

SYDNEY TURF CLUB



Sydney Turf Club

Green Race Day Leave the car at home

Business sustainability

In January 2009 the Sydney Turf Club (www.stc.com.au) held the world's first Green Race Day. Patrons arriving by rail received free entry; all cans, bottles and betting tickets were sorted and recycled; and only local suppliers were used to provide additional services. The Club can attract an average January crowd of 4,000; the carbon neutral race day attracted 8,500.

As members of the Department of Environment and Climate Change's Sustainability Advantage Program, the Sydney Turf Club has implemented a range of sustainability initiatives and practices. Installing energy saving light bulbs on the betting

floor has reduced electricity consumption by 82 per cent; the next stage is to change light bulbs in the grandstands. Rain water harvesting enables water to be redirected to a holding dam and tanks for landscaping and other uses. Waste management practices are in full swing and all cardboard, bottles, cans, food waste and horse manure are being recycled either on site or in partnership with Veolia.

Conscious of the environmental impact of up to 6,000 vehicles per race or event day draws to the site, the STC heavily promotes the use of rail. An independent environmental audit was carried out to help the organisation identify over 100

different things they can do and their eco-committee is currently prioritising them.

The company has formed an Eco Committee after signing up with the Sustainability Advantage Program. The committee focuses on reducing costs through developing resource efficiency, integrating environmental strategies into business planning and improving environmental performance.

The Sydney Turf Club Special Projects and Assets Manager is a member of the Camellia Business Group.

Outcomes

The Club monitors water usage at 15 minute intervals through data takers installed over the last 12 months.

The 'Water Savings Action Plan' has been a major focus over the last three years. It has led to the organisation making significant water saving improvements including leaking programs and upgrading toilet cisterns.

The Club redesigned storm water pipes from the roof areas of the main grandstand so that water could be harvested for track irrigation.

The lighting in the Rosehill Grandstand has been upgraded from incandescent to florescent bulbs.

A mulching machine was introduced which reduces food waste to pulp, which is then transported to Earth Power who converts the liquid waste into green energy and then into fertiliser pellets; all waste diverted away from landfill.

Lessons learned

Operations Manager, Mark Wright, has learned that becoming more sustainable has to be integrated into all aspects of running the business. It is an ongoing process that requires continual



“Becoming more sustainable will improve conditions for our patrons and the planet.”

Mark Wright, former Operations Manager

updating, but as well as helping to save the planet, it responds to the expectations of the Club's patrons.

Future actions

The Sydney Turf Club is committed to ongoing innovations and improvements to maximise resource efficiency.

The goal is to increase patronage at the venue for major functions, whilst also

increasing its efficiency in monitoring and using its resources.

A long term priority is to update its current Building Management System to be inclusive of their most recent building additions.

Business background

Sydney Turf Club commenced operations in 1943. The Club was established pursuant to the *Sydney Turf Club Act 1943* which was enacted to discontinue privately owned race clubs in New South Wales. The Club is a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee, with revenue received from its operations repatriated to industry participants and patrons through increased prize money and improved facilities. The Club has about 7,000 members and is administered by a Board of nine honorary directors. The Club has no stakeholders. In staging thoroughbred horse racing the Club provides high quality entertainment, first class facilities, quality catering and customer service. It also manages 'non racing' business.