

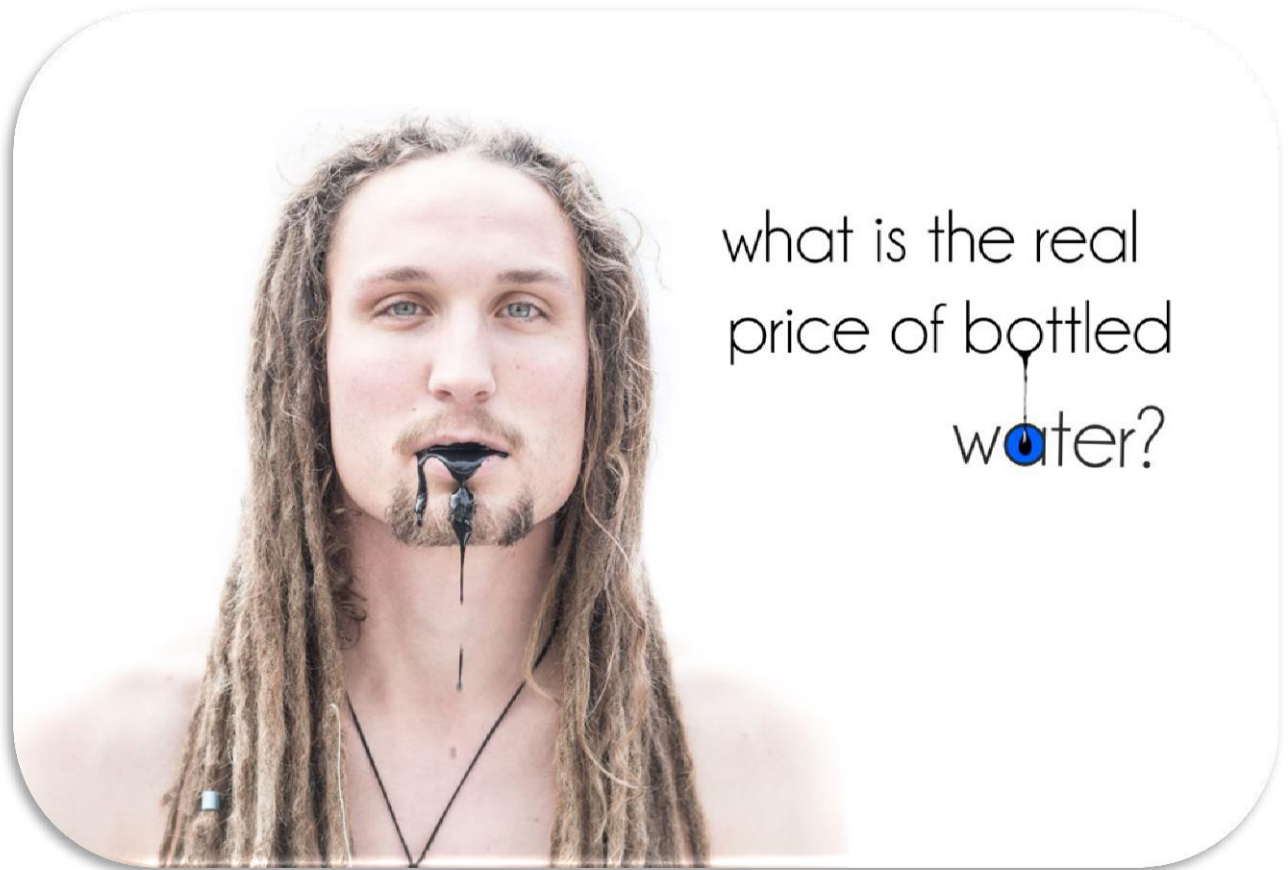
UC Sustainability Office Report 2014

Introduction

Sustainability planning at the University of Canterbury is based on the draft '[Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022](#)', which breaks sustainability planning into short, medium and long term objectives. Annual planning for sustainability at UC is handled by the Sustainability Office and the operational elements of this are encapsulated in the Engineering Services Operational Plan.

In 2014, the Sustainability Office reduced contact with the student population somewhat and worked to consolidate its focus on the operational matters it had a mandate to influence, (e.g. waste, green cleaning, and transport). Capacity within the office to deliver a work programme similar to prior years was reduced due to the resignation of the Sustainability Advocate, Matt Morris in August.

Some key indicators of the physical infrastructure/resource use, teaching and learning, and community engagement components of the Sustainability Strategy for 2014 are outlined in **Table 1** on page 2. Whilst some indicators are trending in a positive direction (e.g. a reduction of green-house gas emissions), others remain in a steady state or are exhibiting a negative trend. Of particular concern is a significant increase in waste sent to landfill, and a reduction in the tonnage of co-mingled recycling.



