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Welcome to the Sustainability Bulletin for 2022!

Your guide to all things sustainability at UTAS

The Sustainability Bulletin is your regular update on all things related to sustainability at the University of Tasmania. Although a lot goes on in the busy space as UTAS, much of it occurs behind the scenes. The SusTy Bulletin helps keep you informed about changes occurring on campus and on ways you can get involved with sustainability at UTAS, in all its various forms.

Anyone in any department, whether professional or academic staff, can contribute to the Sustainability Bulletin. If your office has a great sustainability initiative you'd like to share, or you've had success embedding sustainability principles into your teaching, we want to hear from you and share the news. Send us an email at sustainability@utas.edu.au to submit a piece!



UTAS cleans up at the Green Gown Awards 2021

The University of Tasmania was named the Sustainability Institution of the Year at the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) Awards, held in November 2021.

The Green Gown Awards are an annual award ceremony celebrating staff, students, and institutions that are leaders in sustainability innovation and sustainable change.

The Sustainability Institution of the Year is awarded to an institution "that is working hard to improve social responsibility and environmental performance through a whole-of-institution approach," said Andrew Wilkes, director of ACTS and one of the evening's hosts.

Iain Patton, the Chief Executive of EAUC (The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education, UK) who presented the top award, said the award recognises a university "that gets it, that connects it, that sees it is bigger than just its research, bigger than just its teaching, bigger than its campus."

UTAS was also awarded the Student Engagement Award for its outstanding **SIPS program**, which has enabled over 2000 UTAS students to participate in projects that have a real impact on the sustainability of the university, on topics as diverse as energy auditing, developing natural environment management plans, creating community gardens, and much more. Congrats to SIPS co-ordinator Catherine Elliot and all the past and present SIPS students for this incredible award! UTAS also received a Highly Commended recognition in the Climate Action category for its ongoing commitment to net-zero carbon.

Several UTAS staff and students received recognition for their individual commitments to sustainability. Congratulations to Fred Gale who received the Staff Excellence award for his incredible body of research and integration of sustainability into his teaching, as well as for his work co-chairing **Global Climate Change Week**. Congratulations also to Richard Siu, nominee for the Staff Excellence award, and Student Excellence award nominee Iva Klopavetski!

You can view UTAS' **Sustainability Institution of the Year award video here**.

green impact

Make a Green Impact on campus!

UTAS is participating in the Green Impact program for the 10th consecutive year!

Green Impact is a sustainability behaviour-change program which challenges teams to complete sustainability actions across the year. You'll be competing against other staff teams to see who can score Green Impact Gold at the end of the year!

How it works:

- 1) Form a team with people in your office or department. No size restrictions, you can be a team of one if you like!
- 2) Log your sustainability actions via the **online booklet**. There are over a hundred different actions you can complete at any time, at any pace, throughout the year. The more actions you complete, the more points you score!
- 3) Get audited! At the end of year, our fully trained student auditors will visit your office and check out the sustainable changes you've made, ask you some questions, and fill out an Audit Report which will be sent to Green Impact Australia for assessment.
- 4) Get the gold! Find out who wins the big prize at the Green Impact Awards, held at the end of the year. Each team will be awarded based on the number of Bronze, Silver, or Gold-level actions they completed during the course of the program.

Registrations for 2022 are opening soon. You can follow the [link here to register your team](#), or get in touch with us at green.impact@utas.edu.au!



Congratulations to Jenni Kilar, (top image, on right) and Ashany Masbath for their nominations for Staff and Student Champions in the Green Impact Australia Awards!



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Welcome to new (and new-ish) Susty team members!

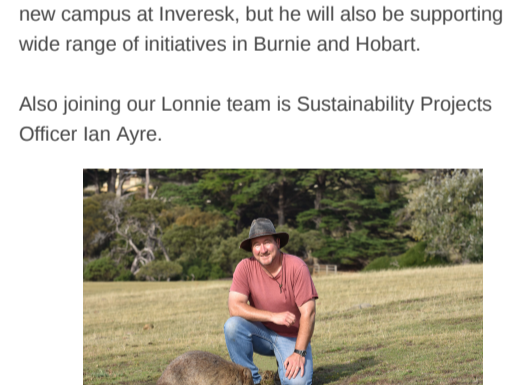
There are a few new faces floating around the Sustainability Team offices in the north and south!

