

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

About the Environment Program

While the link between major events and the environment isn't exactly a traditional one, hosting the 2006 Commonwealth Games has the potential to make Victoria a much more sustainable place to be.

The initiatives of the Environment Program aim to set a new benchmark in reducing our impact on natural resources while still staging a world-class event.

There are three pillars that will help achieve this:

Waterwise – by building venues with the capacity to collect and recycle water, and that have water efficient fixtures and fittings

Carbon neutral – by installing energy efficient appliances at venues, encouraging more public transport use and planting trees to soak up greenhouse gas emissions

Low waste – by having recycle bins in public spaces, salvaging and reusing building materials at venues and a Games-time anti-litter campaign.

Additional information

- The Games will be the first major multi-sport event to be carbon neutral.
- Up to 1 million trees will be planted at 11 sites across Victoria to offset greenhouse gas emissions.

- Public transport in metropolitan Melbourne will be free for Games ticket holders as part of encouraging more sustainable travel options.
- Every house in the Athletes Village will have a six star energy efficiency rating.
- Two 750 metre³ rainwater tanks at the MCG will help irrigate surrounding parkland and flush toilets.
- The Commonwealth Games litter barge is patrolling the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers in the lead up to 2006 and is expected to collect enough litter to fill two 50 metre swimming pools by Games time.

Lasting benefits

The Environment Program is using the profile of the Games to highlight how we can reduce our ecological footprint.

It will be a practical example of the link between cutting water and electricity use, and cutting costs as well.

In making sustainability part of the criteria for Games suppliers, the program is encouraging industry to work towards being more environmentally friendly – something that will give them a competitive edge in the future.

For more information visit www.dvc.vic.gov.au/commonwealth_games

