

# ACTSmart Sustainable Business Award winners



## Ministers award for leadership Phil Buchanan, Serco Immigration Services

Phil was nominated by Serco for his delivery of the ACTSmart program in the Canberra office and across some 20 facilities nationwide. After successfully implementing the program in the ACT office, Phil realised that several components of the ACT-based program could be modified and delivered at many of the 20 immigration facilities that Serco runs. Phil ensured each site had an environmental management system and an onsite representative. Working with these representatives, Phil supported the delivery of staff awareness campaigns to improve recycling, implemented worm farming onsite, began data collection and engaged cleaning

staff. Food waste from up to 1500 meals provided daily to detainees is now processed by the onsite worm farms and used in gardens. Phil's efforts in implementing the environmental management system empower the 10,000 people in detention and 3,000 staff to better manage their environmental footprint. Phil also developed an education recycling program based on our own ACTSmart program for those awaiting visas, assisting them with assimilation into the community. Approximately 25,000 people have passed through this training.



## Biggest recycler Calvary John James Hospital



Since joining the program in November 2010, Calvary John James Hospital has embarked on a journey to reduce waste to landfill in the challenging area of medical services. With engagement of staff, suppliers and even patients and visitors, since reaching accreditation the hospital has managed to divert 86.04 tonnes of material per annum from landfill to recycling. Much of this tonnage includes recycling of cardboard, bottles, cans and organic waste. However, reaching this target required the hospital to find solutions to be able to recycle over and above program requirements including recycling options for fluorescent light bulbs, shrink-wrap, soft plastic and Kinguard medical wrapping.



## Outstanding results in waste minimisation Scooters Australia - Canberra Pty Ltd



This small business, which joined the ACTSmart program in March 2012, is based in Waramanga and specialises in the sales and service of motorised mobility scooters, buggies, electric wheelchairs and home health care products. Scooters had already adopted green procedures to have waste to landfill at only 11% of their waste stream. Through innovation and pure drive, the business has managed to reduce its waste to landfill to a tiny 0.4% of their waste stream, setting the benchmark for other small businesses.



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## Dual winners for the Corporate award US Embassy Canberra & Brema Group Pty Ltd



The United States Embassy is committed to the environment well beyond the ACTSmart program requirements. From cleaners to management, staff and the Ambassador himself, commitment has been made to the embassy's environmental business strategy, the Canberra Greening Initiative. Adopting the ACTSmart program and offering recycling to staff and visitors of the embassy, working directly with its waste provider, retraining cleaning staff and assisting in clean up days in the local community demonstrates the embassy's corporate commitment to the ACTSmart program and the local environment. The embassy's environmental commitment has been recognised by its nomination as a US Department of State, East Asia Pacific region recycling leader.



## Brema Group



Brema Group has a proven track record and is recognised as one of the region's most active demolition companies. Adopting the ACTSmart program within their own offices was an extension of recycling efforts made on construction sites across the region. Showing superior leadership in an industry where it is very difficult to recycle, Brema Group has implemented a waste management register for all construction sites with a minimum of 80% of materials sent to recycling. Some sites have achieved a staggering 98% of all demolition materials being diverted away from landfill. The office and management staff walk the talk and support the efforts on site by sending only 1/4 of a wheelie bin to landfill each week from their offi



## Motivation excellence IP Australia



This Woden based Australian Government agency has a staff of 1200 and faced the challenge of motivating people to recycle in the numerous kitchens. Each kitchen has infrastructure for staff to sort mixed recycling, organics, plastic bags and waste to landfill. Following regular inspections of kitchens for compliance and scoring, a 'best kitchen of the quarter' is awarded, with a prize shared by the staff using that kitchen. Further, if a kitchen receives this accolade in three consecutive quarters it is elevated to IP Australia's Environmental Hall of Fame. This positive reinforcement – and some healthy competition – results in continuous improvement of recycling in all kitchens.



