



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Solentia Invenientur Veritates

Green-e-News

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August is the month of new beginnings! I can't find a better way of describing what's on offer this month. Dr David Evans will challenge us with a contemporary perspective on climate change in the Sustainability Seminar, Pick It Up day happens on the 6th, Perth International Arts Festival shows off its paper free meeting strategy, the waste audit hits the write up phase and we discover why some cows are wearing pink plastic on their backs.

Security has requested that we refrain from putting "Turn me off" stickers on security and stairwell lights switches. I realise that this is a strange request to be delivered by me, yet it may promote sustainability of our most valuable resource, people!

Any queries contact Gordon Walsh 6488 3534

Green Offices at UWA

- Centre for Advancement of Teaching and Learning
- Currie Hall
- EDFAA Library
- Facilities Management
- Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (Deans Office & Student Office)
- Faculty of Education
- Finance and Resources Directorate
- Financial Services
- Governance Services
- Graduate Research & Scholarships Office
- Human Resources
- Information Technology Services
- Medical and Dental Library
- Organisational & Staff Development Services
- Reid Library
- School of Animal Biology
- School of Environmental Systems Engineering
- Student Administration
- Student Services
- University Club
- University Theatres
- UWA Childcare Centre
- Vice-Chancellery
- WA Institute of Medical Research
- Perth International Arts Festival
- School of Pathology & Laboratory

Campus Inspirations

Perth International Arts Festival

Those who inhabit Tuart House of the Perth International Arts Festival office Team are on a green mission. They have recently committed to establishing a green policy for their office which highlights accountability in recycling and composting. After generating a substantial green office they aim to develop green initiatives for the Perth International Arts Festival itself.

While on a recent visit to Tuart House attending to waste audit business, I snuck a look into the boardroom. To my surprise I discovered a huge LCD screen displaying an Excel spreadsheet. Upon sharing this with my Encycle consultant companion, we mused about the possibilities. "Could this be a paper hand out alternative?" I enquired and my suspicions were confirmed. The Perth International Arts Festival Team use their LCD screen to display agendas, data and the like and this prevents the use of paper documents. Further, LCD screens are an environmentally responsible choice, using 20% to 30% less energy than their plasma rivals.



The set up of the Tuart House is very impressive both environmentally and aesthetically. I thoroughly encourage other UWA departments to consider the same format, should resources permit.

Seminar in brief: Carbon, carbon, carbon.....

Dr David Evans consulted to the Australian Greenhouse Office (now the Dept. of Climate Change) from 1999 till 2005, where he wrote Australia's main carbon accounting program, FullCAM. FullCAM models carbon flows in plants, mulch, debris, soils and agricultural products, using inputs such as climate data, plant physiology, and satellite data. FullCAM measures Australia's compliance with the Kyoto Protocol in the land use and forestry sector. It is a world leader by a significant margin, and is currently in various stages of export to other countries.

Of political significance, FullCAM established that 23% of the Australian carbon emissions in the baseline year of Kyoto were from the land-use and forestry sector and that Australia could meet its Kyoto commitments through to 2012 simply by stopping land clearing in Queensland.

While working for the Australian Greenhouse Office, David remarked upon how no one questioned the evidence for blaming carbon emissions for global warming. "It was just assumed, there were graphs of the old ice core data on the walls - atmospheric carbon moved in lockstep with global temperature. Yep, looked like we were working to save the world!"

David has agreed to come and speak as part of the UWA Sustainability Seminar Series. His talk, entitled "Carbon Accounting and How We Now Know CO₂ Is Not Causing Global Warming", will provide an innovative and scientific perspective on some widely publicised climate information.

In 2007 David was invited to testify before the US Senate on global warming, but declined for practical reasons.

David has recently published a commentary in the Australian:

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24036736-7583,00.html>

He will be speaking at the Wilsmore Lecture Theatre, Wed 27th August 1-2pm.



UWA Pick it up day

Pick it Up..... NOW!!!

Do your bit to keep UWA BEAUTIFUL

And win!!!

