



Concurrent Session C
Monday 31 August
1.30pm – 2.20pm

Session 4

Thinking Outside the Rectangle: Beyond the Carpark for Sustainable Transport at the University of Tasmania

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Mr. Corey Peterson is University of Tasmania's Sustainability Manager based in Commercial Services and Development. In this role, Corey has been the lead staff member in sustainability efforts that have been recognised with the prestigious Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) Award of Excellence 2012, Green Gown Australasia Award 2014 for Facilities and Services and the ACTS Award of Excellence "Individual Staff award in 2014. Corey was educated in the USA, where he completed a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Environmental Studies followed by two Masters degree's in Environmental Science and Public Administration at the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He is also a graduate of the Tasmanian Leaders Program, for which he has also served as a mentor to later participants and is an active member of the alumni. Corey is a current member of the University Council and a director of the not-for-profit Sustainable Living Tasmania.

The University of Tasmania has over 31,000 full and part time students and is one of the state's largest employers with over 5000 staff (full, part time and casual). The University occupies over 350 buildings and manages a range of properties across the state and at two Sydney campuses, including urban buildings, suburban campuses, and remote sites for telescopes, forests, farms and marine ports. As a growing institution, UTAS is a significant trip generator.

DESCRIPTION

In a few short years, implementation of the University's Sustainable Transport Strategy (STS) 2012-2016 has led to fundamental shifts in institutional, and influenced community, approaches to transport. The STS is successful in achieving more socially, economically and environmentally sustainable transport outcomes and travel behaviours. With no legal requirement for a transport strategy, the STS is a voluntary, self-initiated program based on recognising the need to address transport issues.

Reflecting best practice, the STS is whole of institution, covering all campuses, conventional and new modes (e.g., electric bikes, virtual transport) and region and mode specific initiatives. Uniquely, many STS projects directly engaged students via academic activities to help deliver operational outcomes.

STS development involved targeted internal and external consultations that not only gathered input, but served to engage on the values of focussing on and resourcing of sustainable transport. Internally, this was critical in gaining management and a \$25,000 strategy development budget.

Implementation activities from 2012-2014 included:

- \$39,000 for public transport shelters (75% Metro; 5% local government, 20% UTAS – capital funding)
- \$179,500 over two years for showers, change-rooms and a bike hub development (student services amenity fees funding)

- >\$2.1m over three years for bicycle infrastructure (capital)
- \$7,500 for electric car charging stations (capital)
- Government grants of \$20,000 (State) and \$5,000 (Federal) for bike hubs
- Intercampus bus service (net cost >\$100,000/yr.) (operating)

Leveraging multi-stakeholder support stretches University funds available for transport initiatives. Charging for parking now saves ~\$500,000/yr. from carpark maintenance and raises revenue to upgrade parking and additional sustainable transport initiatives.

BENEFITS

STS achievements are numerous and multi-faceted, reflecting a holistic consideration of our transport footprint and opportunities for health and environmental benefits. Initiatives integrating operational needs, academic research and teaching, include:

- DATA: Through baselines collected via counts and surveys, UTAS leads development of Tasmanian travel behaviour knowledge. For example, the 2013 Travel Behaviour Survey is the largest Tasmanian data set of its kind (~4000 participants) useful to transport planners state-wide. Data have been shared through presentations to stakeholders and via media. The STS also enhances our ability to gather NGERs data.
- BICYCLES: 4 new bike hubs and other improvements creating: >410 parking rails, 24 bike lockers, 36 electric bike photovoltaic-powered charging points, bicycling/ pedestrian signage resulting in, for example, a 52% increase of bikes on Newnham campus from 2011.
- BUS:
 - Six new shelters; 3% increased ridership
 - Publicly accessible service extension through Hobart CBD
 - High frequency Launceston service initiated
 - 20% increase in inter-regional ridership
- PARKING:
 - Removal of all free general access parking in late 2013 (sans one regional campus).
 - 20 new motorcycle parks (~15% increase in total motorcycles).
- VEHICLE FLEET: Reduced fuel use (~5%) and emissions (>10%) by acquiring two all-electric and ten hybrids.
- CARPPOOLING: Implementation of special permit and parking.
- VIRTUAL TRANSPORT: Video Communications Improvement Programme (\$5.6m) addresses transport inefficiencies by encouraging virtual transport with 12 new and upgraded rooms.
- ENGAGEMENT: >250 students from 1st year to Masters across four schools integral to delivering initiatives, including movement counts, surveys, data analysis, emissions inventories, planning, infrastructure design and construction, and engagement. Projects involved 32 academic and professional staff working with students and values from \$50 to >\$100,000. Some projects involved external experts to review designs with local and state government contributing staff or funds.
- STUDENTS: quality alternatives allow students to avoid car ownership costs.
- DEMONSTRATE: Bike hubs followed sustainability guidelines delivering low VOC finishes, LED lighting, photovoltaics, native low water use plants and in new buildings contributed to 5 Star Green Star ratings.

Some of the unexpected benefits include:

- UTAS included as key stakeholder by:
 - State Government - help define 'principal urban cycling networks', integrated

- transport plans, and Climate Smart Tasmania strategy
- Hobart City Council Bike Advisory Committee membership
- Participant at Launceston equivalent meetings
- Broader community understanding of the University's contribution to transport demand and solutions, including through an RACT magazine feature.
- Public transport provider and local councils shared costs for bike and bus shelter infrastructure.
- Cycling Promotion Fund's Bicycling Achievement Award 2013
- Cycling South's Cadence Award 2014
- ACTS Green Gown Australasia Award 2014 – Facilities and Services.