

Sustainability News

UC Sustainability Office (Planning, Strategy and Services)

Volume 2, No.6, 23 June 2011

Welcome!

Welcome to the Winter Solstice and Matariki issue of our Sustainability News. I hope this finds you well in light of the recent earthquakes. Remember, our tips for sustainable earthquake response can be found on our website at <http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/futureproofing.shtml>.

This issue we have plenty to report, including the exciting news about the creation of **Sustainability House**. The **eco-my-flat competition** is well underway, and I heartily recommend reading some of the inspiring blogs from our incredible students... check them out here: <http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/ecomylat/blogs.shtml>

We are currently focussed on student programmes (apart from eco-my-flat we are in the process of finalising the **summer sustainability scholarship** projects for this year and we're about to launch our **Eco Change Agents** programme – more on both elsewhere in this issue). But we're also gearing up for our annual **Eco Week**, including the inaugural **Sustainability Awards**... look out for these in September.

Times of stress like these can sometimes help us to reconnect with our core values. In 2009 we started off our **Simplicity Network** as a place for people whose core values were around simplicity to connect with others. We were surprised when one session filled a lecture theatre! Ironically, the Network has struggled to meet this year due to earthquakes! Nevertheless, some of you may well find inspiration from our Melbourne counterparts, the Simplicity Collective. If this sounds like you, have a look at <http://simplicitycollective.com/> when you get a chance.

Best wishes

Matt, Sharon and the Sustainability Team

UC Sustainability is on Facebook!



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



Sustainability House – 118 Ilam Road (viewed from the back)

Sustainability House

On Tuesday 7 June the Sustainability Office started operations from its new home at 118 Ilam Road (next to Montana Early Childhood Learning Centre), now officially named Sustainability House. Yes, it's actually a house, and it even has a back garden! And a bbq. And... a clothesline. We're sharing it with others at the moment, which is great, and later on the whole house will be available for a range of sustainability projects. There's a lot of potential here and we are very excited about what we are going to start achieving at our new base.

The Local Club

A club is being set up to support and promote buying local. Targeting local businesses for your purchases is a great way to get to know and to support your community. The club will be launched next semester, and is hoping to bring you profiles, discounts and information about local businesses. If you are interested, email Sarah on sarah.campagnolo@canterbury.ac.nz and she will add you to the list. If you are a business that wants to be profiled, email Sarah and we will get in touch.

Centralised Timetabling and Sustainability

We will all hear a lot more about the centralised timetabling project now underway in the coming months. This project, led by Reuben Hunt (who also chairs the Learning Resources Sustainability Group), will have significant sustainability outcomes for campus. The project involves the better utilisation of campus resources, which we would anticipate will lead to significant energy savings in particular. We will keep you posted on how this project develops.

Vege Box Scheme to Start

We are intending to coordinate a weekly vege box scheme, delivering a selection of fresh, biodynamically grown vegetables direct to campus. At this stage we are gauging interest. So if this sounds like you, please get in contact with Sarah Campagnolo by emailing sarah.campagnolo@canterbury.ac.nz

Eco Change Agents Programme

The vision of the Eco Change Agents concept is to provide a program for change offered free to University students to promote individuals as agents for change. The programme compliments student's degree structures with a holistic toolkit for change – focusing on place, people and participation, operational practices and a lived based strategy for change. It also aims to support students in the planning, implementation and reflection of a UC community focused project for change. The Sustainability Office is running two retreats for students who want to participate in the Eco Change Agents programme who are passionate about creating collective ownership of sustainable solutions. These retreats are for students who are ready to take a leap into environmental consciousness. Topics covered include project management, monitoring and evaluation, public speaking and communication, mentoring and support group work. Contact Helen Tulett for more information: helen.tulett@canterbury.ac.nz, and visit www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/ecochangeagents.shtml

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Dovedale Garden Support

Early this month a team of six people from Eftpos NZ spent a day at Dovedale Community Garden tidying up paths, pruning roses and digging over a new bed. They had been sent to us via Red Cross, who have been coordinating volunteer days to assist with projects that will benefit the Christchurch community. So a huge thanks to Eftpos and the Red Cross for their efforts, which have helped us really get that garden back up to speed.



