



Issue 17 | November – December 2020

Review of the year by Pro Vice Chancellor Margaret Otłowski (Culture, Wellbeing and Sustainability)

It has been my great privilege to serve as Pro Vice Chancellor (Culture, Wellbeing and Sustainability) for the last three years. Alongside my role as Chair of the University Equity Committee, this has involved chairing of the Sustainability Committee. Since joining that committee in late 2017, I have been delighted to see sustainability progressively become a core part of the University's agenda. This has culminated in a commitment to make sustainability one of two 'Mission Integration' projects for the University with Corey Peterson in the lead as Sustainability Mission Integrator and will be taking over the role of Chair of the Sustainability Committee. This is an exciting opportunity for the University, and I wish Corey and the Sustainability Team all the best in their ongoing endeavours. Other notable sustainability milestones for 2020 included UTAS taking on the hosting of Global Climate Change Week (with special thanks to Professor Fred Gale and Dr Kim Beasy) and the University's commitment to completely divest from fossil-fuels.



Energy audit and end of year turn off

Most of the energy used by the University is electricity from the grid and natural gas, both of which incur a 'carbon footprint' (and financial cost), even though most of Tasmania's electricity is from renewable sources.

Energy audits are a very important tool to help with reducing our overall energy use, reducing energy-related carbon emissions, and improving the experience of University campuses for staff, students and visitors. The main purpose of audits are to identify how much energy is being used, where energy is being 'wasted', and offer solutions to reducing the amount of energy being used.

In previous years, SIPS students have undertaken energy audits assessing lighting efficiency, heating/ventilation/cooling (HVAC), insulation and draught reduction, solar gain, and hot water use. These audits suggested solutions to reduce energy consumption such as changing lamps to energy efficient LED, adding motion and lumen sensors to lights, sealing draughts, fixing leaking hot water taps and more. **The UTAS Sustainability Tour** has many examples of locations where energy efficient suggestions have been implemented.

The University is committed to a sustainable future demonstrated through achieving **Carbon Neutral Certification** each year. Reducing overall energy use and the carbon emissions associated with energy supply helps lower the costs of offsetting for carbon neutrality.

As we're wrapping up for the holidays make sure you -

- Switch off lights as you leave a room
- Switch off appliances
- Notify energy.utas@utas.edu.au if you see lights on all day where they don't need to be on
- Report any leaking hot water taps
- Let the **Sustainability Team** know if you see any opportunities to reduce energy use

End of year Re-use Program Update

As 2020 comes to a close, the **UTAS Re-Use Program** doesn't stop. We have surpassed over \$100k in savings over the year which is quite remarkable given the lull in claims due to lockdown over April to June. To put this into perspective, the Re-Use Program saved \$110k in 2019.

The Re-Use Program isn't all about financial savings though, UTAS has diverted over 20 tonnes of waste from landfill and avoided almost 50 tonnes of carbon and greenhouse gases emissions into the atmosphere associated with manufacturing and transport.

We have plenty of new listings going up in November and December. If you need any new items for 2021 for your office or work spaces or if you have any excess furniture or other materials needing a new home, then please contact reuse.program@utas.edu.au.

Case Study

218 chairs from the Morris Miller Library, enlisted through the Re-Use Program are being moved to another part of the University.

By reusing instead of buying new furniture, we have:

- Avoided over 1000 (kg) in CO₂-e emissions (associated with manufacturing and transport) and waste diverted from landfill.
- Saved over \$4000 not spent purchasing new chairs.

Thank you to ISD staff Jacqueline and Cheryl, Sustainability Project Officers Will and Varu and library staff Will for coordinating the effort.



Green Impact auditing day and team champions

On 24 November, 17 current and prospective Green Impact teams from across the state participated in the 2020 Green Impact auditing day. 149 UTAS staff across 28 teams have worked consistently throughout the year to undertake 436 sustainability actions in their workplace and at home, despite the challenges posed by unprecedented changes to working arrangements.

This year, four Green Impact Project Assistants supported three teams by motivating team members and capturing the actions their teams have taken.

The auditing day presented an opportunity for team members to reflect upon the many sustainability actions they successfully completed in 2020, and to identify further avenues for implementing sustainability in 2021 and beyond. To support the auditing process, 22 UTAS students attended a certified auditing course in the morning, led by Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS), before leading the auditing process for the teams.

Auditing results were provided to the team at ACTS, who calculated the overall Green Impact team champions at UTAS for 2020. Congratulations to the overall program winners Waste Watchers from the Cradle Coast Campus! Congratulations also go to the following teams and individuals for Special Awards:

- Community Award: Waste Watchers (TUU Cradle Coast)
- Environment Action: Up the Hill (Student Living Sandy Bay)
- Staff Champion: Jeannie-Marie Lerol (Community and Student Engagement, CSE)
- Student Champion: Andrea Rojas (CSE Science Engagement)
- Engagement Innovators: Reach Out! CSE Community

Thank you to all the staff and students who have been part of the program in 2020!

