Griffith Sustainability News is a quarterly newsletter for staff and students to inform, highlight and celebrate sustainability initiatives at Griffith.

**Griffith Sustainability Plan 2013–2015 sets direction**

“’To be a sustainable university’ is one of the five key goals identified in Griffith’s Strategic Plan 2013–2017. Griffith’s Sustainability Plan 2013 – 2015 supports our strategic direction and covers executive management, human resource management, teaching and research, community engagement and partnerships, and operations.

The Plan incorporates economic, environmental and corporate social responsibility and is built on University-wide goals, objectives, targets, strategies and accountabilities for which there will be monitoring and reporting. Responsibility for developing and implementing the Plan has been undertaken by a representative Sustainability Sub Committee, reporting to the University Executive Group and Vice Chancellor and to the University Council. View the Sustainability Plan 2013-2015 at: griffith.edu.au/sustainability/about-us/our-commitment

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**NEW Griffith’s appointment process goes paperless**

Griffith’s Office of Human Resource Management has taken the initiative to support our sustainability commitment by implementing a paperless appointment process in early 2013.

Subject to the completion of an IT integration project in late February, all Griffith appointments will be paperless (including tax declarations). The only paper used will be a file copy which must be printed for the central records system and archive regulations.

**Thousands of pages of letterhead, copying scanning etc ….. gone.**

**Paper Usage drops over past 12 months**

Overall paper purchased through the Griffith University Store dropped by 8% from 2011 to 2012. That is a total of 9300 reams of paper.

The percentage of recycled paper compared to virgin paper is 18%, an increase of 4% compared to 2011 which was 14%.

Our target is to reduce university-wide paper usage by 5% in 2013.

14.79 tonnes

In 2011 Griffith recycled 14.79 tonnes of paper, 2.57 tonnes via secure document destruction.

Griffith University Council led the way on paperless meetings

Griffith University Council members took advantage of technology in 2011 to reduce our paper usage. In the past, each member of the University Council would receive printed documents (sometimes up to a ream of paper) in an A4 folder to review in preparation for the meeting. Through the use of iPads, members now have the full ability to review, annotate and retrieve the latest versions of any documents they need all without printing on paper.

By converting the University Council documents to iPads, paper needs were reduced by half a tonne in that year.

For further information go to: griffith.edu.au/sustainability
In support of reduced inter campus travel and improved staff collaboration, Griffith University has undertaken to invest in improving its room based videoconferencing and commenced a major project to implement Unified Communications (UC) that will integrate video and voice. Investment to date in upgrading the video conference rooms across the five campuses has focused on simplifying and standardising systems to make video conferencing easier than ever.

In 2012 video conference usage increased by 32% on the previous year. This increase has contributed to a 7% reduction in fleet vehicle inter campus travel. This has equated to a saving of 73984 kilometres during the 2012 calendar year or 13.522 t CO2e (carbon dioxide emissions). The majority of fleet vehicle travel occurs between Nathan Campus and Gold Coast Campus. This travel accounted for 67.5% of total fleet vehicle travel in 2012.

Upgrades to video conferencing rooms across these two campuses were prioritised and supported a 6% reduction in travel between Nathan and Gold Coast last year. This equated to a saving of 450 travel hours. An additional basic video conference meeting room is being provided at each campus to improve availability and support further reductions in travel in 2013. Some Advanced video conference collaboration rooms will also be available. In upgraded rooms you can video conference with multiple parties internal and external to Griffith University. You can also give presentations and view documents from devices that connect to VGA, HDMI, the House PC (in room) and Blue-ray or DVD.

Small group user training sessions on video conferencing are currently being provided across all campuses. To register your interest or to arrange a training session for your team please contact vcupgradeproject@griffith.edu.au

Fleet vehicle data taken from Griffith University Vehicle Management system.

Sign up to Griffith University’s Carpool

Carpooling is a convenient environmentally friendly and cost effective way to travel to and from uni. Save money by sharing the cost of travel and save time by using T2 or T3 transit lanes for your trip. It’s also a great way to reduce congestion on our roads and reduce pollution.

Over 550 people have already joined up to our carpool. It only takes two minutes to join at: griffith.edu.au/parking/carpooling

For further information go to: griffith.edu.au/sustainability
Necessary conference points way forward

As the planet’s citizens adjust and adapt to a future where sustainability will be a way of life, Griffith University’s influence on that future was very much in evidence when it hosted the Necessary Transition Conference in late 2012.

More than 130 national and international delegates gathered at Brisbane’s South Bank for what proved to be a series of inspiring presentations, passionate debates and innovative ideas. The conference was a multidisciplinary collaboration, in which everything from the food menu to the table decorations were in line with the theme of The Necessary Transition.

