

VERDANT VALIANT

We recognize that as well as providing short and long term responsible solutions to our customers needs in an environmentally responsible manner, we also have to monitor our own internal progress in our sustainability drive. We have developed below a transparent framework that will allow us, our employees, customers and suppliers to measure and monitor our progress.

We have made some progress, but recognize that we still have a lot to do. But our goal is continual improvement in our sustainability drive both internally and externally.

SYDNEY BENCHMARKING	
OFFICE	
BEFORE	AFTER
Computers being left on overnight	All computers are being switched off of a night.
Paper was not being recycled	Paper is now being put in with the cardboard recycling. Everyone is very dilligent with this- not only recycling, but also re using.
Bottles/Cans were not being recycled	Bottles and cans are all seperated and recycled.
"Dishwasher was being put on with hardly anything in it every day	We are making sure that the dishwasher is full and due to this are only putting it on every second day – if that.
Using non-recycled paper in our printers	Investigating using recycled paper for printers
Using neon lights	Investigating the benefits of using LED neon lighting – have a contact who can give us the cost benefits etc. and supply us with a rough quote
Everyone was printing out their quotes	Some people have started to save their Quotes in their documents in order to save on printing them out
Turning A/C on prior to opening windows	Air conditioning is not used unless temperatues are unbearably hot.
Using non-recycled toilet paper	Although its slightly more expensive to use non-recycled toilet paper, we will speak to Andrea next week about replacing the current toilet paper with this.
WAREHOUSE	
BEFORE	AFTER
Using non-biodegradable cleaning products	Yet to find cleaning products that are both easy to use, and are environmentally friendly.
Warehouse staff leaving lights/radious on	Lights and radious being switched off at the end of each day, or when not in use.
All rubbish thrown in one bin, not seperated.	Commingle recycling bin used (glass/palstics only), picked up fortnightly by recycling company Ecosense.
Forklift using A LOT of energy/power	Still looking into ways to combat this....
Lights in rarely frequented toilets always kept on	All lights in the toilets upstairs are left off unless in use.
ON THE ROAD	
Trucks running on regular petrol	Trucks are still running on regular petrol, but are looking at alternatives.



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BRISBANE BENCHMARKING

OFFICE

BEFORE	AFTER
Throwing all rubbish into one bin	Bought a new bin for recycling of cans, bottles, cardboard etc - Made recycling bins for each staff member.
Cleaning products - not using 'green' products	Still investigating
Airconditioning - overuse	Started turning off airconditioning one hour before 5pm. On hot days only half an hour. It gets very hot with many people working. Have blocked off rooms that don't require aircond. Such as storage rooms. Targeted cool air into a smaller space, doesn't take as much to cool down. Has become more efficient.
Lights	Turned lights off in kitchen and photocopy. Opened the blinds for natural light
Cardboard - Never had any means of recycling cardboard. Warehouse took it to the dump without separating it	Called Amcor recycling. We now have an 8m3 cardboard bin that is collected once a week. It can also take things such as newspapers.
Computers	Staff turn them off at the end of the day.
Power Usage	Have reduced our power usage doing the above. Need to keep this going through the hotter months when it will be more difficult.
Solar Power	Solarpower. Have received several quotes from different solar power companies and now investigating
2 fridges constantly running	Reduced usage to 1
WAREHOUSE	
Throwing all rubbish into one bin	Bought a new bin for recycling of cans, bottles, cardboard etc -.
Cleaning products	investigating....follow up needed
Pallet wrap	Amcor has means of recycling the excessive use of pallet wrap. The collect it once a week from the warehouse. (free with our large cardboard bin)
Electric fork lift	Yet to action. Fork lift is approximately 80% of the downstairs powerbill. It needs to be charged everynight - overnight. Possible to turn it off over the weekend?
ON THE ROAD	
Trucks	Yet to action. Some sort of super hydro efficient vehicles. More expensive to purchase but far cheaper to run over time. Possible to include cold fusion?
Maintenance of our trucks	Yet to investigate

MELBOURNE BENCHMARKING

OFFICE

BEFORE	AFTER
There is no splitting up of office waste.	we have organised recycling bins through the council. We had called the council and found we were paying for a recycling bin in the rates but did not have one. They have now been delivered and we will see if this will handle our paper and plastic waste. 25/1/09 started putting out our recycle bin for the council to collect.
Computer boxes are left on each night	Staff are now making an effort to turn off their screens and boxes each night.
Two fridges are running in the office kitchen	Reduced usage to 1
Paper use is high with printer and office processes	Staff are using printed paper for notes and scrap paper. We are still to look at the processes.
Cleaning products have not been brought with their ingredients in mind.	Not addressed as yet
Lights globes being used in office and showroom.	Majority of lights are fluorescent and metal halide lights which are energy efficient. We are going to look at getting fluorescent light for a few lamps in the showroom.
Bathroom requirements i.e. toilet paper and soaps	Yet to look at recycled toilet paper
Christmas cards mailed out	emailed christmas cards in 2008, will do the same in 2009
WAREHOUSE	
Recycling waste	We have been using Visy for some time to dispose of the cardboard boxes and some office paper waste. We will now be scheduling a day each fortnight to drop off the cardboard. Reusing boxes to protect furniture during storage.
cleaning products	Yet to look into products but hope to work with the other states to look at bulk buying. Maybe each state can trial a different brand and review them.
cleaning furniture processes	looking at products used for the steam cleaner and see if biodegradable products could be used so excess water can be put on the garden.
Repairing damaged furniture looking at glues and products	Looking at the protocol of repairing stock (a) to minimise land fill (b) still to access products like glue that are being used.
ON THE ROAD	
Truck fuel	Yet to look at
Maintenance of vehicles	Regular maintenance to minimise pollution.