

# Kangaroo Island Council

## Challenge:

- Live up to community expectations to do business in a sustainable manner

## Solution:

- Use the sustainability report recommendations to make improvements to the business
- Multiple changes to the council operations, resulting in lower costs and behavioural change.

## Achievements:

- Environmental & Social Award Finalist – Kangaroo Island Sustainable Business Program.
- Energy use and waste output both decreased by approximately 24%



## Background

Local Government was formed on Kangaroo Island in the late 1880s and the two district councils amalgamated to form the Kangaroo Island Council in 1996. Since amalgamation, the Council has continued to provide a range of services including infrastructure development and maintenance, waste management, building and planning services, libraries and in more recent years, community development and tourism.

## Solution

The business participated in the Kangaroo Island-Towards Sustainability program in 2008. The council staff found that the assessments, reports and the workshops all proved useful tools for raising awareness of their energy use and the benefits of 'being green'. The reports in particular were invaluable, helping the council to

...a more positive attitude to recycling among staff who have participated in the program.

identify areas which could be improved. Senior Managers and the Community Facilities Coordinator were involved and actively participated in the program, the council plans to involve more staff who were away at the time of the program.

The council has made some exciting changes to their operations as a result of the program. These include:

- Review of and reduction of use in fleet vehicles.
- Increased use of modern fuel efficient machinery
- Timer on hot water heaters modified.
- Spot lights over customer service desk and library circulation desk now turned off
- Air-conditioner and automatic doors are turned off on fine days, especially Saturdays when the building is only open for three hours.
- All light bulbs are being replaced with energy efficient bulbs – ongoing throughout Council's facilities
- Reduction in waste being produced by office staff, increased amount of recycling

- Water sprinkler timers in parks and reserves have been kept at Level 3 water restrictions requirements, despite water restrictions not at Level 3
- Three new water and energy efficient toilet blocks built for remote reserves; composting toilets with environmentally friendly design.

Due to the changes made, the council plans on using the achievements from program to promote sustainable businesses at the Kangaroo Island Field Day and other events. Benefits from these changes have been gradual and constant; the council would like to continue this trend.



The residents of Kangaroo Island are aware of the council's actions, through the local newspaper and promotions such as the Field Day and other community events. They have had very positive feedback on using low energy lighting. Due to the Kangaroo Island community generally being environmentally aware, the residents expect their Council to have good environmental practices; hence the Council has further plans to reduce their carbon footprint. These include:

- Further reduction of paper waste from office,
- Promotion of mulching/composting,
- Reduction of vehicle fleet,
- More composting toilets and other 'green' community facilities
- Staff training in sustainable practices

When it comes to introducing sustainable actions into a business, the staff at Kangaroo Island Council recommends, "Do it - its easier than you think and keeps you monitoring costs and outcomes".

The major sponsors of the Kangaroo Island – towards sustainability program are EPA SA, KI Development Board, KI Council, KI Natural Resources Management Board and the SA Government.



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