

# Embracing Sustainability





A photograph of a group of people walking away from the camera on a wet, paved path in a park. The path is reflective, showing the sky and the people. In the foreground, a person is walking away, wearing a blue and white striped skirt and black boots, holding a red umbrella with white polka dots. Other people are visible further down the path, some wearing raincoats. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage.

# contents

Foreword ..... 03

Bioversity..... 04

Futures Initiative ..... 06

Energy and Carbon ..... 08

Sustainable Travel and Transport..... 10

Fairtrade and Sustainable Food..... 11

Waste and Recycling ..... 12

Sustainability Advocates..... 13

Sustainability Engagement..... 14

Volunteering in the Community..... 16

Sustainability Communications ..... 18



# foreword

*Embracing sustainability* celebrates the work that many hundreds of people throughout the University have put in to embrace sustainability.



The care of our environment and the development of the individual resonates deeply with the values of the University. We are committed to operating in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.

Our vision is to “ensure that all our staff and students understand the need to sustainably manage our environment and address the challenges to our common future, thoughtfully responding to the issues that threaten our planet”.

Since the publication of our first Environmental Policy in 2005, there has been a steady growth of activity generated by a committed and emerging group of staff and students. In 2009, we embarked on a journey to establish an environmental management system through the

EcoCampus scheme, and gain international recognition through the ISO14001 standard for environmental management, which we achieved in February 2013.

However, this is by no means an end. Our journey has taken us from a standing start to beginning to make a difference. Our first class award in the People and Planet Green League for three consecutive years provides external validation for our commitment and effort. I hope that, through this report, you will be able to identify with some of the action and be willing to support it in the years ahead.

**Peter Rands**  
Director of Sustainability Development



# bioversity

knowledge + community + stewardship



The University's Bioversity initiative is in direct response to the need to nurture the environment around us.

It involves stewardship of the environment in which we work, which is especially important given our privileged position within the outer precincts of St Augustine's Abbey – part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site\*.

Bioversity focuses specifically on cultural aspects of biodiversity in relation to the history of the site, which has been a centre of knowledge, community and stewardship in our city for over fourteen hundred years.

Stewardship of the living world is a strong ideal with which all members of the Christ Church community can empathise, whatever their cultural or spiritual background, or their view of the 'environmental agenda'. It provides continuity between past, present and future and highlights our unique 'sense

of place'. Good stewardship of the World Heritage Site reflects our own wider concerns for the environment, including waste management, carbon emissions, and the sustainable use of resources. Christ Church Bioversity is not simply a 'heritage' initiative, but represents our mission as a university serving its region and communities.

The cultural, spiritual and educational values of key institutions involved with the whole Canterbury World Heritage Site are reflected in the Christ Church Bioversity initiative, which looks to the future as well as the past. Rare species and varieties native to Kent have been planted in order to preserve and protect the regional biodiversity, and enhance community and individual health and well-being.



\*Canterbury UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) (designated 1988)



The Physic garden is in the former outer precinct of St Augustine's Abbey, where the original monastic community would have tended medicinal plants for their own use, as well as for the wider community.



CASE STUDY

## The Physic Garden

The garden will be a living learning resource for students, staff and visitors with medicinal plants from the past, present and possibly the future, covering both general and specific therapeutic applications.

Many of the plants have been based on those from the Chelsea Physic Garden, founded in 1673 as the 'Apothecaries Garden', which taught apprentices the correct identification and use of plants.

The plants are associated with Analgesia, Cardiology, Dermatology, ENT and lung disease, Gastroenterology, Gynaecological, Neurology, Ophthalmology, Parasitology and Psychiatry.



