



Curtin University

Sustainability in Business and Law

2023 update

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Sustainability in Business and Law | December 2024

This report is designed to give you a summary of the 2023 key initiatives in relation to the Faculty of Business and Law's Sustainability and Social Impact Strategy.

Governance

The new members of the Sustainability in Business and Law Steering Group for 2023.

- Professor Sonia Dickinson
- Professor Robert Evans
- Professor Nigar Sultana
- Associate Professor Min Teah
- Associate Professor Subra Ananthram
- Associate Professor Astghik Mavisakalyan
- Associate Professor J Ho
- Dr Sandra Martain
- Dr Robyn Ouschan
- Mr Keegan Robertson
- Ms Hannah Wilkinson
- Mr Thomas Griebel
- Ms Caitlin Agostino.

The Steering Group was chaired by Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor Sonia Dickinson and together they aimed to drive thought leadership through collaboration, education of students and research outcomes that spurred conversation and change.

Highlights

Collaborating for climate change

In March we hosted the Collaboration for Climate event in partnership with the United Nations Association of Australia and Carbon Neutral.

The event was designed to inform the community about climate change action and how collaboration and innovation was critical in combatting climate change.



Inaugural Sustainability Learning and Teaching showcase



The inaugural Sustainability Learning and Teaching showcase was held in August. This exceptional event, led by Associate Professor Subra Ananthram, Dean Learning and Teaching, set a new benchmark that reinforces our commitment to sustainability.

Held in TL Robertson Library's new event venue, The Lantern, the Showcase brought together a diverse audience of over 120 staff, students, industry professionals and alumni in an immersive, collaborative experience. Students had the unique opportunity to meet and network with FBL's dedicated Learning and Teaching sustainability champions, industry partners and fellow students who were already making waves in sustainability.

As attendees visited each exhibit, they were presented with examples of how sustainability is embedded into our curriculum, showcasing our dedication to nurturing the skills, knowledge and mindsets of our students to prepare them for a brighter and more sustainable future. The showcase stands as a testament to the power of collaboration.

Events

Naidoc week celebrations

We had the privilege of being joined by Traditional Owner and Elder of Whadjuk Country, Betty Garlett for the 2023 Naidoc Week celebrations. Betty shared a beautiful Welcome to Country and her own story that reinforced the significance of celebrating the contributions of our elders.

Indigenous common room opens to students

After a year of consultation with our First Nation students, staff and community, the Indigenous common room officially opened to students in August 2023. Artist Kevin Bynder worked with the team to bring the spectacular artwork to life on the walls in the common room.

Indigenous Liaison Officers Tyler Kelly and Chaneene Colard have used the space to connect and assist Indigenous students, as well as promote the culturally safe space for students to study, relax and connect.

New appointments

New appointment: Dean Indigenous Engagement

We were excited to announce Associate Professor Tuguy Esgin had been appointed to the role of Dean, Indigenous Engagement. Tuguy is committed to deeply embedding Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing into the Indigenous academic landscape, and creating a more inclusive and effective educational environment.

New appointment: Stan Perron Dean of Applied Ethics

Another exciting announcement was the appointment of Associate Professor Anthony Langlois as the new Dean of Applied Ethics. The new role works with the faculty's Senior Leadership Team and other key stakeholders to lead the strategic direction towards developing ethical leaders who can create positive change for WA and the wider global community.

Research

Four SDG project grants received funding

New projects that aligned with the faculty's priority SDG's were eligible to receive a grant to the value of \$5,000. The projects were required to produce actionable findings to improve outcomes related to sustainable development and social impact priorities.

We were delighted to announce the SDG project grants were awarded to champion groundbreaking research that aligns to our six priority SDG's.

- "The influence of formal and informal institutional environments on intended and unintended consequences of sustainability disclosure in Indonesia"
- "Reducing meat consumption among hotel and restaurant patrons"
- "Leveraging student influencers to promote sustainability on university campuses."

