

The Science Safety Snippets

Welcome to this month's edition of the Faculty of Science's Safety Snippets newsletter. This month focuses on the environment and how at Monash you can make a real impact in reducing energy consumption and the amount of waste going to landfill. Please direct all comments and feedback, including suggestions for articles particularly relevant to your area to the e-mail address below.

The Environment at Monash

Monash University aims to lead sustainable and environmental practice, teaching and innovation; locally, nationally, and internationally. Monash University is committed to minimising its environmental impact through a combination of institutional, infrastructural and cultural change facilitated by the Monash Environmental Policy, Environmental Policy Committee, Environmental Committees and Monash Sustainability Institute.

Recycling Resources at Monash

Recycling of waste materials has become an important aspect of sustainable office practice. Production using recycled rather than raw materials conserves raw materials and requires less energy, reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

A number of recycling systems and services are available at Monash Campuses and Facilities. Currently, recycling services at different Monash Campuses and facilities are variable but will be extended over time. Information on recycling systems for paper, cardboard, bottles & cans, and printer cartridges at specific campuses is available under '[Recycling Resources at all Monash Campuses](#)'.

5 Ways to Green up Your Act

Reduce energy usage through actions such as activating power management settings and switching off computers, lights and equipment when not in use. Save water Never leave a tap running and show your support for water saving measures.

Reduce paper usage through actions such as double-sided when photocopying or printing, and using once-used paper for all drafts, notes and internal documents. Use durable crockery, cutlery, cups and bags to avoid unnecessary waste from non-biodegradable disposables.

Recycle just about everything, including paper, bottles and cans, printer cartridges and cardboard

Sustainable Catering and Events

Monash University recognises that catering and events can have significant social and environmental impacts, locally and globally. The choices made about food, equipment, materials, transport, heating and cooling can translate into depletion of natural resources, landfill and emission of greenhouse gases, which also impact on social sustainability. Therefore Monash has developed a sustainable catering and events guide including a list of things to consider when planning an event.

Promotion	Do not provide unnecessary promotional material Prioritise electronic over printed advertising Ensure any printing is on recycled paper with environmentally preferred ink Ask attendees to bring own bags, pens etc Promote event as environmentally sustainable
Transport	Give directions for walking, cycling and public transport priority over instructions for car travel and parking Provide door prize for alternative transport
Catering Equipment and Supplies	Use only non-disposable cups, cutlery etc. Ensure any disposable items are recycled and recyclable Minimise or eliminate packaging and wrapping
Menu Planning	Prioritise vegetarian food (provide majority vegetarian food) Prioritise local, seasonal produce Source organic produce (including any meat products) Provide fresh whole foods where possible Cater for common dietary needs e.g. vegan, wheat free, gluten free.
Waste	Provide adequate bins for waste, recycling bottles & cans, paper and food waste Provide adequate promotion and signage for recycling and waste facilities
Other	Consider hosting a Waste Wise event and offsetting emissions through Greenfleet

Green Action

The Green Action webpage is a new way in which staff, students or visitors can help us to green up our act by pointing out things at Monash that, if fixed, would help conserve the environment.

Simple examples would be telling us where a leaking pipe is or about a light that is always on during the day. Sometimes you might see a new way of doing things, for example, a way to reduce the use of air conditioners. Simply log onto; <http://www.monash.edu.au/green/action/index.php>

Additional information regarding the environment at Monash, can be found by logging onto;

<http://www.adm.monash.edu.au/ohse/environment/index.html> or by contacting Bridget James, Environmental Advisor, OHSE on extension 59884. A list of environmental officers can be found at; <http://www.adm.monash.edu.au/ohse/contacts/environmental-officers.html>

Proof of global warming:

