

De Bortoli Wines: Toasting sustainable success

Sustainability Advantage Case Study

De Bortoli Wines

Established in 1928, De Bortoli Wines is a family-owned company in Bilbul, in the NSW Riverina. Today the business is managed by the third generation of the De Bortoli family and is Australia's sixth-largest wine company. The De Bortoli family owns vineyards across some of Australia's best known wine regions, including the Riverina and Hunter Valley in New South Wales and the Yarra Valley and King Valley in Victoria. De Bortoli Wines employs more than 400 people in its Australian operations and has a turnover in excess of \$170 million a year.

Industry

Vineyard owners and winemakers.



De Bortoli Wines upgraded its wastewater treatment facility at Bilbul and re-uses winery wastewater to generate crop income.

Sustainability drivers

De Bortoli Wines understands its customers are increasingly concerned about environmental issues, and is interested in minimising the environmental impacts of its manufacturing processes. The company saw the Sustainability Advantage Program as an opportunity to access cost-effective expertise on sustainability issues and receive practical support and ideas from government and other businesses in the Program's Riverina Cluster.

Achievements and savings

Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 392 kilowatt-hours of electricity saved annually • Reduced projected capital spend of over \$350,000 on new energy equipment by optimising existing systems • Reduction in greenhouse gases of 247 tonnes CO₂e per annum
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill • Complete re-use of winery wastewater, generating \$200,000 in forage crop income
Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productivity gains of between 20 and 37 per cent on all packaging lines • Customer complaints down by 42 per cent
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged suppliers and staff as evidenced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ lost Time Injury rates down by over 80 per cent ◦ process non-conformances down by 26 per cent
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The confidence to commit \$1 million in research and development on the 'Zero Waste Winery' program

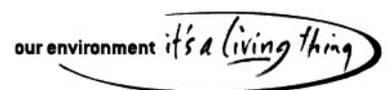
Steps

Commitment, teamwork and action plans

De Bortoli Wines joined Sustainability Advantage in late 2006 and a team of managers from across the company has completed the Sustainability Management Diagnostic. To date, they have undertaken a number of Program modules, including Supply Chain Management, Staff Engagement, Climate Change and Resource Efficiency. Comprehensive action plans have been developed and a De Bortoli Wines team meets monthly to discuss project ideas and implementation.



Environment,
Climate Change
& Water



With the support of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW, the Riverina Cluster was established. This enabled De Bortoli Wines to focus on project outcomes rather than administering its part in the Program.

Engaged employees

As part of its waste survey and analysis, the company investigated reuse and recycling options. It established a recycling system, implemented waste management training and identified potential savings. Staff were encouraged to bring in recyclable material from home, helping engage employees in sustainability issues. These initiatives led to an increase in on-site solid waste recycling of 11.5 per cent on a cost-neutral basis.

Reviewed supply chain and purchasing policies

As part of the Supply Chain module, De Bortoli Wines reviewed its supply chain policy and purchasing criteria and distributed the new policy to all existing and potential suppliers. The company is now encouraging suppliers to use either reusable or recyclable containers. They also banned non-returnable pallets and promoted the use of larger bulkier bags to replace smaller paper and plastic bags. The company is developing the Annual De Bortoli Wines Supplier Awards to motivate suppliers to meet or exceed the company's expectations.

Reduced water and energy use

The upgrading of the wastewater treatment facility has been one of De Bortoli Wines' major sustainability success stories. The new low-energy aeration facility uses 90 per cent less energy to treat wastewater. The company identified sodium salinity as a major environmental risk and chose to remove all sodium-based chemicals from production. This means that the winery's wastewater can now be used to irrigate its grain and fodder crops, which are harvested and sold. Individual managers also implemented a number of resource efficiency actions, including:

- maximising use of filtration equipment
- reducing the water used in the packaging hall
- installing low water-use equipment
- conducting compressed air audits
- sweeping and shovelling waste rather than hosing.

'De Bortoli Wines was seeking a better way of working and the Sustainability Advantage Program galvanised us into a continuous learning and improvement program. To date we have seen some amazing improvements based on simple cultural changes in our business.'

Rob Glastonbury, Operations Manager

Outcomes

Involvement in the Sustainability Advantage Program has provided De Bortoli Wines with an understanding of environmental issues and anticipate changes in customer expectations, business practices and regulatory requirements in future years. The modules provided a good opportunity to engage, inform and motivate staff and assisted in creating cultural change. The company has also realised substantial savings in operational costs by developing practical skills in lean manufacturing.

Next steps

De Bortoli Wines plans to pursue its sustainability initiatives with a focus on minimising its carbon footprint. The company will also concentrate on staff engagement, using lean manufacturing as a vehicle for continuous improvement.

More information

De Bortoli Wines

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Register for the Sustainability Advantage Program

For more information and to register, contact Business Partnerships, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW.

Call 02 8837 6000

Email sustainbus@environment.nsw.gov.au

Visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Achieve a Sustainability Advantage. Sustainability Advantage is a business support service from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW). It is designed to help your organisation understand sustainability, successfully manage for a better environment and add business value.