

HazWaste Fund and Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans (EREP)



This fact sheet outlines how businesses participating in the EREP program may receive support through the HazWaste Fund.

HazWaste Fund support is available for companies that generate hazardous waste. This includes companies that are participating in the Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans (EREP) Program.

This fact sheet is as a guide only. More detailed information about both programs is available on EPA's website or by contacting EPA (details at the end of this fact sheet).

HazWaste Fund overview

In January 2007, the Victorian Government decided not to proceed with a long-term containment facility at Nowingi. Instead it adopted a three-pronged strategy to reduce hazardous waste:

1. Increase landfill levies to set a market price point that makes avoidance, reuse and recycling alternatives more financially attractive to industry.
2. Reinvest the landfill levies back into industry to support the avoidance of waste generation, reuse, recycling and advanced treatment technologies.
3. Put in place policy and regulatory drivers to divert waste from landfill, such as banning large containers and oil filters from landfill.

The Government's HazWaste Fund has been established and is managed by EPA Victoria to support industry and reinvest the landfill levies back into industry. This fund is specifically designed to support hazardous waste-generating sectors.

The broad investment categories are:

1. new technologies, investment and implementation support.
2. innovation, research and development studies (includes site-specific research and development and general market/technology/contaminant R&D) and demonstration.
3. knowledge and capacity building.

Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans overview

The Victorian Government's Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans program is an innovative, new 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.

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 that have a three-year or better payback period.



Frequently asked questions

Why has the Government created the HazWaste Fund?

The Victorian Government has established the HazWaste Fund to help achieve its commitment to eliminating high-hazard waste disposal by 2020. To further support this goal, in July 2008 hazardous waste landfill levies will increase to \$250 per tonne for Category B waste and \$70 per tonne for Category C waste.

Is my site eligible to apply for support through the HazWaste Fund?

Businesses that generate hazardous wastes are eligible to apply, including sites that are participating in the EREP program.

How can businesses participating in the EREP program access the HazWaste Fund?

Businesses preparing an EREP during 2008 can apply for HazWaste Fund support for activities that go beyond the minimum compliance requirements of an EREP. We encourage you to talk to EPA about your individual situation and to find out more about the support we can provide.

Some activities that may be eligible for HazWaste Fund support include:

- an advanced literature review of hazardous waste reduction options specific to your industry
- detailed sampling and analysis of hazardous waste streams
- trials of new equipment or processes
- external waste or process-specific expertise
- life-cycle costing of your waste streams.

What will it cost my business to be involved?

The aim is to identify solutions that will benefit your business's bottom line. In doing this, your costs will be kept to a minimum and the HazWaste Fund will greatly assist in covering the external expenses incurred. Costs can be discussed further during your first meeting with a HazWaste Fund project manager.

What are the benefits of applying for support?

The cost to dispose of hazardous waste continues to increase. This fund is designed to help you identify options for reducing hazardous waste generation and disposal. It may also assist you in accessing additional HazWaste Fund support for capital projects identified as part of the research.

How do I register my interest or find out more?

To discuss the HazWaste Fund please contact EPA's Business Sustainability Unit on 9695 2722 or business.programs@epa.vic.gov.au.

More information

For more information on the EREP program go to epa.vic.gov.au/erep or contact the EREP team on erep@epa.vic.gov.au or 9695 2722.