Sandhya Tewari:

We are a controlled environment producer of horticultural crops like tomatoes, cucumbers, capsicums, lettuce and herbs. We believe in sustainability of our operations. We do soilless cultivation, which means that we are growing crops without soil and drip-feeding all the nutrients and exactly what the plant needs through the water that we supply to the plants through the drip lines that you see in the greenhouse.

Sandhya Tewari:

We installed a thermal screen. Obviously when you supply heat there is the chance of the heat escaping, and through the installation of energy screens the heating becomes very more efficient. We have also installed a very high-tech control system that controls all the parameters.

Sandhya Tewari:

We work very closely with the Victorian Government. They made us aware about the VEU, the departmental representative, and they said that that could be something that we could use.

Emma Jacobs:

The Victoria Energy Upgrades Program is a key part of Victoria's energy sector emissions reduction pledge.

Ross Tunmer:

Essentially incentivises businesses to implement energy efficiency projects. This is done by comparing greenhouse gas emissions before and after the implementation of the project.

Ross Tunmer:

The amount you can get from the VEU program varies by project, but this can be quite significant, and it can range from anywhere between 10% to 100% of a project's total costs. To find out if your project is eligible, you can reach out to an accredited person.

Tomas Clarke:

The AP's role is to help the companies to comply with their regulations and the guidelines, and to help them to complete the process till the certification creation.

Sandhya Tewari:

The Victorian Energy Upgrades Program is aimed at encouraging Victorian businesses to implement energy efficient processes and systems by helping them recoup the costs through the through different credits. We can save one quarter of the investment to maybe even half of the investment. We are already tracking our production data anyway, so it doesn't require too much time and effort to just pass that data on for comparison with our past consumption history and patterns.

Arlen East:

Victorian energy efficiency certificates, or VEECs, are electronic certificates which are awarded for each tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent which are reduced.

Ross Tunmer:

VEECs are generated through the process and sold to entities that are required to buy them under Victorian legislation, and the price of these VEECs varies with typical supply and demand forces.

Sandhya Tewari:

A VEEC's the credit for reducing your greenhouse emissions, so you can get paid back for being energy efficient.

Ross Tunmer:

Measuring energy consumption and other production data is not only important for the VEU program but can also be important for internal operations. You can't manage what you're not measuring.

Tomas Clarke:

The data is used for creating the baseline and to create the energy profile of the farm.

Sandhya Tewari:

We want to cultivate a better world using technology and the modern information and modern systems that are available, but how can we even do better is what drove us.

Nick Tsaktsiras:

Agriculture Victoria's website will have plenty of information there for Victorian farmers about the VEU program. Ultimately the VEU program will assist Victorian farmers to reduce their energy costs, help them fund technology upgrades on their properties, which means more money in their pockets.