



University of Adelaide's Jonathan Pheasant, Director Office of Services and Resources, Environmental Projects Officer Libby Dowling, and Zero Waste SA Senior Adviser Industry Sustainability, Aubrey Thomas

SNAPSHOT

Resource Efficiency Assistance Program A Zero Waste SA initiative



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

University adopts a smart approach to sustainable practice

Creative and effective communication is at the core of the University of Adelaide's sustainability program as it works to drive down the amount of waste sent to landfill.

With four campuses accommodating more than 3000 staff and over 25,000 students, many from overseas, building a recycling culture is a major task.

Waste reviews conducted through Zero Waste SA's Resource Efficiency Assistance Program (REAP) over the past two years found the recycling rate at the different campuses needed improving. About 68% of the 2313 tonnes of waste generated each year was going to landfill.

But through its Ecovercity program, the university is coming up with wide-ranging ideas for waste avoidance, reuse and recycling to minimise its footprint.

A special website – www.adelaide.edu.au/ecovercity – has been established on the main university site devoted to promoting all areas of sustainable practice.

Environmental Projects Officer Libby Dowling says engaging with staff and students is key to the program's success.

"We're always looking for new ways to reduce waste to landfill and to communicate with people about the importance of good environmental practice – and the response has been excellent," says Libby.

One of the latest initiatives involves a two-bin system for comingled recyclables and general waste at the North Terrace and Waite campuses. The specially designed bins are brightly coloured with clear instructions, and show how the recycling rate is improving.



The university's sustainability mascot, Eco the Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard, appears at university events and orientation days to reinforce the sustainability message. Based on one of Australia's most endangered reptile species, Eco has his own Facebook page for communicating with staff and students.



Government of South Australia
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The university of Adelaide is always looking for new ways to raise environmental awareness and reduce waste to landfill. Initiatives include:

- a pilot recycling scheme in five buildings to improve recycling rates and reduce waste to landfill
- an annual e-recycling event to collect unwanted electronic items. Last year more than 16 tonnes of electronic waste was collected and recycled by E-Cycle Recovery at Gepps Cross
- REUSEathon events to provide new homes for unwanted items such as stationery, books and furniture
- a toner cartridge recycling scheme through Corporate Express
- student internships for campus-wide sustainability projects, including waste audits of buildings
- specific event-based waste and recycling initiatives and advice for university events such as Open Day and O'Week.

University of Adelaide

Established in 1874, the University of Adelaide has four campuses at North Terrace, Roseworthy, Waite and Thebarton, and also operates the National Wine Centre of Australia. It continues to be one of Australia's leading universities and is ranked in the top 1% in the world.

www.adelaide.edu.au

Zero Waste SA

Zero Waste SA is a South Australian Government agency that advances improved waste management policies and the development of resource recovery and recycling. The Zero Waste SA Resource Efficiency Assistance Program (REAP) advises and supports companies to achieve sustainability goals in waste, water and energy.

www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au

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