage and reduce negotiating overheads.*

² The full report can be accessed at <http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Files/EnergyManagementFinalProjReport.pdf>

- *Basic ‘energy management’ information that will help local consumers more wisely use energy, monitor monthly accounts and further reduce costs provided as a standing resource by the regulator or government.*

4. Establish mechanisms to provide local businesses with cost effective on-going support and professional advice including:

- *Approaching industry organisations to inform them of this report and assist in the facilitation of targeted workshops.*
- *The Essential Services Commission (ESC) mandate that all Distributors are to regularly (at least annually) liaise with their business customers, to ensure that businesses are on the most appropriate network tariff.*

The recommendations above are aimed at closing the information gap that clearly exists for many Central Victorian businesses about their understanding and knowledge of the energy market and energy management opportunities more generally.

The report highlighted that there is minimal interaction between retailers and their customers, except at the start and at the end of the contract period and this is mainly done via call centres rather than an actual visit by an account manager. With energy retailers selling electricity as a commodity rather than being bundled with other energy services, consumers are not being offered any advice beyond the pricing of their electricity.

As a result of the breakup of the electricity market, it is questionable that the retail sector of the deregulated industry has the necessary technical expertise to offer energy services advice based on its preferred channels for marketing their commodity. Although the electricity retailer which provides electricity to City of Greater Bendigo properties does offer a tariff analysis service of our sites to ensure that they are on the correct distribution tariff.

Distribution businesses still have much of the technical expertise that was available prior to deregulation. However, it is the view of many distributors that it is the retailer, rather than the distribution company, which should be the main interface with the customer over their electricity needs. Anecdotal evidence from a Canadian Federal Government energy efficiency expert, who visited Bendigo recently, revealed that he was surprised that there were not more obligations on the distributors to provide energy efficiency services to its customers like they have to in parts of Canada³.

Prior to deregulation, organisations such as the SECV and the Gas and Fuel Corporation were the main sources of energy management information and technical implementation assistance in the region. This source of expertise has dissipated over time as the industry has deregulated.

The current regulatory regime is focused mainly on supply side economics and price capping issues. An alternative, revenue capping approach, which puts a ceiling on earnings from electricity sales, can encourage distribution companies to boost revenues by “selling” conservation whenever it is more profitable than selling electricity.⁴

³ Conversation between John Pollock, City Of Greater Bendigo and Marius Lavoie, Project Manager, Buildings, CANMET Energy Technology Centre, Wednesday 11th January, Bendigo.

⁴ Inter American Development Bank - http://www.iadb.org/sds/IFM/publication/gen_154_217_e.htm.

Victorian Local Economic Development Project

The City Of Greater Bendigo is one of five pilot Councils from Victoria participating in a Cities for Climate Protection™ project facilitated by the Melbourne based Australia/New Zealand Office of ICLEI –Local Governments for Sustainability.

The Victorian Local Economic Development project aims to assist pilot councils to identify and commence implementation of a greenhouse friendly local economic development project that works to achieve the following objectives:

- Engage the economic development units within each of the pilot councils to build their capacity and recognise the links between economic development and greenhouse gas reduction;
- Identify the synergies between council's strategic planning policies, frameworks and processes, and how they relate to sustainable economic development.
- Deliver community greenhouse abatement that can be included in future Victorian Measures Reports.
- Explore the links between greenhouse friendly economic development, climate change and resilient communities.

A pilot project such as this has the potential to assist energy service companies to develop their products and services while achieving possible flow-on effects for communities of job creation, economic investment and greenhouse reduction. See Appendix 4 for further information about this project.

Advocacy and Promotional Role

As well as a user of energy services, the City of Greater Bendigo takes on an advocacy and promotional role for various energy services initiatives. One of the long standing initiatives the City Of Greater Bendigo's is proud to support is that of the GreenPlumbers® Training Program⁵.

To date, more than 3800 plumbers representing over 1800 plumbing businesses have completed one or more GreenPlumbers® training sessions.

