

# DALE-GLASS INDUSTRIES



Dale-Glass Industries

## Saving money Helping the environment

### Business sustainability

For business owner of Dale-Glass Industries ([www.dgi.com.au](http://www.dgi.com.au)) Joe Glass, aligning cost savings with environmental savings makes good business sense. "Anything we can do to reduce our environmental impacts whilst improving the efficiencies and productivity of our business makes for a logical choice." Joe saw the Energy Efficiency Small Business Program as an opportunity to explore the electricity profile of the business as well as opportunities for action leading to energy and cost savings.

The energy efficiency assessment conducted at DGI revealed that

the business spends about \$14,000 per year on electricity and emits approximately 92 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e per year. The assessment also revealed that the company's main energy drainer was its lighting.

A wide range of energy savings actions were suggested. These included replacing halogen lights with fluorescent in the entrance and stairwell, re-locating work bench light switches, replacing fluorescent lights throughout the office and workshop areas, replacing incandescent light fitting with IP rated fittings in the bathroom, kitchen and shower, installing skylight roofing in the warehouse and workshop, replacing 400w mercury vapour high rays with 300w metal halide

high bays in the machinery area and installing roof air ventilators in the warehouse.

The total estimated cost of these suggested actions was \$13,000; the estimated pay back was four and a half years.

## Outcomes

Essentially, DGI implemented all of the recommendations, as an approximate cost of \$11,500. DGI will receive \$4,750 in rebates, bringing the cost down to \$6,750.

As a result of the implemented actions, DGI will save around \$2,800 and over 18 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e per year. The total investment after rebate will pay for itself in energy savings over approximately 2.4 years.

Operations Manager for DGI Sujata Suriya spoke of the benefits of the skylight roofing and new high bay lights installed in the warehouse/workshop.... “the clear roofing has provided the workers with a more natural and satisfying work place, made better use of the space and the new lights have provided brighter work areas with less light fittings”.

## Lessons learned

Joe Glass feel that all parties have benefited from the program- “we have saved money and helped the environment, our employees are more satisfied, income has been generated for the trades people and assessor and the State governments program supported



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**Joe Glass, General Manager**

by the local governments has delivered genuine outcomes”.

He also plans to continue to reduce his use of oil-based products in the business.

## Future actions

Plans for the future include upgrading the main factory plant in Dungog so that it operates more efficiently. Joe intends to fund this from the rebate he is due to receive from the state government for the work he has done on upgrading his Silverwater business.

Joe is fully aware that there is always something more one can do in response to the constantly changing environmental and industry contexts.

## Business background

Dale Glass Industries (DGI) operates within the wood products and manufacturing industry. The company was founded in 1974 by Cecil Dale and Joseph Glass. The company began production in an old boat shed in Balmain, Sydney. Now DGI operates from four locations in the three eastern Australian states.

DGI Sydney in Silverwater is the main distribution centre and stock includes both structural and decorative Glulam (glue-laminated) products. In addition, it also has finishing facilities allowing for full fabrication of DGI Glulam products for both domestic and commercial applications.