



*Celebrating Cundall's 4.5 Stars NABERS rating: Dianne Holman, Senior Adviser Industry Sustainability at Zero Waste SA, Deborah Davidson, SA State Manager and Lewis Hewton, ESD Consultant*

# SNAPSHOT CUNDALL

Zero Waste SA Industry Program

## High-rating Cundall eyes less waste

The Adelaide office of Cundall – international specialists in environmentally sustainable building design – knew it was doing well in its efforts to keep waste from landfill. But it had lofty goals of doing even better.

To support its objectives the company joined Zero Waste SA's Industry Program to investigate how a small office of eight people can keep improving.

It discovered that simple initiatives can make a big difference when it comes to reducing waste.

Industry Program funding was provided for a NABERS waste tenancy audit and the office achieved a best practice rating of 4.5 Stars, including a maximum 5 Stars for its waste avoidance practices.

While the rating was good news, Lewis Hewton, an Environmentally Sustainable

Design Consultant at Cundall, said the audit was particularly useful in that it identified areas for improvement.

“It provided us with a clearer understanding of how waste is generated and treated within the office,” says Lewis. “We’ve now developed an action plan (see back page) to create further improvements and to build on our culture of staff taking responsibility for their own environmental impact.”

Lewis says avoiding creating waste – which is higher up the waste hierarchy than reuse and recycle – has been a priority of Cundall's environmental program, including a major focus on becoming a paperless office.

Avoiding non-essential printing and using double-sided printing has cut paper use by 35% in two years and helped reduce other consumables, including toner cartridges.

“Other Cundall offices in Australia are now following our lead to achieve a NABERS waste rating and we’re using the lessons we’ve learned from the audit process to influence our clients.”

**Lewis Hewton**  
ESD Consultant  
Cundall



**Government of South Australia**  
Zero Waste SA

**AVOID • REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE**



Cundall's ESD Consultant Lewis Hewton and Office Administrator Bec Jones

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## Waste action plan

Cundall's Adelaide office currently generates less than 100 grams of waste per person each day, 65% of which is recycled. It aims to reduce this to 65 grams a day and improve recycling to nearly 75% by:

- Further extending the non-essential printing policy and adopting greater use of new technologies, such as portable document readers. The plan is to reduce paper usage from 25 grams per person a day to 10 grams.
- Organics recycling – after investigating various options Cundall has chosen the Bokashi system which uses fermentation to turn food waste into a rich soil conditioner.
- Reducing comingled waste through greater use of reusable takeaway coffee cups and food containers, which account for a significant portion of recycled waste.
- Reinforcing good environmental practice at weekly staff meetings.

## Cundall

An award-winning consultancy that specialises in environmentally sustainable design in the built environment.

Cundall is an international group which has been operating in Australia since 2003 and has five offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

[www.cundall.com.au](http://www.cundall.com.au)

## Zero Waste SA

Zero Waste SA is a South Australian Government agency that advances improved waste management policies and the development of resource recovery and recycling. The Zero Waste SA Industry Program advises and supports companies to achieve sustainability goals in waste, water and energy.

[www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au)

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