
Sustainability Statement

Introduction

The College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) is committed to the University's 'Bold Ideas, Bright Future Sustainability Plan to 2025'. The University's plan is a set of nine themes, developed by and from the Flinders community, and it sets out the University's vision to reduce our impact on the environment and benefit society through education, research and local action.

HASS's contribution to sustainability

HASS shares the view that a climate emergency is upon us, and that individuals, organisations, and governments must act now to ensure a healthy planet for the future. HASS, as an individual College, can contribute directly to four of the University's nine key themes.

Education

Our curricula are ideally placed to tackle the biggest issues the world faces. We teach in areas of climate change, development, women's studies, and activism, and have a suite of Grand Challenge topics, that students from any course can take, to help students understand the biggest issues that the world faces in the 21st century. For more information see our courses [webpage](#).

Research

Our research is driven by the knowledge that inequalities exist, and these inequalities may increase due to the climate emergency. But we also believe that it doesn't have to be that way. Our researchers, such as Associate Professor Udoy Saika are working with governments in, for example, Timor Leste and PNG, and with the UN, to measure wellbeing and improve individual and country outcomes. Closer to home Associate Professor Bev Clarke researches the impact of climate change on our coastlines, and its social and policy implications, and Dr Peter Tangney's research is focused on governments' use of evidence and expertise for addressing environmental problems. For more information on HASS's research, please see our [webpage](#).

Food

HASS has made a commitment to reduce our environmental impact and as such only provides vegetarian food when it caters student and/or staff events. Animal agriculture has been shown to contribute 14.5 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, and it uses approximately 70 per cent of agricultural land. It is also one of the leading causes of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and water pollution¹.

Resource recovery

To prevent excess waste, HASS has banned the use of single use plates, cutlery and cups. When the College caters events, we own, or hire where needed, reusable utensils. *Note: due to Covid-19 restrictions, this has been amended and compostable utensils are used.*

When we provide student gifts, for example at Open Days and Inductions, we do not provide items that are made from plastic. We also reduce the number of products bought that result in 'accidental' plastic waste, such as individual plastic wrappings.

If you have any ideas for additional measures that the College can take toward sustainability, please do get in touch via chass.operations@flinders.edu.au.

¹ Cameron and Cameron (2017) Animal agriculture is choking the Earth and making us sick. We must act now. www.theguardian.com.