

# SIMPLE SOLUTIONS – BIG SAVINGS!



## Key outcomes

(Projected)

### Savings (p.a.)

<b>Total savings</b>	<b>\$109,589</b>
Energy (lighting & water heating)	<b>\$71,510</b>
Water (showers & toilets)	<b>\$38,079</b>
Greenhouse gas emissions	<b>1173 t CO<sub>2</sub>-e</b>

### Cost of implementation

Showers & toilets	<b>\$12,737</b>
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### Payback period

**Less than 2 months**

### Volume reductions (p.a.)

<b>Water</b>	<b>Over 44 ML</b>
Shower head modifications	<b>55% reduction</b>
Toilet cistern modifications	<b>67% reduction</b>
<b>Energy</b>	<b>Over 1000 MW</b>
<b>Showers and toilets</b>	
Greenhouse gas emissions	<b>1139 t CO<sub>2</sub>-e</b> (equivalent to permanently removing 345 cars from the roads)
Energy savings (water heating)	<b>\$70,636</b>
<b>Lighting</b>	
Greenhouse gas emissions	<b>90% reduction</b> (34 t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)
Energy savings for lighting	<b>54% reduction</b>

### Further information

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## Caravan parks in the North-East of Victoria reap the benefits of water, energy and waste initiatives.

Victoria's North-East is the holiday destination for over 2.5 million tourists a year – 50 per cent of whom opt to stay in caravan parks.<sup>1</sup> Often located in environmentally sensitive areas, these caravan parks have the potential to impact upon local creeks, rivers and wetlands. Additionally, caravan parks use large amounts of energy and water and produce significant quantities of waste annually.

This unique project brings together resources from a range of stakeholders, successfully identifying significant environmental and financial savings for more than 40 caravan parks located in the North-East and Goulburn Valley regions of Victoria.

The main objective of this pilot project was to assist operators to improve the overall environmental performance of their respective parks by focusing on water and energy consumption, wastewater management practices and public recycling. The project also focused on ensuring the correct management practices were used for onsite treatment plants.

A coordinated approach was undertaken, utilising the knowledge and advice of a Resource Efficiency Officer, and the findings from waste, energy and water audits. The results identified a number of simple, easy-to-implement options with great financial reward and significant reduction in environmental impact.

Results of the water audit showed that 97 per cent of operators in the region cited showers as the major consumer of water – with some anecdotally witnessing showers of up to an hour

## Project Partners

- Operators from more than 40 caravan parks
- EPA Victoria
- North East Victorian Regional Waste Management Group (NevRwaste)
- Goulburn Valley Regional Waste Management Group (Resource GV)
- Sustainability Victoria (SV)
- Local councils
  - Alpine Shire
  - Benalla Rural City
  - Campaspe Shire
  - Indigo Shire
  - Mansfield Shire
  - Mitchell Shire
  - Moira Shire
  - Murrindindi Shire
  - City of Greater Shepparton
  - Strathboggy Shire
  - Towong Shire
  - Rural City of Wangaratta
  - Wodonga City Council

'We want to do whatever we can to make our business environmentally sustainable, as it is good for business as well as the environment.'

**Steve Gardiner**  
Mt Beauty Holiday Park

'The environment is so important that we need to be constantly aware of how to protect it.'

**Lorna Rapley**  
Colac Colac Caravan Park  
(Towong Shire)

SUSTAINABLE CARAVAN PARKS  
PROJECT  
NORTH-EAST VICTORIA



### Other benefits

- Increased awareness of environmental impacts
- Improved focus on water management & energy management
- Improved effluent management practices
- Identification of opportunities to improve waste management
- Business opportunity realised - marketing advantages
- Development of collaborative business partnerships

### Further information

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in length. Reducing the flow rate of showers with a small restrictor significantly reduces water consumption and energy costs associated with heating water for showers. Participating caravan parks can expect to save over 44 million litres of water a year between them and over a million kilowatt-hours of energy, with a greenhouse emissions reduction of approximately 1139 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e per year. Collectively, this corresponds to a financial saving of over \$100,000 a year.

Water savings also mean significant reductions in the volume and nutrient loading of caravan park effluent. To further minimise wastewater, a number of parks are currently investigating the potential for installing greywater recycling systems, reducing toilet flush volumes and introducing more energy-efficient washing machines.

Another opportunity identified was the substitution of incandescent light bulbs with the fluorescent equivalent. Since the latter use about a quarter of the energy to produce the same amount of light, and can last up to 10 times longer, the potential for energy savings in caravan parks is substantial. Cost savings of over 50 per cent have been estimated,

with a greenhouse emissions reduction of approximately 34 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e per year.

The range of water and energy-saving initiatives proposed, along with those to improve existing solid waste management practices, has already been shown to produce excellent results - with some parks beginning to implement in time for the peak summer season.

Most of the identified solutions - and, in turn, the savings - are applicable to any caravan park and, indeed, many other similar businesses in the State. The project has been extended for another year to enable more caravan parks to understand and implement solutions, and benefit from savings. This transferability ensures the ongoing success of this project and so is certain to continue to contribute to the protection of local natural resources.

New project partners include Goulburn Valley Water, North East Water, Goulburn Murray Water, DSE and Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics