Sustainability Awareness

Find out about Griffith’s sustainability commitment and what you can do

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Welcome

- The principles of sustainability have been a core commitment of Griffith University since its foundation over forty years ago.

- Sustainability encompasses environmental, social and economic dimensions. A widely accepted definition of sustainability is: “Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.
  (Brundtland Report, 1987)

- This Sustainability Awareness module provides a snapshot of sustainability at Griffith. Thank you for taking the time to be informed and to find out how easy it is for you to integrate sustainable practices into all that you do.
1. What you can do

Reduce energy usage

Energy efficiency is a high priority for the University.

**TIPS:**

**All areas**

- Turn off lights, computers, monitors and non-essential equipment when not required including at the end of the day.
- Keep doors and windows closed in areas air conditioned.
- Buy energy efficient appliances and equipment.

**Laboratories**

- Turn off laboratory equipment where possible, when not in use, especially anything with a heating function.
- Keep fume hood sashes low as much as possible. Fume hoods not only operate more effectively but this reduces the air conditioning load and associated energy usage.

**LEARN MORE:**

- Sustainability website – Carbon and Energy
- Sustainability website – Green Labs Program
Conserve water

Griffith University actively reduces water use where possible.

**TIPS:**
- All areas
  - Minimise water usage
  - Purchase water efficient equipment and appliances
  - If a dishwasher is available, completely fill it, then use it
  - Report water leaks to Campus Life – submit an online request [Facilities Assist](#)
- Laboratories
  - Only use Reverse Osmosis (RO) water when necessary
  - When washing labware, fill the sink rather than using running water.
- Water Bubblers – an alternate to bottled water
  - Think about refilling your own water bottle on campus. Stainless steel (BPA free) water bottles can be purchased from most food outlets. Water bubblers are located on all campuses.

**LEARN MORE:**
- Sustainability website – Water

Reduce, reuse and recycle

The University seeks to minimize waste going to landfill.

Recycling options include paper, cardboard, printer and toner cartridges, mobile phones and batteries, E-waste (computers and associated equipment), and recyclables (glass, plastics, aluminium cans).

**TIPS:**
- Place paper recycling bins near printers and photocopiers
- Mobile phone and battery collection points are located in all Griffith libraries
- Recycling and composting bins are located across all campuses.

Contact your Campus Operations Coordinator, Campus Life to arrange recycling bins. To order bin/s submit an online request [Facilities Assist](#)

**LEARN MORE:**
- Sustainability website – Recycling and Waste

Practice sustainable purchasing

The procurement team at Griffith is committed to raising awareness of sustainable purchasing that offers reduced environmental impacts over the life-cycle of goods or services.

**TIPS:**
- Use on-line ordering and consolidate requests.
- Buy only what you need – keep an eye on what you store.
- Ask your supplier if there is a recycled content option for your next purchase.
- Look for the ‘Energy Star’ when purchasing printers, computers and appliances.
- Consider sharing – share lab, office or other equipment and resources to reduce unnecessary purchases.
- Use local suppliers where possible.

**End of Life**
- Consider the options for disposal: Can the item be repaired, reused or recycled?

**LEARN MORE:**
- Sustainability website – Purchasing
Griffith University’s Council members lead the way on paperless meetings in 2011. Griffith’s appointment process went paperless in 2013. Many other areas are working to reduce their paper usage.

**TIPS:**

- Think before you print – every day
- Do not change the default duplex (double sided printing) setting on your Multi-function device (MFD)
- Use electronic versions for policies, forms and other documents
- Read from the screen where feasible
- Think about all processes – could paper versions be changed over to electronic?
- When printing promotional material – don’t over order.

Griffith University encourages its staff and students to use sustainable transport.

**TIPS:**

- Use public transport, cycling, walking, carpooling, intercampus buses, where possible
- Use video conferencing facilities to reduce travel needs. Consider all online options at: [https://intranet.secure.griffith.edu.au/work/collaboration](https://intranet.secure.griffith.edu.au/work/collaboration)
- Our intercampus bus travels every 15 minutes between Nathan and Mt Gravatt campuses and the Student Guild Intercampus Bus regularly travels between Gold Coast and Nathan campuses.
- Find out about travel options, carpooling, cycling facilities and how to get to each of our five campuses at: [Campuses and Facilities](#)

Enhance your events and meetings and reduce environmental impacts.

