

## ClimateSmart Business Cluster Program

### Businesses working together

The ClimateSmart Business Cluster Program helps Queensland small and medium enterprises lower greenhouse gas emissions, save on energy, water, materials and waste, and reduce business costs.

Business Clusters provide a forum for business groups to work together, grow and conduct business in cleaner ways. Businesses are often motivated to make change but individually they can lack knowledge and direction, and are hesitant to make changes. However working together, businesses are more confident to embrace change, learn and share experiences.

### Previous Rounds

The ClimateSmart Business Cluster program commenced in 2009. In that time, 60 Clusters consisting of over 1000 businesses, from Brisbane to Cairns and out to Longreach, have participated.



Image 1: stickers provided to cluster participants

### Call for Expressions of Interest

The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is now calling for Expressions of Interest from potential ClimateSmart Business Leaders to establish and facilitate additional ClimateSmart Business Clusters.

### What is the role of a ClimateSmart Business Leader?

The role of a Leader is to facilitate activities and achievements of the Business Cluster. They will motivate, improve knowledge and assist participating businesses reduce business costs by improving eco-efficiency.

The project will be managed by the Leader and should be designed to raise knowledge, reduce a carbon footprint, reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions, waste and water use; and foster a long-term commitment to business sustainability.

### What is a Cluster?

A Business Cluster is formed by the Leader and will consist of 20 participant businesses who will undertake an 8 month resource efficiency program.

Cluster participants are ideally linked through location, industry type or supply chain, they are motivated and recognise the need for change and are willing to learn and share experiences as a group.

*“Businesses in the Winton Shire are acutely aware of the increases in their energy bills and the threat of longer, hotter summers as a result of forecast climate change. The ClimateSmart Business cluster presents a unique opportunity for operators to work together and find ways to reduce their carbon footprint and their energy costs. The formation of a cluster is a vital link to share information, stories and find viable solutions.”*

Mark Olsen, General Manager of EC3 Global

## What are the benefits of being a Leader?

Participation in the ClimateSmart Business Cluster program can provide an approved Leader with Queensland Government support, an enhanced profile and client base in the business community, local/community recognition, and an avenue to promote their business services and products.

## What assistance is available?

Financial assistance of \$10 000 (GST exclusive) will be provided to successful applicants to supplement expenses. Payment will be made in three prescribed milestone instalments.

DERM also has a suite of existing tools and resources available that can be utilised by the Leader.



Image 2: example of posters available to cluster participants

## What's involved?

Successful applicants will undertake tasks to help them meet the project targets.

- Sign-up participant businesses
- Meet and workshop with participants
- Measure and report resource use
- Identify opportunities for savings
- Re-measure resource use
- Report savings

## Who can be a Leader?

Registered businesses or organisations that operate in Queensland are eligible to apply.

Applicants will need to have qualifications and/or experience in preparation and management of plans and programs to improve business eco-efficiency. Successful Cluster Leaders from previous rounds have demonstrated that support from Local Authorities, Industry Associations and other similar community or business groups improve delivery and overall success



Image 3: Participation Certificate

## How do I apply?

- Applicants will need to submit a ClimateSmart Business Cluster Leader application form.
- A two page project plan may also be submitted to supplement applications.
- Applications will be assessed using a merit based process.
- Expressions of interest are to be received by DERM no later than 9am Wednesday 17 November 2010.

To request the full Funding Guidelines, an application pack or further information:

Email: [business.clusters@derm.qld.gov.au](mailto:business.clusters@derm.qld.gov.au)

Phone: 1300 130 372