

top 10 business recovery tips

A COST SAVING, CARBON REDUCING WAY TO RECOVER YOUR BUSINESS

Information for businesses about eco-efficiency,
assistance and where to get more information

When getting back to business consider eco-efficient alternatives – it will save costs long after the recovery is complete and help your business become more financially resilient.

From our experience, businesses that have participated in programs such as ecoBiz typically reduce their business and operating costs by 14%.

Some of these tips may be a requirement, depending on the extent of your rebuild – check with your building certifier for more information.

1 Refit your business or office with green building materials

- Select sustainable construction materials and products by checking reused and recycled content, level of toxicity, recyclability, durability, longevity, and where it was produced. Websites such as www.ecospecifier.org have more information on sustainable materials.
- Consider installing sub-meters for electricity and water.

2 Install energy efficient area lighting with task lighting

- Replace the common T8 fluorescent tubes with the more efficient T5 and use compact fluorescents where applicable.
- Consider installing light sensors to dim the lights in areas with good natural light or create additional zones.
- Use natural light where possible.

3 Replace equipment with energy efficient models

- Make sure your new equipment is based on the latest Energy Star rating – refer to www.energystar.gov.au for more information.
- Using energy efficient office equipment can reduce energy consumption of individual products by more than half.

4 Install a 'green switch' to turn off stand-by equipment after hours

- A 'green switch' is placed near an exit and turns off all non-essential equipment and lights and sets the climate control to economy. All essential equipment, such as hard drives, fax machines, clocks and servers, is left on.
- It is estimated that that copiers, laser printers, computer monitors and other office equipment can save up to 66% of their 24-hour power consumption if they are just turned off at the end of the work day.
- An added benefit is that turning equipment fully off actually extends its life.

5 Replace vehicles with more economical models

- Not only will you save money you will also help cut down on pollution.
- The Australian Government's Green Vehicle guide has information on eco-friendly vehicles – refer to www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au for more information.
- Consider also installing phone and video conferencing to reduce the need for travel.

6 Install more efficient air conditioning systems and consider additional thermostats and controllers

- Insulate ceilings, walls and use window tinting.
- Use natural ventilation, fans and passive design wherever possible.
- Reduce air-conditioning demands by locating thermostats away from heat sources such as photocopiers, natural sunlight or space heaters.
- Install programmable thermostats that turn the air-conditioning off when not required.
- Do not air-condition areas that do not need it, for example storage rooms.
- Consider installing auto-closing doors or switch off devices.

7 Install variable speed drives on fans or pumps where a constant load is not required

- Variable speed drives reduce energy consumption by adjusting the motor speed to continually match the load.
- Reducing fan speed to 50%, for example, results in power consumption dropping to 12.5%.

8 Think about your business's waste and how you can reduce, reuse or recycle it

- Why not change to print on demand or go paperless?
- Look at your waste streams and consider how they can be re-used.

9 Implement an eco-efficiency action plan for your business

- Get everyone involved.
- Set targets and rewards for achievement.
- Join program's such as ecoBiz www.derm.qld.gov.au/ecobiz and ClimateSmart Business Clusters www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au/your_business to get advice and link with other businesses.

10 Think about building in future disaster resilience

- Before you start work on repairing or remodelling your business, think about choosing more water resistant building materials to help minimise any future damage and make it easier to clean up.

There are a number of agencies that can help your business get back on its feet and become eco-efficient.

- www.qld.gov.au/floods has extensive information on financial assistance, community recovery, and clean up, rebuilding and safety considerations.
- www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au outlines a number of programs to help businesses become more eco-efficient.
- www.derm.qld.gov.au/qwestnet has information on innovative sustainable technologies and best-practice.
- www.business.qld.gov.au/disaster-recovery/index.html has information on financial assistance for small businesses and primary producers affected by the recent floods.
- www.qmisolutions.com.au outlines how QMI Solutions are working with the Queensland Government and regional networks to help businesses and manufacturers get back up and running.
- www.ecoefficiency.com.au has information on assisting Queensland manufacturers to become more eco-efficient.
- www.cciq.com.au/floods has information from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland on your obligations, entitlements, financial assistance and general advice on what you need to do to get your business back up and running as soon as possible.
- www.dip.qld.gov.au has newsflash updates, Q&As on approval requirements and flood repair factsheets.
- www.bsa.qld.gov.au for information on cleaning your property and a guide to building restoration after a flood.
- www.disasterassist.gov.au for information on Commonwealth assistance for current disasters and links to other assistance and responses.