



Earth Hour

When the lights go out at 8pm on the 29th March, we will be able to "see the difference we make". UQ is participating in this international event, held in more than 20 countries around the world. Brisbane City Council Lord Mayor, Campbell Newman and Premier Anna Bligh have signed up to show commitment to act on climate change.

The aim of Earth Hour is to turn off all non-essential lights and appliances, such as computers and air conditioners, to save electricity and to demonstrate that these practices can easily be implemented every day.

In Sydney last year, 2.2 million people and 2100 businesses participated in Earth Hour, achieving a reduction in energy consumption of 10.2% for one hour. The energy saved by turning off lights was equivalent to taking 48 000 cars off the road for a year. Not only did they save electricity, they sent a message across the world saying that we can all make a difference by simple actions such as 'flicking the switch'. To register as an individual or business, go to www.earthhour.org.



Stand-by Energy Consumption



Did you know that photocopies and MFDs consume the most energy while on stand-by mode compared to any other piece of electrical office equipment. They have an average yearly stand-by energy consumption 3.8

times higher than computers, which are the second highest stand-by energy consumers. Even when on stand-by the hot rollers (used to fuse the toner to the paper) remain hot, which constantly uses electricity. Therefore to save power, turn the photocopier off (preferably at the wall socket) when leaving the office at night. These documents are full of useful and interesting information

www.dtei.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/15685/officeequipment_web.pdf - Office Equipment, and
www.energyrating.gov.au/library/pubs/200522-standby-local-gov.pdf - Standby Energy Consumption.

Refillable Pens and Pencils

Purchasing refillable pens and pencils are a great way to make your office more environmentally friendly. By reusing the plastic casings, you will save non-renewable



resources needed to make the plastic (therefore decreasing your carbon footprint) and you will ultimately reduce the amount of rubbish that ends up in landfill.

Alternatives to disposable pens are always available, such as refillables or those made from recycled materials. Some pens are made from recycled cars and others from corn starch that can be composted!

<http://www.ecopaper.com.au/products.html>

http://www.biome.com.au/shop_index.php?cPath=199

<http://auspen-markers.com/refillable-pens/>

A range of refillable pens and pencils are available at the Central Store including mechanical pencils, retractable markers and whiteboard markers. Remember to buy and use the refills!

<http://www.pf.uq.edu.au/StoresCatalog.html>

World Environment Day

Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy is the slogan for World Environment Day 2008.

UNEP wants countries, companies and communities to focus on their greenhouse gas emissions and think about how to reduce them. Being part of the Green Office Program is already a great way to implement more eco-friendly measures and to encourage others to participate. The website is worth a read.

<http://www.unep.org/wed/2008/english/>



Upcoming Events

Get involved with your office or at home

- Earth Hour 29th March Turn your lights OFF!
- Earth Day 22nd April www.earthday.net/
- World Environment Day 5th June
 - Green Office Awards
 - All Green Office Reps Invited!



For further information, contact Environmental Services:

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