

Westpac and the Environment: Our Environmental Policy

Our commitment to the environment

Whether it is providing environmentally responsible investment choices, planting trees, living up to Our Greenhouse Challenge commitments, or simply installing office systems which reduce energy consumption, Westpac is demonstrating that an environmental commitment is utterly compatible with our broader stakeholder interests.

Westpac's environmental policy was initiated in the early 1990s.

In 1992, we became one of the founding signatories to the United Nations Environment Program Statement on Financial Institutions and the Environment. At the time we were only one of six banks in the world to do so. We were also the first bank to join the Australian Government Greenhouse Challenge in 1996.

We believe that taking advantage of environmental management opportunities is totally consistent with our objective to enhance shareholder value.

Environmental Policy

Environmental Regulations and Legislation

We will ensure that we meet or exceed all relevant environmental regulations of the countries in which we operate, while at the same time meeting community environmental standards.

Operations and Business Practices

We will conserve global resources through management of water, energy and paper consumption throughout our operations. We are committed to programs in recycling and waste management and to the purchase of recycled products where possible and within reasonable cost boundaries.

Consideration will also be given to environmental criteria in the awarding of contracts to prospective suppliers and the selection of products for all Westpac operations.

Community and Employee Awareness

The environmental catchcry 'think globally, act locally' is something we not only believe in, but genuinely work towards.

That is why we will ensure that every employee understands the importance of incorporating environmental consideration in their daily business activities where this is appropriate. We also encourage employees to reflect their commitment to the environment by supporting staff driven volunteer programs such as 'Operation Backyard', which is helping local communities around Australia improve their environment.

Lending

Westpac has been recognised for our innovation and leadership in socially responsible investment practices and services.

Our appraisal of business customers' applications for finance includes an assessment of the potential environmental risk along with other risks. Where appropriate, specific measures to manage environmental risk aspects may be required as a condition of lending.

National and International Commitments

Westpac is a signatory to the United Nations Environment Program's Statement by Financial Institutions on the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Global Compact and the Australian Federal Government Greenhouse Challenge.

These commitments mean that we actively pursue open dialogue on environmental issues with our stakeholders in both the national and international community.

Environmental Governance

Westpac is actively committed to ensuring environmental aspects are integrated into our business activities and to environmental protection. Our approach is centred on our environmental management system, which includes a set of specific environmental objectives and targets.

Our Board Sustainability Committee oversees management's role in ensuring our environmental commitment is promoted and maintained across the Group in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Our Chief Executive Officer has overall responsibility for the Group's environmental policies and performance.

Our Environmental Co-ordinator co-ordinates our environmental policy development and ensures that the implementation of its objectives and reporting responsibilities are consistent group wide.

Our Environmental Advisory Group is central to the management of operational issues. This includes incorporating environmental consideration into the lending process for customers across the group, as well as the development and implementation of sector-leading energy management and emissions reduction programs.