

Green Gown Awards Australasia 2012!

*Are you making positive changes towards sustainability?
Do you want to be recognised for your efforts?*

Then enter the Green Gown Awards Australasia 2012 and get the recognition you deserve! Applications will open in winter 2012 so keep an eye on our website for more details:

www.acts.asn.au



Winner's Brochure

The annual Awards, recognising excellence
in sustainability within Australasian tertiary education

A very big thank you to our Awards sponsors



The Green Gown Awards Australasia 2011 Awards ceremony is in conjunction with the ACTS 11th International Conference dinner, we'd like to thank our conference host, The University of Adelaide, and our sponsors



Contents

Foreword – ACTS President	1
A message from the EAUC	2
About the Awards	3
<i>Category Winners</i>	
Continuous Improvement – Institutional Change	4
Continuous Improvement – Specific Area	7
Learning & Teaching	10
Student Initiatives & Campaigns	14
TAFE & Smaller Institutions	17
ACTS Award of Excellence	20
Sustainable Events & Awards	22
2011 Judging Panel	23
How to become involved in 2012	24

Foreword

Now in their second year, the Green Gown Awards Australasia are quickly establishing themselves as the most prestigious recognition of sustainability excellence in further and higher education. With so many institutions working hard to ensure that sustainability is part of core business, it is appropriate to ensure we recognise these wonderful efforts.

To honour the variety of achievements being undertaken across the sector, we have introduced more categories to the mix for this year's awards, taking the number of awards up for grabs to six. All of the entries this year demonstrate the commitment the sector is making towards necessary changes to achieving a sustainable future through operations, through learning and teaching and through broader community engagement. The winning and commended entries have been chosen by an independent judging panel as the best examples of these efforts, though every entry is to be applauded. I would particularly like to thank our judges for the time they put into deciding our winners.

Not only do these awards provide an opportunity to recognise the efforts of the sector, they also provide an opportunity for others to learn about ways to approach different aspects of the full campus sustainability program. I encourage you to join me in congratulating all those who have been recognised for this year's awards.



Leanne Denby
ACTS President

A Message from the EAUC

The Green Gown Awards originated in the UK in 2004, and have quickly grown to become the most prestigious and coveted Award for sustainability within the further and higher education sector. Managed by the EAUC on behalf of the sector, we are delighted with the warm welcome and enthusiasm that the Awards have been adopted within Australasia. The EAUC collaborates very closely with ACTS on an international stage to share ideas, initiatives and best practice and we see this partnership continuing to go from strength to strength.

Now in their 7th year, the Green Gown Awards have provided a platform of excellence for institutions to be recognised for their continued efforts to mainstream sustainability as a core business objective, and for institutions to demonstrate their responsibility to contribute to a future global green economy. The Awards are highly respected by all members of the sector: government, funding councils, senior management, academics and students and their value is reflected in the continued growth from applications and new categories each year.

I'd like to applaud each applicant on demonstrating commitment to the sustainability agenda and wish you good luck! I hope everyone embraces the ethos of the Awards to showcase what 'can be done' and takes away a very positive message that can hopefully be turned into action within your own sustainability journey.



Andrew Chamberlain
EAUC – Head of UK Programmes

About the Awards

The Green Gown Awards Australasia is the first and only Award scheme dedicated to recognising excellence in sustainability within the tertiary education sector in Australia and New Zealand. Their aim is to recognise and reward those institutions making a positive impact towards sustainability, providing a real and very positive platform for others to aspire to.

Founded in the UK in 2004, by the Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI), and now run by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), the UK Green Gown Awards are now in their 7th Year, and have firmly become THE most prestigious recognition of sustainability best practice in universities and colleges across the UK.

Driving on this success and keen to embrace international collaboration, ACTS – Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability, launched the Green Gown Awards Australasia in 2010. Now in their 2nd year, the Awards are growing, with more categories to recognise and reward sustainability excellence and share these success stories in a national and international arena. The future aim for the Australasian Awards is to follow in its founders footsteps and become THE most prestigious and highly coveted recognition of sustainability excellence in the sector.

