

# Campus Sustainability Plan 2019 - 2020 FINALAS BRAGRASS REPOR

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The University of Adelaide acknowledges and pays respect to the Kaurna people, the traditional custodians on whose ancestral lands our campuses at Waite, Roseworthy and North Terrace are located. The University recognises the deep feelings of attachment and the relationship of the Kaurna people to Country. The University respects their past, present and ongoing connection to the land

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WE ARE PROUD OF OUR ROLE IN **PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS** FOR COMMUNITIES, BUSINESS, AND **INDUSTRY, AND ARE COMMITTED TO DECREASING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF OUR OPERATIONS.** 



In many ways these events brought us together and demonstrated our ability to change and adapt. Importantly, these events drew muchneeded attention to our natural environment, reminding us that despite our increasingly digital lives, human wellbeing can benefit by spending time interacting with the 'outside world'. The events over the past two years remind us of the continued need to act on climate change and support the regeneration of our flora, fauna, air and waterways.

The University of Adelaide remains uniquely positioned to help solve the problems that climate change presents through our teaching and research, including the preparation of graduates with the skills and confidence to face these issues head-on. As one of the larger organisations to operate in the State of South Australia, the University also has a major contribution to make to future sustainability in its own right.

As a consequence, I am pleased to report considerable progress has been made towards our operational performance outlined in the Campus Sustainability Plan 2016-2020. This Report summarises operational and engagement-based achievements, improvements and ongoing challenges over the past two years.

We are now at the end of our Campus Sustainability Plan 2016-2020. I am proud of the changes we have made to our campus environment, and inspired by the efforts of staff and students engaged in activities to improve the sustainability of our operations. The University will spend 2021 planning for our new Sustainability Strategy 2022-2030 with a broader focus across the institution, incorporating the collective impact of our research, teaching and community partnerships.

Bruce Lines Chief Operating Officer

# FOREWORD

## I am delighted to present the University's final Sustainability Progress Report for the current strategy (2019-2020), in what has been one of the most challenging times in recent memory.

The catastrophic fire season coupled with a global health pandemic has affected our University community enormously.

The majority of us experienced the direct impacts of climate change, which drove the hottest, driest temperatures in Australia's history, and contributed to the most destructive bushfires in living memory. Some staff and students were directly affected by the fires, our field station on Kangaroo Island was destroyed, and people all over Australia experienced deteriorating air quality and disruption to supply chains. As the bushfire clean up commenced, the COVID-19 pandemic threatened us in a different way, impacting virtually all aspects of society.

# **OUR CAMPUS** COMMUNITY

The University of Adelaide is located on the traditional lands of the Kaurna people and is spread across campuses at Waite, Roseworthy and North Terrace.

Our staff and student community hails from more than 100 countries, making 2020 a challenging year as we transformed teaching and learning models to support remote learning and test new ways to engage students unable to be physically present on campus. The pandemic has greatly changed the regular activity on our campuses, challenged us to think more creatively and about how we will work in the future.

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Despite these challenges, staff and students remain highly engaged in sustainability issues both on and off campus. Many Ecoversity activities moved to online delivery in 2020, with workshops and challenges to make the home office more sustainable. Wellbeing became a core component of the program as introverts and extroverts alike found the isolation from campus challenging. On campus, emissions reduced dramatically as learning, teaching, and work also moved online. Energy, waste, water and work-related flight emissions all dropped significantly during this period.

#### **2019 Highlights**

- Mining.
- student clubs.
- Melissa Nursey-Bray
- Smart-Bin trial in the North Terrace Hub with Postgraduate Student Houzhi Wang, School of Mechanical Engineering
- 45ML capacity rain water tanks installed at the Waite Campus for irrigation in collaboration with Sanjiv Satija, School of Agriculture, Food & Wine.
- Sciences building.

#### **2020 Highlights**

- Engineering Precinct.
- GO8 University collaborative carbon modelling project.
- box workshop and art competition activities.
- approval.
- Human Resources.



• 3,200 solar panels installed at the Roseworthy Campus for the Solar Farm project, and a sod-turning event with Vice-Chancellor and the Department for Energy &

• University's first Sustainability Week Event, organised by the Adelaide Sustainability Association in collaboration with the University, industry partners and many other

Climate Adaptation Planning for University Campuses with Associate Professor Dr

• Hosted the G08 Sustainability Managers Forum at the Adelaide Health and Medical

• 74 staff and students participated in the Green Impact office sustainability program.

