

Holiday Inn on Flinders

Savings in the City is an environmental program that helps city hotels cut energy, water and waste consumption. Participating hotels have a lot to gain – both financially and environmentally. Read on to see how the Holiday Inn on Flinders has benefited.



Holiday Inn on Flinders is an active member of the City of Melbourne's *Savings in the City* green hotels program. Changes to waste, water and energy management at the hotel have led to financial and environmental savings.

Waste Wise

Within two months of joining the *Savings in the City* program, the Holiday Inn on Flinders has already introduced significant waste reduction initiatives.

Before joining *Savings in the City*, only seven per cent of the hotel's total waste was recycled. The remaining 93 per cent of waste was going to landfill.

Through some simple changes, the Holiday Inn on Flinders has reduced its annual waste by 77 per cent to 5.1 litres per guest, per night in 2005–06. In 2005, the hotel's waste volume was 940m³. For an investment in signage and bins of less than \$1,000, and the time spent getting the support of staff and changing pick up and delivery processes, the hotel will save \$11,400 a year on waste management.

The hotel will make savings by:

- working with suppliers to reduce wasteful packaging;
- working with staff and guests to increase paper, cardboard, plastic and metal recycling; and
- working with charities to redistribute partially used toiletries and linen.

Water wise

The Holiday Inn on Flinders invested \$22,280 installing water saving devices in guest rooms and back-of-house. More than 6,000m³ of water will be saved annually through these initiatives. The hotel will save around \$15,000 a year, including savings on water and sewage charges and on the electricity used to heat water.

Signage is in place to encourage guests to save water by re-using towels and sheets, rather than having them washed after just one use. Signs also advise guests of the range of environmental initiatives that the Holiday Inn on Flinders has put in place.

The hotel will be installing an ozone laundry system in early 2007 at a cost of approximately \$30,000, with a payback period of 1.2 years. These cost savings come from reductions in electricity, gas, water and labour associated with laundry activities.

Energy efficiency

Inspired by the *Savings in the City* program, the hotel arranged an independent energy use audit. The hotel's energy supplier conducted the audit and found that lighting made up 38.7 per cent of the hotel's total electricity consumption. To reduce this unusually high lighting consumption, the hotel has spent \$4,000 improving lighting types, and installing timers and sensors. Changes to lighting at the hotel will save \$15,000 a year in energy costs and \$7,500 in maintenance costs.

Total savings

Changes in waste, water and energy management at the Holiday Inn on Flinders will save the hotel money.

Investing \$27,000 in improvements and changes mean the hotel will cut \$48,000 from its combined annual waste, water and energy costs.

Program partner

The City of Melbourne is working in partnership with Sustainability Victoria to provide an integrated Savings in the City service for hotels.

Want to make environmental and cost savings at your hotel?

Resources and know-how from the Savings in the City program are available at www.melbourne.vic.gov.au, including our *Waste Wise Hotels Kit* and our coming *Water Wise Hotels Kit*. To find out more about this successful program, contact the City of Melbourne on 9658 9658 or enquiries@melbourne.vic.gov.au.