Experts presented on a wide range of topics during the three-day conference, from management education through to leadership in Africa and sustainability in the mining industry. Many representatives from Griffith Business School also presented their working and published research to the conference delegates. (Videos of keynote presenters are available online).

The conference was organised by the Asia Pacific Centre for Sustainable Enterprise, with Centre Director Malcolm McIntosh acting as Conference Convenor. It was part of larger ongoing project – The Necessary Transition – which will incorporate a book and a special edition of the Journal of Corporate Citizenship.

It also encompassed the second annual Australia New Zealand Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) network forum. The forum was chaired by Pro Vice Chancellor (Business) Professor Michael Powell, with discussions leading to a decision to establish a PRME Australasian group and to take steps to ensure that education is on the agenda for the upcoming Australian general election. Griffith Business School is a proud PRME signatory, implementing PRME principles into the Business syllabus and as a key focus of the MBA course.

Interested in running a sustainable event or meeting?

Sustainable events and meetings are becoming commonplace, as public expectation increases for low carbon emissions and less environmental impacts. If you are involved in organising events, think about incorporating sustainability principles.

Top tips

» Choose a venue that uses resources efficiently and limits its impact on the natural environment, and is close to public transport.
» Use electronic communication and promotion, rather than printed material.
» If printing promotional material, print on recycled paper and avoid excess printing.
» Use online registration to predict attendance and cater to final numbers.
» Consider biodegradable or recycled merchandise and giveaways.
» Use video conferencing facilities where possible to reduce travel needs.
» Promote public transport and brief staff so they can provide details about public transport options.
» Request sustainable food (fresh/seasonal, fair-trade, not individually wrapped items).
» Ensure waste and recycling bins are placed in prominent locations (where food and beverages are consumed and near entry and exit points) and that bins are well signed.
» Minimise energy use – switch off lighting and equipment when it is not being used.

For further information go to: griffith.edu.au/sustainability
Coffee

Fair Trade coffee is now being served in Griffith Food outlets

Fair trade coffee refers to the purchasing of coffee from the growers with better conditions for workers at a higher price than standard coffee. Fair trade coffee is one of many fair trade certified products available around the world. The purpose of fair trade is to promote healthier working conditions and greater economic incentives for producers.

For further information go to: griffith.edu.au/sustainability

Commencing Semester 1, 2013 the following Griffith Food outlets will be converted to Fair Trade coffee:

» QCA Cafe – QCA South Bank
» Red Note Cafe – QCGU South Bank
» The Brook Cafe – Logan
» Griff’s Cafe – Nathan
» Cafe M28 – Mt Gravatt
» G’s Gold Coast – Fair Trade coffee will be available as an alternative to the house coffee blend.
» G’s Nathan – Fair Trade coffee will be available as an alternative to the house coffee blend.

The coffee used is Foglia Organic, a ‘single origin’ coffee from plantations in Bolivia. Foglia Organic uses beans certified by USDA, Fair-trade and Australian Certified Organic as having been grown organically and in harmony with the environment. The plantations are worked without the use of pesticides, additives, Genetically Modified (GM) products, chemical herbicides or fertilizers.

There is a growing range of Fairtrade certified products available in Australia, including tea, chocolate, rice, and clothing. You can find more information about Fairtrade products at the Fairtrade Association of Australia and New Zealand website. Visit fairtrade.com.au

Celebrate green day

Griffith's Green Day 1st trading day of the month. Support Griffith's Green Day – when you supply your own cup on the first trading day of the month you can purchase coffee refills for $2.00. Take your own GU Mug or Griffith Reusable Cup any day and get 60% discount on your coffee refills

Available from:
G’s Wine Bar, Café Rossa and Griff’s Express – Nathan
Café M28 – Mt Gravatt
QCA and Rednote Cafes – South Bank
Brook Café – Logan
G’s – Gold Coast

Griffith University’s Gold Coast Student Guild supports sustainability commitment

» Operate an intercampus bus between the Gold Coast and Nathan campuses ($10 return)
» Orientation packs include a reusable bag and eco pen.
» The Gym sells Eco Bottles – BPA free Stainless Steel
» Bookshop is phasing out plastic bags and replacing them with reusable bags and paper bags.
» The Student Guild offers the environmentally friendly Keep Cup (reusable cup) for sale. Offer includes discounted coffee at the Coffee Bug and Coffee Cellar.

TRAVEL BY BUS

Monday - Friday Cost: $5 each way
Booking details available from the Student Guild on p. 5552 3724 or e. guildinfo@griffith.edu.au
NB: This service is only available during teaching weeks.

