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 Sustainable Transport Strategy.
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 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 policy and guidelines.
- 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.

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**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.