

# Cleaner production study results in nation-wide changes for ABnote

## SUSTAINABILITY COVENANT CASE STUDY

Since 2006, Ai Group has provided funding assistance for 34 sustainability and environmental projects involving 62 participating organisations. More than \$1 million has been invested in grants in the past three years.

A new Sustainability Covenant with EPA Victoria was launched in March 2009, with funding of \$3 million available over the next three years.

### Key outcomes

**GRANT:** **\$30,000**

Resource savings detailed (right) are per annum.

A cleaner production study carried out for secure transaction products company ABnote identified potential energy and water savings of nearly \$22,000 annually at its Victorian plant, while green building efficiencies in a new development could deliver up to \$14,200 in additional annual energy savings.

The study, which was funded by a \$30,000 grant from the Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) will have far reaching impacts, as production improvements in ABnote's Victorian plant will be replicated in plants in New South Wales, Queensland, Perth, South Australia and Christchurch in New Zealand.

ABnote prints cheques, credit cards, loyalty and gift cards, smart cards, drivers' licenses, high resolution barcodes and financial cards.

The study identified nine cleaner and more efficient production options, and all but one are being implemented, according to Environment, Health and Safety Manager, Colleen Gilmour.

"We have changed from using hot glue, which has high toxicity, to a cold glue

Option	Energy savings (kW-hr)	Energy savings \$	Water savings (kL)	Water savings \$	Waste reduction (tonnes)	Waste reduction \$
Standard cheque sizes	31,900	4,000			1.6	200
Cold glue technology	9,700	1,000				
Lighting/environmental controls on sensors	22,700	2,800				
Turn off equipment when not in use	90,400	11,300				
Air conditioning units			500	500		
Install dual flush toilets in existing building; install water-saving fixtures in new building			2,100	2,200		
Green building energy efficiencies	113,700	14,200				
<b>Total</b>	<b>268,400</b>	<b>33,300</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>200</b>

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### Further information

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technology which is cleaner, safer and uses less energy.”

Containers from the hot glue process were sent for hazardous waste disposal, but the company is now able to return cold glue cans to the manufacturer for recycling.

Paper and electronic waste is recycled, and Ms Gilmour has engaged a nation-wide waste contractor who will measure and report on the weight of waste streams going to landfill, recycling and reuse from each site. This will enable the company to compare sites and investigate high waste levels.

A number of recommendations concerned with energy use resulted in ABnote appointing ‘green teams’ to conduct audits and ensure plant and office equipment is turned off when not in use. A ‘switch off’ day has also been held to build employee engagement in energy conservation.

Improvements include lighting and environmental controls on sensors, turning off computers each evening, rationalising equipment that is not in use, turning off plant equipment at weekends and between shifts, and installing power factor correction at the site in Ingleburn in NSW.

Water savings are also being achieved through ensuring that evaporative air conditioning units are working properly. Water-efficient fixtures will be installed in the new plant, toilets upgraded to dual flush models and rainwater tanks installed for non-drinking water use.

The company will continue to develop and track energy, waste and water KPIs, and report to management and staff.