

Environment report 2010–11

V/Line's environmental performance is guided by an ISO14001 certified Environmental Management System. Objectives, targets and an action plan have been developed as part of this.

In line with Financial Reporting Directive 24C issued by the Department of Treasury and Finance, V/Line monitors and records its consumption of energy, water, paper and transport, as well as its output of waste and greenhouse gas emissions at its office-based operations.

The results for 2010–11 are below:

ENERGY

Within head office, V/Line uses electricity for lighting and running office equipment. Energy used for heating and cooling is not included in the information recorded here as it is provided as part of the building tenancy and no V/Line-specific data is available.

Indicator	2010–11	2009–10
Total electricity use (kWh)	306,600	285,096
Percentage of electricity purchased as Green Power	15%	9%
Greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use (t CO ₂ -e)	351	321
Electricity use / FTE (kWh/FTE)	1,952	1,949
% change in electricity use / FTE	0.15% increase	

INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN

V/Line has taken the following actions at head office to reduce the environmental impacts of its energy consumption:

- Installing LED lighting within the two head office boardrooms
- Trialling movement sensors on one head office floor
- Encouraging staff to adopt energy saving behaviours, such as turning lights and computers off.

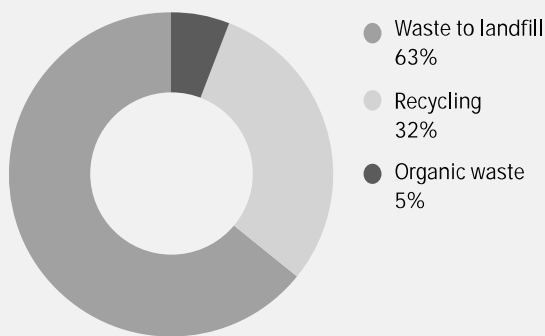
V/Line will focus on organisation-wide energy use in 2011–12 instead of setting a specific target for head office energy use. The goal for 2011–12 is to maintain energy use per passenger kilometre at or below the 2010–11 baseline.

COMMENTS ON DATA QUALITY

- The data is based on billing information provided by the electricity retailer.
- Electricity use was estimated by extrapolating data from available invoices.
- 2009–10 figure for electricity use per FTE has been adjusted from last year's report due to the availability of better FTE data.

WASTE

General kitchen and office wastes are produced within V/Line's head office. Two audits of waste generation within head office were completed during 2010–11. They estimated that employees disposed of 27 tonnes of waste, which approximates to 175 kg/FTE for the year.



It is estimated that approximately 19 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (t CO₂-e) are released from the disposal of head office waste to landfill each year.

INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN

V/Line has undertaken the following actions at head office to reduce the amount of waste it sends to landfill:

- Recycling bins are located on all floors.
- Organic waste bins are located on one floor.
- Staff are encouraged to reduce the amount of waste produced and use correct recycling practices. This has included the communication of waste audit results.
- Toner recycling is in place throughout the office.

COMMENTS ON DATA QUALITY

- The weight disposed of was estimated using Sustainability Victoria's volume to waste conversions tool.
- Greenhouse gas emissions were estimated for waste to landfill only using Federal Government emission factors.

PAPER

V/Line recognises that paper use is an important environmental issue. During the year, paper use decreased by 12.5 per cent within head office due to changes in staff behaviour and initiatives aimed at reducing faxes.

Indicator	2010–11	2009–10
Total paper use (reams)	3,414	4,380
Paper use / FTE (reams / FTE)	21	24
% change in paper use / FTE	12.5% decrease	
Percentage of paper purchased with a recycled content above 50%	96%	70%

INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN

We have taken the following actions at head office to reduce the environmental impacts associated with paper use.

- All white A4 office paper purchased is required to have a recycled content of 50 per cent or above.
- Staff are encouraged to reduce printing (through the use of email and document sharing) and print double-sided.
- A project by the Network Services team during the year halved the number of faxes sent by the department by changing to electronic processes.
- The Human Resources group implemented an 'e-recruit' process during 2010–11.

COMMENTS ON DATA QUALITY

- Paper consumption is reported as A4 reams (e.g. one A3 ream equals two A4 reams).

WATER

Water is used at V/Line's head offices for bathroom and kitchen purposes, but as V/Line is a tenant in these large office buildings, data on water consumption is not available as individual floors are not metered.

The taps in V/Line's head offices are fitted with flow restrictors or aerators and toilets are dual flush. Staff are encouraged to use the dishwashers available and report water leaks.

V/Line has an objective to improve water efficiency at all V/Line-controlled operations.

TRANSPORT

As a state-wide transport operator, V/Line requires its staff to travel throughout Victoria. Staff are directed where possible to use V/Line's train services to attend regional meetings, but a small car fleet is available to support head office and regionally-based staff. In particular, track maintenance staff require vehicles to do their work.

The following information on energy used by vehicles covers all V/Line operations, not just head office.

Although V/Line has no available data on how staff commute to work, it is estimated that the vast majority of head office staff travel to work using public transport or by cycling or walking.

Indicator	2010–11	2009–10
Energy Use (GJ)		
Petrol	6,548	6,806
Diesel	54,266	52,013
LPG	34	31
Total	60,849	58,849
Greenhouse gas emissions from vehicle fleet (t CO ₂ -e)	4,251	4,111
Energy use (GJ)/FTE	61.4	60.9

INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN

In 2009–10 we worked to reduce the number of fleet vehicles available. This year we completed a project that undertook to identify low emission vehicles suitable for use by V/Line. As a result there are now three hybrid vehicles within our fleet with plans to include more low emission vehicles as replacements are required.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Greenhouse gas emissions associated with V/Line's head office operations have been reported in the energy, waste and transport sections above. More comprehensive information on V/Line's energy use is available in the Energy Efficiency Opportunities Program report (to be made available on V/Line's website).

Next year V/Line will be reviewing a computer program to assist drivers to operate trains with greater emphasis on fuel efficiency.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND ACCIDENTS

NEW INCIDENTS

Environmental incidents that occurred during 2010–11:

- On 18 September 2010 there was a fuel spill at the South Dynon fuel point. Of the 10,000 litres spilt it is estimated that 1,500 litres escaped to ground. V/Line engaged a contractor to respond to, and clean up, the spill but has also received a Pollution Abatement Notice (PAN) from the EPA. V/Line is working through the requirements of this PAN to improve controls at the site in order to reduce the risk of future spills.
- On 22 June 2011 EPA officers inspected a work site within the V/Line rail reserve where embankment reinstatement works were being conducted. The EPA determined that these works were causing pollution offsite through the transfer of sediment onto the road area. As a result of this, the EPA issued a PAN for the site. V/Line has worked through the requirements of the PAN to reduce the transfer of sediment off site.