

Saving energy and money

SUCCESS STORIES IN MARRICKVILLE

KEY FIGURES ACHIEVED

 carbon emissions	Electricity Savings / year 6,205 kWh
 community	Financial Savings / year \$1,365
	CO₂ Reductions / year 6,626 kg

Case study

Camperdown's Architect Vaughn Lane (AVL) is a studio based practice specialising in sustainable architecture. The studio works on a mixture of residential and commercial projects.

The business joined Marrickville Council's **target sustainability @ marrickville** program in 2007 and set a target to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions from electricity by 10% by December 2009.

They exceeded their target, reducing energy use by 22% in 2009. This resulted in significant financial savings for the business as well as a reduction in their environmental impact.

Architect Vaughn Lane will save more than \$1300 a year on their energy bills, by turning off lights and non-essential equipment!

How did they do it?

- Talked to their staff about setting their target and how they were going to achieve it.
- Replaced their existing lighting with compact fluorescent light globes.
- Switched off all equipment at night, eliminating their stand-by power use.
- Air conditioners and heaters were only used when necessary.

With no installation of expensive equipment, AVL made significant cuts to their energy use and greenhouse gas emissions while cutting their business running costs.



AVL's Studio in Camperdown

What next?

AVL will investigate:

- Reducing their environmental impact further by purchasing Accredited Green Power.
- Installing a separate electricity meter in their building to better track energy savings.
- Becoming a carbon neutral organisation through using the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard for their sustainability reporting.

Energy costs

PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS FOR RISING PRICES

What is going to change?

Australian energy prices are rising and this is estimated to continue. The Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal of NSW is projecting **price increases of 58% over the next 3 years**. The following table estimates the rise in electricity costs for an average small business.

KEY FIGURES	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Annual electricity bill (using 10,000 kWh)	\$1,520	\$1,808	\$2,097	\$2,386

What should we do?

Cutting your energy use can significantly reduce the costs, risks and environmental impacts of your business. There are many initiatives you can take, here are just a few:

Standby power – Turn off switches at the power point. Equipment on standby is still using electricity and costing you money.

Lighting – Maximise natural light and install efficient lighting (Compact Fluorescent Lights and LEDs) that use 80% less energy than incandescent globes and can produce the same amount of light.

Air-conditioning – Set your thermostat to 24 or 25°C in summer.

Cooling – Utilise natural ventilation and shade such as awnings, curtains and trees. Keep doors and windows closed in summer if you are using air conditioning.

Green power – Purchase accredited Green Power through an accredited provider. Accredited Green Power is generated from renewable sources including hydro, wind power and solar energy, producing no net greenhouse gas emissions.

You can save up to 10% off cooling costs for every 1°C that you raise the temperature setting!

Appliances – Use electrical appliances with an Energy Star label, the greater number of stars equals lower energy costs for your business. Make sure the Energy Star power management feature is switched on.



Refrigerators – Regularly clean dust away from condenser coils at the back of fridges. Keep a gap between the back of your fridge and the wall to allow sufficient air flow for the fridge to run more efficiently. Ensure the seals on your fridges are intact to stop cool air leakage.

