

Sustainability News

UC Sustainability Office (Planning, Strategy and Services)

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Kia ora!

Welcome to the final edition of the sustainability newsletter for 2011! What a year we've all had! But through the stresses and the tough times, we've seen Christchurch come together as a community and become more aware of the advantages of living sustainably, and that's exciting!

2011 has seen many changes to the sustainability office, including shifting into our new premises at 118 Ilam Road. Having a Sustainability House on campus gives us more visibility and a cohesive space around which our many programmes and activities can operate. We've really enjoyed being able to host and cater our own events, and even offering it to UC departments and local community groups for meetings and functions.

2011 also saw the inaugural Eco Change Agents retreat take place, and we're excited about the ongoing changes that will happen as a result of this keen group of students getting together to learn how they can make a difference. Look out for their initiatives in 2012. We wish you all the best for the holiday season and start of 2012. Enjoy the break, and we'll see you next year!

Sustainable Staff Christmas Party

Thanks to the organisers of the annual Learning Resources staff Christmas function. It was an environmentally sustainable event! As the biggest staff function for the university, the pressure was on to provide a fun and exciting get-together for over 200 staff! Alongside this, the event was environmentally friendly through the implementation of compostable plates, well labelled recycling and organics bins, and the use of proper silverware and glasses. Awesome work!



One of our community garden statues hand-crafted by the talented Michael Abrahamson

Solstice Picnic in the Garden – the UC Sustainability Community Break-up

Prompted by a Garden Group workshop by Lily White about celebrating the Southern seasons, the UC Sustainability Office has decided to celebrate the summer solstice on Wednesday, December 21 with a BYO picnic in the Okeover Community Garden. Taking place at the regular Garden Group time of 12noon, the picnic is open to all in the Sustainability Community and will probably carry on into the afternoon. Bring your lunch and whatever you like to drink. If raining, we'll be in the lounge at Sustainability House, 118 Ilam Road. Put it in your diary and celebrate the longest day in Southern style.

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.

All the very best,

Matt, Sharon and the UC Sustainability Team.

Changes to Eco-Office

There are some big changes coming to Eco-Office next year!

To encourage participation, we are bringing the eco to your office! All you have to do is organise a staff morning tea, and we'll bring along some fair-trade goodies and introduce the eco-office programme! If you're keen to get your office involved just contact Sharon at sharon.mciver@canterbury.ac.nz



And changes to Eco-My-Flat!

Eco-My-Flat is also undergoing some changes in 2012!

For starters, we're dropping the competition tag – we surveyed our flatters and they told us that the competition aspect is not as important as the opportunity to do something practical to reduce their footprint. What they love most about eco-my-flat is the sense of community that grows both inter-flat, and with the wider UC Sustainability Community. We still intend to reward flatters with lots of workshop giveaways and spot prizes, but we think that without the pressure of 'big' prize packs, we'll have more flats involved over longer periods.

With less emphasis on blogging for the judges, we'll set up an eco-my-flat Facebook page and both flats and sponsors will be able to add their own pages/posts and join the community, interacting directly with each other and the wider cyber community.

So that's how we see eco-my-flat for 2012 – we believe that if everyone who loves the competition gets on board, we can make it the best one yet.

UNESCO comes to the Sustainability House

Looking Beyond Disasters: the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Youth Forum was recently held here in Christchurch. This amazing event has brought together teens from around Asia-Pacific who have been impacted by natural disasters.



Over 80 youth travelled here to discuss and develop a plan for the future of their disaster-struck homes. In addition to this, they also volunteered in local Christchurch areas to help out our own community.



We were lucky enough to host them at Sustainability House, where they built some raised beds in our garden and helped out at the Okeover community garden. A great day was had by all!

