

# Sustainability News



UC Sustainability Office (Facilities Management)

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## Eco-Office Network

The University's new Eco-Office Network has been established and has had its first meeting. Matt was busy at the recent OfficeMax day signing people up to the network and discussing plans and also the range of products with 'environmental credentials' available through OfficeMax's EcoMax catalogue.

There was a good level of interest which bodes well for 2010. Over the next few months we will be developing the UC's draft Eco-Office Guidelines.

We've also had the first trial runs of the new UC Sustainable Office Assessment form, another tool that can be used by interested offices to check on how they're doing. Thanks to the Information and Records Management and MBA teams for doing the first walk-through with the form!

If you are interested in being part of this Eco Office Network, please email Matt Morris at [matthew.morris@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:matthew.morris@canterbury.ac.nz).

## UC Gardening Group

The first gathering of the UC Gardening Group took place on 17<sup>th</sup> March, where a few intrepid gardeners braved the cold, gathered a few fallen quinces and hazelnuts, and talked about their home gardening projects and what would help them.

The group will share ideas and tips, as well as any spare cuttings, seeds, seedlings, produce and other resources (perhaps compost, further down the track). Next meeting 24 March, 12-1pm, at the community garden.



## Eco-my-flat

Eco-my-flat is up and running for the third. Check out the blogs for progress so far from participating students (<http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/ecomyflat/>). The blogs are full of inspirational ideas on how to eco-up your life on a budget.



## Energy efficient homes

Is your home located in and around the Selwyn district, and Banks Peninsula, or Christchurch and Environs? Would you be willing to participate in a bus tour to **showcase your energy efficient home** and what makes it a success in reducing its carbon footprint?

**Lincoln Envirotown** is planning a tour of homes to enable interested visitors to learn and experience from the users - the benefits, the advantages, the pitfalls, the costs and the savings achieved, by adding these factors into their home design and their living environment.

If interested, please contact:

**ROSE SPIJKERMAN**

**Event Coordinator**

**EMAIL:** [rose@lincolnenvirotown.org.nz](mailto:rose@lincolnenvirotown.org.nz)

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## Transition Eng. Seminar

**Thur 25 March, 6.30 pm, E1**

Associate Professor Susan Krumdieck  
**How can engineering help address our greatest challenges - climate disruption, resource depletion, ecosystem restoration and population growth?**

This lecture will outline a new field of engineering which will apply the scientific knowledge and new measurements about the state of environmental systems. The job will be Transition Engineering. The work will entail changing and re-developing what was built last century to add resiliency, manage risks, mitigate impacts, and reflect a new social paradigm shift and new economic thinking.

For more information about Susan, visit: <http://www.mech.canterbury.ac.nz/people/krumdieck.shtml>

## UC Simplicity Network

Our Simplicity Network – for UC staff and students looking to simplify their lives – has proven very popular. We are squeezing in an extra talk before the end of term by a visiting professor, Peter Wenz of the University of Illinois. He will be speaking on the topic of "How Much Should I Do to Heal the World?"

In other words, how can we who live in industrialised countries make ethical consumer decisions without impairing our own flourishing?

This will take place on Tuesday 30 March, 12-1pm at Okeover Community Garden. No need to sign up for this, just turn up and bring your lunch. For more information visit [www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/simplicity](http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/simplicity)



## Eco-Living Workshops

The Eco-Living Workshops began a couple of weeks ago and have been going well.

For a list of up-coming workshops, and to sign up for them, please visit [www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/ecoliving](http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/ecoliving). The topics coming up are Gardening and Preserving & Home Brewing. Workshops then resume in Semester Two with Transport, Shopping and Bulk-Buying, Bodycare, Cleaning Products and Water.

This first round of workshops runs through until the end of May.

Planning will start soon for the second semester series, so if you have any ideas of workshops you'd be interested in attending, or if you'd like to present one yourself, please let Matt know. Email [matthew.morris@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:matthew.morris@canterbury.ac.nz)

## Contact Us

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Phone 03-364 2017  
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## Safe-cycling skills course

**Mon 22 March 2010 5-7pm.** Want to feel more comfortable cycling around the city? The Christchurch City Council is offering free safe-cycling skills classes. Meet at the open bicycle stand beside Engineering Rd, near the Physical Sciences library. Class is on the path at the north end of Ilam field, near the tennis courts. Please email Laura, [laura.scrimgeour@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:laura.scrimgeour@canterbury.ac.nz), to register. For more information, visit <http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/transport/cycling/>

## Green Minds

**Tues 30 March 2010, 5pm onwards @ The Foundry**

If you'd like to meet other members of the UC Sustainability Community, come along to our Green Minds gathering at the Foundry. It's a great, informal way to meet other green-minded staff and students and relax over a drink. See you there

## Transition Sumner

Do you live in/near Sumner? Heard of Transition Towns? Interested in future creative directions in the Sumner community? Well here's is your chance.

See the recently released film 'In Transition', Wednesday March 17 at 7.30pm at the Sumner Union Church Hall, plus hear from James Samuel, one of the pioneers of the Transition movement in New Zealand.

## Earth Hour Events in Christchurch

We thought UC staff and students might like to know about what's happening for Earth Hour locally this year.

If your Hall, flat, home or office is planning to do something special for Earth Hour this year, we'd love to hear about it. Tell us your stories and we'll put them up on the website. Email [matthew.morris@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:matthew.morris@canterbury.ac.nz). You might even win something...

Otherwise, here are a few of the planned events:

- 1) Hot Topic - FREE public forum on climate change, 24 March, 6:30 - 9:30pm hosted by Bob Parker. Visit [www.climatesmart.co.nz](http://www.climatesmart.co.nz). Free wine tasting, thanks to Yealands Estate and a cash bar are available at an open networking function from 6.30pm prior to the forum starting at 7.30pm in the Isaac Theatre Royal, 145 Gloucester Street. If you would like to register, go to <http://climatesmart.eventbrite.com>
- 2) Earth Hour, 27 March 2010 - switch-off 8:30 - 9:30pm. Check out [http://www.wwf.org.nz/earth\\_hour](http://www.wwf.org.nz/earth_hour). Our changing climate - Local evidence and potential effects of climate change
- 3) Public feedback welcomed on the Christchurch City Council's Climate Smart Strategy 22 March - 30 April.

For more information on climate change visit the Christchurch City Council's website [www.climatesmart.co.nz](http://www.climatesmart.co.nz)

## Food Miles, Carbon Footprinting and trade

Local Sustainability group Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch is running a public meeting on "Food Miles, Carbon Footprinting and their potential impact on trade" by Professor Caroline Saunders, Director of the Agribusiness and Economics Research Unit, Lincoln University. 7.30 pm on Monday 15 March at the WEA Hall, 59 Gloucester Street. Contact for further information: (03) 384 1281