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## Innovation excellence Queanbeyan City Council



Through a cross-border agreement, the Queanbeyan City Council joined the ACTSmart program in December 2011 to improve its recycling rate and be a role model for other businesses in Queanbeyan. Managing organics from several of its council sites across the city proved a challenge, so the council purchased a Bio-regen unit (REG). Via a macerator process, REG turns food and organic waste into bio fertiliser. Over 4000 litres of organic material has been processed through REG and is being used as a fertiliser through parks and gardens across Queanbeyan and is being trialled on sporting grounds. It was also used for a council tree planting day. This innovation has potential for larger sites including universities, hospitals, hotels and sporting facilities, creating a true close-the-loop process.

## Small business/office award Shop Basics Pty Ltd



One of the early adopters of the ACTSmart program, Shop Basics provides its customers with the opportunity to purchase visual display and eco friendly merchandise from its new showroom in Fyshwick. Despite being an older premises, management have incorporated simple ideas and strong environmental drive to make the most of their new space. Meeting all program requirements for recycling, Shop Basics also uses 100% recycled paper, re-inks cash register ribbons, and uses cardboard and cornstarch pens in the office. Stationery reuse is so successful they rarely purchase office supplies.

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for all your retail & display needs

## Biggest recycler - Small event St John's Care, Canberra Christmas community day lunch



This community event has been running for several years, providing the less fortunate and homeless with a traditional lunch on Christmas day. In 2011 most of the event's waste ended up in the landfill hopper and the St John's organisers were at a crossroads. Approaching the ACTSmart team in 2012, they worked to implement recycling on a day that is about so much more than waste. The 2012 event saw hundreds of volunteers serve more than 360 meals including 40 kilograms of turkey, 30 litres of gravy, dessert, drinks and snacks. Beyond this, St John's packaged up leftover meals for family members unable to attend, made soup from all the ham bones which was then frozen to feed the community at a later date, and composted all other organic waste in the onsite garden which produces fresh vegetables for the community. St John's goal of making this event sustainable has become ingrained, with the team diverting an amazing 74% of waste into recycling in 2012.

**St John's Care**  
Partnering with Anglicare  
Compassion | Advocacy | Respect | Encouragement

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### Biggest recycler - Large event Corinbank Festival



Corinbank is an environmentally-friendly music and arts festival held over three days at Corin Forest in the Brindabella mountains. This family-friendly event encourages attendees to camp during the festival. This process, as well as the remoteness of the site, offers some real challenges to event organisers. The Corinbank team make waste minimisation a cornerstone of the event planning from vendor supplies to volunteer training and infrastructure. The 2012 event implemented a three bin system for the collection of mixed recyclables, organic recycling and landfill. The ACTSmart team provided support in the way of signage and bin lids and, along with the highly motivated Corinbank team, helped this event recycle a staggering 90% of all waste generated.



## ACTSmart Business Energy & Water program – Outstanding leadership

### Shop Basics Pty Ltd

This small Fyshwick based business received its energy and water assessment in July 2012 and immediately began implementing recommendations including:

- upgrading lighting on the shop floor to energy efficient LED lighting
- installing ceiling fans to recirculate warm air to reduce heating costs
- installing a timer on the hot water system
- installing wall insulation to improve the thermal performance of the building.

These upgrades have resulted in the business saving over \$2000 per year on energy costs and have reduced carbon emissions by an estimated 10 tonnes.



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### xchange on London

This inner city restaurant joined the program in December 2012 and set about completing recommended upgrades within eight weeks of receiving their ACTSmart energy and water assessment.

Upgrades included:

- replacing all 48 existing lights with energy efficient LED lighting, reducing lighting costs by 80%
- installing a timer to allow shutdown for fridges containing non-perishable items outside of business hours.

The upgrades have resulted in more than \$3,500 in savings per annum and have reduced carbon emissions by an impressive 14 tonnes.



**xchange**  
on London