

Sustainability Bulletin

March 2015



New Metro Service Links Launceston CBD to Campus

Getting to University in Northern Tasmania just got easier with the launch of a new bus service linking the Launceston CBD to the Inveresk and Newnham campuses. The new high-frequency Turn Up and Go service has buses running approximately every 15 minutes between 8am -6pm weekdays with additional services outside these hours - and five services on Saturdays - in a 10 month trial.

A joint initiative between Metro Tasmania, the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government, the service will offer convenient, sustainable transport to University students, staff and visitors as well as the general public as it also transits the Mowbray and Invermay retail and commercial precincts. This service is delivered under the University's <u>Sustainable Transport Strategy</u>.

Videos – sharing our sustainability programs and successes

AWARDS

- Repower the TUU Project
- Green Gown Australasia Facilities and Services; sustainable transport

AOSIP*

- Overview (5 min)
- Framework
- Student perspective
- Operational perspective
- Teaching perspective
- Research perspective
- Bike Hub Development thru AOSIP

*AOSIP = Academic Operations Sustainability Integration Program Participate in the 2015 Travel Behaviour Survey – go into the draw for 1 of 5 \$150 prizes

Staff Survey

Student Survey

Hosting an event this year? – make it more sustainable

We've all been there – wanting to make our next event more sustainable whether a major conference or the next staff birthday morning tea. To make this all a bit easier, find all you need to know using the <u>University's Sustainable Events Guidelines</u>.

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

Simple Actions Towards

Sustainability

University of Tasmania and Sustainable Procurement

Sustainable procurement is *smart procurement* through consideration of what you buy, re-use opportunities, buying only what you really need, purchasing products and services with high environmental performance and longevity, and social and economic impacts.

Although the purchase of environmentally and socially sound products had been happening ad hoc for a few years, the sustainable procurement journey formally started in 2011 with inclusion of sustainable procurement as a key consideration in the UTAS General Purchasing Policy and Guidelines. Through an external grant, UTAS Sustainability followed this up by engaging Eco-Buy to provide sustainable procurement training to 25 staff (north and south campuses).

The benefits of such training are clear through significant improvements in more environmentally sound purchasing decisions. For example, as shown in Figure 1, purchases from a key supplier (Staples) for products with

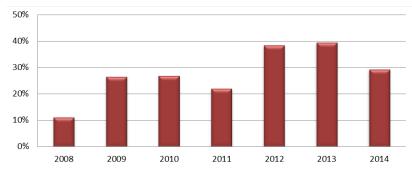


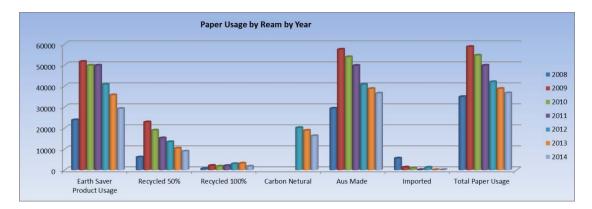
Figure 1 Percentage of expenditure on Earth Saver products in relation to total expenditure on office consumables. NB Staples brand only; 2014 decrease due to many of the cleaning products sourced by the new cleaning contractor rather than direct purchase.

sustainable options (furniture, facility, office consumables) went from 11% of total expenditure on sustainable options in 2008 to 29% in 2014 (with a high of 39% in 2013).

Other examples of sustainable procurement include ten hybrid and two all-electric cars in our vehicle fleet, use of UTZ-certified coffee by University caterers, or UTAS IT suppliers collecting computers for recycling at the product's end of life.

Further improvements rely on:

- Training and familiarisation with university <u>policy</u> and <u>guidelines</u>.
- Inclusion of technical specifications for more sustainable products, services and works, and sustainable procurement clauses in contracts.
- Re-use of surplus furniture and equipment from refurbishment projects that incur net loss for disposal and storage supported by an on-line system and guidelines to re-use existing materials before buying new.



Ethical Investment

As another element of sustainable procurement, the University committed to the principles of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI) in our institutional investment policy in late 2014 to guide our investment activities.

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