The University of Sydney

SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

Summer 2006

Eco-footprint

What does it really cost to get a degree?

The **Integrated Sustainability Analysis** group from the **School of Physics** has developed a world's first methodology that reports upon an organisation's economic, environmental and social performance. The "Triple Bottom Line (TBL)" method takes a life cycle approach and measures the 'upstream' impacts associated with the supply of goods and services to the organisation.

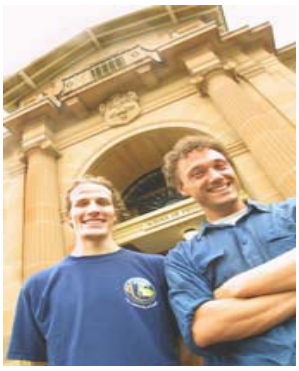
For example, the environmental impacts of a fleet vehicle include: the emissions arising from driving the car; making the car; and mining the materials to make the car.

The TBL method provides a truly holistic "footprint" of the organisation's resource needs and emissions— and so points to the best way to leverage environmental improvements within budget limitations.

In 2004 the University of Sydney's Finance team signed up to the TBL project as a research partner. The NSW Environmental Trust funded the development of the method into a software tool. The University's financial data was used to generate a 'first pass' look at the Camperdown/Darlington campuses. This report measures the University's environmental performance in terms of a key indicator: greenhouse gas emissions.

The challenge now faced by the University is to use the results to influence how decisions are made; and to build upon this initial report to improve ongoing accounting and reporting of the organization's environmental performance.

The results point to electricity consumption and travel as key areas for reducing the University's climate change impacts.



TOP PHOTO:
ISA staff Miles and Manfred have worked with the CSIRO to develop a worlds ' first with their *TBL software*
NEXT PHOTO:
Asaph Widmer-Cooper, PhD student (Chemistry) & Green Steps graduate used the ISA 's software to produce *the Univeristy 's first draft of a TBL report.*

For more info on the TBL tool:
www.isa.org.usyd.edu.au

University 'ecological footprint' - Triple Bottom Line results

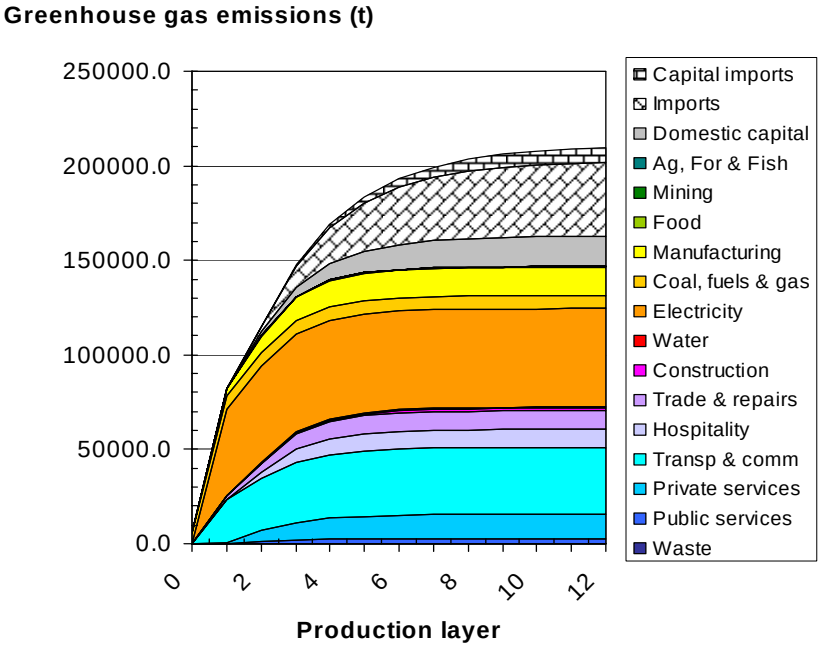
NOTES:

YAxis: GHG emissions.

XAxis: increases as you go 'upstream' along the supply chain. 1=onsite emissions.

Orange represents GHG emitted to supply electricity to the University from coal-fired power stations.

Blue represents GHG emitted to provide transport & communication. NB: does not include commuting to & from campus.



Planet Newsfeed: 'Roof of the world' melt rates increase

Global warming has been attributed to a measured increase in the rates at which glaciers on the Tibetan Plateau are melting. In a paper presented at the 2005 'Climate and Cryosphere' conference, Members of the *Chinese Institute for Cold and Arid Regions Environment and Engineering Research* discussed potential impacts on downstream environments. www.clic2005.org

SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

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www.usyd.edu.au/sustainable

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PROJECT SNAPSHOTS ...

The University has established an **Emissions Working Group** to collaboratively develop a **Greenhouse Action Plan** that will integrate planning and action around energy, waste, transport, and building design issues.

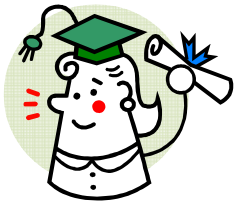
If you'd like to join the group please contact us with your Expression of Interest. All relevant expertise will be considered.
sustainable@usyd.edu.au

The University has given the green light to setup an **Institute for Sustainability**. The interim Management Committee is planning a symposium series on sustainability. This is an exciting opportunity for the University to extend its teaching, learning and research on sustainability. Congratulations!

Our team has a submitted a number of applications to State and Federal grant funds, for:

- ☑ Rainwater tanks on Science Rd;
- ☑ Water sensitive stormwater & landscaping for Campus 2010
- ☑ Water efficient Lab equipment.

Active STUDENTS



In late 2005 Final year Advanced Engineering Students studied the feasibility and effect of potential environmental improvements on campus.

One group studied how students could avoid water waste when conducting experiments in the School of Chemistry. The engineers also looked at how to improve the energy efficiency of the School's fume cupboards.

The second group calculated the cost of building an underwater rainwater storage tank to water St Paul's College Oval.

*Are **you** interested in finding out how you can apply your studies to real world environmental problems as part of getting your degree? contact us!*

CleanEnergyNow Campaign

Students across Australia have been calling for Universities to buy renewable energy from wind and solar sources. At the University of Sydney, 4000 people and 15 faculties have signed up in support of the University purchasing certified 'Green Power' - pictures below. The **Student Environment Collective** have asked the Senate to commit to a renewable energy target. Stay in touch with the student campaign at: www.greencampusnow.blogspot.com

What's On?

O-week *SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS* stall — During O Week, On campus

Link up with environmentally friendly shops, services, events and people. Get your free bike map of the campus & surrounds.

Go in the draw to WIN a FREE BIKE

Sydney University Bushwalking Club — www.usyd.edu.au/bushwalking

This Club runs a great program of slide nights, day walks, canyoning, weekend walks etc.

BikeSOC — www.bikesoc.com

Local Saturday ride programs and off road rides. Download FREE metropolitan bikemaps from their website.

Oz GREEN's Youth LEAD: 'lifechanging' training — 3-6 march, Sydney, www.ozgreen.org.au

This innovative environmental training and leadership program, run by a non profit with programs in India and PNG, is designed to give young people the skills, motivation and opportunities to lead the way to a sustainable future. For 15-25 year olds

International Student Volunteers is seeking qualified people with experience/skills in environmental science, conservation work, and/or outdoor education to lead student volunteer teams in Australia in 2006. — Applications open until end of Feb. www.isvonline.com

Send us ***your ideas*** *on how you can save energy and water at the Uni*
sustainable@usyd.edu.au

& Receive this FREE Neco kit for your home!

www.neco.com

Environmental TRUST

This project has been assisted by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust

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