GreenPlumbers® training programs are designed to assist plumbers in understanding their role in relation to Environmental & Public Health, and to provide their customers with up to date information and advise on:

- latest technology and energy saving appliances
- practical appliances & installation knowledge
- environmental impacts of plumbing services, appliances and household practices
- consumer information
- energy/water/cost savings (short term and long term cost comparisons and environmental benefits)

A number of training courses have been held here in Bendigo with 12 local plumbing organisations accredited with having completed one (or more) of the GreenPlumbers training courses.

⁵ The GreenPlumbers® program was developed by the Master Plumbers & Mechanical Services Association of Australia (MPMSAA) from an initial project in 2000/01. For further information see www.greenplumbers.com.au.

The City of Greater Bendigo notes with interest that a similar information and training program for 100 electrical contractors, trades and related services has been funded on a trial basis by the Federal Government through the Cities for Climate Protection Program to be run in the Moreland City Council, Hume City Council and City of Darebin Municipalities⁶. Given our experiences with the lack of local expertise in the energy services sector, a program offering basic energy management technologies and services training to trades such as electricians would help to develop relevant local expertise.

The City of Greater Bendigo, primarily through the Bendigo Manufacturing Group, informs the local manufacturing community about energy management issues relevant to that sector. A program that may be of interest to local industry that is about to commence in Bendigo is a joint initiative between the Australian Industry Group (AiG) and Sustainability Victoria. See Appendix 5 for further information about this project.

The City of Greater Bendigo also strongly supports the local 'Energy Information Partnership' between Access Employment and Sustainability Victoria over the provision of energy efficiency and renewable energy information to rural and regional residents, community groups and businesses in the Central Victorian Region.

⁶ Further information is available at <http://www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2005/mr23dec05.html>

Appendix 1 –Climate Care Partnership tender documentation

November 2002

Subject: Invitation for a submission detailing your organisation's capability, capacity and ethos for a potential partnership arrangement with the City of Greater Bendigo to increase energy efficiency and improve climate care.

Improved energy efficiency, a reduction of our region's greenhouse gas emissions and environmental sustainability are regarded as essential by the City of Greater Bendigo. As such, Council's Economic Development Unit is exploring a new approach to access the specialist skills, knowledge and expertise within this complex multi discipline energy – climate care sector.

The anticipated mutual benefits from a proposed energy - climate care focused partnership with the City would be generated from a diverse range of activities with industry, community and the Council.

Industry perspective

At times of continual increases in costs for all forms of energy, the consideration of options including the adoption of energy efficient practices is paramount for local industry to remain competitive. Similarly, a growing community demand is anticipated for manufactured products recognised as being environmentally friendly. This is especially so as local industries undertake expansion into national and global markets. For example, opportunities exist for the implementation of environmental management systems in industries as diverse as manufacturing to tourism. Businesses can strengthen their operations through energy efficient and / or environmentally sustainable technologies and practices, recognition from being environmentally responsible and as market leaders in their respective fields.

Community perspective

Residents are seeking ways to contribute to the medium to long term environmental sustainability of the region. The recent declaration of National and State Parks means Bendigo is now the largest regional city in Victoria (and possibly Australia) to be surrounded by forests. Within this unique environment, new opportunities exist for profiling and implementing 'clean' energy technologies and efficient energy practices. It should be noted that holistic strategic planning is required to be undertaken to maximise community participation and benefits. However, many related sectors such as land development, construction (commercial and residential building design, construction and landscape), agro forestry, waste management (including re-use of waste water), financial and other business professional services have demonstrated a genuine interest to be involved in a sustainable focus on improving climate care.

Greater Bendigo Council

Through the Cities for Climate Protection program, Local Government is striving to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide leadership in this field.

In recent times, much headway has been made by a diverse range of companies in the energy - climate care areas. **However, it is the complexity within the energy sector especially and a lack of knowledge, skills and expertise of these technologies and**

their applications within communities that restricts areas such as the City of Greater Bendigo from capitalising on the opportunities from a ‘clean energy / climate care’ approach.

