

Bendigo Access Employment

A job well done in energy efficiency

Bendigo Access Employment (BAE) was formed in 1992 and is a diverse, not-for-profit community based organisation providing a number of services. These services include: Disability Employment Services, their Victorian Occupational Training Education Services Division – a registered RTO providing training and education to a broad cross section of community members, Access Injury Management Systems, which provides rehabilitation, worksite modification and return to work consultancy, and Nine Social Enterprises, which provides work experience, training, role modelling and mentoring leading to employment opportunities for people with disability.

As a result of the recommendations from an energy assessment, BAE has been reducing energy use across all sites. Across the organisation PAs/Amplifiers/Data projectors located in class rooms, training rooms and meeting rooms are turned off when not in use. The ICT server room temperature has been increased from 16°C to 18°C, meeting the recommended standard for temperature control in server rooms. With regard to heating and cooling all staff personal heaters have been removed. Thermostat settings for shared heating/cooling systems are now kept at the industry standards of 25°C or more for cooling and between 18°C to 20°C for heating. This represents a saving of 17% or \$3000 per year.

BAE has also built two 7.5 energy star rated Carbon Management Learning Centres which are carbon negative and use 65% to 90% less energy than a normal training building or facility. In 2010 the design and facility management of the Carbon Management Learning Centres were finalists at the Bendigo Inventor Awards. CMLC design features include: solar PV panels, walls

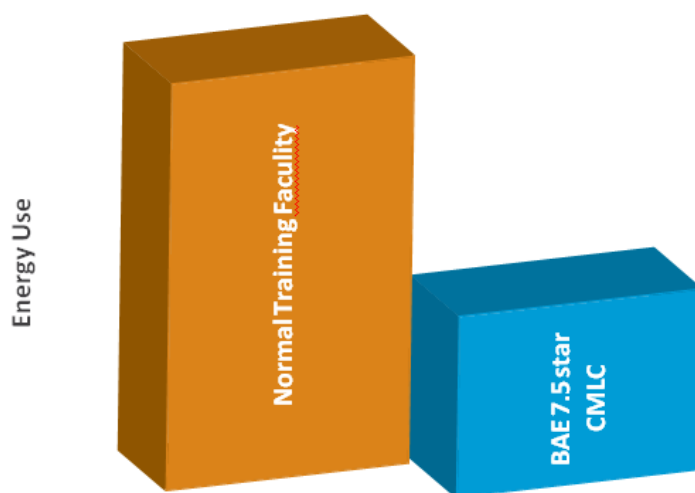
and floors triple insulated with glass fibre batts made from recycled materials, and double glazed windows. All labour and most materials were sourced locally. Each building operates a fresh air conditioning system that only uses 10% to 20% of the power of a normal refrigerated air conditioner.

From simple, no-cost behaviour change to 7.5 energy star buildings, there are energy efficiency options to suit every budget.

Access Employment reduced energy costs by:

- turning off PAs/Amplifiers/Data projectors located in class rooms, training rooms and meeting rooms when not in use
- increasing ICT server room temperature from 16°C to 18°C
- removing staff personal heaters
- keeping thermostat settings at the industry standards of between 18°C to 20°C for heating and 25°C or more for cooling.

Features in the Carbon Management Learning Centres include: solar PV panels, walls and floors triple insulated with glass fibre batts made from recycled materials and double glazed windows. Each building operates a fresh air conditioning system that uses 10% to 20% of the power of a normal refrigerated air conditioner.



Carbon Management Learning Centre uses 65% to 90% less energy.