

# Case Study Cameron Chisholm Nicol

## Architecture & interior design practice makes the switch



### Cameron Chisholm Nicol

Cameron Chisholm Nicol (CCN) is an Australian leader in the provision of integrated sustainable architecture, urban design and interior design services.

With offices in Perth and Brisbane, CCN is a multi award winning practice with a reputation for innovative design solutions that balance economic, social and environmental considerations.

### Environmental leadership

Joining CitySwitch in 2009 was a logical step for CCN, with the program supporting the sustainability objectives of their new tenancy in Sheffield House.

In addition to their involvement with CitySwitch, CCN are members of the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) and have 19 Green Star Accredited Professionals on staff as well as representation on the GBCA State Leadership Group and the Property Council Environment Committee.

### Undertaking a program of cultural change

As one of the first Signatories to join CitySwitch in Perth, CCN has since undertaken a program of cultural change to facilitate the organisation's commitment to energy efficiency and carbon neutral operations.

Having successfully created a sustainable, quality environment for their team, CCN's head office Hay Street in Perth's CBD, is testimony to the organisation's energy efficiency and carbon neutral commitment.

### Goals

- To demonstrate leadership in sustainable design
- To foster cultural change and create a supportive work environment
- To achieve operational cost savings
- To achieve a carbon neutral operation

CAMERON  
CHISHOLM  
NICOL

Signatory status	
Date joined CitySwitch	February 2009
Tenancy size	660 sqm
NABERS Commitment rating	★★★★
Website	www.ccnwa.com.au
Key outcomes	
Total energy cost saving over 3 years	30%
Total CO <sub>2</sub> emission reduction over 3 years	147,000 kgCO <sub>2</sub> (reduced carbon foot print and remaining carbon offset by renewable energy credits)
Technology	Natural ventilation, low energy lighting, cultural change.

# Staff engagement and simple actions lead to greatest energy savings



## Initiatives

As part of CCN's creation of a sustainable workplace, a range of energy saving measures were implemented. Many of these actions were at low or no-cost, and included:

- adaptive reuse of existing early 20<sup>th</sup> century building
- integration of fit-out with base building works
- use of low energy mixed-mode natural ventilation
- operable windows
- zoned air conditioning
- operable louvered internal blinds for shading and reduced glare
- installation of separate power and lighting metering
- installation of low energy dimmable T5 lighting with movement and daylight sensors and high frequency ballasts
- updating of all computer screens to flat screens
- use of energy efficient fixtures
- use of low VOC fixtures and fittings with GECA Certified materials sourced through Eco-Specifier
- Indoor planting
- WELS Rated water efficient fixtures and fittings as well as waterless urinals.

## CitySwitch and staff engagement

As an organisation dedicated to optimising their environmental footprint, CCN recognised the importance of developing a shared sustainability culture amongst their team.

In support of this objective a dedicated CCN Sustainability Group was initiated to assist in raising awareness across the organisation as well as undertaking research activities, implementing initiatives and promoting education and knowledge management in support of ongoing energy efficiency.

The CCN Sustainability Group rotates membership in order to promote cultural change through all sectors of the office. The group has been able to achieve cultural change through a variety of activities including:

- participation in managing, monitoring and implementing natural ventilation for the office
- participation in Earth Hour
- involvement in internal and external training programs including sessions on the Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star Course
- use of energy-consumption graphs for tracking energy use and trends
- information sharing of waste management policy and paper

**“Cameron Chisholm Nicol is a carbon neutral company. CitySwitch has played an important part in achieving an overall reduction in energy consumption as well as being an important catalyst for cultural change within the organisation.”**

**Dominic Snellgrove**  
Director

waste audit on the CCN intranet

- implementing Friday afternoon presentations featuring guest sustainability speakers.

## Outcomes

- A 4.5 Star NABERS Energy rating exceeding their 4 Star Commitment
- Carbon neutral operation
- Targeted 4 Star Green Star Interior Design rating
- Cultural change

## Involvement

- Visit [www.cityswitch.net.au](http://www.cityswitch.net.au) for more information or call the CitySwitch Program Manager in your state. Contact details are listed on the website.

CitySwitch is a national tenant energy efficiency program. Previously known as the 3CBDs Greenhouse Initiative, the program works with tenants to improve office energy efficiency, thereby reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions attributed to climate change.

## CitySwitch Partners