To this end, on behalf of all sectors within the City of Greater Bendigo, submissions of no more than four (4) pages are invited from suitably resourced and skilled organisations that have a demonstrated capability to provide a range of related services and project activities. As a guide, the submission should address your organisation’s capability in the following areas.

- Development of local energy generation
- Demonstrated increase in energy efficiency, especially for small to medium enterprises
- Increased use of alternative fuels that reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Development and establishment of agro forestry projects
- Improved greenhouse awareness and technical capabilities of service providers.
- Development and implementation of an education strategy to heighten awareness of Greenhouse Gas emissions and of energy efficiency measures within the community.
- Improvements in the efficiency of street lights and use of alternatives such as the use of photovoltaic technologies.
- Assisting Council in reducing energy use through staff education and advice on technologies.

Your submission would also need to outline your organisation’s broad partnership commitment terms and anticipated reciprocal requirements for the development of a mutual agreement between Council and your organisation.

A paper that outlines a range of City of Greater Bendigo energy - climate care needs is included as Attachment 1 to provide background information to assist with the completion of your submission.

An innovative approach to providing energy efficiency and improving climate care in the City of Greater Bendigo is required in your submission. Guidelines for your submission are included in Attachment 2

For further information, please contact Mr Jeff Bothe, Industry Development Officer on (03) 5434 6197 or email j.bothe@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Submissions marked ‘Confidential Energy – Climate Care partnership’ are to be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer, City of Greater Bendigo, P. O. Box 733, Bendigo 3552 to arrive no later than 6th December 2002.

Yours sincerely

**BRIAN GOULD
EXECUTIVE MANAGER
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Attachment 1

Examples of City of Greater Bendigo ‘energy – climate care’ needs

‘Energy – climate care’ needs are provided within the following three categories – Industry, Community and Local Government. It should be noted that these details are provided as a guide only and should not be interpreted as the complete scope of potential products and services being required by the Council.

Industry needs include

- Improvement in energy efficiency – includes development and implementation of Energy Management Systems that incorporate elements such as improving companies power factors, reducing load peaks, adoption of efficient lighting and solar hot water.
- Improvement in energy efficiency in new / retrofits to commercial and residential building design and developments.
- Development of distributed energy generation - including waste to energy, co-generation, wind and solar or combinations thereof of any of these applications.
- Development / upgrade to provide energy efficient industrial parks.
- Alternative fuels for vehicles including cost effective fuels for commercial / heavy vehicles.
- Improvement in greenhouse awareness and technical capabilities of service providers.
- Improvement in industry awareness and education on energy efficient practices.

Community needs include

- Improvement in energy efficiency such as the adoption of solar hot water, purchase of energy efficient appliances.
- Increase in the adoption of environmentally sustainable building design, construction, maintenance and landscape for residential development.
- Development and establishment of agro-forestry projects.
- Development of clean / renewable energy generation through the installation of photovoltaic panels or other appropriate alternatives.
- Increased use of alternative fuels that reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions.
- Improvement in residential and community awareness and education on energy efficient practices including the conduct of an education program of householders to heighten awareness of Greenhouse Gas emissions and of energy efficiency measures.

Local government needs include

- Improvement in the efficiency of streetlights and the possible use of photovoltaic technology.
- Assisting Council in reducing energy use through staff education and advice on clean energy technology.
- Improvement in energy efficiency in buildings.
- Effective use of waste management streams.
- Provision of green energy.
- Development and establishment of agro forestry projects.

Note: Organisations are encouraged to provide details of additional ideas / concepts for the partnership.

Attachment 2

Guidelines for submissions on the City of Greater Bendigo 'energy – climate care' partnership initiative

Submissions of no more than **four (4) pages** are required that provide substantiated details of your organisation's capability and capacity to undertake 'energy – climate care' services and project activities to assist Greater Bendigo's industry, community and Council achieve their vision.