**Gill Gower**  
Senior Lecturer  
in Allied Health

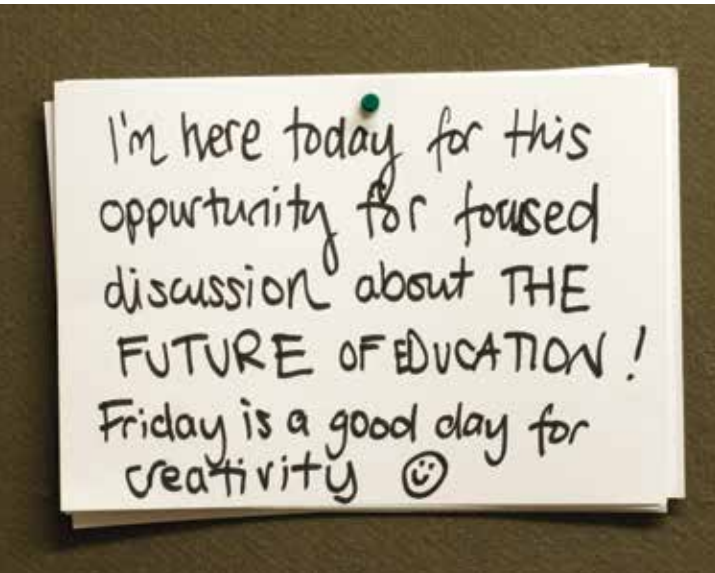


**Joanna Fell**  
Technician for Geographical  
and Life Sciences



# futures initiative

developing futures thinking



Our ambition 'to ensure all Canterbury Christ Church University staff and students understand the need to sustainably manage the environment and address the challenges to our common future, thoughtfully responding to the issues that threaten our planet' is addressed by the Futures Initiative.

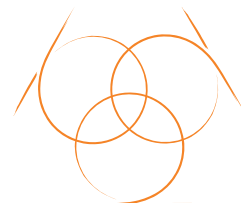
It provides the skills, concepts, tools and critical thinking, which will equip students for an uncertain and fast-changing world. It takes a far wider focus than just concentrating on 'green issues'. It acknowledges the inter-connections between a wide range of socio-political, cultural, economic and ecological problems and approaches them from a positive and optimistic standpoint. Intercultural understanding, inclusion and issues to do with identity, health and well-being all feature strongly in this initiative.

Challenging us to clarify and articulate our values, it is underpinned by a respect for human rights, social equity and justice, along with respect and care for the greater community in all its diversity. These

values are deeply rooted in the commonly defined meaning of sustainability as 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

Embracing sustainability is a long term process which involves staff across the entire University. The approach adopted by the Futures Initiative is about nourishing the whole person rather than focussing on externally imposed targets. The challenge is to do this with limited resources, without trespassing on academic freedom and without placing new demands on colleagues or adding extra content to courses that are already overcrowded.





A purpose-built yurt (a portable bent wood-framed structure) has been transformed into a mobile camera obscura and photographic darkroom, by the Department of Media, Art and Design.



CASE STUDY

## The Yurt

Designed and built by staff and students, the camera obscura lens makes use of an optical phenomenon in which light rays reverse themselves when they pass through a small aperture.

The yurt enables students to discover that traditional methods of light and image capture can be as potent as the latest digital single lens reflex camera. Its mobility has also enabled taking it on location in the local community, developing students' technical and professional skills. The camera was set up on Margate Main Sands during the Margate Photo Festival and members of the public watched the photographs taken of them being processed and exhibited.



**Karen Shepherdson**  
Principal Lecturer in Department  
of Media, Art and Design



# sustainability

education | transformation | sustainability



## Energy and carbon

Committed to improving sustainability across our campus network, dozens of projects to reduce energy use, increase efficiency and optimise output have been implemented and new projects are being launched every year.

We have installed dedicated voltage optimisation units at three sites, replaced lighting with higher efficiency, lower-maintenance LED lights and fitted e-cubes on the thermostats of fridges, freezers and cold cabinets. We have added cavity wall and loft insulation to many of our buildings and double glazed our listed buildings where possible.

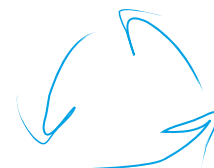
Augustine House, our Library and Student Services Centre, was fitted with geothermal heat pumps to supply at least 25% of the building's energy. In addition, glass roofs

were fitted to maximise solar light and energy, reducing the use of artificial lighting. Design elements were also incorporated to reduce the energy required to heat and cool the building when occupied.

Current projects include diverting the heat produced from our server rooms to heat greenhouses for plant science research, piloting solar thermal heating and oil-filled radiators that use 40% less energy and data centre optimisation at the Canterbury site.







Installation of solar panels on three buildings on the Canterbury Campus in the summer of 2012 has produced 40,690 kilowatts of energy by the end of 2013, saving £5,000, to offset purchased grid electricity.



CASE STUDY

## Solar energy

Solar thermal panels have been introduced at Lanfranc, one of our accommodation sites, as a pilot to test the viability of relying on solar power to heat water for the 213 students resident there throughout the academic year.



**Ian Watts**  
Assistant Estates Manager



**Malcolm Wink**  
Carbon Reduction Engineer

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In 2009, the University agreed a sustainable travel plan with the core objective to reduce the number of cars used for work purposes.



