



Green Office Assessment

Results of Program July 2008 – June 2009

This report is compiled by Environmental Services, Property and Facilities Division, from individual assessment reports conducted by Green Office representatives and the Green Office Coordinator.

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
METHODS	3
RESULTS FOR NEW GREEN OFFICE AREAS – BASELINE ASSESSMENTS	4
RESULTS FOR EXISTING GREEN OFFICE AREAS – ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS	6
CONCLUSION	9

Introduction

Offices and staff practices and behaviours impact upon the environment on a day to day basis through resource consumption and waste generation. The Green Office Program gives The University of Queensland's schools and centres an opportunity to network and exchange ideas and resources to help improve environmental performance in their areas. It is managed by Environmental Services, Property and Facilities Division who appoints a UQ student as Green Office Coordinator each year.

The Green Office Program was piloted in seven areas of the University in 2005. Since then the Green Office Program has expanded to 72 representatives in 63 areas across three campuses. The program provides encouragement and resources to representatives through:

- A monthly Green Office Newsletter
- Posters, brochures and other resource materials
- Green Office webpage
- Quarterly Green Office Update sessions
- An annual Green Office Awards presentation and breakfast held on World Environment Day (5th June).

Green Office representatives conduct assessments in their areas with assistance from the Green Office Coordinator. This includes baseline assessments for new areas and annual assessments for areas already involved. The assessments develop baseline data for schools and centres from which they can continually improve their environmental performance in the following areas:

- Energy management
- Waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle)
- Environmentally responsible purchasing; and
- Environmental awareness

In 2008/2009, 17 Green Office baseline assessments and 39 Green Office annual assessments were conducted across the UQ campuses. The methods and results are discussed below in more detail.

Methods

The Green Office assessments were conducted in three parts:

1. A walk-through survey which included an after-hours energy audit and a visual waste audit,
2. An interview with the purchasing officer; and
3. One to one interviews with a sample of staff members.

Each component of the assessment was given an individual score as a percentage. These scores were then averaged to give an overall rating for the school/centre. It is the intention of the program that baseline assessments will be carried out in the year an area joins and then the following year to enable schools and centres to measure environmental performance over time.

To measure improvement of environmental practices across the university, the averaged scores for each component and the overall Green Office ratings were compared with the results from previous years. Annual and baseline assessments were compared separately.

Results for New Green Office Areas – Baseline Assessments

Green Office baseline assessments were completed for 17 new areas between July 2008 and June 2009; 14 at the St Lucia campus, two at the Ipswich campus, one at the Gatton campus and one at the Herston campus.

- Centre for Biological and Information Technology
- Earth Systems Science Computational Centre
- Faculty of Health Sciences (Ipswich)
- Fryer Library
- Gatton Store (Gatton)
- International House (College)
- Library Corporate Services
- Library Technology Services
- Mater McAuley Hospital Library
- Queensland Brain Institute
- Research and Research Training Division
- School of Education
- School of English, Media Studies and Art History
- School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies
- UQ Boilerhouse (Ipswich)
- UQ Centre for Clinical Research (Herston)
- UQ Printery

The average overall Green Office rating for all new areas was 71% (refer to Figure 1). This overall Green Office rating for baseline assessments has increased since last year by 9%, which is evidence that the general environmental practices at the University of Queensland have greatly improved. Since these offices were not previously involved with the Green Office program, this increase may be due to a greater environmental awareness within the general public or other environmental initiatives, such as Unigreen.

Most Green Office areas performed best in the School/Centre Reduce, Reuse and Recycle component which scored an average of 80%. The Green Purchasing component had the lowest average rating of 56% as illustrated by Figure 1 below. Even so, this is an improvement of 14% from this component's score last year. In 2007/2008, the component requiring the most improvement for baseline assessments was School/Centre and Workstation Energy Use, with an average score of 38%. This year, this section had an average score of 75%, which is an increase of 37%.

