



Sustainability Report 2016



Sustainability has become central to our success



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Our commitment to sustainability



Professor Attila Brungs
Vice-Chancellor and President

Statement from the Vice Chancellor

As a university, we exist for the public good and have a responsibility to contribute to our community. We do this through our research and education, but we also do this by focusing on reducing the environmental impact of our operations. We've made great strides in this area and are committed to embedding sustainability throughout UTS; into our core business of research, and teaching and learning, as well as continuing to improve the sustainability of operational activities and engaging with the community.

One initiative I am particularly proud of is using our buying power to help grow the solar energy industry through our use of Power Purchase Agreements. These agreements help generators secure the financing they need to construct solar farms and thus, support the growth of new businesses. We hope to do more in this area, and that our actions help encourage other large organisations to become involved in such initiatives.

Our progress towards sustainability is ongoing and is a collaborative effort involving staff, students, academics, researchers and community and industry partners. The introduction of our Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation places UTS in a leadership position to evaluate and respond to the breath and complexity of sustainability challenges and to develop innovative solutions through transdisciplinary collaboration.

This Sustainability Report demonstrates our commitment to a process of continual improvement, innovation and performance, as well as sharing some of our stories of success.



Danielle McCartney
Manager, Sustainability

From the Sustainability Manager

The University of Technology Sydney is proud to present our inaugural public Sustainability Report. Universities have a vital role to play in finding solutions to the growing environmental, social and economic challenges facing society and in driving change towards sustainability.

The Report covers our sustainability achievements and performance during the 2016 calendar year from 1st January to 31st December. We intend to report our performance annually.

This Sustainability Report outlines UTS's journey and progress towards sustainability and celebrates the breadth and depth of sustainability activities undertaken at the University in 2016. The Report includes our

achievements and performance in 2016 and responds to the objectives and actions set out in the UTS Sustainability Strategy. The vast majority of our current sustainability initiatives represent a collaboration of students, staff, partners and the community working together to achieve positive outcomes.

Thank-you to the UTS Sustainability team for your continued commitment and contribution in 2016. My sincere thanks to members of the Sustainability Steering Committee for your ongoing support and guidance. Lastly thank-you to all of our sustainability champions across the University who make a positive difference every day.

“Sustainability is a core part of the teaching curriculum. Students and their future employers now take a more balanced view on business priorities.

They see sustainability
and corporate
responsibility as key
skills to be embraced in
the teaching and learning
program.”

- Suzanne Benn,
Professor of Sustainable Enterprise
UTS Business School

2016 highlights

Teaching and Learning

Official launch of the **Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledge (CAIK)**.



Launched the new **Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation**.



Signed up to the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**.

Research

Winner



National Research Innovation Award for a water utilities project.

Facilities and Operations



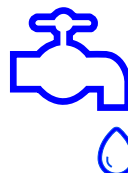
92% of Building 2's demolition waste recycled.



Donated **5 shipping container loads of used furniture** to schools in the Cook Islands.



50 tonnes of food waste turned into **bio-energy**.



Water consumption down **5.2%** compared to 2015.



Electricity use down **5.9%** compared to 2015.

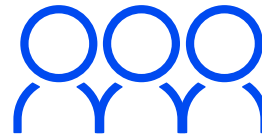
Partnerships and Engagement

2016

UTS shopfront celebrates **20 years**, during which time they have worked on over **1000** projects, with **800** community organisations.



Sustainability mentions in the media **up 28% in 2016** compared to 2015.



62 events, 2044 people

Delivered 62 sustainability events held on campus, attended by 2044 people.



Launched new weekly radio program **2SER Think: Sustainability.**



Cycling to campus up 15% in 2016 compared to 2015.

Operations

Awards and Recognition

Awards and Recognition

2016 was a successful year for UTS in terms of public recognition of the University's sustainability initiatives, people and performance.