Firstly, an official welcome to our Community Garden Coordinator Jeff McClintock, who started on the team in late 2021.



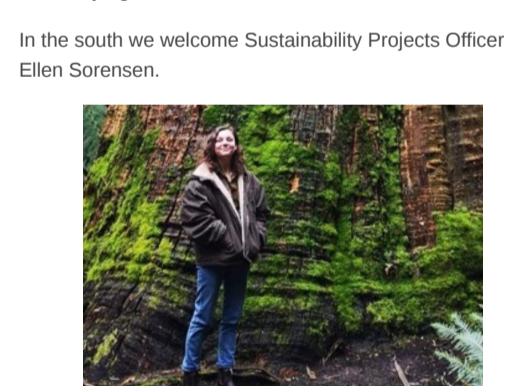
With a background in landscape design and community development, Jeff brings a unique skillset and great deal of experience to the role. He is a keen organic veggie gardener and is especially passionate about compost! When not gardening, Jeff is likely to be riding his penny-farthing bicycle, playing mandolin or helping organise community events in the village of Evandale. His role with UTAS will see him focussing on developing community gardens at the new campus at Inveresk, but he will also be supporting a wide range of initiatives in Burnie and Hobart.

Also joining our Lornie team is Sustainability Projects Officer Ellen Ayr.



Ellen has been involved with sustainability for three decades. He has worked as a project officer for a local NGO, the Queensland Conservation Council, has more than 20 years of experience as a secondary school teacher advocating for environmental and sustainability education in schools, as well as 6 years as a sessional tutor and lecturer in sustainability-related education units at UTAS. Ellen has a Masters in Environmental Education and is completing a PhD investigating the experiences of high school students with sustainability learning. His role covers a range of responsibilities involving data collection, reporting, and engagement activities, particularly in the North and North-West. When he is not working as part of the Sustainability Team, you will likely find him bushwalking and camping with his family right across Tasmania.

In the south we welcome Sustainability Projects Officer Elen Sorensen.



Elen has had a long history with the Susty team, starting as a SIPS intern in 2020. Her internship project resulted in the **SustainabilityUTAS** podcast, which shares stories about sustainability on campus from the staff and student perspective. Elen will continue sharing stories through her new role working on sustainability communication and engagement projects. Outside of work, Elen likes getting her hands dirty with the UTAS Landcare Society, bushwalking, and working on her Honours research on alpine vegetation.

... and a few farewells!

Belle Workman, former Sustainability Projects Officer (North) has left UTAS to take up an exciting position with Melbourne Uni. Belle has been instrumental in implementing sustainability throughout the university through a range of projects, including spearheading the Sustainability Induction Module, which will soon be available to all staff and students. Good luck on the mainland, Belle!

Nick Tack has left his role as Sustainability Projects Officer in the North-West, but remains with the Rural Clinical School. Nick will continue to be very much involved with sustainability efforts through his role as the chair of the Cradle Coast Sustainability Working Group and the Sustainability Committee. Thank you to Nick for his ongoing passion for sustainability at UTAS!

The Sustainability team said farewell to Will Plaster, Sustainability Project Officer (South), in January 2022. Will was well-known around campus for running the Re-Use Program, as well as being in charge of our Recycling Wall program, along with many other achievements.

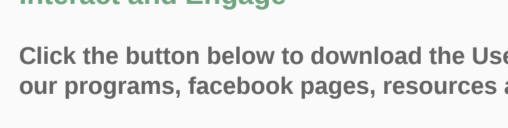
Will brought the Re-Use Program to new heights, and 2021 was one of the best years ever for the program. A whopping 41,563 kilos of waste was diverted from landfill, with a carbon savings of 127,560 kilos and a financial savings of \$25,435.23a more than any other year in the program's history! **You Can Find out more about the Re-Use Program here**. Thanks Will for your incredible efforts with the Susty team and enjoy your adventures!

