The Green Office Welcomes Sally Croker

The Sustainability Office is pleased to welcome Sally Croker as the new Green Office Coordinator. Sally is a second year student studying a Bachelor of Environmental Management majoring in Sustainable Development. Sally is passionate about the challenge of finding ways to change behaviours, to reduce our impact on the environment and the consumption of finite resources. Sally is also excited about coordinating the Green Office Program as she is eager to gain experience in the field of sustainability and be involved in real life decisions. Through her involvement in the program, Sally hopes to gain an understanding of how the Green Office Program promotes small changes, which collectively have the potential to make significant impacts at a university scale. We look forward to working with Sally to continue to develop the Green Office Program and deliver sustainable outcomes at UQ.

Camille Percival, Green Office Coordinator & Suzanne Davis, Sustainability Coordinator

‘Life is Better with Trees’- How you can get involved in National Tree Day

National Tree Day is a fantastic opportunity for members of UQ Staff to help improve sustainability at the St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton Campuses. Planting trees helps to mitigate climate change through sequestration of carbon dioxide and also important for preserving biodiversity. Providing native habitat also helps to improve the stability and integrity of ecosystems, which can also improve the ability of species to adapt to climate change.

Tree planting at St Lucia will take place at the same site as last year, as 90% of the trees planted were lost due to the recent floods. Tree planting at this site will help naturally stabilise the river bank and restore the riparian vegetation corridor along the river. At the Ipswich Campus, the tree planting site will help create a wildlife corridor with existing vegetation on the campus and on the adjoining Sandy Gallop Golf Course.

Simple actions have very many positive flow-on effects and it would be fantastic to have many Green Office Representatives involved in this fun event! For more information and to get involved with this event please visit: http://www.uq.edu.au/sustainability/events or email: sustainability@uq.edu.au

Cheap Office Furniture Available—Don’t Miss Out!

If you are looking for brand-new office furniture, look no further than the UQ Central Store. The UQ Central Store has heavily discounted furniture available through UniFi for UQ Departments (see attached flyer). If you require any further information please contact Paul Sullivan: p.sullivan@uq.edu.au
Green Office Update

Alice Stokes, Green Office Representative for the Research Data Storage Infrastructure (RDSI) Project, is a highly motivated Green Office Representative and a strong supporter of reducing waste on campus. When Alice heard of the large amount of usable furniture heading to landfill from the Seddon Building refurbishment she thought that it could be put to good use and recycled by other UQ Offices. After all who doesn’t like free furniture! Alice, the Green Office Coordinators and Sustainability Coordinator organised for emails to be sent to Green Office Representatives and a meeting was held on Monday 6th of June for representatives to come and acquire the furniture. Alice also organised a removalist to be available for departments to move larger items.

Over 100 people turned up to the meeting and all items available were swiftly claimed by different departments. Desks, chairs, printers, cupboards, tables, filing cabinets, keyboards, lamps, bookends, pin-boards and whiteboards all found new homes within 45 minutes as a result of the meeting. An Equipment Exchange has been under consideration by the Sustainability Office for some time and the event has confirmed that there is strong support for such a service at UQ.

We would like to congratulate Alice on this wonderful initiative. It was only through her hard work that the event was a resounding success. Alice is looking to compile a register of all items recycled from Seddon Building and it would be appreciated if you could send her a list of any items your department obtained at the event to: a.stokes@rdsi.uq.edu.au

Camille Percival, Green Office Coordinator

Frequently Asked Questions: Can you recycle Coffee Cups?

Unfortunately, most disposable coffee cups are not recyclable. Most cardboard or paper cups are lined with a thin film of plastic which make them un-recyclable, and cups and lids made from foam or polystyrene are not economically viable to recycle, therefore they end up in landfill. However, the plastic lids on disposable coffee with the recycling symbol are recyclable. In Australia, approximately 500 million disposable coffee cups were sent to landfill in 2010.

So what can you do as a Green Office Representative? Promote the use of reusable mugs by staff in your section when purchasing coffee to reduce the amount of waste heading to landfill. As an incentive, many coffee suppliers on campus provide discounts for refills—not only saving the planet, but saving you money!

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Market Day—Green Office Stall</td>
<td>Wednesday 27th July, 10.00am-3.00pm</td>
<td>St Lucia Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Tree Day, St Lucia Campus</td>
<td>Friday 29th July</td>
<td>St Lucia Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Tree Day, Gatton Campus</td>
<td>Friday 29th July</td>
<td>Gatton Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Tree Day, Gatton Campus</td>
<td>Monday 1st August</td>
<td>Gatton Campus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information please visit:

http://treeday.planetark.org/
http://www.uq.edu.au/news/?article=22962

Another sustainable idea...

‘Connecting the Dots’ is an initiative from King Business Interiors in the US which provides free, reusable office furniture to non-profit and charitable organizations in Central Ohio.

Image source: http://www.kbiinc.com/pages/


For further information contact the Sustainability Office, Property & Facilities Division:

Green Office Coordinator (p/t) 33669959 greenoffice@pf.uq.edu.au
Suzanne Davis, Sustainability Coordinator 33651555 s.davis@pf.uq.edu.au

Website: www.uq.edu.au/sustainability