

Electricity Retailers Perform Well In NSW Abatement Scheme, Says IPART

The New South Wales-based Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme cut CO2 emissions by more than ten million tonnes in 2005, according to a report from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

The scheme, established in 2003, aims to cut emissions to five per cent below 1990 levels by 2007.

Last year all New South Wales electricity retailers met or exceeded their targets using measures like energy-efficient light bulb giveaways or through forestry plantings.

“For 2005, all NSW electricity retailers and other benchmark participants reduced or offset their emissions through the surrender of abatement certificates to their benchmark levels or carried forward a small shortfall, within the permitted ten per cent buffer,” states the IPART report. “Given that the benchmark target has continued to rise in accordance with the scheme design from 2003, through 2004 and 2005, this was a strong performance.”

The number of emission reducing projects eligible to create abatement certificates grew from 93 at the end of 2004 to 146 by the end of last year. “For the first time, a large customer of electricity has been able to create sufficient large use abatement certificates through reductions in industrial process emissions to fully meet its 2005 abatement certificate surrender requirements,” states IPART.

The New South Wales regulator, which administers the scheme, says it will review aspects of some energy efficiency giveaway projects, including lowering the discount factor it applies to the abatement value of these projects.

“The scheme administrator is taking steps to ensure that genuine abatement continues and that the integrity of the Greenhouse Gas Scheme is maintained. Where accredited parties can verify actual installation of products, no discounting of abatement is applied,” states the regulator.

[Source esaa news]