

# The Pretzel Zone

## Challenge:

- ✚ Improve sustainable practices within a small business

## Solution:

- ✚ Incorporate sustainable strategies into staffs day-to-day duties

## Achievements:

- ✚ Reduced its expenditure for combined energy, waste, transport and water usage by approximately 18%
- ✚ Staff engagement program



## Background

The Pretzel Zone is part of the Munno Para Shopping Centre in Playford, South Australia. The shop opened in March 2005.

## Solution

The shop participated in the S1K Playford program, one of 24 participants. The shopping centre was encouraging the small businesses within the centre to become involved in the program. The staff believed it was worthwhile to join up and learn more about how to lower costs through more sustainable practices.

The staff at The Pretzel Zone were keen to be involved, especially making use of the mentoring support provided through the program and gaining more information on sustainable practices, in particular for power and water.



Initially, the staff started incorporating behavioural change in their day-to-day duties, such as saving water by waiting until the dishwasher was full before starting it up and turning off any non-essential devices. After the program, the staff made two major changes to the business in regard to water usage and power usage. The business currently has four fridges, two of which are required to be turned on at all times. However, the other two fridges could be turned off without any disruption to the business.

As such, these fridges were fitted with timers so that they turned off at night, thus reducing their energy usage.

Also, the main water tap in use was fitted with a low-flow fitting. It took some time for the staff to make the adjustment to the change in water flow, but they are now used to it and it has reduced their water usage.

The Pretzel Zone has found the education part of the program the most useful, especially for the staff. They are now much more conscience of wastage in all areas of the business and how this equates to the bottom line.

The staff are pleased that they are doing their part, not only for the business but for the wider community, in reducing GHG emissions.

The shop has found that due to its small size and being part of a shopping centre, it doesn't have the chance to make large changes to become more sustainable, but believe that every little change helps.

The staff at Pretzel Zone believes that being a part of the S1k program was a very important step to becoming more sustainable and they encourage other businesses to either join a sustainable business program or engage companies such as Village Green.

The major sponsors of the S1K Playford program are EPA SA, Gov. of South Australia, City of Playford, Centre for Innovation, Delfin Lend Lease, UniSA, City of Salisbury, Salisbury Business & Export Centre and LMC Technology Park



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