• Installation of the Ingkarni Wardli energy efficient climate control interlink to deliver significant air-conditioning related energy savings within the North Terrace

• Market leading hybrid batteries and micro-grid installed at Roseworthy Campus to support the Solar Farm also and provide research opportunities.

• Biology Society of South Australia collaboration including tree planting, DIY bird

• Ecoversity at home online series including mindful gardening advice, making bathroom products, waste free cooking activities and eco-anxiety webinar.

• Helen Mayo North high efficiency, flexible chiller and control system upgrade

• Sustainability e-learning module launched for new staff in collaboration with



### Target Progress Summary

Target	2020 Status	Traffic Light	Comment
15% reduction in energy intensity (GJ/GFA m2) by 2020 (2014 baseline)	18% reduction in energy intensity (GJ/ GFA m2)		Energy consumption (particularly electricity and stationary fuel) was down significantly in 2020 due to a combination of less activity on campus, renewable energy installations and energy-efficient building retro-fits. The pandemic helped the University surpass this target through reduced occupancy on campus in 2020.
2MW of renewable energy installed by 2020	1.85MW installed, additional 150kW at the Waite Campus pending approval.		Two rooftop solar projects are pending approval which will add 150kW to our campus total and allow us to reach 2MW target.
Reduce landfill per person to 35kg per person (EFTSL+FTE)	27kg per person		Landfill diversion has steadily increased through increased recycling total waste generation has been in decline for 4 years running.
Maintain water consumption per person at 14kL per person (EFTSL+FTE)	14kL per person		Water consumption remained steady with a focus on sustainable irrigation practices and recycled water sources in 2020.
10% annual increase in staff and student participation in Ecoversity program activities (2015 baseline)	541% annual increase on previous year		In response to the pandemic, the Ecoversity program moved online where 18,000 individuals engaged with sustainability activities. This highlights the strong demand for sustainability within the University community.
10% annual increase in procurement of sustainable and ethically sourced office supplies on campus (2015 baseline)	5% annual decrease on previous year		Office purchasing was significantly down in 2020 due to increased working from home. Sustainable and ethical purchases represented 34% of total spend vs. 39% in 2019.

# 2019-2020 at a glance

√18%	Carbon emissions (scope 1 & 2) reduced since 2018
3,432	Students involved in Ecoversity events on campus
3,924GJ	Energy produced on campus
1,111	New followers on social media
4	Student interns
13	Economity Arrend regiminants

- 13 Ecoversity Award recipients
- **5** Green Project Fund recipients
- **2,754** Tonnes of waste recycled and diverted from landfill



# CARBON REDUCTION

Over the past two years the University's carbon direct emissions have decreased by 18%.

Our investment in renewable energy has reduced the University's reliance on purchased electricity, helping to reduce carbon emissions. Considered investigation of our building management systems and associated data has allowed us to better understand and manage energy on campus. During the pandemic, occupancy and activity across campus reduced significantly, resulting in reductions in waste, energy, water consumption and work-related flights.

### **Carbon inventory CO2e (tonnes)**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Direct emissions Scope 1 – Natural gas, transport fuels and stationary fuels	2,947	3,547	3,779	3,884	3,570
Direct emissions Scope 2 – purchased electricity	29,940	30,297	25,949	25,086	20,673
Indirect emissions Scope 3 – offsite waste disposal, business flights, transmission and distribution losses, employee commuting	27,697	28,440	25,922	23,849	11,475
Total	60,583	62,285	55,650	52,819	35,718





Work-related flights and electricity (26% and 48% respectively in 2019) emissions typically make up a majority of the University's emission portfolio. However, in 2020, flights made up just 8% as Australia's borders closed.



The University has undertaken a number of carbon reduction projects as part of the Campus Sustainability Plan. Below is a summary of these projects and their contribution to emissions reduction.

