

VIRIDIS

SMALL OFFICES, BIG OUTCOMES

CITY SWITCH

GREEN OFFICE

Viridis is a sustainability-focused multi-disciplinary design, development and property consultancy with offices in Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane.

Their aim is to help drive the shift towards sustainability in the built environment by delivering high quality advice, project management, technical services, training and corporate change support.

Viridis has demonstrated that an energy efficient office doesn't have

to mean the latest, most costly technology – rather that energy efficiency can often be achieved at little or no cost when combined with a staff education and awareness campaign.

By enabling their staff to have more control over the energy consumption within the office, and utilising fresh air and daylight, Viridis have been able to reduce their financial costs and energy consumption, and enhance employee well-being.

GOALS

- To lead by example and share learnings
- To improve energy, water and material efficiency in the tenancies
- To make a significant positive impact by making small changes over time

Signatory status

Date joined CitySwitch	2010
Tenancy size	approx 200 sqm across multiple offices
NABERS commitment rating	★★★★★
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Website	www.viridis.com.au

Key outcomes

Energy & CO ₂ savings	21,180 kWh saving per year 22.2 tonnes CO ₂ saving per year
Estimated financial saving	\$3,800 saving per year
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North-facing spaces for natural light • Task lighting (removing the need for overhead lighting) • Natural ventilation • Office 'kill-switch'



“ CitySwitch provides Viridis with a program through which to ‘walk the talk’ and to engage with our clients and industry colleagues. It challenges us to not only reduce energy consumption but to think about energy differently. ”

Dr Rory Eames, NSW State Manager
Viridis



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Employees are your biggest asset

Viridis recognises that people are the biggest asset in any business and were keen to ensure their office space reflected the values of the organisation and the individuals within it.

When deciding on where to locate their office in Sydney, all staff were intimately involved in the selection of the office space. Members of the Sydney team viewed 30 different potential tenancies before selecting a space that was not only the right size and location, but was adjacent to multiple public transport options, had natural light for the majority of the working day and had the ability to open windows for natural ventilation. Viridis understood that selecting an office space with a high indoor environment quality would enhance staff productivity and well-being - leading to better business outcomes.

Ongoing monitoring

Viridis closely measure and monitor the energy use and its associated financial costs in the operation of their offices. Detailed reviews of

monthly electricity bills, analysis of half-hourly energy data and the use of logging equipment to monitor loads from various equipment helps ensure that their office maintains its level of efficiency at all times. Appointing a dedicated staff member to be responsible for energy monitoring and reporting and setting KPIs around energy management ensures that it is a continual process.

Individual control

In addition to the optimisation of their working space, Viridis have made every individual responsible for using energy effectively. Having a small office allows staff to have more control over their working environment – and this can be the difference between a 1 star and 6 star NABERS rating. All staff make sure that equipment and lights are switched off if not needed and, if it is appropriate, staff are encouraged to take their work to a local outdoor space. This does a number of things: reduces power draw, lowers internal heat gains, and provides employees with fresh air and a different sensory environment.

Viridis also ensures there are plenty of plants within the office (approximately one small to medium plant every

three square metres) to improve air quality and add visual amenity. Finally, to further reduce their overall office impact on the environment, 90 percent of the fitout has been made from reused or up-cycled furniture, exemplifying Viridis' overall sustainability philosophy.

Get involved

Viridis is part of a national network of businesses that, with the help of CitySwitch, are playing an important part in reducing the carbon emissions of our cities and demonstrating a high level of environmental leadership and action.



Australian Government
Department of Industry

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CitySwitch Green Office is Australia's flagship tenant energy efficiency program. Run in partnership between local and state governments, CitySwitch is a growing network of business leaders committed to addressing their environmental impact. cityswitch.net.au