Floyd Jenkins, UC Engineering student: The Real Price of Bottled Water Campaign, Eco Week 2014 Photo: Mat Goodman

Table 1: UC Sustainability Indicators

Area	2014		2013		2012	2011
Electricity Used (kwh)	25,803,113	↑	25,543,040	↓	25,712,319	22,016,328
GHG Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ -e)	No data ¹		21,419	↓	23,145	24,318
Coal Burnt (tonnes)	5,334	↑	4,913	↓	5,160	4,098
Water consumed (litres)	No data		475,000,000	↑	392,000,000	325,000,000
Waste to landfill (tonnes)	312.02	↑	256.14	↑	233.44	197.11
Waste recycled/composted (tonnes)	444.70	↓	521.42 ²	↑	507.44	278.36
Pages of paper purchased (A3 and A4)	17,787,750	↓	17,953,500		No data	No data
% of beverage purchased = Fair Trade Certified						
• Fresh ground coffee (units)	18% ³	↓	24%	↑	17% ⁴	No data
• Coffee beans (units)	45%	↑	28%	↑	21%	
• Black tea (units)	3%	↓	5%	↑	0%	
% UC Cost Centres Purchasing Fair Trade Certified Products	46% ⁵		No data		No data	No data
Sustainability Courses on Offer:	102 ⁶	↑	87	↓	132	132
# at Sust Office Events	1646	↓	2221	↓	2383	1135
Members of Sustain Community:	1588	↑	930	↑	735	499
• Facebook	1172		872		640	370
• Newsletter (new subscribes)	35		58		95	129
• Newsletter (total)	416 ⁷		No data		No data	No data

Carbon reporting

The University of Canterbury remains the only university in New Zealand (and was the first in the Southern Hemisphere) to be certified with the Certified Emissions Measurement and Reduction Scheme (CEMARS). This allows us to comprehensively track our Greenhouse Gas emissions and reduce them. Our carbon profile can be found [here](#). Greenhouse gas emissions continued a steady downward trend between 2012 and 2013, aided by a combination of the reduction in student numbers and the energy saving opportunities that the University has taken during the remediation process to improve the performance of equipment, plant and thermal integrity of glazing and structure. Further opportunities will continue to be investigated and implemented to reduce UC's carbon emissions by UC Engineering Services and the Energy Manager.



¹ Data is subject to the CEMARS audit in 2015. 2013 data is reported in 2014 annual report

² This number includes organics, paper, co-mingle, cardboard and document destruction. It excludes recycling of pallets, polystyrene, bulbs/tubes and batteries, on-site chipping of green waste which is reapplied to university gardens, scrap metal and coal ash.

³ Data supplied by OfficeMax

⁴ All Fair Trade data for 2012 was for the period August 2011 – July 2012

⁵ This is calculated from a total of 72 activity centres which purchased beverage supplies from OfficeMax in 2014. Definition of a purchase is at a minimum of one Fair Trade Certified item purchase a year.

⁶ Includes courses listed in the 2014 calendar, but not offered for 2014. The increase in number of courses is largely due to a change in how courses are selected to qualify as a 'sustainability course' in 2014.

⁷ The UC Sustainability newsletter was migrated to a new email management platform in 2014, which enables more accurate subscription statistics. This is new data for 2014.

Landscape and Biodiversity

The Sustainability Office developed a [Draft Landscape Concept](#), which was foreshadowed by the Draft Sustainability Strategy in 2011. The Draft Landscape Concept is intended to help immediate landscaping designs as part of specific remediation projects and also to inform the forward-looking Campus Master Plan. It presents a brief landscape history of the Ilam Campus, summarises current thinking and suggests five themes that the new Landscape Plan should take into consideration.

Both UC community gardens (Dovedale and Okeover) provide a tranquil space for both staff and students, especially whilst campus is being remediated. In 2014 just under 600kg of food was harvested from 46 different types of crops from both gardens. Dovedale gardens continues to act as a satellite 'staples' garden, and provides allotments for individuals, which include UC staff, local residents, students and Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti school. DigSoc, a student gardening club plays a key role in both community gardens, by recruiting volunteers and participating in decision making and planning for the gardens. Their events, plus community garden working bees provide a unique, valuable experience for students (particularly international students).



The Okeover stream also provides a peaceful space for the UC community. It has been proposed that modest in-stream research tools useful to the UC Hydro Eco Group are integrated into landscape design between the RSIC and CETF buildings. The Sustainability Office played a key role in strengthening relationships between the Christchurch West Melton Zone Committee and the UC Hydro Eco Group.

Transport



The Sustainability Office developed a [Cycle plan](#) in collaboration with the UC Transport Working Group. The need for this plan was indicated in the Draft Sustainability Strategy, and it outlines an eight year programme of works to meet the expectations of staff, students and visitors to the University of Canterbury around cycling. It addresses key areas of cycle parking, route planning, facilities (such as showers, and lockers), plus education/engagement programmes. It is intended to provide guidance to University planners about provision for cyclists required, and should inform the forthcoming Campus Master Plan.

The Sustainability Office continues to provide administrative support to the UC Transport Working Group, which developed a two-page précis of long term transport issues and opportunities that need to be addressed through the UC Campus Master Plan.

Since 2011, there was a dramatic decline in the availability of cycle parking facilities due to the dynamic rebuild environment.

