



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Victorian Government allocated \$5 million to provide targeted incentives to facilitate small business (SBs) engagements in the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) as part of its energy package in the Victorian Budget 2020-2021. The program uses a **bonus incentive of up to \$2,000** to increase the uptake of VEU **by eligible small businesses**.

Sustainability Victoria is overseeing the roll out of the program and wishes to **target businesses most impacted by COVID** restrictions including:

- Hospitality and retail
- Accommodation services
- Arts and recreation
- Sporting clubs and facilities
- Manufacturing and warehousing businesses
- Professional services (ie. allied health)

However, any business meeting the below requirements is **eligible**:

- A business with 1 – 19 FTE (full-time equivalent) employees
- Operating from a commercial (non-residential) premise*
 - Both owned and leased

*Note: This program is not available for primary producers in agriculture.

Each eligible business can **use the \$2,000 grant to upgrade the below**:

- Hot water systems (gas and electric)
- Reverse cycle air-conditioners
- Refrigerated display cabinets
- Fridges and freezers (one fridge or freezer per business)
- Cool rooms*

*New activity under the program which will begin Jan 2022

What is the benefit to businesses?

- Upgrading dated (existing) appliances in businesses
- Up to 85% of the upfront cost to upgrade is subsidised (rebate applied as a discount)
 - Maximum \$2,000* per business
- Long-term reduction in energy costs
- Improving the business' climate resilience
- Connecting local traders and installers to businesses within their area

**The subsidised amount differs between businesses and activities.*

This program aims to aid Victoria's economic recovery in two ways:

1. To assist SBs with the cost of implementing Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEUs)
2. To support local trade and contracting businesses who complete the upgrades

SECCCA has been successful in receiving a grant from Sustainability Victoria to engage up to 1,500 business across the nine south-east Council areas throughout the year-long program, with an aim of 20% uptake. The program is set to wrap up in May/June 2022, so apply now to take advantage of these fantastic discounts!

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