

# UTS:GREEN



March 2013

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## Earth Hour

[Earth Hour](#) began in Australia and has spread to 152 countries. Turn off all lights and save energy on Saturday 23 March from 8.30 – 9.30 pm. The theme this year is Dare the World to Save the Planet.



At UTS we're urging everyone to switch off lights and non-essential equipment as they leave buildings on Friday 22nd. UTS Housing residents will be flicking the lights off and hosting an internal event and the Library is playing an interactive game encouraging people to choose the stairs instead of the lifts, saving energy and burning calories instead. Starting Friday 22nd it runs till the end of April. Go to the UTS Green [Facebook](#) and let us what you have planned for Earth Hour. Better still, post your pics from the night.

## Photo Art exhibition

Le\_Temps : Explorations in Phenology explores photographic imagery and human induced environmental change. Till 29 March at UTS DAB Lab Research Gallery. [Details.](#)

## Free Workshop

Up-cycle your wardrobe at this free workshop. 18 March. [Details.](#)

## Sustainable Seafood Day

Friday 15 March is [Sustainable Seafood Day](#). Try the sustainable seafood on offer at the UTS Union café in the Tower building. Seafood basket, fish & chips and special of the day, all certified by the [Marine Stewardship Council](#).

## 10 Years of Water Savings



UTS has a Water Saving Action Plan and reports on performance annually. Water saving initiatives have included installing waterless urinals and water efficient toilets, a water recycling plant in the Tower that uses waste water from cooling towers to flush toilets, vacuum aspiration systems in science labs, and

improved sub-metering and monitoring systems to help detect leaks. Combined, these initiatives have helped reduce water consumption by 29.4% since 2002, despite an overall increase in floor space and staff and student numbers.

## Refill-it Competition

To promote the Refill-it competition we're giving away drink bottles at 'tappy hours' over next two weeks. Like us on [Facebook](#) to track when and where to nab

yourself a free bottle. [Enter the comp](#) and win \$1000 – simply come up with an idea to encourage fellow students and staff to refill their water bottle.



## Science in Focus

### Another thought provoking talk by Prof Paul Ehrlich

Visiting US [Professor Paul Ehrlich](#) will apply his powerful intellect and years of experience in this UTS Science in Focus public lecture: *Can a collapse of civilization be avoided and how might Oz help?* Examining global issues, growth, and the idea that achieving sustainability will require significant changes for society, economics and politics. Thurs 14 March. Drinks from 6pm for a 6.30 start. UTS Aerial Function Centre. [Bookings](#) essential.



## UTS Green Nugget .....did you know

Another building upgrade happened over the summer break that you may not have noticed, unless you study law. The Moot Court in Building 5 is a model court room where future lawyers hone their skills. It was upgraded over the Christmas break, incorporating various sustainability features. Some existing



materials were salvaged and refurbished including fabric acoustic panels and timber joinery. Seats that were a bit tired but still good went off to a new life at Sydney Anglican School. The new carpet and paints are sustainable but the biggest improvement involves the lights. High energy dichroic downlights were replaced with LEDs and sophisticated sensor switches. Passive Infrared Sensors detect heat movement in the room to switch lights on and off automatically - strictly speaking they monitor heat rather than motion. Together the super low energy LED lights and sensor system will cut energy for lighting by more than half, making a significant contribution to our greenhouse gas reduction target.

## Green Hero

### Putting Sustainability into the accounting curriculum

Dr Paul Brown from the UTS Business School is a lecturer in accounting, a profession not traditionally associated with sustainability. But that is rapidly changing, which is why Paul is working with his colleagues to integrate sustainability into the accounting curriculum.



*Dr Paul Brown (far right) and some of his star students*

In a world where carbon emissions mean money, businesses are rushing to better understand how and where they can reduce their carbon footprint. “Accountants need to not only appreciate the drivers of these new markets, but also understand what technical and financial opportunities are available for businesses”, said Paul. “Although it is pretty obvious from a science perspective that most businesses and economies are not sustainable in their current form, instead of only focusing on the negative we try to instill in our students a positive can-do attitude, and try to give them the skills they need to help build truly sustainable organisations”, he said.

Last year 359 final year accounting students were given an assignment using real energy data from an entire UTS building and asked to examine energy use, research alternative technologies and management systems, and develop a business case for different energy saving options. They found there are some simple things students and staff can do to help make a difference, like turning desktop computers off when not in use or switching lights off when leaving class.

“It was exciting to see the enthusiasm and creativity we got from the next generation of accountants for solving one of the planet’s most intractable environmental problems”, said Paul. “The days when this stuff was left to the Environment Manager are over. Sustainability is now core business for most large companies, and our graduates, who are the next generation of financial managers, need to be skilled at working in this operating environment”, he said.

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