



Energy Smart Government 2005/06 - Executive Summary

The Energy Smart Government policy has now been in place for four years. During that time the operations of the Western Australian Government have expanded in response to the booming economy and growing demand from the community for services. The Energy Smart Government program has enabled many Western Australian agencies to significantly curb growth in energy consumption through effective energy management and energy saving strategies.

Since the program was implemented the public service has grown by 12% but participating agencies have reduced their energy consumption nearly 3% with cumulative savings of nearly 430,000 GJ. This equates to a reduction of over \$10.9 million in energy costs and avoidance of nearly 40,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. When assessed against a business as usual scenario, using economic growth or the growth in the public service as the basis, Government energy consumption has reduced by 19% and 15% respectively.

The energy reduction target for 2005/06, as set in the Energy Smart Government policy, was 10%. This target was achieved by 27 agencies, and the program's overall target of a 12% reduction in energy use by 2006/07 was achieved by more than one third of participating agencies. Fourteen agencies reported a reduction in energy consumption of more than 20%.

Larger agencies significantly influence the overall result and in 2005/06 the five largest agencies collectively reported a 0.4% increase in energy consumption relative to their baselines. The other 58 agencies collectively reported an excellent saving of 12.5%, which surpasses both the 2005/06 and final program targets.

The absolute energy reduction target set in the policy is very challenging for some agencies as no allowance is made for expansion of operations. However, the effects of good energy management and energy saving initiatives can be demonstrated by reductions in energy intensity, which are shown by changes in performance indicators. Twenty-four agencies, including two of the largest five agencies, showed an improvement of at least 10% in the intensity of their energy use, despite not meeting the energy reduction target. These agencies made a positive contribution to the 2005/06 results.

Collectively, the 63 participating agencies achieved the following savings in 2005/06 relative to the baseline:

- A reduction in energy consumption of 82,368 GJ (2.9%) to 2,767,544 GJ
- A reduction in energy cost of \$3.1 million (3.9%) to \$76.4 million
- A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 3,522 tonnes (0.7%) to 499,170 tonnes.

The results for 2005/06 show an overall reduction of 13% in energy use per Government employee and reflect the dedication of many agencies to ongoing energy management. Several agencies have been very proactive in managing their energy consumption and implementing staff awareness programs and significant energy saving projects.

The use of renewable energy by Government agencies is increasing with the aggregate of purchased and agency-generated renewable energy in 2005/06 more than double that in the baseline year. While the overall amount of renewable energy is still small, its use will continue to increase with new projects underway and increasing incentives for the purchase of renewable energy.

Demand for capital advance funding significantly increased in 2005/06 with approval being granted for 19 projects totalling over \$6.5 million. This is a much greater level of funding than approved in previous years in terms of both the number of applications and the overall amount of funding. The available facilitation grant funding was also fully committed.

A key objective of the Energy Smart Government policy is for energy efficiency to be established as an integral component in the management of government assets. Many agencies have embraced the policy and are achieving this goal, but for others there is still some way to go.

Further information

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