#### **Carbon reduction project summary**

Project category	Campus buildings	Carbon emission reduction (co2e tonnes over project lifetime)	Average payback period
Energy efficient lighting retrofits	Kenneth Wills, Hughes, Engineering south, Oliphant, Helen Mayo north and south, National wine centre, Santos and Davies	4,369	6 years
Renewable energy – solar pv installations	Barr Smith south, College hall, Wine innovation east, Charles Hawker, Kenneth Wills, Engineering south, Davies, Ingkarni Wardli, Equine centre, Vet school, Park 10 sports centre and Roseworthy solar farm	23,353	6.3 years
Building management systems & smart building technology	Davies, Badger, Ingkarni Wardli, Helen mayo north	7,908	10 years
Water efficiency	Molecular life sciences, Engineering maths, Santos, Barr Smith south, Schulz, physics, Waite campus grounds	1,762	14 years

## **Energy intensity**

Energy consumption (particularly electricity and stationary fuel) was down significantly in 2020 due to a combination of less activity on campus, renewable energy installations and energy-efficient building retro-fits. The pandemic helped the University surpass this target through reduced occupancy on campus in 2020. This result is particularly pleasing given when the university is operating at full capacity, the energy intensity of our campus buildings has increased over time with more devices, research equipment and additional students. Energy sources on campus include natural gas, electricity and a variety of stationary fuels. Electricity consumption has reduced by 14% since 2014, however natural gas consumption has doubled. This is due to an increase in research activity with a greater reliance on temperature-controlled environments. Air-conditioning in buildings is also running for longer due to extended teaching hours, 24 hour study spaces and more community events on campus, including hosting significant parts of the Adelaide Fringe in 2019 and 2020. This was further exacerbated by hotter temperatures across the Adelaide Plains during the period.





Figure 3: Energy consumption (electricity, natural gas and stationery fuel) per person - North Terrace, Waite & Roseworthy

Electricity sub-meters and logging equipment have helped Infrastructure Branch determine the causes of increased energy intensity and analyse consumption trends across campus. In particular, upgrades to the Barr Smith South building management system and switchboards has resulted in improved efficiency of the thermal plant supplying chilled and hot water to 11 campus buildings.

When considering the energy intensity of campus buildings, occupancy plays a large role. Currently staff and student numbers can be measured against overall energy consumption, however more granular data on occupancy would provide opportunities to reduce consumption further. This type of data integration will be explored in a range of initiatives for the University's future sustainability strategies.





Figure 2: UOA energy intensity target - North Terrace, Waite & Roseworthy



# **CASE STUDY**

# Ingkarni Wardli Climate Control Interlink

Inefficient and distributed air-conditioning units in Engineering North were coming to the end of their useful life when some new Engineering and Science laboratories were proposed for the precinct in 2019-2020. This was an opportunity to assess the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a new centralised air-conditioning system for the entire building. The adjacent Ingkarni Wardli building had the spare capacity within its existing central air conditioning plant room and future expansion space. The Ingkarni Wardli Climate Control Interlink was conceived to connect the building's air conditioning systems and avoid constructing a whole new plant room in the Engineering North building. The interlink proved to be the most energy-efficient and cost effective solution with expected energy savings of 1200MWh per year once all air-conditioning projects in the precinct have been upgraded.



### **Renewable energy**

On-site solar generation has proven successful at reducing electricity consumption from the grid. Many campus buildings now feature rooftop solar systems, and the Roseworthy solar farm system now provides 42% of the campus' energy needs.

Campus	Building	Solar Sy
	Engineering South	75kW
N 1 T	Barr Smith South	99kW
North Ierrace	Ingkarni Wardli	30kW
	Kenneth Wills	60kW
	Charles Hawker	82kW
Waite	Wine Innovation	178kW
	Davies	44kW
	College Hall	29kW
Roseworthy	Equine Centre	30kW
	Vet School	30kW
	Solar Farm	1200kW

### **UOA Renewable Energy Installation**



Figure 4: On-site renewable energy installation capacity at Waite, Roseworthy and North Terrace



2MW of renewable energy installed by 2020



# RESULT

1.85MW of renewable energy installed by 2020

An additional 0.15MW is planned for installation at the Waite Campus in 2021 (finance approval pending - delayed delivery due to the pandemic response)



## **CASE STUDY Roseworthy Solar Farm**

An integrated solar system, battery storage and a digital twin micro-grid at the Roseworthy Campus is delivering 42% of the campus's energy needs.

