



The °Climate Group

Sustainability
Covenant

THE °CLIMATE GROUP



Sustainability Covenant

This voluntary SUSTAINABILITY COVENANT is a statutory agreement under section 49AA of the Environment Protection Act 1970 made on the 26th day of June 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-

The °Climate Group Limited of Level 39, Rialto Building, 525 Collins St, Melbourne, Victoria.

In which the parties will work together to:

- increase the capacity of the parties to influence the resource efficiency and ecological impact of the communities, including business, government and non-government organisations that they work with.
- develop and implement a program that supports retail business to offer low carbon products and services to their customers.
- share data to enable a greenhouse gas indicator to be published on the EPA Victoria's website.

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 therefore is a signatory to this Sustainability Covenant.

Background

EPA's vision is 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. Communities must keep finding new and better ways to produce desired goods and services in order to lead the lifestyles aspired to. One key to doing this is to foster and harness innovation.

To this end, EPA collaborates with various segments of the Victorian community, including business and industry, other government agencies, NGOs and the general public, particularly with those who are leaders in supporting innovation. It is also collaborating with leading international organisations and experts who are contributing to the goal of achieving sustainable societies. EPA aims to bring these partners together to help build society's capacity to progress towards sustainability.

Increasingly, the most critical environmental issue facing the community, business and industry is the impact of climate change. Reducing greenhouse gas levels is vital for the future of our planet and, consequently, fundamental to truly sustainable business operations. Development of approaches and strategies to equip businesses to plan for, manage and respond to climate change is essential.

Objectives of the Covenant

Through this Partnership, EPA will draw on the experience of The °Climate Group and its associated networks to support EPA's climate change programs. EPA will seek The °Climate Group's advice on how to assist Victorian businesses to create opportunities from Climate Change. This will ensure that efforts in Victoria to tackle the effects of climate change are informed by The °Climate Group's international experience.

EPA will provide support, including funding, to the The °Climate Group for the development and promotion of the "Together" program. The program will assist business to offer products to consumers that will enable them to lower their carbon footprint.

Ultimately, the Partnership aims to help make Victoria a place where the environment is routinely viewed as a business opportunity, not a business cost.

Parties to the Covenant

The °Climate Group

The °Climate Group is an independent not-for-profit organisation dedicated to advancing business and government leadership on climate change. The group is based in the UK, USA, Australia, China and India and operates internationally.

The °Climate Group works to accelerate international action on global warming with a strong focus on practical solutions. It promotes the development and sharing of expertise on how business and government can lead the way towards a low carbon economy whilst boosting profitability and competitiveness.

Mission:

To catalyse business and government leadership on climate change in order to put the world on track for a low carbon economy.

Key values:

- **Collaboration:** Wherever appropriate, The °Climate Group works through strategic partnerships. It strives to respect and acknowledge their partners' contributions.
- **Responsiveness:** The urgency of the need for action on climate change underpins its activities. It strives to be dynamic, responsive and focused on real, measurable results.
- **Independence:** That its work is independent and politically neutral is essential to its success. It will strive to remain free of influence from any person, group, organisation, institution, supporter or sector of society.

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, tackle climate change, enhance our reputation and benefit the economy.

Commitments of the Covenant

The following commitments are intended to achieve the overall objectives of this covenant. They are designed to ensure that international expertise on climate change risks and opportunities is consistently applied to the strategies and approaches adopted by the Victorian community.

General Commitments	Specific Commitments
Promotion of events and programs that support the goals of this covenant.	Support of the delivery of and promotion of The °Climate Group's "Together" campaign in Australia. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to \$90,000 will be provided to support the delivery of this program.
Sharing knowledge and expanding sustainability networks.	The °Climate Group and EPA will identify opportunities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share knowledge and resources in areas of mutual interest such as the commercial implications of climate change and strategies to address its impacts, particularly carbon neutrality approaches.• Support and expand an international climate change network through the introduction and networking of likeminded organisations and individuals.
As required, advise and comment on development and proposed implementation of specific programs for both parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EPA will seek advice from The °Climate Group on climate change-related programs focused on supporting Victorian business innovation, such as the "Carbon Innovators Network".• The °Climate Group will seek advice and technical support from EPA for its programs.
Provision of climate change related information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The °Climate Group will provide EPA with Victorian Greenhouse Gas data for display on the EPA Internet site.

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 jointly liaise to agree any actions relevant to the achievement of the commitments. These actions may then, as necessary, be formalised through arrangements such as Memoranda of Understanding, Contracts or Letters of Agreement.

The parties will review the progress of the covenant annually to identify any additional and/or replacement actions, 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 the websites of the parties.

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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