



Friends of
the Earth



TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE



2010: It's Time for Victoria to Invest in Green Jobs

Introduction:

With a targeted and effective strategy, Victoria can lead Australia in creating green jobs. The opportunities are there for the taking.

In October 2008, the Australian Conservation Foundation and Australian Council of Trade Unions landmark report "Green Gold Rush" outlined how strong environmental and industry policy could deliver 500,000 new 'Green Jobs' across Australia. Governments and political parties immediately jumped on the band wagon, talking up their prospects of delivering this future. Yet to date, we have seen no comprehensive policy approach to deliver this huge environmental and economic boom.

Key state green group, Environment Victoria has lead the charge with its campaign "Victoria – the Green Jobs State" and their 2009 report focussed attention on the massive opportunities for government, workers and the environment.

Friends of the Earth, Total Environment Centre and Boomerang Alliance join with our colleagues at Environment Victoria and pledge our support for the efforts to ensure Victoria becomes the Green Jobs State. We commit to campaigning for an effective and comprehensive 'Green Jobs Policy' as a central plank of all the major political parties' economic and environment platforms for the 2010 state election.

Green Industries – Immediate Opportunities:

The major green industries that can deliver new jobs in Victoria are:

1. **Rail manufacturing– 6,650 new green jobs by 2014**
2. **Renewable Energy – 4,000 new jobs this year**
3. **Recycling – 3,100 new green jobs by 2014**
4. **Solar Water Heating – 1,500 new green jobs by 2020**
5. **Energy and Water efficiency- 6,900 new green jobs over 5 years**

Opportunities for Victoria

Public Transport (Rail manufacturing):

The Victorian Transport Plan commits \$3.6billion in new investments in rail rolling stock over the next 4 years. This is a welcome commitment. However, unlike the Western Australian, U.S. and European governments, there is no provision in Victoria to ensure that a proportion of this manufacturing is undertaken in the state. If a 50% local content requirement was adopted it would create some 6,650 new green jobs.

1. Introduce **minimum local content provisions** requiring at least 50% of all manufacturing and 95% of all maintenance be undertaken in Victoria.
2. Introduce **training programs** to skill up rail manufacturing workers, and set targets for retraining automotive workers who lost their jobs through the global financial crisis for future rolling stock manufacturing positions.

Renewable Energy

With state government support, the Federal Government's Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) Scheme is likely to deliver a large number of new jobs in wind power (and many more in solar and micro hydro power generation) across Victoria creating some 4,000 new jobs in 2010.

1. Phase out coal fired power stations in Victoria, stimulating demand for and in concert with expanded renewable energy generation to ensure Victoria receives maximum benefit from the Commonwealth's Mandatory Renewable Energy Target.
2. Develop a strong job training program for renewable energy manufacturing, construction, installation and maintenance.
3. Introduce strong planning and community consultation mechanisms to encourage renewable energy investments in Victoria.

Recycling:

The introduction of strong economic instruments on waste and Extended Producer Responsibility on packaging waste will see Victoria lift its recycling rates to amongst the best in Australia (70%) creating at least 3,100 new green jobs. Research by Access Economics for the Commonwealth Government late in 2009 highlighted that every 10,000 tonnes of waste recycled creates 16.94 new green jobs – 3 times the 5.14 jobs from sending waste to landfill.

1. **Increase Landfill Levies** (a charge per tonne on landfilled waste) from July 1st, 2010 and invest these monies into recycling via grants for investments in new recycling infrastructure and providing rebates for the treatment and disposal of best practice recycling residuals.
 - *Investigations by Boomerang Alliance indicate that a \$30/tonne landfill levy will act as a price signal to divert waste from landfills and create a fund of some \$116million p.a. to invest in recycling. This investigation identified at least 12 'major proposals' to develop new recycling facilities currently in various stages of development across Victoria, creating at least 1,900 new jobs if this policy is delivered.*
2. **Introduce a container deposit scheme** as a priority
 - *Packaging recycling is the largest segment of the Victorian recycling industry, which employs some 7,000 Victorians. Decisive action on beverage container deposits will secure high quality recycle and the recycling industry's future.*
 - *The new materials collected (in excess of 4 billion containers/year) via a deposit and handling fee will inject at least \$200million p.a. into the industry and create around 1,200 new jobs, for minimal cost to consumers (less than half a cent a container).*

Solar Water Heating:

If by 2020 just 30% of all Victorian households installed solar hot there would be an average 57,000 units on roofs a year. This would create 1,500 new green jobs in solar water heating.

1. Introduce mandatory requirements for Solar Water Heating in all new homes.
2. Maintain current rebates and incentives for all residential Solar Water Heating installations.
3. Introduce training in solar water heating installation for all plumbing apprentices in Victoria.

Boomerang Alliance: <http://www.boomerangalliance.org>

Friends of the Earth Melbourne: <http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au/>

Total Environment Centre: <http://www.tec.org.au/>