



# Media Release

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2012

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## **New incentives to help businesses reduce environmental impact**

Natural resource management organisation, NRM North, is offering grants to small businesses wanting to reduce their environmental footprint and save money.

The Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program will be launched tonight at a function to recognise the efforts of businesses involved in the recent EcoSmart Greening Launceston Program.

The grants of between \$100 and \$1500, are available to participants of the 2007 EcoSmartBiz Program and the 2009/2012 EcoSmart Greening Launceston Program.

NRM North Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said the grants program could save businesses money while reducing the impact on the environment.

"The Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program offers an energy assessment, a tailored action plan and a rebate of up to \$1500 for making energy efficiency improvements.

"Often small changes make a big difference. Making better use of natural light or increasing air conditioning thermostats by one degree in summer can make a big improvement to the cost of power bills over a year, and reduce carbon pollution in the process." Mr McKee said.

Rebates will be paid for improvements to:

- Lighting (including skylights)
- Heating
- Ventilation and air conditioning
- Boilers
- Air compressors
- Commercial refrigeration
- Electric motors
- Insulation

The application period opens on Monday and closes on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May.

Applications and information are available on the NRM North website: [www.nrmnorth.org.au](http://www.nrmnorth.org.au) or by contacting NRM North on 6333 7777.

Mr McKee said the recent EcoSmart Greening Launceston Program was an example of what could be achieved.

"Tonight we will celebrate the efforts of those businesses involved in that program and it is fantastic what they have achieved by committing just a few hours a month."

The results include:

- Eight businesses that were highly engaged in the program reported costs savings of more than \$9,500.
- Seven of these businesses reduced their overall energy use as a result of participating in the program, equating to a total energy savings of more than 43,000 kWh.
- A total of 14.7tCO<sub>2</sub>-e of green house gas emissions were saved by the eight participants.

**Interview/Photo/Film Opportunity:** A celebration event for the latest participants will be held tonight at Mojo Music cafe, 81 Brisbane Street, 5.30pm – 7pm. NRM North's James McKee will be available to discuss the new grants program.

Ends

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For more information contact:

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