

KICKING GOALS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

A CASE STUDY

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How Albury Tigers Football Club is

KICKING GOALS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Case Study: Prepared by Kicking Goals for the Environment Project Team (Ovens and Murray Football League and North East Greenhouse Alliance)

Prepared: May 2008

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With the first home game of the 2008 season played at the club in late April, the club hopes to see continued improvement in its water and energy consumption throughout the season.



The project

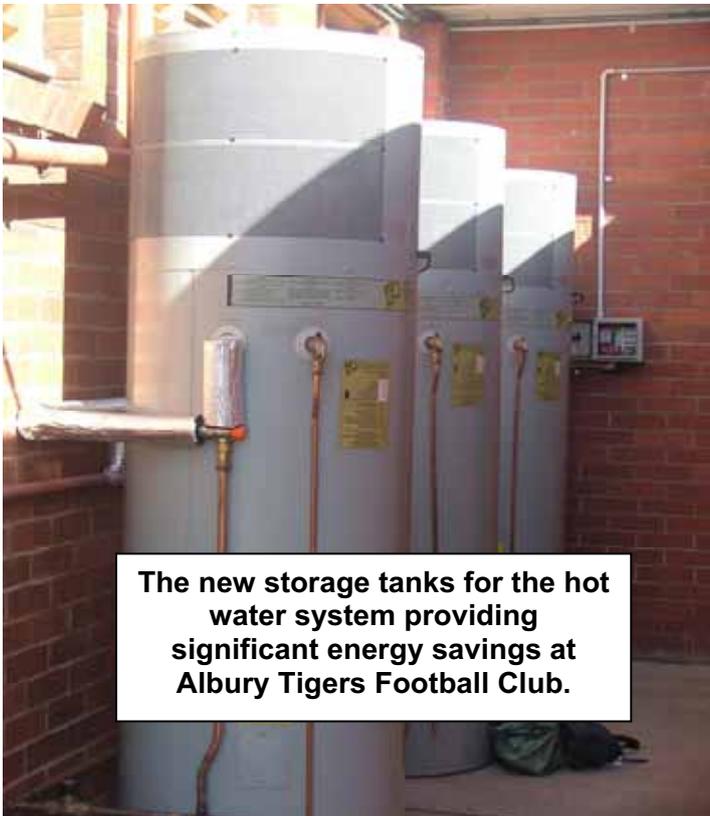
'Kicking Goals for the Environment' is a collaborative project between Ovens and Murray Football League and North East Greenhouse Alliance. The project is partly funded by the Department of the Environment and Water Resources, under the Australian Government's Low Emissions Technology and Abatement – Strategic Abatement program and by the Victorian Government's Smart Water Fund.

There are 10 football clubs in the Ovens and Murray League, across the North East of Victoria. Three of those clubs are in the Albury area. Each club was audited in early 2007 to establish their current water and energy usage at the time and recommendations were made for the best ways that each club could save water and energy.

Not only did this mean that clubs would become more sustainable by conserving water and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, they would also save money.

The project provided funding to each of the clubs to install \$7,000 worth of water saving technologies and \$7,000 worth of energy saving technologies. The reports also included a number of recommendations that can be implemented at low cost but still achieve large savings – for example, simple actions such as turning off the lights.

The project also has a significant media focus to encourage the clubs, players and their supporters to use energy and water more efficiently at the football and at home.



The new storage tanks for the hot water system providing significant energy savings at Albury Tigers Football Club.

What has the club installed? Energy Saving:

A significant energy cost identified as part of the audits of the clubs was the heating of water for the showers. There are up to three nights of training held at the club each week, plus 130 players and umpires showering every Saturday. Prior to the audit, water was heated using an older style gas hot water system that heated water all week, even if the showers were not going to be used on that day.

