



ne foundation of every garden. It helps absorb heat reflected from all
urfaces - whether that be the house, driveway or paved courtyard.

urpet we pass every time we walk out our
we know about it, where it originates and
e in Cairns?

esia matrella) grows naturally in Far North
ustralia and tropical and subtropical parts
astline on sandy soil and has low nutrient
ysia can either be used as a mown lawn or
atural look. It can also be used outside the
mulch under plants and trees or as a border

Broadleaf Carpet grass, commonly known
pus compressus) has long been a favourite
front lawns in the Far North. A native of
thern states of North America, this grass
climate. It thrives in a variety of soils from
long as it has a good source of water and
and healthy year round.

a variety of soft-leaf Buffalo (Stenotaphrum
loped in Australia to withstand our climate.
al North and is a strong and healthy weed

Lawns do not have to be a high maintenance part of your landscape
and choosing the right species of grass can save you time and money.
There is a lot of information available to help you pick the right grass
for your needs, whether you are looking for a bowling green, hard
wearing grass or that completely no mow look.

Caring for your lawn should be as important as looking after your
garden plants. Following these simple steps, your lawn will love you for
it and thrive throughout the year. Make sure your lawn is well aerated.
If the ground feels too compact, using a lawn aerator or a similar tool
will loosen the soil and allow air, water and nutrients to penetrate the
roots. If your lawn is uneven, adding a thin layer of lawn dressing top
soil in low areas will help bring the lawn back to a levelled finish.

And finally fertiliser. Most lawns will appreciate a sprinkling of fertiliser
throughout the growing season. There are a number of specialised
lawn feeds on the market. Target fertilising the grass species you have
will boost the growth rate and can even knock out any unwanted weeds,
even the ones that never seem to leave.

**Matt Mitchley is a registered Horticulturalist with the Australian
Institute of Horticulture and the owner of Designer Garden
Company**

www.designergarden.com.au

LEAN & GREEN keeps you in the BLACK

Rising energy costs are a real concern for businesses in Tropical North
Queensland. This is why the National Electrical and Communications
Association (NECA) chose Cairns for the launch of their Lean and
Green Initiative recently.

Lean and Green is a business support program that combines energy
audits, Eco-Smart Electricians and low interest finance to help business
owners identify where they can save on their electricity bills and how to
go about turning ideas into action.

Popular TV host, social entrepreneur and sustainability consultant, Jon
Dee, launched the Lean and Green initiative at the Botanic Gardens
Visitor Centre on the back of his book called Energy Cut - the 20 step
guide to cutting energy bills in your business'.

'Energy efficiency is a guaranteed way to improve the profitability,
resilience and value of your business. The Lean and Green initiative is a
great opportunity for Cairns business owners' Jon said.

A free copy of Jon's book can be found at <http://EnergyCut.info/SME-book>.

Cairns Regional Council is supporting the Lean and Green initiative
to help local businesses reduce their energy bills and carbon footprint.
Mayor Bob Manning said Council had reduced its electricity
consumption by 21% over the past four years. "We're right behind this
initiative. We know the value of good energy management. Council is
currently on track to meet its 50% emissions reduction target by 2020".
Robert Browning the Northern Manager of NECA said the Lean and
Green Initiative differs from other energy efficiency programs because
it has been industry developed, uses independent auditors and connects
business owners with Eco-Smart trained electricians and low interest
finance for energy efficiency investment back into the business.

"I am enormously proud that we have local licensed electrical contractors
from Mossman to Mission beach, Cairns, Innisfail and the Tablelands
who have undertaken additional training to become certified and
accredited in energy efficiency. This is further evidence for the need to
provide skills training for our local electrical Industry to improve services
to regional Queenslanders." Robert said.

Eco Smart Electricians are professionally trained in different aspects
of energy efficiency including energy management, lighting, heating/
cooling and motors/pumps.

They can also give you professional help with your energy reduction
plan.

"Wasted energy is lost profit, so let's get lean
and green" Robert said.



To find out more about
how your business can
benefit from being part
of the Lean and Green
initiative contact Rob
at NECA's Cairns
office on 0418 996 268
or robert.browning@neca.com.au

DONT GET ENEGRY BILL SHOCK!!

The Saver Group

- ➔ Specialising in Residential & Commercial Energy Minimisation & Management Programs
- ➔ We offer Energy reviews - you can't manage what you don't measure
- ➔ An intermediary service for the brokering of electricity supply arrangements Energy monitoring
- ➔ LED lighting solutions that could save up to 70% of your lighting costs
- ➔ IP Hybrid HVAC technology which will make your air conditioning up to 40% more efficient
- ➔ The Saver group work with EcoSmart certified electricians to deliver sustainable energy initiatives throughout Queensland
- ➔ Eco Smart Electricians are members of NECA - National Electrical & Communications Assoc.

**CALL NOW FOR YOUR ENERGY
REVIEW AND START SAVING MONEY**

Running a business? Call NOW for your ENERGY REVIEW - WASTED MONEY IS LOST PROFIT

1300 471 294

Local Cairns Service 0403 907 462

Lean & Green