




# Shoalhaven Mechanical Services – Making Sustainability Mainstream.

## SUCCESS STORIES IN THE SHOALHAVEN

### KEY FIGURES ACHIEVED

 <p>Electricity consumption</p>	<p><b>Reduced electricity consumption by over 10% despite an increase in workload – saving over \$7000 per year.</b></p>
 <p>Waste reduction</p>	<p><b>Reduced waste and increased recycling rates. Scrap metal is collected and sold. All proceeds of sale are reinvested in sustainability initiatives.</b></p>
 <p>Increased staff involvement</p>	<p><b>Increased staff involvement and improved staff morale. Staff see the savings at work and are changing their behaviour at home.</b></p>

### Case study

Shoalhaven Mechanical Services (SMS) is a fully self funded council owned business unit that provides automotive, fitting and turning and metal fabrication services. SMS provides quality mechanical services to all Shoalhaven City Council's departments and business units. SMS also provide services to the public and are one of only two authorized child restraint installers. SMS is an ISO 9001 quality endorsed business and has been since 1995.

SMS joined the Business Treading Lightly program in November 2009 and has saved over \$7000 in electricity costs thanks to some simple upgrades and some brilliant staff ideas.

### How did they do it?

- Engaging staff – staff are now more committed to turning off equipment and lights when not in use.

- Motion sensors have been installed in the lunch room and bathrooms. These sensors will turn the lights off when the rooms are not occupied
- An air holding tank has been installed to increase the efficiency of the air compressor. This has been so successful that the same system has been installed in the Ulladulla depot.
- Key tags, like those found in hotel rooms, have been installed on the outside of the door to the store. This ensures that when the store is locked, the high bay lighting is off.



The use of hotel style key tags ensures that the high bay lighting in this storage shed gets turned off.

- Mechanical staff came up with the idea of using LED miners headgear when working under the new hoist. This negated the need to install expensive and energy intensive lighting.
- Established an industrial garden. Waste materials have been turned into pots, tubs and garden screens. The garden will consist of herbs, vegetables and fruit trees for staff use. This staff initiative creates a relaxing environment and the maintenance of the garden has provided staff with a common interest and has increased staff morale.
- Have replaced all electric storage hot water systems with gas instantaneous.

#### Other initiatives:

- All waste oil is recycled
- Replaced automatic flush systems with smaller manual flush systems on the urinals
- Scrap metal is sold – turning a waste into a resource
- Aluminium cans are collected by staff
- Internal lights in vending machines have been removed thus saving energy and keeps food cooler.
- Air compressor lines are actively checked for leaks
- Installed a rain water tank for watering the garden
- Staff ideas are noted and minuted and included in our team meetings

- Installed a worm farm
- Using carbon neutral printing paper
- A pallet recycling system is in place
- Have installed a carbon battery recycling station



#### Future projects?

- Conduct an air conditioning audit and develop a replacement program.
- Investigate the use of bio-fuels for our fleet. Shoalhaven Mechanical Services have a designated alternative fuel officer and have already investigated full ethanol, part ethanol, biodiesel and LPG conversion kits.
- Moving to a paperless office system

#### Congratulations

BTL would like to congratulate Shoalhaven Mechanical Services for receiving a Highly Commended Award in the Sustainability category at the 2010 Shoalhaven Business Awards.