Solar Array Tour

This quarter’s update session involved a tour of UQ’s recently installed PV solar array. The tour included a visit to the Solar Research Centre and a view of the solar panels on the roof of the UQ Centre. Talks were given by Ms Suzanne Davis, the Sustainability Coordinator, and Mr Craig Froome, the Renewable Energy Manager at UQ’s Global Change Institute.

A highlight of the tour was viewing the panels on the roof of the UQ Centre. These panels only make up 36%, or just over one third of the total rooftop PV array, which put into perspective the enormity of UQ’s PV array.

While the PV array will help to reduce UQ’s carbon footprint, it is also a major research project. UQ researchers are investigating different methods of collecting and storing solar energy and how it may be fed into the electricity grid. For more information, visit http://www.uq.edu.au/solarenergy/.
Green Office Update

Water Refill Station—Say No to bottled water!

Property and Facilities Division has recently installed a water refill station at the end of Staff House Rd, between the Steele Building and Commonwealth Bank on the St Lucia campus. More refill stations will be installed in coming months. While other universities have banned the sale of bottled water, UQ is not going to take this path. Instead, it is hoped that initiatives such as the water refill station will encourage staff and students to reuse their water bottles. The cost of purchasing a refillable water bottle will pay for itself within approximately 5 refills.

Plastic water bottles present significant environmental problems. Bottled water has a carbon footprint 300 times greater than tap water and uses 2000 times the amount of energy to produce. It is also estimated that producing one litre of bottled water requires more than three litres of water. In addition, only 35% of plastic water bottles are recycled. This leaves a huge number of plastic, non-biodegradable bottles going to landfill. The good news is that you can do something about it! Make sure you reuse your water bottle by refilling at the water refill station, and encourage others to do the same. Remember—Say No to bottled water!

Frequently Asked Questions—Sustainable purchasing

Which items in the UQ Store are ‘sustainable’?

You may have noticed that items in the UQ Store catalogue are no longer identified as being ‘sustainable’ or not. Recently, a review of the Store’s products has been undertaken and has resulted in changes to the product range. If an item is not listed in the catalogue, it will need to be sourced externally. Requests for items are considered in the purchasing policy and store management. At this point in time, only paper items are labelled as recycled or carbon neutral.

Got a question? Email the Green Office Coordinators at: greenoffice@pf.uq.edu.au

Upcoming Events

New Representative Training, St Lucia
Friday 23rd September, 9.30-11.30am,
Meeting Room 501, Chamberlain Building (35),
St Lucia Campus, email your RSVP before the
19th August to: greenoffice@pf.uq.edu.au

Green Office Update Session—Solar Array
Talk, Friday 30th September
Gatton: 10.30-11.30am, Bldg. 8117, Rm. 116
Ipswich: 1.00-2.00pm, Bldg. 6212, Rm. 206

UQ Staff Development Program:
Sustainable Purchasing at Work
Tuesday 20th September, 9am-10am
International House Seminar Room,
Rock St, St Lucia.


Green Heart Fair
A free, fun family day out with a sustainable twist.
Sunday 16th October 2011, 10am-3pm
Mt Gravatt Showgrounds. For more information visit:

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