



Issue 16 | September – October 2020



Members of Fossil Free UTAS celebrating the news the education provider will divest from fossil-fuel aligned investment companies

UTAS aims to divest entirely from fossil fuels by end of 2021

On 16 October, 2020, the University of Tasmania decided to evolve its investment strategy to divest of companies with fossil fuel exposure and positively screen for those investments that support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

This is a significant milestone in our history.

We acknowledge and deeply appreciate the collective knowledge, wisdom and effort – of our staff, students and community - which has led us to this point.

You are invited to join with us to reflect for a moment; to write or illustrate your thoughts or aspirations on a piece of cloth (activity stations set up across all campuses).

In 2021, these pieces of cloth will be part of an art project, the result of which will be on permanent display at our campuses as a mark of our pride at having arrived here together.



UTAS reaches for the STARS and divestment excellence as well!

The University of Tasmania is pleased to be the inaugural Australasian STARS rated institution, achieving a Silver rating in August 2020. The recent fossil fuel divestment announcement by the Vice-Chancellor ensures we are on our way to a Gold rating in the future.

STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System) provides context to the **UTAS Strategic Plan 2019-2024** sustainability aspirations and the University Council-endorsed **Strategic Framework for Sustainability**. STARS is also one of the internal indicators selected by the University to guide the delivery of outcomes from the framework.

The Silver rating recognises the significant efforts of UTAS staff and students over the past few years to progress our sustainability journey. Some areas in which the University is doing well are research, air and climate, coordination and planning, and diversity and affordability. Furthermore, our **SIPS** program, **Climate Active Carbon Neutral certification**, partnership with **EIS Tasmania** and **RedMap** have been recognised as innovation initiatives.

The STARS submission also identifies very clearly the opportunities for more focus to deliver holistic sustainability outcomes. Areas for improvement include buildings, food and dining, waste, water and investment and finance opportunities include taking action on fossil fuel divestment, which UTAS has now done above and beyond with the negative and positive screening approaches to be implemented in 2021.

We have an interim target to be Gold rated by December 2021! So, lots of opportunities for everyone to get involved. Let's be thinking about joining the dozen or so Platinum rated universities by December 2024!

If you have any questions about the UTAS journey, please contact **Corey Peterson**, Sustainability Manager.



Congratulations to the 161 students who have completed sustainability projects through SIPS this semester while working from home! In Semester 2, 134 students took part in in-class projects relating to on campus sustainability topics, 25 students undertook curricular placements with the Sustainability Team, and we have been fortunate to host four SIPS Fellowships and 10 SIPS Internships. Thank you to the SIPS mentors and unit coordinators for supporting these projects and to all the students who have taken part! We look forward to sharing these projects in the coming weeks. It has been a challenging semester moving to online projects and we appreciate your efforts to stay motivated and connected to enable these important projects to continue.

October the month of Transport

Congratulations to the **Tasmanian Young Planners** for another successful **PARKing Day** in Elizabeth Street transforming parking spaces into gardens and outdoor café seating.



Resident members of the Hobart City Apartments' Green Team visit PARKing day and share ideas for growing their own plants on site with SIPS student Ada Lester.

New Recycling Walls in campuses across the state

Recycling walls have been growing in popularity since the first installation by the entrance to the Social Science building at the Sandy Bay campus. There are now a total of 19 walls across the state, they are mainly made from filing cabinets from the **Re-use Program**. The latest instalment of recycling walls are housed at the Launceston and Burnie campuses.

Recycling walls are set up to collect small recyclable items that cannot be recycled through your usual co-mingle recycling service. You can now recycle mobile phones, toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes, small e-waste and bread tags in Newnham, Inveresk, and Cradle Coast!

Find the new recycling walls at Newnham library, Inveresk Gallery and Inveresk Apartments, Rural Clinical School student lounge and the Cradle Coast Campus foyer.



Members of the Sustainability team, Sustainability Committee and SIPS students



Professor Greg Lohman Pro Vice-Chancellor (Aboriginal Leadership), Professor Margaret Oikowski Pro Vice-Chancellor (Culture, Wellbeing and Sustainability), Professor Jane Long (Provost), Professor Rufus Black (Vice-Chancellor), Corey Peterson, Sustainability Manager.

Welcome

Belle & Nick to the team

The Sustainability Team is excited to announce the addition of two new part time team members based at Newnham and the Cradle Coast focusing on staff and student engagement, but also operational activities around waste and transport particularly.

Belle Workman

I'm a social scientist passionate about environmental health. My PhD investigated climate change, health and policy development. I'll be collecting data and supporting SIPS, Green Impact teams and the Re-use program, in the north.

What is the pivotal moment in your life that made you want to pursue a career in sustainability?
I was committed to a career in sustainability after taking an environmental politics subject by Robyn Eckersley at university.

What does a sustainable future mean to you?

To me, a sustainable future involves preservation and conservation, respect and fairness, safety and well-being, creativity and commitment.

Nick Towle

I'm a doctor, with a passion for human and planetary health. I worked in emergency medicine before moving to medical education. I'm here to support students and staff to become leaders in sustainability.

What is the pivotal moment in your life that made you realise your passion in sustainability?

My passion for sustainability was cemented with Cycle for Sustainability, an epic 6 month, 5000km education ride with several friends down the east coast of Australia.

What does a sustainable future mean to you?

For me, sustainability is the exploration of living a good life in harmony with other species and within planetary boundaries.



(Top left to Right) Corey Peterson, Nick Towle, Will Plaister, (centre left to right) Varunjani Jayaseelan, Belle Workman, Catherine Elliott, (bottom centre) Carmen Primo Perez.



Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Green Impact program, attending online events and ACTS's acts of connection lunchtime series! The toolkit will close on the 30 Oct so don't forget to upload all your evidence.

We have launched a new Green Impact newsletter for teams to share weekly actions. Staff can sign up to receive the newsletter and share news by contacting **sustainability.utas@utas.edu.au**. Our Green Impact toolkit closes on 30 October and we are preparing for student auditor training day on 24 November.

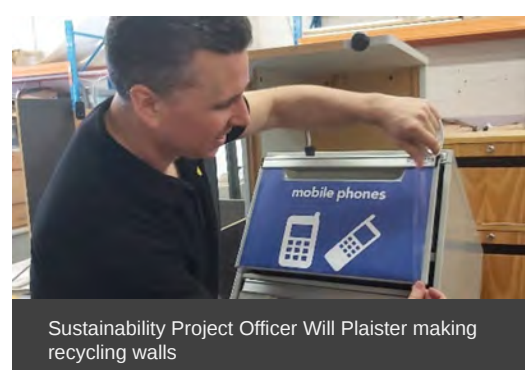
Take part in auditing your workplace for sustainability!

Couldn't participate in the Green Impact program this year? Not a problem, you can still take part in Green Impact auditing day. Either as an individual or with colleagues, sign up to be part of our workplace sustainability audit on 24 November. To take part, please plan on one hour via Zoom.

Sign up to be part of an audit!

FREE electric car charging stations are available at Sandy Bay, Newnham, and Cradle Coast campuses.

Find their locations on campus maps



Sustainability Project Officer Will Plaister making recycling walls



The latest recycling walls at the Cradle Coast campus.

Upcoming events
24 November Green Impact auditing day
15 December Green Impact awards ceremony



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