

Victorian Greenhouse Regulations - A National First

Victoria has become the first state in Australia to adopt a statutory program for greenhouse gas reductions for industry, in a program run by EPA Victoria. The project, part of the \$100 million Victorian Greenhouse Strategy, is established through the State environment protection policy (Air Quality Management) [SEPP (AQM)], which was gazetted on 21 December 2001.

The SEPP(AQM) prescribes statutory policy in Victoria for managing emissions of various air pollutants, including new criteria for air quality indicators and assessment and a range of new tools for environmental management. It also mandates, for the first time, provisions for EPA licencees and applicants for licences and Works Approvals to measure, report and - where appropriate - take cost effective action to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The requirements are detailed in the Protocol for Environmental Management (Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Efficiency in Industry) under the SEPP(AQM).

Companies take action commensurate with their total energy use and CO₂equivalent emissions as follows:

| Category (tCO ₂ eq/yr) | Energy Use (GJ/yr) | | Emissions |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-----|---------------------|
| A | 500 | or | 100 |
| B | >500 but = or <7000 | or | >100 but = or <1400 |
| C | 7000 | and | 1400 |

All licensees and applicants must estimate their emissions from electricity, gas, briquettes, fossil fuels and other energy sources, as well as any "process" emissions generated by processes such as fermentation, water treatment etc. Sites that fall into Category B or C must undertake an energy audit that meets the Australian Standard for energy audits and implement any actions identified through the audit that have a simple payback of 3 years or less (ie. return on investment of 33%). Category A companies, which use as much energy as 8 to 10 average homes or less, receive free advice and assistance to make voluntary reductions. All licensees will report annually on changes in energy use and on progress in implementing their energy efficiency actions.

Many Victorian companies are already saving money and reducing energy use through improving insulation on kilns, boilers and refrigeration units, reducing air and steam leaks in their factories, installing high efficiency motors when old motors wear out, reclaiming waste heat and installing energy efficient lighting with timers, dimmer switches and sensors.

All EPA-licensed sites must submit details of energy use and a three-year action plan for EPA approval by December 2003.

Companies applying for an EPA licence or Works Approval must also calculate energy use and select a category, with Category B & C sites required to implement energy efficiency best practice for all items that pay for themselves in three years or less.

EPA's Greenhouse Team has been working with industry since early 2002 to help them understand the requirements through a series of over 40 seminars and events, providing advice on energy efficiency and putting in place mechanisms for reporting and compliance. The Greenhouse Team's work also involves the dissemination of energy management information to EPA staff and clients.

As the end of the year approaches, EPA is engaged in reviewing audits and action plans, and chasing up those companies that are lagging behind and risk enforcement action under the *Environment Protection Act*, 1970 for failure to comply. EPA Victoria and the Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria (SEAV) have also co-published a workbook, the Greenhouse and Energy Management Toolkit to support industry to meet the requirements.

*Copies of the SEPP, PEM and Toolkit can be downloaded from:
<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/Greenhouse/program.asp>*

(contributed by John Osborne & Georgi Stickels - John Osborne is an energy engineer with the Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria (SEAV) and is the technical advisor to EPA Victoria's Greenhouse Team. Georgi Stickels is a Greenhouse Project Officer with EPA Victoria's Greenhouse Team).

Draft Waste Management Policy (Siting, Design and Management of Landfills)

EPA is revising the current policy framework for landfills to ensure that they are managed in a way that delivers a high level of protection for both the community and the environment. A draft *Waste management policy (Siting, Design and Management of Landfills)* has been prepared and once finalised, will replace the existing *State environment protection policy (Siting and Management of Landfills Receiving Municipal Wastes)* 1991.

The purpose of the proposed policy is to provide a clear and updated framework that encourages continuous improvement in the siting, design, and management of landfills. The policy will also encourage the minimisation of disposal of waste to landfill and the diversion of waste materials for re-use or recycling.

The proposed policy applies to all landfills in Victoria receiving solid, non-prescribed waste and/or Category C prescribed industrial waste (such as low level contaminated soil). This remains unchanged from the existing policy.

The draft policy is accompanied by a draft policy impact assessment (PIA), which provides an explanation of the proposed policy, the rationale for its provisions and the key impacts of adopting the policy.

EPA Victoria is seeking stakeholder views on the measures proposed and assistance in finalising the policy and PIA. Comment is sought from any person with an interest in the planning, siting, design, operation, rehabilitation and aftercare of landfills, to ensure that a wide range of views and experience are reflected in the final policy.

Any comments or submissions on this draft policy and PIA are welcome and should be submitted to EPA by 2 April 2004 and directed to:

Project Manager - Landfill Waste Management Policy

Waste Management Unit, EPA Victoria, GPO Box 4395QQ, Melbourne VIC 3001

Or email: draftwmp.landfill@epa.vic.gov.au