

# EDKOUTALIS AUTOMATIVE



Ed Koutalis (left)

## Car mechanic Committed to sustainability

### Business sustainability

Ed Koutalis of EdKoutalis Automotive ([www.koutalisautomotive.com](http://www.koutalisautomotive.com)) keeps abreast of latest developments in business, government regulation and technology. Operating a sustainable practice is part of his core business. Some initiatives he has instigated include having his tyre supplies remove old tyres, battery suppliers taking away old batteries, cardboard recycled and removed, waste metal picked up, removal of waste oil for recycling, and waster recycling from the air conditioners and used on the garden. A number of other initiatives have also been put in place in the business.

One of the most significant cost-saving initiatives has been the replacement of solvent-based cleaners with hot washers. This cost him \$7,500 in installation, but the cost savings in water usage save him a week's wages per month.

Ed also plays an active role in a number of networks including the Repco forum, the NRMA and Parramatta Council's citizen jury, and he educates his staff on the latest sustainable business practices.

For Ed, operating a business sustainably is paramount for encouraging customers to return, and for protection of the environment.

Ed has not been a regular participant in the Streamline program, yet he believes that the Program is tremendously important. One of the strengths of the Program, he feels, is the opportunity it presents for businesses to network and learn from each other.

## Outcomes

By implementing a number of sustainable business practices, Ed Koutalis has saved a week's wages per week through his new approach to water usages, and also has saved money on rubbish collection by sourcing recyclers who can re-used some of his waste products.

## Lessons learned

Ed Koutalis has learned that sustainability not only relates to the environment, but to the way he runs his entire business. To him, environmental sustainability is important, but so is social sustainability. This is all about keeping customers coming back and creating a positive work environment for his staff.

One of the biggest challenges for Ed is staying ahead of technology. For example, being able to deal with the technology in hybrid vehicles, as well as the maze of legislation that is relevant to small business owners.

Ed has learned that it makes good financial sense to commit to an initial outlay to install waste and water management systems in the business,



**“It is important to do the simple things first.”**

**Ed Koutalis, Manager**

because then the financial returns are seen.

Through his experience with sustainable business practices, Ed has learned that it is important to do the simple things first. For this reason, a program such as Streamline is important for engaging small businesses in the fundamental activities relating to sustainability.

## Future actions

Ed is acutely aware of the many other sustainable initiatives he could be implementing in the business. In the future he intends to recycle plastic bottles, and have items that cannot be recycled collected in a skip and collected monthly.

## Business background

Ed Koutalis Automotive Services is based in Granville and has been operating for the past 25 years. The organisation strives to provide innovative, sound quality service in a friendly, down-to-earth manner.

The company provides all vehicle needs, from brakes to transmissions. The staff at the organisation take pride in the way they do business.

The latest in engine servicing technology is provided at Ed Koutalis Automotive and all of the company's mechanical staff are fully qualified.