A fond welcome to Mary Gill, who will be leading implementation of the Waste Minimisation Action Plan, including the Re-Use Program and the Recycling Walls, in her new role as the first ever UTAS Waste Officer with the Facilities Management team. Mary comes to us from a long history in diverting waste from landfill, especially with the City of Launceston. Welcome Mary!

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](#)



Our mailing address is: sustainability@utas.edu.au

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The biennial Sustainability Survey is ready to launch!

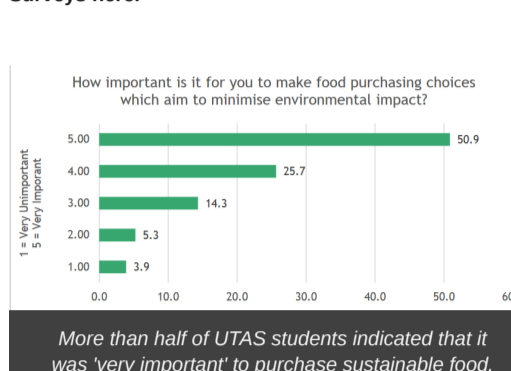
Keep an eye on your inbox for the **Sustainability Survey**, which will be available to all staff and students from the 7-20th of March.

The Sustainability Survey is an opportunity for staff and students to let us know their thoughts and opinions on sustainability, how important sustainability is in their personal lives, and their perceptions of the University's sustainability performance. The results of the survey are used to direct university sustainability strategies, development of KPIs, and the delivery of sustainability initiatives and programs.

The survey also lets us know important information about the needs of our students and staff that can't be gathered elsewhere. For example, the 2020 Student Sustainability Survey showed that an alarming **39% of UTAS students experienced food insecurity**. This vital information is being used to help shape the upcoming Sustainable Food Strategy, as well as helping to direct research undertaken by PhD candidate Sandy Murray into campus food sustainability. It also demonstrates the immense value of the **TUSA Freshie Bag program** and **our campus community gardens**.

Year after year, the Sustainability Survey has shown us that students and staff deeply value sustainability, and look for opportunities to engage in their personal lives, as well as in their work and study. Let us know how important sustainability is to you by filling out the survey when it hits your inbox in March.

You can read the results from **previous Sustainability Surveys here**.



More than half of UTAS students indicated that it was very important to purchase sustainable food.

Towards an edible campus

Globally, food production is responsible for more than a third of greenhouse gas emissions. Many things contribute to this, including methane from animals, transport, food waste and more. At the same time, many people – including 28% of UTAS students – don't always have enough to eat, or their diets are lacking in nutrition.

In response, UTAS is seeking to greatly increase the growing of fresh produce on our campuses. This aligns with the growth globally of urban agriculture and community gardening, a trend which is helping reduce food miles and boost the availability of fresh food for an increasingly urbanised population.

The flagship project for UTAS is the soon-to-be opened campus food garden at the new Inveresk campus in Launceston. With over 500 square metres of raised beds, this garden will produce large quantities of food, for the benefit of both students and the wider community. Using organic principles, and with the addition of an inverted composting machine, the garden will showcase sustainable urban food production.

Until Inveresk is up and running, Community Garden Coordinator Jeff McClintock is staying busy with a heap of smaller projects. At Newnham he has worked with students in the newly formed Gardening Society to resurrect a disused glasshouse and garden area. The group has propagated seedlings, formed garden beds and paths and grown nearly 30 varieties of vegetables, fruits, herbs and edible flowers. Plentiful produce is being used for regular cooking sessions, distributed amongst students and even provided to one of the uni's cafes in exchange for free meals.



The new food garden at Newnham Campus.

