

### Greening supply chains

“The opportunities were both personal and professional. As the owner of the building, I could make changes to the property, which was environmentally sustainable, fulfilling a personal need to do the right thing.” - Bassam Wakim, Managing Director

Heather Brae Shortbreads has produced a range of baked treats for the café, food service and retail market since 1941. The company, located in Thomastown and employing 40 staff, has always been family owned and managed. Managing Director, Bassam (Bass) Wakim, is very passionate about his business and enjoys the challenge of hard work, setting goals and achieving results.

#### Greening rental premises

A typical medium-sized manufacturing business can use 300 000 kWh of electricity in a year – a hefty amount.

In 2004, Heather Brae Shortbreads participated in Greenhouse Challenge Plus, a joint voluntary initiative between the Australian Government and industry. The program involved a series of meetings with a consultant, and audits were undertaken on various

aspects of the business including manufacturing processes, lighting and power, paper use, waste, and heating and cooling.

It is clear you don't have to own the property to make small but effective changes. Bass was able to implement simple strategies that reduced operational costs. These simple but effective changes included:

- Changing office and factory lighting. Replacing old lighting with more efficient lighting is a simple action that can save between 30-90% of the electricity required
- Turning lights off when room is not being used
- Installing more economical instant hot water systems
- Turning off machines and appliances when not in use, Enabling power save settings and turning off equipment when not in use is another straightforward DIY action that helps to save energy as well as helping to increase the lifespan of equipment
- Recycling paper waste
- Altering ordering procedures to reduce waste of ingredients and purchasing in bulk to reduce packaging
- Encouraging car-pooling and bicycle usage by having an undercover bike area

The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Commonwealth does not accept responsibility for any information or advice contained herein.



## Property owner opportunities

In 2008, the business moved to larger premises, purpose fit-out building and invested greatly in new state-of-the-art bakery equipment to achieve its growth potential and achieve best industry practice. Being both the property owner and the operator has created a host of new opportunities.

“The opportunities were both personal and professional. As the owner of the building, I could make changes to the property, which was environmentally sustainable, fulfilling a personal need to do the right thing.

“The fact that we can operate more effectively and reduce our operating costs was a bonus,” said Bass.

Skylights were installed in the warehouse and offices so the need for artificial light was reduced significantly. The baking and packaging area was designed so that the heat from the ovens is used to keep the work area warm, eliminating the need to heat this area.

By installing a new flour silo, Heather Brae has completely eliminated paper waste for this product, which previously came in bags.

Bass is now looking at sustainable energy to boost his electricity by considering installing solar power panels and /or wind turbines.

“We have over 2500 square metres of flat and safe roof area which would be ideal for this,” said Bass.

## Greening supply chains

In a move to further reduce the impact of operations on the environment, Bass jumped at the chance to participate in a pilot program jointly implemented by Eco-Buy and Carbon Down.

The program incorporates a sustainability assessment of key suppliers and benchmarks their

activities against international best practice.

Manufacturing businesses can have anything from 40 to 70 per cent of their environmental impacts generated through their suppliers. The program, designed jointly by Carbon Down and ECO-Buy, aims to identify the sustainability opportunities and risks in the supply chain and develop and action plan for the priority areas.

Supply chains are increasingly coming under scrutiny in contracts with government and large businesses.

## Carbon footprint

The Greening Supply Chains Program also provides Heather Brae with a carbon footprint assessment of their own business, identifying the greenhouse gas emissions from their own activities.

“The program will help us test the influence our business has on greening our supply chains. We saw this as a great opportunity to obtain a carbon footprint for our business, the opportunity to learn more about the principles of green and sustainable supply chains, and obtain support in developing an action plan,” said Bass.

[www.heatherbraeshortbreads.com.au](http://www.heatherbraeshortbreads.com.au)

For more low-cost and simple energy-saving actions, see our **Save Energy. Save money** factsheets at **www.positivecharge.com.au** or call **(03) 9385 8555**

*Savings are estimated at \$50,000 per year on expenses related to electricity, water, gas and chemicals.*