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What is the CPRS and how will it affect my business?

The CPRS refers to the Federal Government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. The CPRS is a "cap and trade" emissions trading scheme. A "cap and trade" scheme operates by limiting Australia's total greenhouse emissions. The limit will be set below (5-25%) what it would be under a "business as usual" scenario. Emitters covered by the scheme will be required to reduce their greenhouse emissions below the targets set in the CPRS legislation or they will need to purchase permits for all carbon pollution that they create. Permits will then be surrendered to the Federal Government each year.

The CPRS gives economic incentive to emitting industries to increase resource efficiency and reduce their greenhouse pollution.

It is currently proposed that businesses that create 25 kilotonnes or more of –e CO₂ emissions, will be captured by the CPRS legislation – however it but may end up being lower.

If you think that your business may be captured by the CPRS you should seek legal advice on your reporting requirements and look for ways to increase your resource efficiency.

If your business does not trip the carbon pollution threshold it is still a good idea to look for way to increase your resource efficiency as the price of energy and other resources will likely increase further as the CPRS is introduced.

Where can I get free advice on how to improve my business' resource efficiency?

The Water Corporation offers free water audits to businesses. These audits include an assessment of current Water Management practices and provides an action plan aimed at improving these practices.

For more information visit:

www.watercorporation.com.au/W/waterwise_business.cfm

Perth Region NRM has a number of projects working with businesses on recycling, water management and environmental compliance in strategic areas.

For more information visit:

www.perthregionnrm.com/

Recycle at Work offers free recycling audits for businesses.

For more information visit:

www.recycleatwork.com.au

Are there any incentives for businesses to install solar panels and other renewable energy systems, like there is for households?

Solar Credits

With the introduction of the Federal Government's *Solar Credits* scheme, businesses are now eligible for the same rebates that households have access to when installing small scale renewable energy systems, including;

- Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Systems
- Wind turbines; and
- Micro hydroelectricity systems

For more information about *Solar Credits* talk to a licensed supplier / installer or visit www.climatechange.gov.au/renewabletarget/index.html www.orer.gov.au/recs/ or www.orer.gov.au/publications/photovoltaic.html

Feed in Tariff

Synergy's business customers are currently not eligible for a feed in tariff on excess electricity that they produce and feed back into the grid. However it is intended that this policy will be reviewed in the near future.

Are their Government incentives available for light industry to improve efficiency?

Yes, the Federal Government's *Re-tooling for Climate Change* program helps small and medium sized Australian manufacturers reduce their environmental footprint through projects that improve the energy and/or water efficiency of their production processes. The program provides grants of between \$10,000 and \$500,000, to a maximum of half the expense of each project.

The program opened for applications on 12 September 2008, and has two funding rounds remaining:

- Round 5 - **open until 30 November 2009**
- Round 6 - **open until 22 March 2010**

Further information about the *Re-tooling for Climate Change* program contact the AusIndustry hotline via:

Telephone: 13 28 46
Email: hotline@ausindustry.gov.au

There is also assistance available for manufactures involved in the textile clothing and footwear business. The Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) Small Business Program provides grants to improve the business enterprise culture of TCF small businesses.

The program is specifically aimed at TCF small businesses that are unable to receive assistance under the TCF (Strategic Investment Program), or the TCF Post-2005

(Strategic Investment Program) Schemes. The program is competitive and merit-based with a maximum grant of \$50,000 awarded to successful applicants. Funding of \$2.5 million is available each year over a ten year period, commencing in 2006/07. Inquiries about the TCF Small Business Program should be directed to:

Telephone: 13 28 46

Email: hotline@ausindustry.gov.au