For further information go to: griffith.edu.au/sustainability
**What’s happening ...**

**Clean Up Australia Day activities**

**Friday 1 March 2013** – Nathan campus – Breakfast for volunteers will be provided by the Student Representative Council from 7am. More detail: griffith.edu.au/sustainability/news-and-events

**Sunday 3 March 2013** – Gold Coast campus – the Gold Coast University Student Guild are organising the Clean Up Australia Day event. A BBQ and drinks for all volunteers. Contact Jessica Brown Ph: 555 28651 Email: jessica.brown@griffith.edu.au

**Sustainable Seafood Day – Friday 15 March**

On Friday 15 March 2013, Griffith Food outlets will be highlighting the importance of choosing sustainable seafood. It is estimated that 80% of the world’s fish stocks are now over-exploited or fished right to their limit. The choices we make today will help to make our seafood sustainable.

Interested in knowing what seafood to say no to, think twice about, or are a better choice? The Australian Marine Conservation Society has prepared an Australian Sustainable Seafood Guide. You can either buy the Seafood Guide or download the mini guide or iPhone app at: sustainableseafood.org.au

View Sustainable Seafood Day: msc.org/cook-eat-enjoy/ssl

**EcoCentre Community Forum Series**

In 2013, the EcoCentre will continue its hugely successful community forum series. In the past eight years thousands of participants from government, community, industry, university staff and students have attended the forums on topics ranging from toxins in cosmetics to emerging cutting edge sustainable technologies. These popular forums utilise expert guest speakers and allow plenty of time for questions and discussion. Forums will recommence in March 2013.


**Asia Pacific Centre for Sustainable Enterprise Seminars, Workshops and Open Lectures**

APCSE hosts a variety of public seminars, open lectures and workshops focused on sustainability themes such as carbon pricing, fiscal sustainability and the future of corporate social responsibility. Presentations are made by guest speakers who are national and international experts in their field. The events are always interactive, and questions and comments from the audience are encouraged.


**Griffith Centre for Coastal Management**

The Centre for Coastal Management is a research centre based in the Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology Group. The Centre is very committed to the local community in relation to coastal decision making through the CoastEd and Beachcare programs which provide educational activities and encourage valuable community interaction in the management and maintenance of Gold Coast beaches, foreshores, waterways and coastal areas.


**Remember to switch off!**

Remember to switch off all non essential equipment and appliances. This includes computers, monitors, and other electronic equipment, microwaves, lights in offices, meeting rooms, laboratories, and corridors where appropriate.

For further information go to: griffith.edu.au/sustainability
Campus Planning and Design incorporates sustainability

Incorporating sustainability in Griffith University’s Campus Master Plans and Design Guidelines has been an ongoing strategy since the first Master Plan was developed in 1972. Particular attention is given to environmental issues with the intent of minimising the impact of ongoing development on the natural environment.

Planning for the development of each campus is ongoing. Outcomes include:

» Compact development of the Nathan, Mt Gravatt and Gold Coast campuses to maximise the retention of the forest environment and at the same time reduce the impact and cost of reticulating site services such as electricity, water, sewerage and communications systems.

» Development of the South Bank campus included recycling previous development sites thereby reducing the impact on the environment through greenfield development.

» Development of the Logan campus involved reusing open farmland. The development has also identified some small areas of remnant vegetation which is worthy of protection.

» Site planning for the Southern Precinct of the Gold Coast campus includes a commitment to environmentally sustainable development and the protection of endangered flora and fauna. An agreement with Griffith University and the traditional owners, the Kombumerri people acknowledges Native Title.

Griffith’s Design Guidelines also establish measures, both passive and active, which impact on the design and operation of GU facilities to achieve energy efficiency, water use minimisation, and the creation of buildings which provide a comfortable and functional environment for students and staff in which to learn, teach or work.

More detail:

griffith.edu.au/campus-development

griffith.edu.au/sustainability/sustainable-campuses/sustainable-initiatives/buildings

Griffith Sustainability Commitment

Tips for 2013

» Use social media and electronic technology to reduce paper usage.

» Switch off lights when a room is not in use and at the end of the day.

» Reduce food waste from meetings. Cater to final numbers.

» Purchase recycled or recyclable products.

» Use videoconferencing to reduce travel needs.

Sign up in March 2013 and go in the draw for a free Reusable Cup or Water Bottle

All staff and students who sign up for the first time from Friday 1 March to Friday 29 March will go in the draw to win a free Griffith Reusable Cup or Water Bottle. Five winners will be drawn each week during this time.

Winners will be notified by email.

The Sustainability Commitment is an opportunity to commit to making small changes every day to help us to reduce our impact on the environment. Sign up TODAY at: griffith.edu.au/sustainability/what-you-can-do/sustainability-pledge

Visit Griffith’s Sustainability website: griffith.edu.au/sustainability or email: sustainability@griffith.edu.au