

FACT SHEET

2008 CDF AND SECRETARY AWARD WINNER

RUSSELL OFFICES ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

In line with Defence's Combat Climate Change Initiative, and in step with community and Government concern about climate change issues, the Russell Offices Energy Efficiency Project team are fitting winners of an award this year. By achieving long lasting behavioural changes and significant energy savings, this project represents a model that can be applied to many sites across Australia.

Defence accounts for around half of the total Australian Government energy consumption. Russell Offices are the largest energy consumer in ACT/SNSW region, responsible for 43 percent of regional and 6 percent of total Defence electricity consumption. As part of Defence's commitment to reduce energy consumption across the Estate, Defence Support ACT/SNSW is implementing an Energy Action Plan which has, as a key element, the Energy Efficiency Pilot Project at Russell Office 1 to demonstrate senior leadership commitment to reducing energy use.

Although the first step was tune the building systems to perform as efficiently as possible, the main focus of the trial was to change user behaviours, and this was achieved using a comprehensive strategy.

The team identified that an effective communications and awareness strategy was fundamental to the project's success and they focussed on this crucial element by ensuring that Senior Leaders were involved with the delivery of key messages and performed the role of 'energy champions' for their group.

The Project developed and delivered regular, timely and targeted messages to maintain interest, to empower staff at Russell to take on the challenge, and to continue to participate throughout the trial. Communications included weekly messages, posters, foyer displays and a training handbook. Success of communication materials was dependant on high level support of the Pilot by MAJGEN Cosson, Head National Operations Division, who launched and championed the Pilot by sending out weekly progress emails. Staff were informed of ways they could participate, were given information and tools to do so and they responded positively to the challenge.

Electricity consumption data was analysed for two weeks before, during and two weeks after the Pilot to establish suitable baselines and to monitor performance trends. At the end of the trial, overall electricity consumption had reduced by 14.8%, from the pre-Pilot baseline of 159,800 kWh per week to 136,150 kWh per week.

Weekly night audits were undertaken before, during and after the Pilot to measure behavioural improvement through energy saving communication. Monitors switched off overnight increased to 86% from 65% pre-Pilot, office equipment switched off overnight increased to 58% from 13% pre-Pilot and kitchen appliances switched off overnight increased to 59% from 33% pre-Pilot.

Overall, the Pilot achieved a 14.8% reduction in R1 energy consumption over a 3 month period, through targeted behavioural, building and equipment improvements, without significant impact on staff comfort. This achievement is a credit to the project team and to all Defence staff who participated in the Pilot, and who continue to help Combat Climate Change in the work place.