

GRENDA CORPORATION PTY LTD

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Water Management

As part of the company's commitment to sustainability, six 25,000 lt rainwater tanks have been installed at Grenda's Head Office/Depot, capturing all rain water that falls on roofed areas of the site. The workshop roof water is being stored and used for bus washing and, once the storage is full, the company will be self-sufficient.

Office building water is being captured and recycled to be used for toilet flushing and irrigation. The water that falls on the parking areas is filtered through a bio-filtration system before being returned to the storm water system. The aim with the new building was to make the company entirely self-sufficient in terms of water usage. Rain-water tanks have now been installed at all six depot locations as part of the company's water conservation plan.

Waste Management

Each Grenda Transit Management company is responsible for minimising waste in all forms. All employees are encouraged to minimise waste during the performance of their duties and to offer suggestions where waste may be reduced in any area of the operation. The main form of waste generated by Grenda comes through the servicing of buses and coaches in the form of waste oils and parts. However, these items are recycled. By minimising waste Grenda is not only assisting the company, but the community and the environment as well.

Energy Management

In 2008, Grenda relocated to its purpose-built head office and depot building facility, which has a 4.5 green star rating. 'Smart building' technology is used to manage lighting and ventilation to minimise wastage and control usage. All offices and meeting rooms are fitted with motion sensors, and lights automatically switch off when a room is not in use after 15 minutes. APC InfraStruXure Cooling and Uninterrupted power supplies (UPS) provide up to 25% savings in terms of power required to cool data centres. Usage at the individual outlet level is monitored to detect over-usage.

The new depot (office /admin area) is also fitted with a Building Management System, fully integrated with the security system.

This provides the ability to control lights and ventilation when and where they are being used; lights will automatically be turned off at pre-determined times (and on when accessed out of hours – then turned off when the security re-arms). The system monitors the internal and external temperature and only operates when required and has the ability to 'purge' the building in hot weather, effectively sucking out the hot air before starting to cool the building. The manufacturers claim up to 26% savings on energy.

Programs currently participating in

Public transport is an environmentally sustainable solution to society's ever-increasing reliance on transportation. Grenda is recognised nationally as one of the strongest lobbyists for public transport solutions, with senior staff filling a high proportion of representative places on key industry groups. Grenda plays an important role in reducing carbon emissions by carrying more passengers on buses and taking cars off the roads. In 2010, Grenda will increase its fleet by 65 buses – this represents the potential reduction of 3,250 cars from Victorian roads.

With the help of the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Grenda has invested in Victoria's first standard 12.5m route hybrid (diesel/electric) bus. The new hybrid route bus was delivered in June 2009 and was configured as a SMART bus. The bus has recently been re-branded into standard Grenda livery so it can travel on various routes for the remainder of 2009 and into 2010. The bus was built by Volgren on a locally built Iveco chassis. This bus is currently being tested to validate its fuel-saving and emissions levels reduction potential.

Strategies Implemented

The Grenda environmental committee has established an environmental plan to coincide with the move to the new depot site. Grenda had its carbon emissions measured and this has provided the company with valuable information on where to focus its reduction strategies. Its move to an internet-based management system will see our printing greatly reduced, saving paper. Initiatives on the agenda include a group-wide recycling policy, setting all printers to print double-sided, through to awards for drivers who practise fuel-saving driving techniques. Good driving skills have the potential to reduce fuel consumption by up to 25%.

In June 2009, Grenda Transit launched the first Australian-made Hybrid electric bus, plus four brand new Euro 4, luxury 5-star coaches and ten Euro 5 coaches. These vehicles have greatly reduced emissions and require in-service monitoring of exhaust emissions. These coaches are ideal for corporate group transportation, particularly in the MICE sector.

Projects to be Completed

- Hybrid (diesel/electric) bus trial – 2009-2010
- New Keysborough depot site in 2010 – water sensitive urban design
- Grenda is rolling out a range of Environmental KPIs. These include:
 1. Reducing excessive bus engine idle (shut down after three minutes)
 2. Staying within the "Green" band on the Tachometer (Engine RPM)
 3. Smooth Braking
 4. Correct Tyre inflation
 5. Crushing used oil filters and disposing of them in the correct manner.