



April 2014

*Getting involved in climate change solutions*

## UTS NEWS



### Earth Hour wrap-up

Thanks to everyone who participated in the UTS Earth Hour competition. Twenty floors in six buildings registered, with over 600 people participating. The number crunchers are still doing their magic to determine who won and saved the most energy, but everyone who flicked off a switch helped to cut greenhouse gas pollution. Yet with another dire report out this week from the IPCC on climate change impacts (see the reef while you can) the task of cutting emissions needs to become a daily habit. For summaries and comments on the IPCC report see [The Conversation](#).



### New UTS Housing bike club

UTS Housing launched a new bike club in March, giving residents access to free bikes and monthly workshops. In addition, the club is about to receive two cargo bikes that will enable Housing residents to move gear on two wheels. Cargo bikes have a bin or flat tray suitable for transporting bulky items and mean shopping or collecting gear can be done without having to pay for public transport or taxis. The cargo bikes were purchased with a grant from the City of Sydney. For more information see the [blog](#).

## OTHER NEWS



### Cooking workshop

This free workshop covers how to make great meals using left-overs, save money and avoid food waste! Saturday 5 April. [Details](#)

## UTS GREEN NUGGETT ...did you know...

### New study pods

Have you seen the new study pods, quiet nooks and student kitchen on level 6 of building 1? The area was refurbished over the summer break and incorporates plenty of recycled timber, GECA certified



sustainable furniture, energy efficient lighting and water bottle filling station. It looks great and best of all, given the numbers occupying the space most days, people seem to love it.

## GREEN HERO



### Renewable energy champion

Erland Howden is a design in visual communication student passionate about photography, social change and getting rid of fossil fuels. Before starting full time study this year at UTS he spent 3½ years working with Greenpeace as a climate change and energy campaigner. “The IPCC just released another report confirming we need to stop burning fossil fuels. Renewable energy will cost far less both in economic and environmental terms,” said Erland. But having spent years writing reports and briefings, he has turned his focus to more creative approaches. “I’m a graphic designer and keen

photographer and while the science is vital, many people find the scale of climate change so complex and overwhelming they simply switch off. We need to find new ways to engage people in the solutions and creative tools can help.” Erland is also a director of the Blue Mountains Renewable Energy Co-op and serves on the steering committee of community group Solar Citizens. “It’s really empowering working with other like-minded people and being part of making a positive change.” In past campaigns against coal and gas, Erland worked with the UTS students Enviro Collective so he got involved when he became a UTS student himself - and invites others to join too. The Enviro Collective meets at 1pm every Wednesday in or around the Students Association in building 1.

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