

April 2014

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the first e-News for 2014. I hope that the start of the year has been a successful one for you.

The IGSN recently hosted a meeting of the Tertiary Sustainability Network (TSN) which includes members from most of the Universities in Victoria and a number of the TAFE Institutes as well. It was very encouraging to see so much activity occurring in the sector particularly in relation to resource recovery and transport.

The Victorian TSN was originally established in 2006 as the Sustainable Campus Group (SCG) administered through Monash Sustainability Institute (MSI). It is open to all TAFE's and Universities in Victoria. Now, the network has been established to allow the quarterly meetings to continue at no cost to the institutions. There are over 50 members on the mailing list, with meetings regularly attended by representatives from over 20 Victorian Institutions (with the inclusion of UTAS as its nearest neighbour). For more information contact Belinda Allison at belinda.allison@monash.edu and information is also available at this [website](#).

Some great newsletters worth reading:

- **ACTS** - A regular newsletter which comes out every two weeks and keeps you up-to-date with issues around sustainability and the tertiary sector at [ACTS Newsletter](#)
- **Monash Sustainability Institute** - A new initiative with great topics relevant to you at [MSI Newsletter](#)

Linda Condon
International Green Skills Network

NEWS

CLIMATEWORKS

A recent article written by Anna Skarbek, Executive Director from [ClimateWorks](#) outlines three more ways to cut carbon emissions and save money, whatever the policy.

She discusses the facts around the federal government beginning the process of unwinding the carbon price, moving to cancel further auctions of carbon permits, ahead of its hoped-for repeal of all carbon-pricing legislation after the new Senate takes its seat in July. While many are debating which policy will prevail, she says we should get on with the job. Three extra measures that could go with either the Emissions Reduction Fund, or a carbon price, could dramatically help reach our emissions targets without costing the earth. See the article at [The Conversation](#).

GEN GREEN SURVEY

The [Gen Green Survey](#) has been closed with over 1000 responses—a great effort. Results of the survey will be available in June 2014 and we will circulate the findings then.

EMISSIONS REDUCTION FUND GREEN PAPER

The [Emissions Reduction Fund Green Paper](#) has been released and has had mixed reviews.

There are three key initiatives under the scheme which include:

- Crediting Emissions Reductions
- Purchasing Emission Reductions
- Safeguarding Emissions Reductions

In addition the government will build on the current Carbon Farming Initiative.

According to the Green Paper:

'Emissions reductions will be recognised by the issue of Australian Carbon Credit Units, as currently occurs under the Carbon Farming Initiative. The existing National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme, including its audit framework, will be used for reporting and verification.'

There is however much scepticism that the scheme will be affordable and effective. [Ross Garnaut](#) has indicated that:

"A fund large enough to provide similar incentives for emissions reduction to those under existing policies would see a deterioration of the budget of around \$4-5 billion per annum," wrote Professor Garnaut, in a stinging submission to a Senate inquiry on Friday on the Abbott government's Direct Action Scheme.

The ABC reporter Fiona Armstrong in a [recent article](#) said:

Despite being touted as the cornerstone of national climate policy, the Direct Action Plan will not even achieve the wildly inadequate emissions reduction target of a five per cent cut on 1990 levels by 2020, let alone the Climate Change Authority's recommended 19 per cent cut. In the words of The Climate Institute: "No independent analysis to date has shown that the policy framework as outlined can achieve Australia's international obligations and emission commitments."

So we wait and see or maybe write to our political leaders in the hope they will listen.



JUST A THOUGHT

“We need to defend the interests of those whom we’ve never met and never will.”

Jeffrey D. Sachs

An American Economist and Director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University

EVENTS

AUSTRALIAN SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2014

The [2014 Australian Sustainability Conference and Exhibition](#) will be held in Melbourne on 15 - 16 October, alongside All-Energy Australia, Waste Expo and Inter-Water Australia to form Australia’s most significant showcase for the clean energy, sustainability, waste and recycling and water industries. This is a conference worth going to if you need to understand the business approach to sustainability.



TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES

YOUR HOME

A new *Your Home* (5th Edition) has been released by the Federal Government and is available online at [Your Home](#). Your Home is a guide to building, buying or renovating a home. It shows how to create a comfortable home with low impact on the environment - economical to run, healthier to live in and adaptable to your changing needs. It is a great tool to use with students and each TAFE Institute will be receiving a free copy in the next month - Look out for it, a great resource!

YOUTUBE

A [YouTube video](#) by Leyla Acaroglu (A-*jar-a-loo*) called ‘*Why we need to think differently about sustainability*’ who is a sustainability strategist and leading proponent of systematic life cycle based sustainability. She is the founder and director of Eco Innovators, a designer, social scientist, strategist and an educator. She is a creative force who finds innovative and inspiring ways of catalysing change.

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

GRANTS LINK

[GrantsLINK](#) makes it easier to find suitable and relevant grants from the many government grants that are available. GrantsLINK also helps you find the best source of funding and assists you to complete application forms.

LATEST RESEARCH

CRITICAL THINKING

[Critical thinking](#) is explored in the article available at this site. One of the key elements of Education for Sustainability is critical thinking but this is not always fully explored. The [Foundation for Critical Thinking](#) has a range of great articles to read.

WORLD COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The World Council for Sustainable Development has a regular [newsletter](#) which keeps you up-to-date with developments and attitudes of the business world around sustainability.

SUSTAINABILITY FOR ALL

An excellent YouTube video called [Sustainability for All](#) by Jonathan Porritt co-founder of the Forum for the Future in the UK.



CASE STUDY

VICTOR VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

This case study comes from the USA and is about significant upgrades incorporating sustainability for the campus.

The leadership made a resource and financial commitment in 2010 to create a comprehensive sustainability program to reduce its dependency on utilities and reduce future expenditures.

Sustainability projects included a one-megawatt solar array on the main campus, a 250 kilowatt (kW) solar parking lot system at the new Public Safety Training Center, and two new 200 kW systems at the main campus. The district also completed a campus sustainable landscaping project in December 2011 by removing 21,000 square feet of turf and replacing it with drought-tolerant landscaping that will save an estimated 865,634 gallons of water per year.

Also in 2011, the district entered into an agreement with Compass Energy Solutions to complete a series of energy efficiency upgrades to the main campus. These upgrades were completed under Government Code 4217, allowing the district to use an energy service provider to complete the work. These projects consist of replacing old, inefficient outdoor lighting fixtures with new energy-efficient lighting throughout the main campus.

This portion of the project was an Associated Student Body 2010 goal. The students were involved in the lighting project to help identify areas on campus that needed better lighting for increased safety and energy savings. This work was completed in 2012.

The district also participated in the California Community Colleges and Investor Owned Utility Energy Efficiency Partnership by working with Southern California Edison to install plug-load controls and install power management software on 2,100 computers throughout campus. The district is requiring the design and construction of its New Science Health facility to participate in the Southern California Edison "Savings by Design" program, which can possibly earn the college \$200,000 in incentives. For more information read the [Sustainability Initiatives](#)

