

Sustainability News

UC Sustainability Office (Planning, Strategy and Services)

Volume 2, No.8, 19 August 2011

Welcome!

Welcome to the snow issue of our newsletter! Many people will be making the link between the record-breaking snow falls with other unusual global climatic events and wondering if this is what predicted climate volatility – a result of our carbon emissions – will look like. If this is so, then even this taster will show vividly what the economic (not to mention social) costs of climate change will be like.

The last month has seen some milestones for the Sustainability Office. The first of these was the first meeting of the new Sustainability Working Group, a group assisting our office in developing a strategic framework for sustainability initiatives across the campus. The second was the launch, by the Vice Chancellor, of the Eco Office Programme we have been developing since late 2009. More about these elsewhere in this newsletter. A brief summary of our month's highlights:

- Sustainability Working Group met for the first time
- Eco Office Programme launched by the Vice Chancellor
- Sustainable Practices Coordinator job advertised
- Eco My Flat awards held
- Sustainability Awards nominations launched
- Eco Week Programme developed
- Eco Change Agents Programme underway
- Sustainability Office to give a keynote address at the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability conference in Adelaide
- Edible Campus initiatives advanced with support from the UCSA

These are some of the things we have been doing. If you're involved in sustainability initiatives on campus, feel free to write something for our newsletter so we can tell others about the great things our sustainability community is achieving, even in these difficult times.

Spring is coming! Best wishes from Matt, Sharon and the Sustainability Team



Okeover Community Garden under its blanket of snow

Sustainable Practices Coordinator Role Advertised

We have moved swiftly to advertise this position, which became vacant last month. The Sustainable Practices Coordinator is crucial in developing and rolling out initiatives 'on the ground' to move us onto a more sustainable footing. This is a key role within the sustainability team and a great opportunity for anyone looking for a career in the sustainability field. Visit: https://ucvacancies.canterbury.ac.nz/psp/ps/EMPLOY/EE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL

to view the advertisement. Applications close 30 August. Please forward this on to anyone you think may be interested.

UC Sustainability Awards – Nominations Open!

Don't forget to nominate UC people who you think are doing amazing work in the field of sustainability – whether research, operations or project development. Check our website details:

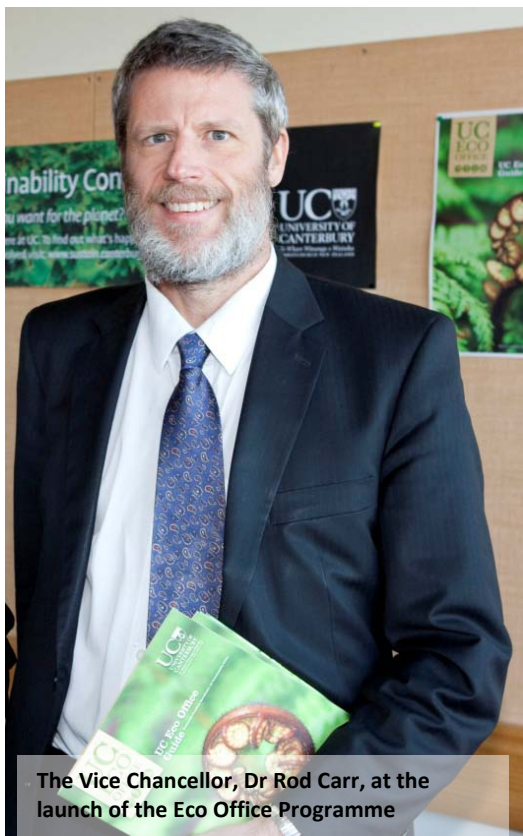
<http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/awards2011.shtml>.

