

AusLSA 2012 in Review

At the end of 2012, the Australian Legal Sector Alliance is part-way through its second year of public operation.

The AusLSA Strategy includes the following broad goals and targets (section 5.) which will be used to reflect upon the last year:

- 5.1 Increase Membership
- 5.2 Reduce Environmental Footprint, and
- 5.3 Improve Sustainability Performance.

1. Increase Membership

Membership of AusLSA increased rapidly in the 6 months following the launch of the organisation at the end of March 2011. Since then, membership has slowly but steadily increased



001	Henry Davis York
002	Clayton Utz
003	Maddocks
004	Norton Rose Australia
005	King & Wood Mallesons
006	DLA Piper
007	McCullough Robertson
008	Swaab Attorneys
009	Jackson McDonald
010	Russell Kennedy
011	Hall & Wilcox
012	Gadens Lawyers (Qld)
013	Lander & Rogers
014	Allens Arthur Robinson
015	Coleman Greig

016	SRB Legal
017	FB Rice
018	Hunt and Hunt
019	Cooper Grace Ward
020	Minter Ellison
021	Cornwall Stodart
022	Kemp Strang
023	Herbert Geer
024	Lavan Legal
025	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
026	1 Place Patent Attorneys
027	Blands Law
028	Gadens Lawyers (NSW)
029	Webb Henderson
030	Slater & Gordon

031	Harwood Andrews
032	McInnes Wilson
033	Hayward & Co
034	Carroll & O'Dea
035	Wotton + Kearney
036	Stacks, the Law Firm
037	Thynne & McCartney
038	Balmain Lawyers
039	Ashurst
040	Holding Redlich
041	Herbert Smith Freehills
042	Shine Lawyers
043	Finlaysons
044	Holman Webb

Membership Targets

The AusLSA strategy outlines a number of targets for membership. Given the difficulty in estimating the interest in AusLSA across the legal sector prior to launching, the targets set were generally a reasonable objective. Some targets were attained much earlier than expected and some have not yet been met: there has been greater take-up from larger firms than expected and less interest from the 'mid-tier'.

	2011	2012	Year 1 target	Year 2 target	Year 3 target
Top 10	7 (70%)	10 (100%)			
Top 20	12 (60%)	15 (75%)	50% of top 20	80% of top 20	
Top 50	26 (52%)	33 (66%)		50% of top 50	
Top 100	29 (29%)	39 (39%)		20% of top 100	
Entire sector	7000-8000 solicitors (12-15%)	9500 - 10000 solicitors (17 - 18 %)			30% of entire sector

2. Reduce Environmental Footprint

A core function of AusLSA is to facilitate the reduction in environmental impacts of Australian law firms. All AusLSA Members are encouraged to measure and report on their environmental impacts in order to provide a baseline, monitor improvements and to assist AusLSA generate industry benchmarks.

In July 2012, we released a new reporting tool developed by Greenstone. The Environmental Reporting Tool is an online resource that simplifies the reporting process. Feedback on using the tool was generally positive, with some suggestions for improvements for 2013.

In November 2012, AusLSA published its 3rd report: *Legal Sector Environmental Insight: Report of AusLSA Members*. The report revealed that the sector is succeeding in addressing electricity and paper use, but continues to struggle with the environmental impacts related to travel.

All Reporting Members	2012	2011	2010	2011 - 2012	2010 - 2012
Number of firms	27	15	8		
Total Emissions	59429	39095	25633		
Total Emissions / Head	4.63	4.78	4.74	- 3.1%	- 2.2%
Electricity / Head	2.97	3.19	3.28	- 6.8%	- 9.5%
Travel / Head	1.65	1.59	1.45	4.1%	14.2%
Paper / Head	125	127	140	- 2.0%	-11.1%

Executive Members	2012	2011	2010	2011 - 2012	2010 - 2012
Number of firms	8	8	8		
Total Emissions	28446	28020	25633	1.5%	11%
Total Emissions / Head	5.34	5.06	4.74	5.5%	12.7%
Electricity / Head	2.98	3.18	3.28	- 6.1%	- 9.2%
Travel / Head	2.35	1.88	1.45	24.9%	62%
Paper / Head	125	128	140	- 2.4%	- 10.9%

Benchmarks

With an increasing number of firms, AusLSA is progressing well towards developing robust industry benchmarks.

	Single-state		Two-state		National		International	
No. firms	8		9		5		5	
	Lowest	Avg	Lowest	Avg	Lowest	Avg	Lowest	Avg
Headcount	6	140	65	237	410	920	11	994
CO2 per head (tonnes CO₂e)	2.28	2.83	1.81	3.55	2.24	3.91	4.37	7.82
Electricity CO2 per head (tonnes CO₂e)	1.24	2.10	1.50	2.49	1.88	2.66	1.39	3.00
Flights CO2 per head (tonnes CO₂e)	0.08	0.49	0.08	0.97	0.34	1.19	0.77	4.66
Travel CO2 per head (tonnes CO₂e)	0.09	0.73	0.28	1.05	0.36	1.25	0.85	4.81
Paper per head (kg)	51.30	113.43	80.96	127.44	80.78	115.74	71.44	117.38

Reporting Members Targets

	2012	2011	2010	Target
Reporting Members	27 of 40 (67.5%) 3 elected to not publish	15 of 20 (75%)	8 of 8 (100%)	80%

Improve Sustainability Performance

Through delivery of content, resources and opportunities to learn and share, AusLSA aims to facilitate improved sustainability performance of member firms.

