

Some Cheap and Simple Green Initiatives:

Some Relatively Cheap and Simple Initiatives and

Some that are Not so Cheap or Simple!

There are many options available to individuals and businesses to reduce their environmental impact, including:



Diesel Fuel Usage

- Install a fuel monitoring system that can identify machines/vehicles that require tuning or servicing thereby helping reduce fuel consumption.
- Convert Diesel Operated Vehicles to gas and where appropriate (e.g. forklifts and heavy machinery) to electricity.
- Use Hybrid Vehicles.
- Use bio-diesel or other alternative fuel sources.
- Use idle reduction/avoidance strategies.
- Train staff in Eco-Driving techniques.
- Improve vehicle aerodynamics.
- Promote carpooling.



Air Conditioning

- Set the air-conditioning in your facilities and vehicles at a higher level (warmer) during summer and at a lower level (cooler) during winter. This will reduce your power consumption and ultimately your power bills. Studies have shown that widening the set-point range by 1°C can save around 10% of energy consumed by the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning system. A recent study on a range of buildings in Melbourne showed that raising the set-point by one degree in summer cut electricity consumption by 6%. Using the Matheson Library as an example, a 6% electricity reduction for the month of February would save Monash University approximately \$1,200 and almost 11 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.
- Implement a "Filter Management Program" for air conditioning systems so as to maximise operating efficiencies (and reduce power usage)



Purchasing

- Encourage the purchase of energy efficient equipment and ensure that all purchase orders have printed reminders stating "is this equipment energy efficient".
- Use environmentally friendly vendors/suppliers.



Water

- Install rainwater tanks on offices and warehouses to collect runoff for other uses (e.g. landscape watering).
- Install energy efficient or slow flow taps and shower heads.
- Install movement activated flushing urinals and dual flush cisterns.
- Use bio-degradable cleaning products.
- Convert from electricity to instantaneous gas heaters, or convert to solar heaters.



Lighting

- Switch off lights when not required.
- Develop and conduct an awareness program to encourage staff to turn off lights etc.
- Use low wattage energy efficient lights. LED lights are dearer but much more efficient and last longer. Purchase prices are reducing.
- Reduce the total number of lights if lux levels are safe for operations.
- Install sensors, dimmers and/or timers for lights to reduce power consumption.
- Install skylights in warehouses to increase "free" natural light levels.
- Turn off lights in the yard when there are no night operations (Note: ensure that safety and security is not compromised).



Recycling

- Provide recycling bins throughout your site.
- Recycle paper, plastics, metals, glass, copier/printer cartridges.
- Recycle tyres.
- Recycle batteries.
- Use reusable cups and plates (as opposed to disposable).

Some Cheap and Simple Initiatives:



Office

- Encourage double sided printing (printer settings) and more information printed per page.
- Utilise recycled paper (toilets, printers)
- Reuse used paper where 1 side is clean
- Use online communication options whenever possible to reduce paper transactions
- Improve building design (e.g. improve natural light, building orientation, building materials etc.)
- Switch off machines when not in use (computers, lights, photocopiers, chargers etc.).



Staff

- Include environmental information in new employee inductions and require regular “refreshers”.
- Include environmental information in contractor and visitor inductions.
- Reward good environmental performance by staff (“Green Employee of the Month”).
- Provide a vehicle to share “Good News” environmental stories and performance.
- Appoint an “Environmental Champion” and allow time to undertake the responsibility.



Vehicle

- Improve vehicle aerodynamics to reduce friction (and fuel burn)
- Improve the use of tyre technologies (eg: maintenance of tyre pressure, use of ultra wide tyres, low friction tyres and nitrogen filling)
- Train staff in Eco-Driving techniques.



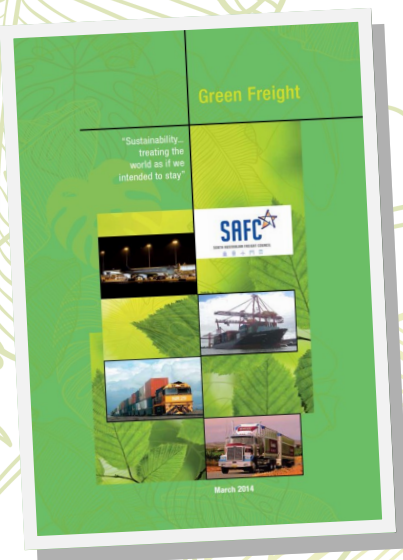
Supply Chains

- Improve logistics planning to optimise delivery/pick up routes.
- Improve backloading opportunities to minimise empty running.
- Improve vehicle capacity and optimisation.
- Consider modal shift opportunities.
- Remove First/Last Mile Access issues for larger heavy vehicles.
- Investigate night delivery options to avoid (and reduce) congestion.
- Improve communications along the supply chain.



General

- Establish an all-encompassing (all sites, all aspects of the business) Environment policy and perform regular reviews of performance.
- Measure and monitor your carbon footprint.
- Implement an “Offsets” scheme whereby environmental impacts are offset through positive environmental projects (e.g. tree planting through a broker etc.)
- Have spill management programs and procedures in place.
- Implement a preventative maintenance program to ensure assets are operating correctly, efficiently and extend asset life.
- Install a solar array to offset some (or all) of your electrical power needs.



And remember to check out SAFC's Green Freight Report to explore even more “simple and not so simple” steps to help your business improve its environmental performance.

Available at www.safreightcouncil.com.au

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