Eco Office Programme Launched

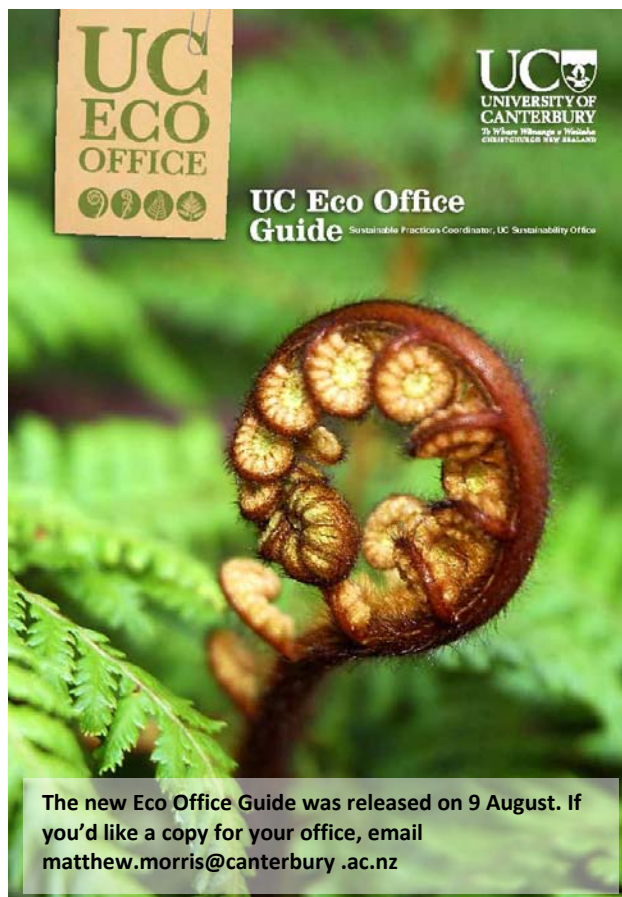
On 9 August we finally celebrated the long-anticipated launch of the UC Eco Office Programme. The programme itself was launched by the Vice Chancellor, Dr Rod Carr, who ceremonially broke the Fair Trade chocolate – which regular Eco Office attendees will recognise as a key emblem of the Eco Office Network.

The gathering, which consisted of Eco Office Network members and three other members of the Senior Management Team, heard first from Matt Morris, the UC's Sustainability Advocate. He gave a brief overview of some of the strategic benefits to UC from developing programmes such as this one. He then introduced Dr Carr, who spoke about some of the other, bigger ticket sustainability initiatives at UC and what was involved in developing the business case for sustainability. The event featured food that was fair trade, locally sourced (some from the community garden!), organic and gluten free, and the durable crockery used was brought over from Sustainability House, which has a range of stylish pieces available for use at University events.

The launch focussed on the release of the new Eco Office Guide, available at www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/ecooffice.shtml. But the programme features other tools as well, including Eco Office certification. Information about this can be found on the same web page.



The Vice Chancellor, Dr Rod Carr, at the launch of the Eco Office Programme



UC Sustainability Awards

There are many, many wonderful people in our community doing outstanding research and actions around sustainability at UC, and we need to start officially recognising them! This is our chance. Please take a moment to think about your friends and colleagues, inspiring lecturers or other people who are doing great sustainability work, and then nominate them for an award. The awards will be presented at an official ceremony as part of Eco Week, on 15 September, by Professor Sue McKnight, Pro Vice Chancellor of Learning Resources.

Visit <http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/awards2011.shtml> for more information and the link to the nomination form. Nominations close on 2 September.

Sustainability Working Group Meets

A group consisting of students, academics and operations staff met for the first time on 8 August as the new Sustainability Working Group. The group was selected by the Sustainability Advocate to assist in the development of a strategic, integrated approach to sustainability at UC. As such, it contains people who have expertise in fields like procurement, energy and water, building, forestry, waterways, as well as involvement in the Campus Master Plan, Academic Board, University Council, the UCSA Executive and the student environment club Kakariki. Two members of the Senior Management Team provide the link from this group back to SMT. The strategic framework will be offered to the Senior Management Team as a starting point during their forthcoming sustainability workshop.

UC Gardening Group

Wednesdays, 12-1, Okeover Community Garden

The Gardening Group has continued meeting through the coldest months of the year, doing a whole range of useful winter tasks like pruning the grape vines and the currants, and in particular learning the important differences in growth habits between black and red currants.

We also visited Tom Innes' home to learn from him about a simple way of making raised bed gardens, and Penny Sewell, the Okeover Community Garden coordinator, presented a workshop on winter gardening, creating microclimates and growing chillies through into August. Impressive!

Over the last couple of weeks the group has been meeting at Sustainability House to find out how an ordinary suburban household garden can be converted into a permacultural paradise.

To get reminders about what workshop is happening when, please email matthew.morris@canterbury.ac.nz.

Opportunity to Visit Antarctica

We received this message from Pure Advantage, and thought some of our students might be interested:

"Pure Advantage is committed to a greener and more prosperous future for all New Zealanders and to developing practical opportunities to make that vision a reality.

