

ecoBiz Queensland

Great for business. Great for the environment.

Fact sheet
Introduction to
ecoBiz



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environment.

ecoBiz is the EPA's signature partnership program with Queensland business and industry. **ecoBiz** can help your business to achieve cost savings and take advantage of the profitability of improved environmental performance.

By taking closer account of the energy, water and materials that are used to produce goods and services, **ecoBiz** participants are showing that it is possible to do more with less.

Ultimately, the business outcomes of improved eco-efficiency include stronger market position, competitive advantage and growth.

ecoBiz dividends are most likely to be seen in cost savings through reduced energy and water consumption, and more productive use of materials.

What sets the **ecoBiz** program apart from other eco-efficiency tools, is that it provides the user with a simple methodology for defining resource costs in terms of units of production. This assists a business to prioritise areas for improvement, and enables accurate calculations of payback periods.

In addition to establishing new process benchmarks, some businesses find that eco-efficiency initiatives make a major contribution to continuous improvement and innovation. Ultimately the business outcomes are competitive advantage, a stronger market position and growth.

Eco-efficiency savings directly increase profit.

**Given 5% margin:
\$1000 of savings equates to
\$20,000 of sales every year!**

Business benefits

Achieve **resource and cost savings** through:

- more efficient use of energy, materials and water
- reduced solid and liquid waste disposal
- better productivity
- improved staff morale
- risk minimisation.

Gain **competitive advantage** by meeting:

- community expectations for better environmental performance
- growing demand for 'environmentally friendly' goods and services
- supply chain expectations based on international standards
- the challenge of positioning your organisation in the marketplace ahead of competitors.

Participant privileges

Once a business has completed step 6 in the **ecoBiz** process, they are deemed to be an **ecoBiz Partner** and permitted to use the **ecoBiz** symbol (see below) on communication and promotional material. This demonstrates that the business has made eco-efficient improvements.

When an **ecoBiz Partner** achieves outstanding levels of environmental and economic performance, the EPA will promote these achievements.

Another feature of the program is the rebate scheme, which is designed to assist with the capital cost of projects that demonstrate a high level of innovation, increase recycling, and conserve water and energy.

Rebate assistance for projects ranges from \$1000 to a maximum of \$150,000, with the rebate payable after completing activities identified in the **ecoBiz** Action Plan. Rebates are limited to a maximum of 30 percent of capital equipment costs.



Where to start

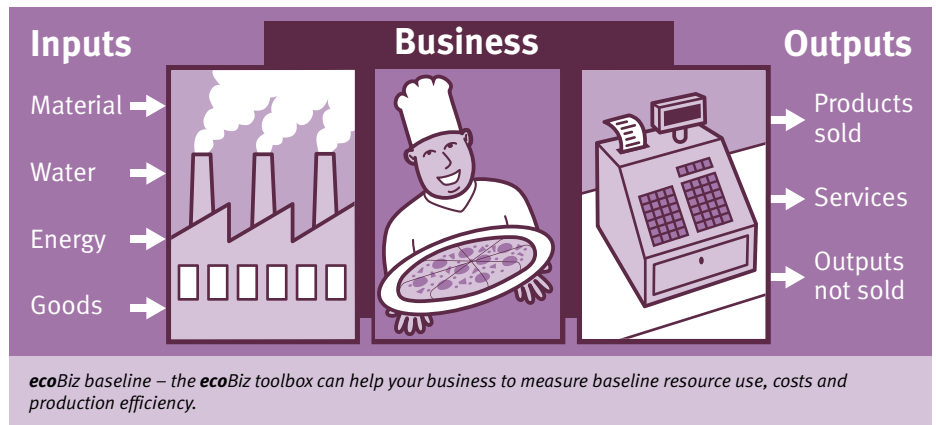
The **ecoBiz** toolbox is available on the EPA website at www.epa.qld.gov.au or on CD from the **ecoBiz** team. Phone 3225 1999 or email ecobiz@epa.qld.gov.au

Fill in the application form to join, then work through the steps to greater business success and reduced environmental impact.

For each step in the process, the **ecoBiz** toolbox provides the user-friendly resources you need, including spreadsheets, reference materials and case studies to give you ideas for improvement.

The six steps to **ecoBiz**:

- 1 Application form**
- 2 Baseline assessment** - assess your resource consumption
- 3 Site survey** - conduct a 'walk through' of your business to identify opportunities for improvement
- 4 Action Plan** - shows the eco-efficiency improvements to be made
- 5 Implementation** - of Action Plan items
- 6 Re-assessment** - re-assess your resource consumption to demonstrate savings



The seven principles of eco-efficiency:

1. Reduce the material intensity of goods and services (make more goods with fewer inputs)
2. Reduce the energy intensity of goods and services (make more goods with less energy)
3. Reduce the dispersion of any toxic substances (make more goods with less poisonous waste)
4. Enhance the recyclability of materials (make the goods recyclable)
5. Maximise sustainable use of renewable resources (make goods out of materials that won't run out)
6. Extend the durability of products (make goods that last)
7. Increase the service intensity of goods and services (meet demand with a service and not with goods)

Source: The World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

For more information

- > visit www.epa.qld.gov.au/ecobiz
- > email ecobiz@epa.qld.gov.au
- > call 3225 1999

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