

Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans (EREP) and Water Management Action Plans (waterMAP)



This fact sheet describes the relationship between the Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans (EREP) program led by EPA Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment's (DSE) waterMAP program. Victoria's water corporations administer the waterMAP program. The EREP program has been specifically designed to avoid duplication with other programs.

This fact sheet is a guide only. More detailed information about the requirements of both programs is available through program regulations and the guidance material referenced at the end of this fact sheet.

Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans overview

The Victorian Government's Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans program is a new, innovative regulatory program to help businesses reduce water and energy use and waste generation. The program is designed to support business efforts to improve the way resources are used and, importantly, save businesses money.

From 1 January 2008, all commercial and industrial sites in Victoria that use more than **100 TJ of energy and/or 120 ML of water** in a financial year need to prepare a plan that identifies actions to improve resource efficiency. These businesses need to assess their resource use and register with EPA by 31 March 2008, prepare a plan by 31 December 2008, then implement all actions with a three-year or better payback period.

waterMAP overview

The waterMAP program seeks to improve the water efficiency of major water-using commercial, industrial and institutional sites. Non-residential customers that use **10 ML/year** or more of potable water from an urban supply must register with their water corporation and develop and submit a waterMAP. The

conditions of the waterMAP program are outlined in all of Victoria's water corporations' Permanent Water Saving Plans created under the *Water Act 1989* and *Water Industry Act 1993* and are therefore mandatory.

Aligning program requirements

Due to the continued pressure on Victoria's water storages, major water users need to more efficiently manage their water use as a matter of priority. For this reason, water users needed to submit waterMAPs to water corporations by December 2007.

It is estimated that approximately 10–15 per cent of waterMAP participants will need to register and participate in the EREP program. The first plans under EREP need to be submitted by 31 December 2008.

DSE, the water corporations and EPA have been working together to coordinate the requirements and reporting for the waterMAP and EREP programs. This on-going work will help businesses to:

- use the partial exemption process so that their waterMAP may meet part of their EREP requirements (where appropriate)
- coordinate annual reporting requirements.

Water use data

Both the waterMAP and EREP programs require sites to collect baseline water data at the site level. Sites are encouraged to use data collected for waterMAP for their EREP.

One key difference between the two programs is the scope of water sources to be included. The differences are outlined in the table on page 2.

Once a site triggers the EREP water use threshold of 120 ML/year, all water use (including rainwater, recycled water etc) on site must be assessed in the development of its EREP.

Summary of program requirements

	EREP PROGRAM	WATERMAP PROGRAM
Who must participate	Commercial and industrial sites using more than 100 TJ of energy or 120 ML of water per year	Non-residential sites using more than 10 ML of water per year
Who is not required to participate	Residential housing and primary production (with the exception of intensive livestock production and agricultural product processing)	Residential housing
Water use to determine participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supplied by an urban water corporation (excluding recycled water) • Licensed groundwater extraction • Bulk entitlements 	Potable water from an urban water corporation
Main requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-assess energy and water use and register with EPA • Assess major energy and water-using and waste-generating activities at the site • Prepare an EREP that includes actions to reduce energy, water and waste • Implement actions that have a payback period of three years or less • Report on implementation progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register with the water corporation • Assess water use at the site • Prepare a waterMAP that includes actions to reduce potable water use • Report on implementation
Implementation of actions	Mandatory implementation of actions with payback period of three years or less	Implementation of actions not mandatory, but businesses must report on implementation

Program exclusions

Residential housing sites are excluded from both programs. Primary production sites, with the exception of intensive livestock production and agricultural product processing, are not required to participate in the EREP program.

Assessment

The EREP program requires a more detailed resource efficiency assessment than waterMAP. EREP also requires an assessment of energy use and waste generation, while the waterMAP program only requires assessment of water use.

