

Media release – City switch awards

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Public Transport Ombudsman's office takes out green award

The Public Transport Ombudsman Ltd has been recognised for its dedication to sustainable practices, receiving the 2011 CitySwitch Signatory of the Year Victoria Award for maximising energy efficiency and embracing sustainable principles.

“We are thrilled with this award,” said Ombudsman Janine Young. “Public transport is a significant part of making our communities more sustainable and the use of energy more efficient.

“We ensure that complaint outcomes achieved through our processes are sustainable so it is not surprising that our staff are all committed to environmentally sound practices in our work and also in our travel habits,” she said.

The PTO achieved significant savings of greenhouse gas emissions thanks to implementing a series of practical energy saving initiatives, including replacing two servers with a larger, more energy efficient model, installation of sensor lighting throughout the tenancy, changing PC's to lap tops, removing unnecessary lights and replacing those still needed with energy efficient LED down lights.

The PTO aimed to achieve a 4 star NABERS rating over the course of the year, and exceeded expectations by achieving a 5.5 star rating, which translates into a massive saving of more than 22,000kg of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

“We have worked enthusiastically as a team to improve the effect we have on our planet and reduce our carbon footprint as we go about our work,” said Ms Young. “CitySwitch gave our team great encouragement and support. We continue to achieve far more than we thought we could and we have great fun doing it.”

The Award was announced the same day that the 2010/2011 PTO Annual Report was released which reported that while complaints stabilised in the past 12 months, more required investigation by the Ombudsman.

For more information about exactly how the PTO greened its office – how much it spent and the money it's now saving, go to:

http://www.cityswitch.net.au/Portals/26/SuccessStories/PDF/CitySwitch_Case_Study_PTO.pdf

Media inquiries: Kristen Russell - 03 8623 2111