

UC Sustainability Report

2011

Matt Morris, UC Sustainability Advocate

What are we measuring and how are we doing?

	2011	2010	2009
Energy Use:	24,000,000 kwh ¹	24,497,911 kwh	24,497,911 kwh
Water Use:	325,000,000 litres ²	250,000,000 litres	336,526,000 litres
Coal Burnt:	4,098 tonnes	6,309 tonnes	5,534 tonnes

Waste Statistics:

UC Annual Waste by Tonne

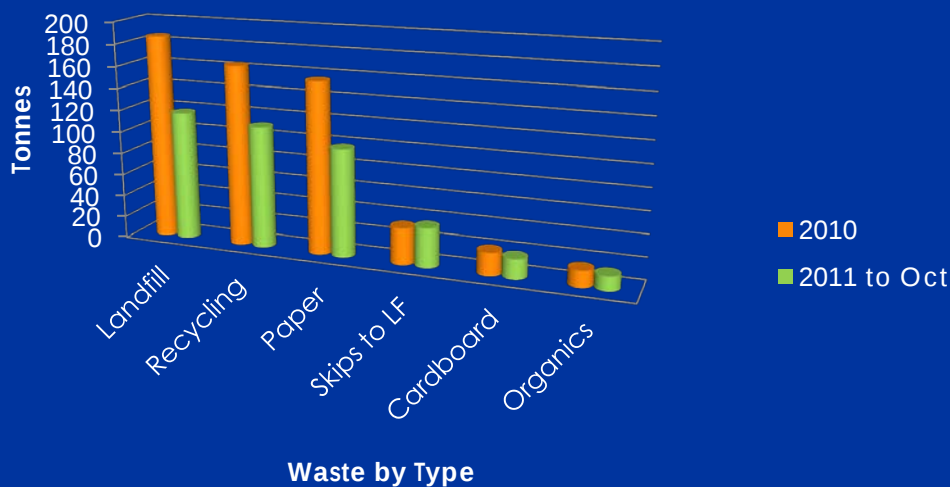


Figure 1: UC Annual Waste by Tonne

Carbon: *Data is being collected*

Sustainability

Courses on Offer: 132 132

Attendances at

Sustain. Events: 1135 1227 23

¹ As at end November 2011

² As at end November 2011

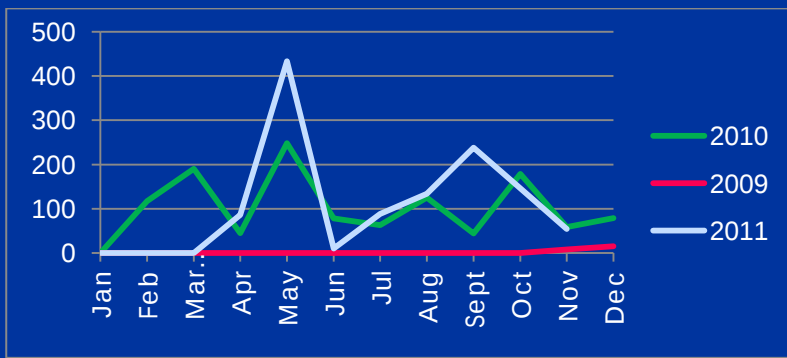


Figure 2: Attendances at UC Sustainability Office Events

Memberships of UC Sustainability Community:

Newsletter	129	225
Facebook (main)	305	
Facebook (garden)	48	
Facebook (rideshare)	<u>17</u>	
Total	499	225

2011 Sustainability Survey Results

In September 2011 we conducted our first UC Sustainability Survey. The survey was conducted in person at 7 locations (6 on Ilam and 1 at Dovedale) by student recruits. 300 people were surveyed, 96% of whom were students.

How important is sustainability to our UC community?

We asked people to rank how important 5 areas of interest related to sustainability were to them personally. The results showed that all of these areas were of importance to our community.

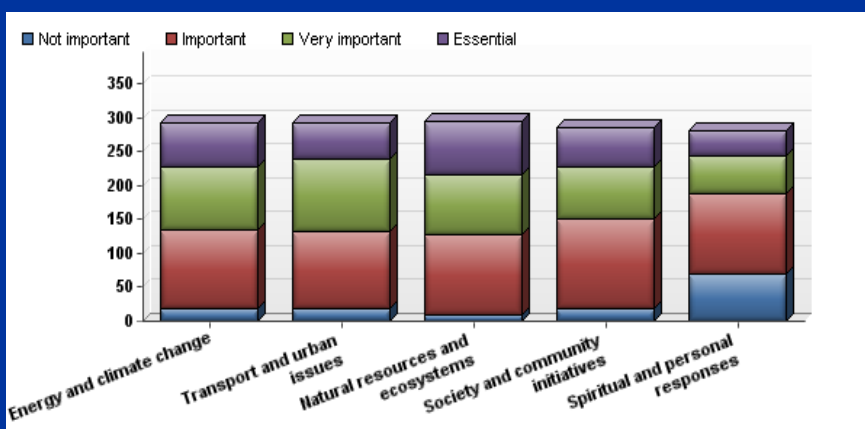


Figure 3: Relative Importance of Sustainability Issues to UC Community

We asked people whether they had personally made an effort to change their practices to be more sustainable, and by far the majority had made some changes.

