

Media Release

8 November 2012

Increasing electricity and paper efficiency at AusLSA law firms

The Australia Legal Sector Alliance (AusLSA) has today released its third annual report *Legal Sector Environmental Insight™: Report of AusLSA Members 2012*.

The report reveals that AusLSA members have again increased their electrical efficiency. Overall, emissions from electricity use have reduced 7% since last year and by nearly 10% since FY2010.

Paper use, a very visible issue for law firms, is also being addressed by AusLSA members and has decreased by nearly 11% since FY2010 and 2% in the last year.

AusLSA Members are also investing more in carbon offsetting and the promotion of responsible waste practices.

However, business travel, particularly flights, remains a challenge. On average, travel emissions have increased by 14% since FY2010. Closer analysis indicates that the demand for travel increases when a firm opens a new office interstate or is involved in a merger with an overseas firm.

Regarding the increases in travel, Kelvin O'Connor, COO of Henry Davis York and Co-Chair of AusLSA, said: "The 2012 AusLSA report demonstrates that it is possible for law firms to reduce their travel, but during any periods of firm expansion travel inevitably increases. Once the new operations have been embedded, it is clear that law firms can redress any increase in travel."

During this year, AusLSA has organised several events focussing on how law firms can reduce their environmental impacts, including starting a series of webinars considering ways to reduce the environmental impacts of paper use.

David Rennick, CEO of Maddocks and Co-Chair of AusLSA, said: "Since launching a little over 18 months ago, AusLSA has increased beyond our expectations to 43 Members. 27 of our members have this year submitted their environmental data to AusLSA. 24 of those have published their profiles in this 3rd AusLSA report and should be congratulated for their commitment transparency and accountability. We are very pleased at the success of AusLSA and also encouraged by the commitment of the Australian legal industry to sustainability and environmental issues."

The Australian Legal Sector Alliance (AusLSA) is an industry-led association working collaboratively to promote sustainable practices across the legal sector.

AusLSA provides tools and resources to law firms that will assist our members implement programmes and policies to reduce their environmental impact. Our collaborative and inclusive approach will facilitate the development of best practice sustainability guidelines for the Australian legal sector.

More information on AusLSA can be found at <http://www.legalsectoralliance.com.au/>