

Sustainability Action Plan Progress Report 2021

MARCH 2022



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DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, FACILITIES MANAGEMENT, SUSTAINABILITY

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Welcome to the first progress report for The Client's Sustainability Action Plan. This report provides a snapshot and a summary of the actions The Client has taken during 2021 to achieve its sustainability goals.

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The SDGs – What are they and why are they important?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The agenda provides a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and in the future. Click on the 17 SDG icons to find out in more detail what each of the goals is seeking to achieve.

The Client currently reports on progress against 13 of these goals annually, as part of the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings. It is important to note that this progress report simply identifies where the Sustainability Action Plan goals align with the SDGs, rather than where The Client reports on the SDGs through the Impact Rankings process.



Sustainability progress at a glance



CARBON

Carbon emissions down 20%

When compared to 2019



ENERGY

Energy consumption down 21%

When compared to 2018



TRANSPORT and TRAVEL

Active travel up 21%

When compared to 2020



WATER

Water consumption down 920 litres per person from baseline of 5410 litres



WASTE

Waste to landfill down 40% and 782 tonnes of IT equipment diverted from landfill



BIODIVERSITY

93% of nesting boxes on Kelvin Grove campus occupied by native fauna consistently since 2017



PROCUREMENT

Docusign for procurement contracts implemented eliminating the need to print to sign



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) embedded in The Client design guidelines



CLIMATE ADAPTATION and RESILIENCE

Emergency Management Plan under review



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Zero notifiable incidents



EDUCATION for SUSTAINABILITY

5-year Education for Sustainability Project started














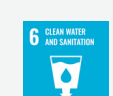
RESEARCH for SUSTAINABILITY









\$5.2M funding to upgrade the Mackay Renewable Biocommodities Pilot Plant



















ENGAGEMENT and BEHAVIOUR CHANGE




Over 2000 staff and students engaged in Sustainability Week events






Progress	Sustainability Theme	Related Sustainable Development Goals	Sustainability Targets	Progress towards targets
	CARBON 		1. Carbon neutral by 2030 (Scope 1, 2, 3 emissions).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 will be developed in 2022.
			2. Scope 1 and 2 emissions to zero by 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Client reduced its net emissions by 20% of the 2019 baseline in 2021 through energy efficiency projects and procuring 7,000 Large-Scale Generation Certificates (LGC's) – equivalent to 7,000 MWh of renewable energy through its electricity supplier. The Client has entered into a long-term supply agreement for 50% of electrical consumption to be supplied from a newly constructed solar farm located at Columboola, Qld by mid-2022.
	ENERGY 		1. Reduce energy consumption by 10% from 2017/18 levels of 0.57 GJ/m ² (GFA) by 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity consumption is currently 21% below 2018 consumption, however it is estimated that approximately 10% of the reduction is a result of COVID lockdown periods in 2020 and 2021.
			2. Maximise deployment of solar PV on campus by 2022 – see SAP – Tracking Tool 2022–2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of H Block (KG) and V Block (GP) solar array in 2021. This brings total arrays to 950 kW, utilizing approximately 90% of site potential.
	TRANSPORT and TRAVEL 		1. Measure travel-related emissions and develop an Emissions Reduction Strategy by 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air travel data are collected and measured, an emissions reduction strategy for travel is in development.
			2. Reduce single occupancy car trips to campus by 10% by 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific trip related data not available, however an average of 340kg of carbon was saved per month by The Client staff and students sharing rides using the Liftango share ride app (Jan–Oct 2021).
			3. 5% more The Client staff and students use public transport to commute to campus by 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data for public transport use will be available in 2022 as part of the 2021 travel survey report.
			4. 5% more The Client staff and students use active transport to commute to campus by 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase of 21% of individual users of end of trip facilities achieved in 2021 when compared to 2020. When the data is normalized for the shut-down period in 2020, the increase is 6%.
	WATER 		1. Maintain or reduce water consumption at 0.63kL/m ² GFA and 5.41kL/student(EFTSL+FTE).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021 water consumption was reduced to 0.51kL/m² and 4.49kL/student and staff (EFTSL +EFT).
			2. Increase total campus rainwater capture and storage capacity by 10% by 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity did not increase in 2021. Storage capacity will be increased as buildings are refurbished or built.
			3. Use 100% non-potable water (captured or recycled) for irrigation and external cleaning (wherever possible).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-potable water is used for irrigation and external cleaning wherever available. This is reflected in the Design Guidelines.

