

Sustainable Public Lighting Action Plan: a local and regional approach for Western Port *and* Accelerating Action for Sustainable Public Lighting



Councils across Australia have recognised the major role public lighting can play in reducing local government greenhouse gas emissions. In response to this need, this project assisted local governments identify gaps, plan priority actions, implement, report on and promote sustainable public lighting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Public lighting is an enormous cost for WPGA councils and greenhouse gas emissions from public lighting make up a large part of each council's total emissions. Much of our public lighting is provided by 80 watt mercury vapour (MV) and high pressure sodium lamps. More efficient lights such as a 14 watt T5 compact fluorescent tube can be substituted, in pairs, for an 80 watt light to deliver a significant energy and greenhouse gas emission saving.

A number of other measures for reducing energy use and greenhouse emissions in road lighting, while maintaining recommended lighting levels, include:

- Reducing the number of lamps
- Reducing the operating hours of lamps
- Identification and maintenance programs to address day burners and drift
- Changes to the type of energy used.
- Changes to the associated switching equipment

During 2006-07, WPGA (now SECCCA) in partnership with ICLEI-A/NZ and Energy Doctor (now Ironbark Sustainability), with funding from Sustainability Victoria, conducted the WPGA Sustainable Public Lighting Project.

Through participation in this project each Council developed plans to help guide Sustainable Public Lighting, including identifying:

- Key challenges to / opportunities for / and drivers of sustainable public lighting;
- Internal and external barriers to implementation of sustainable public lighting;
- Solutions for overcoming these barriers;
- Areas where better management of public lighting assets/stock is needed; and
- Inefficiencies in councils' public lighting provision to their communities.

Importantly, the project contributed to a Regional Sustainable Public Lighting Action Plan, based on each WPGA Council's SPLAP to provide a collective and consistent voice for sustainable public lighting in the region. This project was followed by Accelerating Action for Public Lighting, a project to develop for each council the business case for implementing the SPLAP. As a result of Accelerating Action, each council has a business case for implementing the various public lighting technologies so that their decisions are based upon the best possible advice.

In late 2009, Frankston City Council agreed to a changeover of their 7,200 80W mercury vapour lights with T5s. The Council Report showed a convincing 9 year payback for the \$2.4 million outlay involved. Frankston is the first council in Victoria to change over its 80W MVs to T5s.

For a more comprehensive overview and project updates please visit www.seccca.org.au or contact Daniel Pleiter on 9705 5662.