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Council street lighting

T5 a big council hit

SHELLHARBOUR City Council will save ratepayers more than \$7,500 per year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 57 tonnes as a result of changing its fluorescent tubes.

Mayor David Hamilton said the lighting efficiency upgrade was an important part of the Council's vision which is firmly focused on sustainability.

"As part of our commitment to preserve the natural beauty of our region, this lighting upgrade will deliver significant energy savings and environmental benefits to the City," Cr Hamilton said.

Shellharbour Council environmental officer, Levi Gibson, identified a number of council buildings with older style fluorescent lighting and saw an opportunity to improve energy performance, light output and extend maintenance cycles.

"As part of the lighting upgrade, the fluorescents in Council's main office area, Lamerton House and a number of other external buildings, have been changed to 'T5' energy efficient lamps," Mr Gibson said.

"The new 28 Watt T5 fluorescent tubes offer an approximate 30 per cent energy saving over the old T8 36 Watt lamps they have replaced.

"In addition we have been able to de-lamp in some areas due to the higher light levels achieved by the T5 lamps."

Sydney lighting firm, Illum-a-Lite helped with the transformation.

Illum-a-Lite CEO, Mark Rutherford, said by fitting Illum-a-Lite's 'Save-it-Easy' adaptors to each end of the smaller T5 tube it can be fitted to an existing T8 light fitting.

"Because the process is quick and easy and doesn't require a professional electrician, our installers were able to complete the task in only a few days, minimising disruption to office operations and saving the Council time and money," said Mr Rutherford.

"Importantly, all of the old T8 fluorescent tubes have been recycled, in order to minimise waste from the upgrade. The new T5 lamps have double the life expectancy and only a third of the mercury content of the old T8 lamps they replaced, making them even better for the environment.

"To mark the Council's new environmental initiative Illum-a-Lite has purchased 100 native trees from the Council Nursery for planting in the local area," Mr Rutherford said.



Lamerton House in Shellharbour ... 30 per cent energy saving by installing T5s