Simplicity Network Gathering: Food Forests

Tuesday 5 July, 12-1pm
Sustainability House (118 Ilam Rd)

In the present thinking about the Christchurch rebuild, there has been a lot of discussion about providing greenspace for growing food. We are bringing this discussion to UC through our Simplicity Network. Tom Innes, the University Chaplain, will speak about one of his favourite topics – Food Forests – at the next Simplicity Network gathering. This time we're inviting you to come to Sustainability House, 118 Ilam Rd. If wet or cold we will be inside, if warm we can sit in the garden. Simple!

Cell Phones for Spreydon School

The Sustainability Office is supporting Spreydon School in one of its fundraising efforts. We're collecting used cell phones on their behalf. If you have an old cell phone that you no longer need, please drop it in to us at Sustainability House, 118 Ilam Rd, and we'll pass it on.





The UC Gardening Group will continue meeting through the mid year break.

UC Gardening Group

Wednesdays, 12-1pm, Okeover Community Garden.

We are continuing with our Gardening Group gatherings through the holiday break. Lily, our local permaculture expert, will demonstrate fruit tree and bush pruning (weather permitting) on Wed 29 June, at Okeover Community Garden.

Fair Trade Fair a Success

Back in May UC participated in this year's Fair Trade Fortnight by holding a Fair Trade Fair in C Block foyer. The fair was organised by student Hannah Muir with support from the Sustainability Office, and included talks from Fair Trade advocates Dr Julie Cupples of Geography and Angus Coull of the Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand. Stalls informed people about the issues, and nourished them with good coffee and cakes. The event was capped off with a fair trade bake-off. More than 300 people attended the fair.

Sustainability Benchmarking for Tertiary Institutions

The UC Sustainability Office is participating in a trans-Tasman project to develop a sustainability benchmarking tool for tertiaries. This project is led by Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) and will be extremely helpful for us as we start to clarify reporting parameters around our sustainability performance. We are also participating in the re-formation of Sustainability in Tertiary Education in New Zealand (STENZ). This will support our 'continuous improvement' around sustainability through enhanced networking, and will also allow for New Zealand's increased input into ACTS. For further information please contact Matt Morris: matthew.morris@canterbury.ac.nz.

Summer Sustainability Scholarships: Green Roofs and Food-Mapping

The projects on offer for our Summer Sustainability Scholarships are being finalised currently. However, we can confirm three projects at this stage. One is a project suited to a Geography student, focussed on **mapping the food system at the University of Canterbury**. This project will be supervised by Dr Femke Reitsma. The second project is an Engineering project **designing, constructing and monitoring a green roof for a University of Canterbury building**. This will be supervised by Dr Aisling O'Sullivan. The third project will suit a History student, and is a **history of sustainability initiatives at UC**. Dr Katie Pickles will be co-supervising. At the time of writing the briefs are not finalised, but they will be on our website soon.

Check here for details:

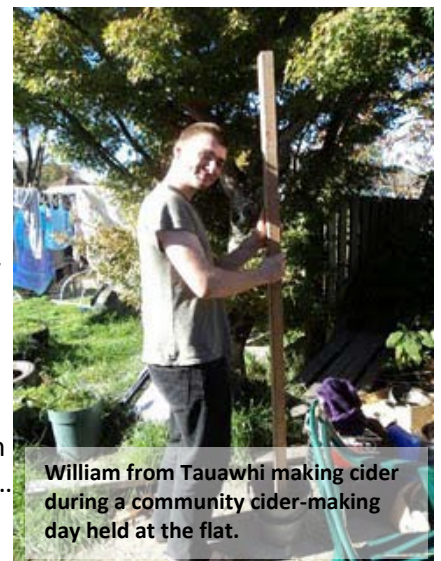
<http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/summer/index.shtml>.



Some of the latest productions from Truman the Quiet One, one our eco-my-flats.

Eco My Flat

Despite all the challenges this year, we have our annual competition for student flatters up and running, and the line up is utterly brilliant! As mentioned, the blogs from the flats are truly inspiring, and we recommend them to all as great ways to learn about sustainable living... on a student budget:



William from Tauawhi making cider during a community cider-making day held at the flat.

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

We can confirm that the competition is at a very high level this year and last year's winners, Tauawhi, have definitely got strong challengers to contend with!

Exciting stuff.