

Improving existing buildings crucial in efforts to cut emissions, says Carbon Trust

Green retrofits of existing buildings should be given much more attention and strategies to reduce emissions should focus on the retail sector and educational institutions, as well as office blocks, according to a report jointly released today by [Carbon Trust Australia](#) and [ClimateWorks Australia](#).

"Large offices – public and private – only represent 13% of the [abatement] opportunity, yet are where most efforts from policy makers and business players such as energy service companies are concentrated," the [report](#) says.

"Other sub-segments such as public health, education and small offices, and large businesses with high energy bills present significant opportunities (respectively 24% and 15% of total opportunity) with relatively low barriers," it says.

The report also highlights that a large part of the opportunity to cut emissions lies in upgrading the small appliances that are used in buildings.