We'd like to thank our inaugural sponsors, *Sustainability Victoria* who have shown tremendous support for this fantastic initiative.

There are 5 categories that all Australasian institutions can showcase their achievements. Also new to this year's Awards is the ACTS Award of Excellence.

2011 Award categories

Continuous Improvement – Institutional Change

This category recognises sustained and successful activities to improve the sustainability performance of whole tertiary education institutions, at a holistic level, over a number of years.

Continuous Improvement – Specific Area

This category encompasses initiatives which have been sustained over a period of years, supported by long-term investment and/or which span a number of areas.

Learning & Teaching

This category recognises achievements in education for sustainability in undergraduate, postgraduate and vocational courses in Further and Higher Education institutions.

Student Initiatives & Campaigns

This category recognises initiatives which have been developed and/or substantially influenced by students.

TAFE & Smaller Institutions

This category recognises the commitment and impact of TAFEs and smaller Higher Education institutions in relation to their total sustainability agenda.

ACTS Award of Excellence

This award recognises the sustainability achievements of an ACTS Institutional member.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

Winner

La Trobe University

Highly Commended

TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute

Sponsored by



La Trobe University



Continuous Improvement – Institutional Change
Best Practice Sustainability Governance and Management

Project Snap Shot

Since establishing its Sustainability Task Force in 2009 La Trobe University has appointed a Pro Vice Chancellor (Sustainability) and developed sound governance and management processes. Significant progress has been made towards the goal of integrating sustainability across operations, curriculum and research in a whole of institution approach and embed sustainability into the culture of the University. Since the production of Responsible Futures, La Trobe’s first sustainability report, stakeholders are more aware of Sustainability issues, engaging with social media, and more involved in striving to achieve the targets set. Significant environmental and social benefits were achieved in 2010 and the Sustainability targets and actions set in the report have been incorporated into University planning and performance management of the Vice Chancellor’s direct reports to drive behaviour change and performance improvements. The addition of a Research Fellow in Education for Sustainability Development is a direct result of the project.

What it means to win

“Winning an Award would highlight the importance of proactive leadership and sound governance and management processes in embedding sustainability in a higher education institution. It would also provide a role model to other universities and encourage all tertiary education institutions to incorporate sustainable practices”



The judges thought that this was an excellent example of sustainability across the whole institution, with measurable outcomes, powerful internal communications and strong leadership and direction from senior management.

What the judges said!

Highly commended

TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute



Continuous Improvement – Institutional Change
Sustainable education

Project Snap Shot

Focused on its own operations to meet ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems standards in 2003, NSI now provides advice and training to other TAFEs and universities to meet the challenges of today's burgeoning green economy. Each year, over 3000 students are trained in the specific fields of land, environmental and coastal management, and this is growing in response to the increasing demand for green-skilled workers.

NSI are introducing new environmentally based courses and modules across all industry sectors, such as renewable energy; grid connected PV systems; insulation training; energy, water and waste minimisation; green plumbing; automotive gas refitting; and ecologically sustainable building design and construction. They are also changing the way many traditional trades are taught. Building, electrical, plumbing, architecture and landscaping students learn about sustainability by designing and building sustainable structures, which in turn are used by students learning about sustainability. Also hospitality students are working towards the closed-loop 'farm to table to farm' approach and Green Table certification using the latest in waste, water and energy minimisation equipment and techniques.

What it means to win

"Winning a Green Gown Award recognises our Institute as a committed champion, influencing long term change for sustainability in collaboration with our students, staff, workplaces and supply chains"

What the judges said!

An holistic approach to embedding sustainability within the institution. Strong operational results, with vocational training for sustainability within the curriculum and upskilling of staff within the organisation.



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT SPECIFIC AREA

Winner

University of Canterbury

Highly Commended

Victoria University

Sponsored by



Winner

Highly commended

University of Canterbury



Continuous Improvement – Specific Area
Okeover Stream Restoration and Community Engagement Project

Project Snap Shot

In 1996 the Okeover Stream was a muddy, weed-infested drain with lawn on the banks down to the edges. Since then significant restoration has taken place, in collaboration with the regional and city councils, including planting, creation of rock eddies and pools. Over 15 years of extensive research on the stream’s health has been carried out by University of Canterbury staff and students, and it is now used as a teaching space for the wider community.

