

UQ's Response to Climate Change Forum Thursday 4 September 2008



Approximately 90 people from the University community attended the Climate Change Forum, hosted by Property and Facilities Division on Thursday 4 September 2008. The group included representatives from UQ Faculties and Schools, Research Centres, Libraries, Administrative sections, Institutes, UQ Sport and Students.

Keynote speaker, Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, gave an informative and thought-provoking presentation on Climate Change issues and the need for UQ to respond at all levels of the organisation.

Property and Facilities staff, Geoff Dennis – Operations Manager, Stuart Green, Stefanie Butler and Leigh Burgess –Environment Services, provided further information on the increasing legislative requirements associated with climate change, as well as current and future initiatives being implemented at UQ.

After the presentations, attendees had the opportunity to get together in small groups and identify what they considered were the most important issues related to climate change that UQ should consider.

Presentations:

[UQ's Response to Climate Change – Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Director, Centre for Marine Studies](#)

[Climate Change and the University of Queensland – Geoff Dennis, Operations Manager, Property and Facilities Division](#)

[UQ's Energy and Emissions Legislative Framework – Stuart Green and Stefanie Butler, Environmental Services, Property and Facilities Division](#)

[What we can do to reduce emissions – Leigh Burgess, Environmental Services, Property and Facilities Division](#)

Feedback:

Five Most Important Items that UQ should consider in response to climate change in order of priority
Priority 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education of people to change culture.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainability – direct to 40k students – educate them. ▪ Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make an effort ▪ Recycle ▪ Lights and computers – turn them off at night.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Electricity use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Air conditioning – best practice ▪ Plant and Instrument use – energy management of these.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Personal culture change on attitudes towards energy, waste, recycle. Recognition of issue and recognition of accountability. • <i>Suggestion on how to address this item: Sustainable buildings.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar panel on the roof and western wall of buildings. • <i>Suggestion on how to address this item: Fit solar panel over the top of roof on buildings.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of energy usage.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charge schools for power and water consumption.
Priority 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide appropriate funding and/or resources to implement measures.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section based responsibility for electricity/energy – as opposed to central control. Allocations (eg school targets).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of activities with research and education on climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Buildings/Faculties/Centres acting in isolation ▪ Sharing of ideas ▪ Coordinating investment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incentives produced through financial penalty. • <i>Suggestion on how to address this item: Policy for accountability – to ID accountability.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind generator on the roof of buildings • <i>Suggestions on how to address this item:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fit wind generator on the building's roof</i> • <i>Fit capacitors to light fittings</i> • <i>Fit thermal monitoring on air conditioning in organisational units.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For new buildings install renewable energy generation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer University vehicle fleet to hybrids that meet greenhouse emission levels.

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Priority 3

- Prioritising environmental considerations in all decisions about work practices (eg. telecommuting, purchasing, energy efficient equipment).
- Carbon Neutral from increase in land resources or use of current land (eg Gatton)
- Travel
 - personal travel – encourage riding/public transport
 - offset carbon outputs when there is a need to fly
- Project demonstration to occupants and public (eg Low energy use building)
- Education programs that are available to everyone – staff and students – via TEDI
- *Suggestions on how to address this item: Policy change for mandatory education.*
- Better thermal monitoring of air conditioning.
- *Suggestion on how to address this item:*
 - *Impose fines on divisions that consistently do not turn off lights during the audits conducted by P&F*
 - *Set high temperature for air conditioning – or close to ambient temperature. Allow access to opening windows!!*
- All the building retrofit energy saving devices where feasible.
- Lighting: convert lighting to more efficient system and reduce non-essential night lighting.

Priority 4

- Ensure that the available funds are spent to produce the best outcomes (eg. put money spent on offsetting into avoiding production of carbon)
- Air conditioning
 - design aspects of buildings
 - construction and refurbishments
- More preventative maintenance rather than reactive maintenance programs to produce efficiency.
- *Suggestions on how to address this item: Change night cleaning, eg once a week or weekends – day time*
- Fit more capacitors to light fittings and power outlets.
- Energy audit for each building and data distributed to users.
- Put all zipp water heaters onto timers.

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Priority 5

- Implement simple energy saving options. Switching off non-essential equipment.
- Reporting – systems and data collection.
- More simple automated system, eg lighting
- *Suggestions on how to address this item: Turn off lights at night – Security.*
- Frequent email reminder to staff by P&F to turn off lights and computers when not in use and fit neumatic switches on lights.
- Research and innovation in renewable energy sources and their challenges.
- Construction: make uni policy that all new construction projects must comply with 5 star green rating.

Other items not prioritised:

- There is already a great deal of goodwill within the UQ community which is willing to make necessary sacrifices
- Rearrange facilities to enable staff to access PC powerpoints (GPOs) so that they can turn off items at the powerpoint – currently many GPOs are inaccessible behind workstation skirts.
- Additional officers to provide an Advisory Energy Team similar to those that service financial systems – on site help/evaluation teams to provide advice.
- Provide a fine level of metering down to the Operational Unit level which should have direct budget responsibility. Controls would then be driven by local units. Energy charges should no longer be paid out of central funds, but the budget funds should be distributed to each operational unit. Local change will not be fully embraced until it “costs” them locally.
- Automatic carbon offset could be linked to travel Campus Travel. This could be a condition of the contract with the service provider which is currently up for renewal.
- Create a Senate Standing Committee for Climate Change (similar to OH&S and Equity).
- Create an Institute for Climate Change Issues to provide overarching coordination and linkage between all of the units currently involved.
- Develop a Fund for Sustainability into which savings would be placed, and also promote it as an opportunity for alumni contributions and bequests. A portion of consultancy fees received by UQ staff could also be placed into the fund. The fund could be managed by the proposed Standing Committee.
- Conduct a review of air conditioning quality and temperature – minimise the range between summer & winter.
- Provide high quality, serviced, central video conferencing facilities to make inroads into the need for air travel.
- Install glass doors (or at least glass panels) in offices so that people can close their door to better manage air conditioning, but to also accommodate the “open-door” management policy favoured by many managers – staff could see through the door whether or not their manager was available.

For further information contact:
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