# How Off-farm efficiency projects benefit the environment and irrigators – Transcript

The Off-farm Efficiency Program can help us reach important environmental targets while also providing more usable water for irrigators.

The program is designed to recover up to 450 gigalitres of water for enhanced environmental outcomes included in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, while resulting in positive or neutral social and economic outcomes for communities.

So how does this work in practice?

When water allocations are distributed through irrigation networks, large volumes of water are lost due to evaporation and seepage – these are system losses.

Off-farm efficiency projects reduce this loss and share the water saving between the environment and the irrigation network.

This is done by transferring a portion of the total water saving to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder in the form of water entitlements – and putting the remaining water savings back in the irrigation network – resulting in a greater volume of usable water available to the network and its customers.

The more efficient water delivery infrastructure also benefits irrigators by providing the network greater control over the volume and speed of water delivery.

When the irrigation network shares the water savings created through off-farm efficiency projects, farmers can get more usable water for production – at the same time as the environment benefits from additional water to promote the health of our rivers and wetlands.

For more information on the Off-farm Efficiency Program, visit our website.