



FOR ONE HOUR THIS SATURDAY ...

At 7.30pm on Saturday 31st March 2007, the University joins with businesses, government departments, individuals and families to turn off as many of our lights as possible for just one hour.



The objective during this first Earth Hour is to prevent the equivalent in green house gas emissions of taking 75,000 medium sized cars off the road for one whole year.

To help with the University's efforts, please switch off lights, computers and other office equipment when you leave on Friday 30th or Saturday 31st. To find out more about the University's program contact Marian Theobald on 9351 4187

You can also participate at home. Standby power accounts for 10% of a typical home's electricity bill. These are those little green lights glowing on our electronic equipment when they are idle—DVD players, microwaves, phone rechargers, etc.

Check the Earth Hour website to find out more—visit www.earthhour.org.

FIRST OF THE GREEN FLEET

Mandelbaum House has purchased a hybrid fuel car as part of its fleet - a first for the University of Sydney.

CEO of the college, Shana Kerlander, reports that she is "very happy" to be driving a car that substantially reduces fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Pictured is Shana (right), receiving the new Toyota Prius from Fleet Manager, Sharon O'Neill (left).



GETTING THE MEASURE

Water savings are on the agenda at the University of Sydney. Recent initiatives include a bioretention system installed under the new Shepherd St pedestrian bridge on the Darlington Campus.

The system harvests rain water run-off from local streets and pavements and filters it through an artificial wetland (diagram). It will be re-used for irrigating local lawns and gardens. Similar projects will be rolled out with the Campus 2010+ Building for the Future program.

In the meantime, other highly effective ways of saving water across the University are being pursued. On the Camden Campus, where the Plant Breeding Institute and University Veterinary Clinic are located, 10 new water meters have been recently installed to monitor water usage.



Meters are the hidden, essential tools for water savings. They track how much and when the water is used, pointing to water-intensive activities that can be adapted to be less thirsty.

One initiative that was identified this way is the replacement of water aspirators with electric pumps in the Chemistry Building laboratories. This is expected to save 7.3 million litres of water a year - the equivalent of 7 Olympic swimming pools.

BIKE IT!

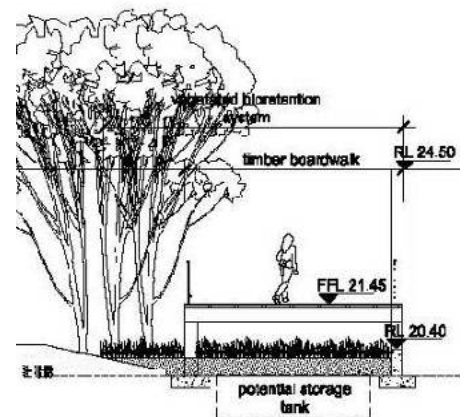
Jill Segura (pictured) was this year's winner of the draw for a bike to the value of \$400, supplied by Mick Mazza Bikes, Marrickville. The competition was run by the Sustainable Campus team as part of Orientation Week 2007.



The message? Help reduce carbon emissions, avoid using fossil fuels to get to and from Uni and get fit!

BIKESOC EVENTS

Get into biking - it's fun, healthy and doesn't pollute the air! Contact Bikesoc at bike@bikesoc.com or call Robert on 0406 680 634 to find out more about their weekend events, everything from easy-going social rides to hard-core cross country runs.



SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

Subscribe to receive half yearly updates of campus environmental news.

www.usyd.edu.au/sustainable
sustainable@usyd.edu.au

A big load of rubbish...

The University manages waste in two main 'streams' - paper and cardboard recycling and general waste. The recycled stream represents 60% of the total, while the other 40% goes to landfill. This is about to change.

Campus Property and Services goes to tender for the University's new waste collection contract in mid-2007. Paper and cardboard recycling will remain as is. General waste will be sent to a sorting facility. Here up to 70% of cans, bottles and plastic will be recovered for recycling.

This new approach to waste management has been pioneered in Europe where space for landfill is in short supply. Off-site waste sorting avoids problems of doing this on-site: space for extra bins, contamination of recyclables, injuries from handling, higher costs of transport and increased greenhouse gas emissions from extra vehicle movements. Importantly it reduces the amount of waste going to landfill.



The paper and cardboard recycling bins (blue 'wheelie bins' with yellow lids) are labelled with new instruction stickers (picture). In these bins, you can put paper, glossy magazines, newspaper, clean food cartons, 'Post-it' notes, stapled paper and documents—without binders, please. If you see blue and yellow bins around your building without these stickers, please contact the Sustainable Campus team on 9036 6185.

E-waste update: Environmental Strategies coordinated the first annual Electronic Waste Recycling collection in 2006. Over 40 schools and units participated in collecting 20 tonnes of electronic waste. This released valuable work space and recovered recyclable materials such as gold, copper and lead.

This will be repeated in July 2007. Staff are asked to follow the appropriate Asset Disposal procedures prior to taking part in the collection. For more information go to: http://www.finance.usyd.edu.au/docs/asset_disposal.xls

SENSING SUSTAINABILITY

In March 2007, Dr Andrew Vande Moere of the Key Centre of Design Computing and Cognition has worked with the Sustainable Campus team to develop a design brief for his 'Sustainability Studio' students.

The students had less than two weeks to design and build a physical installation in the Wilkinson Building that used 'persuasive visualization' to communicate something about sustainability. Their design of the object or graphic intervenes to provoke in the user a certain way in behaving in relation to it.

Karan Singh (right) has sourced old computer keyboards to make a word game using the letters. In the very playing of the game the players take part in a solution to the 1.6 million keyboards that end up in Australian landfill every year.



To address greenhouse gas emissions, Lily Roby (left) literally intervened in the shopper's access to products in a café. A bar graph stuck to the shelf compares the estimated CO₂ emitted to transport different products to the shelf.

Teachers and student supervisors: if you are interested in working with the Sustainable Campus program on a academic program, please contact us. In 2006, there were over 50 students from Advanced Engineering and Geography conducting applied research with Campus Property & Services. The Environmental Strategies team are experienced and skilled in researching and delivering presentations.

GREEN INITIATIVES

Starting on Friday 30 March 2007 there will be another tree planting weekend at **Arthursleigh**. This is an historic property owned by the University. It is near Marulan—2 hours drive from Sydney. If you would like to take part, please contact Dr Willem Vervoort at w.vervoort@usyd.edu.au or on 9351 8744.



The **Plant Breeding Institute** recently won \$45,455 from the Community Water Grants (Commonwealth) to save water at their Narrabri facility. This will purchase water efficient irrigation equipment and save an estimated 11 million litres a year.

St Andrew's College has recently installed a rainwater tank. This stores stormwater run-off from lawns and the tennis courts for re-use on lawns and garden beds.

SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

We aim to work with the University community to improve the environmental performance of our campuses.

Environmental Strategies Team,
Campus Property & Services

www.usyd.edu.au/sustainable
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