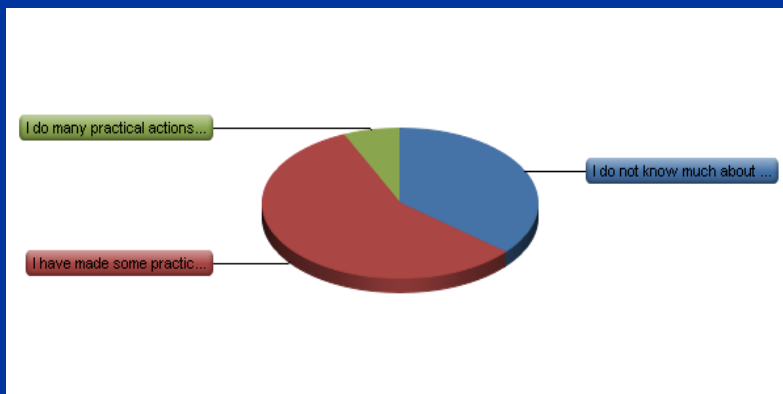


Figure 4: Efforts Towards Sustainability in UC Community's Personal Lives

We asked how good people believed UC was at being sustainable, and more than half believed we were 'good'.

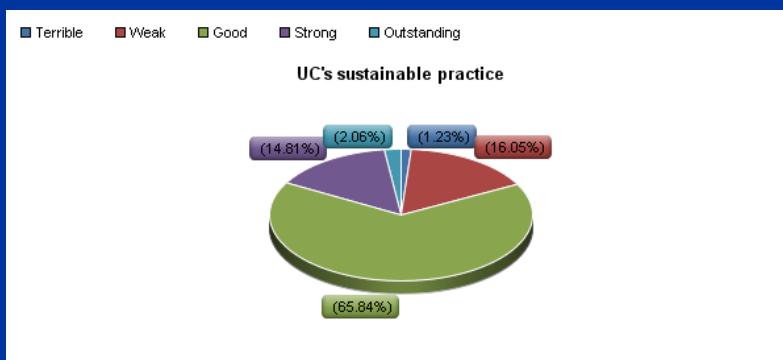


Figure 5: Impressions of UC's Sustainable Practice

We asked people how important UC's sustainability credentials were in selecting it as a place to study or work, and 46.5% believed it was not important. From other questions in the survey and some written comments on this question, it seems that people simply aren't aware of UC's sustainability credentials as they are not promoted strongly enough.

We wanted to know how aware of our sustainability programmes people were and, supporting the above analysis, there was a very low level of awareness. The best known initiatives were the recycling system, the eco-my-flat competition, and UC Eco Week.

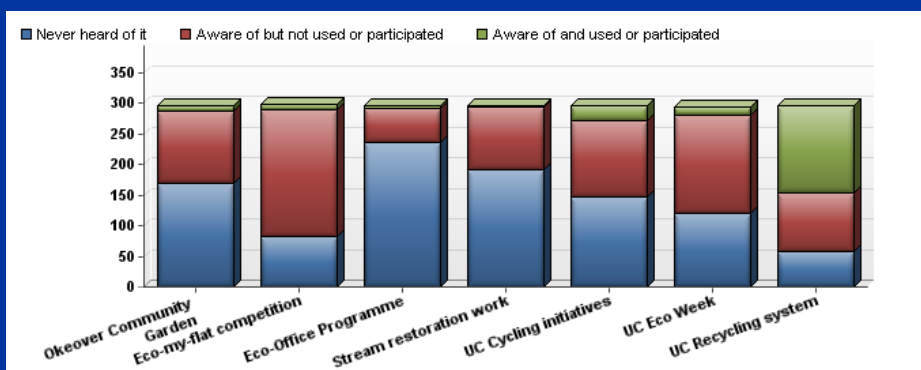


Figure 6: Awareness of UC Sustainability Programmes

Finally, we also asked how important people believed knowledge of sustainable practice would be for students' future employment, and here again was a clear response. 47% said they believed it would be 'important', while a further 33% believed it was 'very important'. A further 13% believed it would be essential.

