



Helping deliver savings for business and the environment

EPA Victoria's Environment Resource and Efficiency Plans (EREP) program is helping businesses achieve large resource savings and improve their bottom line through reduced energy, water and waste costs.

EREP participants often find improvements can be made without major capital expenditure, so financial returns are fast.





Resource efficiency boosts the bottom line

Introduced in 2008, the EREP program is already set to achieve savings of over \$70 million each year for the 250 Victorian sites participating in the program.

Businesses are also finding they can create a strong competitive advantage by cutting costs and reducing their greenhouse emissions through the initiatives identified in their EREP.

A unique regulatory program run by EPA Victoria, EREP applies to large energy and water using sites consuming more than 100TJ of energy and/or 120 ML of water annually. This is equivalent to more than 2000 Melburnians water usage or enough energy to power around 2000 average Victorian households. Sites which use less than these amounts are encouraged to participate voluntarily.

Large energy and water users are required to show they have assessed their operations, identified opportunities to improve resource efficiency and prioritised these actions.

Importantly, actions which pay for themselves within three years must be implemented. To date, EPA has found that the average payback period of mandatory actions is about 10 months.

To date, EREP participants have committed to actions that will deliver energy savings of over 4500 TJ per year (enough to power around 90,000 households) and water savings of over 5000 million litres per year (equivalent to around 90,000 Melburnians' water usage).

Their energy savings will also deliver greenhouse gas reductions of 900,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

Warrnambool Cheese and Butter reaps significant resource savings from modest investment



By synchronising the operations of its refrigerated condensers and repairing compressed air leaks, The Warrnambool Cheese and Butter Factory estimates it will cut energy usage by around 5 TJ annually.

Several water efficiency projects are in progress, including replacing more mains water with clean condensate water and better management of seal water flow and hose water.

The company has also committed to improving its CIP (cleaning in place) processes, despite the project having a payback period of over three years. The project will allow water and chemicals to be reused, saving a considerable amount of chemicals and 50 ML of water per year.

Iluka Resources fine-tunes new plant for more than \$200,000 in energy savings



Iluka Resources Ltd is the world's largest producer of zircon and second largest of titanium dioxide. In Hamilton, Victoria, the company is involved in the production and processing of mineral sands.

Iluka Resources fine-tuned the plant's energy consumption and expects to cut usage by almost 8,000 GJ per year, saving more than \$149,000. Optimising the operation of the filterbelt – which removes water from minerals before drying – is estimated to save a further \$64,000 annually.

Annual EREP program savings

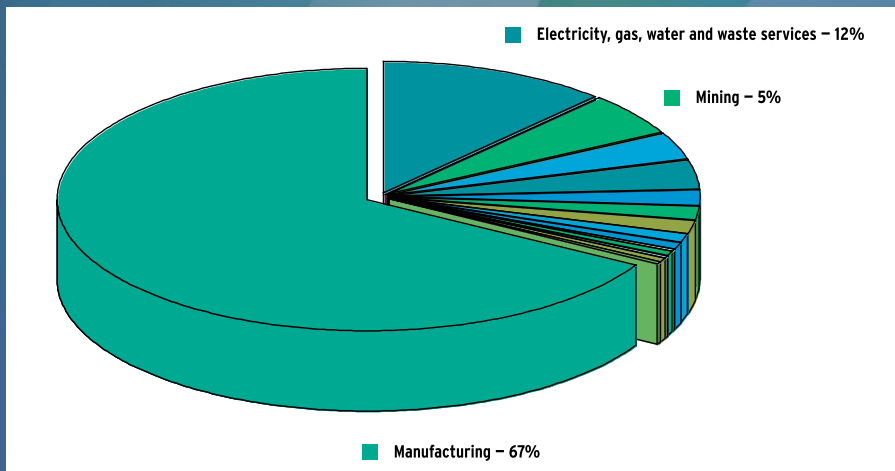
(from actions with a payback period of three years or less)

Energy:	more than 4500 TJ, enough to power around 90,000 households*
Greenhouse gases (CO₂-e):	more than 900,000 t
Water:	more than 5000 ML, around 90,000 Melburnians' annual water usage**
Solid waste:	more than 100,000 t
Liquid waste:	more than 900 ML
Financial Savings:	\$70 million
Average payback period:	around 10 months

* Based on 2005 average usage (source: www.environment.gov.au) ** Based on Target 155 (source: www.ourwater.vic.gov.au)

Who's participating?

EREP participants come from a range of sectors including metals and chemicals manufacturing, food and beverage manufacturing, shopping centres, metropolitan hospitals, universities and sporting facilities.



EREP builds on the successful Industry Greenhouse Program (IGP). At the end of 2007, IGP was expected to have delivered greenhouse gas savings of 1.23 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents and savings to business of \$38.2 million annually, with actions paying for themselves in less than two years.

What's in an EREP?

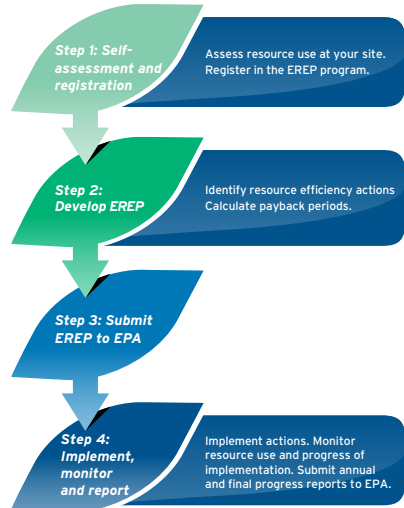
- Resource profile (baseline) data: energy, water use and waste generation.
- Assessment of major energy, water using and waste-generating activities.
- Actions to reduce energy, water and waste.
- Costs, savings and efficiency gains expected from each action.
- Payback periods for each action.
- Timeframes and responsibilities for implementing actions.
- Monitoring, reporting and review process.

Assistance for businesses

EPA Victoria works with businesses to help achieve resource and financial efficiency savings. Visit EPA's website, where you'll find:

- guidelines that explain EREP regulatory requirements
- a self-assessment tool with a calculator that helps businesses assess energy, water use and waste generation
- a toolkit with five modules to guide businesses through site assessments, setting up resource efficiency management systems, identifying best practice actions, calculating payback periods and more
- an online system that enables businesses to manage resource use and waste generation data, prepare and submit action plans and track efficiency over time
- case studies that illustrate the achievements of Victorian businesses in reducing their resource use and improving their bottom line through greater efficiencies.

To find out more about the EREP program visit www.epa.vic.gov.au/erep, contact the team at erep@epa.vic.gov.au or call us on 03 9695 2722.



EREP program steps



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