

# Sustainability Bulletin



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## A resourceful twist to recovery after floods

Thanks to the dynamic duo (Jason and Doug) the Re-Use program is back up and running after playing a key role in the Sandy Bay flood recovery efforts.

The Re-Use Program provides UTAS staff with an alternative to purchasing new furniture items, by cataloguing unwanted furniture from around the University and making them available for reuse by all staff. The program provides not only a cost effective and immediate solution to staff furniture needs, but also offers significant environmental savings.

The Re-Use Program was used to set up temporary learning and teaching spaces for students and staff affected by the floods. Through the tireless effort of the Facilities Management Team, a large amount of furniture was also salvaged or sent to auction, or in the case of metals, recycled. Information Technology Services also ensured flood affected IT equipment including mud covered equipment from Engineering Level 1 was recycled. If you have furniture items you would like to donate to the Re-Use Program or would like to find out more about this program [click here](#).

## Green Impact Launch

The Green Impact change and engagement program launches on 18 July for a pilot period in 2018. Green Impact is designed to make it easy and engaging for staff and students to better understand environmental and social sustainability, show how they can effect change, and support them in achieving sustainability outcomes.

For more information visit [www.nus.org.uk/greenimpact](http://www.nus.org.uk/greenimpact) or email [sustainability.utas@utas.edu.au](mailto:sustainability.utas@utas.edu.au)



VERY BRIEF

## Project Overview

### We've had some brilliant SIPS interns working on various projects in Semester 1.

Students were asked to present their work to the sustainability team, the ISD Deputy Director (Mike Hunibell) and the Chair of the Sustainability Committee (Margaret Otlowski). All of us in the audience were blown away by the enthusiasm, passion and high quality of work demonstrated by the students. Projects varied from Lisa's work on diverting fish from landfill at the Taroona experimental fish facility, to the work done by Faisal, Nina, Ella and Millie K engaging students from diverse groups and backgrounds in conversations about what it would mean to be a sustainable UTAS, to some data crunching by Vicky and Lauren about how we measure environmental and economic savings of furniture re-use.

Not only were the student projects fantastic but the staff working with them are also clearly doing a good job if this feedback is anything to go by:

*"I've never spent time with people that are so deeply passionate, generous, ambitious, determined and intelligent - it is such an incredible environment to be in and it makes me realise the sort of person that I want to be to the people around me."*



For updates, including Sustainability Committee information, news and events:



[www.utas.edu.au/sustainability](http://www.utas.edu.au/sustainability)

# Plastic free July

## Research at the University of Tasmania

This July take the opportunity to learn about research conducted by academics at the University of Tasmania, explore academic papers such as those by Dr Jennifer Lavers, Dr Joanna Vince, Professor Marcus Haward, Dr Heidi Auman, Dr Patti Virtue, Dr Frederique Olivier, and media articles by academics including:

- Learn how marine plastic is an issue for ocean governance in Professor Marcus Haward's article [Why plastic in our ocean is impacting the UN](#)
- Read Dr Jennifer Lavers guide to Sustainable shopping: [take the 'litter' out of glitter](#)
- Visit [Vanishing Point Unseen](#) to learn about this collaborative exhibition from scientists and artists

## What can you do?

It has been great to see so many staff and students on campus using alternatives to single use plastic. There are many simple actions you can take to reduce single-use plastic consumption:

- Bring your own container to buy lunch, cup for hot drinks and bags for shopping
- Refuse single use plastics such as plastic straws, cups, plastic bags, items wrapped in plastic, etc
- When purchasing new equipment or stationary ask your supplier what packaging will be used and request no single-use plastics,
- In your catering booking request reusable plates, glasses and cutlery,
- Refill your water bottle at one of the drinking water stations on campus at major activity centres and bike hubs.

On the Sandy Bay campus, staff and students can visit Source with their own bags or reusable containers for their fresh fruit and vegetables, breads, cereals, flours and chocolates. At other campuses, find your local wholefoods store to do the same.

## What to do with plastics on campus?

On campus you can recycle hard plastics in the yellow bins provided in communal areas such as photocopy rooms. If you cannot find a yellow recycling bin near your office contact Waste Services ([waste.service@utas.edu.au](mailto:waste.service@utas.edu.au)). [You can also download the University's free guide to recycling poster.](#)

Soft plastics such as any bags or plastic wrap cannot be recycled through the yellow bins, they will contaminate the recycling and be sent to landfill. Collect any soft plastics you produce and drop them at supermarket front desks at Coles and Woolworths for recycling through a specific soft plastics recycling program.

Takeaway coffee cups (this includes those labelled biodegradable) cannot be recycled in Tasmania, so please use the waste/landfill bins. These will contaminate the recycling bin and will be sent to landfill so please use a reusable cup. The University does not have facilities for commercial composting which means 'biocups' will be sent to landfill.

Plastic furniture can be part of the University's furniture re-use program; visit the link below to find out what is available. If you have large plastic items in your office or workspace find your nearest recycling hub by visiting our [website](#).





## \$12,500

TO SUPPORT INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATIONS!

### ChargeSmart grants allocation

The University was successful in the State Government's ChargeSmart grant program, receiving \$12,500 to support installation of electric car charging stations at Cradle Coast, Newnham and Sandy Bay campuses. These charging stations will be available to staff and visitors. These charging facilities build on the electric bike charging the University has been providing since 2012 and the electric motorcycle and scooter charging points at various facilities in the Hobart CBD University City Apartments.



## Events and Activities

Plastic Free July: Visit <a href="http://www.plasticfreejuly.org">www.plasticfreejuly.org</a> for more information	<b>July</b>
Bike Futures symposium and forum	<b>05 July</b>
Green Impact pilot launch and information session	<b>18 July</b>
O-week Stalls participation: A focus on SIPS activities and some of our operational activities	<b>O-week</b>
'A Night at the University' - A University Welcome Week event – sustainability participation with a focus on SIPS activities and some of our operational activities	<b>Welcome week</b>
Green Impact information session	<b>01 August</b>
Open Day participation at Sandy Bay	<b>05 August</b>
Open Day participation at Inveresk	<b>11 August</b>
Falling Trash competition	<b>06 – 26 August</b>
Sustainability Forum for staff and students	<b>29 August</b>