



Green Stamp
Program



...bringing cleaner production to West Australian small and medium businesses

Program background

The Green Stamp is an innovative program originally developed by the Motor Trade Association of Western Australia in conjunction with the Department of Environment. The Green Stamp program has expanded and now covers both the printing and cleaning industries, represented by the Printing Industries Association of Australia and Building Service Contractors Association of Australia – WA Division respectively.

Adopting a grass-roots approach, it assists small to medium-sized businesses incorporate processes that avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose of waste in an environmentally friendly manner.

Funding of the program to date has come primarily from the Western Australian Government's Waste Management and Recycling Fund.

Environmental impact of small and medium businesses

Western Australia's 185,000 small and medium businesses have the potential to cause significant environmental impacts if their production wastes are not managed correctly. Though their individual impacts could be small, the cumulative effects of broad scale poor practices have the potential to degrade the natural environment.

The types of pollutants produced vary as much as the businesses themselves. They include solid, liquid and gaseous wastes which if released inappropriately, have the potential to damage plant, animal and human health.

The Swan-Canning Industry Survey Report released in 2000 showed that many businesses were not storing chemicals and other potential pollutants in a way that would prevent pollution. Waste disposal practices, particularly in regard to contaminated water, were also of significant concern, with almost a third of some sectors using natural waterways as dumping grounds for their process wastes.

Cleaner production is one way for businesses to manage their potential environmental impacts, whilst reducing costs and improving process efficiency.

What areas need to be addressed?

The Green Stamp is focusing on several areas to reduce the environmental impacts of small and medium businesses. These include;

- Storage practices associated with chemicals and other hazardous substances.
- Environmental product and service directory
- Spill management to prevent pollution of ground and stormwater.
- Correct disposal of waste products, preferably to recycling or reuse.
- Air quality management.
- Energy and resource conservation.
- The development of environmental management systems.

Objectives of the program

The primary objective of the Green Stamp is to reduce or eliminate the quantity of waste produced and work towards conserving raw materials and resources such as energy and water. To achieve this, the program aims to identify and overcome the barriers confronting small to medium businesses when attempting to manage their environmental impacts.

This objective is being achieved through the following initiatives.

- Conduct obligation-free environmental audits to identify an individual business' current environmental impacts and provide practical solutions and if necessary, follow-up support.
- Compilation of industry specific Environmental Guidelines that identify the environmental problem, the practical solutions and parties that can assist in their implementation.
- Via the Waste Managers and Recyclers Chart, the Green Stamp Program is identifying product and service providers in Perth that can help businesses with their cleaner production initiatives.
- Delivery of environmental training seminars to managers and employees, educating them on the environmental impacts and practical methods of responsible environmental management.
- Compilation and distribution of resources such as newsletters for industry members and related organisations and departments.
- Assisting businesses to obtain funding to incorporate cleaner production infrastructure.
- Working closely with the relevant state and local government agencies to better manage the industry's environmental impacts.

A second objective of the program is the development of the Green Stamp Accreditation. Already under way in the automotive industry and in development for the printing and cleaning industries, the Accreditation is rewarding those businesses that are incorporating environmentally friendly practices by promoting them as industry leaders in environmental management. The Green Stamp Accreditation provides an incentive to those businesses that are not incorporating environmentally sensitive processes to do so.



What are the benefits of the Green Stamp program?

...for the environment

- Cleaner waterways, including rivers, lakes and swamps.
- Less waste products to landfill, reducing soil and groundwater contamination.
- Cleaner atmosphere
- More products for reuse or recycling.

...for consumers

The opportunity to choose a business that is including the environment in it's operating objectives.

...for Green Stamp businesses

- Assistance to incorporate good environmental practices.
- The opportunity to be recognised as industry leaders in environmental management.

Green Stamp Vision

Over time more and more people will recognise the Green Stamp logo as a symbol of excellent environmental practice and conceding to their environmental conscience will feel compelled to deal with a certified Green Stamp business.

For further information on the Green Stamp program or help with the management of environmental issues contact your Green Stamp Coordinator.

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