

## A safe and accessible campus

This year our accessible environments advisory group, a sub-group of the disability action plan committee, played an important role at City Campus Master Plan project meetings, providing expert advice on built environment access issues. UTS also embedded an accessible environments policy into its design guidelines.

We also worked to improve health and safety risk management and procedures surrounding construction work on campus. A dedicated safety and wellbeing (construction) role was established and filled, coordinating between our Facilities Management Unit and the Safety and Wellbeing Branch to improve construction safety outcomes.

## Our sustainable campus

This year, the Sustainability and Compliance Branch focused on further coordinating and promoting sustainability principles and practices across UTS. The sustainability steering committee and sustainability management group continued to guide our sustainability strategies and activities, with several new members, including a representative from the City of Sydney, providing fresh insights in 2010.

The university's Institute for Sustainable Futures was commissioned to assist the branch with the development of an overarching UTS sustainability strategy. The aim of this document is the better integration of sustainability concepts and practices within campus operations, research, teaching and learning, and engagement. Consultation with staff, students and other interested stakeholders will commence in early 2011 before a draft strategy is prepared for comment.

Sustainability is a critical component of the City Campus Master Plan. With the master plan gaining momentum this year, a dedicated sustainability working group was formed to provide direction and input to all project teams. This group established clear sustainability objectives to be adopted by each project, and a template for project managers to develop their own project-specific sustainability plans.

Our new Broadway and Dr Chau Chak Wing buildings are both aiming to achieve a 5 Star Green Star rating against the Green Star Education v1 rating tool, which assesses the environmental attributes of new and refurbished education facilities in Australia. Project teams are also exploring additional sustainability opportunities beyond this tool.

The university also maintained its focus on improving the sustainability performance of the existing campus, particularly with regard to energy and water conservation. As part of a wider Australian Technology Network (ATN) commitment, we have publicly committed to greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of 11 per cent reduction by 2012–13, and 30 per cent reduction by 2020–21, compared to a 2007 baseline.

Given the planned growth of our campus, these targets are particularly ambitious. To allow us to achieve our targets, we have allocated \$9 million towards energy efficiency programs on campus. During 2010 we commissioned a review of our energy and water sub-metering, to better target savings where they will be most effective. We also tendered for the project management of a program of major upgrades to air-conditioning, lighting and other building retrofits.

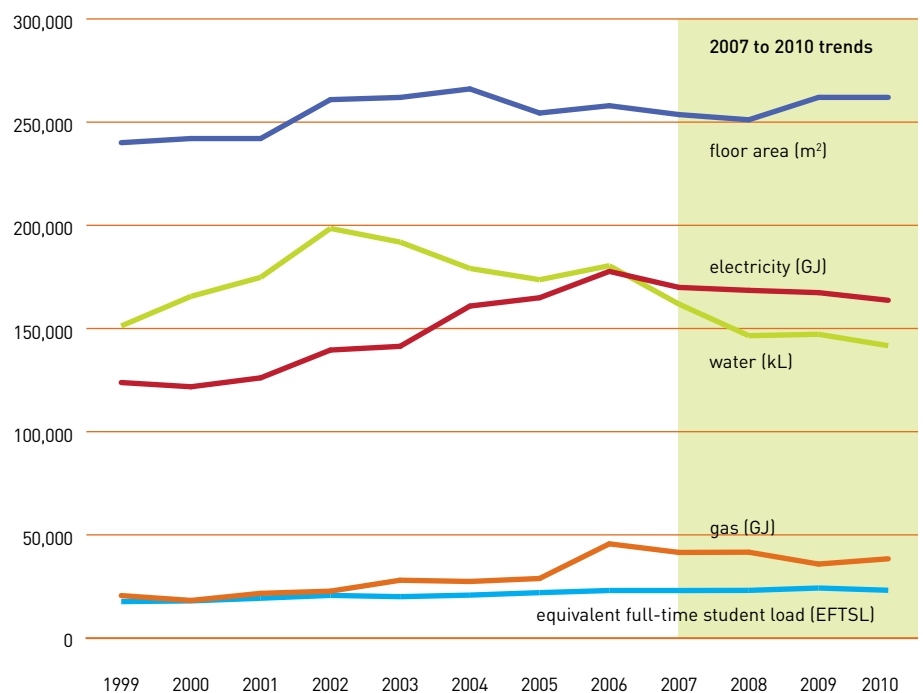
While these works will commence in 2011, as at the end of the 2009–10 period we had already achieved a five per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to our emissions in 2007.