Progress	Sustainability Theme	Related Sustainable Development Goals	Sustainability Targets	Progress towards targets
 COMPLETED	WASTE 	  	1. Reduce waste to landfill by 15% of 2018 levels by 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Oct 2021, the reduction in waste to landfill managed by Facilities Management was tracking at 40% below 2018 waste levels. The reduction is most likely due to the reduced number of students on campus and the increased diversion rate of recyclable items managed by Facilities Management.
			2. Reduce recyclables going to general waste by 5% of 2018 levels by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no data for Target 2, however we do know: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > an average of 35% of waste managed by Facilities Management was diverted from landfill in 2021 (includes grease trap, comingle, paper, cardboard and green waste) > 100% IT waste managed by Digital Business Solutions was refurbished and sold or recycled in 2021 (Jan–Sept). This equals 781,930 kg or 2,587 total devices.
			3. All green and back-of-house organic waste to be composted by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities Management installed organics bins in all kitchens and with retailers in 2021.
			4. Understand quantity of construction waste generated and have guidelines in place to ensure correct disposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For new buildings waste is managed through best practice green building guidelines identified in the Design Guidelines.
 IN PROGRESS	BIODIVERSITY 		1. Develop and implement a Public Realm and Landscape Plan by 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The target date is delayed. The plan will be completed by Estate Planning by 2023.
			2. Develop and implement a Tree Management Plan by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A tree management plan was developed by Facilities Management in 2021.
			3. Implement a campus biodiversity monitoring and reporting program by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual audit of biodiversity is completed on both The Client campuses. 93% of the nest boxes at Kelvin Grove have been occupied by birds and possums consistently since 2017, reinforcing the importance of nest boxes as shelter for fauna within an urban setting.

Progress	Sustainability Theme	Related Sustainable Development Goals	Sustainability Targets	Progress towards targets
 IN PROGRESS	PROCUREMENT 		1. Roll out training to at least 200 key users and staff (annually) on sustainable procurement practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Client's procurement 101 and refresher training includes information on sustainable procurement. • Strategic Procurement have moved to external procurement approvals and contract signing, significantly reducing printing. • Strategic Procurement hosted a webinar on the benefits of embedding sustainable practices into organisations' procurement and purchasing practices as part of Sustainability Week attended by over 100 people.
			2. Achieve the priority actions identified, including visible evidence in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Client's internal approvals and tender and quotation documentation for processes above \$100,000 have been updated to cover sustainability questions.
			3. Develop an action plan for five key suppliers across The Client (including Winc) that demonstrate clear achievement of sustainable outcomes achieved through good procurement practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Client is working with a number of strategic suppliers to embed sustainable outcomes. The formalisation of this is under development. • This has been included in the Planning and Performance Review process as a target for the four Procurement Partners with Strategic Procurement
			4. Develop case studies of achievements to influence additional outcomes across procurement activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently outcomes are tracked informally and Procurement is working with Digital Business Solutions to develop a dashboard which will track sustainable outcomes.
 IN PROGRESS	BUILT ENVIRONMENT 		1. All new developments to be designed and built to the intent of a minimum five-star Green Star – 'Design and As Built' and aiming toward six-star Green Star rating as applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new developments in 2021. Included in Design Guidelines.
			2. All new furniture procured for The Client will have certification from the Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) and/or the Australasian Furnishing Research Development Institute (AFRDI) Green Tick certification schemes or an equivalent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furniture procurement project not yet started.
			3. Utilisation, flexibility and adaptation of space will be continually improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A space audit was completed in 2021 to review the utilization of space following the change process.
			4. Update the University's Estate Master Plan, Asset Management Plan and Design Standards and Guidelines to reflect the targets of the Sustainability Action Plan by end 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University's Estate Master Plan is currently being reviewed.

