



Stepping up to #2 globally for overall impact

The University of Tasmania was recently recognised for generating some of the most significant sustainability impacts of any university in the world. We not only retained our mantle of #1 globally for Climate Action for the third year in a row but stepped up in many other areas across the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

While we acknowledge there is still a long way to go, results like these bare out what is a massive ongoing effort by many people – our academic and professional staff, students, broader community and other partners – to operate more sustainably and provide outstanding, interdisciplinary education that both explores and instigates sustainability.

Released in June, the 2024 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact rankings placed the University at #9 in the world for Good Health and Wellbeing, #5 for Life below Water, #2 for Life on Land and remarkably, #2 globally for overall impact against all 17 SDGs. This result marks a steady rise from 5th in the world last year and 7th just three years ago.

More than 2,150 universities from 125 countries were assessed for this year's rankings, with impact measured against four main criteria: research, stewardship, outreach and of course, teaching.

Activities that have contributed to these results include the University's carbon neutral certification, in place since 2016, and full divestment from fossil fuel companies since 2021. Publications in highly ranked academic journals are also critical to the rankings. Academic publications from over 550 University of Tasmania researchers contributed to the overall second placing, and publications from over 140 researchers contributed to the number one ranking for climate action.



International and Australasian Green Gowns

In other news, the University has been named a finalist in no fewer than 9 categories of the 2024 Australasian Green Gown Awards, to be announced 7 November as part of this year's ACTS Conference being held in Launceston. Find out about all the wonderful Green Gown Award finalists.

We are also excited to have been named a finalist in the International Green Gowns for the **Speckle Hotels** project led by Architecture and Design students and staff along with Greening Australia, to be announced in September. Watch this great video about the project.



Sustainability meets great food

Now in its fourth year, **AgriCULTURED** is a vibrant celebration of Launceston's status as a UNESCO City of Gastronomy. It's not just about fancy food though – the four-day event has a strong focus on sustainability and food justice issues. From paddock to plate to compost heap, AgriCULTURED explores how better food systems can contribute to healthier societies and a regenerated planet.

A highlight of the 2024 edition of AgriCULTURED (1-4 Aug) was an inspirational keynote address by Grow it Local founder, chef, and TV presenter Paul West. His take-home message was simple: if you want to improve your life and strengthen community, plant a garden! Other discussion topics included regenerative farming, agribusines startups and agritourism.

Another feature – new this year – were two free community Soup Stops. These were conducted by staff from MCNA's 24 Carrot Gardens program and were held at lunchtime in the UTAS Inveresk Community Garden, and the following evening at the nearby Sawtooth Gallery. Both were well attended, with 180 cups of soup served at the Inveresk event alone. Live music also added to the festive atmosphere.

As well as providing the venue, all the garnish parsley was sourced from the ample quantities growing at Inveresk. Stop by and sample the produce that Jeff, Lars and the team have been growing.



Connections that mooove us forward

In a local example of sustainable improvements being made right across supply chains, the Tasmanian community are now able to access not just locally produced milk in bulk, reusable kegs, but new low-emissions milk created through a partnership with another Tasmanian innovator.

Along with their normal feed, many of the cows on Ashgrove's northern Tasmanian dairy farms are given small amounts of Seafeed - the Tasmanian red Asparagopsis seaweed supplement created by Sea Forest - to reduce the methane they expel into the atmosphere. The Eco-Milk produced is now available through The Lidder Way's milk-on-tap systems, in some supermarkets, cafes and other outlets across the state and beyond.

The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) are currently partnering with Sea Forest to analyse the effectiveness of these low-emission feed technologies at their Elliott Dairy Research Facility.



Mapping our curriculum to the SDGs

All units across the University of Tasmania have been mapped to the Sustainable Development Goals as part of a multi-year project to embed sustainability in the curriculum.

Students will soon be able to filter their search for units across all disciplines according to their SDG impact area of interest.

UTAS are among the first universities in the world undertaking this work, which involves a massive coordinated effort from numerous university staff. The next step will be for teaching staff to review each other's units to ensure mapping is accurate and comprehensive.