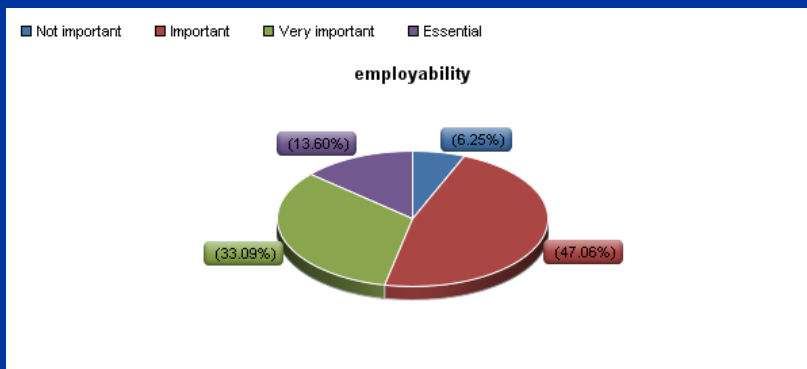


Figure 7: Importance of Knowledge About Sustainable Practice for Future Employment

We also strive to improve. Where people were not happy with how their College or Service Unit was doing, we asked what would help. The focus was mostly on more promotion and more education.

Improving Colleges' Sustainability Performance

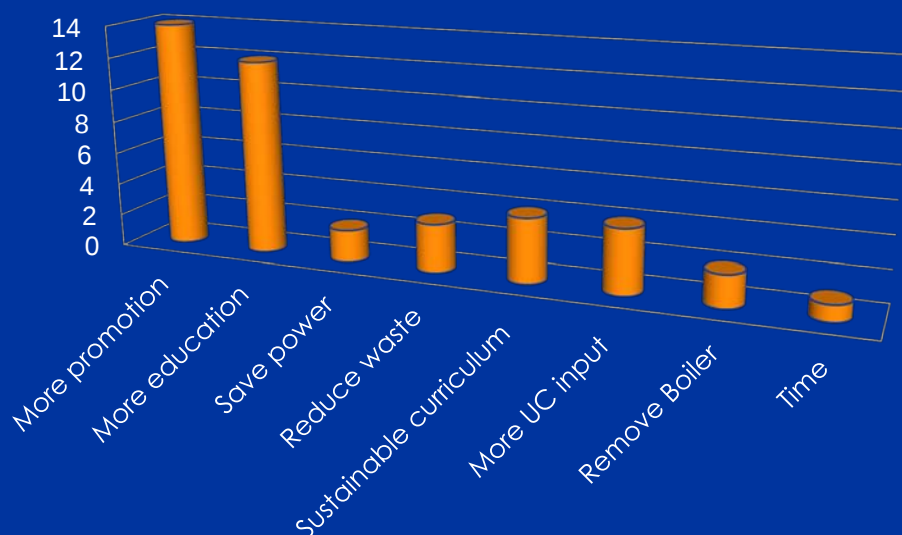


Figure 9: Requisites for Improving Sustainable Practice in Colleges and Service Units.

What new programmes are in place to address any issues?

We developed new initiatives to get the sustainability message integrated further into UC culture and to raise awareness.

Sustainability Awards

In 2011 UC ran its first Sustainability Awards. The awards were presented during Eco Week by Prof Sue McKnight, PVC Learning Resources at Sustainability House.

Highly Commended:

Leigh Davidson, for Eco Office Initiatives

Cleaning Services, for Waste and Cleaning Initiatives

Cathy Jordan, Dr Bike

Silver:

Michael Abrahamson, Okeover and Dovedale Community Gardens
Tom Innes, Creative Sustainable Student Engagement
The Potluck Club, Food Security Initiatives
Laura Scrimgeour, The Fair Trade Petition

Gold:

Huhana Carter, Recycling Promotion and Education in Maori and Cultural Studies
Hannah Muir, the Fair Trade Fair
Russell Taylor, the Tonga Initiative Project
Susan Krumdieck, the Signs of Change Conference

Sustainability Scholarships for 2011/12

Summer Sustainability Scholarships were awarded in October 2011 to:

Kelli Campbell: UC Sustainable Transport (Geography)
Nathaniel Claridge: Green Roof Technology, New Eco-Engineering for the Christchurch Rebuild (Engineering)
Luke Edwards: Green Roof Technology, New Eco-Engineering for the Christchurch Rebuild (Engineering)
Mario Fichtner: Mapping the UC Food System (Geography)
Agnete Gundersen: A History of Sustainability Initiatives at UC (History)

Where does the Sustainability Strategy fit?