The graph below shows the relative consumption of resources and the changes in floor space from 1999–2010.

In the past few years, while our equivalent full-time student load stayed relatively stable, we managed to make real reductions in electricity and water consumption. Between 2007–10, we reduced our consumption by:

- > 3.7 per cent for electricity
- > 7.4 per cent for gas
- > 12.1 per cent for water.

Utilities consumption 1999–2010



Further backing our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, we committed to increasing our renewable energy consumption nearly four-fold by purchasing 10 per cent of our electricity as carbon offsets derived from renewable energy projects. This will complement our primary energy strategy, which is to ensure energy efficiency across campus operations.

UTS continued to participate in Sydney Water's Every Drop Counts program, which focuses on improving management practices as well as technological initiatives. Since 2002 our water consumption has decreased by more than 25 per cent: we used just over 198 million litres of water in 2002, decreasing to 142 million litres in 2010.

We continued to use a materials recovery facility for off-site separation of recyclables from our commingled waste stream, with paper from offices collected separately for recycling. In addition, we have been trialling innovative waste recycling technologies, such as the 'Hungry Giant', which compacts expanded polystyrene to two per cent of its original volume and facilitates its reprocessing and reuse. This has minimised storage space and significantly reduced waste to landfill and associated costs.

In 2010 we piloted various innovative sustainability technologies. A particularly interesting example was a project with our Institute for Sustainable Futures trialling urine diversion toilets for nutrient (phosphorus) recovery in Building 10.

## Our sustainable community

The first annual Green Hero Awards were launched as part of UTS's World Environment Day celebrations in June. The awards celebrated members of the UTS community who adopt and promote sustainable practices in their everyday lives.

The inaugural title of 'UTS Green Hero' was awarded to Emeritus Professor Warren Yates, one of the longest serving UTS employees, based in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology. In his time teaching, and in his position as associate dean of the faculty, Professor Yates played a key role in the development of a core first-year subject Engineering for Sustainability. His more recent initiatives include a web tool ([www.bradley-project.net.au](http://www.bradley-project.net.au)) that enables a household to keep accurate track of per-capita emissions and compare them with other households in the area. On a personal level he buys renewable energy certificates and surrenders them to offset emissions, including those of air travel.

The Sustainability and Compliance Branch also worked with various groups across the university, including the UTS Union, the library and the Co-op Bookshop, to run or assist with a number of sustainability events throughout the year, including Earth Hour, Fair Trade Fortnight, World Environment Day and Ride to UTS Day. The branch provided support to faculties on sustainability initiatives, such as a recent 'Waste in the City' public seminar that focused on sustainability and fashion run by the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building.

This year we increased our communications to the UTS community. Enhancements were made to our sustainability website ([www.green.uts.edu.au](http://www.green.uts.edu.au)) and we



The university's inaugural green hero, Emeritus Professor Warren Yates.

established a new Facebook page (UTS:Green). 2010 also saw further collaboration with the student environment collective, the alumni sustainability network and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition.

Externally, we developed strong working relationships with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and TAFE NSW Ultimo campus, which culminated in a joint National Recycling Week initiative in November. The initiative included a clothes swap and presentations from organisations including the New South Wales Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water and The Smith Family. Further, UTS initiated and hosted the first ATN sustainability network two-day workshop as well as the first quarterly collaboration forum for sustainability staff working in universities within the Sydney basin.

As one of the largest property portfolio owners in the Sydney CBD, we are also negotiating with the City of Sydney to participate in their Better Buildings Partnership.