The 1.2MW solar farm contains 3,200 individual solar panels and is the largest solar project in the University's history. The solar system is connected to two battery systems, 290kW/1200 lithium and 98kW/390kWh vanadium flow. The University's Centre for Energy Technology will test the battery chemistry performance in real world conditions for reliability and develop risk management solutions for hot and arid climates (such as Roseworthy). These research topics are an extension of the Australian Energy Storage Knowledge Bank led by the University of Adelaide and supported by industry partners SA Power Networks, Energy Networks Association, Solar Storage Australia, Power and Drive Solutions and ZEN Energy Systems.

Vanadium flow batteries are an older battery technology than lithium-ion; however, this type of battery has traditionally been reserved for very large scale applications due to their footprint and weight. However advancements in manufacturing have allowed this battery chemistry to be downsized. Vanadium flow batteries has a very long life compared to lithium-ion. Vanadium flow battery technology also has far less toxicity than lithium-ion (less than conventional car batteries) and is non-flammable. This is an essential feature for regional, outback locations in Australia and other places internationally where climate change is resulting in hotter environmental conditions. The battery system also features an embedded micro grid to help drive more efficient demand management, stand-by power and voltage regulation.

The benefits of the Roseworthy Solar Farm, battery system and micro-grid include:

- Reducing electricity demand from the grid by generating electricity during the day and utilising batteries into the evening.
- The embedded micro-grid will allow for demand management decision making
- Improve emergency back-up facilities
- Reduce the day to day energy costs of the campus
- Provide research and teaching opportunities related to battery chemistry performance, energy management, grid segregation, low-cost fault detection systems and cybersecurity.

This \$6M project was delivered with the assistance of a \$780,000 grant from the South Australian Renewable Technology Fund to support the installation of the two different battery systems and the embedded micro-grid control system.

Campus	Total Waste Gene	eration (tonnes)	Total Recycled Wa	aste (tonnes)	% of Landfill Dive	ersion
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
North Terrace	724	628	301	232	42%	37%
Roseworthy	270	239	116	117	43%	49%
Waite	422	311	217	121	51%	39%
					UoA Overall % La	ndfill Diversion
					45%	40%

Challenges to focus on in the future include education and signage to reduce contamination of recycling bins, procurement and contract decisions/clauses to help reduce waste generation in the first place and targeted recycling solutions for laboratories.



### Waste and recycling

Waste management remains the most visible environmental issue on campus and the most challenging to get right. A comprehensive office recycling program has now been implemented at all campuses with facilities to recycle batteries, mobile phones, paper and cardboard, organic waste, and mixed recycling. Green teams across campus also undertook their own recycling programs for soft plastics, coffee pods and plastic bag tags.

During 2020 the University progressed new retail and leasing conditions for food outlets on campus, mandating 100% compostable packaging for all food and beverages made on campus. The Vice-Chancellor's Executive also supported a move to make all University events, workshops and conferences on campus plasticfree from Semester 1 2021. This move goes above and beyond new legislation from the State Government, banning single-use plastic straws, stirrers and cutlery in an Australian-first effort to reduce plastic pollution.



# WATER EFFICIENCY

Two years of the hottest temperatures on record have challenged our ability to reduce potable water consumption. Had the campuses not been affected by the pandemic, water efficiency targets are unlikely to have been reached. However, during this period, new landscapes have been installed at the North Terrace Campus, expanding the recycled water irrigation system. These landscapes have the added benefit of replacing hard paved areas on campus with cool lawns and trees to create more shade. Plant species chosen for the Kaurna Learning Circle project are endemic to the local area and will require less irrigation than introduced plant species.

Two new water tanks were installed at the Waite Campus through the Green Project Fund thanks to the leadership of the School of Agriculture, Food & Wine and research officer Sanjiv Satija. This rainwater system will support irrigation to research crops on campus.