Recently the community in the whole catchment (800 households), in collaboration with the regional council, is involved in a community-led stream care project. This has raised awareness of the University of Canterbury’s commitment to ecological restoration, and created a much more pleasant space to work and study, and is assisting in the development of transdisciplinary sustainability research. The university has won awards for this project locally which in turn has given the institution encouragement to continue further developments. It has created a model of community driven stream care for other Christchurch streams.

What it means to win

“Winning this Award would contribute greatly to our institution’s internal on-going commitment to sustainability particularly regarding our current strategic planning. It would also increase our credibility and attractiveness with regards to environmental management and for students looking for a place to undertake their sustainability studies”

Victoria University



Continuous Improvement – Specific Area
Limit of one song per shower please! Water saving programs at Victoria University.

Project Snap Shot

As an educational institution and major water user in the western suburbs of Melbourne, Victoria University has developed a number of initiatives to significantly and continually reduce water consumption across campuses and student accommodation. For 5 years Victoria University has been delivering water savings across multiple university campuses. Programs to deliver this reduction include sub metering of buildings, equipment to better understand water consumption trends across the organisation, upgrading of infrastructure to more water efficient equipment, and engagement activities to engender support and educate staff, students and the community with the aim to deliver further water reductions at the University. For a four year period from 2006, approximately 76,300 kilolitres of water savings have been achieved. In addition the staff and students showerhead exchange program has delivered a further 2000 kilolitres of water savings per year to the wider community. So a limit of one song per shower please!

What it means to win

“Winning a Green Gown award is recognition of the commitment of the environment team who has worked over many years to deliver water conservation programs. For Victoria University, winning this award would further demonstrate to staff, students and the community, the University’s commitment to reducing its impact on the environment”

What the judges said!

The judges felt that this was an excellent example of long term continuous improvement and shows strong environmental commitment in a local area. This initiative could be highly replicable in a similar ecological area and would be a great teaching tool for future students!



The judges felt that this was a fantastic practical example of 'continuous improvement' and demonstrated a strong sustainability ethos across the whole institution, with multiple investments and projects developed each year. Excellent campus and community engagement and awareness raising initiatives.

What the judges said!

Winner

LEARNING & TEACHING

Winner

RMIT University

Highly Commended

Australian National University

Highly Commended

Swinburne University of Technology

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RMIT University



Learning & Teaching

Curriculum change, embedding sustainability in a degree program.

Project Snap Shot

Over the last three years RMIT University textile design academics have creatively explored and re-examined textile design practice through the 'Curriculum Change to Embed Sustainability' project. The project provides an innovative curriculum change model.

The program has shown leadership by providing graduates with the knowledge, skills and capabilities necessary to practice in a sustainable way as well as to be relevant, employable and visionary, with the capacity to influence change and be the future leaders of the fashion and textile industry within Australia and internationally.

The project places the Bachelor of Arts (Textile Design) curriculum as a leader in its field and sets a practice benchmark for the textile industry generally showing that sustainability can be applied as a standard in all aspects of design. In doing so, it also provides an exemplar for how others can use or adapt the model to enhance the sustainability learning in their own disciplines. The achievements of the institution have been acknowledged and rewarded with the 2011 Premiers Sustainability Award for Tertiary Education.

What it means to win

"Winning the 2011 Green Gown Award for Learning and Teaching would give us an international voice, enabling us to engage with educators both here in Australia, New Zealand and further afield"



The judges felt that this initiative showed real evidence on the processes of how to teach sustainably (learning, up skilling), with evidence of how to measure student learning and with a strong collaboration with the local community. It showed a deep commitment to embedding sustainability within its curriculum and they felt it showed real promise for replicability elsewhere.

What the judges said!

