

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE RETAIL CASE STUDY



Bunnings

In May 2007, Bunnings reinforced its leadership stance and commitment to sustainability, with the announcement of an AU\$8 million investment into environmentally sustainable initiatives, some of which are:

- The refit of every Bunnings warehouse in sub-tropical mainland Australia with rainwater harvesting systems (AU\$6 million over two years) Related initiatives include the installation of 199 waterless urinals in Australian offices, stores and operational sites, as well as basin tap flow restrictors and half flush cistern adaptors where possible, which is estimated to reduce overall water consumption by approximately 10 percent or 77 megalitres per year;
- A goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2015 or earlier with new programs to accelerate the drive to achieve the goal (AU\$2 million over two years);
- Providing incentives such as encouraging submissions and offering grants to develop Bunnings carbon offsetting projects;
- A research partnership with Murdoch University to investigate commercially feasible ways to reduce Bunnings' reliance on current grid sourced energy; and
- A Timber and Wood Products Purchasing policy that over time will require all wood and wood products to originate from legal and well managed forest operations. This involves working with suppliers so that they can independently verify the original forest source, as well as introducing more paintable alternatives like MOE and jointed pine into stores.

Some other key actions initiated by Bunnings in order to lower GHG emissions include the following (Bunnings, 2008):

- Installation of energy efficient lighting systems in more than 34 stores which is expected to provide emissions savings of 600 tonnes of GHG per store per year;
- Fitting of 60 warehouse stores with night switches to reduce energy consumption during night-fill work;
- Installation of the latest e-tronic energy efficient lighting, which is expected to exceed emission savings of 25 percent per store per year;
- A carbon offset project with Landcare CarbonSMART which through the planting of native vegetation enables the offset of over 20,000 tonnes of 2007/2008 carbon emissions;
- Five percent of Bunnings' grid energy Es now purchased from renewable sources;
- By June 2008, the replacement of 25 percent of Bunnings' car fleet with Toyota Prius hybrids; and
- A significant increase in recycling levels has seen levels almost double, resulting in significantly less waste going to landfill.



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Bunnings has also demonstrated a commitment to environmental sustainability with the introduction of a 10 cent levy on all plastic bags, with a maximum of 50 cents for multiple bags. The total amount of proceeds is donated to Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) for grass roots environmental initiatives. Thus far, the following outcomes have been achieved:

- The KAB Clean Site Program has been rolled out on a national level, educating the building industry about on-site environmental practices;
- Category sponsorship of the KAB Australian Tidy Towns Awards; and
- Category sponsorship of the KAB Australian Sustainable Cities Awards
- Bunnings and KAB have worked together to promote Bunnings as the one stop sustainability shop' and, as a result, 55 million less plastic bags have been distributed and over AU\$160,000 has been injected into KAB projects (Bunnings, 2008).

* Excerpt from "Environmentally Friendly Retailing", The Australian Centre for Retail Studies, 2008.