Seb Crawford and Danielle McCartney,
2016 ACTS Green Gown Awards

- **Winner** – ACTS (Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability) Green Gown Award (Continuous Improvement : Institutional Change Category).
- **Winner** – NSW Blue Star Sustainability Award for UTS's sustainable building program (Sustainable Systems Category).
- **Winner** – Australian Water Association's National Research Innovation Award for a collaboration project with water utilities and other universities working on ageing water pipelines.
- **Winner** – Australian Awards for University Teaching, (Neville Bonner Award for Indigenous Education category) to Associate Professor Heidi Norman.
- **Winner** – UTS Social Inclusion Award to Daisy Amanaki for the Cook Islands Furniture Project, sending donated UTS furniture and equipment to schools in the Cook Islands.
- **Highly Commended** – ACTS Green Gown Award for the THINK : Sustainability radio program made in collaboration with radio 2SER (Community Engagement Category).
- **Highly Commended** – ACTS Award of Excellence (Staff) to Daisy Amanaki for the Cook Islands furniture project.
- **Finalist** – International Green Gown Award (Continuous Improvement : Institutional Change Category)
- **Finalist** – NSW Government Green Globe Award (Public Sector Leadership Category).
- **Finalist** – NSW Government Green Globe Award for Australia's first off-site solar corporate power purchase agreement (Innovation Category).
- **Finalist** – NSW Blue Star Sustainability Award for the UTS Cleans Up initiative (Waste Less, Recycle More Category).
- **Finalist** – Australian Financial Review's Higher Education Awards for Community Engagement to UTS Shopfront program.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AWARD

In 2016 UTS won the coveted ACTS Green Gown Award for Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change. The award recognises 10 years of progress during which time sustainability at UTS evolved from a focus on the environmental impact of operations to a more holistic approach encompassing environmental, social and economic considerations with sustainability principles being embedded across the University – from teaching and learning, to research, operations, governance and community engagement. The Award recognises the process of continual improvement in sustainability performance and the contribution of staff, students and community partners. As the Winner of the Australasian Award, UTS went on to be a Finalist in the International Green Gown Awards held in the UK.



Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning



“The excitement about transdisciplinarity is working beyond boundaries, stepping on the cracks in the pavement, the actual act of working beyond the traditions of the disciplines. By working with people across multiple disciplines, new solutions are found, new answers to issues, sometimes new questions are raised; this is the excitement, this is the way in which more than one single discipline produces the answers to today’s problems.”

Professor Louise McWhinnie
Dean of the Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation

New Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation

This year UTS launched a new faculty, the first of its kind in the world. The Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation draws together multiple disciplines to focus knowledge from disparate areas on developing collaborative solutions to complex societal problems. Sustainability is transdisciplinary in nature and digital literacy, creativity and problem-solving skills are increasingly seen as essential for the jobs of the future. One of the University’s fastest growing and popular degrees, the Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation, is part of the Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation.

New Faces

Academics with expertise in sustainability who joined UTS in 2016 include:

Professor Elizabeth Mossop, Dean of the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building. Her expertise is in coastal resilience, landscape design and urbanism.

Professor Rob Roggema, Professor of Sustainable Urban Environments in the UTS School of Architecture. He is an expert on sustainable urbanism, climate adaptation, energy landscapes and urban agriculture.





Dr Melissa Edwards at the Shapeshifters event

Integrating indigenous Knowledge

This year the university officially launched the Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledge (CAIK). One of its core objectives is to ensure that all UTS graduates have professional indigenous competency relevant to their discipline.

Equity and Diversity

A key indicator of improvement in social sustainability is the participation of low socio-economic students which has increased 52% since 2010 (1,826 students to 2,776 in 2016). Indigenous undergraduate student success rates at UTS have also improved by 16% since 2010.

As public purpose institutions, universities have an important responsibility to contribute to the community through education, research and practice. A Social Impact Framework is being developed to drive social change beyond our campus boundaries, to guide our efforts in the future and to demonstrate our social impact as a University. This Framework is due for completion in 2017.

The Hatchery

The Hatchery is an extra-curricular program where students develop entrepreneurial thinking and problem solving skills. Teams work to develop their ideas for potential start-ups in the real world, learning design-thinking, prototyping and pitching to successful entrepreneurs and thought leaders. This year a team developed a toy range, Tools 2 Toys, made from upcycled tools that were designed to inspire children to be makers of the future.

Sustainable Enterprise Hub

The UTS Business School Hub for Sustainable Enterprise held four transdisciplinary inquiry seminars and two major public events on transitioning to the Anthropocene. The events reached more than 300 academics and practitioners from across the tertiary education sector.

UTS Speaks

UTS Speaks is a free public lecture series showcasing academic and industry thought leaders. Two sustainability-themed events held this year were “Good Living for the Long Run” with green roof expert Dr Sara Wilkinson, sustainable architecture expert Kerryn Wilmot and industry partner Tina Perinotto from The Fifth Estate, and “Shapeshifters – doing social good’ with Rodger Watson, Deputy Director of the Designing out Crime Research Centre, social impact and design-led innovation expert Dr Melissa Edwards and industry partner Murray Bunton, Executive Director of Agency.