Similar projects are also underway in Hobart, with a recently completed extension to Paddy's Patch food garden in the student accommodation precinct in Sandy Bay, the revitalisation of raised gardens at Hobart City Apartments in the CBD, and plans to build a food garden at the student accommodation at 42 Melville St. Burnie doesn't miss out either, with a new raised wicking bed being installed at Annum Apartments as part of a SIPS project by student Tom Croxall.

Whilst most of the gardens mentioned focus on growing traditional backyard vegies, Jeff is also keen to promote the growing of Tasmanian native food plants, particularly at West Park in Burnie, where there is an opportunity for Aboriginal food systems to be integrated into the landscape surrounding the campus building.

All of this is part of a whole-of-university vision for what might best be described as an 'edible campus'. Growing, harvesting and sharing fresh produce; cooking and eating delicious food together; working in community to build and maintain gardens and to make compost; learning how to establish small enterprises – and all this done in a way that is good for both people and the planet. This our big dream for sustainable food production at UTAS.



Community Garden Coordinator Jeff McClintock and student Yve preparing the new beds at Paddy's Patch.

Green roofs at West Park campus

More than 10,000 plants have been putting down roots high above the University of Tasmania's new Cradle Coast campus.

The sustainable green roof is a unique design feature of the development, inspired by the surrounding coastal environment at Burnie's West Park.

The roof echoes the ecological significance of the site and wider region by integrating species of local provenance that are tolerant of the site's conditions.

It's expected to attract birds, insects, invertebrates, and even small reptiles that will contribute to the rich biodiversity of the site.

Fytogreen was the specialist green infrastructure company that implemented the roof, commencing installation after leak detection testing of the base waterproof membrane had been completed.

Components were craned onto the roof, with protective and drainage layers first fitted, before a whopping 350m³ of specially engineered soil media was spread, followed by dry irrigation infrastructure, stone mulch and finally planting.

Geoff Heard, Fytogreen Managing Director said the green roof at West Park was likely the biggest of its kind in Northern Tasmania.

"There are a number of benefits of having a green roof. Aesthetics is one, and hanging flora and fauna back into a built-up space is another," Mr Heard said.

"We'll probably find a lot of bird habitat taking to the space and that's the exciting part – the roof will continue to evolve. I don't think we'd be surprised to find mutton birds burrowing in up there."

"There are 26 species which make up the 10,107 plants. All are native to the Cradle Coast region and can be found within a 40-kilometre radius of the West Park site."

"These include groundcovers, sedges, lilies, shrubs and climbers which are all tolerant to the coastal conditions – particularly wind and salt."

The plants have been positioned on the roof in accordance to areas of exposure with some of a harder nature offering protection to those less tolerant.

"Over time, the plants will self-organise in response to the elements experienced on site," Mr Heard said.

The roof also comprises a leak detection and alarm system, a rain sensor, and technology enabling remote irrigation management from rainwater tanks on site.

The infrastructure will catch and recycle 30% from every irrigation event, helping reduce stormwater run-off into the sea and minimising overall water use.

Another sustainable benefit is the thermal insulation properties that will keep the building cool in the warmer months – helping reduce energy consumption. The roof will also provide an acoustic buffer.

Local labour was used for the installation and planting phase of the project in January, and local supplies were sourced wherever possible including most of the plants, mulch and a specialist, lightweight soil media – Hydrocot 40 from Banricks, helping keep the circular economy going.

University of Tasmania Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Jim Conway said it had been exciting to watch the roof come to life.

"The green roof is a really innovative solution to having an environmentally sustainable building, but it also allows the campus to blend into the surrounding landscape," Professor Conway said.

"This year something the University started to do and thought was important. We needed to have a building that was of the highest environmental sustainability but which also complemented West Park and the wider region."

"It is something that represents Tasmania and the North-West."

The implementation of the green roof was overseen by Fytogreen, with landscape architects ASPECT Studios also contributing to the design under the guidance of John Waide Architects.



We're always looking to share great sustainability stories from across our campuses. If you would like to submit a piece to the Sustainability Bulletin, get in touch with us here.

Next Bulletin Date: 19 April

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