

MEDIA RELEASE

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Greenfleet and Austin Health team up to grow Australian forests

A new collaboration between Austin Health and Greenfleet will help plant thousands of trees in Australian native forests.

Austin Health's new workplace giving program, launched today, enables staff to make regular donations from their pre-tax salary to plant more native forests around Australia.

"Greenfleet is proud to partner with Austin Health and its staff to secure the critical funding needed to plant native forests and offset carbon emissions," says Greenfleet Chief Executive Officer, Wayne Wescott.

"Increasingly, employees are demanding that their organisations invest in sustainable business practices. This workplace giving program will enhance Austin Health's sustainability objectives, can deepen employee engagement and boost employee morale – as well as play an important role in taking practical action on climate change," Mr Wescott explains.

A 2013 survey of 1,000 people conducted by Pure Profile on behalf of Greenfleet found that 68 per cent of employees would feel more satisfied at work if their employer invested in sustainable practices, such as reforestation or offsetting pollution caused by vehicles.

According to Austin Health's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Brendan Murphy, the workplace giving program complements a range of sustainability initiatives undertaken by the hospital.

"Austin Health recognises that good environmental health supports better outcomes for our patients and our staff. Our sustainability team is continually looking for innovative ways to reduce our collective carbon footprint – and this new partnership with Greenfleet extends this commitment beyond our own backyard," Dr Murphy says.

Austin Health offsets its hospital fleet with Greenfleet, has added more than 1,000 new plants to the hospital grounds in the last year, and achieved a 4 Star Green Star rating for the new Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre.

A collaborative doctoral research project between Austin Health and Deakin University is also exploring the health and wellbeing benefits when patients, visitors and staff access gardens and nature within a healthcare setting.

"Investing in sustainable practices is not just an investment in the environment – it is an investment in the health, wellbeing and satisfaction of your staff and organisation," Mr Wescott concludes.

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About Greenfleet

Greenfleet is an Australian not-for-profit organisation dedicated to helping the community reduce the environmental impact of travel, business and lifestyle choices by adopting low-carbon alternatives and reforestation. To date, Greenfleet has planted more than 8.3 million trees, resulting in more than two million tonnes of carbon offsets and creating more than 390 native and biodiverse forests for Australians. Established in 1997, Greenfleet was the first not-for-profit carbon offset provider in Australia. Today, Greenfleet services many Australia's top listed companies, and is supported by thousands of individual Australians. Visit: www.greenfleet.com.au

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