## Sustainable travel and transport

The objectives are to:

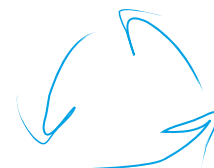
- Lower the demand for parking
- Reuse some land for the University's core business
- Meet our community and social responsibilities
- Reduce traffic congestion
- Reduce carbon
- Improve the accessibility of university facilities
- Improve the health of staff and students

Measures to achieve these objectives are:

- Chargeable car parking permits for all campuses
- Significant additional cycle storage, locker and changing facilities
- Subsidised bus travel in Canterbury and Medway
- A shuttle bus service within Canterbury
- Subsidised 'park and ride' tickets
- A 'per mile' business expense rate for cyclists
- Cycle to Work scheme
- A dedicated Kent Higher Education car share scheme, 5HARE
- Season ticket loans for staff who travel regularly by train.
- Corporate access to Brompton Docks bicycles at Canterbury West and other stations.







As a Fairtrade organisation since 2008, we have made a commitment to buy, supply and sell only ethically sourced tea, coffee, sugar and products that use Fairtrade raw ingredients, in our catering outlets and hospitality provision.



## Fairtrade and sustainable food

We also ensure we buy from sustainable sources:

- All fish certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)
- Menus compiled using seasonal fruit and vegetables
- Use of locally sourced produce wherever possible
- All meat supplied with Red Tractor certification
- 100% free range eggs
- Water bottled in-house, or supplied by One Water, which supports the provision of drinking water in African countries.



Ethical food sourcing does not stop there. From 2012 onwards some of our provision has been awarded Bronze certification through the Soil Association Food for Life award. The Food for Life catering mark provides the driving force behind sustainable and ethical sourcing in the catering industry and achieving this is a key priority in the coming years.

# sustainability

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Minimising waste and increasing the proportion of recycling took a significant step forward in January 2013 with the appointment of a new contractor, SITA.

## Waste and recycling

SITA provides 'zero waste to landfill' solutions through processing facilities that can divert waste into energy:

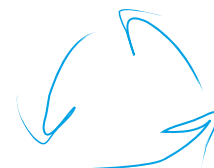
- Food waste is composted through anaerobic digestion facilities to produce gas that replaces fossil fuels
- Recyclable materials – paper, cardboard, plastic, cans and glass – all go back into the production of new materials
- General waste is diverted to energy production facilities in the UK and Europe.

European legislation now requires us to manage our waste in line with the waste hierarchy, with priority being given to minimising the amount of waste produced and maximising reuse and recycling. Recovering waste by using it to produce energy should be a last resort.

Thinking about whether we need to produce waste, what we buy and use, and how and where we dispose of it, are critical to the success of our waste strategy.







## Three of our energetic Sustainability Advocates



## @ Sustainability Advocates

Since autumn 2013 we have recruited four Sustainability Advocates.

These first and second year students are part-time, paid colleagues working with and supported by the Sustainability Development team. They work to promote and raise awareness of sustainability throughout the University.

In their roles the Advocates have a range of opportunities to:

- Develop a student-driven 'Green Office'
- Help to recruit students to undertake sustainability related voluntary activities
- Actively participate in sustainability related working groups
- Support the Sustainability Development Team and the Futures Initiative Team
- Work to provide sustainability related support for fellow students
- Contribute to the sustainability blog, Facebook pages and Twitter feeds
- Help to generate student projects, events and campaigns.

# sustainability

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Our journey towards sustainability has developed since 2006 from one sustainable development committee, to eight different committees, working and steering groups.



## Sustainability engagement

Both student and staff members work on policy, strategy and tactics to continually enhance engagement with sustainability.

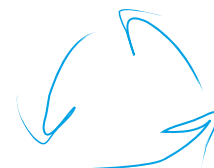
The Sustainability Communications Network is a communications network incorporating smaller interest groups and our very own Honeycomb Project.

Ongoing activities include a sustainability library and film club, and allotments and planters staff and students can adopt to grow flowers, vegetables and herbs. There are also one-off events throughout the year, including craft fairs, SWISH (item swap), Fairtrade bake-offs and photography competitions.

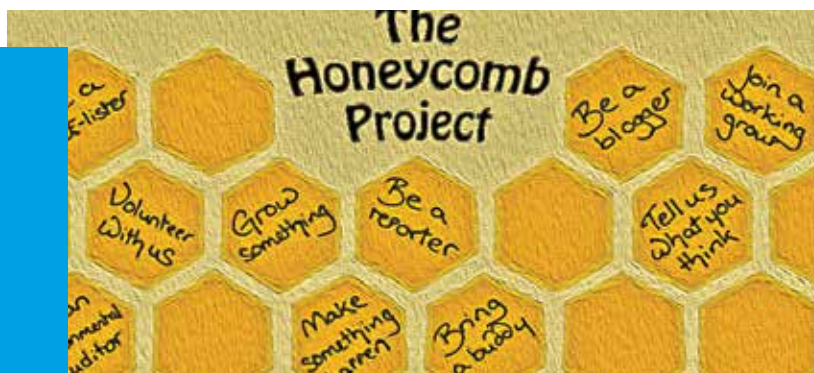
Awareness-raising campaigns and events are run in collaboration with the Students' Union and SU societies. We are also building sustainability engagement into modules within some of the degree programmes, including Photography; Media, Art and Design, and Event Management.







