IBM

# Renewtek goes Carbon Neutral

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## Overview

■ **The Challenge**
Renewtek made a commitment to be the first Australian IT company to go completely carbon neutral to demonstrate their environmental consciousness.

■ **The Solution**
Selected the IBM FileNet P8 platform as its ECM solution to help deliver carbon neutral compliance through reducing printed documents and automating processes.

■ **Key Benefits**
Achieved Greenhouse Friendly™ certification

Delivered better than expected performance improvements

Immediate reduction in printing and copying of documents

Automated many decision-making processes

## The Challenge

Renewtek is a technical consultancy and IT project delivery specialist with offices in Melbourne and Sydney. In 2006, the management team of Renewtek made a commitment to be the first Australian IT company to go completely carbon neutral, in accordance with the Australian Greenhouse Office's (AGO) Greenhouse Friendly™ initiative. A crucial element in achieving a carbon neutral rating was to have an efficient Enterprise Content Management (ECM) solution in place to automate internal processes, to have the right information at hand and to provide an auditable record of all carbon producing elements of the business.

## The IBM FileNet Solution

As part of the AGO Greenhouse Friendly™ initiative, the participating company must show its commitment by implementing systems to monitor and reduce emissions. This involves a calculation, not just of the organisation's office consumption, but also its consumption of air flights and entertainment. The calculated amount is then offset by the purchase of carbon credits from an approved agency.

*" Our rapid growth is expected to continue, with the company expected to double in size again in the next 12-24 months. This has really tested the scalability of the FileNet solution which I'm pleased to say has passed with flying colours."*

– Neil Perry
Chairman, Renewtek

Renewtek has always sought to be the world's best practice and identified obtaining carbon neutral status as a key objective to demonstrate environmental consciousness. "In looking towards the future, Renewtek is going beyond sustainability and environmental policies. We want to be the first Australian IT company to 'go green' and make a really positive change," said Neil Perry, Chairman, Renewtek.

## Renewtek

In moving toward this certification, Renewtek aimed to proactively set an environmental standard for IT companies. In conjunction with a number of close business partners, Renewtek assessed the output of greenhouse gases it was responsible for.

The first step was the preparation of a detailed Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) by a recognised environmental consultant. The LCA contains an assessment of all carbon emitted and identifies and codifies all source documentation for the process.

During this assessment period, Renewtek selected the IBM FileNet P8 platform as its Enterprise Content Management (ECM) solution to help deliver carbon neutral compliance through reducing printed documents and automating many processes. As a leading implementation partner of FileNet, an IBM company, Renewtek was well informed on the advantages of the platform. The open, standards-based J2EE architecture suited Renewtek's service oriented architecture and was easy to integrate with the existing database, operating system, security and Web server environment. The platform went live in October 2006 following a smooth implementation that took four weeks to complete.

In order to achieve certification, the next step Renewtek took was to build a monitoring program. This involved creating monthly checklists and providing supporting documentation for quarterly and annual reviews. The information also needed to be readily available as a part of the company's normal reporting processes.

Finally, the LCA and monitoring plan was assessed and approved by a representative of the Australian Greenhouse Office. The assessment broke new ground because this was the first Australian IT firm to ever be assessed.

### The Benefits

The Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage offered his congratulations to Renewtek on achieving Greenhouse Friendly™ certification. Under the certification, Renewtek has committed to monitor and report on its emissions on an annual basis, acquire carbon abatement credits and take appropriate action to become more energy efficient. "Renewtek's Greenhouse Friendly certification is a significant achievement, meeting international standards and best practice," according to Mr Turnbull.

In addition to this, the IBM FileNet system delivered better than expected performance improvements, enabling Renewtek to comply with the AGO's Greenhouse Friendly™ criteria within three months. This enabled Renewtek to be the first IT company to go carbon neutral and differentiated Renewtek from other consulting firms.

Neil Perry, Chairman of Renewtek, said, "The AGO's criteria for becoming carbon neutral are extremely strict. We had set ourselves a timetable of a year but the FileNet solution allowed us to significantly reduce that time frame."

The FileNet solution saw an immediate reduction in printing and copying of documents and was a significant stepping stone to creating a paperless office. It automated many decision processes including lead processing, customer reports, timesheets, invoicing and accounts, creating a more energy efficient workplace.

"Our carbon neutral qualification has definitely opened more doors for us with companies that are looking to become sustainable. Many of them ask us how we achieved it so quickly and it's a powerful point to say that it was assisted by using a system such as FileNet," Mr Perry said.

### Going Green

"Having all our business content stored on the IBM FileNet P8 platform and the subsequent business process benefits has allowed us to manage our carbon emissions during a period of considerable growth," Mr Perry commented. "Our rapid growth is expected to continue, with the company expected to double in size again in the next 12 to 24 months. This has really tested the scalability of the FileNet solution, which I'm pleased to say has passed with flying colours."

Renewtek is now actively monitoring its carbon emissions and anticipates further use of the IBM FileNet P8 solution to deliver increasing levels of automation. A further benefit of the greenhouse initiative has resulted in a growing awareness among employees and key customers as to the value of initiatives such as this in supporting the environment.

### About Renewtek

Renewtek is a technical consulting firm that specialises in helping companies develop quality innovative solutions on various information technology platforms. The company's focus is on the provision of hard-core technical skills for design and development of systems using new technology to either replace or renew (hence the name) existing applications.

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IMC12762-AUEN-00