



MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

# STAFF NEWSLETTER

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# GREEN BUSINESS IS GOOD BUSINESS

by Nicci Carter

MSC has committed to undertaking "GreenBizCheck" certification for all offices in Australia and New Zealand

GreenBizCheck is a global technology based environmental certification program for any company with an office. Office buildings and associated activities are responsible for nearly 35% of all carbon emissions. Their program helps companies to quickly implement sustainable environmental practices which save money, conserve energy, water, resources and minimize waste.



GreenBizCheck partners include Corporate Express, Australian Institute of Management, Australia Post, NRMA Insurance, Restaurant Association of New Zealand and many others.

Companies are provided with a 260+ point online assessment - once the assessment is completed, GreenBizCheck provided with an in-depth report containing a wide range of practical measures to reach Bronze, Silver or Gold certification.

You can read more about GreenBizCheck at [www.greenbizcheck.com.au](http://www.greenbizcheck.com.au). We have started the initial assessment and will circulate the results shortly.

The Sydney office has been working on reducing power and paper consumption for some time. In April 2010 we used 11,461 kWh of energy, in April 2011 we used 8,840, and although the cost of

electricity has increased, our power bill dropped by 11%.

We have achieved this by being conscious of turning un-used equipment off at lunchtime and overnight, by turning air conditioning and lighting off in unused areas of the office, and by replacing halogens with LED lighting.

Because the Sydney office is in a strata building, MSC is also working with the body corporate to reduce the building's power consumption. Common area lighting has been replaced with LEDs, exhaust fans in the car park no longer run 24/7, and the air conditioning pumps which currently run 24/7 are under review.

## What can you do?

Each of us can make a difference. Here are some simple tips for the office:

- Turn your screen off at lunch time
- Turn lights and air conditioning off when you vacate a meeting room
- Use print preview before printing and print double sided
- Print drafts in black & white (prints quicker and uses less energy)
- Re-use non confidential single sided reports in fax machines and for draft reports.
- Bring your lunch in a re-usable container rather than disposable packing

There are many worthy initiatives such as Planet Earth's program to recycle mobile phones, printer cartridges etc. which MSC Sydney also participates in.

## And at home you can make a difference too

see <http://www.greenbizcheck.com/green-home-ideas/> for a 40 page sustainable home checklist.

A couple of good tips:

- SWITCH OFF your microwave at the wall. A microwave oven uses more energy to run the clock over a year than it does to heat food. So use a watch to tell the time and keep the microwave for heating.
- Adopt a "can do" attitude. Recycling one aluminium can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours, whilst doing the same for 40 plastic bottles will run a fridge for an hour.

Sydney staff can participate in <http://www.fridgebuyback.com.au>, a government initiative to remove your old, second fridge free of charge, and recycle the metals - giving you an average power saving of \$225 per year and in some instances a \$35 buyback payment.

If you are thinking of buying a new car, have a look at [www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au](http://www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au). The Green Vehicle Guide helps you by rating new Australian vehicles based on greenhouse and air pollution emissions. The rating is calculated using data provided by manufacturers from testing the vehicle against Australian standards

We can all participate in National Tree Day, Sunday 31st July - see <http://treeday.planetark.org/news/display/248> for more details.

If you have any good ideas, come across useful websites, or are interested in doing more to make your office as sustainable as possible, please let me know.