Events

AusLSA Event	What	Date	Where	Attendance
Office Energy Forum	Office Energy use featuring presentations from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamie Ayers (Freshfields), • Tom Nockolds (Norton Rose), • Bronwyn Pott (Swaabs) and • CitySwitch 	14 May 2012	Video Conference	68 Registrations

Paper Webinar Series #1 and #2	<p>#1. Environmental Impacts of Paper Manufacturing and Production featuring presentations from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Reardon (ECO-BUY) and • Luke Chamberlain (The Wilderness Society) <p>#2. Risk and Compliance Issues of the Paperless Office featuring a discussion between</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Symons (Norton Rose) and • Julian Smith (Maddocks) 	5 June and 16 October	Webinars	<p>#1. 44 registrations</p> <p>#2. 56 Registrations</p>
AusLSA Annual Symposium: Staff Engagement	<p>How to embed sustainability with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Stockwell (Cooper Grace Ward) • Dylan Byrne (BDO) and • Rebecca Miller (Arup) 	22 September	Brisbane	32 Registrations
Supply Chain Management: Westpac	The Supply Chain Engagement process at Westpac featuring Yvonne Laycy	28 August	Sydney	27 Registrations
AEMS workshops	Workshopping the implementation of the AusLSA Environmental Management System	November	Syd, Bris and Mel	16 Registrations
Report releases	Training for reporting environmental impacts with AusLSA using the Environmental Reporting Tool	November	Syd, Bris and Mel	76 Registrations
AusLSA Environmental Reporting webinars	The Release of the 3 rd AusLSA Environmental Report featuring	July and August	Webinars	7 Registrations

Presentations at other events		Date	Where
QLS Symposium		31 March	Bris
Law in Order Print Room Forum		August & November	Mel and Syd
LIV Leadership Team		March	Mel

Resources

AusLSA Environmental Management System	AEMS was developed in partnership with Net Balance Foundation to assist law firms implement a robust environmental management system customised for the legal sector and aligned to ISO14001. It was released in November 2012 and has been purchased by 11 AusLSA members.
Sustainability HR Checklist	A checklist providing actions to assist a human resource or practice manager may pursue to incorporate environmental sustainability into the way the firm conducts its business.
Online Environmental Reporting Tool	Developed in conjunction with Greenstone Carbon Management, the ERT provides a simpler, online interface for submitting their annual reports. The ERT maintains the alignment with the reporting system of LSA(UK).
How to be Responsible About Paper	Produced for the Paper Webinar #1, this document is a brief overview of how to reduce the environmental impacts of paper use.
Paper Survey Summary	A survey was designed and distributed to capture the paper experiences and preferences of AusLSA members (and the wider sector). The Summary revealed which brands of paper are used and what criteria are used to make selections.
Staff Engagement Survey Summary	A survey was designed and distributed to AusLSA members to generate insight into the sophistication of members sustainability programs. The Summary reveals how many firms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have established 'green' committees or environment champions,• Include sustainability in induction processes, and• Provide feedback mechanisms for staff with sustainability concerns.
Feedback from Reporting Members	To encourage all members to commit to reporting, 4 representatives from law firms were interviewed on the reporting process. The feedback indicated that reporting was a simple and valuable process.

AusLSA: 2013, the year ahead

In 2013, AusLSA is planning to expand the events program, publish a new website with enhanced functionality for user interaction to reinvigorate the knowledge sharing agenda through blogs and discussion forums and commence delivering training courses. We are also implementing a themed approach to sustainability that will lead staff engagement strategies, AusLSA events and additional programs and resources. It is hoped that member firms will adopt the green themes for their own internal sustainability programs and share their resources and experiences.

Staff Engagement – Quarterly Green Themes	<p>A quarterly approach to introducing sustainability themes. Aligning the foci of AusLSA with member firms is expected to facilitate enhanced knowledge sharing and promote better staff engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 Energy • Q2 Travel • Q3 Paper • Q4 Waste
Staff engagement toolkit	<p>A guide to start or improve firm’s engagement with the staff on sustainability issues. It follows a process and provides hints and resources for each step.</p>
New website	<p>A new AusLSA website will be launched early in 2013. New functionality includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • event registrations, • member management, including multiple membership level, • user self-service, • automated member applications and subscriptions, • member restricted content customisable to each user, and • blog and discussion forums
Training Course: Intro to Sustainability	<p>To be delivered by the learning and development team at Net Balance this course introduces the concept of sustainability and provides assistance with to those wishing to develop the sustainability program in their firm.</p>
Paper Webinar Series (Cont.)	<p>The paper webinar series will continue with smart technologies and printing technologies.</p>
NELA conference	<p>AusLSA is sponsoring the NELA conference and is presenting at a session (with fellow AusLSA members) on ‘getting the house in order’</p>
Supply Chain / Procurement training	
Fujitsu Global IT benchmarking	<p>Fujitsu released its 3rd Global ICT sustainability benchmarking report in November 2012. They will be presenting on ICT Sustainability best practice and how to develop a benchmarking framework.</p>