



Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of projects do you support?

Currently GGB supports all energy efficiency, renewable energy or 'green' energy projects so long as the project demonstrates its savings will pay for the project in 5 years or less.

How much funding is available?

GGB has a revolving fund of \$20 million each year and projects are funded on a first come, first serve basis. Aside from funding availability, there is no restriction on project size.

How do I reserve funding?

To reserve funding, please submit a letter to the GGB team and attach a [GGB Project Plan](#) that is signed by the appropriate financial delegate. If funding is available GGB will reserve the requested amount for the requested financial year. The [GGB Project plan template can be found here](#).

Why is GGB sitting in the Department of Transport and Planning?

As part of the Machinery of Government changes which came into effect 1 January 2023, GGB transitioned from the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) to the newly formed Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). DTP's establishment centralises key planning and land use activities, precinct and policy functions within a single department and included DTF's Land and Property Group which GGB sits under.

What kind of assets do you support?

GGB supports all assets that promise savings in your energy and maintenance bills. Most common assets include lighting, solar PV, building automation and HVAC units such as boilers, and chillers.

Is there any interest on the loan?

The program operates on a simple payback period, with no interest and no discounted rates. What you take is what you pay back.

Once loans are fully repaid, there will be a 50/50 split between the borrowing agency and the State via a reduction in the agency or department's annual appropriation. This will help to grow the GGB program and enable us to fund new projects. If you'd like to see an example of a loan and repayment schedule, please see the [GGB One Pager](#).

Is my organisation eligible for the program?

All Victorian General Government Sector entities and Public Non-Financial Corporations are eligible for the GGB program.

Alternatively, you can ask yourself 'Who pays for the bills?' If the answer is the Victorian Government then there's a high chance you're eligible (excludes Victorian local councils).

Is my project eligible for funding?

In addition to your organisation being eligible for the program, the project must also meet the following criteria:

- the project must be related to energy efficiency or renewable energy
- the project must have a simple payback period of 5 years or less for General Government Sector entities, or 8 years for Public Non-financial Corporations

What support does the GGB team provide?

GGB offers a range of technical and commercial advice to help you achieve reduce your greenhouse gas emissions and your energy bills, regardless of whether you have a project with us or not. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for you to achieve your sustainability goals.

Some of our key services include:

- technical advice on options and pathways to achieve energy efficiency and renewable energy
- facilitation for Energy Performance Contracting projects
- full project life cycle templates from project plan to measurement and verification
- management of a panel of prequalified Energy Performance Contracting suppliers
- review of technical documents (tender documents, proposals, quotes, etc.)
- provision of funding and assistance in funding application

What is the loan process?

For loans up to \$1 million you can submit the funding application form directly to GGB. For loans over \$1 million the funding application form must come from your relevant Minister to the Assistant Treasurer.



In applying for funding, the department or agency must commit to repay the funds over a 5-year period using the project's cost savings to offset loan repayments. On completion of repayment of the loan, the department or agency is eligible to retain 50 percent of savings achieved by the project.

NOTE participation in the GGB program is not mandatory. Agencies may seek funding elsewhere if they choose to do so

What is the repayment process?

All GGB projects must meet a 5-year repayment period. Repayments begin one year after practical completion of the project and are made regularly over the 5-year period from the savings generated by the project. After the loan is fully repaid there is a 50% reduction in the agency's annual appropriation. Please see the [GGB One-pager](#) for a visual example.

How can I get started?

If you have ideas for a project, please reach out to us so we can assess whether the project is eligible. If yes, the next step would be to develop a project plan so we can reserve funding for you. If you don't have an idea, we can help you identify potential projects and options, while providing advice and templates to help deliver your project.

What are the risks of GGB

The risks of GGB are minimal, however there are two main risks:

- You take a loan from GGB and the installed solution is not generating the savings necessary to fully cover the loan repayments. In this situation, you will still be required to make the repayments and cover the difference from your own budget - unless you've engaged in an Energy Performance Contract in which case your supplier would wear this risk.
- Operational changes or utility rate changes which impact the savings.

Common Challenges

I have no executive support

The GGB team can help you to explore potential projects and put together a business case. We can also present to your executive or board if requested.

I have no experience in energy efficiency or renewable energy projects

GGB does! We are happy to provide advice and guidance to you and your team, including discussing common and 'easy win' projects.

I have no funding available

And that's why this program was established! GGB has a revolving fund of \$20 million to support your projects (subject to meeting our eligibility criteria).

I don't know what opportunities exist

There are always opportunities. The easiest tend to be:

- Looking for old assets, HVAC, boilers, chillers, that may be approaching end of life, or past end of life, and can be upgraded to newer more efficient models
- Looking at lighting fixtures and replacing them with LED globes, reducing the number of lights where fewer, newer fixtures can do the same work, implementing automatic lighting, or adjusting automatic schedules to better reflect the buildings hours of occupancy
- Solar panels! Many governments owned buildings can install solar panels to replace significant portions of their energy consumption

I have environmental and sustainability targets I need to meet but don't have a plan

The GGB team can help you look at your targets and identify project opportunities and areas that you can explore to meet your targets. We might also recommend you undergo an EPC which will give you a basket of solutions that will help reduce your emissions and achieve energy efficiency.

I simply have no idea where to start

Have a chat with us and we can help you get started. Simply schedule a call with us using the [GGB chat booking system](#).

Start a project? Learn more?

Get in contact!



Jackson Hobbs
Project Manager
Greener Government Buildings
jackson.hobbs@dtf.vic.gov.au

Links to more information:

- [Greener Government Buildings Guidelines](#)
- [Greener Government Buildings Website](#)
- [Greener Government Buildings Project Plan](#)