Learning and Teaching Sustainability Website

This year UTS continued to host and manage the national Learning and Teaching Sustainability website supported by the federal government. The objective of the website is to make Education for Sustainability accessible, to build synergy between educators and to grow this community of practice. The website is a portal for academics to share sustainability teaching materials and provide information on sustainability courses in Australian tertiary institutions.

Website



ELECTRIC MOTORSPORTS

The UTS: Motorsports Electric team consists of around 25 UTS students from different disciplines including engineering, business and science. Each year the team designs and builds a small race car to compete against other universities in the Formula SAE Competition, run by the Society of Automotive Engineers. The purpose of the competition is to enable students to develop practical design, manufacturing, management and communication skills. In 2014 the team switched from fossil fuels to electric vehicles. In 2016 they won first prize in the efficiency category.

Electric Motorsports team at orientation day

Research

UTS Research Strategy

The UTS Research Strategy 2016-2020 was finalised this year. The Strategy sets the strategic direction for research at UTS, with sustainability nominated as one of the key focus areas for UTS research. The University's overall strategic goal is to increase the intensity, excellence, impact and reputation of our research to position UTS clearly within the top 10 Australian universities and the top 10 in chosen fields globally by 2020.

Website

Our capabilities in sustainability research span in-depth disciplinary and cutting edge trans-disciplinary research in clean energy, urban futures, climate change adaptation, water, food and resource management. 2016 highlights from our research centres include:

- C3 Climate Change Cluster: Hosted 50 PhD students, scholarly visitors from 15 countries and 20 seminars.
- Centre for Clean Energy Technology: Forged a new partnership with the Beijing Institute of Technology to collaborate on research for sustainable energy storage.
- Centre for Compassionate Conservation: Doctoral candidate Gavin Bensen was the first-ever recipient of JNF Australia's Arava-Finkel Scholarship to conduct research with the International Wolf project in the Arava desert, Israel.
- Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF): ISF researchers participated in over 100 research projects in Australia and overseas, supported 38 postgraduate research students and co-hosted the 2016 Australian Summer Study on Energy Productivity.
- Centre for Technology in Water and Wastewater: - specialising in alternative water sources, including technologies for recycled, desalinated and harvested storm water.
- Materials and Technology for Energy Efficiency: - Conducting multidisciplinary research in materials physics at the nano scale.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE INCLUDE:

- **Joint winner:** Early Career Research Excellence - Dr Jean-Baptiste Raina for his work with the Ocean Microbes Healthy Oceans research program.
- **Joint winner:** Research Excellence through Collaboration - Associate Professor Shauna Murray for her work on marine biotoxins.
- **Finalist:** Deputy Vice-Chancellor's (Research) Medal for Research Impact - Martina Doblin for her work informing new coastal management strategies for the preservation of marine environments, coastal communities, and marine industries.

[Website](#)

New Faces

Researchers with expertise in sustainability who joined UTS in 2016 include:

- **Dr Phillipa Carnemolla**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the School of the Built Environment. She is an industrial designer specialising in social sustainability, including smart cities and the use of inclusive design in ageing and disability housing.
- **Dr Sven Teske**, Research Principal at the Institute for Sustainable Futures. He is a renewable energy expert specializing in technical analysis of renewable energy systems and market integration.
- **Caitlin Leahy**, Research Consultant at the Institute for Sustainable Futures. She has a wealth of experience in international development and social justice and before joining UTS worked in Timor-Leste on social inclusion and resilience.
- **Dr Michael Fabinyi**, Senior Research Fellow in the School of Communication. His research examines the social, political and cultural aspects of marine resource use and management.
- **Dr Emma Camp**, Post Doctorate Research Associate and member of the Climate Change Cluster (c3). Her research focuses on coral reefs, mangroves and climate change.



