



The Streamline Program is an initiative of Auburn and Parramatta City Councils.

Switching to Sustainability The Sustainability Journey

There is an old Chinese proverb that says: A journey of a thousand miles begins with one single step.

Sustainable businesses start by putting their attention on what is achievable now, often described as the low hanging fruit. From there they put measurement systems in place to track progress and help them work out what to target next. Working with suppliers and customers has yielded even more ideas and improvements. Networking with other businesses has been invaluable. They report that sustainability is a journey that never ends, and that the process has changed the way they do business and often produced lots of surprises along the way. The Streamline Sustainability Toolkit will be useful whether you have taken your first steps

towards building a sustainable business, or are well down the path.

The checklist questions it contains will give you ideas about where to look and what to do next.

Sample Checklist Questions

- Do you measure your environmental performance (waste, energy, travel)?
- Can you identify the three main waste streams for your business?
- Have you reduced waste to landfill due to improvements in your supply chain?
- Do you offset carbon emissions by investing in carbon credits?
- Do you train your people in sustainable practices?
- Have you designed/retrofitted your building to make it more sustainable?
- Have you got plans in place to achieve greater sustainability?

Streamline Toolkit

What others have done

Lubrizol International

Lubrizol imports and blends quality lubricants and is based in Silverwater adjacent to the Duck River. Nothing comes in or out of the Lubrizol site that hasn't been examined for its waste recycling potential. Boxes, belts, scrap metal, foam, drums, spent fuel – are recycled, sold, or exchanged with other businesses. Lubrizol now makes more money out of its waste recycling practices than it previously cost to take waste away.

Anyshape Plastics

The use of plastic in our lives is ubiquitous – storage, display, hygiene, sport and packaging, all inconceivable without plastic. But many plastic products contain toxic chemicals and are not biodegradable. Granville-based manufacturer, Anyshape Plastics, is determined to change the face of plastic production in Australia. It is researching, testing and producing biologically safe, anti-microbial, fully recyclable plastics that will be particularly useful for oral hygiene products like mouth-guards, brushes, infant dummies and bottles.

Rifco Trading

When Samuel, Kate and Luke Fletcher inherited Rifco Trading after the unexpected death of their father in 2003, it was a backyard operation and all the knowledge was in their father's head. They have turned the company around, employing more people and crafting a vision to be the best and greenest manufacturer of high quality bathroom fittings in Australia. The company has made big savings on power and improved productivity at the same time. Using Big River forest timbers and high quality laminex, they have achieved green certification and are now a preferred supplier to many retail chains. Behind the scenes, waste to landfill has been slashed with glass, plastic, wood, and paper all recycled or reused. Rainwater tanks and water capture devices redirect water into glass manufacture and any excess is used to wash cars. Samuel, Kate and Luke represent a new generation of business owners who see sustainability as an opportunity and not a burden.

Find out more:

www.streamline.org.au

Need help
with the
toolkit?

Contact your
Sustainability
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Council
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Parramatta City
Council
9806 5050



Luke, Kate and Samuel Fletcher from Rifco Trading



Philip Lane from Lubrizol holds environmental award