

ACTSmart Business Sustainability Awards 2014



The ACTSmart Business Sustainability Awards were held on 19 June at the Ainslie Football Club. The awards included 11 categories and showcased the achievements of ACTSmart organisations and events.



Winner – Waste Minimisation Bentleys of Canberra



This small business based in Garran is a hairdresser offering styling and beauty treatments. Joining the program gave them the advice and confidence to implement recycling. Bentleys diverts a staggering 97% from landfill by recycling bottles, cardboard, colour tubes, tea bags and even hair, thereby managing to reduce CO2 emissions by 1.6 tonnes a year.



Winner – Biggest Recycler Calvary Hospital



With engagement of staff, suppliers, patients and visitors Calvary Hospital manages to divert 12 tonnes of material from landfill to recycling each month. Much of this tonnage includes the recycling of cardboard, bottles, cans and organic waste. Reaching this target required the hospital to find solutions to engage patients and visitors at a time when recycling is furthest from their minds.



Winner – Biggest Recycler Small Event TEDxCanberra



This volunteer run event hosts 650 visitors, providing them the opportunity to recycle both mixed recycling and organic waste. Working with vendors and caterers ensured waste was front of mind when purchasing supplies. The event recycled 1896 litres of waste, which is four times the amount sent to landfill, and 624 litres of organic waste with a tiny 2% contamination rate.



Winner – Biggest Recycler Large Event Events ACT – Floriade



Although the Floriade event implemented recycling several years ago, the 2013 event saw improvements in recycling in public space areas, catering outlets and trader waste stations. These improvements saw the event recycle an impressive 53% of its waste. Education was the key, with many of the 400,000 visitors coming from interstate or internationally.



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Winner – Water Star Wokitup Gungahlin



Wok it up serves 'made to order' noodle dishes, cooked in a wok. Traditional commercial woks use 1000s of litres of water each day and an ACTSmart assessment recommended the installation of waterless woks. Wok it up Gungahlin installed them – and a water data logger – and has seen a reduction in water use of 80%, saving 4900 litres per day.

Highly Commended – Energy Star Bikram Yoga



This hot yoga studio uses a lot of energy to keep the room in this old building at the desired 40°C. Requiring some smart solutions, the studio installed insulation, covering windows in bubble wrap then corflute panels and finishing with freezer panels. This improved the thermal performance, which significantly reduced heat loss and resulted in savings to power bills.



Highly Commended – Energy Star Libraries ACT



Built in the 1980s, the Belconnen library was built before efficiencies were a consideration in construction. The ACTSmart assessment identified air conditioning faults and inefficiencies. Fixing these has seen a 25% drop in energy consumption, 32% in gas consumption reduction and \$12,000 savings in annual energy costs.



Winner – Energy Star US Embassy



The US Embassy has replaced incandescent/floou lights with LEDs, installed motion sensors and replaced external lighting with more efficient lighting. All residences have solar hot water systems and solar panels and 20% have double glazed windows. Sharing energy saving opportunities for staff at home and work is done through staff bulletins and all staff are encouraged to embrace energy conservation.



Highly Commended – Small Business Award Cook Friendly Grocer



Using the incentive offered by ACTSmart, Cook Friendly Grocer installed 90 LED lights as recommended by the ACTSmart assessment. It was a brave move for this small business owner, who confessed to not knowing what LED stood for. This upgrade has seen a saving of \$1200 a month on electricity. Not bad for a 40 year old shop.

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Highly Commended – Small Business Award LJ Hooker



LJ Hooker Dickson implemented a program called the three Ps that has seen power reduced by 13%, paper usage reduced by 21% and reduced petrol use. Another program, 'Liveability', lets property managers assess a home's sustainability. This goes beyond the industry rating systems and gives clients real information on running costs.

Winner – Small Business Award Conservation Council ACT Region



The Council sources ethical office supplies and equipment, encourages staff and visitors to use active travel and has double glazed windows to make the office operation and fit out as sustainable as possible. Achieving ACTSmart accreditation ensures all organics are disposed in the roof compost garden and all paper, mixed recycling, batteries and toner cartridges are sent for recycling.



Highly Commended – Corporate Award Bimberi Youth Justice Centre



Showing commitment to sustainability in a complex site such as a youth justice centre requires a corporate vision. Installing tinting to windows, air curtains for cool rooms, timers for showers and lighting and implementing recycling demonstrates the Centre's commitment to sustainability.



Winner – Corporate Award Schiavello ACT



Being winners of the Innovation Award and Biggest Recycler in previous years demonstrates Schiavello's long-term commitment to sustainability. The company's mission incorporates human resources and corporate culture to drive sustainability throughout its entire operation. Modification to manufacturing processes to reduce waste and recycle is at the core of their vision.



Winner – Motivation Excellence Gold Creek World of Learning



When implementing the program, the team knew their success would depend on the motivation of staff and families. From rethinking purchasing, repurposing old furniture to teaching water, waste and energy saving tips to children to take home to their families, motivating hundreds of Canberrans through these children is a reality for this team.

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Highly Commended – Innovation Excellence Barmco Mana Partnership



Believing they should practice what they preach, Barmco Mana Partnership have adopted an electronic billboard mounted within the building for all staff to see that displays floor-by-floor energy consumption and waste/recycling statistics, including weekly and monthly averages. Staff behaviour change was highly influenced by this data, with a 33% reduction in energy use.

Winner – Innovation Excellence Gold Creek World of Learning



World of Learning 

Developing innovation in a workplace as busy and diverse as a child care centre is an outstanding effort. The centre engages in fun activities to promote sustainability from reusing materials for arts and crafts, recycling old tyres into garden beds and old boats into play forts. Each room has a sustainability tree which gains a leaf every week of successful recycling.

Highly Commended – Minister's Award for Leadership Jo Consentini, Gold Creek World of Learning



Jo actively promotes recycling and sustainability practices. Always making herself available to educators with questions on sustainability has fostered a culture of ownership of the centre's sustainability journey. Dedication and motivation toward goals with a smile is the description of Jo from her staff.

World of Learning 

Highly Commended – Minister's Award for Leadership Karryn Smith, John James Memorial Foundation



Coordinating tenants from a medical background working unusual hours with clients focussed on much bigger issues than recycling is undertaken by Karryn with discretion and creative information sharing. Karryn's proactive encouragement of the program to tenants and cleaners has ensured the success of recycling in the building.



Winner – Minister's Award for Leadership Emma Damen, Justice and Community Safety Directorate



Emma has been pivotal in driving change within the Directorate and has shown initiative and drive in all aspects of the role. She has been an advocate for driving change in workplace behaviours to drive down waste and energy consumption and developed a number of awareness campaigns in conjunction with the ACTSmart team.

