

# Sustainable Building Initiative

## Moorabool Shire Council

The project involved the completion of building audits of three Council owned and managed buildings to review their performance, and energy use and to identify a range of actions that could be undertaken to reduce Council expenditure on energy (electricity and gas).

### Key Activities

The project comprised of three stages

- Assessment of monthly electricity and gas usage and expenditure at the three sites
- Building audits
- completion of reports and recommendations

The project saw the development of three building specific reports and a summary report outlining the top 11 actions across the three buildings to provide short (1-2 years), medium (3-7 years) and long term (7-10 years) savings to Councils expenditure.

The building specific reports required an assessment by a Consultant (Ironbark Consulting) of monthly electricity and gas usage and expenditure at each of the sites. This data is to be used to identify hourly and monthly variation in usage as well as a providing a benchmark to measure any changes against.

An audit of each of the three facilities was also undertaken to assess currently installed internal and external lighting, heating and cooling systems, computers and a range of other appliances including fridges.

The following Council departments were engaged in the project to provide both technical advice as well as guidance around current and future activities and plans:

- Finance
- Assets
- Library Staff
- Executive
- Local environment groups

### Project Outcomes

In addition to the development of the site specific reports, the project has provided Council staff with the data and evidence to facilitate the following actions for consideration to be included in operational and capital planning:

- Change to procurement procedure so contractors replace existing failed lights with LED
- Funding for replacement of all existing lighting with LED at the three sites
- Inclusion of installation of Solar Panels at the three sites in the Capital Program

### Project partners

*If relevant include details of internal and external partners engaged through this project*

N/A

## What did we learn?

- The collaboration between the Finance, Assets and Environment teams allowed for both short and long term initiatives to be implemented and a better understanding of all as to why/why not some could and could not be undertaken
- Improved relationships with neighbouring Councils especially in relation to the implementation of the installation of solar panels. This may lead to the delivery of the install being undertaken in partnership with a neighbouring metropolitan Council (Brimbank).

## What is the project legacy?

This project allowed for Council to address its current consumption and therefore expenditure on energy immediately, and assisted in the potential acceleration of a significant capital project to install solar panels on three Council facilities.

**Budget: Total = \$11,500 (Grant funding) = \$10,000 + Council Cash & In-Kind = \$1,500)**

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