Integrating Students into Sustainability wins major award

The University’s own Education for Sustainability Community of Practice (EfS CoP) has been recognised for its ongoing efforts to involve students in our sustainability journey. The academic operations sustainability integration program (AOSIP) received a Commonwealth Office for Learning and Teaching supported Award for Programs that Enhance Learning in the 2015 Australian Awards for University Teaching at a gala dinner in Canberra on 8 December.

The award recognises the team of professional and academic staff delivering this innovative and outstanding contribution to the quality of student learning and the student experience of higher education. The team includes those named on the award nomination, including Mr Corey Peterson, Dr Anna Lyth, Ms Kristin Warr Pedersen, Dr Emma Pharo, Mr Mark White, Ms Rowena Zwart, Mr Geoff Clark, Dr Aidan Davison, Associate Professor Fred Gale and Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick. Other staff that have played a key role include Dr Carmen Primo Perez, Mr Dave Wood, and PhD students Ms Kim Beasy and Mr Kamal Singh. DVC Students & Education, David Sadler and CSD Executive Director Jacinta Young are instrumental in providing ongoing support.

Since 2010, over 900 students have been involved in 65 projects that have earned students academic credit while delivering operational outcomes for the University. More details on AOSIP available here.

End of Year – Turn off to save!

As you prepare to take your Christmas/New Year break you can help save energy and cut greenhouse gas emissions by switching off non-essential equipment before you leave work. For its part, Commercial Services and Development (CSD) will switch off non-essential central air-conditioning across campuses during the break.

If everyone makes an effort to switch off the impact can be significant. Energy savings from the 2012 Holiday Switch-off for the whole of the University over the 9 day period equated to approximately $30,000 and avoided 90 tonnes CO2-e emissions.

We suggest that you develop a list of equipment to be switched off at the power point each holiday period. For example:

In offices:
- lights
- computers & monitors
- stand-alone air conditioners
- printers, photocopiers and faxes
- boiling water units
- televisions
- refrigerators, if empty (ensure they are left propped open to air out with newspaper on the ground to capture any water).

In laboratories (for items not in active use):
- fume hoods
- drying ovens
- rotary evaporators
- water baths
- centrifuges
- computers and monitors
- spectrometers.
- lamps

For updates, including Sustainability Committee members, news and events: www.utas.edu.au/sustainability
Decide Your Ride Launched

Decide your Ride is a series of bicycle ride-videos for people interested - but unsure – about cycling into campus. Part of UTAS’s strategy to promote sustainable travel, the videos and narration show examples of ‘bikeable’ routes into two Hobart campuses. But it's not just about route selection; it's also about route riding. It's about taking advantage of footpaths, passing parked cars, dealing with intersections – a virtual buddy system.

The video commentary is influenced by a current PhD project underway at UTAS, along with the input of Bicycle Network and Cycling South. The camera was fixed to handlebars of a bike to give the rider’s perspective. You may even note the sometimes rough surfaces translating as jittering!

If enough interest is shown in this approach, additional videos will be produced for other campuses. This is as much about how to ride a route as route choice. Bike riders find many ways to ride the same routes depending on the conditions and their comfort levels for cycling.

It is important to start with small steps and experimenting with routes and dry-runs on the weekend (see 'Nothing changes overnight'). Fortunately it’s legal to ride on the footpath here (except for signposted zones in the Hobart city centre preventing bicycle riding from 7am – 6pm on weekdays). So riding on footpaths (being careful to give way to pedestrians) will help build skills and confidence to ride on the roads more often.

Decide Your Ride can be accessed at http://www.utas.edu.au/commercial-services-development/sustainability/transport/decide-your-ride