

Unigreen News

for UQ staff and students

The latest

Issue 13 September 2009

UQ signs Talloires Declaration

As part of UQ's commitment to environmental sustainability, UQ is one of about 400 universities internationally to become a signatory to the [Talloires Declaration](#).

This is a 10-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities.

UQ's Carbon Strategy

In 2008, UQ started developing a Carbon Strategy. This included compiling a comprehensive inventory of UQ's greenhouse gas emissions and developing an overall plan for greenhouse gas emissions management across the University.

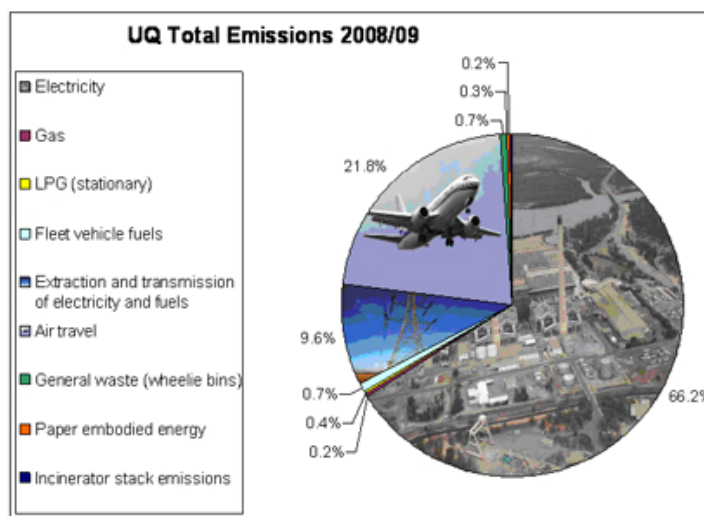
UQ has set four Carbon Strategy Objectives:

1. Align UQ's carbon mitigation program with the core business of learning, discovery and engagement so that good environmental outcomes flow naturally from UQ's everyday work.
2. Comply with government requirements.
3. Minimise UQ's greenhouse gas emissions and energy and carbon bills.
4. Sharpen UQ's position as a leader in teaching, research and technology transfer regarding energy, carbon and sustainability.

UQ's Carbon Footprint

UQ has over 35,000 students and almost 6000 staff occupying over 600 buildings in its four campuses and over 50 teaching and research sites throughout Queensland.

In total UQ emitted an estimated 168 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions in 2008/09, mostly from electricity consumption (66.3%) and air travel (21.8%). Smaller amounts of greenhouse emissions were also emitted from natural gas and LPG use, fuels used in the University fleet vehicles, stack emissions from the Pinjarra Hill incinerator, general waste to landfill and embodied energy from paper use.



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Focus on Energy

Earth Hour ... everyday

Earth Hour in March this year achieved an energy saving of 6.5 per cent. With the University's annual energy costs estimated to reach \$11 million next year, UQ staff are encouraged to be energy efficient at work. If we saved 6.5 per cent of our annual energy usage every day, the financial and environmental saving would be \$715,000 and 7,954 tonnes greenhouse gas emissions annually. The environmental impact is equivalent to switching off 644 houses for 1 year.

What you can do

- Designate someone in your area to switch off lights at the end of the day. Remember to turn off air conditioners, lights in corridors, meeting rooms, bathrooms, etc.
- Switch off computers and monitors at the end of the day.
- Keep doors and windows closed in air conditioned space.
- Use natural light where possible - provided OH&S is not impacted.
- Load up dishwashers before running it for maximum efficiency.
- Turn off laboratory equipment that can sensibly be turned off when not in use, especially anything with a heating function, eg. heating blocks, microscopes, PCR machines, water baths.

View more energy saving hints at: <http://www.pf.uq.edu.au/Ems/EnrgyMgt.html>

ClimateSmart Home Service

Brisbane City Council, through its Green Heart CitySmart environmental program, is offering Brisbane residents \$50 cash-back when they use the Queensland Government's ClimateSmart Home Service. This makes the service **FREE!**

All Brisbane residents who have had the ClimateSmart Home Service completed in their home will be eligible for the rebate. To claim your rebate, complete the application form and submit to Council along with your ClimateSmart Home Service receipt. Council will then send you a \$50 cheque. To find out more information [click here](#)

Did you know ...

CitySmart is a new commercial company created by Brisbane City Council to help make Brisbane Australia's most sustainable city.

On average Brisbane households emit 16 tonnes of greenhouse gas each year. Working together with the whole community CitySmart and Brisbane City Council aim to reduce this to only 10 tonnes per household per year by 2012. The eventual aim is to make Brisbane carbon neutral by 2026.

For further information contact Environmental Services, Property and Facilities Division:

Contact	Phone	Email
Environmental Coordinator	3365 2076	k.ollett@pf.uq.edu.au
Project Officer, Environment	3365 7580	r.kirkman@pf.uq.edu.au
Project Officer, Sustainability	3366 9959	s.butler@pf.uq.edu.au
Environmental Engineer	3365 1587	s.green@pf.uq.edu.au
Email unigreen@pf.uq.edu.au		Website: www.pf.uq.edu.au/ems.html