

HUME CITY COUNCIL

BUSINESS EFFICIENCY NETWORK

RESULTS FOR 2014



BEN has continued to work with a wide range of people this year to achieve some excellent outcomes for the Hume and wider Melbourne business community. Here is a snapshot of BEN's activities and results for 2014.

FORUMS

February - *The Green Way Cleantech Business Forum* in conjunction with Australian Cleantech and Melbourne Airport

May - *Energy Efficiency Finance, Lighting and Solar PV Forum* in conjunction with the Sustainable Melbourne Fund, Clean Energy Finance Corporation, Yarra Energy Foundation, ecoBright and Infinity Solar

August - *Sustainability Skills Training for Competitive, Resource Efficient Manufacturing Forum* in conjunction with Kangan Institute and Manufacturing Skills Australia

November - *Future Proof Your Profits Forum* in conjunction with One Planet Consulting

Collectively over 160 people participated in these forums.

NORTHERN GREENLIGHT PROGRAM

The Northern GreenLight Program is a holistic group program designed to support more resource efficient, competitive and innovative enterprises. Based on the highly regarded GreenLight Program pioneered in Geelong, the program was facilitated by ECO2sys between August and December 2014 in conjunction with Hume, Whittlesea and Darebin Councils.

Ten businesses across the manufacturing and resource recovery sectors in the three Councils mentioned were involved in the program which was 50% funded by the

Department of State Development and Business Innovation through their Grow Your Business Group Programs. Each of the businesses successfully completed the program which assisted them to redefine their vision & environmental policy, complete baseline assessments and set comprehensive targets across 21 categories including resource consumption, management, supply chain and community. With ongoing Council assistance, the businesses will steadily work to achieve these goals which will result in environmental, energy and cost savings.

HUME LIGHT\$MART PROGRAM

BEN continues to support businesses across Hume to retrofit with energy efficient lighting, and is working with respected lighting practitioners Cherry LED and ecoBright. To date, 23 Hume businesses across the retail, professional services, manufacturing and hospitality sectors have been retrofitted through the Light\$mart program, changing over 3150 lights and collectively saving over \$56,000 and 487 tonnes of greenhouse gases per year.

ASPIRE PROGRAM

Hume Council through the BEN is a partner in the ASPIRE program, which is being led by Kingston City Council and CSIRO in conjunction with Knox and Dandenong City Councils, and AiGroup. The program is funded by the Department of State Development and Business Innovation through the Digital Futures Fund.

This pilot project has been developed in response to SMEs talking to their Councils about increased landfill costs and the need to reduce waste disposal costs. The businesses indicated an increasing need to

explore options for recycling, sourcing alternatives to raw materials, and reviewing 'end of life' of their products.

To date 12 Hume businesses have been engaged for the ASPIRE project across the manufacturing and resource recovery sectors to assist the development of the digital resource exchange tool. As a result, one business- Rotometrics, has developed a successful Industrial Symbiosis partnership with Global Waste Management who now pick up approximately 30,000L of Ferric Chloride each year from Rotometrics, using it as a reagent for waste water treatment.

This has resulted in annual savings of \$30,000 for Rotometrics, as they no longer need to pay for specialised chemical waste treatment, and annual savings of \$13,500 for Global Waste Management, as they only pay for the transportation and not purchase of the chemicals - a win for the environment and the bottom line.

5TH AUSTRALASIAN INDUSTRIAL ECOLOGY CONFERENCE

BEN convened the program for the 5th Australian Industrial Ecology Conference, held for the first time in Melbourne from 17-19 November at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The conference theme: *'Beyond recycling, closing the loop on business waste'* showcased and promoted leading initiatives that pioneer the optimisation of material and energy flows within industry.

The conference also coincided with the Joint 11th Socio-Economic Metabolism Conference and 4th International Society for Industrial Ecology Asia Pacific Conference. Approximately 200 people from over 20 countries attended both conferences, which support the growing resource recovery and industrial ecology sectors in Victoria, Australia and worldwide.

HUME RESOURCE RECOVERY, GREEN AND CLEANTECH INDUSTRY DIRECTORY

BEN continues to collate information on sustainable businesses in Hume to facilitate a better understanding of what resources are being recovered, what services are available and what Cleantech products are being manufactured in our area. There are currently 53 businesses listed, and the directory is available on the BEN website.

CASE STUDIES

BEN continues to collate a number of sustainable business case studies covering resource efficiency, energy efficient lighting, renewable energy, industrial ecology and resource recovery. These case studies are available on the BEN website.

NETWORK

BEN Continues to grow across a variety of business, environmental services, cleantech, government, education and research sectors. Over 2014 the network has grown to approximately 675 members, offering further opportunities for collaboration and positive business outcomes in Hume, wider Melbourne and beyond.

Thanks to everyone for your involvement and support. We look forward to a great year ahead in 2015. For further information please visit:

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