

Concurrent Session D
Monday 12 September 2016
2:25pm – 3:15pm



Session 5
Green Gown Award Winner - Integrating Sustainability at Melbourne - A Whole of University Approach
Danielle Rostan-Herbert
University of Melbourne

Danielle Rostan-Herbert is the Sustainability Manager at the University of Melbourne. She received her Bachelor Degree in Applied Science and a Master of Engineering (Environment) at RMIT University.

Danielle is a highly motivated manager with over seventeen years of experience, knowledge and passion in the Environment and Sustainability sector. Danielle has achievements in strategic planning and delivery, budget savings and stakeholder engagement. She has been involved with the implementation of an Environmental Management System compliant to ISO 14001.

In addition, she guest lectures on Sustainability at the University of Melbourne, including in the Faculty of Education, Faculty of Business and Economics and for International Students.

Danielle currently has a responsibility for University-wide targets to reduce energy, carbon, water and waste. She has produced a Sustainability Implementation plan which will engage and empower staff, students and the community on Sustainability issues.

Already a global leader in research and teaching excellence, the University of Melbourne has embedded sustainability throughout every aspect of its approach –from the top to the bottom, strategy to operation. It has demonstrated itself to be a premier example of large institutional change towards a more resilient, sustainable future.

Sustainability is more than a subject for study at the University of Melbourne –it's a way of life for many staff and students. The Sustainability Program has four key components:

1. Leadership and Governance

The University's most important strategy document, Growing Esteem, was recently updated for 2015-2020. It laid out key strategic environmental actions for the next five years. The Sustainability Executive addresses sustainability issues at a strategic level with the endorsement of a recently ratified Sustainability Charter that sets out the University's Sustainability values and principles.

2. Facilities and Operations

The University is committed to reducing its impact on the environment, from reducing water and energy usage to supporting communities around the world through Fair Trade. As part of its Energy Reduction Program 2008 – 2015 extensive energy audits and multi-million dollar investments in new infrastructure such as solar panels, LED upgrades and voltage optimisation have led to incredible outcomes and savings. The Furniture and Equipment Reuse Program has improved systematic moves – from source to destination, bypassing storage and taken responsibility of e-waste (which is now called an e-resource). Via the Waste and Resource Recovery Program the University has seen a major change in the way it deals with 'waste', now seen as an important resource.

3. Learning, Teaching and Research

The Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute (MSSI) and The Melbourne Energy Institute were established in 2009. MSSI aims to facilitate and enable research linkages, projects and conversations leading to increased understanding of sustainability and resilience trends, challenges and solutions. In 2011 MSSI helped researchers gain \$8 million in research grants, including a successful bid for a CRC (Low Carbon Living), and access to invaluable data to inform their research. In 2011 the University committed to embedding Education for Sustainability (Efs) in all curricula, to develop graduates who will lead change for a sustainable future. The University's resolve towards this commitment was reinforced in 2014 when the University updated its graduate attributes, making it explicit that Melbourne Graduates are expected to both, have a high regard for the environment and, through advocacy and innovation, lead change for a sustainable future. Graduate attributes inform the development of learning outcomes for every course and subject.

4. Partnerships and Engagement

The Carlton Connect Initiative (CCI) is an ambitious strategy to unite talented people who share a desire to tackle some of our biggest sustainability and social resilience challenges and a passion for designing new ideas and technologies to help secure Australia's prosperity. Located in what will become Australia's premier innovation precinct anchored by the University of Melbourne. Carlton Connect aims to:

- Actively bring together people from diverse disciplines to co-locate in one precinct
- Create and curate partnerships inside and outside our immediate environment – locally, nationally and globally
- Pursue new technologies as a means of harnessing the overlaps between research streams and industry sectors
- Provide the next generation of innovation leaders with a new way to navigate the challenges facing our region.

The C14 and C15Hacks or hack-a-thons saw over sixty students work in small teams to solve a dozen problems over the two different years. Each team was exposed to a human centred design process known and design thinking and guided carefully towards an environmental solution within 24hrs. Initially all problems were campus-centric but in the second year, challenges were brought in from the broader Melbourne city.

In 2015 the Green Innovation Fund initiative provided funding to six different on-campus sustainability initiatives. The projects ranged from an LED Grow Light trial to the installation of a rainforest sensory experience room, trialing of virtual network metering for solar by a social enterprise led by students and an app to measure biodiversity.

The University of Melbourne: Institutional Change story is a great case study for any large organisation as they look to embed sustainability within their every practice. The integrated approach and lessons learned can offer much on behaviour change, infrastructure efficiency improvement, leadership, strategy and policy. With the University's global links, and particularly strong ties in Asia, there is great potential to drive partners in the region to strive similarly toward a more resilient and sustainable approach.

