

FISHES AT THE POINT, STRADBROKE ISLAND



The owners of Fishes at the Point Café feel a personal responsibility for the area upon which they operate and have taken steps with the EcoBiz program to reduce their energy usage. Major achievements include:

Reduced energy usage by

20% when refrigeration and dish washer were replaced by eco-models.

Annual financial savings in waste removal of
\$250

THE VISION

Fishes at the Point are passionate about their fish and chips, but also Stradbroke Island. They aspire to be conscious of their energy usage and their community. As a progressive business, they have found some innovative ways to reduce their energy consumption not just at their place of business, but within their supply chain

THE BUSINESS

Fishes at the Point is located on the doorstep of the famous North Gorge Walk, at Point Lookout, North Stradbroke Island.

The café is open 8am-9pm every day and provides all day café and takeaway menu, offering breakfast, coffee, lunch and alfresco dining.

The owners of the Fishes at the Point have a commitment to high standards of energy efficiency in order to ensure the longevity of their business and North Stradbroke Island.

CHALLENGES

Costs:

Similar to many other small businesses, Fishes at the Point is not in a position to invest in new technology.



ENERGY ACHIEVEMENTS IN TRANSPORT

Supply Chain:

Perhaps the greatest achievement by the café is their relationship with their fish supplier.

INITIATIVES:

Store their used cooking oil.

The local fisherman is an important part of the café's supply chain. He collects the used cooking oil to manufacture into biodiesel for his boat and land cruiser to deliver fish.

Locally Sourced:

In order to reduce their 'food miles' even further the café gives preference to local produce.

INITIATIVES:

Meat sourced from the Straddie Butcher and bread sourced from the Straddie Bakery.

They also source the fruit, vegetables and seafood from local businesses.

Employ local people for their business.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACHIEVEMENTS

Energy Efficient Fixtures:

Fishes at the Point has achieved static energy costs, even with a 25% increase of energy prices on the island, by replacing old fittings with new energy efficient equivalents.

INITIATIVES:

Replacing halogen light bulbs with low wattage alternatives.

Installation of new energy efficient refrigerators.

Installation of a 'heat defuser' to capture the heat produced by their cool room motor and using it to heat their hot water prior to going into the hot water system.

HOW TO DO IT: Local Policy

If you wish to reduce your wider energy impact by hiring and procuring locally, start by developing a local employment and procurement policy.

The first step is to set a criterion for "local" e.g. a 20km radius for staff and a 50 km radius for products.

The next step is to set a target, e.g. what percentage of staff members will be hired locally.

This policy will help guide your efforts.

Please refer to Factsheet 5 for more information on energy efficient procurement.

Piece of Advice:

Owner of the Fishes at the Point Café, Colin, stresses the importance of being educated to make smart decisions when it comes to replacing equipment. It's not about replacing perfectly good equipment with a more sustainable version, but rather being educated enough so that when the time comes for upgrades, more efficient models can be put in place.

HOW TO DO IT:

Energy Efficient Refrigerators

When purchasing new refrigeration equipment, consider your cooling demand and research the most energy efficient options that suit your needs.

Choice provides a set of helpful hints to consider when buying a refrigerator: <http://www.choice.com.au/reviews-and-tests/household/kitchen/fridges-and-freezers/fridges-review-and-compare/page/what-to-look-for.aspx>

For a more detailed overview of refrigeration considerations please refer to Factsheet 7.

PROMOTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Fishes at the Point is proud of their achievements in energy efficiency and uses various avenues to encourage similar behavior in the community.

INITIATIVES:

Encourage bicycle riding around Point Lookout.

Communicate with local businesses about their initiatives.

HOW TO DO IT: Promoting Energy Efficiency

You can easily promote your energy efficiency efforts through various avenues including:

- **Give a tour** of your energy efficiency initiatives to guests and neighbourhood.
- **Praise your staff** in their efforts to reduce energy consumption in your business, offer rewards.
- **Give guests a memento** to share with their friends to show their contribution to energy saving at the business.
- **Network with other businesses** and share your experiences and gain insight on what works for others.



References

Information provided by:

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