

# UC Sustainability

## Office Report

### Introduction

Welcome to the second annual UC Sustainability Office Report.

2012 saw the Sustainability Office focus its attentions on enhancing the student experience and building on UC's statement of strategic intent of 'people prepared to make a difference'. We learned from the i-Graduate International Student Barometer that international students rate our 'eco-friendly attitude' as the best in the country, and the most important aspect of their living experience in Canterbury. And, in the midst of difficult earthquake remediation works, we created a number of highly engaging eco-events on campus that brought light and colour to campus. Our engagement statistics more than doubled.

Progress against our sustainability indicators was difficult due to the earthquake situation (Table 1), although there was some progress. Electricity usage increased due to two new 'villages' being created post-earthquake, while consumption of coal declined (due largely to some buildings being out of action). Earthquake remediation also impacted our waste statistics.

### What are we measuring and how are we doing?

<b>Area</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Electricity Used</b>	25,712,319 kwh	22,016,328 kwh	
<b>Water consumed</b>	392,000,000 litres	325,000,000 litres	6,309 tonnes

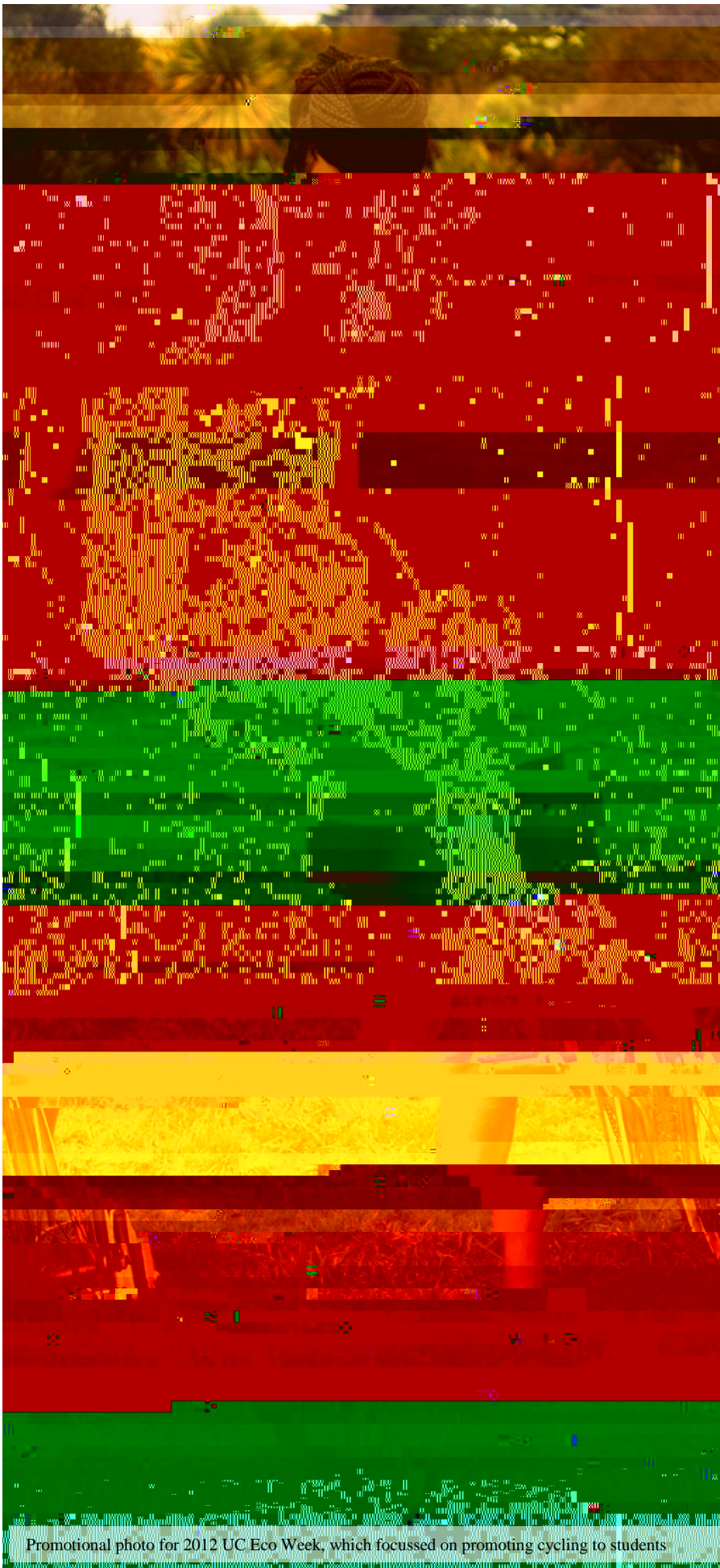
## Sustainability Progress in 2012

### Okeover Stream Community Engagement Project

In collaboration with Environment Canterbury, UC has run a community engagement project with the local community based around improving storm water quality and stream health. The initiative has been excellent not only for raising awareness of the issues, but also for fostering positive community connections.