Campus	Total Water Consumption (kL)		Total Recycled Water Consumption (kL)		% of displaced by sustainable water sources	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
North Terrace	199,534	147,134	33,248	24,643	17%	17%
Roseworthy	198,086	225,645	105,000	105,000	53%	47%
Waite	122,906	156,031	27,000	71,000	22%	46%
					UoA Overall % disp sustainable water	laced by sources Diversion
					32%	38%





Figure 6: Water consumption per person on campus (FTE+EFTSL)

TARGET **Maintain water** consumption at 14kL per person (EFTSL+FTE), per year



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018	2019	2020	
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# **CASE STUDY** Kaurna Learning Circle, Cultural Landscape

The Kaurna Learning Circle is an open-air meeting place and ceremonial space to be used by all, located at the University's North Terrace Campus. Created as a collaborative project between the University's Wirltu Yarlu Aboriginal Education and Kaurna cultural advisers, the Kaurna Learning Circle is the new landmark of the northern (riverside) entrance to the University's North Terrace campus. The outdoor venue includes a steel fire pit for ceremonial use, and a steel structure inscribed with a welcome to country: "Kaurna miyruna wangkanthi marni naa pudni, Kaurna yarta-ana" ("Kaurna people say good you all came to Kaurna country").

The immediate northern entrance to campus also features the Wangu Poles, striking new artwork designed by talented Kaurna and Ngarrindjeri artist Paul Herzich. The seven poles, ranging in height from 6-8 metres, contain references to Kaurna dreaming stories, ancient ceremonial practices, and traditional life along the nearby Karrawirra Pari (River Torrens).

The surrounding landscape has been planted with trees, shrubs and groundcovers endemic to Kaurna Country that will require much less irrigation that introduced species (plant list below).

- Kaurna Learning Circle Plant List
- Banksia marginata (Silver Banksia)
- Pittosporum angustifolium (Native Apricot)
- Acacia pycnantha (Mirnu or Golden Wattle)
- Billardiera scandens (Sweet Apple Berry)
- Dianella revoluta (Flax Lily)
- Santalum acuminatum (Gurti or Quandong)

"The Kaurna people are the traditional custodians of the ancestral lands on which we gather every day for learning and teaching here at the University of Adelaide. The new Kaurna Learning Circle is designed to showcase those connections to our University and to celebrate Kaurna culture and places of learning.

We have created a beautiful meeting place and ceremonial space to be used by all, long into the future.

We are very proud that the Kaurna Learning Circle now forms part of the main northern entrance to our campus. This project has been developed as part of the University's Reconciliation Action Plan, Yangadlitya ("For the Future"), which has highlighted the need

for spaces to promote Indigenous culture."

- Professor Mike Brooks, Acting Vice-Chancellor

"This new addition to the North Terrace campus is representative of something much older than any of us, our University or even the city of Adelaide. It connects us to the history of this land and the physical, cultural and spiritual importance of the Karrawirra Pari (River Torrens).

As a Kaurna man I am very proud of my culture and language, and to see it acknowledged in this way is very special. The Kaurna Learning Circle is a place for reflection and discussion to strengthen our cultural knowledge, and to help others understand; I hope that it encourages more people to learn about our culture and history.

I thank the University of Adelaide and the Kaurna advisers involved for their commitment to our people, to place, and to our cultural heritage. As a Kaurna man I am very proud of my culture and language, and to see it acknowledged in this way is very special." - Uncle Rod O'Brien, Kaurna Elder



# ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Engagement in sustainability initiatives continues to help our students build capacity to become the leaders, entrepreneurs, policy makers, innovators, and problem solvers needed to create change and implement solutions.

The Ecoversity program continues to connect a community of like-minded staff and students on campus. In 2020, COVID-19 restrictions confined most staff and students to their homes for work and study, meaning the Ecoversity team needed to think creatively about engagement methods. Ecoversity events, workshops, and activities moved online and focused on student well-being with the AUU, Student Life and Student Support.

Another successful collaboration was created with the Biology Society of South Australia to bring land preparation, tree planting and conservation activities to life through the Forktree Project.