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 NOT STARTED	CLIMATE ADAPTATION and RESILIENCE 		1. Climate adaptation reflected in The Client's Design Standards and Guidelines.	• Under review.
			2. Extreme weather events reflected in Emergency Management, Counter Disaster, Crisis Management and Business Continuity Plans.	• Under review.
			3. Signal detection systems identified and implemented.	• Under review.
			4. Updated emergency communications and alert systems.	• Under review.
 COMPLETED	ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE 	 	1. No notifiable environmental incidents (ongoing).	• Zero notifiable environmental incidents to November 2021.
			2. 100% compliance with environmental licence, permit and approval conditions (ongoing).	• No environmental licences or permits held in 2021.
			3. Year-on-year increase reporting of environmental hazards and near misses identified in the HSE Hub.	• Reporting of incidents increased from 2 to 6 in 2021.
 IN PROGRESS	EDUCATION for SUSTAINABILITY 		1. In 2021, establish Education for Sustainability Project, a five-year, university-wide project to inspire and support the inclusion of sustainability into curriculum.	• Education for Sustainability Working Group formed, chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Sustainability Strategy) and with senior representatives from every faculty, the Carumba Institute and the Education Portfolio. The working group has developed a draft Education for Sustainability Project Plan.
			2. Map level of current teaching of sustainability in curriculum and implement sustainability as a 'design feature' in CourseLoop to identify units and modules.	• Sustainability has been included as a design feature in CourseLoop , which supports the mapping of units that include sustainability. • Curriculum Quality and Standards has also developed PowerBI dashboards using CourseLoop data to map The Client courses and units against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
			3. Develop university-wide interdisciplinary curriculum exploring sustainability, drawing upon the expertise from all faculties and institutes.	• This action is being progressed through the broader The Client Curriculum Development Project.
			4. By 2026, all The Client undergraduate degrees demonstrate (at the course or major level) that core curriculum elements enable students to develop and apply sustainability knowledge and values in their field.	• Faculties will undertake the majority of the work of including sustainability in the curriculum from 2022 to 2026 as a part of their business-as-usual curriculum review and planning processes, with support from the Learning and Teaching Unit.

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 IN PROGRESS	RESEARCH for SUSTAINABILITY 		1. Establish the first phase and develop strategy for a renewable energy hydrogen pilot plant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On hold.
			2. Demonstrate a toluene electrochemical hydrogenation procedure with industry partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target 2 was cancelled; however, the Centre for Clean Energy Technologies and Practices had a successful year, playing a significant role in five Cooperative Research Centres aimed at advanced, clean or low emissions energy practices.
			3. Develop and implement sustainable practices in agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Client, AgriMix Pastures and Meat and Livestock Australia entered into a \$2.2M research partnership to increase soil carbon across the vast pastoral lands of Australia. The Federal Government announced The Client Mackay Renewable Biocommodities Pilot Plant would receive \$5.2 million in funding through the Regional Recovery Partnerships Program.
			4. Contribute towards the creation and maintenance of sustainable environments for humans and other life forms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Client expanded its partnership with the US Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), with Professor Sagadevan Mundree jointly appointed a Senior Scientist with PNNL to develop a proof of concept for drought resistant bioenergy crops over the next five years. The Client researchers received a \$320K Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grant to establish an AI conservation hub that will scale up efforts to monitor koalas and other endangered animals using drones, infrared imaging, AI and citizen science.
			5. Develop innovative ways to reduce waste and communicate to industry and schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Digital Circular Food Economy project (funded by Lendlease, The Client and the Food Agility CRC) has engaged weekly with school students and the broader community to develop a local food system that provides nutritious food locally and diverts food waste from landfill.
			6. Ensure strong links between The Client 's sustainability research community and campus operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Client researchers and operational staff are collaborating on waste initiatives, sustainable lab processes and equipment, and sustainable food policy. The PVC (Sustainability Strategy) and Sustainability Manager have served as a bridge between the academic community and operational staff.

Progress	Sustainability Theme	Related Sustainable Development Goals	Sustainability Targets	Progress towards targets
 IN PROGRESS	RESEARCH for SUSTAINABILITY (continued) 		7. Showcase the work of The Client research centres through engagement events and promotion of sustainability research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research centre work was showcased via Sustainability Week, the Research in Focus image competition, The Client media releases, The Client sustainability webpage and the Research Update newsletter. The Client was a hosting consortium partner for the inaugural Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress (SRI2021), the world's first transdisciplinary gathering in sustainability.
			8. Translate The Client research into practice, both internally and externally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland start-up BlockTexx is building a commercial-scale facility that will initially recycle 4,000 tonnes of fabric a year using a technology developed with The Client researchers. Every tonne of textile recycled offsets around 30 tonnes of CO2 equivalent.
 COMPLETED	ENGAGEMENT and BEHAVIOUR CHANGE 		1. Develop an annual Engagement and Behaviour Change Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability Week engaged 2000 + staff and students in events and had 300,000 impressions on social media. Sustainability initiatives were promoted through The Client social media, The Client News, HiQ Student News, Facebook and to Green Champions via Microsoft Teams and email. Information included QuestaGame, Sustainability Week events, thinking sustainably, Green Caffeine cup swap program and waste management.
			2. Update Sustainability website to align with Sustainability Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sustainability video was developed for the website. The SAP was added to the Sustainability website. Further website updates are required in 2022.