

Sustainability News

UC Sustainability Office (Planning, Strategy and Services)

Volume 3, No.1, 16 January 2012

Kia ora!

Welcome to the first edition of our Sustainability News for 2012. It's looking like a big year for sustainability at UC this year, and we're looking to grow our numbers! If you can think of other people who might be interested in receiving our newsletter, why not pass it on to them and suggest that they either join our Facebook page or sign up to our email list?

We hope you had a great break. I was in the Okeover Community Garden when the earthquakes struck on the 23rd December, and we left the site with buckets of raspberries and a wheelbarrow of new potatoes to cheer us along for the holidays.

Eco-my-flat and the Eco Change Agents programmes are both getting going for the year, and there's more information about both further on in this edition. These are great opportunities for students to upskill on sustainability. And we're set for some excitement in March with the launch of our Waste Watchers initiative – complete with fashion show and rubbish free market!

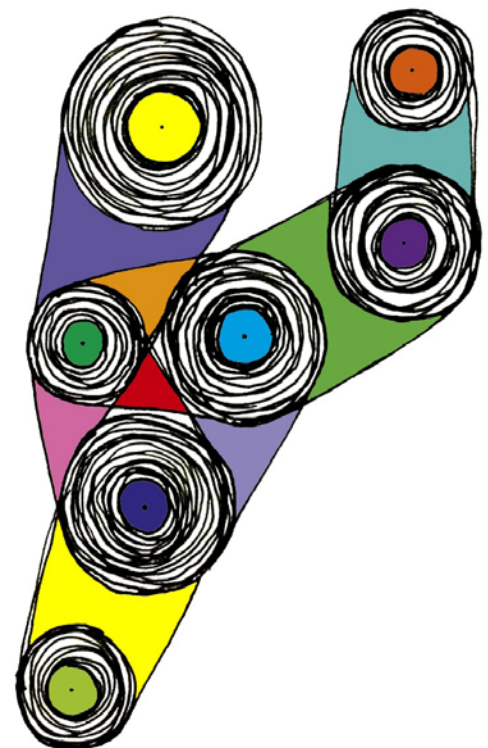
Last year we had a major focus on reframing UC's draft Sustainability Strategy (2012-2022). The Sustainability Working Group made huge progress on this and a final draft appeared at the end of December. We hope this will be ready to take to SMT early this year. We will certainly keep you posted on how this process progresses. So, our key areas of focus are:

- Finalising the Sustainability Strategy
- Working with our summer sustainability scholarship students and our summer interns, who are producing great work!
- Streamlining our website
- Preparing eco-my-flat, Eco Change Agents and our new programme for 2012, Eco Bridging (more next issue!)
- Getting Waste Watchers ready to launch.

All the very best for the start of the year,

Matt, Sharon and the UC Sustainability Team

We are very keen to hear your sustainability news, and to promote your sustainability events in our newsletter. So please contact us if you have anything to share with the rest of the UC Sustainability Community.



Cooperatives Talk

2012 marks the International Year of Cooperatives. This is an acknowledgment by the international community that cooperatives offer an alternative economic model of both financial viability and social responsibility. To start us off, Project Lyttelton has organised Ramsey Margolis of the New Zealand Cooperatives Association to share his knowledge and experience. The talk will focus on providing an understanding of cooperative enterprises- their nature, opportunities, distinctions and potential, as well as their importance for a resilient and sustainable future. To get up to spend on the power of cooperatives, head along to Naval Point Club, Erskine Point, Charlotte Jane Quay, Lyttelton on the 24th of January, the talk will be from 3.30pm til 4.30pm.

Become an Eco Change Agent!

Eco Change Agents is a programme intended to help young people gain more skills around generating a sustainable world within their sphere of influence. This year we are working in closely with the UC Mentoring programme, and focussing on the Eco Change Agents mentoring interested secondary school students in sustainability initiatives. As such, it involves learning about sustainability at UC, tools for creating change, and training and practical experience around mentoring.