Under the project, the Albury Tigers installed a new heat pump system that operates on a timer so that the water is only heated up a couple of hours before it's required. The insulation in its storage tanks is so efficient that water heated on a Saturday will still be hot enough for use if there is a match being

played on the Sunday. The club staff don't have to adjust the timers at all and there is a manual override if hot water is required on another day.

After less than one month of operation the Tigers' gas bill showed a \$40 reduction from the same period last year. This equates to 3.4 GJ of gas saved and 225kg of greenhouse gases that have not been emitted. Further energy savings have been made since the installation of low-flow shower heads and aerators on the basin taps.

'This is a great result' said Greg Dawson from the Tigers, 'considering we are yet to host a home game so the savings will be even greater in the next billing period'. With energy prices expected to rise significantly in the next few years these achievements place the Tigers in a position where they can look forward to lower bills rather than significant increases.

This season the club expects to save \$450 from their gas bill or 39 GJ of gas = 2.6 tonnes of greenhouse gases not emitted!

Already this year the Tigers are using 200MJ less gas per day than 2007 and their daily average electricity usage has dropped by 40kWh – even before the season started!



Water Saving:

Faced with the recent drought and water restriction in the area, water usage for ovals is a significant issue for sporting clubs. The start of the 2007 O&M season was altered so that matches were only played at clubs that had usable grounds, which affected some clubs' operations.

Watering of ovals is the major use of water at Albury Tigers. With predictions of reduced rainfall into the future due to the effects of climate change, watering of ovals is likely to remain a major concern.

The Tigers investigated the installation of rainwater tanks to meet their water needs, however, at around \$15,000, the current cost of capturing enough water to ensure the ground could be watered to the required standard fell outside the budget for this project. Other funding avenues have also been investigated. The club currently has a bore water allocation and intends to investigate the rainwater tanks at a later stage. It has also discussed the option of utilising the savings made through this project to install rainwater tanks. Water to the clubhouse and public toilets is supplied through the mains system. Low-flow shower heads, aerators on basin taps and half flush toilets have been installed.

The club estimates that on match days at least 7000L of water will be saved through these measures which will also save the club money.

Outcomes from water efficient products include:

- reducing water used in toilet cisterns from 10L per flush to 3L on half flush
- new showerheads have reduced significantly the flow rate to 7.5L/min
- aerators in the basin taps which are cheap and relatively easy to install have also reduced the water flow rate by about half

This season the club expects to save over 168,000L of water and \$140 off its water bills!

What worked well for this project?

- audits were good to set the scene and get everyone thinking about what could be done
- the project gave the clubs funding and motivation to do something to improve their sustainability
- using local tradespeople increased community participation and ownership of the project
- clubs like Albury that have a paid staff member obviously have the advantage of utilising that staff member to progress the project

What would the club/project team do differently next time?

A local energy and water auditor would have allowed more interaction between the club and the auditor/project after the reports were given to the clubs.

Clubs don't always have access to qualified advice about the best options for their situation, and may need more assistance from the project management team to determine the best course of action.

Some clubs were contacted by companies selling options that weren't the most suitable for their circumstances and it was difficult for clubs to work through this information without assistance.

What is Albury Tigers' plan for the future?

The club will investigate options for installing rainwater tanks and may look to the O&MFL for assistance with future grant applications, e.g. Australian Government Community Water Grants. The club may also investigate the possibility of recycling water used within the club facilities to water the oval.

Contacts/Further information:

Greg Dawson Secretary Manager – Albury Tigers

alburytigers@bigpond.com

The Solar Specialists – installed heat pumps

stuart@thecolarspecialists.com.au

B&J Fenton plumbing – installed showerheads, toilets and aerators

Phone 02 60 593127

Ovens and Murray Football Club

www.omfl.vcfl.com.au

North East Greenhouse Alliance

www.negha.org.au

Smart Water Fund website

www.smartwater.com.au

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

www.environment.gov.au

Department of Climate Change

www.greenhouse.gov.au

Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS)

www.waterrating.gov.au

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