

Case Study Department for Communities & Social Inclusion: green ambassadors



The SA Department for Communities & Social Inclusion (DCSI) is committed to ensuring access to quality community services that provide support, and protect and enhance the well-being of South Australians.

DCSI is also making a significant contribution to the welfare of our planet by focusing on its own operations.

Ambitious targets

DCSI has undertaken extensive staff engagement at its Adelaide Riverside Centre tenancy as part of the 'Greening Project' which aims to achieve a 25 per cent reduction in energy efficiency by 2014.

All Greening Projects have incurred zero investment, with the reliance placed on existing budgets to ensure sustainability gains across the areas of energy efficiency, print consolidation, waste management and fleet management.

Goals

- Achieve a 25% reduction in energy by 2014
- Achieve a 4 star NABERS Energy tenancy rating
- Demonstrate best practice in organisational sustainability performance

Getting staff on board

As part of the Greening Project, DCSI rolled out a 'Greening Ambassadors' program to ensure that staff themselves could lead on efforts to bring about positive change and a culture of sustainability across the organisation.



Government of South Australia
Department for Families and Communities

Signatory status	
Date joined CitySwitch	June 2010
Tenancy size	15,000 sqm
NABERS Commitment rating	★★★★
Website	www.dfc.sa.gov.au
Key outcomes	
Annual saving	\$1.125 million due to printer device savings, consolidation and reducing operational costs
CO2 savings per annum	75 tonnes per annum due to printer consolidation
Technology	Printer consolidation, behavioural change, lighting upgrades, open space refurbishment
Awards	Winner of the CitySwitch SA Signatory of the Year Award in 2010 and 2011

Greening of office operations gets staff involved

DCSI implemented a range of energy saving measures over a three year period, many of which were low or no-cost actions including:

- encouraging 'switch off practices' with bin, light switch, PC and printer signage
- installation of T5 lighting throughout the tenancy
- keeping staff informed of green initiatives via internal e-news.

Greening Ambassadors

The establishment of the Greening Ambassadors program saw staff actively involved in the tenancy's sustainability initiatives.

Approximately 40 Greening Ambassadors regularly came together to brainstorm ideas and spread the 'sustainability word' to their colleagues. The use of branding i.e. the Switchie logo helped identify their efforts.



Printer consolidation brings impressive savings

All unnecessary print devices were removed from office and commercial spaces. Those that remained were consolidated from 1 device for every 2.25 staff, to 1 device for every 8 staff members.

The benefits included reduced maintenance and IT support, reduced consumables, in addition to less energy and paper usage due to the fact that staff were less likely to print.

Printer consolidation reduced the tenancy's capital assets significantly resulting in a total saving of \$461,000. Operating costs were cut by approximately \$552,000.

Other sustainability outcomes

- The implementation of a Zero Waste Management System resulted in the diversion of approximately 400 tonnes of waste from landfill per annum.
- Green management of the organisation's travel practices and fleet has resulted in 76 per cent of the 1,261 fleet vehicles now being low emission fuelled.
- Sustainability and greening procedures are now incorporated into all procurement processes.

The results

Within the first year as part of CitySwitch, DCSI achieved a 4.5 star NABERS Energy tenancy rating (including the use of 20 per cent Green Power) - half a star higher than the initial CitySwitch commitment.

"As a state government Department, DCSI is highly committed to environmental sustainability and sees itself as a leader in greening office operations. DCSI is wholly committed to continuously decreasing its environmental footprint and are proud to join CitySwitch Green Office as one of the largest tenancies in SA to do so."

Peter Bull

Executive Director - Organisational & Community Development
Department for Communities & Social Inclusion

Next steps

The DCSI Greening Program has been extended to include metropolitan and regional offices. The carbon footprint of these offices will be reduced by rolling out the various initiatives that have been successful in the DCSI Riverside Centre tenancy, including energy efficiency technology, waste management systems and printer consolidation.

Get involved

Join CitySwitch and discover how small changes can make a big difference to Australia's future environmental health – and that of the planet.

Visit www.cityswitch.net.au for more information or call the CitySwitch Program Manager in your state. Contact details are listed on the

CitySwitch is a national tenant energy efficiency program. Previously known as the 3CBDs Greenhouse Initiative, the program works with tenants to improve office energy efficiency, thereby reducing the CO₂ emissions that contribute to global warming.

CitySwitch Green Office partners