Your organisation should clearly identify the sector and related activities to which your stated capabilities and capacities apply. It should be noted that the focus of your submission must be on your organisation's related skills, knowledge and expertise. Where the skills, knowledge and expertise referred to in your submission are provided through a second party, you must identify the related company and define its relationship with your organisation.

Your organisation is requested to consider including a summary of / concept for additional initiatives that have the capacity to contribute further recognisable energy - climate benefits to the municipality.

Your organisation's ethos to energy – climate care.

Whilst attachments to your submission are encouraged, the primary information must be incorporated within the 'four (4) page' document.

Your organisation should include a designated contact person and related liaison details for follow-up by Economic Development Unit staff.

Your organisation should outline your broad partnership commitment terms and reciprocal requirements for the development a mutually agreed partnership with Council. This includes any financial arrangements you may wish to note at this stage.

Submissions marked 'Confidential Energy – Climate Care' partnership are to be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer, City of Greater Bendigo, P. O. Box 733, Bendigo 3552 to arrive no later than Friday, 6th December 2002.

Appendix 2 –Community Action Fund - Climate Care Partnership June 2003

Energy Efficiency in Industry Program

Companies that participate in the 12 month Program can access energy efficiency experience and advice including:

- Assistance from an Origin Energy Engineer to develop an Energy Efficiency Action Plan for their business;
- Participation in 3 workshops to share experiences with other organisations on their energy management activities and experiences; and
- Assistance with project implementation to realise potential savings identified from the Action Plan.

Council Operations

Retrofitting a Council building to identify and reduce energy waste and improve energy efficiency in its operations.

General Community

Bendigo residents who install solar systems in their homes between 1 July 2003 and 30 June 2004 will, through the Solar System Installation Rebate Incentive Scheme (SSIRIS), receive an installation rebate in addition to the cost of equipment rebates currently available from the State and Federal Governments.

Conduct a series of 4 workshops to provide information on household energy usage, potential for energy savings and energy efficient technologies. In addition, strategic information will be provided with the issue of planning and building permits and to stakeholders within the building sector.

Appendix 3 –Energy Efficiency in Industry Program (EEIP)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN INDUSTRY PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN INDUSTRY PROGRAM (EEIP)?

A program that brings together like- industries to:

- work as a sub-groups to explore and identify best practice to reduce energy recurrent costs
- undertake an analysis of energy usage and practices to identify priority actions
- access energy expertise and knowledge within Origin Energy to address specific energy development and efficiency needs
- advise on the implementation of energy efficient capital and resource investment

WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THE EEIP?

The EEIP is a 12 month pilot program, however, ongoing access to Origin Energy experts will be possible for up to 2 years post program completion.

WHAT TYPE OF BUSINESSES WOULD MOST BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE EEIP?

Small to medium enterprises with an annual expenditure of \$30,000 or more on electricity, natural and / or liquid petroleum gas.

HOW MANY BUSINESSES ARE PROPOSED TO BE IN THE EEIP?

It is planned to have 30 businesses working in 4 like-industry groups in the program.

Note all businesses will have direct access to Origin Energy experts on a continuous basis once the program has commenced.

What are the anticipated outcomes from the EEIP?

Benefits for participating businesses include:

- reduction in recurrent energy costs. A similar program conducted in Adelaide during 2002 involving 30 businesses, resulted in an 11% reduction in energy costs in Year 1, equating to \$302,000.
- confidence in decision making on energy efficient capital and resource investment through an enhanced understanding of energy, its usage within the business and options to improve energy efficiency
- more knowledgeable and skilled staff
- reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (noting that EPA have initiated the implementation of the State Environmental Protection Policy – Air Quality Management regulation.)

What does it cost to participate in the EEIP?

3% of annual energy expenditure or \$400 per quarter whichever is the lesser for the participating business.

