

Green library shows the way for local community

As a busy community hub, the Woodcroft Community Centre in South Australia sends out a sustainability message that will reach more than 300,000 visitors, local residents, school students and local businesses.

Woodcroft Community Centre is a flagship building for the City of Onkaparinga and the new home for the Woodcroft Library – co-located with the Woodcroft Morphett Vale Neighbourhood Centre and a service point for general customer service.

The newly refurbished Centre opened its doors to the public in March 2011 after many months of planning and construction. This project has used

“THE LIBRARY IS NOW AN OFFICIAL SHOWCASE FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY”

clever thinking and smart technologies to breathe new life into the building. It is now a modern, highly functional facility and is a demonstration site for

good 'green' building design. A key component of the project was the installation of solar power and solar thermal hot water system that is expected to reduce expected energy use by 50%.

Water-use meters and sub-meters have been installed and all the taps, cisterns and urinals are now fitted with six star WELS rated fittings. The heating, ventilation and air conditioning has been upgraded to a more energy efficient system and



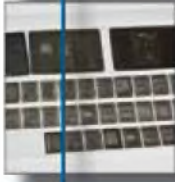

a new building management system and room light sensors add to energy savings by ensuring lights are not on when they aren't needed. The project also included installation of a rainwater reticulation system that has the capacity to meet 100% of the building's non-potable water requirements.

The library is now an official showcase for energy efficiency and a 'building trail' tour has been developed to highlight the many features of reused and recycled materials and environmentally sustainable devices throughout the building and surrounds. A select group of staff appropriately called the 'green team', have been trained in the key sustainability features of the building, and provide schools, community groups and businesses with the opportunity to learn about the green technologies they can use in their own homes and offices. This focus on learning is enhanced by the library's 'green collection' of contemporary books and other items on environmental sustainability which are available for loan, all housed in its own green shelving.

Along with these initiatives the new Woodcroft Library boasts a snappy new children's library and toy library, an area for young people with a Wii and a range of graphic novels, hearing posts for easy music listening and a significantly increased number of public PCs and space for wireless service users.



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Bridget Coulter
Team Leader – Woodcroft library
bricou@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au