**TIPS:**

- Use electronic communication and promotion, rather than printed material
- Use online registration for attendance and cater to final numbers
- Consider biodegradable or recycled merchandise and giveaways
- Use video conferencing where possible to reduce travel
- Place waste and recycling bins in prominent locations.

**LEARN MORE:**

[Sustainable Events and Meetings Checklist](#)

From its inception, Griffith University has maintained the environmental integrity of its campus at Nathan. The 225 hectares at Nathan and Mt Gravatt, and the 60 hectare Gold Coast campus are home to species of rare flora and fauna. The Logan campus features a native arboretum.

**TIPS:**

- Place rubbish in appropriate bins and don’t litter.
- Don’t feed native animals, particularly birds. They become dependent on your food.
- Minimise what you put down the drain. Things like oils and chemicals may start at the sink but can end up in our waterways and seas.

**LEARN MORE:**

[Sustainability website – Biodiversity](#)

Take a walk to enjoy the environment and use the ‘Grows at Griffith’ app that provides an interactive and easy-to-use flora database of 300 plants found on Griffith University campuses. You can download this app for free from the App store and Google play.
2. What is being done

**Sustainability Policy and Plans**

Griffith fosters a sustainable culture:

- ‘To be a sustainable university’ is one of five key goals in Griffith University’s Strategic Plan 2018–2019.
- Griffith’s Sustainability Plan supports our strategic direction and covers executive management, human resource management, teaching and research, community engagement and partnerships, and operational practices.
- The University’s Sustainability Policy underpins the University’s sustainability commitment.

**Research**

- Griffith is a research intensive University with an established international profile in innovative and interdisciplinary research.
- Our world-class researchers work in collaboration with industry, government and the community to tackle big issues in sustainability.
- Find out more about our research relating to sustainability on the [News and Events webpage of the Sustainability website](#).
- View [Griffith Research Centres and Institutes](#).

**Sustainability Teaching Network and Hub**

- Griffith’s Sustainability Teaching Network includes representatives from each Academic Group.
- The Sustainability Hub for learning and teaching, launched in 2015 by Griffith’s Sustainability Teaching Network, is a Learning@Griffith Organisation that provides staff and students with interactive resources on sustainability.
- Over 440 resources are available for staff and students.

**LEARN MORE:**
- [Sustainability website – Learning and Teaching](#)
Griffith was the first Australian University to offer an Environmental Science degree in 1975 and now offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs on sustainability.

Interdisciplinary undergraduate and postgraduate programs at Griffith University connect economic, social and environmental conditions that shape the world. Students are introduced to critical thinking and problem solving to help prepare them to be responsible global citizens.

**LEARN MORE:**
Sustainability website – Learning and Teaching

Griffith’s community engagement in sustainability is based on our capacity to respond to community needs through education, public awareness and involvement with regard to innovative research.

Griffith staff and students can join community events and activities, including:

- Coastal Community Engagement Program
- EcoCentre Community Program
- Griffith Centre for Sustainable Enterprise
- Griffith Review

Griffith University has a strong reputation for environmental responsibility and leadership. The University’s Campus Master Plans ensure campus expansion is sensitive to our natural environment and preserves as much as possible of the surrounding ecosystems.

Environmental sustainability is reflected in our building design, as well as energy, water, waste and recycling practices.

**LEARN MORE**

**Staff Sustainability Awards**

Griffith University’s Staff Sustainability awards recognise innovative and effective sustainable practice at Griffith University.
3. Next steps

Sign up to sustainable practices

- By making small changes, you can make a difference...
- When you sign up you become a part of a network of staff and students who integrate sustainability into all that they do.

Sign up to Griffith’s Sustainability Commitment

Newsletter

- Subscribe to Griffith’s free online Sustainability Newsletter. It provides up to date information on sustainability initiatives at Griffith.

Sign up to Griffith’s Sustainability Newsletter

Reusable Coffee Mug

- The Griffith Mug Club aims to reduce the use of paper cups on our campuses and saves over 40000 paper cups from going to landfill per year.
- When you purchase your own personal mug your first coffee is free. You will then enjoy a discount on every coffee, when using your GU Mug.

RESOURCES:

- Sustainability Policy
- Sustainability Plan
- Sustainability Report 2013–2015
- Sustainable events and meetings checklist

VIDEOS:

- Green Gown Awards Australasia 2017 Finalist
- Sign Griffith’s Sustainability Pledge
- Making gardening easier – groNATIVE app
- New life for threatened plant species
- Griffith excels in creating $23.3M ‘green’ carpark