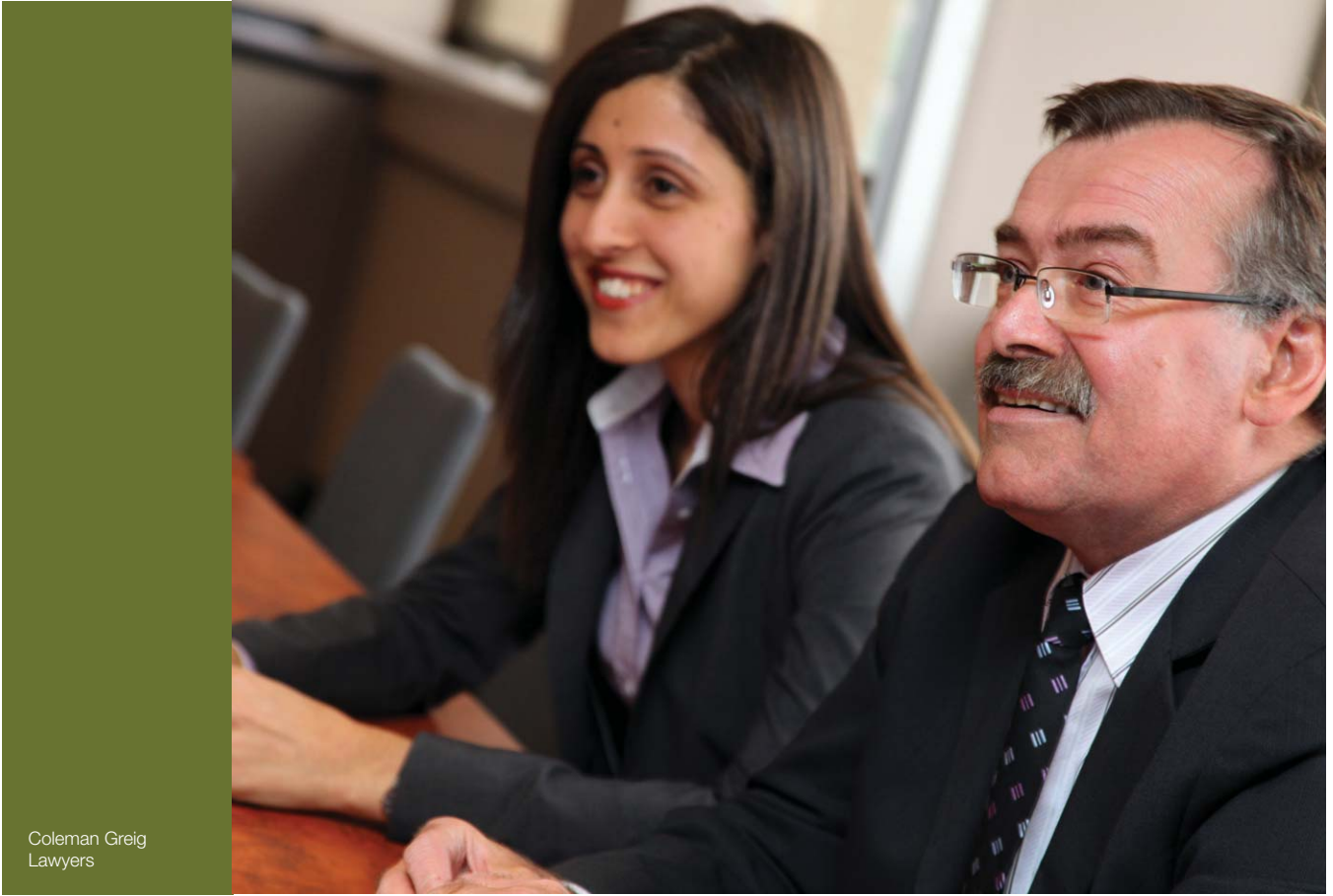


COLEMAN GREIG LAWYERS



Coleman Greig
Lawyers

Sustainability Now part of core business

Business sustainability

Coleman Greig Lawyers (www.colemangreig.com.au) have undertaken a range of sustainable business activities in recent years. These have included measures to reduce energy consumption, initiatives to reduce paper consumption, activities to educate their clients about 'green' legal issues such as 'green wash' trade practice issues and sustainable initiatives for commercial leases.

The company has also been known to actively engage and educate their landlord about sustainable business practices, as well as engaging their staff in the process of sustainability.

As a member of the NSW Government's Sustainability Advantage Program, Coleman Greig are part of the Parramatta cluster. The organisation works closely with St George Corporate and Business Banking Parramatta and Moore Stephens- Parramatta, both companies are also part of the Parramatta Sustainability Advantage Cluster.

Coleman Greig has allocated staff resources by establishing a 'green team'. Sustainability is a core business focus and as such capital expenses requiring a sustainability focus prior to approval. In-kind contributions of approximately \$20,000 per year are invested.

As a result of their lobbying, their landlord received \$500,000 to retrofit the air conditioning in the building under a federal government grant. A number of staff have taken advantage of the federal government's energy audits.

Other initiatives undertaken by the company have included the consolidation of their computer servers to save energy, and the gradual movement to a 'virtual' work environment.

Through its initiatives, Coleman Greig has become the first law firm to achieve Bronze Membership under the state government led program.

Outcomes

From their involvement in Parramatta Council's Streamline program, key outcomes have included the introduction of a sustainability theme into their business activities, improved environmental management, retrofits granted by the landlord that cost \$500,000, and staff training.

These outcomes have resulted in a number of benefits including ongoing reduction in energy consumption in the past 18 months and reduction in power costs. Sustainability is now part of the way the organisation carries out its business.

Lessons learned

A number of challenges were experienced, including difficulty engaging staff in the initial stages, however implementing some strategies has enabled the company to overcome these issues over time.

The company learned that the Sustainability Advantage program was a good way to keep the business focused and honest. According to Warrick McLean, General Manager, it gave them the opportunity to share ideas with similar businesses. The company has also benefited by building relationships with other businesses in the cluster.



“Sustainability is now simply part of the way we do business.”

Warrick McLean, General Manager

Future actions

Coleman Greig will continue to focus on improving procurement practices and reviewing how they deliver their services. A key area for improved efficiencies will be reducing their power consumption. The company also intends to continue to educate their clients about sustainability and the legal issues associated with being sustainable.

By continuing to improve the way they operate a sustainable business, Coleman Greig hopes to be able to position themselves as a leading Western Sydney firm.

Coleman Greig plans to continue its sustainability journey and will work towards achieving Silver Membership of the program and becoming role models for sustainability practice in the Western Sydney business community.

Business background

Coleman Greig Lawyers is the leading law firm in greater Western Sydney and was established in the early 1900s. The firm provides the breadth of expertise usually only associated with a Sydney CBD-based practice but also offers the personal attention and value for money of a local firm.

Coleman Greig clients range from subsidiaries of multinationals to family-owned businesses to private individuals, many of whom have been loyal clients of the practice for a significant number of years.

The firm has 70 staff and is therefore classified as medium sized.