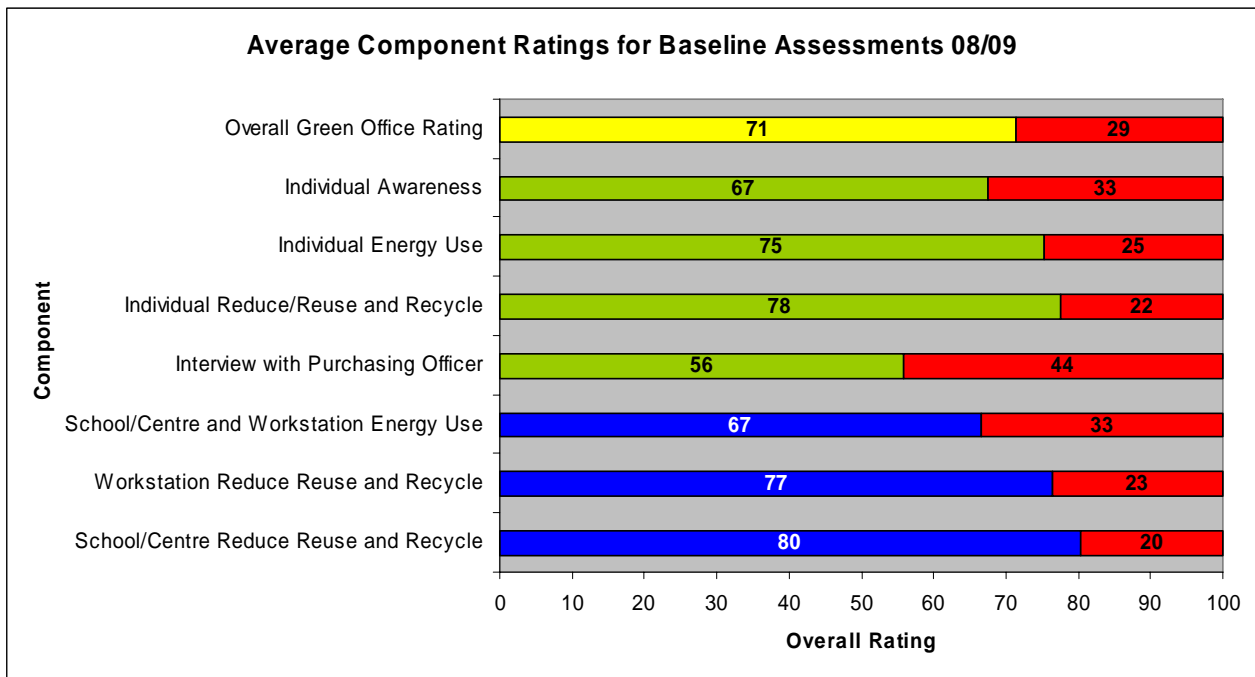


Figure 1: Average component ratings for Green Office baseline assessments for 2008/2009

The best new Green Office area was the UQ Boilerhouse, Ipswich, scoring an average overall rating of 85%, which is the highest result for baseline assessments (Figure 2). The centre's Green Office representative, Leonie McGuire, will be awarded a certificate of achievement at the World Environment Day Green Office Presentation.