Highly commended

Highly commended

Australian National University



Learning & Teaching

Campus and community as classrooms for learning and teaching sustainability

Project Snap Shot

For more than a decade, The Australian National University (ANU) has actively used its campuses and surrounding communities as interactive classrooms where students research and learn about sustainability in practice. Sustainability projects have encompassed all disciplines and every level of the university curriculum and have focused on diverse environmental issues. The university has benefited by gaining student insights into genuine sustainability questions, while students have gained skills, knowledge and practical experience in tackling real world challenges.

Coursework collaborations help students to reflect on the ecological impact of the university and their contribution to it while demonstrating that their actions can make a difference. Armed with the skills and knowledge to address real world issues, students are more likely to be confident in their abilities to create a better future. In this manner, campus sustainability projects benefit not only the individual students, but the university and wider community as a whole.

What it means to win

“Winning a Green Gown Award would be an honour and inspiration to the hundreds of students and staff who have been involved in campus sustainability initiatives and coursework collaborations over the years. It would add weight to a current campaign to try to embed sustainability into every ANU degree”

Swinburne University of Technology



Learning & Teaching

Vocational Graduate Certificate in Education and Training for Sustainability

Project Snap Shot

The Vocational Graduate Certificate in Education and Training for Sustainability (VGC ETfS) is the first nationally accredited VET course in education for sustainability in Australia and is designed for educators from all sectors – particularly the tertiary sector - to professionally ‘upskill’ in learner-based change for sustainability. The VGC ETfS draws on many ways of knowing - systems and critical thinking, values and worldviews, psychology, behaviour change, communication and collaborative skills, progressive educational pedagogies, action research - to educate for a sustainable future.

The VGC ETfS is designed so that it can be shaped and contextualised to a wide range of educational contexts across Australia. The course projects and assessment tasks are all integrated into the teaching and curriculum contexts of the participant and are designed to initiate change at both the individual and institution levels, as well as build a community of practice within all the participants and their networks. The VGC ETfS is currently being taught in NSW, QLD, and VIC through VET and Community College based cohorts and new cohorts in Higher Education and the secondary sectors are being planned.

What it means to win

“Winning this award will promote Australia’s first accredited course in Education for Sustainability. This course is already demonstrating that this particular pedagogy deepens educators understanding of sustainability and enables them to practice and teach the knowledge, skills, values, attitudes we need to mitigate the effects of climate change and to create a sustainable future. “

What the judges said!

The judges were impressed with the scale of this project, and its high impact. It focused on sustainability learning and teaching across a broad area including non traditional subjects.



The judges were impressed with the scale and wide reaching nature of the project. Innovative within the VET sector, contributing to enhancing the skills of our teachers, and will benefit the already existing community of practice available in the Australia.

What the judges said!

STUDENT INITIATIVES & CAMPAIGNS

Winner

The University of Adelaide

Highly Commended

Curtin University

Sponsored by



The University of Adelaide



Student Initiatives & Campaigns
O'Week Sustainable Transport Pledge

Project Snap Shot

Orientation Week (O'Week) celebrations at the University of Adelaide attract over 15,000 students each year. In 2011 the Office of Sustainability teamed up with the Environmental Collective of Students, Adelaide Metro and the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure to deliver the Sustainable Transport Pledge to encourage students to travel to campus by bike, public transport or by walking. Research indicates that embedding sustainable behaviors is more successful when combined with a life changing event. This initiative asked new university students to pledge to travel to campus in a sustainable manner with a public declaration and rewarded them with a small prize. The pledge photos were promptly uploaded onto the sustainability Facebook page for students to tag themselves. Almost 700 pledges were taken by student volunteers. The social media element of this project helped cement individual pledges through a public display of commitment. The four day event was run by students for students, with support from the Office of Sustainability.

What it means to win

"Winning a Green Gown Award would cement and recognise the efforts of the staff, students and partners involved in the Sustainable Transport Pledge. It would also acknowledge the important role business partners play in building a sustainable community and supporting student led projects of this kind"



The judges felt that this was an excellent model for engaging students and embedding sustainable transport behaviour. Methods of promotion and engagement were excellent and it appeared to be a fun energetic way to engage students with sustainability. The judges felt it was a model that could be highly replicable for other sustainability initiatives across campus.

