

Working to reduce our 'carbon footprints'

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- Kevin Fregon,
Take Action Project
Coordinator
Moreland Energy
Foundation

Who are they?
Moreland Energy
Foundation Ltd

Where are they?
Moreland Municipality,
Melbourne, Australia

What do they do?
MEFL works with households, businesses, schools and community groups to reduce wasteful energy use; save money on power bills; and make buildings more comfortable to live and work in all year round.

What did they receive?
Microsoft® software packages and licensing.

The outcome?
"Having access to professional business tools at affordable prices means that we can operate efficiently, and it frees up funds to be used for the delivery of the projects which we were originally set-up to achieve,"
- Kevin Fregon.

www.mefl.com.au

With the ever increasing awareness of people's carbon footprints and their impact on our environment, the Moreland City Council in Australia took the ground-breaking step in 2001 of establishing the Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd (MEFL) to help people reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the municipality.



Rachel Oliphant uses the software at MEFL

Located on the inner-city fringe of Melbourne, the Moreland Municipality has a reputation for putting many new and exciting cutting-edge projects into practice. MEFL is no exception, and is the first and only such organisation of its kind in Australia.

As an independent not-for-profit organisation, MEFL works with households, businesses, schools and community groups to reduce wasteful energy use; save money on power bills; and make buildings more comfortable to live and work in all year round. This work is achieved through the provision of: advice, training, consultancy services and advocacy work; inexpensive and easy energy-saving tips, resource guides and information kits; a Five Star Home Renovator's Service and detailed energy audits and recommendations.

In July 2008, through the DonorTec program, the organisation which operates with only 10 staff, received Microsoft® software and licensing packages.

"It is fantastic that Microsoft recognises the important work being done by organisations like ours by committing to a program such as DonorTec," said Kevin Fregon, MEFL Take Action Project Coordinator. "Enabling us to structure our IT systems using the right business tools lets us do what we are set up to do: support our communities."

Mr Fregon said he would "absolutely" recommend the DonorTec service to other similar organisations. "The process with DonorTec was very easy. Organisations such as ours are constantly trying to achieve beyond their means. Having access to professional business tools at affordable prices means that we can operate efficiently, and it frees up funds to be used for the delivery of the projects which we were originally set up to achieve," he said.

Mr Fregon said the donated Microsoft equipment made the transfer to a reliable computer system much easier — with the barrier of price having been eliminated.

"We are in the process of transferring our IT into an integrated system. Our previous IT system was problematic and individuals employed to deliver community projects were spending significant amounts of time trying to resolve continuously recurring IT problems. These problems were affecting the whole organisation. The opportunity to receive new Microsoft products has freed valuable work time and makes it much easier to successfully deliver our programs to our communities," he said.