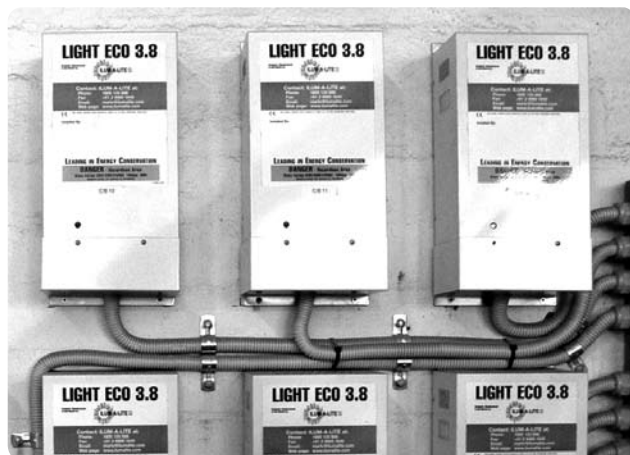


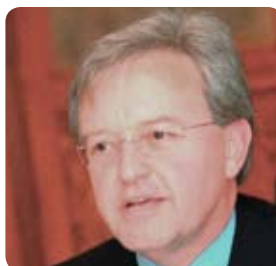
# CASE STUDY: MANUFACTURING

→ **VECCI** is proud to work with **Vega Press** to help small and medium-sized businesses achieve environmental sustainability



LEFT: LIGHT ECO UNITS SAVED OVER 300 TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub> A YEAR.

BELOW: AMBASSADOR ROB NUGENT REGULARLY PRESENTS ON SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES TO HELP EDUCATE OTHERS.



## Vega Press An ambassador for business sustainability

Melbourne printing company Vega Press is awaiting confirmation as one of Australia's first businesses to gain certification (ISO 14064-1) for greenhouse gas verification. This means Vega Press has met internationally recognised standards for measuring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and offsets.

Since August 2008, Vega Press has also been certified to offer customers carbon neutral printed products, having entered a 'LowCO<sub>2</sub>' emissions monitoring contract and certification plan with the Carbon Reduction Institute, and by purchasing carbon credits from approved abatement projects registered with the United Nations, that meet Kyoto Protocol and Marrakech Accords. Vega Press has shown a long-term commitment to quality improvement, having been the first Australian printer to achieve certification for proficient printer (ISO 12647-2) status. While printing has traditionally been a resource-intensive industry, Vega's Commercial Manager Rob Nugent believes printers are waking up to environmental issues.

*"Sustainable lighting solutions save 225 kWh, prevent 324 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and save \$10,000 every year."*

"The printing industry is far ahead of many others in terms of what we're doing for sustainability. We want to be at the forefront of that. We are very serious about our commitment to the environment."

Working with Grow Me The Money since 2007, Vega Press has thoroughly reformed its energy, water and waste management processes. An initial 25% drop in peak power demand was achieved by investing in technology to correct the power factor of factory electrical circuits to provide a 'smoother' current, run machines more efficiently and reduce electricity costs. By installing Light Eco Units, an energy-efficient system for fluorescent lighting that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and costs by enabling lights to operate on 'economy' mode, Vega now saves around 225 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity and prevents 324 tonnes of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere each year.

SkyCool roof coating was installed to prevent solar heat penetrating the large metal roof area and draw out excess heat. "It makes it more comfortable for the staff and makes our printing presses more effective because of the reduced temperature," Rob says. Vega has also invested in a system for recycling the water used in the printing process, almost halving consumption.

Businesses benefit from collaboration when it comes to sustainability, according to Vega Press' Commercial Manager, Rob Nugent.

*I've always felt that businesses have a social responsibility as well as commercial objectives. VECCI's Grow Me The Money program really clicked with me and the enthusiasm of our staff helped me realise that I had something to offer by sharing my experiences with other people.*

*While business competition is both healthy and necessary, I believe that when it comes to the environment there should be collaboration. I can help other business people make their business more environmentally sustainable by sharing experiences and explaining that reducing waste and being resource-efficient makes good business sense. →*

[www.vega.com.au](http://www.vega.com.au)

VICTORIAN EMPLOYERS' CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



IR ADVICE

TRAINING

NETWORKING EVENTS

TOOLS & TEMPLATES

ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

Every business can take simple, achievable steps to cost our environment less. Find out how at [www.vecci.org.au](http://www.vecci.org.au)

## PROFILE: VEGA PRESS

A commercial printer with over 45 years' experience, which began as a family business and today occupies 5,000 square metres of office and factory space in Notting Hill

### SAVING ENERGY

- Power factor correction technology was installed to increase energy efficiency
- A Light Eco energy-efficient lighting system was installed to minimise emissions and reduce lighting costs by over 20%.
- The use of virtual servers has reduced hardware requirements and cut energy use up to 50%.
- SkyCool roof coating reduces heat loads
- Regular equipment maintenance and upgrading minimises energy consumption.

### SAVING WATER

- Water usage has been reduced by over 50% (compared with 2006 baseline).
- Water used in the printing process is recycled using closed loop recycling units.

### REDUCING WASTE

- Landfill waste volume has been cut by 50% through an extensive system of recycling for paper and cardboard, film, rubber printing blankets (recycled to make thong footwear) and aluminium printing plates and e-waste.
- Wooden pallets and plastic ink canisters are reused in collaboration with suppliers.
- Computer-to-plate technology eliminates the need for film and reduces chemical processing.
- Onscreen proofing avoids unnecessarily creating hard copies.
- The use of sophisticated imposition software maximises image coverage on a printed sheet, reducing waste by correctly choosing the most appropriate sheet size and printing on both sides of a sheet, saving paper and costs.

### OTHER PRACTICES

- Pollution by volatile organic compounds is avoided by using eco-friendly vegetable based inks, alcohol-free processing for large-format printing presses, and water based aqueous coating as an alternative to traditional petroleum-based laminates.
- An agreement (100% LowCO2 Emissions Monitoring Contract and Certification Plan) was established with the Carbon Reduction Institute in 2008, involving a carbon inventory and purchase of carbon offsets from the Karnataka renewable energy project.

### PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY

- Vega Press's online carbon calculator (developed in consultation with the Carbon Reduction Institute) enables customers to calculate and offset greenhouse gas emissions for a minimal percentage of the gross job cost.
- Paper is sourced from suppliers with accreditation for environmental stewardship.
- Wastage is discouraged by offering smaller print quantities and providing a recycling service for surplus print runs.

### AWARDS AND CREDENTIALS

- ISO 14001: 2004 (Environmental Management Systems) Certification.
- Forest Stewardship Council Chain of Custody certification
- 100% Low CO2 Certification
- Eco-buy membership

→ *Grow Me The Money is a great way to get started. Using the tools offered on the website helps build a business case for taking action.*

*Organisations that represent businesses have a responsibility to gain an understanding of the issues that owners experience when confronted with change. By getting involved and providing tools that are easy to use, providing explanations that demystify jargon and providing links to helpful resources, VECCI is being proactive in this.*