

# Office of Climate Change

In 2007, the Queensland Government created the Office of Climate Change to lead the development of climate change policy and programs underpinned by the best available science and research. In addition to administering the \$431 million Queensland Climate Change Fund and supporting the Premier's Council on Climate Change, the Office plays a lead role in working collaboratively across government to drive and coordinate climate change action, and includes the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence (QCCCE).

Ensuring Queensland is well positioned to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change, as well as preparing Queensland communities to adapt to climate change impacts, is a key focus.

With the climate science expertise of QCCCE, the Office provides government, industry and the community with robust information and scientific data on climate change and its impacts on the community, the economy and the environment. This combination of policy functions and scientific expertise enables the Office to draw on the latest science to provide a rigorous evidence base for new policy initiatives.



## Key priorities

**ClimateQ: toward a greener Queensland** - In August 2009, the Queensland Government launched its revised climate change strategy *ClimateQ: toward a greener Queensland*.

Building on early actions delivered under *ClimateSmart 2050* and the *ClimateSmart Adaptation Plan 2007-12*, ClimateQ comprises a \$196 million package of initiatives based on the best available science and policy.

ClimateQ consolidates a suite of new adaptation and mitigation measures designed to strengthen our long term policy response and prepare Queensland for the dangerous impacts of climate change across key sectors of the economy.

Measures that support Queensland's contribution to reducing national greenhouse gas emissions to 60 per cent of their 2000 levels by 2050 are a key priority.

**Adaptation and continued early action** - Deferral of the national Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme until at least 2013 means that sharper cuts in emissions will be required in a shorter timeframe for Australia to meet its international obligations. State-based actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change in the interim period are therefore vital.

Without practical action to tackle the serious impacts of climate change on our natural, social and economic systems, natural wonders such as the Great Barrier Reef, and the industries that rely on our natural environment such as agriculture and tourism, are at risk.

The United Nation's estimates that 50 to 80 per cent of actions required to implement a global deal will happen at the sub-national level of government given the key role of states in energy security, regulation of the built environment, waste management, transport and land use planning.

By preparing for climate change impacts and building our adaptation capability, Queensland can capitalise on new opportunities, such as the chance to support carbon forests, which can provide multiple benefits like improved biodiversity.

**Toward Q2 carbon target** – Delivering measures to help achieve Queensland's Q2 target of reducing Queensland households' carbon footprint by one-third by 2020 are well advanced, including the development of a personal carbon target reporting initiative.

**Queensland Climate Change Fund** – Based on annual interest derived from the sale of energy assets in late 2007 (\$431 million), the fund provides approximately \$30 million every year to support new climate change initiatives. This fund allows Queensland to respond quickly to emerging priorities and opportunities, and complements other investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency and new technologies to prepare for climate change.



**Premier's Council on Climate Change** – An advisory council established to provide the Queensland Government with high-level, strategic advice on climate change issues and actions. The Council comprises 12 independent members with expertise across a range of key industry sectors.

The Council is chaired by Premier of Queensland, Ms Anna Bligh MP, with the Deputy Chair the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Ms Kate Jones MP. The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade, Mr Stephen Robertson MP, is also a member of the Council. The Office provides secretariat and policy support for the Council.

**Queensland-UK Met Office Hadley Centre Fellowship Program** – In December 2009, the Queensland Government announced a new Queensland-UK Climate Science Fellowship Program which will see Queensland scientists gain and share important data and knowledge with the UK Met Office Hadley Centre. UK scientists will start work in Queensland in 2010 under the program.

## Major work priorities for 2010

Implementation of ClimateQ initiatives and working with stakeholders to deliver state-based action is a key focus for 2010.

Other projects well underway include:

- delivery of a partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland to better identify inland flood prone areas and help local councils plan more flood-resistant communities
- digital elevation mapping to better understand the impacts of sea-level rise, storm surge and coastal erosion along Queensland's coast line, and visually show a range of climate change scenarios to help plan for climate change impacts
- development of An Electric Vehicle Roadmap for Queensland to prepare for the imminent arrival of these new technology vehicles in Australia
- emerging issues research and policy support for the Premier's Council on Climate Change work program, including development of three new working papers and government responses to the Council's recommendations.

Additionally, EzyGreen, launched in July 2010, is a new energy reduction scheme available to Greater Brisbane residents.

This program represents a major partnership between the Queensland Government and the Brisbane City Council to be at the forefront of sustainability initiatives, and includes a number of corporate partners.

Under the scheme, residents have access to discounted renewable energy and energy reduction products including GreenPower™, solar hot water and solar power systems, designed to reduce household emissions.

For further information on the scheme, visit [www.ezygreen.com.au](http://www.ezygreen.com.au).



## Contributing to the national climate change agenda

The Office provides leadership on national climate change policy development and initiatives on behalf of Queensland Government agencies, through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and the Council for the Australian Federation (CAF).

The Office has advanced Queensland's role in the COAG reform agenda to ensure the best possible outcomes for the state, particularly in attracting new low emission technology to Queensland and preparing our industries and regions for climate change impacts and lower carbon futures.