

Nursery Traders 2011 Sustainability Report

Nursery Traders is an innovative wholesale landscape supply company. At inception in 1983 we carved a role as Australia's first ever nursery industry centre-point—bringing together a network of growers and suppliers to display product available for immediate sale to the industry. In doing so, Nursery Traders forged a new era in nursery product marketing in Australia.

A landscape supply conduit, today our direct supply service and cash'n'carry trade market provide a single point of contact between wholesale nurseries and producers of horticultural products to Australia's retail nursery, landscaping and development industries. We give our clients seamless access to a network of more than 250 quality selected wholesale growers and suppliers of allied products.

We are deeply committed to:

- providing clients with innovative tailored supply solutions, premium value products and valuable outcomes for their businesses
- building partnerships with our suppliers to grow their businesses profitably
- providing a safe, rewarding and financially secure workplace for our team
- conducting our business with integrity, employing sound business and environmental practices.

Underpinning all of these activities is our intrinsic and abiding commitment to innovation and continuous improvement in everything we do. Over two decades Nursery Traders has implemented our six sustainability projects have reduced utility costs, assuring supply of water and power, and have built a strong backbone for business growth. Over the past decade or more, our investment in water recycling has secured our business in times of drought and economic instability.

Greenlife

Nursery Traders is committed to building a better environment. Our business distributes hundreds of thousands of plants into the environment each year—contributing to some of Queensland's prized green public and private spaces.

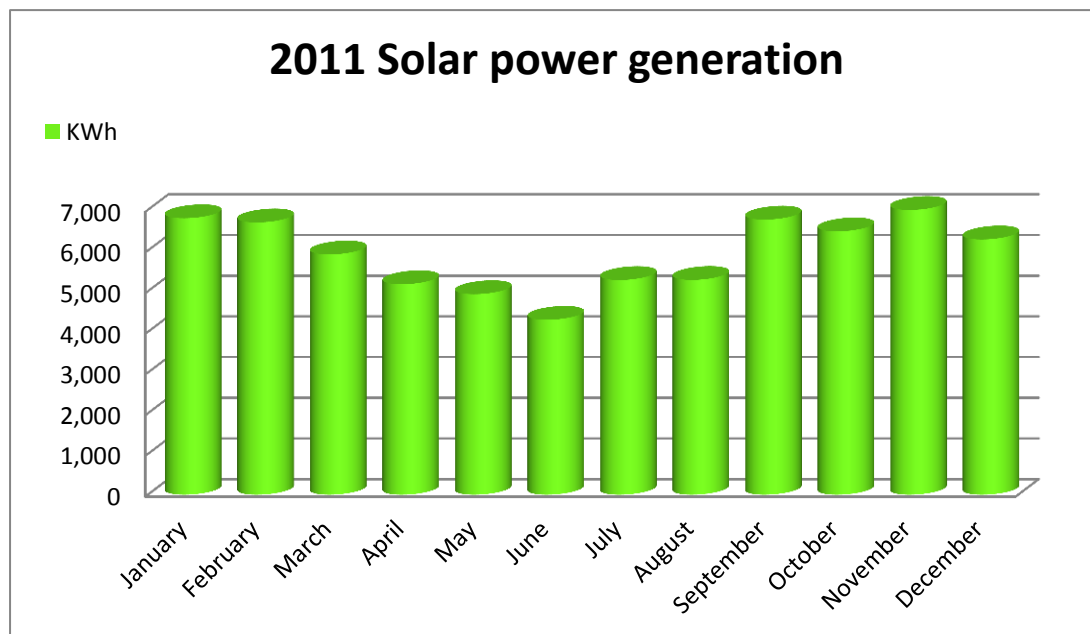
In the early 90s, we made a clear decision to weave that environmental contribution deeply into every aspect of our business—adopting the goal of *Achieving world best practice in sound environmental management*.

Energy

In February 2010 we fitted our two largest roofs with a total of 228 solar photovoltaic panels, each rated at 210 watts. Together at commissioning, they formed Australia’s largest installation of Kyocera solar panels and Aurora inverters—and the largest installation of its type in Queensland’s private sector.

Fibreglass roof sheets in our buildings ensure we maximise natural light inside, minimising power use. In addition we are progressively installing energy efficient lighting, and with smart ever-improving energy consumption practises on-site, we expect ongoing increases in the amount of green power we feed into the grid.

Table 1 – 2011 energy saving achievements (financial year)		
Measure	Savings	Comment
Total solar power generated	66,628 kilowatt-hours	A record
Total CO ² reduction	69,693 kilograms	Equivalent carbon footprint of 5 households.
Green power exported to grid	46,054 kilowatt-hours	Forecast to increase through continual improvement
Largest generation day	327.23 kilowatt-hours	16 October 2010



Water

In February 2010, Nursery Traders commissioned its fifth water recycling project, installing a fully integrated on-site weather station together with a new sand filtration system—tripling water-treatment and storage rates and stepping us to the verge of our 19-year vision of total water self-sufficiency.

Building on nearly two decades of investment in water harvesting and recycling projects, this latest step—in combination with our existing recycling infrastructure and extensive ongoing analysis, measurement and review which enable us to continually identify savings - yielded a saving of 82.81% or 4,279,000 litres in the year ended 30 June 2011 alone.

In 2011 we used no potable water to irrigate our 12,000 m² nursery in **August, September, October, December, March, April, May and June**—consuming only 888,000 litres of potable water and saving 98.5% 59,067,820 litres—that’s enough water for the annual consumption of over 1000 households.

In 1999/2000 we used 33,097,000 litres of town water per hectare on a developed site of 1.3866 hectares. In 2011 the developed site is larger, at 1.8115 hectares. Today, against an industry benchmark best practice of 3,000,000 to 5,000,000 litres per hectare we have used only 490,199 litres per hectare.

These savings are a result of continuous improvement and our commitment to weaving our environmental contribution into everything we do. We could have stopped at 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%. We didn’t—because we are committed to finding a better way and achieving our goal of total utility self-sufficiency.

Table 2 – Potable Water Use (Litres)

	2010	2011
July	205,000	193,000
August	652,000	0
September	478,000	0
October	1,208,000	2,000
November	238,000	183,000
December	1,197,000	105,000
January	599,000	3,000
February	339,000	386,000
March	9,000	6,000
April	81,000	7,000
May	5,000	2,000
June	156,000	1,000
	<hr/> 5,167,000	<hr/> 888,000

Table 2 – 2011 water saving achievements (financial year)

Measure	Litres	Comment
Potable water use	888,000	A record
Total water used in irrigation	20,753,000	A record
Estimated water savings	59,067,820	A business record — 98.5% reduction on 2000 use
Total estimated water savings since 2000	469,106,693	An industry benchmark – over 187 Olympic swimming pools



Waste

On the results of a 2010 waste-stream audit, Nursery Traders has reduced waste collection by more than 50 per cent since January 2011. We separate all recyclables—paper, cardboard, plastics and glass—for collection, and compost food scraps.

Plastic nursery trays are reused for transportation, and steel from demolished structures are reused in building display benching and fencing.

Electronic reporting procedures implemented in 2000 are saving over 32,000 sheets of paper per annum.

Measure	Savings sheets per annum	Comment
Electronic daily reporting of supplier sales	20,748	Annual water savings – 10,868 litres
Electronic reporting, invoicing and remittance of sales to suppliers	11,857	Annual tree savings – 3.9 trees
Total	32,605	Annual CO2 savings – 352 kg