



RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Reducing the Carbon Footprint of CSU

Reducing the Carbon Footprint of Charles Sturt University (2010-11)

Funding Nil

Researchers/Investigators Prof Kevin Parton, (ILWS) William Adlong (CSU) & Ed Maher (CSU)

Description

The quantitative results indicate that compared with many business corporations, Charles Sturt University is responsible for a relatively small amount of greenhouse emissions (less than 35,000 tonnes per annum). Estimates indicate that, through various energy-efficient and renewable-energy projects, this level of emissions could be eliminated or offset in a reasonable timeframe. Moreover, these projects would be expected to capture long-term financial benefits. The major constraint for CSU is the need to find investment funds at the outset amounting to about \$16.5 million. It should also be emphasised that there are many non-pecuniary benefits from proceeding with this kind of investment.

Outputs

Parton, K.A., Adlong, W. And Maher, E. (2011), "[Strategies for reducing the carbon footprint of an Australian university](#)", *International Journal on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability*, forthcoming.

Outcomes

If CSU progressed towards carbon neutrality, it would effectively be engaging in an experiment on behalf of society, and would as well as generating public benefits, be seen as an exemplar of good practice. It would seem probable that each of Australia's 41 universities is considering these issues. As some of them develop greenhouse gas abatement projects, this process would amount to a useful replication of the experiment described in the previous paragraph in which each university, because of its particular resource situation, would discover some useful aspect for others outside the university sector. Perhaps there is a case for the Vice-Chancellors of Australian universities to collectively lobby government to establish a billion dollar loan to the universities to carry out the necessary projects.

Albury-Wodonga Campus
PO Box 789
Elizabeth Mitchell Drive, Thurgoona
ALBURY NSW 2640
Australia

TEL +61 2 6051 9992
FAX +61 2 6051 9797
EMAIL ilws@csu.edu.au

CONTACT:
Professor Kevin Parton
CSU Orange
kparton@csu.edu.au

June 2011