EcoECU

WELCOME to ECOECU NEWS!

*Welcome to the inaugural **ECOECU Newsletter**- a bimonthly publication providing ECU staff and students with environmental information, stories, updates, projects and events from on and off campus.*

The newsletter can be found online on the Environmental Services website www.ecu.edu.au/fas/ecoecu

***ECOECU News** is your newsletter- so please send in relevant environmental news stories, events or projects to the Environment Officer at environment@ecu.edu.au*

GET INVOLVED

Want to know how YOU can get involved in environmental initiatives on and off campus?

Go online to
www.ecu.edu.au/fas/EcoECU

or contact Melanie Barter,
Environment Officer
environment@ecu.edu.au

Find out more about ECU's environmental agenda and what we've done so far at:
www.ecu.edu.au/fas/EcoECU

REFILL NOT LANDFILL

Landfill is where all our garbage goes. Landfill sites (or rubbish dumps) require space that might otherwise be bushland or public open space.

As we continue to fill up existing landfill sites, we create the need to clear more land for new sites. This can further threaten remnant bushland and the flora and fauna living there.

Other potential environmental problems from landfill include: the pollution of surface or groundwater with contaminants from waste, the creation of nuisance odours and dust, the risk of property damage due to subsidence or the release of flammable or toxic gases and the release of pollutants into the atmosphere in the event of fire.

In Western Australian, millions of tonnes of waste reach our landfill sites every year, steadily increasing pressure on our natural ecosystems.

To encourage awareness of this issue, EcoECU is proud to launch the NEW 'Refill not Landfill' thermal travel mugs.

If you enjoy the odd cup of tea or coffee, you can help reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill by purchasing a 'Refill not Landfill' thermal mug for just $4.95 from ECU Bookshops and Cafes. Create less waste and receive a **10% discount** each time you refill.

Proceeds from mug sales help fund environmental initiatives on campus!
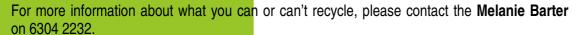

Travel Smart to ECU this year

How do you get to Uni or work every day? In Perth 4 out of 5 trips are made by car- however many of these could be made by walking, cycling or catching public transport instead.

If you've thought about changing the way you travel, you can find out about buses, trains and cycling paths at www.ecu.edu.au/fas/EcoECU.

ECU
EDITH COWAN
UNIVERSITY

ECU Paper Recycling System Expanded

ECU has made a significant step towards greening our operations by developing and expanding our paper recycling program. Staff and students are encouraged to recycle all forms of paper-not just white copy paper, including newsprint and magazines, coloured paper and even glossy brochures. What can't be recycled through this system are waxy items such as milk cartons and plastic-covered magazines or books.

For more information about what you can or can't recycle, please contact the **Melanie Barter** on 6304 2232.

FROM TONER CARTRIDGE TO OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Each year Australians use more than 18 million laser and inkjet cartridges, collectively weighing over 5,000 tonnes. The majority of them eventually end up in landfill, even though they can contain substances that are hazardous to the environment.

At the Preferred Suppliers Expo 2005 held at Joondalup campus, WA Toner Supplies presented ECU with a plastic outdoor bench seat, made from recycled plastic products such as toner cartridges.

Our preferred suppliers; WA Toner Supplies and Toner Action take back all used printer/copier cartridges and have them made into plastic outdoor furniture.

Whether you currently recycle used toner cartridges or are interested in joining the program, please contact the **Environment Officer** on 6304 2232 or visit our website at: www.ecu.edu.au/fas/EcoECU.

Green Vehicle Guide

Looking for a car but are concerned about the environment? Take a look at the Australian Government's Green Vehicle Guide at:

http://www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au

This guide will help you choose a more environmentally sensitive car by rating them on their pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Use this site for both old and newer cars.

Eco Office program… coming soon to ECU

An Eco Office program is an opportunity for workplaces to develop environmentally friendly office practices that also reduce expenses. It includes energy and water conservation initiatives, the promotion of sustainable transport, recycling and the reduction of paper use and other consumables.

A number of large and small businesses and organisations around Perth have taken on this kind of program in an effort to reduce their impact on the environment through normal business operations.

The program aims are to:
1. Raise staff and student awareness of the environmental impacts that result from daily office activities
2. Provide alternatives to high impact office practices
3. Provide training and educational opportunities for staff and students
4. Reduce the University's environmental impact

The success of this type of program depends upon YOU- staff and students who can spend a couple of hours every month working for the environment-distributing information, participating in free training sessions and helping to implement initiatives such as recycling in your school or area.

Go to www.ecu.edu.au/fas/EcoECU for more information and to register.

HOW TO HIBERNATE ALL YEAR ROUND

A standard computer left on and running fully for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year - uses nearly 1000 kWh, which equates to 1014kgs of greenhouse gas emissions. Imagine multiplying this over the whole campus and the wastage could be phenomenal!

You can help save power, reduce power wastage and reduce the greenhouse gases emitted by changing your computer settings to HIBERNATE. This means that the computer shuts itself down and only uses 24W of energy compared to 103W of energy used when just the screen is shut down. By activating the HIBERNATE function, you can halve the greenhouse gas emissions from your computer by ensuring that it is switched off every night and weekends!

To check if HIBERNATE is activated on your computer, go to: CONTROL PANEL—POWER OPTIONS—and activate HIBERNATE after 2 hours.