



The owners of the Hidden Valley Cabins have undergone vast research in order to implement energy efficient initiatives that suit their business operations whilst providing them return on investment. Major achievements include:

Reduced carbon emissions by

78 tonnes

Annual financial savings in diesel of

\$45,000

HIDDEN VALLEY CABINS

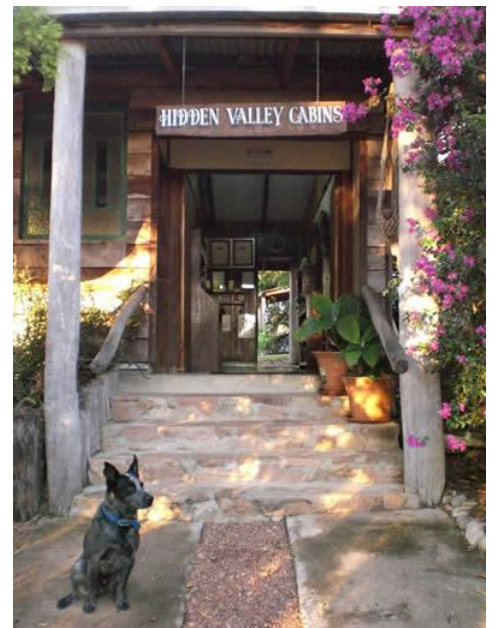
Located 1.5 hours northwest of Townsville, Hidden Valley Cabins is situated amongst some of Townsville's most unique landscapes with Running River Gorge nearby, surrounded by a plethora of native flora, fauna and natural wildlife.

Ian and Bonnie McLennan have owned Hidden Valley Cabins since 1986. In that time it has undergone some enormous changes, and to date is now a fully serviced resort and tour company with six cabins, four hotel rooms, swimming pool and spa.

When diesel prices began to escalate and the family became aware of the impact of carbon emissions on climate change, they asked themselves two questions: Can we afford to use diesel, and what effect are we having on our environment? Both answers were very negative, so they decided that it was best for the business and the environment to look at energy efficient initiatives.

THE VISION

During the long months of research and decision making the owners of Hidden Valley Cabins wanted to become a carbon neutral establishment with low energy usage. Since they began their journey, the resort has achieved incredible levels of both energy and carbon emissions savings.



CHALLENGES

Information Overload:

There is a wealth of knowledge available for operators to use, but this wealth has caused the owners of Hidden Valley Cabins to invest 18 months of time to research, digest and implement energy efficient initiatives.

ENERGY EFFICIENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Energy Efficient Fixtures:

Hidden Valley Cabins has achieved annual energy savings through the replacement of old fittings with new energy efficient equivalents.

INITIATIVES:

Replaced conventional light bulbs with energy-saving compact florescent reducing power consumption from 2220 watts to 430 watts.

Installation of solar power system that has reduced the use of diesel resulting in savings of \$45,000 annually.

Replacing fridges with more energy efficient models.

Energy Efficient Behaviour:

Hidden Valley Cabins recognises the importance of involving staff in their efficiency efforts and has engaged with them to help achieve their targets.

INITIATIVES:

Educating staff to switch off appliances at the wall overnight, saving up to 1226.4KWH per year.



ENERGY ACHIEVEMENTS IN TRANSPORT

Locally Sourced:

Hidden Valley Cabins is committed to reducing their carbon emissions and has implemented various methods in their transport to achieve savings.

INITIATIVES:

Use of locally sourced timber to construct cabins.

Changing of their menus in order to source local produce.

PROMOTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Hidden Valley Cabins are proud of their achievements and recognizes the importance of engaging with guests to spread energy efficiency to the wider community. They use various avenues in promoting their achievements.

INITIATIVES:

Renewable Energy workshops are provided in the Interpretive Centre for both guests and the general public.

A "Solar System" tour is available that educate guests on the history of the system, how it works and the energy savings it provides.

During Check-In all guests are briefly informed about power conservation in the resort.

A "10 Steps to Energy Efficiency" list is located in guest's rooms.

The "10 Steps to Energy Efficiency" information sheet along with a "Certificate of Sustainability" is presented to guests at check-out.

Interpretative signage can be found throughout the resort to further educate guests on the energy efficient initiatives adopted by the resort.

THE FUTURE

Hidden Valley Cabins recognise that energy efficiency is a continuous effort and plan to further their reach into the community and continue to improve the energy efficiency of their resort.

ADVICE

"I encourage all businesses to make use of the full range of expertise and support that is available to improve business sustainability and ensure the long term viability of your tourism experience"

Acknowledgement of Support

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Australian Government
Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

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