"Today we're launching an exciting competition, with a very unique prize, aimed at inspiring young New Zealanders to think about what green growth means to them and how to spread the message to others. In February of 2012 Robert Swan, polar explorer and environmentalist, will lead an expedition to Antarctica and Pure Advantage wants to send one young New Zealander with him.

"To enter we're asking kiwis between the ages of 19 and 26 to upload a 2-minute video showcasing what green growth means to them and how we can get all New Zealanders working towards this goal.

"We're looking for young leaders who can articulate their commitment and who can inspire others. Entries close at midday on September 12th so spread the word because the recipient of this epic prize is in for a spectacular, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The entry details are at <http://www.PureAdvantage.org/antarctica>. We'll also be keeping you up to date via twitter as entries come in."



Lily gives some pointers to Lawrence about how to prune an out of control grape vine



A cup of tea inside the garden shed after a chilly time pruning the blackcurrants



The garden group visits Rev Tom Innes' garden for a workshop on making simple raised beds

UC Sustainability is on Facebook!

We are on Facebook so please join our community by "liking" us at www.facebook.com/ucsustainabilitycommunity



We also have facebook pages for our community garden and for our carpooling initiative, UC Rideshare. Find them on our main UC Sustainability Community page.



Te Puna Oranga o Seven Oaks Organics

Some of you may be interested in these Opawa based workshops. Half Day \$15 / Full Day \$30

Intro to Fruit Tree Pruning with Hamish Kelland, Intro to Grafting with Hamish Kell and Intro to Permaculture with Nicole Burhs. **Contact Jodie 03 9817752**
courses@sevenoaksorganics.org.nz

Eco-Change Agents - adapting to context

Due to our ever changing world, along with student feedback regarding their available time and energy, the Sustainability Office is adapting Eco-Change Agents. This year the program will occur as a single retreat over one weekend (August 26-28th) with a customized follow up plan for participants. We have 10 people attending the retreat at Cass Field station from various faculties including Engineering, Geography, Commerce and Biology. Applications closed this week. We will keep you posted about how they progress. For more information see <http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/ecochangeagents.shtml> or contact Helen.tulett@canterbury.ac.nz

UC Sustainability Office visits Mastagard

Earlier this month Matt and Sharon, along with Adrian Teather, were treated to a tour of UC waste provider, Mastagard's Bromley plant. Since taking over the collection and management of the UC's recycling and rubbish, Mastagard has become the first waste company in NZ to earn Bronze Enviromark certification, which they attained in order to fulfil their contract with the UC. At the plant, the UC team were shown how our paper and plastics are sorted by a team of people into various grades in order to ensure quality product for recycling. For Sharon, the visit provided plenty of information and inspiration for the Waste Watchers education programme to be launched by the Sustainability Office in 2012.

Fix It Night

Tuesday 6 September, 7pm, Venue TBC
Fix what? Anything: shoes, clothing, that old bike in the garage... If you've got the tools, here's the initiative: A night of food, fun and fixing!
Nothing to fix or don't know how? Bring something to 're-purpose' or come along and help someone else. Bike mechanic available. Sewing machines provided. This is a FREE event as part of a student art project. ALL WELCOME. Bring what you can!
PLEASE RSVP: 0273685459
Find this event on Facebook. Let us know what you want to bring along and share some ideas!

Building Community with eco-my-flat 2011

There may have been less flats signed up to this year's eco-my-flat, but in many ways the 2011 competition has been better than ever, with community emerging as the key theme. This year the workshops had a more practical aspect, and flatters learned how to keep their homes warm, build a raised garden bed (in less than an hour), put down a lager brew, preserve winter produce, make soap and healing balm, and even had a field trip to the North City Opshop. Also included for the first time in 2011 were workshops on Emergency Kits and Community.

And it was the community aspect of the competition that really impressed the judges, with several flats creating a hub of eco-living amongst their neighbours in Bryndwr, creating bartering and co-op schemes, and hosting free craft nights and Zumba classes. For coordinators Matt and Sharon, it's outcomes like this that prove the real worth of eco-my-flat.

Ice cream container drive

With a number of new offices opening up at the UC, we're getting low on our stock of the ice cream containers used for office rubbish bins. Rather than buying new ones, we thought we'd try sourcing second-hand containers first. So if anyone has any 2L square ice cream containers they're not using, please drop them in to Sustainability House (118 Ilam Road), or email sharon.mciver@canterbury.ac.nz. It's a great excuse to eat ice cream!

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