| **Table 95:** Control measures and initiatives 2012–13—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 2013 there were 33 Green Leases for large offices. * National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) assessments were undertaken at large offices. At 30 June 2013 the department had 13 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 lighting upgrades, installation of master switches and timers in meeting rooms, reviewing program 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 we use 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. * Electricity contracts with electricity services in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania including provisions to take-up Greenpower at any stage during the agreed term. * Momentum Energy, under the large market electricity contract, assisted analysing load profiles to reduce tariffs costs across Victoria. * The department joined the FluoroCycle Scheme in August 2012 to ensure that hazardous fluorescent lamps are recycled on disposal. The scheme promotes better environmental practice in our supply chain. * A new waste management program was implemented at a number of sites in the Australian Capital Territory to increase recycling and reduce waste to landfill. * The department participated in Earth Hour by promoting greenhouse emission awareness among staff and reviewing lighting systems across the department. * The department continues to host and participate in the Government Agencies Environmental Network. |
| Information and communications technology | * The ICT server virtualisation initiative continued to deliver considerable energy and cost savings. The department has virtualised 98 per cent of x86 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. * The number of personal computers (PCs) that are manually shut down overnight continues to increase. An automated solution is expected to be rolled out by December 2013. * Replacement PCs and monitors complied with 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. The department will operate all PCs to this level by December 2013. * PCs and monitors were upgraded for higher energy efficiency with a 37 per cent saving compared with the replaced PCs. The automated shut down solution will increase the savings to about 58 per cent. * We rationalised printer and multifunction devices in refurbished or new buildings, reducing the number of machines, contributing to reduced energy and cost. The follow-me print (or print-on-demand) functionality is being trialled at one large office with an expectation to reduce paper and ink use, and to improve secure printing. * We are progressively adding environmental clauses into ICT contracts to appropriately manage e-waste, with supplier take back and responsible disposal of equipment. |
| Management | * The Environmental Sustainability Policy continued to strengthen the department’s environmental management. The policy ensures that environmental initiatives provide the most environmental benefit and value, and align to government policy. * An in-house environmental reporting system has been implemented to strengthen our capability to report against the Australian Government environmental policy targets. * Procurement templates have been updated to include environmental considerations. This is expected to improve the environmental performance of products and suppliers by covering issues associated with a reduction and elimination of environmentally sensitive materials, design and management for end-of-life, product longevity, energy conservation, and corporate performance and packaging. * Specialist advice was provided on environmental performance for high profile tenders such as new workstations, Medicare cards, pest control, and the nation-wide cleaning contracts. |
| Motor vehicle travel | * In line with government policy, we promoted leasing of environmentally-friendly vehicles for fleet use, particularly vehicles with a high Green Vehicle Guide rating. We also promoted the use of energy efficient fuels such as LPG and diesel and the use of ethanol blended fuels (E10). |
| Stationery (including paper) | * Around half of the department’s copy paper for use in printers, photocopiers and multifunction devices has recycled content. 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. * We included recycled content paper and reputably sourced virgin fibre paper in the contracts for customer letters and envelopes. * The department assisted the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in developing the Sustainable Procurement Guide. * The government’s Digital Transition Policy is moving Australian Government agencies to digital record-keeping. We have continued to increase our digital record-keeping capability. Since July 2012 we have significantly reduced the number of paper files created as a result of digitisation. |