



Media Release

*****EMBARGOED 6PM Friday 24th October, 2008 *****

BUSINESSES REWARDED FOR REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Five businesses in northern Tasmania have been recognised for reducing their environmental footprint.

The EcoSmartBiz awards were presented tonight and are part of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards.

The twelve month EcoSmartBiz program has assisted 50 local businesses save on their operating costs while also reducing their environmental impacts.

The Salvation Army Employment Plus was the overall winner of the 2008 EcoSmartBiz Award for showing considerable achievements in all categories.

Those achievements included the roll out of environmental policy, energy savings of 27 per cent and water savings of 24 per cent.

The category winners were CGU Insurance – Cultural Award, Daisy Fresh Dry Cleaners - Environmental Award, KPMG - Economic Award and Self Help Workplace – Social Award.

The EcoSmartBiz project is an initiative of NRM North, the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, Cityprom and the Launceston City Council.

The Chief Executive Officer of NRM North, James McKee, said the program assessed all of the resource-consuming devices and systems on each business site and then provided recommendations on ways to make improvements.

“Too much of the resources we use and pay for such as electricity for lighting and heating, is wasted due to excessive and inefficient use and management.

“We often consume in excess of what we need, putting increased pressure on and limiting the availability of our finite natural resources.” Mr McKee said.

By using programs to improve efficiencies in energy, water, transport, waste streams and environmental cleaning, participants can expect to achieve at least 10 to 20 per cent in energy savings, reduce water consumption by up to 20 per cent and reduce waste to landfill by 10 per cent.

The Executive Officer of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, Louise Clark, said there was an increasing need for businesses to improve their resource-use efficiencies.

"This is especially important given the rising costs of fuel and electricity, the drought, ever increasing landfill sites and the costs and health effects associated with harmful cleaning chemicals.

"Resource-use efficiencies are a collective responsibility to be shared by individuals and businesses and the EcoSmartBiz program provides practical steps to achieve this." Ms Clark said.

The Launceston Mayor, Albert van Zetten, said it was excellent the efforts and achievements of the businesses that have taken part in this innovative program have been recognised through these awards.

"As we know, climate change is a very real issue and reducing green house gas emissions is a challenge we all face.

"EcoSmartBiz is tackling the issue on a local level and showing that Launceston really is a progressive, environmentally responsible city." Alderman van Zetten said.

Village Green Environmental Solutions managed the EcoSmartBiz program to deliver practical and sustainable solutions for each participating business.

**** The awards will be presented at 530pm, at the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, Level 1/29 Paterson Street.**

Ends

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The criteria and winners for each award category.

Launceston EcoSmartBiz Awards 24th October 2008

1 Cultural Award

This award celebrates the greatest **change in the personal culture of a business** within the Launceston EcoSmartBiz programme.

The following areas are what the businesses have been judged on:

- Greater staff awareness of environmental impacts relating to the business.
- Increase in quality of work due to better management practices learned through the programme.
- Owner and staff showing commitment to a vision that inspires staff active participation.
- Staff have greater sense of ownership within the business as a result of better environmental practices.
- Staff happier at work due to their input to create a sustainable future.

Finalists include:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Furntech | 4. Birchalls |
| 2. KPMG | 5. The Salvation Army Employment Plus |
| 3. CGU Insurance | |

The winner is: **CGU Insurance**

- Staff meetings held to raise awareness, motivate & engage staff in sustainability initiatives.
- Run 2 hybrid cars. Videoconferencing to save interstate plane & car travel. 2 staff catch bus to work.
- Numerous staff attended EcoSmartBiz workshops to involve them in the programme
- Two recycle bins introduced onsite. Reducing faxes & prioritising emails to save paper.
- Greater teamwork & building stronger working relationships & sharing ideas with colleagues in Tasmania & Victoria. Staff take pride in being responsible & accountable for sustainable practices, eg. turning off lights, walking / catching bus, turning off electrical appliances, utilise paper recycling bins.
- Influenced staff morale with a shared vision to implement diverse sustainable management best practice.

2 Environmental Award

This award celebrates the greatest **environmental resource benefit** achieved by one of the participating businesses.