10% annual increase in staff and student participation in Ecoversity program activities (2015 baseline)







## Highlights (2019 - 2020)

- Completed a review and upgrade of the Ecoversity website.
- Delivered 40+ Ecoversity events and campaigns at all campuses.
- Launched a Sustainability Induction module for new staff.
- Collaborated with the Adelaide Sustainability Association to co-host Sustainability Week and deliver the Young Sustainability Leaders Program.
- Created the Bicycle Buy Back Scheme with Treadly on Campus
- Delivered the 2019 and 2020 Green Impact programs
- Highly Commended in the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability Green Gown Awards for the Roseworthy Edible Garden.
- Collaborated with staff and students to deliver 5 sustainability projects through the Green Project Fund
- Conservation volunteering at The Forktree Project

Ecoversity Engagement Activities	No. Staff & Students Involved		
	2019	2020	
Ecoversity internships	2	2	
Ecoversity Award recipients	10	3	
Young Sustainability Leaders - Employability seminar	20	12	
Eco-Anxiety online workshop with Student Life	N/A	67	
Mindful gardening workshop with Student Life	N/A	20	
Housebound Heroes with AUU	N/A	59	
Fast fashion & ocean plastics workshop with International Student Services	N/A	10	
Ecoversity instagram - new followers	214	144	
Ecoversity facebook - new followers	430	323	
Sustainability video views (Roseworthy Garden and Solar Farm)	20,000	N/A	
Social media reach	287,500	53,094	
Clothes Swap with The Joinery	55	N/A	
Sustainability Week with the Adelaide Sustainability Association (Ecoversity events only)	220	160	
SeventeenX with Teaspoons of Change	51	N/A	
Give a Damn Day with the AUU	150	N/A	
Hackathon with the Adelaide Sustainability Association	42	N/A	
SDSN Hackathon with the SDSN Student Hub	18	N/A	
Roseworthy Energy Challenge	151	N/A	
Vegan Cooking Class	22	N/A	
Bike maintenance masterclasses with Treadly on Campus	37	N/A	
Beeswax wrap workshops with The Joinery	230	N/A	
Bike Engraving with SAPOL	82	22	
2040 Film Screening & mental health panel with Student Life	95	26	
Reuse events (stationery giveaways)	500	570	
Ride to Uni Day and other cycling events with BikeSA	132	15	
Treadly bike maintenance at O-Week & Sustainability Week	33	50	
Racing Extinction film screening for biodiversity month	N/A	18	
#DitchDisposables campaign (includes reusable water bottle giveaway)	250	25	
Green Impact (staff and student engagement)	74	27	
Green Impact student reviewer applications	54	2	
Ecoversity video shoots	15	28	
DIY Bird Boxes with Biology Society of South Australia	N/A	20	
Bees @ Waite with the Biology Society of South Australia & AUU	N/A	30	
DIY Bathroom product workshop (Sustainability Week & Mental Health Week )	N/A	140	
Roseworthy Mental Health Week - Edible garden workshop	N/A	10	
Forktree volunteers	N/A	40	



# **CASE STUDY** Sustainability Week 2019 & 2020

The Adelaide Sustainability Association worked with the University in two dedicated Sustainability Week events in April 2019 and August 2020. Both events were held on campus with the Ecoversity program's support and several student clubs. Events included bike maintenance workshops, clothes swaps, panel discussions and talks, film screenings, gardening workshops, DIY bathroom product workshops, tree planting and outdoor nature appreciation events such as guided hikes.

### Sustainability Week in 2020 involved

On-campus and online events: 19	
Clubs and Societies involved: 16	
Ecoversity '2040' film screening and I	DIY Bathroom Product Workshop attendees
Facebook event engagement: 10,600	+ people reached
UoA Instagram and Snapchat 'Takeo	ver' views: 12,146

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# **INVESTMENT AND PROCUREMENT**

EARTH ONE

### Daily purchasing decisions and habits have a considerable impact on people and the planet.

During 2020, purchasing of office supplies declined significantly as many staff and students worked and studied from home. Despite this the University underwent two major shifts procurement across the 2019-2020 period responding to the Modern Slavery Act, and transitioning the campus to single-use plastic free.

- 1. The Modern Slavery Act 2018 came into effect, and the University responded with a new Supplier Code of Conduct, ensuring all University suppliers comply with the Act. Additionally, the Code of Conduct sets out clear expectations for suppliers that includes:
- a. treat employees fairly and with respect,
- b. provide safe and healthy working environments,
- c. engage in ethical business practices and operate in an environment of intergrity and accountability,
- d. look to improve environmental outcomes.