Three cash prizes will be awarded to the best beautifiers!

When?

August 12.30-2pm (Registration from 12-12.25pm)

Where to register?

James Oval by the Erwin St Building Veranda

Conditions

To register you must have a team. Late registrants will not be permitted entry



More information

Contact

Helen Whitbread

6488 4766

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Highlighting — Sustainability facts

Annually, 18 million print toner cartridges and nearly nine out of every ten sheets of office paper are going directly to landfill. Only 11% of Australia's office paper is being recycled – yet, recycling one tonne of paper would save around 13 trees, 31,000 litres of water and 4,100 kWh of electricity.

More than 75% of Australian commuters travel by car to their place of work or study and this has serious consequences for our health and for the environment.

A worldwide survey of over 25,000 people in 23 countries shows that Australians have the highest expectations of company performance. More than 90% of Australians surveyed wanted companies to contribute to society and do more than just make a profit.



By Popular Demand — Unattended

During my first few weeks of this position, and in order to learn more about my role, I set about meeting with Green Office personnel. It was a really informative and rewarding thing to do. It provided me with exceptional insight into sustainability positives and negatives on campus, it gave me some way forward. One significant request I received from many was to provide seminars and workshops on all things sustainable. This I did, establishing the monthly Sustainability Seminar Series. For the first two seminars I invited presenters from The World of Energy Museum in Fremantle, to give practical demonstrations on how to be energy smart. The first of their seminars in June attracted an audience of roughly 10—thankyou if you were one of those 10! The second was unattended. This was unfortunate considering there were substantial time and resource commitments made by both World of Energy and UWA staff to make the seminar possible. UWA will host a final seminar for 2008 in this series on August 27th.

Waste Audit Update

The UWA Crawley Campus is in full swing. Anne-Marie and Jenny from Encycle have made their presence known on campus through engaging with staff during two and a half days of interviews and photographing bins! The consultants have noted the emergence of some common threads emerging including: discrepancies in the current recycling system; communication/education breakdowns; and inconsistent waste services. Anne-Marie and Jenny hope to make a final trip to UWA when the students return, hoping to examine waste streams arising during semester time. Report writing has begun and we at Environmental Services eagerly await the recommendations. The first action we intend to take is to consolidate the waste system through a simplified Tender process. Encycle will work closely with staff from Environmental Services to establish a tender for the UWA waste service. Thank you to all who have given their time to assist us in the waste audit. Your contribution has been valuable.



Events

In house

Sustainability Seminar Series



Seminar three. Carbon accounting, & how we now know CO₂ isn't causing global warming, David Evans, Wilmore Lecture theatre, Wed 27th August 1-2pm

Seminar four. There will be no Sustainability Seminars for the remainder of 2008

Ideas wanted from you!

Got any other energy saving or environmental ideas or issues fit for reporting? Then contact the Environmental Officer at elisha.ladhams@uwa.edu.au or 6488 7391.



World

One may ask: Are we going too far?

Argentina: Scientists are taking a novel approach to the study of global warming. They have strapped plastic tanks to the backs of cows to collect their burps. Researchers say that the slow digestive system of cows makes them a significant producer of methane.

Guild Environment Collective

I took time to interview Ryan Wilson on his takings from the Students of Sustainability Conference, held at Newcastle Uni June 5th-9th. Ryan, who was funded to travel by Environmental Services, said he gained a greater depth of understanding of sustainability issues coupled with a real sense of urgency for action. He attended forums that included such topics as: negative ion flow batteries; sustainable community development; economic growth v's finite resources; climate change; and generating a national University sustainability scorecard. Ryan has returned to face a busy semester of study and some greening action. Ryan will facilitate the establishment of a green office for the soon to be combined Facilities Management staff at Motorola. Further, he will be helping out with UWA Pick it Up day.

You may have noticed that the recently placed can bins have suddenly become invisible! You are right. Grounds staff removed them after frequent improper use. Staff grew weary of removing non-can waste from the mesh baskets.

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