



LOW
CARBON
LIVING
AUSTRALIA

HELPING BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES
REDUCE THEIR CARBON FOOTPRINT



LOW CARBON LIVING
CRC



ABOUT LOW CARBON LIVING

Low Carbon Living is a new program for regions wanting to become low carbon locations. Initiated by the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute (BMWHI) and Australia's Cooperative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living (CRC-LCL), the program encourages local businesses and communities to reduce their overall carbon footprint and do their bit to combat climate change.



The businesses involved in this program are audited and given advice on how to reduce their carbon usage and thereby save running costs. They also receive a gold, silver or bronze rating based on their achievements.

Through access to a new website, residents and visitors can find details of their local businesses carbon reductions and ratings. It's a great way to make smarter and more informed choices of where to shop and which services to use.

In this way the Low Carbon Living program allows you to reduce your own carbon footprint by supporting local businesses who are reducing theirs!

LOW CARBON LIVING

From 2014 to 2016, the Low Carbon Living program was piloted successfully in the Blue Mountains in NSW. This landmark program is now available to other regions throughout Australia.





WHY GET INVOLVED WITH LOW CARBON LIVING?



IF YOU'RE A

BUSINESS OWNER

- Undertake a carbon audit to find out how you score and where you can improve.
- Learn how to become more carbon efficient, reduce your running costs, and improve your business profile.
- Join a network of other businesses committed to reducing their carbon emissions, and have your achievements promoted to visitors and residents.
- Become part of a community that's helping protect our planet from the adverse effects of climate change, and help market your region as low carbon and sustainable.



IF YOU'RE A

RESIDENT & VISITOR

- Make more informed choices about where you shop and what services to use.
- Reduce your own carbon footprint by choosing businesses that have reduced theirs.
- Learn how to make simple low carbon changes at home and save costs.
- Help protect the unique environment in which you live or work.



IF YOU'RE

LIVING OR WORKING

IN A TOURIST DESTINATION

For popular tourist destinations the Low Carbon Living program is particularly beneficial. Sustainable tourism continues to grow faster than the tourism industry as a whole, and destinations that are able to combine a unique identity with low carbon credentials are set to enjoy strong growth.

**TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON THIS
LOW CARBON LIVING PROGRAM VISIT:
[LOW CARBON LIVING - BLUE MOUNTAINS.COM.AU](http://LOWCARBONLIVING-BLUEMOUNTAINS.COM.AU)**



HOW LOW CARBON LIVING COULD HELP YOU AND YOUR REGION

*Introducing the Low Carbon Living program
in your region can have a great impact on
the environment, and the local economy.*



RESEARCH

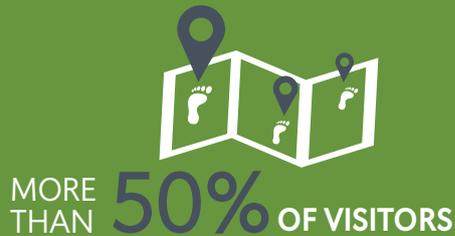
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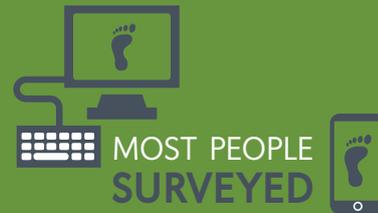
would choose a local business that made an effort to reduce its carbon footprint, over a business that did not.



were aware that by selecting the services of low carbon businesses they would reduce their own carbon footprint.



surveyed would be more inclined to choose a low carbon tourism destination over one that was not known for reducing its carbon impact.



would use a website that provides a directory of businesses who had reduced their carbon in making their consumer choices.



HOW LOW CARBON LIVING IS HELPING THE BLUE MOUNTAINS



The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in NSW is one of Australia's most spectacular natural environments. It covers over a million hectares and is visited by over four million people each year, making it one of Australia's most popular regional tourist destinations.

However the Blue Mountains region is highly vulnerable to climate change, with predictions of more extreme bushfires, droughts and flooding, posing serious risks for the future of its ecosystems and the quality of life for those living there. For this reason, the Blue Mountains was chosen as the location to pilot the Low Carbon Living program.

This unique and highly successful program aims to empower local businesses to reduce their carbon emissions, as well as to help residents and visitors to make more informed decisions about where to shop and what services to use.

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

Some businesses achieved up to a **15%** reduction over one year, and even with the small group of businesses involved in the pilot phase they saved **735 TONS** of carbon in 2015/16.

What did the program involve?

The Blue Mountains pilot involved 30 local businesses. Each business was:

- Audited for their energy, water and waste usage.
- Advised as to how they could become more efficient in using carbon-based resources.
- Assessed in terms of their performance, and had their overall carbon reduction calculated.

At the end of the pilot program, each Blue Mountains business was given a rating: bronze, silver or gold, depending on how effective they were at reducing their overall energy use, water consumption and waste management.

What did this mean for residents and visitors?

Details for all the businesses that took part – and their ratings – are now published on the Low Carbon Living – Blue Mountains website. This makes it easy for locals and visitors to make smarter decisions about which businesses they choose to support, and how to reduce their own carbon usage.

Over 5 years of tracking and auditing at Lilianfels we have managed to reduce our energy consumption by 25% per customer.

Huong Nguyen
Director of the Escarpment Group

The Low Carbon Living program is a win/win for not only businesses and their customers, but for our region as a whole. It's a no-brainer...we need this to maintain a healthy, sustainable business economy and environment in the World Heritage area.

Vent Thomas
President of the Blue Mountains Regional Business Chamber



WHO IS BEHIND LOW CARBON LIVING?

The Low Carbon Living program is an initiative of two key bodies:



The CRC for Low Carbon Living (CRC-LCL)

Focused on collaborative innovation, CRC-LCL brings together property, planning, engineering and policy organisations with leading Australian researchers. It develops new social, technological and policy tools for facilitating the development of low carbon products and services to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the built environment.



Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute

This non-government organisation has been working since 2004 to support better conservation of the extraordinary natural and cultural wonders of the Greater Blue Mountains and its region. Its mission is to engage people and science in caring for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Learn more:

www.lowcarbonlivingcrc.com.au

Learn more:

www.bmwhi.org.au

FIND OUT MORE

To find out more and get access to the wide range of resources now available to support your region, and become part of this Low Carbon Living network, please contact;

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