

sustainability bulletin



ISSUE 11 December – January 19/20



AT A GLANCE

Snapshot of 2019

Engineering Re-use success story

Inaugural Strategic Framework for Sustainability approved

The University Council approved the inaugural Strategic Framework for Sustainability in December 2019. This document responds to and expands on the holistic commitments in the University Strategic Plan 2019-2024 and the key outcome areas for the University.

Our Strategic Framework for Sustainability provides a collective focus on activities in and for sustainability across the University and in so doing encapsulates our commitment across four areas:

Goal 1: A leader in sustainability governance and implementation.

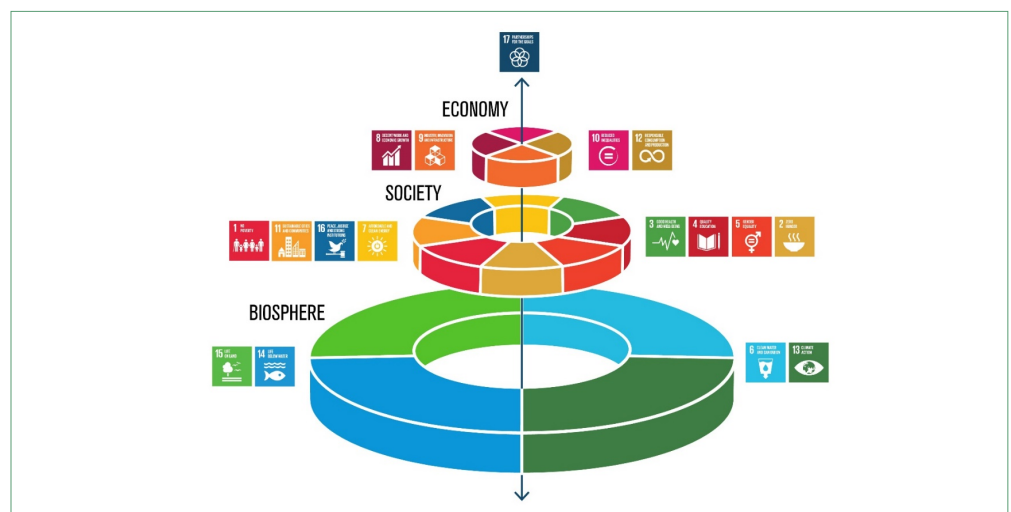
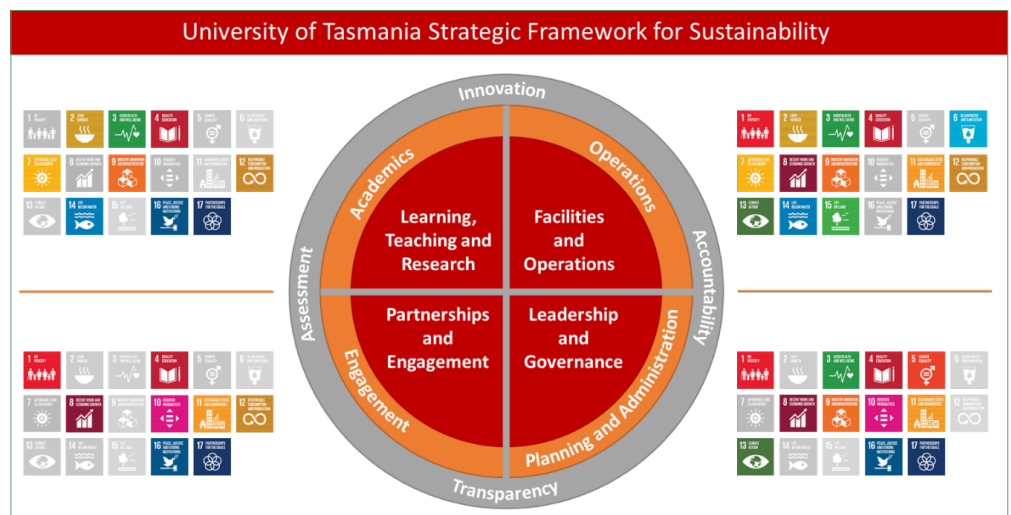
Goal 2: A leader in sustainability education and research.

Goal 3: Partnerships and engagement activities deliver sustainability outcomes.

Goal 4: A University committed to sustainability in its facilities and operations management.

Achievement of these goals are supported by whole of institution aspirational, absolute and continuous improvement indicators and targets that are currently under development over the coming months. Progress to attainment is framed through our contribution areas and aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with annual assessment and reporting.

The framework will be available for download from the University Sustainability webpage soon.



FOR UPDATES, INCLUDING SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE INFORMATION, NEWS AND EVENTS
utas.edu.au/sustainability

Green Impact Awards

It has been a great year for Green Impact at the University of Tasmania with 16 teams spread across Hobart, Launceston and Burnie campuses. The teams completed 232 sustainability actions in the online Green Impact toolkit. To celebrate team achievements, we held a cross-campus awards ceremony to recognise the sustainability actions from staff and students. Congratulations to the 2019 Green Impact program award winners:

Overall Winner: Waste Watchers TUU CCC

Staff Champions: Richard Siu (IT Services) & Courtney McGowan (Health Sciences)

Student Champions: Jess Flint, TIA CCC & Chester James-Smith, Rural Clinical School CCC

Community Action: TIA CCC

Engagement Innovators: CoSE Reach Out! Schools Engagement Team

Environmental Improvement: Rural Clinical School CCC

We will be rolling out this program for 2020, if you are interested in taking part in sustainability initiatives on campus contact catherine.elliott@utas.edu.au for more information.