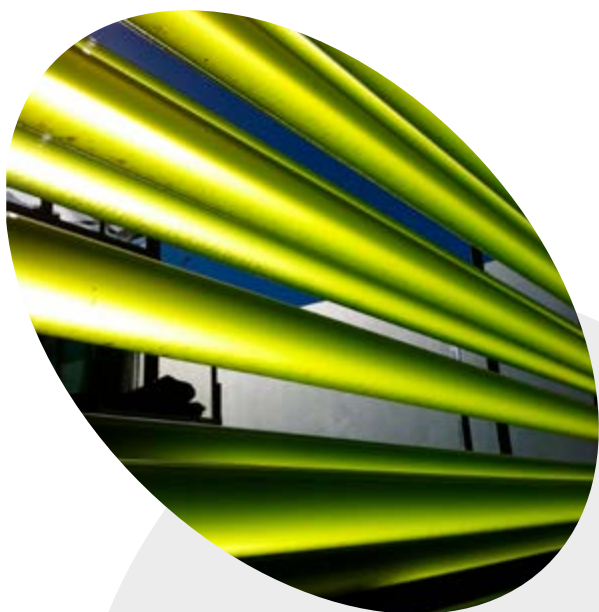
Deep Green Biotech Hub

In 2016 UTS received a \$1 million grant from the NSW Department of Industry to establish a new research centre to explore algae-based biotechnology opportunities. The Deep Green Biotech Hub will create an enabling incubator environment to develop algae as a sustainable feed source in products such as nutritional supplements, cosmetics, industrial chemicals and animal feed. The Hub will boost the state's bio-economy and involve the collaboration of researchers, students, industry and entrepreneurs.

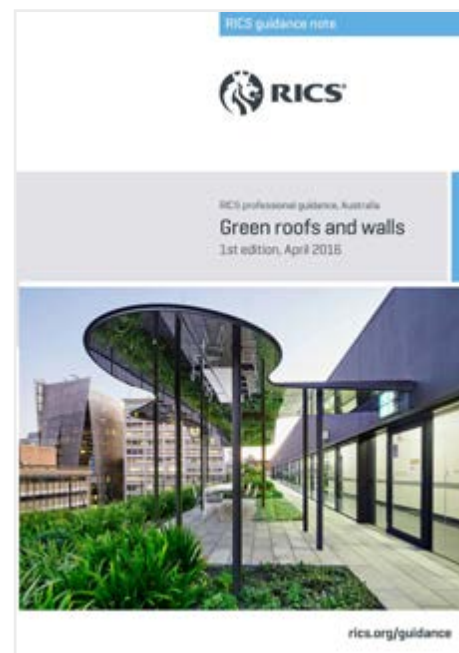
Social Sustainability Leadership

This year the UTS Institute for Public Policy and Governance undertook two important social sustainability projects:

- Research on the intrinsic value of libraries as public spaces, with the final report launched at the 2016 Civica Expo.
- A review of resource sharing between four Tasmanian councils which found additional benefits to financial savings included collaboration, standardised policies and frameworks, stronger career paths for staff, and improved service delivery.



Algae incubator on the roof of the Vicki Sara Building.



RICS Guidance Note on Green Roofs and Walls

Guidance Note on Green Roofs and Walls

Associate Professor Sara Wilkinson co-authored a Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Guidance Note on Green Roofs and Walls. Launched in July by NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes, the guide provides advice about developing urban canopy on commercial and residential buildings in order to address complex energy, population, climate and sustainability challenges. Featuring the Vicki Sara Building's green roof on the cover, it is the world's first template for owners to adopt when licencing rooftops for commercial uses.

We're in it for the long run.

That's why the Sustainable Development Goals matter.

- No Poverty
- Zero Hunger
- Good Health and Well-being
- Quality Education
- Gender Equality
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Affordable and Clean Energy
- Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Reduced Inequalities
- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Responsible Consumption and Production
- Climate Action
- Life Below Water
- Life on Land
- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- Partnerships for the Goals



UN SDGs ISF Research Mapping Project

In 2016 UTS became a Signatory to the University Commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) developed a tool to map their research against the goals. The visual model demonstrates comparative areas of activity and strength and ISF found that their ten areas of research contributed knowledge and evidence to support all seventeen SDGs, and that each of ISF's ten research areas aligned with at least five goals.

UN SDGs ISF Research Mapping Project

“The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals are giving the world a shared language for talking about development and mobilising action.”

Professor Stuart White
Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures

Facilities and Operations

Facilities and Operations



Top: The 6 star Green Star Certified Vicki Sara Building

Bottom: The Singleton solar farm providing renewable energy to the Dr Chau Chak Wing Building

Buildings and Infrastructure

2016 saw the closure and demolition of Building 2 and the start of construction of a new building that is targeting a 5 Star Green Star Design + As-Built rating certified by the Green Building Council of Australia. The UTS Central project will join the 5 Star Green Star Certified Faculty of Engineering and IT Building and Dr Chau Chak Wing Building (Business School), and the 6 Star Vicki Sara Building (Faculty of Science and Graduate School of Health).

