

Schindler Lifts Australia: Elevating the status of sustainability

Sustainability Advantage Case Study

Company

Schindler Lifts Australia (Schindler) is the largest supplier of escalators and the second- largest manufacturer of elevators worldwide. The company employs over 700 staff across Australia with its NSW headquarters based in Botany, Sydney. Schindler designs, installs, services and modernises transport systems for almost every building type, including commercial office buildings, major airports, national shopping centre chains and residential apartments.

The company started reporting on the environmental impact of its products in 2000. In 2006, Schindler received the award for 'Success and Sustainability' at the Australian Business Excellence Awards, in recognition of Organisational Excellence.

Industry

Escalator and elevator supplier

Sustainability drivers

Schindler Lifts Australia is deeply committed to minimising the environmental impact of its products. The company had already made significant progress before joining Sustainability Advantage, and could see clear benefits in accessing expert support and technical guidance in implementing a sound Sustainability Policy and Action Plan.

Achievements and savings

Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 32 per cent saving in total KWh of electricity use• \$25,200 saved in energy costs annually
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 31 per cent reduction in paper use, saving \$12,000 per annum• 2 kilometres of steel cable diverted from landfill• 2.4 tonnes of escalator handrail diverted from landfill
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased staff awareness on sustainability issues



Sustainability Advantage encourages networking and promotes partnership as the preferred path to sustainability. Schindler developed an alliance with a fellow Program member, Rondo Building Services, that trialled the reuse of escalator handrails as a substitute packaging material replacing the use of virgin timber

Steps

Management: Building a sustainability vision

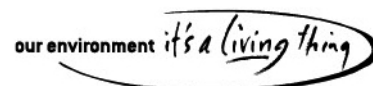
Schindler has been a member of Sustainability Advantage since October 2007, and has taken a very active role as program partner. From the outset, Schindler was able to engage its key management, designing an ambitious Sustainability Policy and Action Plan. This plan outlined the long-term sustainability vision for the company and enjoyed the full support of the Schindler executive. It has formed the basis for Schindler's priority sustainability actions and external communications platform. One particular outcome has been the formation of an Environment Steering Committee to identify environmental risks and implement changes to current processes, with the integration of environmental and safety checklists.

Implementing actions and counting achievements

Schindler has used Sustainability Advantage's Resource Efficiency module to strengthen its sustainability vision, establishing specific business key performance indicators and resource savings targets. The first step was to engage staff to help reduce the environmental footprint of Schindler's Botany office. Staff embraced the challenge.



Environment,
Climate Change
& Water



Staff reduced office paper consumption by an impressive 59 per cent in the first month, with an average annual reduction of 31 per cent. The Botany office now uses 161,500 fewer pages on average every month than it did one year ago. This has trimmed \$12,000 off the annual cost of paper purchases.

The next priority was to reduce electricity consumption. The Botany office successfully reduced its electricity usage by 32 per cent and saved \$25,200 per annum by installing:

- a more efficient air-conditioning system in its call centre and server room, enabling the main building air conditioning system to be turned off at night
- timers on the lighting system
- light sensors and low watt lighting in bathrooms and common areas.

Industrial ecology in action

Sustainability Advantage encourages networking and promotes partnership as the preferred path to sustainability. This has helped Schindler develop an alliance with fellow program member, Rondo Building Services, and divert from landfill 2.4 tonnes of escalator handrail waste annually. Rondo has used Schindler escalator handrails as a substitute packaging material to replace the use of virgin timber. Since that time, another company will trial reuse of the handrail in another trial.

Schindler is continuing to find opportunities for waste reduction through innovation. It recently saved more than two kilometres of prime surplus steel cable from landfill by donating it to a Schindler employee, who is using it as fencing material on his farm.

Outcomes

As a result of its internal awareness and commitment to sustainable change through Sustainability Advantage, Schindler continues to build a strong communication strategy and platform to showcase its environmental credentials. In recognition of its achievements and resource efficiency gains, Schindler was invited to speak as a leader and advocate for sustainability at the Building Industry Leader's Forum held in Sydney in 2008.

Next Steps

With the support of the Sustainability Advantage Program, Schindler is continuing to implement its sustainability vision and build its Corporate Social Responsibility credentials.

'Schindler's commitment to leadership is to continually improve the world of 'urban mobility' by managing our safety, quality, environmental and social responsibilities – creating a better future for all.'

Schindler Sustainability Policy Goal

Some of the more ambitious targets and goals for the future include:

- reducing energy consumption by 20 per cent by 2010
- reducing water and energy use by 35 per cent in all Schindler commercial properties by 2010
- using 100 per cent recyclable packaging, increasing recycling and reducing waste to landfill by 2010
- reducing vehicle emissions by 20 per cent by 2010 and 40 per cent by 2015
- using 100 per cent biodegradable and recycled oils by 2015
- donating \$500,000 or 1,000 volunteer days by 2010.

Schindler now promotes the sustainability work the company is undertaking. A staff notice board is updated monthly showing energy consumption, paper usage and recycling figures.

More information

Schindler Lifts

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Register

Contact DECC's Business Partnerships

to register for Sustainability Advantage

Call: 02 8837 6000

Email: sustainabus@environment.nsw.gov.au

Visit: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainabus

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.

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