Annual Assessments – New Methodology

We started 2009 with a massive 72 Green Office areas involved across the University’s 3 campuses. With the program at its current size and annual assessments creeping up towards us, we thought of a way for the Green Office Reps to play a more active role in the program.

As of this year, Green Office Reps are being asked to complete their assessment by themselves. To prepare the Green Office Reps on how to do a DIY assessment, we held several Green Office Update Sessions in February and March. This was to ensure that all assessors are consistent and results are comparable.

So far results have been good. Remember our goal of 10% improvement for each office! Thank you to all those Green Office Reps who completed their assessments early. Anna Bartos (ACPCS), Roz Bannan (UQ Centre), Tahnee Robinson (Records Management) and Dave Logan (SBMS) will be rewarded with a Green Office pack, including a T-shirt, desk-clock and penholder, notepad, and several recycled newspaper pencils and hats for other staff members.

This Earth Hour we can all Vote Earth!

By Anna Cooke (School of Psychology GO Rep)

‘Vote Earth’ by turning off your lights on 28th March at 8:30 pm. Join hundreds of millions of people around the globe sending a powerful message to world leaders that we, as communities and nations, are ready to fight climate change!

If you want to Vote Earth every day, here are two other easy steps you can take.

1. Sign up for the Qld Government’s Climate Smart Home Service

The ClimateSmart Home Service is specifically designed to help Queenslanders contribute to addressing climate change by reducing their carbon footprint.

During the ClimateSmart Home Service, a licensed electrician will visit your home, install a wireless energy monitor for you to keep, and conduct an energy audit of your home.

Where suitable, the electrician will supply and install a free water and energy efficient showerhead, and supply and install up to 15 free energy efficient light globes - all in less than an hour.

The service costs $50, but if you live in Brisbane, there is a $50 rebate available from the Brisbane City Council. For more info go to http://www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au/ or by calling 13 20 40.

2. Switch to GreenPower

Through your current energy provider you can switch to renewable energy, which is usually as easy as applying online. It costs as little as $4 dollars a month (for 25% GreenPower) up to about $22 a month extra (for 100% GreenPower).

GreenPower is electricity that comes from a new renewable energy generation source like solar or wind.

* Earth Hour organisers are hoping for 1 billion people in over 1500 cities to take part this year! http://www.earthhour.org/

UQ is an Earth Hour Participant

The clock is ticking down until Earth Hour, which is on the 28th March at 8:30pm. UQ has once again signed up for this international event. Please encourage all your staff members to turn off all electrical equipment, including lights, computers and monitors and printers.

Attention Green Office Reps who have not yet attended a training session to conduct your Green Office Assessment. Please come to the next session - Tuesday 24 March at 9.30am.
Ideas from a keen Green Office area

The Green Office area - Information Access Service from the Library has been working hard to improve its environmental practices. Deirdre Long, the Green Office Rep for that area has shared some of their creative ideas which you could initiate in your office.

1. Purchase/acquire 2 rotational compost bins. Staff take turns to take home the kitchen scraps.
2. Reuse packaging from photocopy paper as parcel wrapping or take it home for children.
3. The bag/container for the staff’s coffee can be refilled from a café on campus every time.
4. Recycle large and small pieces of cardboard in the cardboard recycling bins.
5. Use vinegar in the teareoom/kitchen instead of other cleaning products.
6. Bring egg cartons, shredded paper and vegetable scraps from home for others to use.
7. Initiate default double-sided printing: the Library Technology Service initiated default double-sided printing for ALL of the UQ library branches, staff and public terminals. The IAS/Library has benefited greatly from their initiative to reduce waste.
8. Reuse address labels and instruction labels included with mail.
9. Withdrawn (or unwanted) printed books can be sent to the Alumni Association for sale at their annual Book Fair.
10. Collect and send any odd bits and pieces to the Playhouse Childcare for children’s artwork.
11. Collect and reuse scrap paper for the office or home.
12. Give monthly Green Office reports at staff meetings and award Carbon footprint awards to enthusiastic eco-friendly staff members.

Clean Up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia Day was on March 1st of 2009, celebrating its 20th anniversary. Approximately 8300 tonnes of rubbish were collected around Australia, but unfortunately some of this could have been recycled. The chairman of Clean Up Australia, Ian Kiernan, believes there is a need for stronger recycling programs in the country, even though the Clean Up Australia Day makes a difference in the reduction of the amount of rubbish.

If you want to make a difference and contribute to this cause, you do not have to wait until next year! You can organise a Clean Up Day with your School/Centre at a local park or river bank that interests you!!

Upcoming Events

World Day for Water
- 22nd March
- Emphasising transboundary waters: sharing water, sharing opportunities.
  - www.worldwaterday.org

Update Session
- Tuesday 24th March 9:30am
- P&F Meeting Rooms 1&2
- If you have not attended one, it is very important to come.

Healthy Cities Conference
- 25-27th March at The Gold Coast
- If you are interested in health, sustainability, natural resources management and climate change this could be an opportunity to learn more.
  - www.healthycities.com.au

Earth Hour
- 28th March
- Make your contribution by switching off your lights from 8:30-9:30pm
  - www.earthhour.org

For further information, contact Environmental Services:

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