



Durack Institute of Technology Best Newcomer Stepping Up Sustainability



Institutional Profile

- RTO
- 4,807 students (includes full and part time students)
- 217 staff
- Rural / Regional

Section 1: About the project

Summary

Durack Institute of Technology has a focus and commitment to Sustainability. Significant emphasis has been placed to implement sustainable and innovative strategies and technologies, but even more importantly to embed a culture of sustainability throughout its staff and students. More recently Durack has implemented a Stepping Up Sustainability Strategy that will guide Durack, on its journey of embedding Sustainability.

Section 2: The results

The problem

Embedding a culture of Sustainability across its staff and student population.

The approach

Durack Institute of Technology has more than 40 staff, from a wide cross section of the organisation that participate in our Sustainability Management Groups. These groups met on a quarterly basis which include the Energy Management Group, Water Management Group, Waste and Sustainable Procurement (WASP) Management Group, Travel Management Group and the Sustainability Promotion and Education Committee (SPEC).

One of the key Sustainability partnerships has been the interaction and input from our students. Students have been involved in a variety of Sustainability projects including

- Over 400 students participated in our launch of the Sustainability SPOT campaign.
- Approximately 15 building and construction students were involved in constructing the pump house for the Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) System. These students also installed new bicycle and walk paths at the Geraldton Campus to improve the access and the provision of end of trip facilities such as bike racks.
- 12 environmental science students have become actively involved by providing water analysis on the ASR system water. This analysis has been crucial to ensure that bore water levels and salinity are maintained within critical limits.
- A number of stages of electrical apprentices interact and analyse the energy production from the 90 panel solar array and 15 metre Wind Turbine, for practical renewable energy training elements of their course.



2014 Highly Commended Case Study

Durack also promoted and participate in a number of community and business networking tree planting sessions coordinated by the City of Greater Geraldton under their Million Trees Program. Most of this work was undertaken by staff and their families after hours and on weekends.

In addition Durack and its key stakeholders developed our Stepping Up Sustainability Strategy, that will guide Durack's Sustainability journey towards 2015. The Stepping Up Sustainability Strategy consists of 42 individual actions, which outlines the action description, financial resourcing (if required), staff responsibility and Governance Committee responsibility.

One of the more important elements of the action plan was to ensure "buy in" across the Institute. This was achieved by allocating a Leadership/Management Sponsor, so each of the 23 members of our Leadership Group, sponsors one or more of the actions. This could involve anything from keeping a watching brief in the action, participating in a working group, actively leading or contributing to the success of the action, or coordinating the action from start to finish.

Our goals

To successfully implement our strategies and achieve targets as outlined in the following documents

- Stepping Up Sustainability Strategy - Towards 2015
- Travel Plan – Geraldton Campuses
- Terms of Reference and Key Performance Indicators for Durack's five Sustainability Management Groups
-

In addition Durack would like to continue to implement new and innovative ideas, strategies and new technologies that will continue to propel Durack on its journey of Sustainability

Obstacles and solutions

Having a Sustainability Committee that is too broad.	Break the committee into smaller management groups, so you can pay the necessary attention to each element of Sustainability i.e. Water, Energy, Waste
Having great ideas, but no one who has the authority/authorisation to implement them.	Ensure you have management representation, on the committees to ensure that decisions can be made and implemented.
Developing a Sustainability Strategy without "buy in"	Ensure that the Strategy is developed from the top down. Include high level Management in the development of the strategy, to ensure "buy in" from middle management and then this will filter throughout the organisation.
Non achievement of targets through the Sustainability Management Groups	Make the Management Groups reasonably formal. Ensure that there is a Terms of Reference, KPI's, a formal agenda and minutes with action items.



2014 Highly Commended Case Study

Performance and results

Some of Durack's success can be quantified in resource and fiscal savings. Some of the significant results are as follows.

The Aquifer Storage Recovery System continues to reap the benefit of the original investment and has now saved the Institute 94.5 million litres of water, at a saving of more than \$250,000. The Renewable Energy system has saved 131,000 kW/h of electricity equating to \$40,000. Other financial benefits are difficult to quantify however Durack continues to reduce its energy and water consumption, and diversion of waste to landfill.

Section 3: The future

Lessons learned

"Get some early runs on the board" – If you are starting out on your Sustainability journey, it is good to get an early achievement, so you can build some momentum. I would suggest undertaking an Energy Audit, which allows an organisation to measure the success and (sometime more importantly) a monetary benefit for the organisation. When both an environmental and fiscal benefit is established it is easier to implement the next initiative or strategy.

"Divide and Conquer" – I would also suggest breaking Sustainability into smaller strategies or committees. At Durack our early overarching Sustainability Committee failed, due to how broad the initiatives and strategies were. When we broke the committees into five distinct groups, Energy, Water, Waste, Travel and Promotion/Education, we had instant success and gained momentum.

"Share the Load" – Don't try to do it all yourself. It is important to get early "by in" from management. Involve staff and students as much as you can. Use other peoples strengths and interests.

Sharing your project

Durack will continue to promote our initiatives and projects through a variety of forums, presentations and tours. All of our Sustainability information is readily available on our Durack website <http://www.durack.edu.au/home/about-us/sustainability>.

Durack also has a document "Sustainability@Durack" that can be downloaded that succinctly summarises Durack Sustainability initiatives, actions and achievements.

Durack also plans to disseminate its information by continuing to apply for such awards as the Green Gown Awards, to allow a wider audience to learn about Durack's Sustainability journey.



2014 Highly Commended Case Study

What has it meant to your institution to be highly commended at the Green Gown Awards Australasia?

Being recognised at the Green Gown Awards has provided Durack Institute of Technology with recognition and acknowledgement of our achievements amongst our training and tertiary sector peers.

It will also provide Durack with an opportunity to share and learn from other likeminded, passionate teachers, trainers and lecturers across Australia.

Further information

Please contact Craig Jerrard (Manager Capital Works) or Paul Barnett (Physical Resources Officer) for more information on Durack's Sustainability Journey. Both Craig and Paul can be contacted on (08) 9956 2700 or via email craig.jerrard@durack.edu.au or paul.barnett@durack.edu.au.

All of Durack's Sustainability information can be found on the following website <http://www.durack.edu.au/home/about-us/sustainability>.