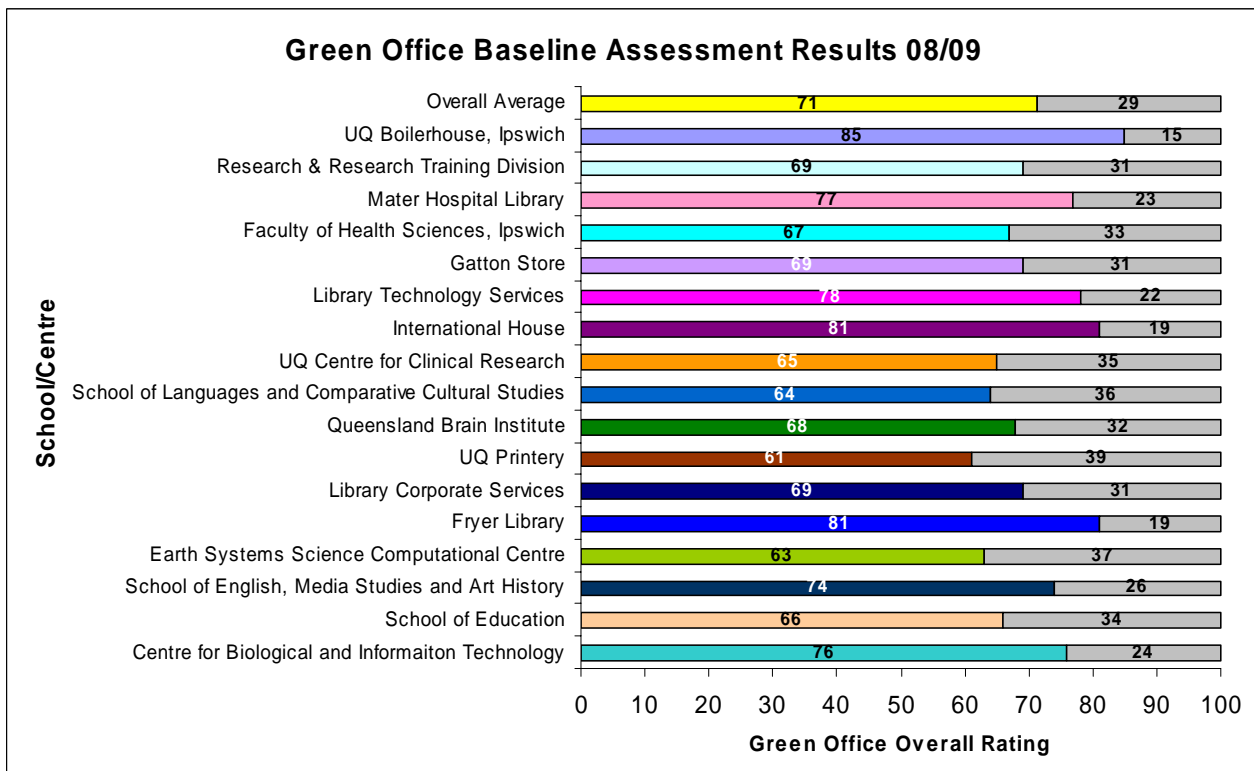


Figure 2: Overall baseline ratings for each new Green Office area for 2008/2009

Results for Existing Green Office Areas – Annual Assessments

Thirty-nine Green Office areas from St Lucia, Gatton and Ipswich campuses completed annual assessments in 2008/2009. Due to time constraints, several Green Office areas were not able to conduct their scheduled annual assessments this year.

- Advanced Water Management Centre
- Architecture and Music Library
- Austlit
- Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies
- Biological Sciences Library
- Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies
- Centre for Marine Studies
- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Business, Economics and Law
- Finance and Business Services
- Information Access Services – Library
- Ipswich Library
- Law Library
- Property and Facilities- Services Section
- Property and Facilities- Works Control Centre
- Pro – Vice Chancellor Office, Ipswich
- Records Management Services and Duplicating
- School of Animal Studies, Gatton
- School of Biomedical Sciences
- School of Business
- School of Chemical Engineering
- School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management
- School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics
- School of Human Movement Studies
- School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering
- School of Integrative Systems, Gatton
- School of Mathematics and Physics
- School of Pharmacy
- School of Political Science and International Studies
- School of Psychology
- School of Social Science
- Social Sciences and Humanities Library
- Student Support Services
- Student Union
- Sustainable Minerals Institute
- UQ Centre
- UQ Health
- UQ Sport
- UQ Traffic and Parking

The average overall Green Office rating for annual assessments in 2008/2009 was 73% which was a decrease of 3%, displayed in the graph below (Figure 3). The component of the assessment that achieved the highest average score across all Green Office areas was School/Centre Reduce, Reuse and Recycle with an average of 80%. This component was also the most improved with an increase of 5% compared to last year's results. However, all other components within the annual assessments had lower averages than 2007/2008 scores.