2. The University is moving towards becoming single-use plastic free. The first step is to transition all food & beverages made on campus, to compostable packaging for composting by the start of Semester 1 2021. During 2020, Infrastructure staff have worked with retailers and suppliers on campus to make this transition happen. The 'Compostables on Campus' campaign celebrates this important first step, and encourages staff and students to use our green bins effectively to maximise composting. This campaign also involves a new mandate for Plastic-Free events, workshops and conferences from 2021 onwards.

EARTH<sub>RE</sub> LANDFILI

Compostable Catering Packs are currently available free of charge to all student clubs on campus to support student club events





10% annual increase in procurement of sustainable and ethically sources office supplies on campus (2015 baseline)



Did you know that in 2016, there were more than 40 million people worldwide working in conditions of modern slavery producing goods for the global marketplace?

# **CASE STUDY** Modern Slavery Act 2018

We all consume goods – such as computers, mobile phones, clothing, and food – that may well have been produced under conditions of modern slavery. In response to this global problem, The University of Adelaide and the Australian Government are taking steps to reduce the risk of slavery in our supply chains. The Modern Slavery Act 2018 requires all large Australian organisations to report on the dangers of slavery in their supply chains and on what each organisation is doing to address these risks. The University of Adelaide conducted an audit of its supply chain; reviewing and updating policy, procedure, and contract documents; and created a code of conduct for suppliers.



# **10 YEARS OF Sustainability on Campus**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Campus carbon emissions are down by 37% from 2010 baseline
- Green Project Fund has delivered 62 community-led campus sustainability projects between 2012 and 2020
- 37 Ecoversity Award scholarship recipients
- Green Impact Program has involved over 174 staff and students working to ensure office practices are as environmentally sustainable as possible
- 7 Ecoversity student internships, plus 5 Faculty of Arts internships
- Campus landfill diversion rate from 7% (2010) to 40% in 2020, equal to 190% more recycling on campus
- Rain water tanks, low flow taps, and specialist laboratory equipment have been installed to reduce water consumption on campus. All campuses upgraded to use recycled water for majority of irrigation.



# GOVERNANCE, IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING

Infrastructure Branch is responsible for the delivery of the Campus Sustainability Plan and regular reporting.

The Branch provides regular accounts of Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Act 2007 and licenced waste activities under the Environment Protection Act 1993. The Branch also provides environmental data to the National Pollutant Inventory, the Tertiary Education Facility Management Association and the Group of Eight for reporting and benchmarking purposes

This Report brings the University to the end of its first Campus Sustainability Plan. 2021 will be dedicated to developing our next Sustainability Strategy with staff and students. This Plan has delivered some excellent results, improving campus environmental performance and generating operational savings that will benefit the University for many years to come. Our next Sustainability Strategy will require the institution to think more broadly about its contribution to a more sustainable future through research, teaching and community outreach. The impact the University can have when shaping our next generation of leaders is vast. Education and leadership on sustainability are vital and increasingly urgent as Australia and other parts of the world now live with the direct impacts of climate change, such as bushfires and floods.



# GLOSSARY

#### Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO2-e): An

internationally accepted measurement that encapsulates all greenhouse gases based on their global warming potential.

#### **Carbon/Greenhouse gas emissions:** The release of greenhouse gases and their precursors into the atmosphere over a specified area and period of time. The term greenhouse gas emissions is utilised interchangeably with the term carbon emissions

**EFTSL:** Equivalent full-time student load

FTE: Full-time equivalent (relates to staff)

**GAP water:** Glenelg to Adelaide Pipeline.

**Potable water or mains water:** Water that is safe to drink or to use for food preparation without the risk of health problems

**Renewable energy:** Energy that comes from resources which are naturally replenished on a human timescale such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves and geothermal heat.

**Scope 1:** Direct greenhouse gas emissions, e.g. corporate fleet or on-site energy generation.

**Scope 2:** Greenhouse gas emissions from the consumption of purchased electricity.

**Scope 3:** Indirect greenhouse gas emissions that occur due to the University's activities, such as waste disposal, air travel, outsourced services and transmission losses.

### Sustainable and ethically source office supplies:

Products classified as 'environmentally friendly' against a set of environmental criteria. Includes products with recycled content, compostable packaging, and items certified under environmental certification schemes.

### FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES

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