



ems e-news

Understanding the new environmental standards

What are the key environmental issues for SMEs?

- > Energy efficiency,
- > Waste minimisation,
- and
- > Pollution controls

Managing “green tape” in an era of corporate responsibility for your environment



We have all heard of “red tape” but have you caught up with the new buzz word “green tape”?

In August 2007, the NSW Business Chamber issued a report, “The challenge of green tape: Growth of environmental law and its impact on small and medium enterprises across Australia”.

The report advises “SMEs will increasingly be affected by the trend towards greater complexity in environmental laws at all levels of government. This will have the effect of making compliance a more costly and complex task, especially for those businesses that have not been keeping pace with the key environmental issues of energy efficiency, waste minimisation and pollution control”.

NSWBC CEO, Kevin McDonald, said “Twelve months ago we became increasingly concerned about the debate around climate change. SMEs are going to be hit by this as they often make the supply chains of large organisations. Large companies have made their plans and already have internal sustainability and environmental officers. SMEs think that it’s not going to affect their business, but it will through the supply chain”.

The challenge for all businesses is to firstly understand the current environmental legislation and to work out practical ways of ensuring the compliance process is understood within your business. For SMEs the cost of employing an environmental officer is prohibitive. For two reasons it will be critical to manage the “green tape”. Firstly, if you form part of a large company supply chain you will need to ensure environmental compliance and secondly for your staff, particularly Generation X and Y staff, it is important to be able to demonstrate the practical compliance steps are being taken. This could become an issue in retaining the best available candidates in a tight employment market.

Our team is experienced in managing environmental compliance and will be able to assist you to take practical steps to meet your “green tape” obligations. If you are interested we are happy to give you more background information.

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