



Media release

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Green audit helps FBA switch on to savings

A waste and energy audit at the Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) has shown staff can save up to 14 tonnes of emissions each year, simply by switching off.

Manager Claire Rodgers said the audit showed how much energy could be saved by switching off lights and unused equipment such as computers, photocopiers and printers.

"FBA already has a strong recycling culture, but we can still do more to reduce wastage and energy consumption," Ms Rodgers said.

"The audit was a good reminder that simple acts like making use of natural light, double-sided printing and turning your computer off at the wall can add up to make a real difference."

The audit was conducted by environmental science student Leanne Harrison who audited the FBA office over twelve days in December and presented a final report to staff this week.

"Generally FBA staff have a good awareness of what needs to be done but like most people it's a matter of changing behaviours and forming new habits," Ms Harrison said.

"But the benefits of implementing improved energy and waste systems could include cost savings, decreased environmental impact and improved employee morale."

Ms Harrison completed the audit as part of the Monash Sustainability Institute's Green Steps program.

"The program helps to bridge the gap between study and work, with practical experience gained through industry placement," Ms Harrison said.

Ms Harrison, who is employed as an art teacher with The Cathedral College, is in her final semester of study towards a Graduate Certificate in Environment through Griffith University.

"I have a passion for beauty, the environment and the world in which we live," she said.

"Having traveled extensively I've seen how ignorant many people are about the damage being done to the environment.

"I think education is very important to improving the sense of ownership that people have of the problem, and I'm keen to transfer my teaching skills into the environmental area."

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