This has been addressed by purchasing 40 new stands, and repositioning existing stands into more areas more advantageous to cyclists. This resulted in an overall net gain of 262 bike parks between January and December 2014.

The Sustainability Office funds a service called 'Dr Bike', which offers a modest bike repair and maintenance service for an hour once a week during term times. It is estimated that Dr Bike mechanics (both UC Engineering students) assisted just over 100 cyclists in 2014. The service is becoming increasingly well-known and demand was increasing.

UC joined '[Let's Carpool](#)', a government-sponsored web-based car-pool in June 2014.

In October 2014, The Sustainability Office coordinated a High Visibility Giveaway, whereby safety items for cyclists were given away to over 100 members of the UC community. These items purchased by funds obtained by Dr Emma de Lacy through the Vice Chancellors Health, Wellbeing and Safety awards.



Water consumption

Water metering at UC has been problematic for 2014. Inaccuracies have been discovered in respect of the meters and their respective connected controllers and so the provision of information has been suspended whilst remedial measures are being carried out. Normal service and data provision will be resumed as soon as possible.

Waste & Recycling

The Sustainability Office developed a Draft [Waste Management Plan](#), (2014-2022). It outlines the journey UC has been on regarding waste issues over the last fifteen years, establishes some waste reduction targets and key problems that need to be resolved, and creates a programme of work in short, medium and long term increments in order to address those issues.⁸

The Office also conducted an audit of waste streams from key Ilam campus buildings in mid-2014. Key issues identified include problems with organic waste being incorrectly placed into the landfill waste stream by UCSA cafes, and about 20% of co-mingled recycling currently collected is incorrectly being placed in landfill bins.

The amount of waste being diverted from landfill decreased by 15% or 76.73 tonnes in 2014, with co-mingle recycling⁹ dropping most significantly in terms of tonnage (50 tonnes). Waste to landfill increased in the same period: by 21% or 54.06 tonnes. This is probably an ongoing effect of the earthquakes and the subsequent remediation programme. Changes in the waste stream forced onto UC by end-point recyclers (e.g. single use coffee cups no longer being recycled) have proved to have expensive and time consuming consequences, which could be problematic on an ongoing basis. These trends are concerning, and

⁸ UC continues to maintain a four bin waste and recycling system, plus back-of-house recycling for cardboard, polystyrene, coal ash, batteries and other items.

⁹ Bins with yellow hoods

reinforces that waste management at UC requires consistent and wide-spread communication and education, underpinned by adequate resourcing.

Other waste initiatives led by the UC Sustainability office in 2014 include;

1. UC Furniture Giveaway (eight containers of surplus furniture gifted to UC and wider Christchurch community).
2. CRT monitor amnesty (in partnership with Learning Resources ICT).
3. Trialling 're-usable items' bins for office staff being decanted to other buildings.
4. Trialling composting coffee cups with Selwyn District Council.
5. Ongoing focus on encouraging staff and students to use reusable coffee cups.
6. A new Free Table in the Puaka/James Hight building.
7. "What is the real price of bottled water" campaign Eco Week 2014. Images taken by Mat Goodman

Green Cleaning

Green cleaning techniques and products which avoid or minimise the use of chemicals were rolled out by Cleaning Services in 2014. This includes introducing Microfibre cleaning cloths into ten major buildings, plus changing the tips of chemical dispensers which significantly reduces the volume (up to 78% in some areas) of chemical use in all of UC's buildings.

Community Engagement

Community engagement about sustainability issues continues, but with reduced student-focused engagement. Community engagement initiatives for 2014 included

- UC Health Centre and School of Biological Sciences Eco Office Certification, plus a 'speed dating sustainability' event for UC staff.
- A new 'How to be sustainable on campus 101' theme with tips on simple sustainability actions aimed at the whole campus community.
- UC Sustainability Office O-week stall, Fair Trade Fortnight, and Eco Week.



In addition, the Sustainability Office website was redesigned including greatly improved links between UC Sustainability Office Blog and a newsletter platform (Mail Chimp).

Research

The annual Sustainability Student Survey was not conducted in 2014, due to lack of capacity by the Sustainability Office to carry this out.

Summer Sustainability Scholarships were not offered through the Sustainability Office for 2014/15 due to the resignation of the Sustainability Advocate, who would normally co-supervise these projects. In the past, these scholarships provided real value for UC. Many research topics provided useful, practical insights into how to progress sustainability practices at UC, plus engage with staff and students.

Sustainability Curriculum

The number of courses teaching key sustainability issues (n=102) has increased, compared to 2013 (n=87), although it must be noted that this is due primarily to a changed method for how courses are classified as 'sustainability related'. A new Endorsement to the BSc in Resilience and Sustainability and a new course, SUST 201: Resilience and Sustainability was created in 2013. These courses will be offered in 2016.

Report by Katie Nimmo (Sustainability Projects Facilitator), and Matt Morris (Sustainability Advocate), February 2015

UC Sustainability Office
Level 2, Engineering Services
PO Box 4800
University of Canterbury
CHRISTCHURCH 8140
<http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/>