

Paper cut option won't hurt offices' bottom line

Australia's largest office copy paper supplier should help bring down the carbon footprint of offices in organisations across the country through providing an audited, carbon neutral copy paper.



Credit: iStockphoto, Silvia Jansen

Corporate Express' best selling Australian-made product, EXP 800/801, has been rendered carbon neutral¹ and is now re-labelled as Staples Carbon Neutral A4/A3 copy paper. It is one of the first office copy paper products to receive the Australian Government's National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) certification.

It is also certified under the Australian Forestry Standard and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), and is the first to offer Australian sustainability managers a complete audit trail of carbon expenditure for paper usage via the internationally recognised Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

What's more, the re-launched paper won't cost any more.

Corporate Express Australia projected that, based on last year's sales, the introduction of Staples Carbon Neutral copy paper has the potential to remove or offset the equivalent of 71 500 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the environment in 2012 – the equivalent of taking about 16 500 cars off the road for a year.

The Australian Government introduced [NCOS](#) in 2010 to provide national consistency and consumer confidence in the voluntary carbon market. The standard serves two primary functions: it provides guidance on what is a genuine voluntary offset and sets minimum requirements for calculating, auditing and offsetting the carbon footprint of an organisation or product to achieve 'carbon neutrality'.

The NCOS Carbon Neutral Program is administered by Low Carbon Australia on behalf of the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. It is a voluntary scheme which allows Australian businesses to measure, reduce and

offset greenhouse gas emissions associated with business operations or products.

Low Carbon Australia was set up by the Australian Government in 2010 as a company limited by guarantee with an independent board of directors.

Staples, the world's largest office products company owns Corporate Express Australia, Corporate Express New Zealand, both leading suppliers of office products. Corporate Express won the 2011 Australian Business Award for Environmental Sustainability and is increasing the range of sustainable office products in its catalogues.

Source: Corporate Express release

¹ According to Edward Baral, National Merchandising Manager for Corporate Express Australia, carbon neutrality was achieved through a product lifecycle analysis (audited and including assessment of sustainably harvested timber), then a required 5-year emissions plan under NCOS (audited), followed by effecting supply chain carbon reductions where possible, and lastly, purchasing approved energy offsets through international company, First Climate, to negate remaining carbon emissions.

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