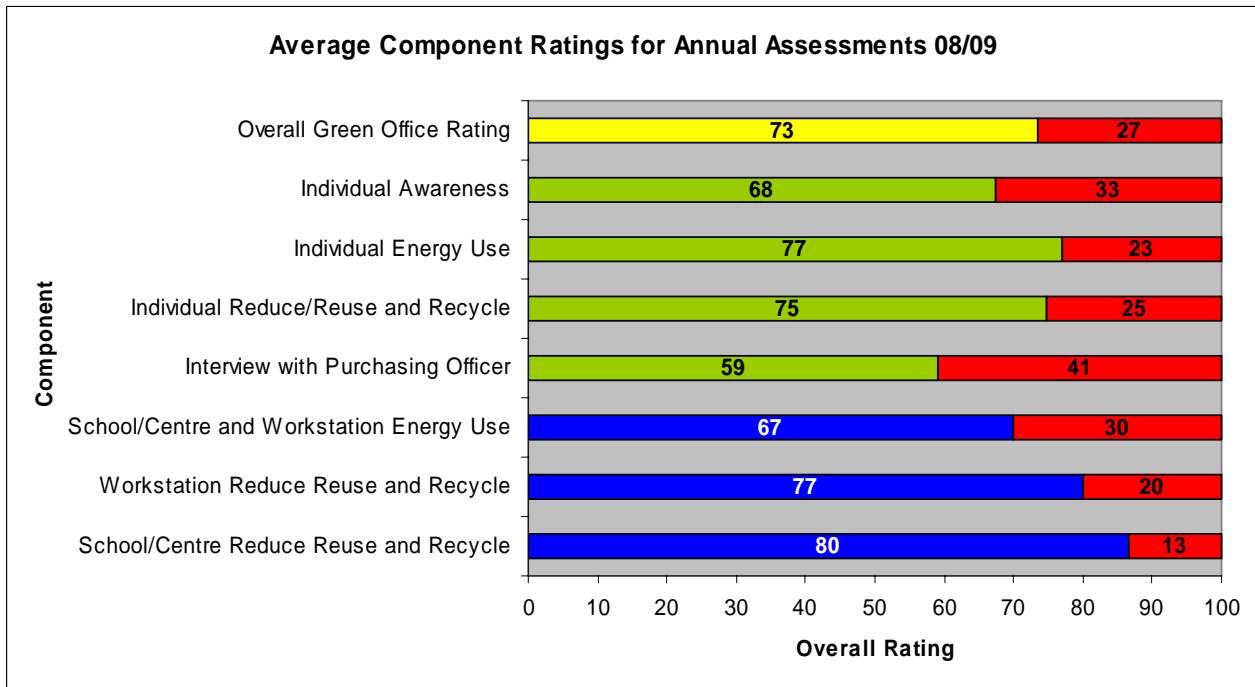


Figure 3: Average component ratings for Green Office annual assessments in 2008/2009

Despite the average decrease in the overall rating, 14 Green Office areas achieved very high results scoring over 80% in the assessment (Figure 4). In comparison, last year only eight Green Office areas achieved this high standard. The most improved area was the Architecture and Music Library, achieving an improvement of 24% for the Green Office overall rating. Tennille Thomas, the Green Office representative for the Architecture and Music Library, will receive the award for the most improved area for 2008/2009.