Following on from UTS's innovative Australian-first direct Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) in 2015 with a solar farm in Singleton that supplies around 15% of the electricity needs of the Dr Chau Chak Wing Building, the University signed another PPA in 2016 with a solar farm in Orange to supply a proportion of the Vicki Sara Building's electricity. This is in line with the University's objective to increase use of renewable energy.

Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The five Australian Technology Network (ATN) Universities have individually and collectively committed to greenhouse gas reduction targets. UTS aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2020-21, from the 2007 baseline. The University's strategy includes demand reduction initiatives and on and off-site solar projects.

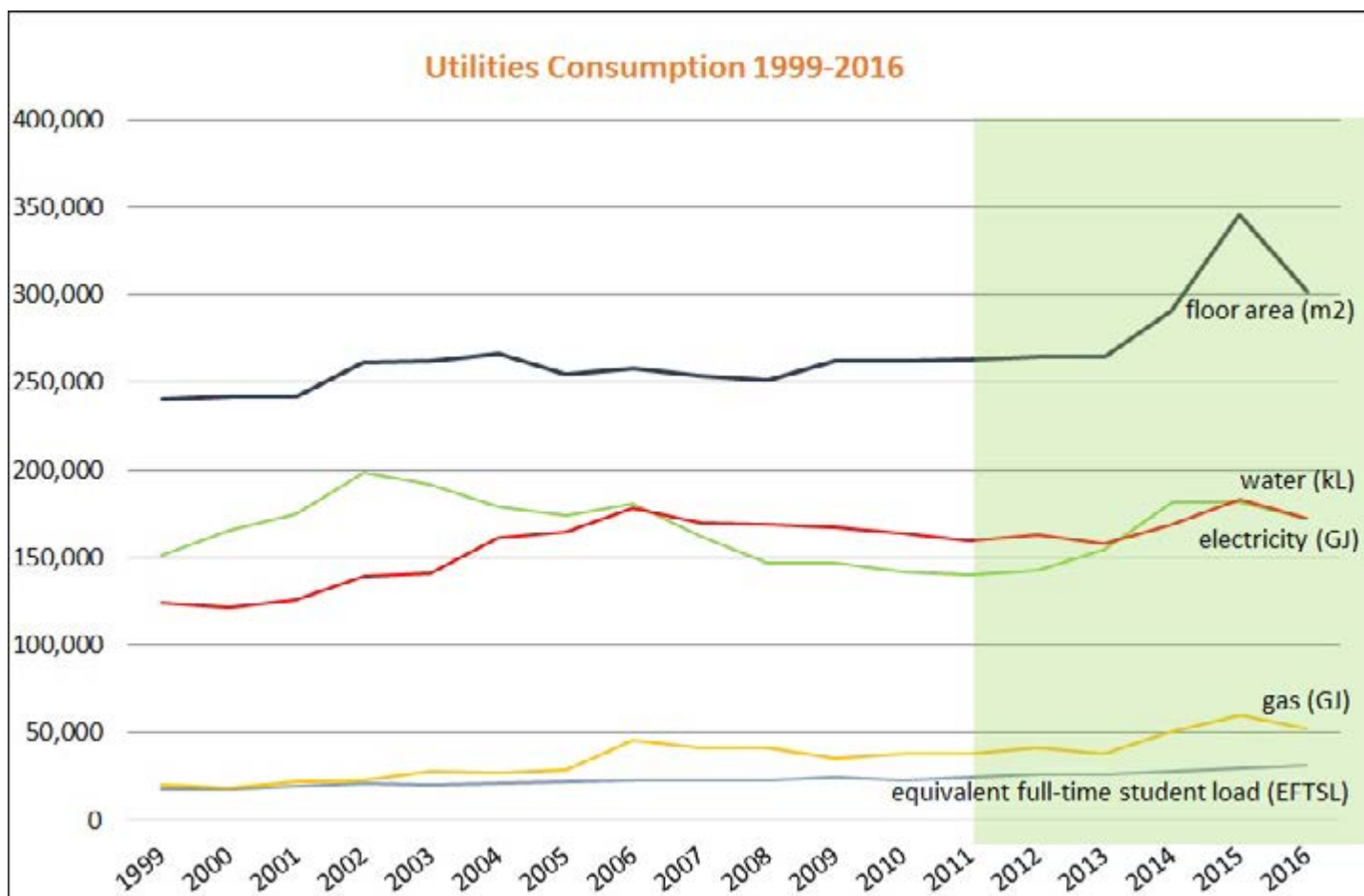
The main mechanism to achieve the greenhouse gas reduction target is improved energy efficiency and in 2016 we undertook an upgrade of air-conditioning and lighting systems in selected buildings.

