

FUNDED BY THE
NURSERY LEVY

ONGOING PROJECT

Nursery Sustainability – Undertaking a Lifecycle Assessment

Project code: NY22001

Funded by Hort Innovation using the multi-industry R&D levy

Delivered by thinkstep

Project duration: 2022–2025

What's in it for you?

This project is developing a practical tool to help nursery businesses measure and understand their environmental impact – including carbon emissions, energy and water use, waste, and recycling.

It gives growers an industry-specific way to benchmark their sustainability performance and identify where they can improve. It also supports the nursery sector to prepare for growing expectations around emissions and environmental responsibility.

What the project delivers

- A calculated baseline carbon footprint for the nursery industry
- A simplified benchmarking tool (in Excel) for nurseries to assess their Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions
- A life cycle inventory (LCI) covering energy, materials, packaging, waste and direct emissions
- A life cycle assessment (LCA) model tailored to nursery production
- A final report with plain-English summary and key improvement opportunities

These outputs will help individual growers compare their performance against industry averages – and help the industry as a whole set realistic sustainability goals.



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So what? What's changed?

Until now, nurseries have had no clear way to measure or benchmark their environmental performance. This project will:

- establish the industry's first consistent baseline for key sustainability metrics
- provide a tailored tool growers can actually use
- identify hotspots and areas for environmental improvement
- support alignment with national Net Zero goals and sustainability credentials.

Why this matters

The pressure to reduce emissions and demonstrate sustainability is only increasing. This project gives the nursery industry a head start – with the data, tools and insight to drive meaningful change, meet stakeholder expectations and support long-term resilience.

Learn more

👉 Learn more at: <https://www.horticulture.com.au/growers/help-your-business-grow/research-reports-publications-fact-sheets-and-more/ny22001>