What the judges said!

Highly commended

Curtin University



Student Initiatives & Campaigns
Community Vegie Garden

Project Snap Shot

From an empty sandy space, and with only a volunteer staff member for support, a 600m² community vegie garden has been thriving since 2007 at the largest on-campus student residence within Curtin University. The garden is supported by hundreds of student volunteers, who have planted citrus, fig, stone fruit, olive, and almond trees; grape vines; as well as many Asian herbs and vegetables; reflecting the diversity of the students' country of origin.

Students have also seen keen interest and support from many departments within the university and visits by the general public. World Environment Day was celebrated on campus, with staff and students interacting for a healthy BBQ that showcased the garden's produce. The main outcomes and benefits of the garden are the social interaction and friendship that this project is creating among international students who sometimes find it difficult to adapt to a new country's customs and way of life. Gardening and cooking are two great ways to actively engage with each other.

What it means to win

"Winning a Green Gown Award would mean that the Vegie Garden can become a recognised and valued part of student life and campus identity. Cooking and gardening bring people from all backgrounds together and the Award would serve to acknowledge their participation"

What the judges said!

The judges felt that this was an excellent initiative student driven, sustainable, on-going and inclusive. The garden seems like the centre of what can be a growing sustainability program at the campus. The project is also highly replicable and could be implemented easily by other institutions.



**TAFE & SMALLER
INSTITUTIONS**

Winner

TAFE NSW New England Institute

Highly Commended

TAFE SA Regional Institute

Sponsored by

 Green Gown Awards
Australasia

Winner

Highly commended



TAFE NSW New England Institute

TAFE & Smaller Institutions

NISBN- Helping greening up regional NSW businesses in Sustainability

Project Snap Shot

Northern Inland Sustainable Business Network (NISBN) is an exciting initiative aimed at providing practical and local assistance to business as they embark on the sustainability challenge. Developed by New England Institute of TAFE, and 4 other supporting organisations, NISBN covers 13 Local Government areas, and in the last year the benefits due to the development of NISBN, include but are not limited to:

- Filming and dissipation of a free Sustainable Business DVD to 1000 businesses
- Government advisor, Ross Garnaut talking to NISBN businesses/NEI TAFE re: Carbon
- 5x Sustainable master classes held for businesses
- Sustainable manufacturing, carbon accounting, energy auditing and business sustainability accredited training identified/now being delivered to NISBN business.
- Better industry and stakeholder engagement between NEI TAFE and business
- Initiatives targeting carbon footprints, energy/resource efficiency, alternative energy and industry development/ workforce up-skilling
- Better and improved co-operation between Government agencies to provide support to NE/NW region's business

What it means to win

"Winning an award would show our nation all the unique/innovative achievements from the scheme and to gain support to continue. It could help even more regional businesses towards Sustainability"

TAFE SA Regional Institute



tafesa
Regional

TAFE & Smaller Institutions

Implementing the TAFE SA Regional Green Print for Environmental Sustainability

Project Snap Shot

In 2010, TAFE SA Regional launched its GreenPrint for Workplace Education for Environmental Sustainability. The GreenPrint addresses both educational and corporate actions, and is based on the belief that our sustainability journey starts with changing the culture of our Institute and building educational credibility by 'walking the talk'. Through Sustainability Champions; lecturer professional development opportunities; facilities staff training; executive encouragement; communications strategy and student engagement they have achieved a great deal in 12 months. The institution has set up a Solar and Domestic Wind Turbine Training Centre in South Australia's South East and now have sustainability skills being delivered in business administration; finance; children's services; hair and beauty; commercial cookery; manufacturing and engineering; seafood; and primary industry programs. They have also won funding for energy and waste audits and greenhouse gas research. The achievements of the last year are testament to the vision embodied in the GreenPrint, and its effective execution and uptake.

What it means to win

"Winning a Green Gown Award would confirm to our dedicated staff that their sustainability initiatives and efforts are equivalent to national best practice and worthy of commendation. An award would also spur us on to further continuous improvement and sustainability achievement"

What the judges said!