Implementation

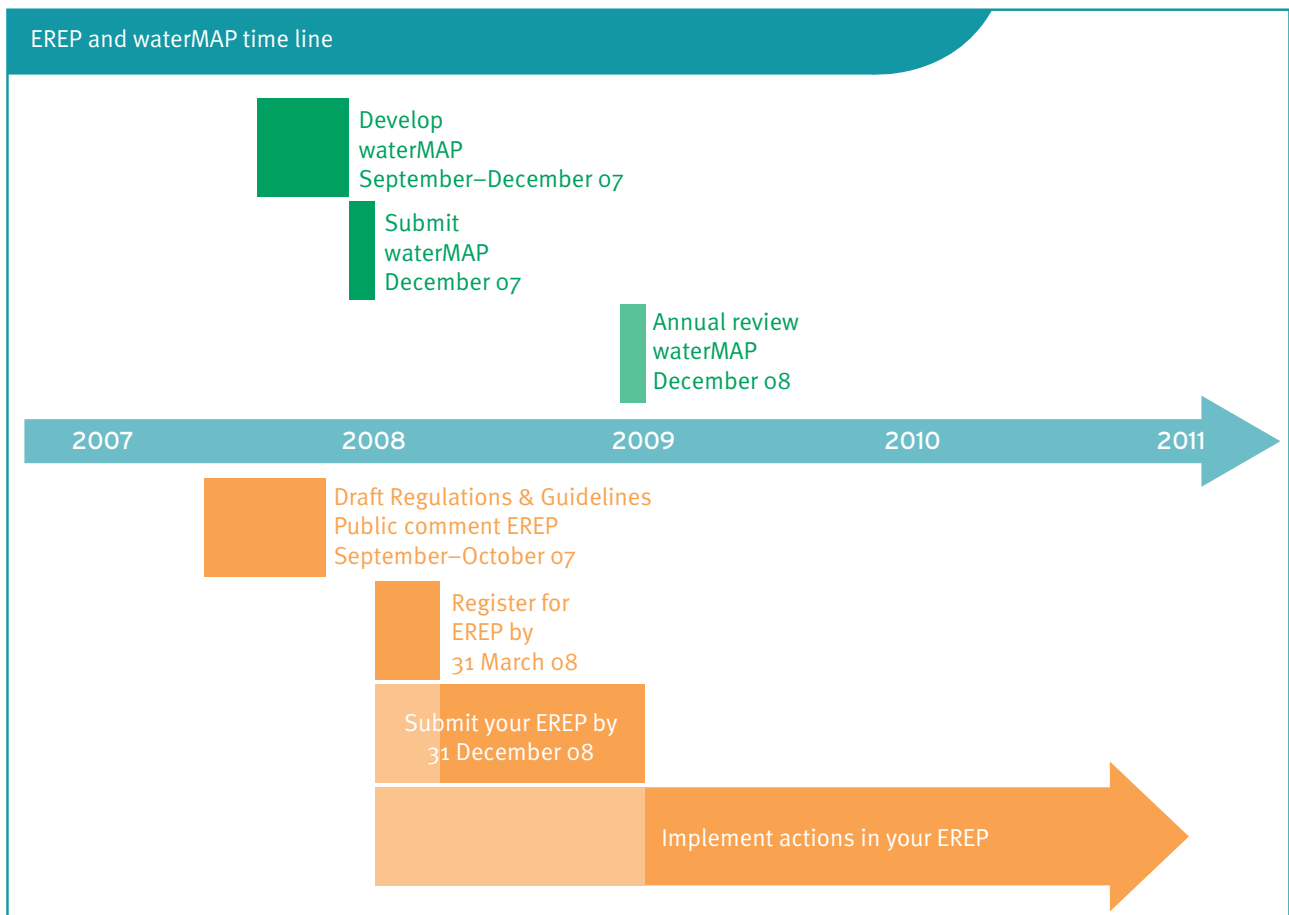
The EREP program requires sites to identify resource efficiency actions, prioritise actions and implement all actions that have a three-year or less payback period.

In the waterMAP program, once sites identify water saving actions and calculate the financial payback periods, actions have to be ordered into short, medium and long-term projects based on payback period and ease of implementation. The waterMAP program allows sites to decide which and how many water efficiency actions to implement.

Annual reporting

The waterMAP program requires sites to report annually to their local water corporation on the implementation of their waterMAP and water savings. The water corporations can also require a site to improve their waterMAP if necessary.

The ongoing reporting obligations of waterMAP can be incorporated into annual EREP reports in the same format that they are submitted to water corporations, including water consumption and action implementation progress.



The EREP program requires businesses to report annually to EPA for the reporting period. Except for the first year, annual reports must be submitted within three months of the end of each financial year, or another reporting period agreed with EPA. For the first year of the program, businesses only need to report resource use data for the reporting period of 2007–08 and can submit this by **31 December 2008**.

Exemptions

To avoid duplicating resource efficiency work already done at your site in preparing your waterMAP, you may be able to apply for partial exemption from preparing the water section of your EREP. If you have done similar work in the areas of energy and waste as well, you may be able to apply for a complete exemption. For an exemption application to be accepted, your work must include all the necessary elements of an EREP, such as baseline data, planned actions, costs and payback periods and timeframes

for implementation, as outlined in the EREP Guidelines. If approved as an exemption, this work will be considered an alternative plan and reporting and implementation requirements against this plan will be the same as that required in an EREP.

If you feel that your site's waterMAP includes all of the required elements, please contact EPA to discuss this work and your interest in applying for a partial or complete exemption before lodging an application. EPA can help you to assess this work and can ensure that the best approach to recognising it is taken.

Any application for exemption must be made during the program registration period from **1 January to 31 March 2008**. Any application for exemption will need to include documents that show that an alternative plan meets the EREP requirements.



More information

If you have any comments or questions about the EREP program, please feel free to contact the EREP team:

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For more detailed information on the waterMAP and EREP program requirements, please see the publications below.

Victorian *Environment Protection Act 1970*, EREP Regulations and EREP Guidelines
www.epa.vic.gov.au/erep

Permanent Water Saving Rules (water management action plans)

www.dse.vic.gov.au/DSE/wcmn202.nsf/LinkView/6B5CB6CD7DA72F3BCA256FE8008016BEA268035613FA4506CA256FDD00136E15