

The Knowledge Strategy sets priorities for the knowledge needed by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to support the objectives of the NSW Government. *Resource Efficiency* is the newest of seven 'knowledge themes' in the Knowledge Strategy Program.



### Knowledge Goal: Understand and improve resource efficiency for a more sustainable, productive and environmentally healthy NSW

NSW's population and economy continues to grow, increasing demand for, and pressure on, our finite natural resources and environment. The *Resource Efficiency* knowledge theme supports OEH and EPA in their efforts to protect the environment and reduce waste through the efficient use of resources.

### Outcomes

The *Resource Efficiency* knowledge theme aims to provide knowledge to:

- enable stakeholders to understand the benefits and costs of inefficient resource use on the environment, economy and society
- identify sector, technological and cultural opportunities to achieve a more resource efficient NSW
- improve decision-making through a better understanding of the consumption and production of priority resources in NSW
- build the capacity within, and connections between, communities, businesses and government agencies.

## Major programs to address priority knowledge needs

### Support improved resource efficiency

- OEH will collect and share resource-efficiency data and evaluation in a format that will assist householders, businesses and government agencies to be aware of and take control of their energy consumption.
- OEH and the EPA will, within their own organisations, trial new ways to more efficiently and cost-effectively use resources, manage assets, and encourage resource recovery.

### Understand the costs and benefits, including social, environmental and economic, of resource efficiency

- OEH will increase public awareness of the multiple benefits of energy efficiency and productivity, beyond the economic benefits.
- OEH will enable effective government decision-making and improved understanding of the interrelationships between environmental and economic policies.

### Understand the behavioural and cultural opportunities for NSW residents to improve resource efficiency

- OEH conducts the *Who Cares About the Environment* survey every three years to understand NSW residents' sentiment towards the environment.
- OEH will work to develop a deeper understanding of how business drivers and market segmentation impact on resource efficiency.

### Understand the barriers to, and benefits of, resource efficiency

- OEH will examine various housing accreditation schemes, and the uptake of sustainability and energy efficiency in the housing market.
- OEH will investigate the current energy usage of targeted high-energy users and the barriers they face to improving energy productivity.
- OEH will explore the financial barriers to, and quantify the return on investment of, clean energy opportunities.

# Opportunities to collaborate with OEH and EPA: the NSW Energy and Resource Efficiency Research Hub

OEH and the EPA have established the NSW Energy and Resource Efficiency Research Hub. Research carried out through the Hub will:

- develop understanding of how priority resources are used in NSW
- identify opportunities to improve energy and resource efficiency
- quantify and monitor the social, environmental and economic benefits of improved resource efficiency, including the health co-benefits
- improve knowledge sharing.

The Energy and Resource Efficiency Research Hub will work closely with the NSW Adaptation Research Hub, which has been studying the impacts of climate change and developing potential adaptation responses.

Future collaborations and priority knowledge needs will be identified by the NSW Energy and Resource Efficiency Research Hub and through the Resource Efficiency Knowledge Strategy Program.

## More information

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