

The background image shows a modern university campus. In the foreground, a wide, paved pedestrian walkway is populated with several people walking, some in motion blur. To the right, there is a small, rectangular green roof garden with a concrete border. In the background, a prominent multi-story building with a curved facade and numerous windows is visible. To the right of this building, another building with 'UTS' signage is partially visible. The sky is clear and blue.

Sustainability Report 2018



**“Sustainability is relevant
to every discipline, every staff
member and every student.”**

- Danielle McCartney, Manager, Sustainability

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Our commitment
to sustainability

Our commitment to sustainability



Professor Attila Brungs
Vice-Chancellor and President

Statement from the Vice Chancellor

2018 was a big year for solar energy, both at UTS and around the world. The university has been on the renewable energy journey for the past few years. On our own city rooftops, we have installed solar panels. It was an Australian first when, in 2016, UTS developed a new purchasing model to enable energy users in the city to buy direct from generators in regional areas. This initiative helped facilitate direct investment in the renewable energy sector.

This year saw our biggest commitment so far. We signed a contract to kick-start a new solar farm in Walgett in regional NSW, which will supply half the university's electricity requirements. The project starts in 2019 and is an exciting major step in helping reduce our greenhouse gas footprint and supporting the broader renewables sector.

Universities exist for the public good – not just for those who pass through our doors, but those connected to us through the broader society. Nowhere is this more important than in helping tackle the systemic issues at the heart of sustainability. One of my proudest moments this year was opening the new Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion. Part of the Centre's remit is to focus our work as a university in helping transition society to a more just and sustainable model. The Centre will help focus our research, education and practice on tackling the key challenges of our time.

The impact of our research continues to grow. This year saw a record number of new research staff join UTS. Distinguished Professor Guoxiu Wang was named among the top 194 scientists worldwide for his work on renewable energy and battery storage. I was especially pleased to open the new UTS Engineering and IT Tech Lab in Botany, ensuring our world leading researchers have cutting edge facilities.

As a global university, providing our staff and students with opportunities to collaborate on the world stage is vital. Our exchange program this year gave UTS students the ability to study in 43 countries. Students like Ben Franzi inspire my confidence in the future. Ben returned to Vietnam this year to focus his capstone project on Australia's contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

It has been a solid year of achievements. We look forward to building on this. I look forward to working with our staff, students and community partners to achieve greater things in the year ahead.



Danielle McCartney
Manager, Sustainability

Statement from the Sustainability Manager

This report is for the 2018 calendar year. It's been a busy and productive 12 months, with significant sustainability achievements across all key areas of teaching and learning, research, campus operations, and community engagement.

I am especially proud of the journey now underway to tackle plastic waste on campus. Throughout the year we ran a number of consultative initiatives asking staff and students for their input on the issue, resulting in the UTS Plastic Free Plan by 2020 which I am pleased to say was endorsed by the senior executive in December.

The initial focus will be single-use plastics in the food and beverage outlets on campus, and it's fantastic to have all retail outlets supporting our vision to go plastic free.

Another achievement has been the solid improvement in our greenhouse gas emissions, falling 7.4 percent this year compared to 2017. This is a great achievement for a single year and is a significant step towards our long-term reduction target of 30% below the 2007 baseline by 2021.

As always, it was great to see so many staff and students engaged in sustainability, with over 2100 people attending 51 sustainability events throughout the year.

I'd like to thank the other members of the UTS Sustainability team, the UTS Sustainability Steering Committee, the senior executive and most of all the students and staff who champion sustainability in their everyday actions on campus and beyond.



About UTS

The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) is a dynamic and innovative university in central Sydney.

UTS has a distinct model of learning, strong research performance and a leading reputation for engagement with industry. With over 45,000 students (35,317 Equivalent Full Time Student Load) and 3,800 staff, UTS offers over 514 undergraduate and postgraduate courses across

disciplines such as architecture, built environment, business, communication, design, education, engineering, information technology, international studies, law, midwifery, nursing, pharmacy and science.

One of the major elements of the UTS 2027 Strategic vision is building a sustainable future, cultivating sustainability values in our students and staff, and striving for continual improvement in our practise, processes and systems.

The university is committed to integrating sustainability principles into our core functional areas of teaching and learning, research, operations, and community engagement. The key strategic document guiding this is the UTS Sustainability Policy, which is implemented through the UTS Sustainability Strategy 2017 – 2020.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals that provide a framework for action on sustainability.

They have been designed to help guide governments, businesses, and the community towards creating a more just and sustainable world. Within the 17 high level goals are 169 targets to guide and evaluate progress. In 2016 UTS was one of the first universities in the Asia Pacific to become a signatory to the University Commitment to the SDGs. In the same year, the UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) undertook a mapping exercise to chart their research against the SDGs. In 2017 ISF, in collaboration with Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) produced a Guide for Universities Getting Started with the SDGs.

This year, we continued to incorporate the SDGs into the university’s research and teaching. The process will be an ongoing journey, becoming more comprehensive and systemic in the years ahead. In the body of this report we have included individual SDG icons to indicate which activities are contributing to the delivery of specific SDGs. Below is a high level snapshot of how our activity this year aligns with the SDGs.







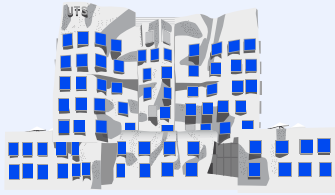
2018 Highlights

Partnerships and Engagement



2149
people attending

51
sustainability
events



21
sustainable campus
tours attended by

201
people



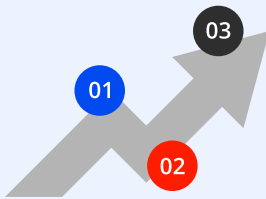
10%
increase in
sustainability
participation on
campus

300+

sustainability focused stories
featuring UTS academics across
mainstream media channels



Teaching and Learning



UTS moves
into the top

200
world university
rankings



LX.Lab's
inaugural week for
sustainability in
teaching

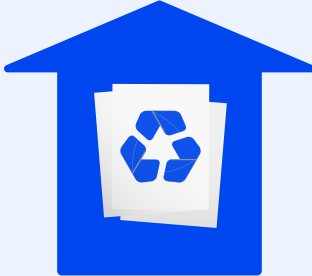


43
countries UTS
students can study
on exchange

Operations



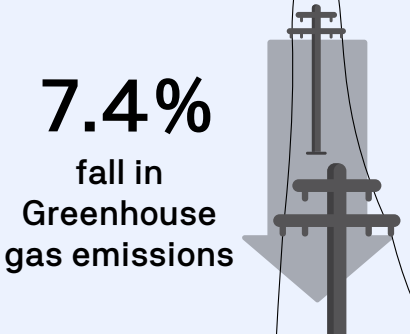
4.8%
fall in waste
to landfill



14%
increase in paper
recycling

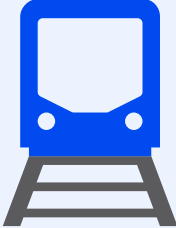


14%
fall in
water use

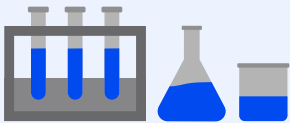


7.4%
fall in
Greenhouse
gas emissions

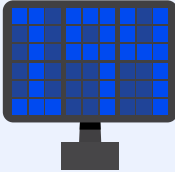
**70+% staff
and 80+%
students commute to UTS
by public transport**



Research



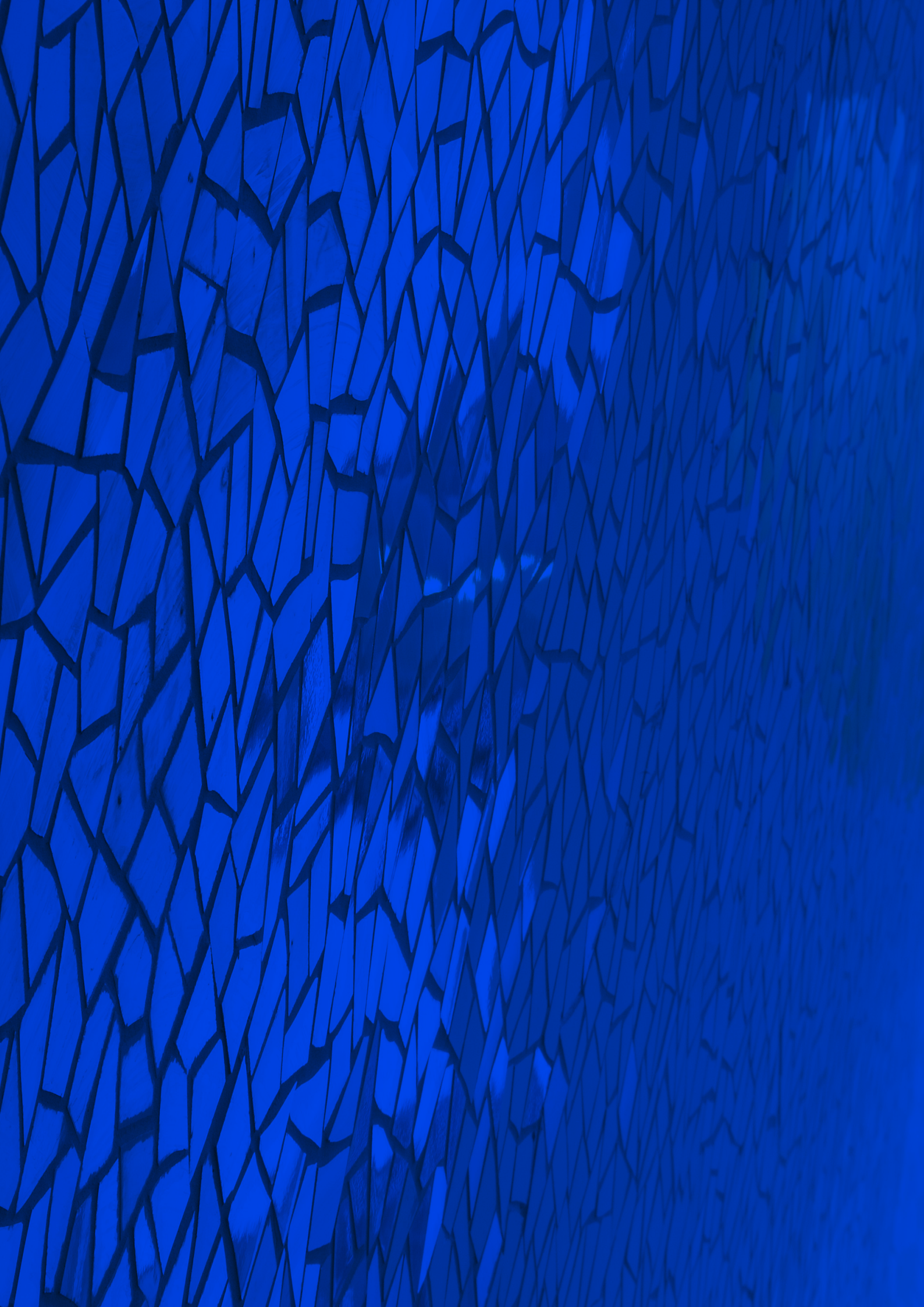
Top
10%
UTS science
research rated in
the world's top 10



UTS clean energy
technology
researcher included
in the top
194
in the world



UTS academic
featured in
Australian Financial
Review's
100
Women of
Influence awards





Awards and recognition

Awards and Recognition



UTS staff Danielle McCartney, Glen Rabbitt and Jonathan Prendergast (L to R) at the Green Globe Award ceremony

Highly Commended

Smart Cities Award for the district energy sharing project between UTS and Central Park.

Highly Commended

NSW Government Green Globe Award for sustainability achievements across the organisation over the past 10 years (Public Sector Leadership category).

Finalist

Alice McAuliffe for the ACTS Award of Excellence (staff) for her work on the Waraburra Nura indigenous garden.

Leading light
Alice McAuliffe



Waraburra Nura (the happy wander’s place) is a roof top Indigenous garden conceived and curated by Alice McAuliffe (Coordinator Learning and Projects UTS ART). Surrounded by skyscrapers in Sydney’s CBD the garden is a powerful link to traditional aboriginal knowledge and place, showcasing medicinal plants local to the Sydney basin that have been used by local Indigenous people for

thousands of years. The garden is used to teach students about indigenous knowledge. Created in 2017 in close consultation with D’harawal senior and botanist Aunty Fran Bodkin, with input from author Bruce Pascoe, all plants in the garden have health and medicinal uses. Alice McAuliffe was recognised as a finalist in the 2018 ACTS Award of Excellence for her work on the garden.





The image features a light blue, textured background that resembles a tiled floor. A diagonal line runs from the bottom left towards the top right. On the left side, there are partial views of an orange fabric object and a black shoe. The text 'Teaching and learning' is centered in a white, sans-serif font.

Teaching and learning

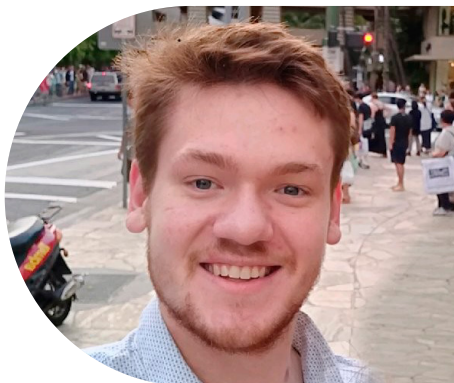
Teaching and Learning

Developing our staff

This year UTS moved into the top 200 universities in the world in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking, and is 9th out of 35 ranked institutions in Australia. This is a fantastic endorsement of the quality of our teaching and research. These results are only possible by supporting and developing the capacity of our teaching staff through mechanisms such as the Learning Futures LX Lab. This is a dedicated space on campus providing academics with a place to connect, get support and advice, and share ideas to develop their teaching skills. For the first time this year the LX Lab ran a dedicated week focused on sustainability, exploring what sustainability means for teaching and learning in higher education, and skills development for staff teaching sustainability. The week included:

- short videos demonstrating how sustainability is relevant to all disciplines and faculties
- a workshop on how to integrate sustainability into the curriculum
- A sustainable building tour on how campus buildings and infrastructure can be utilised as teaching resources for sustainability related coursework
- A workshop on open source education materials available for teaching staff.

Leading light Ben Franzi



UTS Start Ups

UTS Startups is a program designed to inspire and support UTS students becoming entrepreneurs, and to facilitate startups launched by UTS students. Many projects have a strong sustainability theme including social enterprise and not-for-profit startups. Two leading lights in 2018 were:

- **Kindershare** – everyone knows it takes a village to raise a child and Kindershare digitises the process, offering a peer-to-peer marketplace for sharing, swapping and buying children’s equipment. The website connects owners of baby equipment with those who need items on a short-term basis.
- **PETspot** - is a marketplace for the ethical sale and purchase of pets, providing mutual benefits to both sellers and buyers. The website aims to self-regulate the industry to be more ethical by ensuring pet sellers abide by RSPCA guidelines, and giving pet-owners the ability to review breeders and shelters they visit.

Living Lab

“Living Lab’ is the term used when students study university buildings and campus operations as part of their learning program, providing real-world application to theoretical concepts. Living lab projects this year with a sustainability theme included:

- **Collaborative Business Processes** (in the Faculty of Engineering and IT) with students developing ideas to reduce contamination in the food waste and recycling system on campus.
- **Closed Loop Design** (in the School of Industrial Design) saw Masters of Industrial Design students explore ways to achieve closed loop outcomes, seeking possible end-use applications for the university’s recycled Styrofoam waste.
- **Transdisciplinary Lab** – Wealth from Waste had Industrial and system design students explore the same issue – food waste recycling on campus. Academics teaching this subject won ‘Best Paper’ when presenting the project at the World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities, Universities as Living Labs for Sustainable Development: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Malaysia in August.

Engineering student Ben Franzi took his skills to Asia as part of a United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) study tour. He undertook research in rural Vietnam under the UTS BuILD program, participating in a multi-disciplinary team who then presented their ideas to the United Nations regional office in Hanoi. The project opened his eyes to how the SDGs can be used to drive sustainability and upon returning home, Ben decided to focus his capstone project on Australia’s role in helping to deliver the SDGs.



“One of the core principles of sustainability is continual improvement, and at the LX Lab we invest in the continual skills development of our teaching staff.”

- Phoebe Huang, Learning Experience Coordinator at the LX Lab



Research



Research

2018 was a good year for having our research recognised globally. The CWTS Leiden Ranking of world universities placed UTS top in Australia for the proportion of our scientific research rated in the world's top 10 per cent. In the QS World University Rankings UTS was ranked 160 in the world, a rise of 16 places from 2017 (and 112 places in just five years) driven partly by the growing reputation of our research. Sustainability related research was at the heart of this rise as outlined in the pages below.

International energy conference

UTS hosted the 2018 International Conference for Energy Storage and Conversion in July. Generating more energy from renewable sources and the storage of that energy is essential for the transition to a low carbon future. This conference brought together experts from around the world to review the latest research and development in the sector. Distinguished Professor Guoxiu Wang, Chair of the organising committee and Director of the UTS Centre for Clean Energy Technology, was also recognised in this year's Highly Cited Researchers List.

Leading light Professor Guoxiu Wang



UTS Distinguished Professor and Director of the UTS Centre for Clean Energy Technology Professor Guoxiu Wang was named among the top 194 scientists worldwide who have been highly cited in two or more fields over more than a decade. Recognised in the Clarivate Analytics' international Highly Cited Researchers list for 2018, Professor Wang earned recognition in both chemistry and materials science for his research into the development of advanced battery technology for portable electronics and electric vehicles, and for renewable energy storage and conversion.



“Professor Wang’s award endorses the work we are already doing and will inspire others to realise their ambitions and deliver research with impact.”

– Professor Kate McGrath, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research)

Leading light Professor Juliet Willetts



Professor Juliet Willetts from the Institute for Sustainable Futures was recognised in this year’s Australian Financial Review’s 100 Women of Influence awards. Since 2009, Australian-funded programs have brought clean water and sanitation to 5.98 million people in parts of Asia, the Pacific, and Africa for the first time. Using advocacy, evidence, and program design, Juliet played a crucial role in this. She has also made outstanding contributions to addressing gender equality and the role of civil society, as an expert in water, sanitation and hygiene.



Leading light Federico Volpin



Federico Volpin was this year’s winner of the UTS three minute thesis competition with his presentation Pee cycling: transforming our urine into valuable fertiliser. A membrane process engineer with a special focus on membrane bioreactors, his research is developing a mechanism to sanitise as well as remove smell and micro pollutant residues from human urine so that it can be processed into agricultural fertiliser.

[See the presentation here](#)

Leading light Manoj Kumar



Seagrass specialist Manoj Kumar, member of the C3 Climate Change Cluster, received a prestigious Thomas Davies Research Grant for his research on the molecular response of seagrass to heavy metal pollution and ocean acidification.

Research Centres this year

Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF)

- Hosted a group of 11 agricultural fellows from 11 countries in Africa, South East Asia, Australia and the Pacific to share insights on agricultural research projects around the world.
- Helped establish the nation's first online Business Renewables Centre to help large businesses procure solar or wind energy through Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)
- Undertook a study for Narrabri Shire to develop pathways for prioritising solar and wind generation as an alternative to gas extraction in the region.
- Hosted the 4th Annual Australia-Finland Innovation Forum, exploring themes around liveability, connectivity and sustainability in smart cities.

Centre for Technology in Water and Wastewater continued its research to develop technologies that produce significant quantities of recycled, desalinated and harvested storm water.

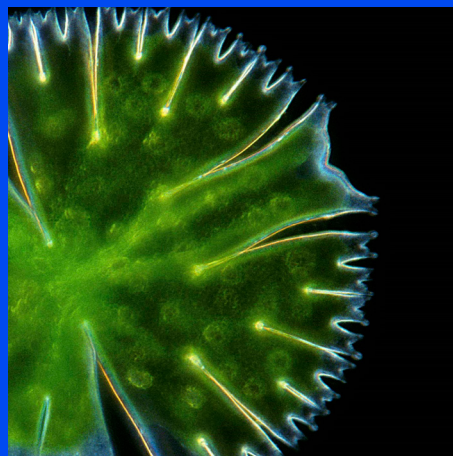
The Centre for Clean Energy Technology hosted the international Conference for Energy Storage and Conversion.

Centre for Compassionate Conservation continued its research on projects that fill gaps in knowledge and have a practical focus on improving welfare outcomes for wildlife.

Centre on Persuasive Systems for Wise Adaptive Living (PERSWADE) was established. The goal of the Centre is to develop and apply persuasive technologies and system science for social innovation to help humanity move toward sustainable, wise, adaptive living.

The C3 Climate Change Cluster built the innovative algae installation for the Vivid Sydney Festival.

Research showcase



The UTS biotech hub brings together researchers, SMEs, industry, start-ups, students and other stakeholders to collaborate on algae-based biotechnology innovation. The first of its kind in NSW, the Centre works on converting sunlight and CO₂ into algae as a sustainable raw material for use in agriculture, energy production and the manufacture of chemicals, pharmaceuticals and peptides for industry. The biotech hub runs free monthly tours open to the public.





New faces



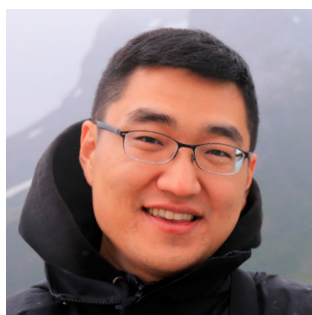
Professor Dianne Jolley, Dean of the Faculty of Science. Her research interests include toxicity in marine and freshwater environments and she is a member of the international Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.



Associate Professor Natalie Lloyd, Associate Director of the Faculty of Engineering and IT. Her research interests include sustainable materials and construction.



Dr Irena Cannon joined the Institute for Sustainable Futures as a Research Principal. Her research interests include examining the human responses to environmental contamination and understanding how higher density living impacts upon human wellbeing.



Dr Yohan Kim joined the Institute for Sustainable Futures as a Research Principal specialising in data analytics and simulation modelling. His research interests include ecological economics and sustainable consumption, and air transport.



Dr Jen Matthews joined the Climate Change Cluster in the Faculty of Science as a Post Doctoral Research Fellow. Her main research interest is marine symbiosis and coral reef conservation.



Dr Scott Dwyer joined the Energy Futures team at the Institute for Sustainable Futures. His work focuses on the role of distributed energy and new business models within the transitioning energy system.



Federico Davila Cisneros joined the Institute for Sustainable Futures as a Research Principal. His main research interests include food and nutrition security, systems thinking, and social science methods for sustainability research and practice.



Professor Cameron Tonkinwise joined the School of Design and teaches sustainable design, and design for social innovation. His main research interest is transition design.



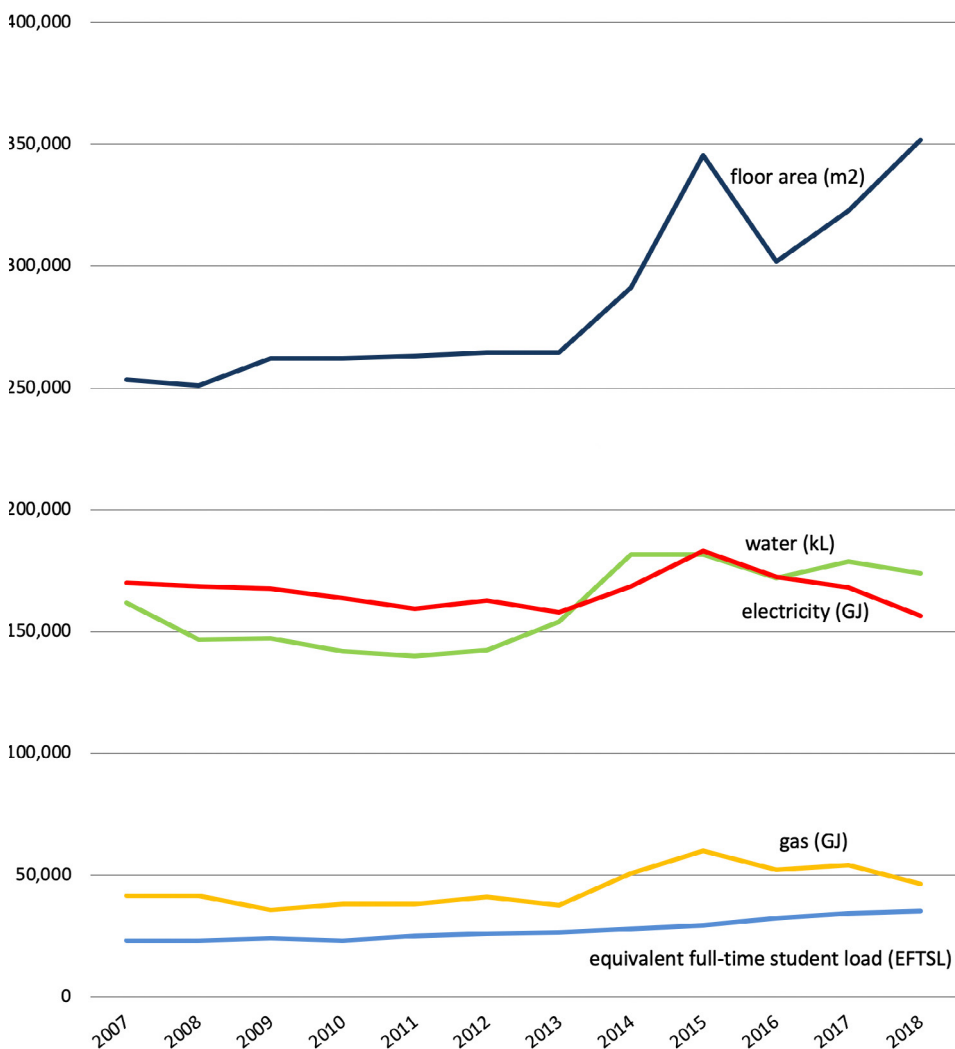
Facilities and operations



Facilities and operations

Between 2017 and 2018 full time equivalent student and staff numbers increased by 4.2% and the total campus floor space area increased by 9%. Despite these overall increases in floor space and staff and student numbers, most key environmental indicators improved in the 2018 calendar year.

Utilities Consumption 2007 to 2018



Energy and greenhouse

UTS has a greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 30% by 2020-21, against a 2007 baseline. To help achieve this, initiatives included energy savings through demand management, building management system optimisation, and the installation of three new on-site PV solar energy arrays in 2017. This year we continued our work to improve energy efficiency within our buildings including a program of lighting upgrades to LEDs, upgrading air conditioning systems to improve efficiency, and linking the air-conditioning controls to people counters in buildings 7, 8 and 11, to reduce the air-conditioning when rooms are not full.

The opening of the Engineering and IT Tech Lab in Botany was the main contributor to the university's increase in floor space of 9% this year. Despite this increase, we reduced total gas consumption by 14.6% and electricity by 6.7%, helping deliver an overall greenhouse gas emission reduction of 7.4% compared to 2017.





Solar

Our renewable energy journey took a big step forward this year, with the university signing a contract to purchase electricity from a new \$40 million solar farm in Walgett in regional NSW.

The commitment is via a power purchase agreement (PPA) and will supply the equivalent of half the university's annual electricity requirements. As well as facilitating

the construction of a new solar farm, the deal will help stabilise the university's energy costs and support the broader renewables industry. The 32 MW farm is being developed in stages with construction to begin in 2019.

In an Australian first in 2015, UTS became the first large energy customer to contract directly for offsite solar, developing a new market

model for large energy users to purchase renewable energy direct from the generator.

The Walgett Solar Farm will produce a total of about 63,000 MWh a year of electricity when completed, enough to power 9,600 NSW homes.



Water

Total water consumption fell this year by 2.8% due to upgrades to the central chilling plant located in building 1 resulting in improved efficiency of the evaporative chillers. Improved leak detection and shutting down the lab cooling tower in building 11 also made significant contributions.

To help reduce the use of potable water UTS signed an agreement this year with Flow Systems at Central Park's Water Factory to supply recycled water to the main campus.

This Australian-first partnership for district recycled water sharing is expected to reduce the university's use of potable water by up to 20,000 kL per year. Water will be pumped under Broadway to supply water for landscape irrigation and toilet flushing in the new UTS Central Building. The Central Park Water Factory collects water from several sources including rooftop rainwater, local storm water and sewage systems, before it is treated and distributed throughout the precinct for reuse.



“With many parts of New South Wales facing drought conditions, water recycling projects that reduce potable water use are more important than ever.”

**- Patrick Woods, Deputy Vice Chancellor
(Resources)**

UTS Plastic free by 2020 Plan

Plastic waste is a growing global problem, especially single-use 'disposable' plastics. In April we organised a forum for staff and students to provide input on how to reduce single-use plastics on campus. Ideas captured at that event and subsequent consultation were developed into a plan to tackle the most common types of single-use plastics in the food and beverage outlets on campus – plastic bags, take away food containers, plastic straws and cutlery, plastic drink bottles and disposable cups. Following an internal consultation process with key stakeholders, the UTS Plastic Free by 2020 Plan was endorsed by the Sustainability Steering Committee in December 2018. The Plan will be implemented throughout 2019 and beyond.

For Plastic Free July we ran a series of initiatives designed to raise awareness and facilitate behaviour change. Staff and students were invited to make a pledge, committing to reduce their use of single-use plastics. A share bag station was installed in the foyer of Building 1 for people to borrow reusable cloth bags when shopping at local supermarkets and retail outlets.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Waste and recycling

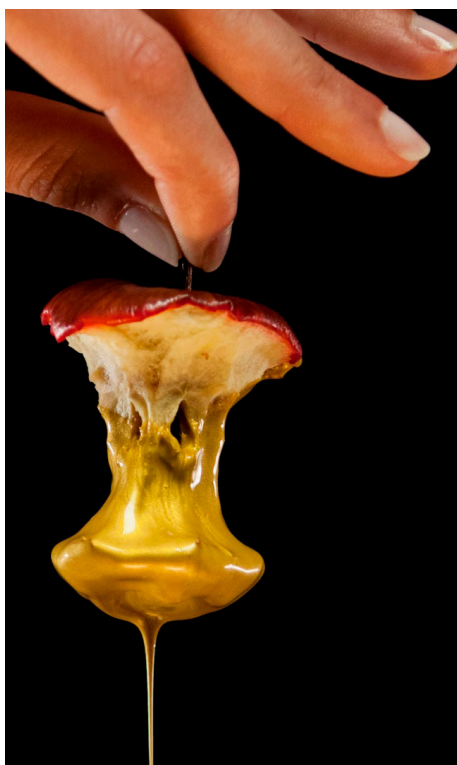
Total operational waste volumes remained almost stationary, falling slightly from 960,036 tonnes in 2017 to 958,586 tonnes in 2018. Waste to landfill however, fell by 4.8%, partly achieved with a big improvement in paper recycling, which rose by 14.4%.

In 2018 UTS recycled the following volumes;

- 419,552 tonnes general recyclables (glass, plastic, aluminium, etc.)
- 348,315 tonnes of paper and cardboard
- 85.831 tonnes food waste (processed on campus)
- 1.9 tonnes styrofoam
- 1.10 tonnes of batteries

UTS is a member of the national Fluorocycle Program, committing to recycling all of our fluorescent lamp waste. This year we recycled 1.4 tonnes of lighting waste.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Food waste is gold

Food waste

UTS has separate bins for food waste in staff kitchens, food outlets and the Aerial Function Centre. The contents get processed on campus in two dehydrator machines. This year 85.831 tonnes of food waste was processed into 18.373 tonnes of soil conditioner. This year we ran a communication campaign to keep staff and students engaged, to reinforce positive behaviour and help reduce contamination in the bins. The campaign slogan 'your food waste is gold' was developed to reinforce the idea that waste is a valuable resource. Posters and digital screens were developed and distributed across campus.

Sustainable procurement

In September we ran a sustainable stationery expo for staff who order office supplies. The university's main supplier of office products, Winc, attended with a display of sustainable stationery and office supplies staff can choose.



Getting wet on Walk to UTS Day

Transport

The university's inner city location situated close to Central station makes it well suited to public transport with a travel survey conducted this year confirming 70% of staff and 83% of students use public transport for their regular commute to the university. A further 16% of staff and 11% of students either walk or cycle. We promote active transport with end of trip facilities for cyclists and walkers, bike maintenance days and promotional events throughout the year. The annual Walk to UTS Day in October this year was a very wet day but the torrential rain did not deter the brave, with over 100 people participating in their gumboots and raincoats.



Green star Interior fit-out

The Institute for Sustainable Futures moved into new office space in 2017 incorporating open plan activity based working, ergonomic sit/stand work stations, natural lighting, plantation and recycled timbers, low VOC and sustainability certified finishes and furnishings. This year the space was awarded a 6 star Green Star Interiors rating Certified by the Green Building Council of Australia, recognising best practice sustainable design.



The new Institute for Sustainable Futures office



Green campus tour

Sustainable campus tours

Throughout the year we ran 21 tours for 201 people showcasing sustainable buildings and infrastructure on campus. This included Green Campus Day, held as part of national Green Building Week in September. On this day campuses across Australia and New Zealand open their doors to sustainable projects and Green Star certified buildings for staff, students and visitors. In 2018 the day continued to grow, with over 190 people attending tours at nine institutions.







Partnerships and engagement

Partnerships and Engagement

Internal collaboration

- **Green Week** is an annual event held each May with 12 events spread over 5 days this year. Highlights included a film screening of the documentary Kangaroos hosted by the UTS student Vegan Society, a talk on electric vehicles, and a sustainable cocktail evening in the Loft bar incorporating native and organic ingredients.
- **Green Week Photography competition** is another annual event, now in its seventh year. Run in collaboration with our precinct partners Ultimo TAFE, staff and students from both organisations contributed 76 entries, with the best 25 presented for exhibition during Green Week.
- **Green Hero Awards** give staff and students the opportunity to nominate their peers for recognition, with winners announced by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Resources on World Environment Day. This year's heroes were; student Alecia Liem in first place for her work on climate justice and helping coordinate campus activities with student groups Eco Soc and the Enviro Collective. Second place went to staff member Alice McAuliffe for her work establishing the Waraburra Nura garden of Indigenous medicinal plants. Third place went to Dr Melissa Edwards for the way she combines environmental consciousness into her academic research and teaching.
- **Student orientation events** including stalls and campus tours were incorporated into the student orientation program to encourage students to get involved in sustainability on campus.
- **A sustainable superannuation forum** was held for staff in September with representatives from UniSuper giving a presentation on sustainable options available for staff. This was followed by a lively discussion on a range of ethical investment topics from fossil fuel divestment to modern slavery.
- **Green Staff Network** is a group of academic and professional staff interested in sustainability. This year the group continued to grow and held quarterly meetings with guest speakers.

Overall, the year saw a 10% increase in people participating in sustainability events and initiatives.



One world, one destiny by Danny Kisso



L'amour existe by Dionne Brown

Leading light Angelica Liem



Green Hero Angelica Liem and friends

While many UTS students are involved in environmental campaigns Angelica Liem stands out from the crowd. Her peers nominated her this year for a UTS Green Hero Award, shining a light on her volunteer and extra-curricular activities, especially the work she does building student campaigns both on campus and off. Angelica arranged for a UTS delegation to attend the national Students of Sustainability Conference in Melbourne this year.

She is an active member of the Fossil Free and Divestment campaigns, and was instrumental in building momentum and student involvement in the Fossil Free Skill Up weekend for UTS students. Fellow student, Lucy Chen says *“it’s inspiring to meet other students on campus passionate about climate justice and transitioning to a more sustainable world.”*

Think: Sustainability Radio

Now in its third year the Think: Sustainability radio program and podcast is a collaboration between UTS and radio 2SER. This year saw 30 episodes on topics ranging from eco-tourism and deep-sea mining, to environmental algorithms and artificial intelligence.

[Listen to the podcast here](#)

New Centre for Social Justice

The Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion opened in August, building on the work of the past two years developing the UTS Social Impact Framework. The new Centre will be the coordinating vehicle for the implementation of the Social Impact Framework and for driving the university’s social justice agenda, which is an integral part of the university’s response to sustainability challenges.

The new Centre will harness existing efforts across the university to maximise social impact, and ensure that in an environment of limited resources the public good of the university stays focused on the needs of the community. The Centre also oversees the Social Impact Lab, a space bringing together community partners, academics, policymakers and practitioners working together to generate positive social change.



“At its heart is the shared social justice goal of our university – that UTS is an agent for social change, transforming communities through research, education and practice.”

- Attila Brungs, Vice Chancellor

Public lectures

Public lectures, talks and forums run throughout the year are an important way we engage with the wider community. This year's events included:

Energy Transition After the National Energy Guarantee:

a forum on transitioning to a renewable energy future. Hosted by the Institute for Sustainable Futures and the Climate Justice Research Centre, the forum drew on the real-world experiences of communities undergoing transition to share experiences and lessons learned.

The End of Investment as Usual:

hosted by the UTS Business School with renowned American environmentalist Bill McKibben, this breakfast forum brought together business leaders to explore recent global shifts in divestment and litigation in an increasingly carbon constrained world.

Consuming the World: part of the UTS Big Thinking Forum series, this session with artists Hiroshi Fuji and Emily McDaniel, along with indigenous writer Bruce Pascoe and UTS academic Jenni Downes explored the impacts of modern consumerism compared to traditional indigenous societies.

Talking About the Anthropocene:

hosted by the Climate Justice Research Centre this lecture by visiting Professor Emeritus Leslie Sklair from the London School of Economics and Political Science, discussed how the media around the world presents the Anthropocene - the new geological epoch in which human impacts are shaping the Earth's geology, ecology, and life support systems.

External Engagement

In 2018 we continued to collaborate with other universities through Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS). Staff from the sustainability team attended the annual ACTS conference in Adelaide, with team members on the ACTS Executive Board and the Learning in Future Environments (LiFE) index working group.

UTS is a member of the City of Sydney Council's Better Buildings Partnership (BBP), a group of large building owners who collaborate to improve the sustainability performance of commercial buildings. Sustainability team members continued to represent UTS this year on the BBP Leadership Panel and the Environment and Waste Working groups.

UTS academics continued to feature prominently in the media talking about sustainability, with more than 300 stories across all major channels in mainstream print, radio and television as well as specialised industry publications. The dominant themes covered by UTS academics this year were energy, including energy policy, renewable energy and energy grids. This was followed closely by climate change and climate change impacts.

Our social media sustainability engagement rose 8% compared to the previous year and the number of people subscribing to our UTS Sustainability newsletter rose 30%. Throughout the year, UTS hosted 51 sustainability events attended by 2149 people, representing a 9% increase on the year before.



Vivid algae

As part of the Sydney Vivid Festival in June, UTS participated in the Vivid Ideas program hosting a public lecture 'Algae is the new black' exploring the exciting potential uses for algae - from food to pharmaceuticals.



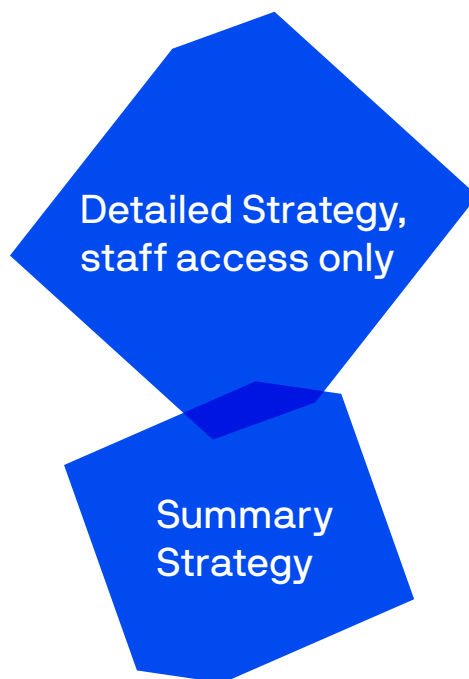
Leadership and Governance

Leadership and Governance

This year we continued to implement the UTS Sustainability Strategy 2017 – 2020. This high-level document outlines the University’s sustainability vision, goals, and the mechanisms to achieve those goals through to 2020.

The Strategy sits under the UTS Sustainability Policy and UTS 2027 Strategy and is the key strategic document through which the policy is implemented.

The Strategy outlines planned initiatives, success indicators, and responsibilities for key staff across the organisation in the four key areas of teaching and learning, research, operations and community engagement.



Sustainability Steering Committee

The Sustainability Steering Committee is the high-level body within the university that oversees the implementation of the UTS Sustainability Strategy 2017 – 2020, and guides sustainability activity across the organisation. The Committee meets quarterly. Committee membership this year was:

- **Patrick Woods**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources)
- **Glen Rabbitt**, Director, Facilities Management Operations
- **Nigel Oliver**, Director, Program Management Office
- **Danielle McCartney**, Manager, Sustainability
- **Dr Paul Brown**, Senior Lecturer (Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation)
- **Professor Stuart White**, Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures
- **Professor Peter Scott**, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education)
- **Dexter Dunphy**, Emeritus Professor (Faculty of Business)
- **John Chalmers**, Director, Marketing and Communications
- **Verity Firth**, Executive Director, UTS Social Justice
- **Wendy Yeomans**, Post graduate student representative
- **Lachlan Barker**, President UTS Students Association

The UTS Sustainability team




(From 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, Jyotish Joseph: Sustainability Assistant Engineer

Contact us

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Facebook/UTSgreen

The image features a solid blue background with several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in various shades of blue. These shapes include triangles and polygons of different sizes and orientations, creating a layered, abstract composition. The text is positioned on the left side, overlaid on one of the darker blue shapes.

To change
the future,
we're taking
actions today