

CSU - a world leader in environmental sustainability

Working towards its sustainability targets, in 2008 CSU made reductions of up to 40% in its water use (compared to 2006), saving hundreds of thousands of dollars, and implemented another project at Wagga Wagga Campus that will save additional energy and water worth \$80,000 per year.

These are just some of the achievements celebrated by the CSU Green Office, established as part of the University's commitment to sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Formed in 2008, CSU Green has the role of facilitating and communicating the sustainability initiatives of the University including energy efficiency and rain water harvesting in new student accommodation buildings on Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst and Wagga Wagga campuses as well as in the new dentistry and veterinary science buildings, and Wagga Wagga Campus's large scale composting project.

CSU Green is also overseeing a new Sustainability Grant, through which \$100,000 is available for staff projects that further the sustainability values and commitments of the University.

Inaugural Manager of CSU Green, Mr William Adlong, said a particular focus of CSU Green would be on facilitating significant reductions in the University's waste, water and energy use and greenhouse gas emissions over the next six years.

Mr Adlong said the University was proud of its environmentally sustainable achievements but recognised that it had much more to do to achieve its goal, and that promoting cultural change in the CSU community towards greater understanding and action for sustainability was a good place to start.

"The University will invest money in energy and water efficiency measures that will pay for themselves through savings in just a few years," Mr Adlong said.

"But we can only reach our targets for zero wastage with the assistance of staff and student efforts. Converting CSU into a sustainable University is not

just about building energy efficient infrastructure, but more importantly, fostering cultural change towards more sustainable practises among staff, students and even the wider regional communities.

"CSU has a big responsibility on a regional level to lead the way in sustainable practices in our operations and more importantly, through the influence our students have in their future work and community environments. We don't just want to influence our local communities, we want to work with them to make a greater difference."

Under its Institutional Development Plan, CSU has several goals to achieve by 2011 including: reducing water usage by 25% (compared with 2006), using at least 10% of University land to increase biodiversity (20% by 2015), achieving a 10% reduction in energy consumption (compared with 2006) and a 25% reduction by 2015.

The University also aims to be greenhouse neutral by 2015 through a combination of energy reduction offsets, for example through tree planting and the purchase of green power.



A recently completed building on Charles Sturt University's Thurgoona site has been awarded six green stars and 'world leader' status for its environmentally sustainable features. Advanced design principles and innovative use of state-of-the-art materials have resulted in the Albury-Wodonga Campus Academic Accommodation Building becoming the first public building in inland Australia to be rated as six green stars. Officially opened last October by Australia's Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honorable Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, the \$4.25 million two storey building includes a ground-breaking material which helps regulate temperatures inside buildings to reduce the need for air conditioning. Albury-Wodonga Campus has already won international and national awards for its energy efficient buildings and waste water management systems.