- "Green Supply Chain Management: Carbon performance, disclosure and assurance."

Key Projects

Financial literacy workshops commence for women at risk

In alignment with SDG5, SDG8 and SDG10, Financial Literacy workshops offer women an opportunity to engage directly with financial experts and gain invaluable practical insights to kick-start their financial journey and enhance their overall well-being.

The first workshop took place in Kalgoorlie in August with plans to expand this program to more regional, rural and remote areas in 2024.

Thank you to Yourtoolkit, Professor Sonia Dickinson, Associate Professor J-Han Ho, Professor Nigar Sultana, Dr Lien Duong and Mrs Annette Morgan for leading this initiative.

Carbon Literacy Program

One of the key highlights of the year was the roll out of the Carbon Literacy Program which was piloted in collaboration with the University of Queensland's Business School. The program was designed to equip students with the knowledge required to reduce their carbon footprint and encouraging them to be advocates to empower others to do the same.



The Faculty of Business and Law Carbon Literacy team rolled out their second delivery of the program during September, where another 23 cohort of Curtin staff and students become Certified Carbon Literate.

Sustainability study tours to Jordan and Norway

We were excited to announce two new study tours to Norway and Jordan offered to students. The Norway study tour, led by Dr Aneeshta Guinness ran in June and the Jordan study tour led by Dr Tomayess Issa ran in September. Both tours encouraged students to examine various sustainability initiatives and immerse themselves in the cultural experience. Student Experience team helped coordinate and fill these tours.

Carbon governance programs in Vietnam

Executive Education in partnership with DFAT's Aus4Skills program designed and delivered two new programs in building ecosystems to support carbon market establishment and strengthening power systems in Hanoi, Vietnam.

News

Staff making a difference

Curtin academics respond to Australian Senate inquiry into Greenwashing

In June 2023, the faculty made two submissions to the Australian Senate inquiry into greenwashing, one by Dr Kelli Larsen and the other a collaboration between Curtin and Brightstride researchers, Keegan Robertson, Antoine Girardeau and Emeritus Professor Ifan Odwyn Jones.

With a growing demand for decision-useful, sustainability and climate-related information in financial markets companies, consumers and investors need to establish shared confidence in the quality of information supported by clear and consistent regulation detailing the required content and processes of disclosure.

Student's making a difference

Mohammad Zulfikar Ali made a difference to the ship-breaking industry: SDG8 and SDG16 Calling Bangladesh home, Mohammad Ali grew up surrounded by friends and family who received very little pay for doing dangerous jobs in the shipbreaking industry which often resulted in injury or death.

Faculty staff join national climate change working group

The Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) unanimously declared to act on climate change by coordinating and pursuing strategic opportunities for collaboration across Australia and New Zealand via the PRME partnership. A working group was formed with Dr Robyn Ouschan and Dr Abhijeet Singh representing Curtin Business School.

Coming soon...

New Sustainable Business Innovation unit

In semester 1 2024 a brand-new unit in Sustainability will commence. Developed by Dr Robyn Ouschan, the unit will have student's undertaking a client project where they analyse and evaluate business problems holistically to develop practical, creative, sustainable, quadruple bottom line and SDG focused solutions to demonstrate an awareness of the sociological impact of their business strategies.

Sustainable Events Guide

The Faculty of Business and Law is incorporating a student's assessment into the creation of a Sustainable Events Guide. This document is currently undergoing a comprehensive review as part of our innovative 'Students as Partners' initiative, ensuring that the guidelines are tailored for future event applications.

National Indigenous Business Summer School 2024

Applications opened to attend the National Indigenous Business Summer School held at the University of Notre Dame's Broome Campus from 14-19 January 2024. The week long program will be guided by the principal of Katitjiny Boya Birrit meaning "pathway to understanding business" in Noongar. All fees and expenses are paid for, including travel, food and accommodation.