

News release 22 March 2011

Eight law firms publicly report on their environmental consumption

At the official launch of the Australian Legal Sector Alliance on 29 March 2011 in Sydney, the report, *'Environmental Consumption of AusLSA Members 2009/2010'* will be released which reveals the environmental footprint of 8 Australian law firms.

The report has been prepared by the Australian Legal Sector Alliance, a new national association of law firms working collaboratively to promote sustainability across the legal sector. It features the environmental footprint of the 8 Executive members of AusLSA: Clayton Utz, DLA Phillips Fox, Henry Davis York, Jackson McDonald, Maddocks, McCullough Robertson, Norton Rose Australia and Swaab Attorneys.

The report utilises data submitted using the AusLSA Environmental Consumption Calculator (ECC), the only benchmarked environmental reporting system for law firms in Australia.

Electricity was the primary source of emissions for all firms with business travel second. Travel by aeroplane accounted for an average of 23% of total emissions with the variance between firms suggesting that firms with multiple sites and those that have more regional-based clients have greater travel-related emissions.

Despite a raft of available systems and technologies to reduce paper consumption, the legal sector is still a heavy consumer of paper. The report reveals that overall nearly 126kg of paper is consumed per employee per annum.

The objective of the Report is to drive the reduction of consumption by law firms. By measuring and monitoring their operations firms can identify where they can do better.

In the report the Joint Chairs of the AusLSA board, Kelvin O'Connor (COO, Henry Davis York) and David Rennick (CEO, Maddocks) say that "it is a brave decision for firms to publish their environmental performance alongside their peers and we commend them for this public commitment to continually improve their sustainability performance".

All Australian law firms are invited to become members of AusLSA. Members will be encouraged to submit their own environmental consumption report. With a clear understanding of environmental impacts, firms can identify areas to focus upon and then map the progression of their sustainability journey. The data will also contribute to the development of consumption benchmarks and best practice sustainability guidelines for the Australian legal sector.

AusLSA will help firms improve their sustainability performance by providing a forum for members to openly share information on their sustainability successes and the challenges they have faced.

Background

Official AusLSA Launch

Date: 6pm, 29 March 2011
Venue: Henry Davis York, Martin Place, Sydney
Keynote speaker: The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull, MP
MC: John Thwaites, Chair, Monash Sustainability Institute and Director, ClimateWorks
Registrations: events@legalsectoralliance.com.au

More information:

Emily Wilson,
AusLSA Project Manager
T: 03 8461 6430
M: 0432 289 814
emily@legalsectoralliance.com.au
www.legalsectoralliance.com.au