

Case Study Synergy

- Energy retailer shares experiences



About Synergy

Synergy is Western Australia's largest energy retailer, supplying electricity to over 900,000 Western Australian households and businesses in the South West Interconnected System.

Synergy moved into its current premises at 228 Adelaide Terrace in late 2007. Due to a shortage of suitable office space at the time, Synergy leased and refitted a building from the 1960's.

Having the opportunity to refit the building, Synergy embraced sustainable principles, using recycled materials, installing state of the art lighting systems and ensuring floor plans allowed maximum natural light flows.

Opportunities were also identified to minimise energy and resource

consumption, such as the adoption of centralised printing services and detailed recycling processes.

As Western Australia's largest energy retailer, Synergy is determined to convey the energy efficiency message, and is committed to maintaining its 5 star NABERS energy rating.

Solutions offices can use

Whilst Synergy provides energy efficiency advice and support to customers on a daily basis, the organisation also wanted to demonstrate its own progress in energy efficiency.

CitySwitch has provided Synergy with a forum where it can demonstrate what can be achieved in terms of sustainability in the office.

CitySwitch in action

City of Perth were delighted to invite Synergy to join CitySwitch and share their experiences in striving to be a sustainable office and to reduce energy consumption.

As part of its CitySwitch commitment, Synergy has undertaken various energy saving and resource conservation actions to maintain a 5 star NABERS commitment rating.

Goals

- To demonstrate Synergy's commitment to sustainability
- To promote energy efficiency to staff, clients and stakeholders
- To maintain a 5 star NABERS Energy tenancy rating



Signatory status	
Date joined CitySwitch	November 2009
Tenancy size	5687 sqm
NABERS Commitment rating	★★★★★
Website	www.synergy.net.au
Key outcomes	
HP Eco Printing Award 2010	Synergy was selected as a winner from a list of over 40 major organisations in Australia and New Zealand.
Technology	Reducing lights in non critical areas, ensuring office layout allows maximum dispersion of natural light, staff education campaigns and purchase of 100% GreenPower.

Sharing experiences – learning from others and getting new ideas

Actions taken

Synergy has implemented a range of energy saving measures, many of which were low or no-cost actions:

- reducing the number of lights in non critical areas of the office
- staff education campaigns to turn off computer screens over night
- constant adjustment and fine-tuning of recycling facilities and services within the office
- empowering a staff environmental committee to suggest new or amend current sustainable practices
- use of recycled material in office re-fit
- ordering recycled stationary and office supplies
- trial of waterless urinals
- purchase of 100% GreenPower
- agreement with office cleaners to use sustainable and environmentally friendly cleaning products
- working with building owners to implement energy efficiency initiatives
- ensuring office layout allows maximum dispersion of natural light

- inclusion of sustainability briefing for all new employees, educating them on energy management guidelines specific to their office

Sharing experiences

Synergy has been an active participant in CitySwitch, having hosted an office site visit to showcase some of the sustainable practices the organisation has adopted.

As a result of participation in the program and by sharing key learnings, Synergy has been approached by other Signatories for information on the following:

- centralised print services
- recycling initiatives – how to get employees to place rubbish in the correct bin
- automated lighting systems
- use of recycled materials in office fit-outs
- Synergy's HP Eco Printing award and how they won it.

“CitySwitch is all about sharing experiences, learning from each other and getting new ideas. Synergy is a proud signatory to the program, as it enables us to share energy efficiency advice and sustainable practices with our customers and peers”

Trevor James
Chief Executive Officer

... and the most beneficial initiative?

Consolidating and centralising office printers has resulted in significant reductions in paper waste and energy consumption.

Get involved

Join CitySwitch and discover how small changes can make a big difference to Australia's future environmental health – and that of the plant.

Visit 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 management program. Previously known as the 3CBDs Greenhouse Initiative, the program works with tenants to improve office energy efficiency, reducing the CO₂ emissions attributed to climate change.

CitySwitch Council partners

