

Issue 19 | March - April 2021

What a busy engaging month for Sustainability

Working Groups focus
Sustainability Committee
efforts

The UTAS Sustainability
Committee provides an important structure that supports the activities of working groups made up of academic and professional staff as well as students across a range of focus areas. There are groups focused on Global Climate Change Week, Plastics Minimisation, Targets and Indicators, Data and Reporting, Sustainable Food Systems and Cradle Coast Environmental

Sustainability.

Some working groups have a broader remit around engagement and academics, such as the Education for

Sustainability Community of Practice
(EfS CoP) (mainly internally focused)
and EfS Tasmania (mainly externally focused, in conjunction with other education bodies in Tasmania). This semester the first meeting of the student-run working group, Students for Sustainability, has been held with student representatives from each College, campus and TUSA societies.

If you are interested in finding out more about these working groups and exploring how you might contribute, please contact **sustainability.utas@utas.edu.au**.

Celebrating Sustainability Experience Day

We hosted our first Sustainability Experience Day this Semester. Recordings from all the day's events can be found on the **Students for a Sustainable UTAS** Facebook page.

The day started with a talk by the UTAS Pride Society. SIPS student Zoe Bucher-Edwards then introduced us to Wild Pollinator Count Week, and guest speaker, entomologist and PhD candidate, Shasta Henry presented on pollinators you might find on campus and in the local Sandy Bay area. Together with Community Engagement Leaders (CELS) students headed to Source Open Day to undertake a Wild Pollinator Count in the gardens. Jesse and Alex had prepared a video introducing new volunteering opportunities at Source. Composting educator and Rural Clinical School lecturer, Nick Towle, ran an introduction to composting workshop and answered students' questions (mostly on worm farms).

At the Sandy Bay campus the TUSA Muslim Society students were taking part in a Bike Basics learn to ride session with Bicycle Network. The session was a great success, with the students taking off on their first ever cycle! We finished the day with an introduction to Recycling Walls on campus with Sustainability Projects Officer Will Plaister and SIPS students Ruowen Deng and Danli Yuan.

We hope you enjoy watching the clips!

Ride2Uni Hits the Streets

A partnership between the University of Tasmania and Bicycle Network Tasmania is helping staff and students learn new bike riding skills on the road.

Teams of riders have headed off from the main bike hubs on Sandy Bay and Newnham campuses for four road riding education sessions. The bike skills education program is designed to develop confidence and ability when riding on the road and advanced bike control skills.

During the sessions, riders learn defensive riding techniques, bike positioning on roads and intersections, effective route planning, advanced bike control and traffic and road awareness.

These sessions are just one of the University's sustainable transport initiatives contributing to the Sustainable Transport Strategy 2017-2021.

If you are riding to University **you can register your bike** through a new bike registration form. ISD will check the form to identify bicycle owners when an abandoned bike is found on campus and use the contact list to share cycling related news. Thank you to Xun Jin Wong for his work to create the bike register during his SIPS curricular placement with ISD.



Launching – Green Impact students!

Aligning with the Communities Model, sustainability theme area, this year we have launched a new program called Green Impact students. The program includes a weekly newsletter featuring a sustainability action of the week for students. The actions are designed to be completed from any location, on or off campus. Across the program there are 30 action criteria (for students to work towards up to 30 points), 22 are written and there are eight opportunities for students to nominate their own sustainability projects.

Students from all colleges can **subscribe** for Green Impact students!

Reminder all students and staff can participate this year in the regular #ACTS of connection events, simply sign up to receive info about the free online events!



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Bike Donations

The Sustainability team have also recently implemented a process to identify and donate abandoned bicycles on UTAS campuses. In March 2021, six abandoned bikes were donated to Hobart Bike Kitchen. Bike Kitchen holds monthly sessions to teach basic bicycle maintenance skills. Our donated bikes - which generally require a good clean, service and new parts - were provided to migrants and others in need of a bicycle who attended the Bike Kitchen session.

Learning to ride, maintain a bicycle and having access to free, sustainable transport can be very liberating and can foster a sense of independence. Check out **Hobart Bike Kitchen sessions** to donate an old bike or even volunteer your bike maintenance knowledge.

Your UTAS email account allows access to a world of sustainability resources

With the University being an Australasian participant in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Reporting System (STARS), everyone with an UTAS institutional email account can access a range of resources by creating an ACTS account and through the partnership agreement access AASHE resources, including the STARS Benchmarking Tool, STARS Data Displays and their Campus Sustainability Hub.

Interact and Engage

Click the button below to download the Useful Sustainability Links PDF, which includes a list of our programs, facebook pages, resources and more.

Download Useful Sustainability Links

Upcoming Events

<u>UTAS Landcare</u> is hosting Lunchtime Landcare every Tuesday 1pm, meeting on the stairs at the TUSA building on the Sandy Bay Campus. Get to know the campus better and improve the bushlands by joining in with their lunchtime sessions. Tools and gloves provided – just add you and water. To register, please press the Going button on the <u>Facebook event</u>.

<u>Where? Where? Wedgie!</u> is a citizen science program run by <u>Nature Trackers</u>, with funding from <u>Bookend Trust</u>, which monitors populations of the threatened Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle. The 2021 surveys are on 14-16 & 28-30 May, between 8 am and 4.30 pm. <u>Learn more</u> and <u>book your survey</u> square(s) now!





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