

FRANKSTON BUSINESSES LIEP INTO SAVINGS!



Key outcomes

Community benefits

- Improved quality of Kananook Creek
- Improved quality of stormwater run-off
- Strengthening of relationships between council and local businesses
- Development of collaborative business partnerships
- Creation of a business environment for sustainable improvement

Savings (p.a)

(All participants)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total projected savings* | \$58,899 |
| Energy | \$19,544 |
| Waste | \$36,630 |
| Water | \$2,725 |

Volume reductions (p.a)

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Water | 2,915,000 L |
| Waste diverted from landfill | 540 m³ |
| Greenhouse gas emissions | 34.9 t CO₂-e |

*Audit identified savings in waste disposal costs, water and energy costs only. Additional 'hidden' savings can be found in raw material value gains, reduced labour costs, reduced overheads, improved OH & S, increased market price, reduction in lost sales, etc.

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Collaboration enables local businesses to reap the rewards of sustainability with an environmental focus.

Forty-five automotive and manufacturing enterprises in Frankston have engaged in a new program in an effort to reduce their impact on the local environment.

The Kananook Creek Local Industry Efficiency Program (LIEP), a collaborative project between Frankston City Council and EPA Victoria, has enabled a selection of small to medium-sized businesses within the Kananook Creek catchment to analyse and improve on their modes of operation, with an overall aim to save money by improving the efficiency of resource use and the quality of stormwater run-off into the nearby waterway.

An Industrial Resource Efficiency Officer has been provided to offer advice and assist businesses in identifying opportunities to avoid, reduce, reuse or recycle. Through workshops, audits and ongoing education, participants were able to learn more about resource efficiency, minimising energy and water consumption, and reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. Businesses have been shown, and have since proven with the adoption of new resource-efficient practices, that significant savings in operational costs are possible.

Results from audits performed at participating businesses over the first 12 months of the program show that, by diverting a range of materials from landfill, over \$35,000 in total can be saved in waste disposal costs. One business had the potential to save over \$5500 through reductions in material and waste disposal costs.

Waste: On average, participating businesses have the potential to save over 35% on current waste disposal costs, with 12 businesses being able to save over 50% and one able to cut costs by 80%.

Energy: Six businesses identified savings of up to 20% on their electricity costs. Businesses making better use of LPG on existing vehicles or converting vehicles can save 45–50% on fuel costs.

Water: Four businesses identified water reductions of 50% or more, with two of them replacing all of their annual operational water needs by installing rainwater tanks.

'Small businesses can make a significant difference to the environment and at the same time contribute to their own long-term sustainability. Discerning customers want to purchase goods and services from local enterprises that are doing the right thing.'

Robert Powell
Frankston City Council





**REDUCTION
EQUIVALENTS ACHIEVED:**

Waste

540 cubic metres is equivalent to removing 2250 full 240 litre wheelie bins.

Water

3 million litres is equivalent to the water used by almost 15 average households for a year.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

34.9 tonnes is equivalent to taking more than 8 cars off the road permanently.

Already, materials such as metals, paper, cardboard and plastics are being recycled and items such as timber pallets and various types of packaging have been found to be useful elsewhere in the community.

Other recommendations indicate that, by installing rainwater tanks and improving the water efficiency of equipment, almost three million litres of potable water could be saved.

Energy reviews considered power and fuel. Suggestions such as converting vehicles to LPG and installing skylights to harness more natural light could reduce energy costs by more than \$19,000. This equates to almost 35 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to minimising environmental impact and experiencing a reduction in operational costs other business benefits have been observed as a direct result of participation in LIEP.

Communication between local businesses has increased and as a result, many opportunities for working together and assisting each other have been identified – such as the exchange of pallets between businesses and sharing of metal recycling bins. Each day more savings are realised as more businesses begin to see the real dollar value in improving environmental management.

Various members of the LIEP business community are advocating the need for reducing their company's environmental footprint and are acknowledging that everyone can make a valuable contribution when it comes to making a difference.

'Being resource efficient in our business is more about long term viability and environmental sustainability; rather than short term commercial benefits. Our business relies on water for tree planting within the City of Frankston and due to the installation of four 25,000 litre water tanks we will become 50 to 70 per cent self sufficient, therefore less reliant on recycled water. Collected rainwater also provides for truck and vehicle washing and depot maintenance.'

Barry Chant

Managing Director, The Tree Doctor