The structure of the programme is fairly flexible to suit the needs of the participants. However, it will involve training with the Mentoring programme in the first term, one two day retreat in Kaikoura around the middle of the year and monthly gatherings during the second semester. The retreat covers the following:

- Inform the students about the current work of the Sustainability Office, sustainability projects and groups at UC, and how the university works
- Share 'change agent' skills and techniques with the students (including project planning, non-violent communication, co-facilitation, presentation skills)
- Envision a sustainable world together using the Open Spaces for Dialogue and Enquiry technique, developed by Vanessa Andreotti and identify areas already needing support within the UC sustainability community that students could get involved with or, support students to lead a project of their own vision. Following the Awakening the Dreamer process.
- Creating a support/mentoring/thriving dynamic within the Eco-Change Agents group to ensure they have key sustainability support networks whilst carrying out change work within the University. There is also the intention to set each Eco-Change Agents up with an academic and community mentor – of their choice or through guidance from UC sustainability office staff.

If you would like to become an Eco Change Agent, download the application form at www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/ecochangeagents.shtml. Applications close 27th January.

Waste Watchers begins!



Sharon putting the new Waste Watchers posters up around campus

After much planning and anticipation, the launch of the University's re-vamped waste system has begun! The role out of posters has been a great success so far, with almost the whole campus covered. This will be followed by matching stickers to go on the stackable bins and a change in hoods of the outdoor bins, some of which you may have already seen around campus. These posters and stickers are the culmination of an extensive waste audit, market research and a whole lot of hard work! With their clear concise layout and more recognisable colour scheme, they should stimulate improved recycling amongst bin users. Keep an eye out for a new poster near you!

Also, save the dates of March the 12th to 16th when we will be holding our Waste Watchers launch week! With a trash-free market, pizza in the garden and a sustainable fashion show, it's sure to be an exciting week!



A New Way Forward

We are lucky enough to be hosting visiting lecturer Professor Murray Patterson, Chair in Ecological Economics from Massey University! Professor Murray Patterson will be giving his presentation- 'A New Way Forward: A Genuine Progress Indicator for New Zealand' here on campus. Come along on Monday the 12th of March to A3 lecture theatre at 7.30pm. Definitely not to be missed!

SOCI220 explores the UC's sustainability

Alison Loveridge invited Matt Morris to give a lecture in her 200 level summer school course, Environment and Society (SOCI220) early this year. As well as discussing the University's approach to sustainability, Matt took the students on a sustainability tour of campus. This included secure cycle stands, recycling system, fair trade on campus, Okeover stream restoration, the Okeover Community Garden and of course Sustainability House. Is there space in your lecture programme for sustainability?



Avon River Red Zone Assets

The Avon-Otakaro Network is working hard to help the Christchurch rebuild become something we can all be proud of. They are currently petitioning to make sure the Avon River Red Zone becomes a reserve and river park – honouring nature, and the people who have had to leave their homes behind. Alongside this, they also want to preserve the assets within this region which are soon to be removed. To do this, they are inviting the public to register any assets they believe should be saved. They can be gardens or community halls, gate posts, buildings, plants or signs. They can be on a private property or on public land. Whatever they are, whatever reason you think they are important, and wherever they are in the Avon River Red Zone, they want to know about them! This list will then be passed onto CERA residential red zone team. Although they will make the final decision, it is important they have this information in order to make the best decisions for everyone. To register an asset it only takes a few minutes, just go to:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dEJ5UV84SDZsSUE0R1yLW9vakpJaUE6MQ>

Eco-My-Flat 2012

It's almost that time! Eco-My-Flat will soon be back for another year. If you haven't already, check out the changes we've made at:

<http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/ecomyflat/index.shtml>. This year it will kick off with a social night, giving everyone a chance to get to

know each other and build a sense of community. Keep an eye out for the next newsletter when you can sign up you and your flat!



Orientation Week 2012!



O-Week is coming up quickly! Thanks to Cathy, one of the students working in the Sustainability Office over summer, who has organised this fun event, we will be hosting an afternoon of pizza and biking! This event will introduce new students to the sustainability house and our initiatives, with a specific focus on transport. While the pizza oven gets fired up, Ants will bring along his electric bike and give a brief talk on it to those interested. Vintage Peddler will also be there providing the free hire of several vintage bikes for students to explore the campus. This will be held on Friday the 17th of February, at the community gardens, where home made pizza cooked on site will be provided and at Sustainability House. Also keep an eye out for the sustainability stall during O-Week, which will be located between the North Arts lecture theatres, C block lecture theatres and the library. Stalls will be there on the 17th, 20th, 21st and 22nd of February.

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