The Project aims to track, recognise and celebrate the breadth of ways that people can engage with sustainable thinking:



CASE STUDY

## The Honeycomb Project

The Honeycomb Project is a chance for students and staff to get recognition for the things they are doing within the university and the wider community towards sustainability.

The many areas they can engage include: joining working groups and focus groups; greening office spaces; publicising news and events; engaging with the Futures Initiative or Bioversity; blogging about sustainability topics and experiences; adopting a planter or an allotment on campus; advocating sustainability to colleagues; volunteering in the wider community.

At the end of the year all participants are given a personalised honeycomb, mapping the variety of areas where they have engaged.

# Volunteering in the Community

The University runs a brokerage scheme to enable hundreds of students and staff to volunteer in large and small charities and the public sector.



Many of the volunteering projects are group activities. For example, students worked with a charity called 'Follow Your Dreams' and a local school for children with Special Needs. Students brought 20 children onto campus and worked towards fulfilling a dream of theirs.

Other projects include staff and students planting trees at a local nature reserve and an RSPCA animal rehoming centre. They have also helped out with Canterbury City Council's Big Clean as part of their 'Love Your City' campaign.

Student-led projects have involved working in and with the community. Several worked with the Abbots Mill Community Interest Project, which aims to restore an old water-mill and create a permaculture garden on nearby land. They have also put up Christmas

decorations for Age UK and local care homes, and collected and sorted books for READ, in order to send them to schools in Tanzania.

In order to explore further ways the University and charities can be of mutual help, we have, since 2007, hosted a termly Volunteering Forum for representatives of local charities and academic and professional services staff to discuss future possibilities.

We also host an annual awards event, Tune into Volunteering, during National Volunteering Week. Held in conjunction with Canterbury Volunteer Centre, it recognises and celebrates the volunteering of our own students and staff and volunteers in many of the smaller charities for whom an awards ceremony would not be viable.



Judy Challis  
Volunteering Co-ordinator





A mini BioBlitz twice a year brings together staff from the Life Sciences Department, external experts, professional services staff, members of the public and students, to identify in four hours as many diverse species as possible in a specified area of woodland, marshland, meadow or seashore.



CASE STUDY

## Mini BioBlitz

Students work in groups, each with an expert, to identify, photograph and record findings and bring specimens that cannot be readily identified in the field back to 'base camp' where academic staff are on hand to make a formal ID.

The results are shared with the owners of the land and Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre.



# the grapevine

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The challenge of getting the message of sustainability across in a university setting, where information is constantly around, has been met in several ways.



## Sustainability Communications

Initially, posters were displayed in designated areas around campus. Email addresses were collected at Freshers' Fairs and staff orientations, and events were advertised on StaffNET. The Sustainability webpages were also populated with useful information.

In order to reinforce these messages, a Facebook group, Twitter feed and blog for sustainability were created in the autumn of 2011. Photographs were taken at every event, new project launch and each development stage of a scheme, and posted on a photoblog. Case studies of successful projects were highlighted in poster frames, personalised with a key member of the project team.

To further strengthen these initiatives, there is now a dedicated Sustainability Hub behind one of the Fairtrade cafés on Canterbury Campus, with 20 A1 displays of sustainability related information. Regular articles are supplied to 'Unified', the Students' Union magazine, and a Sustainability Skills Certificate has been launched, which formally recognises, assesses and rewards the efforts of staff and students. The most recent addition to communications has been a monthly publication, The Grapevine.

A great deal has already been achieved in opening these communication channels, but we are constantly looking to create new paths to make sure the message is heard across the entire University network.







The Grapevine was launched in autumn 2012 as a monthly sustainability publication to signpost staff and students to events, projects and news from around the university.



It also recognises the contributions of the increasing number of staff and students who are involved with sustainability.

Each edition contains a main article and a 'Did you know?' information feature and a list of upcoming events.

Campaign Leaders deliver copies to each student house or flat and staff teams take copies for their departments. Copies can also be collected from main open areas on campus.

You can read more on our Grapevine+ blog:  
[www.cccusustainability.wordpress.com](http://www.cccusustainability.wordpress.com)



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