Further Information

Please contact:

- Jeff Bothe, Industry Development Officer, City of Greater Bendigo on phone 5434 6197 or email j.bothe@bendigo.vic.gov.au , or
- Michael Dadour, Energy Efficiency, Origin Energy on phone 9652 5596 or email michaeldadour@originenergy.com.au

Appendix 4 - Victorian Local Economic Development Pilot Project

Background

Australian local governments have a long history of involvement in the economic development of their community. This involvement includes policies to encourage local job creation, new industry development, regional development approaches and creating networks amongst like industries.

With a shift towards addressing the long-term ‘sustainability’ of their communities, many local governments are now looking at the possibilities of more specifically focussing on ‘sustainable’ economic development. This type of economic development aims to deliver economic, social and environmental outcomes for their communities.

The Cities for Climate Protection^{®7} (CCP) program has been working with councils in Australia since 1998 to identify and implement projects that reduce council’s corporate and community greenhouse emissions. In many cases, these projects deliver an economic benefit (saving) and can lead to the creation of employment within the CCP participant’s local area.

By linking the CCP program and economic development through implementing a ‘greenhouse friendly’ local economic development project, pilot councils in the Victorian Local Economic Development (LED) Pilot Project have the opportunity to deliver on their sustainable development goals and objectives.

The Victorian LED Pilot Project presents your council the opportunity to deliver a project that promotes the link between council’s existing greenhouse and economic development programs.

The pilot project has been made possible by the CCP Rural Victoria program and the collaboration between ICLEI–A/NZ and the State Government of Victoria through the Department for Sustainability and Environment.

⁷ CCP Rural Victoria is an ICLEI-A/NZ program delivered in collaboration with the Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of Environment and Heritage and the State Government of Victoria. This unique initiative increases the knowledge and capacity of rural and regional local governments in the area of greenhouse gas accounting and abatement.

Cities for Climate Protection, CCP and the CCP logo are both registered trademarks of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Aust/NZ

Objectives of the Pilot Project

Through a process facilitated by ICLEI-A/NZ, pilot councils will identify and commence implementation of a greenhouse friendly local economic development project that works to achieve the following objectives:

- Engage the economic development units within each of the pilot councils to build their capacity and recognise the links between economic development and greenhouse gas reduction;
- Identify the synergies between council's strategic planning policies, frameworks and processes, and how they relate to sustainable economic development.
- Deliver community greenhouse abatement that can be included in future Victorian Measures Reports.
- Explore the links between greenhouse friendly economic development, climate change and resilient communities.

Benefits for Participating Pilot Councils

The project framework will increase the pilot council's capacity to achieve greenhouse friendly local economic development outcomes. The benefits for councils participating in this process will include:

- Access to project implementation funding of \$10,000 (plus GST);
- No cost to join;
- Development of inter-council networks on greenhouse friendly economic development;
- Greater cross-council involvement in greenhouse friendly economic development;
- Identification of the synergies between council's strategic planning policies, frameworks and processes, and how they relate to greenhouse friendly economic development; and
- Possible flow-on effects for communities of job creation, economic investment, greenhouse reduction.

Appendix 5 - Australian Industry Group Resource Efficiency Program



Australian Industry Group Resource Efficiency Program

Resource efficiency advisers, Sandra Wilson and Mathew Walker, are now available to work with business. This service is free and available to Victorian member companies in manufacturing with less than 200 employees. The program is provided through a partnership with the Victorian Government to improve sustainability in Victoria's industry.

The resource efficiency advisers can:

- Review current materials usage and waste disposal;
- Provide on-site resource efficiency and waste assessment;
- In consultation with your business, develop an action plan to guide improvements; and
- Provide ongoing support to assist with implementation of the action plan.

By networking with all levels of Government, Sandra and Mathew are able to advise members of additional funding opportunities and incentive schemes available to achieve improved environmental performance at member factories. Part of the program will include workshops and establishment of networking groups to assist business work together to achieve improved resource efficiency.

For further information please contact:

Sandra Wilson on 0400 466 870, swilson@aigroup.asn.au

Mathew Walker on (03) 9867 0145, mwalker@aigroup.asn.au