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# Sustainability

## Investigate current practices in relation to resource usage

New South Wales has a number of laws to help protect the environment and provide guidance to business.

The [*Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act)[external link](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/legislation/Actsummaries.htm#poeo)*](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/legislation/Actsummaries.htm#poeo) is the main piece of NSW environmental legislation covering water, land, air and noise pollution and waste management. [ENV13]

Environmental sustainability is about making responsible decisions that will reduce your business' negative impact on the environment. It is not simply about reducing the amount of waste you produce or using less energy, but is concerned with developing processes that will lead to businesses becoming completely sustainable in the future. [SBC14]

As a software development company, WebDev does not produce too much pollution to the environment, so we focus on how to save energy, water and use green products first. Followings are some ideas.

* Energy conservation
* Water conservation
* Low-impact office materials
* Minimizing waste to landfill.
* Transport
* New purchasing strategy

## Set targets for improvements

The best way to obtain stakeholders support is cost saving. In most cases that save environment means save money, especial for a long term observation. Our target is to save money and save environment at the same time.

## Implement performance improvement strategies

### Energy conservation

3.1   Source and use appropriate ***techniques and tools***to assist in achieving efficiency targets

3.2    Apply continuous improvement strategies to own work area of responsibility, including ideas and possible solutions to communicate to the work group and management

3.3    Implement and integrate ***environmental and resource efficiency improvement plans***for own work group with other operational activities

3.4    Supervise and support team members to identify possible areas for improved practices and resource efficiency in work area

3.5    Seek ***suggestions***and ideas about environmental and resource efficiency management from stakeholders and act upon where appropriate

3.6    Implement costing strategies to fully value environmental assets

## Monitor performance

4.1    Use and/or develop evaluation and monitoring, tools and technology

4.2    Document and communicate outcomes to report on efficiency targets to key personnel and stakeholders

4.3    Evaluate strategies and improvement plans

4.4    Set new efficiency targets, and investigate and apply new tools and strategies

4.5    Promote successful strategies and reward participants where possible

## Reference

[ENV13] NSW Government Environment & Heritage, [E*nvironmental legislation and compliance*](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus/environlegiscompliance.htm), 2013

[SBC14] Small Biz Connect, [*Environmental Sustainability*](http://toolkit.smallbiz.nsw.gov.au/part/17/86/371), 2014