

VICTORIAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, PLANNING AND LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LONG-TIME SIGNATORY KEEPS MAKING GAINS



The Victorian Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI) has been a Signatory to CitySwitch since 2009 and during this time has achieved impressive office energy savings of 33 per cent.

Formerly the Department of Planning and Community Development and the Department of Transport, the DTPLI has carried over a strong commitment to monitoring, measuring and reducing its environmental impact across a number of business areas.

With the help of CitySwitch support services, key actions DTPLI has undertaken include:

- a comprehensive energy audit

- an ongoing computer switch-off campaign
- installation of energy timers
- de-lamping in over lit areas
- upgrading lighting to energy efficient globes
- printer consolidation
- introduction of stationery freecycle scheme to reuse or re-house surplus stationery items
- an increase of bike parking capacity
- a review of waste management processes
- introduction of multiple recycling streams and real-time water tracking

DTPLI has also taken part in CitySwitch's RMIT student audit program in both 2012 and 2013.

GOALS

- Achieve ongoing environmental and economic savings
- Reduce stationery waste
- Educate and engage staff

Signatory status

Date joined CitySwitch	March 2009
Tenancy size	42,898 sqm across three tenancies
NABERS commitment rating	★★★★★
Website	www.dtpli.vic.gov.au

Key outcomes

Annual CO ² saving	453 tonnes
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 33% reduction in energy use - 30% increase in staff switching off computers - 20% reduction in stationery purchase



“

The DTPLI is dedicated to using resources efficiently, and recognising the financial, social and environmental benefits this brings. Bringing in the student group is a great way to independently audit some of the work we have been doing over the years and it also provides a valuable learning experience for the students as they prepare to enter the workplace. ”



David Helmore
Environment Manager
DTPLI

CITY SWITCH GREEN OFFICE AWARD FINALIST 2013

Department invites students to audit tenancy resource use

Through CitySwitch, DTPLI called on the assistance of RMIT students in 2012 and again in 2013 to analyse resource use and staff behaviour, and make recommendations based on their findings.

Switch-off audits uncover big savings

As part of the comprehensive audit undertaken, students investigated the percentage of staff switching computers off when leaving each night. Similar audits conducted in the past saw results increase over time from 53 per cent to an organisational best of 70 per cent switch-off rate. This increased to 83 per cent when the student audit was carried out, indicating that the

associated communications campaign had greatly assisted in changing staff behaviour. It was determined that an 83 per cent switch-off rate equates to an energy cost saving of almost \$15,000 per year (from the previous best of 70 per cent).

Weighing up equipment pros and cons: hand towels vs hand dryers

The audit students also explored the costs and benefits associated with utilising hand towels vs hand dryers throughout the building. The development of a resource map (see below) outlined the carbon emissions associated with each option, compared to the carbon attributed to computer energy use. The students concluded that over a ten year period, paper towels

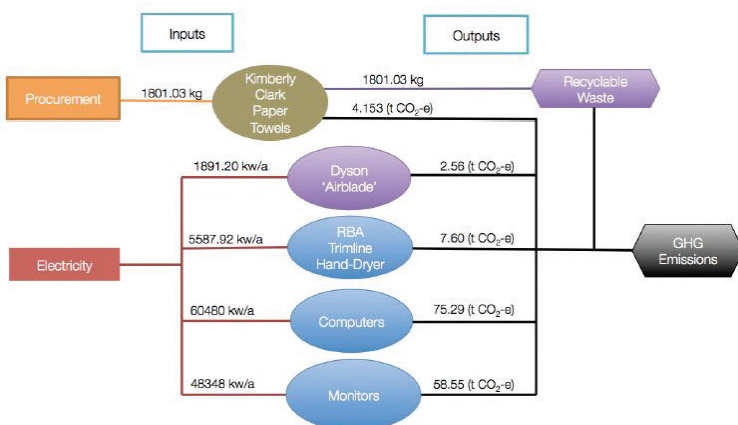
would cost almost four times more to purchase than even the most inefficient hand dryer would cost to operate. Only through conducting a detailed audit on resources such as this were key opportunities for future savings uncovered.

Waste not, want not

DTPLI has long had a keen interest in reducing waste to landfill. A freecycle service was therefore set up by the Department to enable DTPLI, other state government departments and childcare centres to receive out of date stationery products that would be otherwise wasted. In investigating the effectiveness of this scheme, the students found that an enormous 500kg of stationery was being diverted from landfill to be reused per week. As a result, DTPLI has achieved a 20 per cent reduction in stationery purchases.

Get involved

DTPLI 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.



Resource audit map of carbon emission comparison of hand towels vs hand dryers.

CitySwitch Green office is Australia's national tenant energy efficiency program. This partnership initiative is a growing network of business leaders committed to addressing their environmental impact: cityswitch.net.au