

Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Grants

Building Business Resilience Project:

Business sector climate risk assessment support

South East Councils Climate Change Alliance

Project summary

This project is about developing resources for the business sector to help businesses conduct climate risk assessment, mitigation and planning. Small to medium businesses, like all segments of the community are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Building on the Small Business Energy Saver Program, SECCCA will engage a small number of businesses across a number of sectors that are economically important to the SECCCA region to assist them understand their level of vulnerability to climate change impacts, possible scenarios and high-level adaptation options. The project will produce a final report intended to be an easy-to-understand adaptation implementation guide for use by other businesses more broadly. It will also produce 4-5 'one-pager' case studies with climate change risk assessment and adaptation plans for each business involved.

Project background

- Conversations with economic development officers across multiple local government areas in Greater Melbourne indicate that climate change impacts have not yet registered as a priority for most businesses. In addition to business groups requiring support and skills building around the transition to clean energy and energy efficiency, support is needed to increase their resilience to and manage risks from climate change.
- Climate change extreme events will affect business in many ways. These could be direct, such as from fire or flood or indirect through the impact on supply chains. Businesses largely lack this preparedness however a simple process can help them understand and plan for such events.
- SECCCA has recently undertaken a climate change impact assessment of its entire region. Building on this work SECCCA is able to provide information to businesses that demonstrate their exposure to climate extremes and how they can respond to improve resilience.

Project outcomes

- Increased awareness of the climate vulnerability of their businesses, and potential adaptation pathways
- Documentation for use by other small businesses in the SECCCA region (or elsewhere) to guide how to build their own adaptation options
- An understanding of the next steps in building small business climate resilience in the SECCCA region