In Building 11, where 40% of all energy consumed is for air conditioning, people counters were installed to turn off the air-con when classrooms and lecture theatres are unoccupied. This achieved a 60% reduction in energy use for these spaces, an overall 10% reduction in building energy consumption and is expected to provide ongoing cost savings of around \$50,000 per annum.

UTS was successful in its funding application to the NSW Government Office of Environment and Heritage for a gas efficiency project in Building 5. Installation has commenced and the project will begin to deliver benefits next year.

2016 saw a small decrease in the University's floor area mainly due to the decommissioning of Building 2. Along with demand reduction initiatives and the ongoing commissioning and tuning of Buildings 7, 8 and 11, this resulted in reductions in electricity and gas consumption from 2015 of 5.9% and 13% respectively.

UTS partnered with precinct neighbours at Central Park to create Australia's first district energy-sharing project. Thermal pipes from Central Park have been laid under Broadway and will supply the new UTS Central Project with chilled water from mid-2019, reducing the University's greenhouse gas emissions by around 3% or 1,111 tonnes per annum.



UTS Utilities Consumption 1999 - 2016

Water

The University aims for continual improvement in the reduction of water consumption. Between 2007 - 2016 we reduced overall consumption by 6.3% despite a 31.3% increase in floor area over the same period.

This was achieved through a range of initiatives including:

- Dual-flush water-efficient toilets
- Waterless urinals
- Tap aerators and automatic sensor taps
- Water efficient appliances e.g. dishwashers
- Rainwater harvesting and re-use for garden irrigation and toilet-flushing
- Water recycling in cooling towers

Upgrades to the main Building 1 central plant air-conditioning unit helped to achieve a 20% increase in recycled water output in 2016, mostly from captured and recycled cooling tower dump water. Approximately 3,680,000 litres of recycled water is now produced at UTS each year.

In 2016 we also introduced a new campus-wide web-based water management and monitoring system which included the installation of smart meters and water alarm systems to better detect and locate leaks.

This year the University's overall water consumption fell by 5.2% compared to 2015.



Building 10 cycle facilities

Waste and Recycling

In 2016 we developed our first comprehensive integrated Waste Management Plan to document and streamline the University's waste management activities. Representatives from key faculties and units across UTS collaborated to develop the Plan, including the Sustainability Team, Central Services, Faculty of Science, ActivateUTS, Commercial, Safety and Wellbeing, UTS Housing and the Institute for Sustainable Futures. The Plan is a "living" document which will be updated each year and used to set targets and benchmark the University's ongoing performance. UTS achieved an 80% recycling rate (diversion from landfill) in 2016 for operational waste.

Improvements to paper recycling were realised in 2016. The UTS Cleans Up initiative, introduced in 2015, was designed to centralise operational waste in staff kitchens, introduce an organic waste bin and increase paper recycling. This resulted in a 20% increase in paper recycling in 2015 and a further 4% increase was achieved this year, from 370 tonnes in 2015 to 383 tonnes in 2016.

Building on the introduction of a separate organic waste stream in 2015, this year we piloted a food waste dehydrator in the basement of Building 10 to explore processing organic waste on campus. This technology reduced the volume and weight of the material by approximately 85%, before it was sent to Western Sydney for bio-energy production. In 2016 we processed approximately 50 tonnes of food waste on campus.

To reduce plastic water bottle waste we continued to install water bottle refill stations, achieving a total of 34 publicly accessible stations across campus.

UTS requires contractors to recycle a minimum of 90% of all demolition and construction waste from building projects. When Building 2 was demolished in the final months of 2016 demolition waste was separated into steel, concrete, aluminium, glass and hard fill with 92% of the demolition waste being recycled.