Due to changes in behaviour that reduce environmental impact and the possible implementation of environmental retrofits, the business has:

- Reduced its water consumption
- Reduced its chemical use
- Reduced its waste to landfill
- Reduced its energy bills
- Reduced resources entering the business

Finalists include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Allans Garden Supplies P/L | 4. The Salvation Army Employment Plus |
| 2. Launceston College | 5. Daisy Fresh Dry Cleaners |
| 3. Hotel Tasmania | |

The winner is: **Daisy Fresh Dry Cleaners**

- Reduced water for cooling machinery - replacing cooling tower with 5000 litre tank, saving \$3000pa.
- Reduced chemical use and dry cleaning fluid by 20% to 40%, saving \$600 to \$1,200pa.

- All cardboard boxes recycled, old coat hangers to metal recycler, plastic bags to a retirement village.
- In process of retrofitting natural gas and buying more efficient dryer.
- Retro-fitting lighting to energy efficient tubes,
- Purchasing VW Caddy Maxi turbo diesel van (6.5L per 100km) vs. old van (13L per100km). To save over \$1,400 pa in fuel costs.
- Staff & management more mindful of costs, outcomes, quality and social and environmental impact.
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3 Economic Award

This award celebrates the greatest **cost savings** achieved by one of the programme participants.

Due to changes in staff management, business management and resource consumption, the following outcomes have occurred:

- Reduction in bill costs: water, energy, chemicals, waste
- Increased sales due to better product merchandising, and savings through efficient cost minimisation

Finalists include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Hotel Tasmania | 4. The Salvation Army Employment Plus |
| 2. Daisy Fresh Dry Cleaners | 5. Barratts Music |
| 3. KPMG | |

The winner is: **KPMG**

- Significantly involved staff in initiatives (eg. sustainability ideas competition). Enthusiastic participants promoting benefits to national offices. Implementing carbon neutral status offsetting carbon emissions.
- High % cost savings around \$2400, including staff carpooling to Hobart office
- Proactive environmental changes: paperless meetings, duplex printing, upgraded to LCD monitors, de-lamping light globes & retrofitting, new lights off policy, new recycling bin.

4 Social Award

This award celebrates the greatest **social benefit** achieved by one of the participating businesses by encouraging and inspiring their fellow business participants, promoting the programme to the wider community and creating a greater sense of community.

The following elements would have been achieved by the nominees and winners for this category:

- Building relationships in the community and amongst the programme participants.
- Consistent involvement in the programme activities.
- Fostering the Launceston EcoSmartBiz community through ideas, resources and action.

Finalists include:

1. Launceston College
2. The Salvation Army Employment Plus
3. Delloitte Touche Tohmatsu
4. Self Help Workplace
5. KPMG

The winner is: **Self Help Workplace**

- Keen response to the programme including sustainable community education and support for disabled.
- 50 litre reduction in landfill from organic kitchen waste fed to new chooks, eggs used to feed workers, compost used for new vegetable garden to boost skill sharing. Surplus compost also used for another vegie garden at a tourist site over the road.
- New checklist ensuring staff turn off all lights at end of day, compressor off standby.
- Plans for retrofitted resource efficient factory with considerable natural lighting.
- Promoting sustainability initiatives to staff and the broader community via on and offsite activities.

5 2008 EcoSmartBiz Award

The overall winner has shown **considerable achievements in all categories** and has **embraced the principles and learnings of the programme.**

The Winner is: **The Salvation Army Employment Plus**

- Rolling out environmental policy and promoting sustainability education to all national offices, with aim to save \$0.5 million from programme based on resource-use efficiencies.
- 27% energy saving, delamped 80 fluorescent tubes, timer on water chiller, other devices off standby. 2 large printers defaulted to duplex to save paper, Bokashi bin used to compost organic kitchen waste.
- 24% water saving, plumber reduced cistern to 1/3 of its original flush, & aerator placed on kitchen tap.
- Wrote to all EcoSmartBiz participants stating commitment to the programme, and asked for donations of spare business clothes for needy job seekers. Cardboard to local childcare centre.