In mid 2011 a new Sustainability Advocate was appointed and the Sustainability Working Group was redeveloped to aid the creation of a new Sustainability Strategy for UC. It is hoped that this ten-year strategy will be adopted in 2012.

UC Sustainability Highlights 2011

Sustainability House

The Sustainability Office moved into Sustainability House on June 7 2011. It is a model eco-home and office, and is utilised not only for sustainability events on campus but is also utilised by sustainability-related community groups, so it has a strong community engagement dimension.

Green Gown Award for Okeover Stream

In September UC was awarded a Green Gown award at the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability conference in Adelaide. The award recognised the on-going efforts since the mid 1990s to restore the Okeover Stream on campus, and the collaborative effort between many different groupings to make it such a multi-faceted project.

New Community Garden at Dovedale

At the end of 2010 work commenced on clearing the old teaching garden at Dovedale, and during 2011 it has become an excellent teaching, relaxing, and community-centred resource. The Sustainability Office worked with the UCSA to plant a number of fruit trees at the site in an effort to improve student access to good food.

Eco Week

Eco Week was initiated in 2010, but was affected by the 4 September earthquake. This year it ran in September and as part of it UC became the Christchurch venue for the Reel Earth Film Festival. The total turnout for Eco Week events was an improvement on last year's.

Eco Office Launch

The Vice Chancellor launched the Eco Office Programme in August 2011, initiating a new era of eco-awareness in offices throughout UC.

Fairtrade Fortnight Fair

Held in the Central Lecture Theatre foyer, this event exposed hundreds of students to the benefits of buying fair trade.

What does sustainability mean to UC in 2011?

To get a good handle on where we should be going with sustainability at UC, we need to know what we mean when we say 'sustainability'. In our survey this year we asked people to define sustainability in an open-ended question, and grouped the responses as best we could (see below).

Sustainability means a range of things to our community. The most common idea broadly matched the 1987 Brundtland Definition, which was about being able to meet today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The next most common concept was that in a sustainable society resource use is environmentally neutral: that we don't use more resources than can be replenished by the Earth. By contrast, relatively few people considered that being sustainable meant actively improving the world around us.

Sustainability Definitions

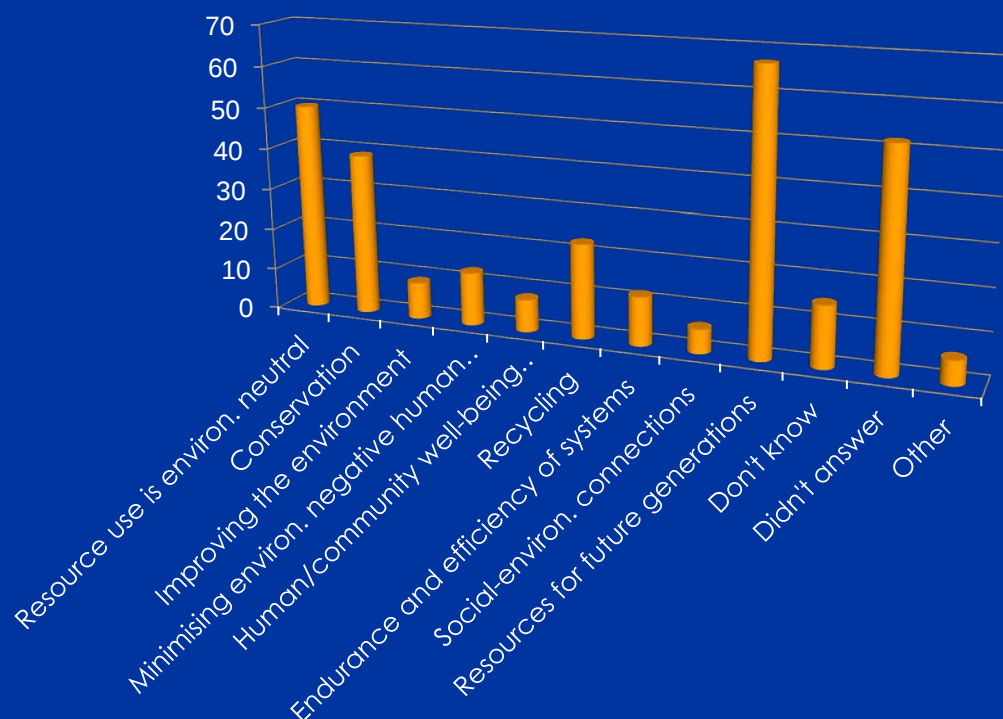


Figure 8: Definitions of Sustainability