

# Sydney Markets Limited: Producing a sustainable market

## Sustainability Advantage Case Study

### Sydney Markets Limited

Sydney Markets Limited (Sydney Markets) owns and operates Australia's largest markets and is recognised as a world leader in fresh produce and community market management. More than 5,000 people work in the various businesses at Haymarket and Flemington. An estimated 2.5 million tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables, valued at \$3 billion, is sold through the Sydney Produce Market and the Sydney Growers Market annually. About 130 wholesalers, 400 produce growers, 170 flower growers and 160 supporting businesses are located on site at Flemington.

### Industry

Markets: Wholesale and retail fresh produce.



Sydney Markets Limited built a 'Green Point' facility to sort waste into recyclable streams saving money in reduced waste disposal costs.

### Sustainability drivers

Sydney Markets generates about 12,000 tonnes of waste a year. The increasing cost of waste disposal was a primary motivator in encouraging the markets to look at doing things differently.

### Achievements and savings

<b>Waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Waste disposal costs reduced by more than \$2.5 million since 2005</li><li>52 per cent of waste now recycled; types of materials recycled expanded</li><li>Increase in recycling from 15 to 50 per cent in less than three years</li></ul>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>30 per cent reduction in water consumption in two years since 2007 (equivalent to nine Olympic swimming pools)</li></ul>
<b>Emissions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 19 per cent in 2008.</li></ul>

### Steps

#### Conducting a sustainability diagnostic

In March 2007, Sydney Markets joined Sustainability Advantage and completed the Sustainability Management Diagnostic, receiving a three star rating. It has since undertaken projects as part of the Resource Efficiency and Climate Change modules and put its resulting business ideas into action.

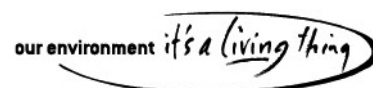
#### Establishing a Green Point facility and Environment Team

In 2005, Sydney Markets negotiated a new waste contract and used the opportunity to change the contractual requirements for its waste and resource collections. The company also decided to construct a purpose-built 'Green Point' facility to enable its tenants to sort, separate and divert recyclable waste streams more effectively. This assisted the organisation to expand its separated collections from a small amount of cardboard and organics to six streams: organics, cardboard/paper, timber, steel, plastic and polystyrene.

The facility operates daily under the direction of the Sydney Markets' Environment Team. The Environment Team has used a variety of educational methods including flyers, discussions and signage to assist tenants to make effective use of the facility. The result has been an increase in recycling from 15 to 50 per cent in less than three years – 15,000 tonnes of organics, 2,300 tonnes of cardboard, 12,000 pallets and 150 tonnes of steel have been recycled or reprocessed in this time. Following the success of the initiative, the Environment Team has been allocated more resources to assist with waste recovery.



Environment,  
Climate Change  
& Water



## Carbon footprint analysis

In April 2008, as part of the Sustainability Advantage Climate Change module, Sydney Markets Limited analysed its carbon footprint. The module provided access to expertise, advice and ideas that helped the organisation understand how it could reduce its impact on climate change. As a result, Sydney Markets has reduced its energy consumption and carbon emissions by:

- making adjustments to lighting times and installing light sensor-controlled external lighting
- replacing 400W High Bay lights with 250W lights in market buildings
- installing 'Envirolites' in the Plaza commercial area (reducing energy use by 76 per cent)
- installing additional sub-meters around the site to help identify where power is being used
- updating the chiller control sequence
- installing smart meters and purchasing some Green power
- investigating solar panelling and gas powered vehicles.

## Water-saving measures

Sydney Markets Limited already had in place a number of water-saving measures, implemented as part of its Water Savings Action Plan. The Sustainability Advantage Resource Efficiency module identified additional water efficiencies, specifically the trialling of various water-efficient fish thawing units and a feasibility study on recycling stormwater for wash-down. Work has begun on both these initiatives.

## Outcomes

By improving its sustainability practices, Sydney Markets has realised significant financial and environmental gains. The markets are operating more efficiently and their environmental credentials have been internationally recognised. In October 2008, the World Union of Wholesale Markets presented its inaugural Environmental Sustainability Award to Sydney Markets, in recognition of the markets' impressive sustainability activities in areas such as waste management, energy efficiency and water saving. The improvements that followed the introduction of the Green Point have led to broader environmental initiatives. Now environmental sustainability is one of the four strategic imperatives identified in Sydney Markets 2008-2013 Strategy.

**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.

'If we had done nothing and had just kept managing our waste the way we used to, it would be costing Sydney Markets an additional \$2.5 million today in waste disposal charges'.

Con Kapellos, Environment Manager

## Next steps

Sydney Markets will continue its focus on waste diversion and has installed a machine for improved management of polystyrene. It will also continue its project with DECCW on the feasibility of a cogeneration plant on site. It has plans to install rainwater tanks linked to all new buildings at the Flemington site and is in discussions with providers of recycled water for site wash-down. Sydney Markets also hopes to work with the NSW Chamber of Fruit and Vegetables on internal stakeholder relations through the Sustainability Advantage Staff Engagement module. Sydney Markets will also complete the Sustainability Advantage Risk and Responsibility module and then proposes to develop its Sydney Markets Environmental Management Plan.

## More information

### Sydney Markets Limited

**Call:** 02 9325 6173

**Visit:** [www.sydneymarkets.com.au](http://www.sydneymarkets.com.au)

### Department of Environment,

### Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW)

**Call:** 02 8837 6000

**Email:** [sustainbus@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sustainbus@environment.nsw.gov.au)

**Visit:** [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

## Register

### Contact DECCW's Business Partnerships

to register for Sustainability Advantage

**Call:** 02 8837 6000

**Email:** [sustainbus@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sustainbus@environment.nsw.gov.au)

**Visit:** [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus)