

SUSTAINABILITY

BY KATE HEWSON

Getting Involved At UC

Those of you who wandered the corridors and common rooms of UCSA last week or today may have been invited to join something called the UC Sustainability Learning Community contact list. The what?

Most people focused on sustainability matters say that we need to approach these issues across and beyond traditional academic disciplines. We need to bring the lawyers, the artists, the social scientists, the engineers, the economists and the physical scientists (and anyone else I've missed) together – and they need to be able to understand each other and be able to work together. How can we practise doing that at university?

An important way of course is for you to explore through your choice of courses what sustainability means in the context of your degree. As a complement to that, you can also approach sustainability informally as part of your overall UC learning experience. Remember, sustainability requires new ways of thinking. We all have something to contribute so in a sense we can all be a part of a campus community learning together what a personally fulfilling, socially just and environmentally sustainable human presence on Earth could be/is like.

A wide range of events and initiatives are planned this year to help create spaces for people to come from all across UC to talk with, learn from, and act with others who are interested in sustainability. These include lunchtime seminars and discussions, sustainability symposiums and visioning workshops, "Rewriting the Future" community forums, and more. We're also going online with a UC Sustainability Community site on UCMoodle. Any UC staff or student can join in. And of course Clubs Days are this week so check out the sustainability-engaged clubs (mostly on C-block lawn).

So, a few start-of-year suggestions:



1. To find out what's happening on the physical campus, from recycling to coal boilers to bell-bird habitats, come along to one of the lunchtime tours, leaving from the sustainability tent on C-block lawn this Tuesday and Wednesday, 12-12:50 pm.

2. Visit www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz to see more of what's happening sustainability-wise. You can sign up to the UC Sustainability Community network from there and you'll be emailed with details on how to join the Moodle conversations, upcoming events and other happenings.



3. My role here at UC is to act as a catalyst to advance the principles and practices of sustainability throughout the University. If you have any suggestions or queries, please feel free to contact me.

Kate Hewson
UC Sustainability Advocate
Kate.hewson@canterbury.ac.nz