### Transport

The four-yearly UC Travel Survey was conducted in 2012, with 4,102 responses. The results indicate an increase in the numbers of staff and students regularly driving, cycling and skateboarding to University. Uses of busses and walking have both declined. The Transport Working Group has c



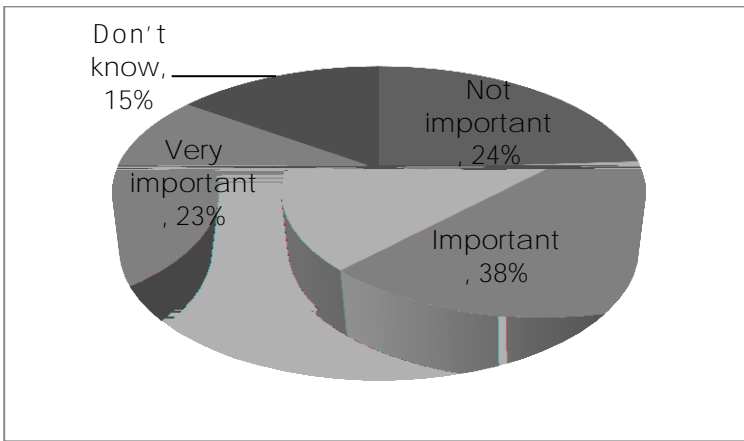
## Landscape & Biodiversity

Much research has gone into the possibilities of the UC campus role-modelling community resilience by developing 'edible landscapes'. One trial plot in a high profile area by the central library has been created. UC's two community gardens continue to be a focus for student, staff and community interaction.

## Fairtrade

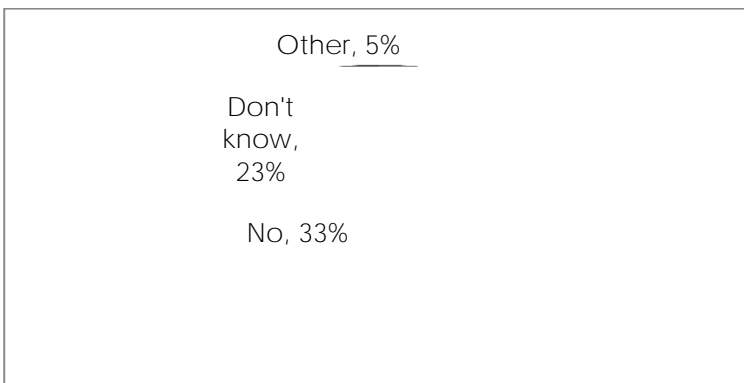
This year Fair Trade Fortnight was celebrated with a Fair Trade Fair and several Fair Trade 'coffee breaks'. A new Fair Trade Club was established to promote Fair Trade on campus and also to pursue Fair Trade Campus accreditation. All campus cafes offer Fair Trade. This year all UC cafes participated in a Pay Fair Trade Forward day, and the Eng Café created the longest 'chain' of Fair Trade coffee buyers in Christchurch. We have thoroughly analysed our Fair Trade spend through departments.





**Figure 3: Relative importance of knowledge of sustainable practice for future employment**

It is unsurprising, therefore, that almost 40% of students appear to want more of a sustainability focus in their studies.



**Figure 4: Interest amongst students in a stronger sustainability focus to their studies or research**



## UC Sustainability Highlights 2012

### O Week Pizzas in the Garden

During O Week the Sustainability Office collaborated with Community and External Relations to promote sustainability to incoming students. As well as having a large display in the Central Lecture Theatre foyer, where students dished out handmade pizzas from the kitchen, there was also a large pizza party in Okeover Community Garden. In the course of one afternoon, sustainability scholarship students cooked pizzas in the cob pizza oven for 300 students.

### Eco Fashion Shows!

The Sustainability Office ventured into fabulous new territory in 2012 with two sensational fashion shows promoting sustainable and up-cycled materials. The first, organised by Sustainability Office intern Alicia Sudden, was called Eco Runway and made

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