Davina Smith (L) and Cathy Walker (R) from the winning Waste Watchers TUU team from Cradle Coast Campus, with Jess Flint, joint Green Impact Student Champion (centre)

Rolling out the first Recycling Wall

The University with the support of the City of Hobart is trialling a way to make recycling some common use items accessible to students and staff. A new 'Recycling Wall' is installed on the Sandy Bay campus in the Social Science entrance off the main Mall.

The Recycling Wall has separate units for disposal of bread tags, toner cartridges, batteries, plastic bottle tops, mail satchels, small e-waste items, cosmetic containers and packaging, plastic tooth brushes and toothpaste containers, mobile phones and x-rays. Waste items collected are subject to change. Many of these items that would usually end up in landfill can be recycled to extract precious raw material for remanufacturing or to make new products.

The University seeks to enable staff and

students to choose more sustainable outcomes through a commitment to a sustainable future. In April Vice-Chancellor Rufus Black signed the University Commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in line with the University's Strategic Direction. By installing the Recycling Wall the University is working to support the targets and indicators of the SDG goals and is one step closer to playing our part towards a zero waste to landfill future.

The project is operating as a pilot model and will be reassessed in the future to achieve the best outcomes and possible deployment of additional collection points at other campuses and facilities.

Please contact sustainability.utas@utas.edu.au for any queries or to provide feedback.



The recycling wall located inside the Social Science entrance off the main mall

SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS THE CAMPUS

Engineering Re-use Success Story

The Engineering Level 1 refurbishment project was a model of cooperation between ISD, Professional Services, the builder, and the client (College of Sciences and Engineering). We have worked together to deliver a bright, airy student collaborative space, lab spaces and support offices in an area previously described as the Engineering basement. The development forms a key part of CoSE's strategy to enhance the student experience for our growing ICT and Engineering student cohorts.

The Re-use system worked well for this project as a mixed bag of furniture suited the design goals for the space. Creative reuse of furniture and building materials reduced supply chain environmental costs, along with a tidy \$50-70K saving.

It has been a pleasure to work with the whole ISD team – we only achieve outcomes like this working together.

Feedback from our students has been overwhelmingly positive.

"It was useful to have the Reuse Program as it meant finding appropriate furniture was simple and fast because it was all in the one location. I didn't have to contact multiple people to find items and I could easily see what was available. The furniture in the system was good quality and created a nice space for the students to use. Doug, Jason and Jasper were on hand to move items and delivery was simple." - ISD staff Brooke Sellers .



Jasper McCormack, Mike Hunnibell, Brook Sellers and Carl Bennet in the refurbished student study space in Engineering Level 1

Snapshot of 2019

Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, signed the University commitment to the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals on the 18 April 2019.



The Sustainability team conducted the 4th biennial [Travel Behaviour Survey](#). Results of the survey indicated that staff and students attending work or classes in the city are more likely to cycle or use public transport as a main mode of travel.



The University's total emissions for 2018 were 35,614 t CO₂-e. As a certified Climate Active Carbon Neutral organisation, we offset all our emissions.

Some of the [offset projects](#) we participated in are: Paroo River North Environmental Project, Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve and the Risk husk based thermal energy generation project at Thot Not.



SIPS students at semester 2 2019 presentation



Sustainability Integration Program for Students ([SIPS](#))

"My placement with SIPS was a unique learning experience and a lovely journey full of personal growth and beautiful encounters"- SIPS Interns Yanqi Wang

Congratulations to the 41 students who contributed to on campus sustainability through SIPS internships in 2019! 24 students undertook paid roles and 17 were on curricular or co-curricular placement opportunities.

During the year 240 students were involved in in-class sustainability projects at the University.

We look forward to seeing what students will achieve in 2020!



By re-using office furniture among staff through the Re-use Program, in 2019 the University save \$110,952 and avoided:

- 26,155kg of carbon emissions
- 13,005kg of waste

For more details on the Re-use program [click here](#)

A sustainable take at the UTAS staff End of Year Celebration

The annual UTAS staff End of Year Celebration was held at all four campuses with over 2000 professional and academic staff attending. Kudos to Chartwells who did a fantastic job with great attention to detail on ensuring an environmentally sustainable event.

The sustainability focus extended to not just catering and provision of bins but also included eco-friendly decoration, showcasing local produce, minimal eco-friendly packaging and sustainable marketing material.

A few examples of these include:

- Living trees and kokedamas (instead of plastic!).
- Dried branches in the glass jars from personal gardens, decorated with locally sourced cherries and artichokes (instead of baubles).
- Recycled wooden trees decorated with home-made salt dough cookies.
- Locally sourced green and red apples.
- Compostable packaging, biodegradable plates, cutlery and cups.

- Menus written on chalkboards or printed on recycled craft paper.
- Grazing table featured grilled, roasted and marinated vegetables and cheese from local farmers.
- Produce across the event were locally and ethically sourced where possible, highlighting the great range and quality of goods available in Tasmania.
- Glassware for wine.
- Hale bales were donated to a local horse farm after the event.

We would like to thank Chartwells for displaying great initiative and embracing the ethos of sustainability at their events and we look forward to more creative initiatives in 2020!



Biodegradable plates, cutlery and artichoke baubles



Organics waste bin at the event



Using glassware and biodegradable cups for drinks

Upcoming Sustainability Activities

Stay tuned for more activities in our next bulletin!

Community Garden day (only for Hobart city apartment residents): 9 February

Have your say in the Sustainability Survey for staff and students: 2-22 March

Sustainability Fellows Lunchtime Workshops on Wednesdays in Semesters 1 and 2

Sustainability Careers Expo at Sandy Bay campus: 1 April

Circular Economy Action Plan

Health and Sustainability on Newnham Campus: 4-5 May

Green Impact Staff Engagement Program

Ride2Work Day: 21 October

Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) Conference and Green Gown Awards Australasia hosted by the University of Tasmania: 18-20 November