Issue 20 | May – June 2021

Your roadmap for all things sustainability in 2021

Smart Bins arrive at UTAS!

The University is trialing the use of bin sensor technology to improve collection efficiencies and the quality of waste data for reporting purposes.

Waste collections have previously been designed around static routes and set schedules, and despite best scheduling planning, this can lead to situations where bins are nearly empty at collection or sometimes overflowing.

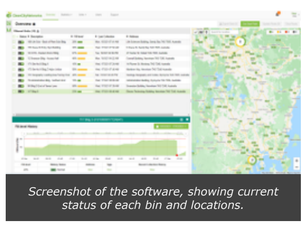
Five bin sensors have been installed at Newnham Campus, one at the Centre for the Arts, and four at Sandy Bay Campus. The sensors monitor the levels of waste, sending real-time data to Clean City Networks software via Global System for Mobile (GSM) networks.

The software enables constant monitoring, tracking data on volumes and collection efficiencies. A notification is sent to both the University and the waste contractor when the bin is getting close to full and requires emptying. It allows UTAS and the waste collectors to act ahead of time using predictive algorithms, leading to more efficient bin collections, collecting bins only when full, and cost savings from not emptying bins which are not full.

Two SIPS students, Ruowen Deng and Danli Yuan, are assisting with the trial. The students are undertaking a visual skip bin audit to verify the data collected by the sensors over a six week period. If you have any questions about the smart bins or another waste service at the University, please contact **waste.service@utas.edu.au**.

The CleanFlex Sensor and how it monitors rubbish levels in the bin.

Rowena Zwart, Infrastructure Sustainability Project Officer, and Danli Yuan, a SIPS placement student, showing the sensor installed near School of Natural Sciences Building in Sandy Bay Campus.



Screenshot of the software, showing current status of each bin and locations.

Biodiversity celebrated in May

Biodiversity Day information night
Friday 21 May (6:00-7:00pm)
A virtual introduction to Biodiversity Day and the importance of citizen science for biodiversity management. It included an introduction to how to use the **iNaturalist App** for biodiversity monitoring and the newly launched on campus project 'UTAS wildlife on campus'.

Celebrate Biodiversity Day: UTAS Bioblitz 2021
Saturday 22 May (10:00am-12:00pm)
Be part of citizen science on campus to celebrate Biodiversity Day!

We learnt from University of Tasmania experts including PhD students and Distinguished Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick about the wildlife you can see around campus.

We used the iNaturalist App for the 'UTAS wildlife on campus project' to record plants, animals (including mammals, birds and insects) we find on the day.

Contribute to the development of an online sustainability induction module for UTAS staff and students

What is the sustainability induction module?
We are developing a sustainability induction module in MyLO. The module will provide all UTAS community members with the knowledge and tools they need to integrate sustainability into their everyday decision-making and practices. The module is being co-designed with Aboriginal colleagues, behaviour change experts and sustainability educators.

How can I get involved?
We will be piloting the module with a group of staff and students who are representative of the UTAS community. This reference group will be asked to complete a pre- and post- module survey, and to participate in a focus group following completion of the module to provide specific feedback.

If you are interested in participating in the module pilot, please contact the sustainability team at **sustainability.utas@utas.edu.au** for further information.

Fight climate change and help the University remain certified carbon neutral – for free!

The University of Tasmania has been carbon neutral certified since 2016 under the Commonwealth **Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard**. As part of the certification, we offset our greenhouse gas emissions by investing in projects that prevent, reduce or remove emissions.

UCapture is a green-tech platform that offsets our University's carbon footprint, for free, when you shop online. We are not asking you to shop more (please don't!) but to let UCapture work while doing your usual shopping, for example if you are booking a car share or travel within Australia.

How does UCapture work?

1. Visit **www.ucapture.com/UTAS**
2. Install the UCapture extension
3. Join UCapture: create your account.
4. Let it work!

What about privacy?
UCapture does not track your browsing or collect personal information.

If you have questions or comments, please contact the **Sustainability Team**. Thanks for participating in this free and easy climate change initiative!

Launching the Waste Minimisation Action Plan

The University of Tasmania **Waste Minimisation Action Plan 2021-2025** responds to the **UTAS Waste Management Discussion Paper 2019**.

UTAS acknowledges the nature of different waste streams produced by a university (e.g., quarantine, medical, cytotoxic, experimental, etc.), which means that the aspiration for zero waste to landfill can present both challenges and opportunities. The Waste Minimisation Action Plan has four objectives:

1. To implement a circular economy approach to waste management in all University operations and activities.
2. To engage and increase participation of students and staff in University waste minimisation initiatives.
3. To engage with external stakeholders for strategy, planning and operational linkages to meet or exceed Australasian tertiary education sector best practice.
4. To minimise greenhouse gas emissions associated with production and management of waste.

***Download** Waste Minimisation Action Plan 2021 - 2025*

***Download** UTAS Waste Management Discussion Paper 2019*

Students for Sustainability Working Group

The working group is a formal working group of the UTAS Sustainability Committee, is student-led and governed, and is set to be a gathering of student leaders from across the University to further sustainability causes. The working group is chaired by SIPS Fellow Tim Boyle and Tim's vision for the network is to be a series of connections spreading across the University colleges and campuses. "Much like a spider's web, when a tremor occurs in one area of the web it is felt across the structure, creating a strong base from which new practices towards sustainability can be learned and integrated" – as Tim has put it. The structure of this working group was founded on the learnings from other universities across the world who have similar groups, informed by the research Tim undertook last year, and so those connections span even further across the globe.

Who better to be involved with the ever-unfolding processes of sustainable action than students? This working group is driven by a vision of change toward a more sustainable world and university and students have put their hands up to help lead the way.

What would you like to see happening at UTAS?
Connect through
sustainability.utas@utas.edu.au

The first meeting of the Students for Sustainability Working Group.

Susty Building Blitzes

Infrastructure Services and Development (ISD) is coordinating a number of 'susty building blitzes' in 2021 on some high use buildings across the state to improve their overall operational performance and contribute to a sustainable university. There are six buildings in Burnie, Launceston and Sandy Bay that are getting some focused treatment in April and June. Some will have extensive upgrades to lighting and other energy efficiency measures as well as sanitary and plumbing upgrades to lower water use.

All will have the new waste management approach implemented wherein there is a consolidation of waste bins to building entrances and tea rooms/kitchenettes and provision of compostables collection (waste food, compostable take away containers, etc). Staff and students in these buildings will also be engaged through the **Green Impact** sustainability engagement program.

For more information on the blitzes, contact **sustainability.utas@utas.edu.au**.

Branch out your network

Connect with fellow Tasmanians through **Education for Sustainability Tasmania**.

Join **Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS)** to connect with other sustainability champions in higher education in our region of the planet.

Learn more about what other institutions are doing in the world of sustainability as part of the **Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)**.

Explore United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland higher education sustainability efforts through the **Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education.**

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

Upcoming Events

UTAS Landcare is hosting Lunchtime Landcare every Tuesday 1pm, meeting on the stairs at the TUSA building on the Sandy Bay Campus. Get to know the campus better and improve the bushlands by joining in with their lunchtime sessions. Tools and gloves provided – just add you and water. To register, please press the Going button on the Facebook event.

Where? Where? Wedge! is a citizen science program run by Nature Trackers, with funding from Bookend Trust, which monitors populations of the threatened Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle. The 2021 surveys are on 14-16 & 28-30 May, between 8 am and 4.30 pm. Learn more and book your survey square(s) now!