The judges felt that this was an impressive example of a holistic approach to sustainability across the whole institution. Highly replicable, great for sharing best practice with other institutions and very strong example of collaborative partnerships with community and business. The judges were very impressed with the results achieved in 12 months.



The judges were impressed with the sustainability skills training within the community and also within the institution, and esp. in non traditional areas. Strong drive and leadership internally has achieved such high results.

What the judges said!

Winner

ACTS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Winner

Charles Sturt University

Sponsored by



Charles Sturt University

ACTS Award of Excellence
Responsible Stewardship of Resources



Project Snap Shot

Charles Sturt University (CSU) is committed to sustainability and is actively working to both reduce the impact of its operations and to act as a leader to engage staff, students and the wider community to reduce their own environmental footprints. CSU has established formal targets as part of its strategic plans covering GHG emissions, energy and water use, waste production, biodiversity, and engagement of students, staff and its neighbouring communities in relation to improving the sustainability of our actions.

In 2010 CSU achieved the following against its targets:

- 47% reduction in water use (compared to 2006 baseline data)
- 34% improvement in fuel efficiency of University vehicle fleet since 2006
- Investment of \$740,000 in energy and water saving initiatives
- Establishment of a \$3 million internal loan to provide funding for energy and water saving initiatives
- Continuation of the highly successful CSU Sustainability Grant Process offering \$100,000 for staff and student-initiated sustainability projects
- Establishment of a calendar of events involving engaging ways that staff and students get involved in sustainability
- Commitment of 3 major capital projects to a Green Star - Education Design v1 rating, targeting a 5 star Green Star rating

What it means to win

"Winning the ACTS Award of Excellence would provide recognition for staff and students who have worked hard to change to more sustainable practices. It would help raise awareness of our sustainability initiatives, and assist in generating more support for these initiatives, both within the University community and throughout the regional communities in which we operate."

Sustainable Events & Awards

The Green Gown Awards Australasia ceremony and ACTS Annual conference has been run with Sustainability at the heart of its ethos and practices. To compliment its guests the organisation and materials used have been done with the utmost care to the environment and the practice of sustainability.

The venue - The National Wine Centre is an architectural treat, situated on the edge of Adelaide's stunning Botanic Gardens. The venue is wholly owned by The University of Adelaide and so falls within the remit of the University's sustainability program, Ecovercity (www.adelaide.edu.au/ecoversity). Due to its location, it is an active participant in bio-diversity programs as part of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and the Resource Efficiency & Action Programme (REAP) coordinated by Zero Waste SA.

The National Wine Centre is easily accessible by public transport. Located in walking distance of the University of Adelaide and centrally to the CBD, the venue provides easy and sustainable access via foot, bike, bus, tram or train.

All materials at the event have been sourced as ethically as possible. Locally produced food and beverages, sustainable beeswax candles, printed materials (menu's, winner's brochure, certificates) doubled sided printing and on recycled paper. The Green Gown Awards Australasia Trophies have been made using recycled glass by an Australian glass artist. Each Award is unique in its design and manufacture.

The ACTS conference has been sponsored by Climate Friendly who will offset the carbon emissions of the event.

We would like to thank all our guests for coming and hope they have an extremely enjoyable, successful and memorable event.

2011 Judging Panel

- ACPET - Australian Council for Private Education and Training
- Aquabubbler
- AASHE - Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, USA
- Climate Friendly
- DEEWR - Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations
- Ecosave
- Edith Cohen University
- EAUC - Environmental Association for Universities & Colleges, UK
- Griffith University
- InterfaceFLOR
- James Cook University
- Macquarie University
- NUS - National Union of Students
- RMIT University
- Siemens
- SV - Sustainability Victoria
- TDA - TAFE Directors Australia
- TAFE NSW - Northern Sydney Institute
- TEFMA – Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association
- UA - Universities Australia
- University of Western Sydney

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our panel of independent expert judges who provided their time and expertise to decide the winners. The credibility of the Awards rests with the independence of our judges and any potential conflicts of interest were disqualified.