

Eco standards pay off for Fuji Xerox

Fuji Xerox Australia's Mascot warehouse and Eco-Manufacturing Centre saved a massive \$27 million last year by remanufacturing and repairing parts used in its hardware products.

The company has begun uncovering the significant benefits of a commitment to more sustainable practice since rolling out the ISO-certified environmental management system across its Asia-Pacific company network.

The ISO-certified Eco-Manufacturing Centre at Zetland uses environmentally friendly processes and the recycled parts, considered to be 'better than new', are re-used in Australia and also exported to other Fuji Xerox companies across Asia.

'The new procedures designed and implemented as part of the accreditation process are already saving us money,'

said Phil Chambers, Managing Director of Fuji Xerox Australia.

'At our West Melbourne warehouse facility, we found that 36 cubic metres of waste was being sent to landfill each week...in a year, the facility was generating enough waste to cover a field the size of the MCG to a depth of 10 cm.

'By implementing new environmental processes and finding new ways to recycle or dispose of waste, we've reduced the landfill from West Melbourne by nearly 90% and saved \$21,000 annually.'

The International Standards Organisation (ISO) 14001 compliance specifies requirements for an environmental management system enabling an organisation to formulate policies and objectives that take into account legislative requirements and reduce environmental impacts.



Courtesy Powerhouse Museum (Jean-Francois Lanzarone)

Fuji Xerox's recycled copier rollers are as good as new.

Companies wishing to demonstrate a commitment to maintaining environmental standards are audited by the ISO to achieve compliance.

Fuji Xerox Australia announced in January that its

16 sales, logistics and management sites have achieved the ISO 14001 certification, bringing savings and environmental benefits to the operations. Concurrently, Fuji Xerox sales and office operations in 12 other Asia-Pacific countries acquired ISO 14001 certification after successfully demonstrating appropriate environmental management standards.

'Many socially conscious buyers look for ISO 14001 accreditation from their suppliers,' said Phil Chambers. 'By seeking full accreditation now, we are building on our existing good name.'

Fuji Xerox's Environmental Action Plans for 2002-2004, aim to double the company's environmental efficiency by 2010 in comparison with 2000 levels.

More information:

http://www.fujixerox.com.au/environment/eco_manufacturing.jsp
<http://www.standards.com.au/standards/newsroom/tas/2003-11/envirointro/envirointro.htm>

Rust wins against rampant Rubber Vine

Australian releases of a rust fungus against the highly invasive rubber vine weed (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) have proved highly successful.

Under a long-term program, CABI Bioscience researchers, Queensland Government departments, Meat & Livestock Australia, weed specialists, and farmers have combined forces to find a sustainable solution to a seemingly intractable environmental problem.

The rubber vine weed, introduced to Australia from Madagascar in the 19th century as an ornamental and latex plant, has been described as the biggest threat to ecosystems in tropical Australia. The vine killing rust is now present throughout the area of

Queensland affected by the weed, estimated at over 40 000km².

Originally predicted to take 10 years, current indications are that substantial to complete control could be achieved in the next few years, and that the weed's threat to the biodiversity of northern Queensland, and the Northern Territory, has been arrested.

By the late 1980s, the rubber vine infestations were so vast that wide-scale chemical control was considered impractical, uneconomic and environmentally undesirable. As the weed advanced towards the Northern Territory's national parks, urgent calls were made for its widespread control.

A socio-economic analysis predicted that rubber vine



Harry Evans, CABI Bioscience Research



Harry Evans, CABI Bioscience Research

Left: without rust control, rubber vine weed is an aggressive climber capable of smothering trees up to 40m high.

Right: Rust causes widespread defoliation and a marked reduction in the weed's growth rates.

could invade over 580 000 km² across northern Australia. The benefits to agriculture from a successful biocontrol

programme have conservatively been put at between A\$300-530 million.