

CASE STUDY MANUFACTURING ABP GROUP



In south-west Brisbane, the ABP Group's 40 staff make furniture, visual boards and fibre cement products for the business, education, hospitality and medical sectors. In this competitive and fast-paced field, eco credentials count.

ON THE FRONT FOOT

Several years into its eco journey, ABP Group's efforts to conserve natural resources and avoid waste have now extended to all areas of its operations. Manufacturing robust, high-quality products that are designed to last while also minimising its impacts on the environment is a strong part of this company's financial and sustainability ethos.

The company became an ecoBiz partner in 2010 after installing skylights and an energy-efficient wet-jet cutter, as well as reducing its solid waste by 41 per cent.

TURNING TO THE SUN

Driven by a highly competitive international market, the innovations have continued. The latest is the installation of a 99.5kW solar system with onsite battery storage. The system generates around 30 per cent of the site's energy requirements, which should pay off the capital and installation loan in 5 years.

Managing Director Robert Kneebone explains that for ABP Group it's all about building business resilience for the future. "Electricity prices are only going to continue to rise," Kneebone says. "For us, generating solar power was a good financial, as well as environmental, decision."

SECOND STREAM

Since 2009, the ABP Group's continued effort to reduce, reuse or recycle its waste has brought waste-to-landfill down by an amazing 80 per cent. Reductions have been achieved by:

- recovering the energy in 312 tonnes of wood waste through a power plant
- precision-cutting software that ensures sheets of raw materials are fully utilised
- reusing plastic strapping and offcuts
- segregating general waste into recyclable streams.

ABP GROUP

ABP Group has successfully implemented eco-efficiency for several years to save energy and reduce its waste, with outstanding results.

ECOBIZ OBJECTIVE

To reduce energy and waste costs to build business resilience.

ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

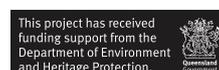
- Capital investments in solar power
- New recycling and waste policies and procedures

ANNUAL SAVINGS

- Energy saving: 66,000kWh – the equivalent of 10 average Brisbane houses
- Greenhouse gas emissions avoided: 54 tonnes CO₂e
- 336 tonnes of cardboard, wood and steel waste diverted from landfill:
 - Energy recovery from wood waste has reduced disposal costs by \$115/tonne
 - Recycling of over 14 tonnes of cardboard has reduced disposal costs by \$45/tonne
 - Sale of 5 tonnes of steel and 5 tonnes of aluminium now generates an extra \$2,000 in revenue annually.

**THE ECOBIZ TEAM IS ALWAYS
AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU.**

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