

Sustainable Business Management Programme - Abstract

The Sustainable Business Management Programme developed by Village Green Environmental Solutions Pty. Ltd. is aimed at small businesses in the retail services sector and has been designed to empower businesses to reduce their environmental impact and operating costs. The programme includes water conservation, energy reduction and waste minimisation and has an overall sustainability focus.

The 12-month programme provides support by assisting businesses to improve their social, cultural, environmental and economic performance. The process is hands-on, involving small business assessments of two audits, a series of five workshops, training and one-on-one contact. This culminates in an end of programme celebration event where all the programme participants can network and be acknowledged for their achievements. Communication and cross promotion among the businesses is strongly encouraged.

The quadruple bottom line is a fundamental part of the sustainable business management programme. The entire program as well as Village Green as a business is based on embedding sustainability considerations into every day practice to ensure that once the programme has ended these practices will continue on in the community and potentially spread as other businesses in the community hear about the savings that can be made by incorporating quadruple bottom line practices into everyday operations.

The Sustainable Business Management programme has been able to create strong goodwill in the numerous communities that have participated in the initiative by engaging additional support with programme partners. State and Local Government departments, water and energy utilities are amongst the organisations that have assisted in funding the programme for delivery to over 3,000 businesses Australia-wide.