Green Office Assessment Results of Program July 2008- June 2009

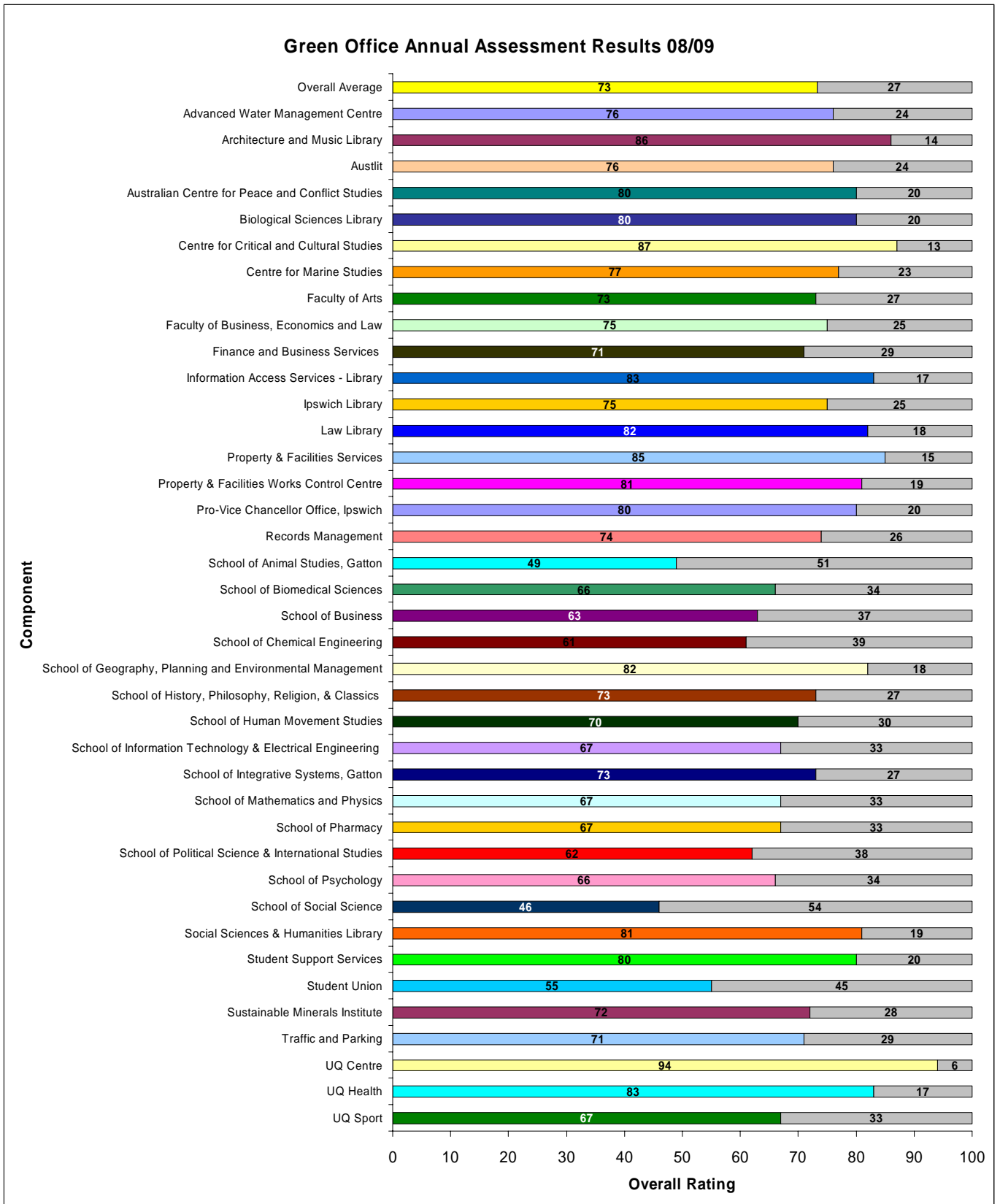


Figure 4: Annual assessment ratings at St Lucia Campus for 2008/2009

Conclusion

The Green Office Program provides an opportunity for UQ offices to improve their environmental practices while at work. Green Office Representatives are an integral part of the program, as they are responsible for encouraging fellow staff members to minimise their environmental impact at the local level. They achieve this by accessing and distributing Green Office resources, leading by example, creating great initiatives and ideas, and by showing continuous enthusiasm and commitment towards the environment. The Green Office Representatives' work and support for the program is greatly appreciated by the staff at the Properties and Facilities Environmental Services.

Every year, the baseline assessments have demonstrated that overall environmental practices at the University of Queensland are continually improving. The decrease in the overall rating for the annual assessments this year, while unfortunate, may be associated with the fact that it is more difficult for an area to improve if they have been involved in the program for several years. Another explanation for this decrease may be explained by frequent staff turn over. As new staff arrive, it is important to make them aware of the Green Office Program and how their personal efforts will contribute to minimising the university's environmental impact.

During the four years of running, the Green Office program has expanded to most corners of the University, encompassing offices from all campuses and faculties. It has proven to be a success in that it has promoted general awareness about the environment and has allowed offices to conduct baseline and annual assessments to measure improvement qualitatively. The Green Office program is an excellent example of how small changes, such as turning off lights and recycling paper, contribute to and can result in significant overall improvements. The program will continue to engage university staff and encourage them to improve their environmental practices.