Transport

Our inner-city location means that UTS is well served by public transport. We have improved cycling and active transport facilities in recent years with secure bike cages, showers, changerooms and lockers. 2016 saw an increase in cycling numbers of approximately 15% from last year. Cycling promotion events included 3 free bike maintenance workshops for staff and students and the annual Ride to UTS Day in October with free breakfast and prizes. UTS also ran a successful Walk to UTS Day coinciding with national Walk to Work Day which saw a 60% increase in participation compared to the previous year.

Daisy Amanaki has worked in the UTS IT department for 20 years and in 2016, working alongside staff from the Central Services and Sustainability Teams, she helped coordinate the donation of five shipping containers of used classroom furniture and equipment from Building 2 to schools in the Cook Islands. Working entirely in a volunteer capacity she initiated the project, liaised with the Department of Education in the Cook Islands to broker the formal agreement, developed a crowd-sourced fundraising website to assist with shipping costs, and coordinated community and student volunteers to help pack the containers. Over 1000 chairs, 600 desks, 7 whiteboards and 7 data projectors were sent to the Pacific island. The project had triple bottom line benefits diverting material from landfill, providing five schools with furniture in good condition, and improving the educational prospects for children in the Cook Islands. Daisy won the 2016 UTS Green Hero Award and a UTS Human Rights Award (Social Inclusion Category).



Green Hero Award winner Daisy Amanaki with student volunteers Rory Hocknell and Abhishek Jambur.

Partnerships and Engagement

Partnerships and Engagement



UTS Landscape Architecture students at Park(ing) Day

Sustainability Landing Page

In 2016 a new sustainability landing page was created to consolidate our online presence and assist users navigate to their intended destination. The page functions as a sustainability portal to access the full breadth and depth of sustainability activities and initiatives occurring across the University.

[Website](#)

Think : Sustainability Radio Program

Launched in 2016, THINK: Sustainability is a half-hour weekly radio program produced in collaboration with 2SER. Each program focuses on a topical sustainability issue and consists of three stories narrated by UTS academic experts and industry practitioners. THINK: Sustainability now has over 100,000 weekly listeners and 7000 podcast subscribers.

[Website](#)

Student Initiatives

The Students' Association Enviro Collective held weekly meetings in 2016 for students and ran fossil fuel divestment and anti-coal campaigns. Two student clubs Eco Soc and Net Impact ran social events throughout the year and hosted a networking night with Harvest Hub to highlight the benefits of local food production in the Sydney basin.

Organised by the Students' Association, the Bluebird Brekkie Bar is a large-scale pop-up cafe providing free, sustainable and nutritious breakfasts to students. Organic muesli, milk and natural yoghurt, local sourdough with avocado and spreads, fruit juice, and fair-trade tea and coffee – all delivered on custom made pop-up furniture made from recycled materials. The initiative serves breakfast to 1,100 students per week over two mornings. In 2016 Bluebird expanded to introduce an evening noodle night, supplying free healthy Asian noodle dishes on Thursday nights. Hugely popular with students, the initiative has unique social benefits - the soup bases are made by a social enterprise, Parliament on King, who trains asylum seekers, refugees and recent arrivals in Australia.

PARK(ing) Day has become an annual event with UTS Landscape Architecture students heading to Bondi beach this year for a change of scenery. The day is aimed at prompting people to reimagine how space allocated for car parking can be repurposed for public amenity. The UTS team created their own pop-up mini park with potted trees, bean bags and free homemade lemonade, which proved popular with beachgoers.



Jake Morcom producing the Think : Sustainability radio program



Office Christmas decorations made from recycled materials.

Internal Collaboration

On campus staff and students promote sustainable practices and behaviour in a variety of ways. The Green Staff Network (GSN) is a committed group of UTS academic and professional staff. In 2016 the GSN held regular meetings and led campaigns to promote the use of recycled paper and the purchase of office stationery from sustainable sources.

Each year the Green Hero Awards are held on World Environment Day on June 5th. Staff, students and alumni are recognised by their peers for their work, both at UTS and in the community, in helping to achieve sustainability outcomes. This year's winners were announced at a morning tea hosted by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources) Patrick Woods. The 2016 Green Hero Award winner was staff member Daisy Amanaki for her volunteer efforts coordinating the donation of furniture to the Cook Islands. Runners-up were student Tess Corkish and staff member Ian McGregor (equal second) and student Lucy Chen (third).

Two terrarium workshops were held for staff and students wanting to learn how to grow their own garden in a jar for their desk. These workshops proved extremely popular, booking out in hours.

