



Impressive Recycling Results

UTS NEWS



Waste Audit Confirms 83% Recycling Rate

Yes UTS recycles! We may throw drink containers, plastic, food scraps and coffee cups into the same bin but the contents get sorted off-campus by a huge machine, (and a few human hands) into recyclable and non-recyclable items. Every second year this process gets audited and we can proudly report the audit recently completed confirmed 83% of our general waste gets recycled. This is a great result and much better than universities that operate separate bin systems.

Some materials do have their own bins at UTS such as paper and cardboard in office areas, print cartridges, IT equipment, fluoro tubes and the recently introduced battery recycling tubes. Construction waste also gets recycled with rates of more than 90% recovery currently being achieved. Despite the great result we can always improve. To help, put clean paper and cardboard in the dedicated paper recycling bins in offices and print rooms, avoid Styrofoam packaging for food, and choose to refuse plastic bags.



Cartridge Recycling

Most cartridges are recycled as part of the equipment lease or purchase agreement, but there are two places around campus you can drop off cartridges. For small quantities there is a box at the Union Services desk on level 3, building 1 (near the food court). For larger quantities, the drop-off bin/pallet is on level 2 of building 1, just beside Printing. Last year 663kgs of material was recycled from this collection point.

UTS:GREEN Staff Network

New Green Staff Network

The recently launched Green Staff Network is for all staff interested in promoting sustainability at UTS. It's free, flexible, and a great way to keep in touch with what's happening. If you are keen to network with like-minded people and help spread the passion to fellow colleagues and students, email seb.crawford@uts.edu.au for more information.



Sustainability in Every UTS Faculty

UTS Green is currently making a series of short videos exploring how sustainability relates to each UTS faculty/school. Check out the first two - Science and Architecture here. More coming soon.



New UTS Keep Cups

The UTS Union has funky new '*think. green. do*' branded Keep Cups, \$12.95 at the Hub in building 5.

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UTS EVENTS



Join the Skyscrapers Gardening Club

Are you interested in growing vegies on the balcony? UTS Housing has started a gardening club growing vegies on the roof top of Yura Mudang and Gumal buildings. All staff and students are welcome to join. The first two meetings are;

7 August 1.30 pm with guest gardener Dusty Moore from ISF giving practical tips

14 August 2.30 pm with gardening followed by a roof top BBQ

Future meetings two per month. Email Andrew.Redgrave@uts.edu.au for more information.



Workshop for Educators – Integrating Sustainability into the Curriculum

Many high level policies have outlined a commitment to sustainability in the higher education curriculum. As the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development winds up in 2014, this workshop asks, is UTS a leader in sustainability education? Come and help create a snapshot of the progress made so far. How can UTS facilitate ongoing inter-disciplinary collaboration?

Date: Tuesday 20 August

Time: 1-2 pm

Place: CB06.06.115

For catering purposes please [RSVP](#)



Guest Lecture – Building Regenerative Communities in a Changing Climate

This seminar, *Re-Imagining Our Communities: Sustainability and Beyond* by the Living Future Institute will be of interest to architects, planners and anyone keen to explore how societies might adapt to climate change. 7 August at UTS. [Details](#)

COMPETITIONS



Raindrops Award
Geneva 2013

Design a poster and win \$1100

Win 1000 Swiss francs (\$1100 AUD) by designing a poster to promote rainwater harvesting. The Raindrops Geneva Award is run by the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance and all UTS staff and students are eligible to enter. Also cash prizes for 2nd and 3rd place. Closes 31 October. [Details](#)

UTS GREEN NUGGET ...did you know...



As the new campus starts to take shape its worth pausing to consider some of the elements that make up green buildings. The underground Library Retrieval System (LRS) won't just have a grassy green roof, the actual concrete used in construction is also 'green'. Take a look through the viewing windows of the construction hording and you can see the cement roof which is made using 100% recycled water and 25% manufactured sand (from crusher dust to reduce the pressure on mining limited natural sand). Also notice the weird nozzle looking structure up the Thomas St end. This is a skylight and viewing portal to allow natural light into the LRS as well as prying eyes wanting a peek at the library robot beneath.

GREEN HERO



Recycling hero

Do you care enough about recycling to spend two weeks knee deep in rubbish? That's what Peter Lewis from Central Services did recently when he audited UTS's waste processing. "Because most of the rubbish at UTS goes into the same bin, people don't realise we recycle off-site", he said. The waste is taken to a plant at Seven Hills where up to ten people tend a huge machine that sorts everything into different streams for recycling, and a final portion for landfill. Every two years the process is audited, measuring and weighing every last bottle and chocolate wrapper to ascertain exactly how much goes into each stream. And the verdict? "We produce on average 3 tonnes of waste per day from the city campus. The majority, approximately 65% is paper, then 13% plastics and a relatively small amount of glass, aluminum, food etc. It's fairly confronting when you stand beside the entire day's rubbish in a single pile - its big enough to fill a medium sized class room", he said. "The only really negative result was too much paper gets contaminated with food waste. To recycle paper better we all need to make an effort to put clean paper in the dedicated paper bins and keep it clean."

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UTS Insider is sent to all current UTS students to help keep you up to date with everything happening in the classroom and around campus. We recommend you only [unsubscribe](#) from this mailing list if you are no longer a UTS student.