For more details, the **Handbook for Monitoring and Evaluating Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education** by White and others provides a roadmap for universities interested in this work, their learning framework spiral is included in this article (discuss, scope, plan, support, evaluate, reflect).



Old banners given funky new life

A southern Tasmanian artisan who diverts old canvas sails from landfill to create high quality totes and shoulder bags has recently partnered with the University and ACTS to reuse our decommissioned marketing banners and screens in a useful and beautiful way.

Hand crafted by Recolab, these sturdy tote bags use some of the eye-catching imagery from banners that celebrated previous years' Times Higher Impact Rankings.



More Tasmanians discover the 2030 SDGs Game

In early July, Cathy Walker from the Sustainability team ran the latest of their 2030 SDGs Game events at Cradle Coast for medical and nursing staff and students.

This innovative, educational game puts teams in the driver's seat of creating a sustainable future, offering a unique opportunity to learn, strategise, and make a positive impact. The Sustainable Development Goals can seem daunting, given the scale of the challenge we face. Yet this game helps to clarify the importance of the goals, for individuals, businesses, communities and countries.

Cradle Coast participant, SIPS Intern Gabrielle Dewsbury, said, 'I really enjoyed the SDG game... it was eye opening to see how we all at first worked against each other, and then, with each other to drive change and create a socio-economically balanced world with care to the environment - achieving multiple SDGs. It really showed me how wicked, interconnected problems need partnership and teamwork to be solved'.

The Game was also run with a large group of year 9, 10 and 11 students at the Sustainability Learning Centre in Hobart in May this year. This group of 40 students from 3 different schools had a great time learning about the SDGs while playing a fun, interactive game.

Several of the students and teachers commented that they learned a lot about the SDGs and how our world is interconnected, adding that they would recommend the game to peers and colleagues as a great team building exercise.

Contact cathy.walker@utas.edu.au to find out when you can join a Game!



New learning spaces ready for cyclists

Overlooking Hobart from the Domain, the University's Philip Smith Centre has recently undergone a complete restoration, ready to train outdoor guides and environmental educators, as well as support students with English language.

Upgrades to the historic building have also included some serious end-of-trip facilities for those getting to class by bike. There are 4 outdoor hoops on the Brooker Hwy side of the building, while inside in Room 104, you can find 4 wall hangers, 5 slot spots and 3 hoops, conveniently co-located with lockers, toilets and showers.



Warming the cockles and feeding hungry bellies

Source Eco Hub at Sandy Bay campus is looking for volunteers to help with their weekly Soup Kitchen - a pay-what-you-can hot lunch they offer from 12:00pm to 2:00pm every Tuesday. Volunteers are needed for shifts from 9:00-11:00am, 11:00am-1:00pm, 1:00-3:00pm or the whole day (9:00am-3:00pm)!

Get in touch with Gaby at Source on 0417 435 721 to register your interest.

On the topic of soup, some students at Cradle Coast campus recently turned their own home-grown veg into a mid-winter feast.

Five pumpkins of different varieties grew over the late summer and autumn months in the Atrium Apartments garden bed, weighing in at 15kgs total after being picked! Roughly 18 litres of pumpkin soup and multiple home cooked baguettes fed 30 hungry students.



Join the Newnham Creek Bioblitz

This September, the Sustainability team is partnering with Tasmanian Student Landcare Association, the UTAS Environment Society, Tamar NRM and the local community to further the rehabilitation of Newnham Creek, Launceston.

This creek is identified as a priority catchment of kanamaluka/River Tamar and is a critical site to catch sediments, nutrients and rubbish before they make it into the estuary. This is part of a multi-year project first inspired by students and staff in geography and education 10 years ago. The project is one of a number of on-campus biodiversity projects that contribute to the University's commitment to being a Nature Positive University.

Register here and come along to Newnham Creek 10:00am-2:00pm Saturday 21 September.

Get hands on planting native grasses and trees, removing weeds and connecting with the people that make this happen!

Reach out to sustainability.utas@utas.edu.au for any questions or further information.

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The stories in the Sustainability Bulletin are written on the Country of palawa pakana people in lutruwita/Tasmania. We acknowledge that their sovereignty was never ceded and we pay deep respect to palawa pakana people as they continue to care for Country.



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