2016's Student Orientation weeks included eight sustainable campus tours and two healthy and sustainable eating workshops.

Each year staff at the UTS Business School run a competition adorning their office areas with Christmas decorations made from recycled and reused materials. The competition is becoming more elaborate each year and grew to eight entries this year. Teams attempt to outdo each other in demonstrating how Christmas can be both festive and zero waste.

Green Week

Our major annual event is Green Week held each May, with sustainability-themed activities to get staff, students and visitors involved. Green Week is a collaboration between UTS, ABC and Ultimo TAFE with events run in all three locations. This year Green Week incorporated 15 events including craft workshops, Fair Trade stalls, tours of sustainable buildings, sustainable food and cooking demonstrations, the climate change documentary *This Changes Everything*, a meat-free gala dinner hosted with Ultimo TAFE, and the popular Green Week debate. The UTS student team debated academics from the Faculty of Science on the topic "To protect oceans, allow countries to sell marine territory".



Top: Healthy and sustainable eating workshop at Orientation Week



Bottom: Participants in the terrarium workshops display their handy work



Knitting workshop during Green Week

External Engagement

UTS collaborates with other Universities through the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) network and we participate in the annual ACTS conference. Staff from the Sustainability Team are represented on the ACTS Executive Board and participate in the ACTS LiFE Tool working group.

UTS is a member of the Better Buildings Partnership (BBP), a group of large building owners in the City of Sydney Council local government area who collaborate with the aim of developing strategies and tools to improve the sustainability performance of commercial buildings. Representatives from UTS participate on the Leadership Panel and Environment and Waste working groups. In 2016 the BBP produced a number of best-practice tools including Strip-out Waste Guidelines and Guidelines for Operational Waste: Procurement, Management and Reporting.

Sustainability media mentions in 2016 increased by 28% from last year, demonstrating the achievements of UTS staff and students. Sustainability engagement on social media rose 17% and 2044 people attended 62 sustainability events on campus throughout the year.



BBP members celebrate a collective 35% reduction in GHG emissions since 2006

Govern
ance

Governance

Sustainability is embedded in the UTS Strategic Plan 2009 – 2018 and “Sustain” is one of the five values that guide the University’s performance. The UTS Sustainability Policy provides a framework for sustainable practice at UTS across four key areas: teaching and learning, research, campus operations and community engagement. The UTS Sustainability Strategy is the key strategic document through which the Policy is implemented. The implementation of sustainability principles and initiatives at UTS is overseen by the Sustainability Steering Committee which meets quarterly.

UTS Sustainability Strategy

In 2016 the UTS Sustainability Strategy 2012-2015 was reviewed and a Draft UTS Sustainability Strategy 2017-2020 was developed. The Institute for Sustainable Futures facilitated five two-hour consultation sessions for teaching and learning, research, operations, engagement and students. Each session was introduced by a Deputy Vice-

Chancellor or Senior Executive. These sessions gave staff and students the opportunity to provide input, feedback and suggestions to inform the updated Strategy. The Draft UTS Sustainability Strategy 2017-2020 includes Key Performance Indicators and targets for the first time. The Strategy will undergo further consultation in 2017 and is expected to be finalised in late 2017.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

In 2016 UTS was one of the first Australian Universities to become a Signatory to the University Commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 17 global goals (containing 169 targets) were developed through a global collaborative effort to chart a pathway towards sustainability across a range of issues including climate change, ending poverty, social equity, improving health and education, protecting oceans and forests and creating liveable cities.

Responsible Investment

In 2016 the University community was invited to provide feedback on draft responsible investment principles. To better align the University’s investments with the UTS Sustainability Policy, the UTS Council approved a set of responsible investment principles which will guide UTS’s investments, including our fund manager TCorp. These principles are based on the UN Principles of Responsible Investment and take into account environmental, social and governance considerations. UTS will continue to work with TCorp to monitor how the principles are being applied and the extent to which they meet the University’s responsible investment objectives.

[Website](#)



The UN Sustainable Development Goals

Contact us



**The UTS Sustainability Team.
(left to right)**

Seb Crawford: Sustainability Coordinator
Jonathan Prendergast: Green Infrastructure Project Manager
Danielle McCartney: Manager, Sustainability
Eric Liyanage: Sustainability Engineer
Sophie Knoblanche: Sustainability Assistant

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UTS is on
a journey
of continual
improvement



