

our environment *it's a living thing*



# SUSTAINABILITY ADVANTAGE

**Environmental risk and responsibility**

# ENVIRONMENTAL RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY



Failure to understand and meet environmental obligations can lead to pollution incidents, regulatory action and the undermining of your organisation's reputation.

The **Environmental risk and responsibility** module in the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) NSW **Sustainability Advantage** Program addresses environmental responsibilities. You gain a clear picture of your environmental obligations and appropriate responses.

Completing the self-paced steps in this module gives you the latest environmental risk management procedures relevant for your business.

We help you identify legal requirements associated with water and air quality, noise, land contamination and waste management. You will review how you currently address these issues and decide what procedures to adopt to better manage your environmental compliance and risk.

## Outcomes

The **Environmental risk and responsibility** module is designed for operational, risk and environmental managers who want to improve environmental risk management.

You will:

- identify, evaluate and prioritise environmental risks
- create a systematic and replicable environmental risk assessment
- integrate risk assessment into existing management and OH&S systems where appropriate.

## What is involved?

**Environmental risk and responsibility** is a flexible module. You work through a range of topics:

- **Environmental responsibilities and risks** – introduction to legal responsibilities and market forces
- **Organisational context** – your organisation's risk profile, preferences and systems
- **Undertaking a risk assessment** – identifying, analysing and evaluating risk
- **Options for managing risk** – avoidance, mitigation, reducing consequences and risk retention.

## ENVIRONMENTAL RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY MODULE

Workshop

Environmental risk assessment

Environmental risk management

Implement actions

Final review

Training and technical support

See the back page for a roadmap of activity for this module.

Participants in this module include:

- your Sustainability Advantage champion
- a facilitator from DECC
- business and environmental specialists sourced by DECC
- other businesses you meet at our cluster network meetings.

### Workshop

You participate in a half day workshop with peers from three to six other organisations.\* You have the opportunity to benefit from each other's experience.

We introduce you to three major aspects of environmental risk – legislative responsibilities, risk management systems designed to meet those responsibilities, and particular hazards that each organisation may face.

We also briefly discuss State legislation on environmental responsibilities, including the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

You:

- examine how to integrate environmental risk management into your existing business systems
- develop a responsibility checklist to identify which activities are impacting on the environment
- analyse your environmental risks in terms of potential consequences and likelihood of occurrence and look at what steps can be taken to minimise these risks.

By the end of the session you will have started to formulate an action plan and implementation procedure for environmental risk management.

### Environmental risk assessment, management and implementation

After the workshop you will be able to start implementing your own detailed environmental risk assessments and management plan, integrating them into other risk and business processes.

During the next 18 months, you may be able to access additional one-on-one specialist support provided you are progressing towards an integrated risk management system.

\* If you have a larger business, we can tailor an internal workshop to your needs.

## Support

The results you achieve depend on what you put in. For you to get the most for your efforts we also offer:

- practical, tailored workshops
- guides, checklists and templates
- feedback and review of existing documents and processes
- information sharing and networking opportunities through cluster meetings with other participants
- professional support from DECC contractors, including specialist advice at key strategic points.

## Recognition



You can promote your achievements through our Sustainability Advantage Partner recognition scheme. There are five levels of recognition.

## Register or find out more

**Environmental risk and responsibility** is one of seven **Sustainability Advantage** modules that guide and focus your environmental improvements. All modules help you plan and deliver lasting benefits and continuous improvement as you adopt sustainability as a core business value. The **Resource efficiency** module has the Sustainability Advantage **Energy Saver** component, which offers an energy audit and free technical support to help you save power.



Visit [www.savepower.nsw.gov.au](http://www.savepower.nsw.gov.au)

Contact DECC's Business Partnerships by:

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**Phone** 02 8837 6000

	Workshop	Environmental risk assessment	Environmental risk management	Implement actions	Final review
Outcomes	<p>Senior managers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>understand legal responsibilities</li> <li>review risk systems</li> <li>identify hazards</li> <li>understand risk assessment</li> <li>start prioritising risk and management plans</li> <li>choose a Sustainability Advantage champion</li> </ul>	<p>Managers and Sustainability Advantage champion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>perform a structured risk assessment</li> <li>inspect sites</li> <li>identify risks</li> </ul>	<p>Managers and Sustainability Advantage champion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prioritise risks</li> <li>manage prioritised risks</li> <li>develop an integrated risk management plan</li> </ul>	<p>Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>manage implementation of actions</li> </ul>	<p>Together we review your projects and successes. You set new plans based on your results</p>
Who takes part?	Senior operations managers, risk managers, OH&S managers DECC environmental risk contractor leads	Senior managers Sustainability Advantage champion	Staff identified by senior managers and the Sustainability Advantage champion DECC environmental risk contractor	Staff identified by senior managers and the Sustainability Advantage champion Senior managers Sustainability Advantage champion DECC environmental risk contractor and other experts as needed	Sustainability Advantage champion DECC environmental risk contractor
What is needed?	Managers need to have reviewed current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>environmental responsibilities</li> <li>risk management systems</li> <li>environmental policies</li> </ul>	An agreed environmental risk assessment checklist Access to your sites	Completed environmental risk assessment Current OH&S risk assessment plan	Progress reports	Results from your projects Baseline and current data demonstrating environmental outcomes
Where and when?	Your workplace, at the start of the module	Your workplace and identified sites	Your workplace	Your workplace, starting after risk management plan has been confirmed	Your workplace, at 18 months
How long does this take?	Half day	1-2 months	3-4 months	At least 18 months	2 hours

We provide practical, tailored support (workshops, training, technical assistance) to help you plan and implement your environmental projects and overcome issues. For additional support requests, you prepare a summary of your achievements to date and a short overview and supporting data explaining why you need assistance. As you undertake this module you will:

- attend 'cluster' network meetings three or four times a year, meeting with people in other businesses in your local area or industry sector
- report your progress every six months (including verbal reports at cluster network meetings and contributing to project reports)
- collect data and other information for evaluating projects.