

## **Greenhouse Challenge Plus Statements, 2004, 2005, 2006**

The Greenhouse Challenge is a voluntary program coordinated by the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO), aimed at reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of organisations.

RMIT became a signatory to the Greenhouse Challenge in early 2001. Since that time, the requirements have been amended but RMIT continues to report our emissions and initiatives to reduce them accordingly. Attached are our annual statements from the last three years.

### **2004 Statement**

In 2004, RMIT initiated a capital project to install a BACnet Building Automation System across the University, commencing on the City Campus. Expected to take a number of years due to the complexity and area covered, the system will replace existing mechanical services controls that do not coordinate the operation of major plant such as boilers and chillers.

Progressive growth in student numbers however still results in increasing energy consumption.

Agreement has been reached to initiate the installation of T5 lighting and daylight compensation systems in all refurbished areas. T5 lighting is now the accepted lighting for the University throughout.

A number of students and student groups have been engaged to assist in energy audits. Students from Social Science and Mechanical Engineering portfolios have presented audits for management review as well as submission for examination assessment.

### **2005 Statement**

The expansion of the BACnet Building Automation System continues to roll-out through 2005.

Energy consumption dropped marginally, due to the reasonably mild summer and winter experienced this year. The T5 lighting program continues across the University in all areas subject to refurbishment.

The engagement of students to assist in energy audits continues as well as specific project work such as analysis of variable speed drives in the operation of laboratory fume cupboards. Additionally, in collaboration with staff, a student assisted in the calculation of energy consumption for a proposed ice plant, designed to facilitate chilled water production overnight at cheaper energy tariffs.

A number of operational staff, specifically in the maintenance area have provided suggestions and cost benefit analysis to implement motion detected lighting to office areas on our Bundoora campus. This has been implemented. Further calculations on solar hot water provision have been tabled for consideration. Operational staff also suggested and assisted with the implementation of time clocks to a number of uncontrolled mechanical services systems, so as to reduce energy consumption in remote buildings.

RMIT Property Services management commenced participation in the Australian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) in order to foster relationships with both student groups and other Universities.

## **2006 Statement**

The expansion of the BACnet BAS continues to roll-out through 2006 now encompassing areas of the suburban campus at Bundoora.

Four existing escalators have been retrofitted with sensors that enable the escalator to shut down when no persons are in close proximity. This will result in energy savings of around 25% for these units. Further analysis and installation will follow on other escalators in the building subject to diminished population assessment in the higher levels of the building.

The relationship with ACTS has developed further, and an emerging Victorian body, Sustainable Campuses Group (SCG) has been attended, hosted by Maunsells Engineering and Monash University. The SCG are developing a template to assist those members eg TAFE Colleges that are not Greenhouse Challenge members in the measurement of environmental performance, including gaining ongoing executive support for environmental sustainability, encourage a structured approach to setting annual targets, planning, implementation and reporting performance, recognise and promote environmental sustainability outcomes and provide data for environmental reporting.

The SCG consulted the following groups to initiate the above:

- Department of Sustainability and Environment (Greenhouse Policy Unit)
- Sustainability Victoria
- Environment Protection Authority Victoria
- Department of Education and Training
- Sustainable Campus Group (Project Advisory Group)
- Reporting members of the SCG.
- Office of Training and Tertiary Education (OTTE)
- Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN)

As well, our other industry bodies, Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association (TEFMA) and Vocational Education Training Facilities Management (VETFM) are now fully embracing sustainability and

are proposing closer linkages with ACTS and openly discussing emerging issues such as carbon credits, carbon neutrality and emissions trading.

Administration staff have joined the student bicycle group for both networking opportunities as well as to facilitate improved facilities including change and wash rooms.

Lastly, some 120 computers were donated via the Lions Club to schools in Papua New Guinea.

**Graham Bell**  
**General Manager, Facilities Services**  
**Property Services**

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2007**