| **Table 96**: Control measures and initiatives 2013–14—resource use, and supplier and product selection | |
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| **Activities** | **Measures taken to minimise the effect on the environment** |
| Air travel | * We promoted and supported the use of video and phone conferencing instead of staff using air travel. |
| Building operations | * Landlord and tenant obligations under Green Lease Schedules have been improved by site-based Energy Management Plans, organising quarterly Building Management Committee meetings and implementing initiatives at large offices across the department. At 30 June 2014 there were 36 Green Leases for large offices. * National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) assessments were undertaken at large offices. At 30 June 2014 the department had 16 large offices performing at or above a 4.5 Stars NABERS energy rating. * We retained or improved performance through ongoing controls and initiatives such as office energy audits, server room audits, lighting upgrades, installation of master switches and timers in meeting rooms, reviewing programme settings on hot water units, and syncing air conditioning to security timers. * Reputable eco-labels and other environmental standards are used to improve environmental performance. For example, the department uses Green Star to rate whole-of-building performance and ENERGY STAR® to rate appliances. * We purchased 10 per cent Greenpower from electricity services in the Australian Capital Territory, procured through the whole-of-government electricity contract. * The department supports the FluoroCycle Scheme to ensure that hazardous fluorescent lamps are recycled on disposal. The scheme promotes better environmental practice in our supply chain. * The waste management programme implemented at a number of sites in the Australian Capital Territory in 2013 continues to increase recycling and reduce waste to landfill. * The department participated in Earth Hour to promote greenhouse emission awareness and to review lighting system operation. |
| Information and communications technology | * The ICT (information and communications technology) server virtualisation programme continued to deliver considerable energy and cost savings. The department has virtualised 98 per cent of 86 architecture-based Wintel workload and 99 per cent of Unix workload, avoiding the purchase of additional servers. * The Data Centre Consolidation and Relocation Strategy delivered significant improvements to data centre energy efficiency and carbon emission performance. This activity will position us to meet the Australian Government Average Power Usage Effectiveness target by July 2015. * We have automated PC (personal computer) shutdown using the hibernation mode after three hours of inactivity. * Server room audits were conducted to establish guidelines and to identify initiatives for improvement. * Replacement PCs and monitors are compliant to the Silver or Gold standard of the eco-label—Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool—covering environmental concerns such as energy efficiency, greenhouse performance, minimising hazardous materials and waste management. These PCs are 37 per cent more energy efficient than the replaced PCs. * We continued to rationalise printer and multifunction devices in refurbished and new buildings, reducing the number of machines and contributing to reduced energy and cost. * We are progressively adding environmental clauses into ICT contracts to appropriately manage e-waste, with supplier take back and responsible disposal of equipment. |
| Management and communication | * The Environmental Sustainability Policy continued to strengthen the department’s environmental management. The policy ensures that new environmental initiatives provide the most environmental benefit at the least cost. * An in-house environmental reporting system has been further developed to strengthen the department’s reporting capability. * There was increased use of in-house social media to promote and communicate staff messaging, such as about Earth Hour. * Environmental standards are continuing to be introduced into procurements. This is expected to improve the environmental performance of products and suppliers by covering issues associated with reduction or elimination of environmentally-sensitive materials, design and management for end-of-life product longevity, energy conservation, packaging and corporate performance. * The department continues to support and participate in the Government Agencies Environmental Network. |
| Motor vehicle travel | * The department promoted leasing of environmentally-friendly vehicles for fleet use, particularly vehicles with a high Green Vehicle Guide rating. |
| Stationery (including paper) | * The department uses 50 per cent recycled content copy paper for internal printers, photocopiers and multifunction devices. The remainder of the copy paper consists of virgin fibre sourced from forests that meet Programme for the Endorsement of Forestry Certification or Forest Stewardship Council standards, and complies with the independently certified ISO 14024 standard. * The envelopes the department uses for bulk external customer mail are made from paper with 60 per cent recycled content, and the letters themselves use virgin fibre paper that is reputably sourced. * The government’s Digital Transition Policy is moving Australian Government agencies to digital record-keeping. Since its introduction, the department has increased its digital record-keeping capability and has significantly reduced the number of paper files. |