

What can you do for your environment?



The environmental problems facing Australia today can be overwhelming but there are many ways that your workplace or you personally can do your bit for the environment.

At Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, we believe that it's important to practice what we preach so...the staff put their thinking caps on and came up with some ways to minimise our carbon footprint...and we achieved some impressive results!

This document is a way for us to share what we have learnt with you.

The simple steps below are just some of the ways that we can all achieve greater sustainability.

TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL!!!

1) Save the trees!

According to a recent study conducted by Friends of the Earth International, the world's forests are being cleared at a rate of 7.3million hectares a year with loss of tropical forests increasing at a rate of more than 25 per cent. It's vital that we all 'do our bit' to reduce our personal use of paper!

- At KABNSW we have reset our printer settings so that the bypass tray is recycled paper. This is a great way to reuse paper for draft documents. It is also a good idea to use recycled paper in the fax machine for receiving faxes.
- Provide adequate and conveniently placed paper recycling bins throughout the office or home. At KABNSW each staff member has a small recycling bin beside their desk to encourage the recycling of all paper and cardboard scraps and packaging.

- Update the database and follow up any contacts that do not have an email address. At the beginning of 2009 our 'Tidy Towns, Sustainable Communities' Program Manager, Phil Kelly personally phoned every contact from our Tidy Towns data base without an email address. Where possible, convert all mail outs to an electronic version. This can include 'e newsletters', 'e greeting or Christmas cards', and 'e registration forms' to name a few!
- Don't throw away any parcel packaging! KABNSW reuses all medium and large sized packaging from parcels that are delivered to the office- old cardboard boxes, bubble wrap, plastic and paper sheets, nothing goes to waste!

2) Elect to reduce electricity use!

Not only will you be helping the environment by reducing your energy use, but it makes good business sense too! You would be surprised by the monetary savings that can be made by changing a few bad habits.

At KABNSW we have reduced our electricity usage by 33% from the period 2007-2008.

- Switch off all unused lights. You can prevent 45kg of greenhouse gas emissions from being released into the atmosphere simply by switching off just one appliance. (AGO)
- Switch appliances off at the wall. It is the responsibility of the last KABNSW staff member to leave the office of an evening to double check that all appliances and lights are switched off.
- Switch off appliances on standby. Appliances on standby can easily use up to 10 percent, even if they are not performing little or no function.
- Swap to energy efficient light globes which cut emissions by up to 75% and don't require changing as often!
- Many appliances are now given an energy star rating. So when it comes time to purchase a new appliance, make the energy conscious choice and choose one with a high star rating- the more stars, the more energy efficient the appliance will be!

3) Staff make better “dish washers” than dishwashers!

Go back to basics and hand wash your dishes.

4) Walk it, bike it or ride it, just don't drive it!

Reduce your carbon footprint and take public transport instead of the car.

When possible KABNSW staff takes public transport to and from work and always carpool to work events.

The Chief Executive Officer of KABNSW used to walk to work when he lived nearby. Now that he has moved further away, he alternates daily between riding his bicycle to work, taking his motorbike or taking the train! Our Waste Watchers Program Manager, Rosemary Hadaway also rides her bike to and from work! The rest of us use the train whenever possible.

5) Recycle your printer cartridge!

There are a number of companies that recycle and refill cartridges; Cartridge World is one of these. Cartridge World will refill your old cartridge and resell it for approximately half the price of a new one! Please visit <http://www.cartridgeworld.com.au/environment.php>

6) KABNSW goes “back to school” with lunchboxes!

KABNSW have a no waste lunch policy and always try to bring lunch from home in containers instead of packaging.

7) Free yourself from the stuffy air-conditioned office and open some windows and doors!

At KABNSW, we only turn on the air-conditioner in extreme temperatures, favouring the fresh air!