Want to make a Green Impact in your workplace? Register now to join the program for 2021 or email sustainability.utas@utas.edu.au.



Free membership with the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education

As a supporter of the EAUC conference, all UTAS registrants now have a free six-month membership with the EAUC.

As an **EAUC member** you can have access to a range of resources, support services and a global network of tertiary educators.

Use your **UTAS email address** to sign up for this offer.

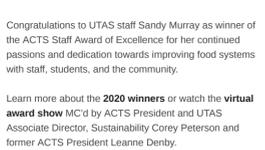


UTAS winners from the Green Gown Awards Australasia!

Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) hosted the first ever virtual Green Gown Awards on the 26 November 2020.

Congratulations to UTAS staff Sandy Murray as winner of the ACTS Staff Award of Excellence for her continued passions and dedication towards improving food systems with staff, students, and the community.

Learn more about the **2020 winners** or watch the **virtual award show** MC'd by ACTS President and UTAS Associate Director, Sustainability Corey Peterson and former ACTS President Leanne Denby.



Accelerating education for the SDGs in higher education

[Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability \(ACTS\)](#), the [Principles for Responsible Management Education \(PRME\)](#), [AusNZ Charter](#), and the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\) AusNZPac Regional Network](#) is hosting a workshop in February 2021 on [Accelerating SDG Practice Initiative](#) in higher education.

Learn more about the workshop by [registering on Eventbrite](#).



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Review of the year by Associate Director, Sustainability Corey Peterson

2020! What can really be said? When I was a much younger human, we looked forward to 2020 as we all had such high hopes as that was when the world's woes would have well and truly started to be left behind...hmm. We know that we need to individually and collectively mobilise our responses to the biggest self-inflicted challenges facing humanity. While COVID-19 might not be totally self-inflicted, there is no doubt that the variety of human societal responses to it have led to very different localised outcomes (we can learn from this for place-based actions). Behind all of this continue to be the impacts of the climate crisis and our collective complicity in the next global extinction event that are both local and global in impact.

In times of adversity, however, there are also opportunities to re-imagine and continue mission- and values-based work. We continue to see nations, cities, and organisations step up to be their better selves with many choosing to apply the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in their efforts. Focusing on the highest level, our University started the year with a new Strategic Framework for Sustainability that puts the SDGs front and centre. By mid-year, we received a Silver rating in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Reporting System (STARS) and our second year of Times Higher Education Impact Ranking resulting in an overall #12 of 21 Australian universities and #47 globally. For SDG13 Climate Action Impact, UTAS achieved #3 globally and #1 out of 10 in Australia. And in the final months, a new Sustainability Policy based on nine principles was ratified by the University Council.

By the end of this challenging year, to build on our sustainability efforts the University has established a mission integrator approach and I have been given the honour of taking on the role of Sustainability Mission Integrator to help further embed holistic sustainability into the core business of the University. I also lead the sustainability team to advise and work across all portfolio areas to co-design initiatives for improving our holistic sustainability performance. It needs to be noted that these high-level commitments and approaches are there to enable what makes sustainability really happen – our staff and students making more sustainable decisions individually and collectively. Thank you all!



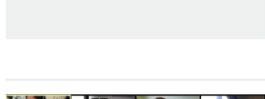
Step up your carbon offsets while online shopping during the holiday season

Install UCapture to automatically activate 25,000+ stores when you visit their websites, triggering them to fund carbon offsets for UTAS. If you are shopping anyhow, why not make it count even more. And the best bit! UCapture also applies the best coupon available so you could get a discount when you shop.

Follow the easy instructions below to set up UCapture

- 1) Visit www.ucapture.com/UTAS
- 2) Install the UCapture extension
- 3) Create your account.

Find out more from the **UTAS Greenhouse gas emissions** webpage.



Sustainable Christmas hacks from staff and students at UTAS

The holiday season is fast approaching and with it the task of buying and wrapping gifts. According to the **National Storage** "Australians use more than 150,000 km of wrapping paper during Christmas – enough to wrap around the Earth's equator nearly 4 times".

We asked some staff and students about their sustainable gift-giving hacks:

- 1) Saw and drill together bits of wood found around the house to make a cool Christmas tree – Grace.
- 2) Gift experiences instead of things – Varu
- 3) Replace plastic decoration with 'stained glass window' biscuits to decorate the tree – Mahalia
- 4) Follow the Japanese style of wrapping, 'furoshiki' by using fabrics instead of paper – Carmen
- 5) Gift from the garden or locally sourced edibles – Corey
- 6) Donate to a charity or a cause on the receivers' behalf – Will
- 7) Make your own bath salts with Epsom salt and essential oils in old jars – Kim
- 8) Convert an old ladder or few bamboo poles into a Christmas tree with some handmade felt decorations – Cheryl
- 9) Give a gift to someone you don't know through the ABC giving tree – Nick
- 10) Most importantly take care of yourself, every little action you do goes a long way!

Have any tips to share? Send us your hacks by commenting on our **Facebook post**

