



Green Living Award Bulletin



Who's Doing What?

The purpose of the Green Living Award is to promote sustainable living practices in residences, Private Student Organisations (PSOs) and student houses to reduce the negative impact that we have on the environment and resources. This competition aims to encourage fundamental lifestyle changes among all students at Stellenbosch University by making students more aware of the necessity of reducing, reusing and recycling. At the same time, we also educate students how to live sustainably so that they understand how to be environmentally conscious in all their daily activities. There will be three prize money awards, one for each of the top achievers in each organisation (Residence, PSO, Student House).



Huis Erica acknowledges the depth of the Western Cape water crisis and we are promoting a water-conscious attitude in res. This means that the ladies in the residence are using water with an active conscious attitude of what they are using. We promote the saving of water on all levels including bathrooms, washing and dishes. Furthermore, we are launching a beach clean-up project that entails taking part in beach clean-up days being held at different beaches along the Strand and Muizenberg area. This project will improve the state of our beaches and ocean by reducing the amount of rubbish going into the ocean. It aligns with the theme of conserving water.



Irene Residence is excited to be taking part in the Green Living Award this year, to accept the challenge and to seize all opportunities, collaborate with other residences and to spread knowledge on sustainability issues. Our main objectives this year are to change the mindset of the students in our residence and to fine-tune habits that are impacting the environment. We will have different themes for our different sections throughout the year where each section has a month to concentrate on improving a certain aspect of their way of living (e.g. my section will have Energy as a theme, then we will collectively learn about how we can decrease our energy usage and keep each other accountable until good energy habits are cultivated in our lifestyles). Theme options include, water, energy, waste, animal product usage. Sustainable living isn't about the flashy and exciting events; it's a way of living and choices you make every day. However, events do spark interest and encourage participation, so we are planning a Sustainability Week starting the 16th of April

with a different event every day that ends with the highlight of a Sustainability market on Earth Day the 21st of April. Events ideas include Green Monday, Climate Change talk, Irene Movie Night - Wangari Maathai, and EcoBricks workshop. We are organising more 3-bin systems in our res, and having information sent out and communicated to the Ireners on how to effectively sort their waste products. If possible, we would like to redo a part of our (dying) garden with water wise plants and have an information session on sustainable gardening practices.



Metanoia: The projects/activities that we will be undertaking this year are the bucket system, the toilet signs indicating how many uses before we flush, succulent plants in our residence, continuing recycling efforts and disposal of cigarette butts.



Huis ten Bosch is a lady's residence that cares about the environment. As part of our sustainability plan we implement some projects and activities within the residence. This includes an annual green week where there is an activity every day to promote sustainability and educate students about their impact on the environment. We send green newsletter emails to the whole house containing tips and information about current sustainability issues. As a residence, we encourage every girl to recycle and make use of the university's 3-bin system. Considering the current water crisis, we are using bins in the showers to collect grey water to flush the toilets. There are water posters in the bathrooms, showers have water saving (aerated)

shower heads and we are encouraging students to use less water.



Minerva's green team is committed to four big sustainability issues, namely water, recycling, energy and food waste. Every term we put all our energy into one theme. For the first term our focus was water saving. We make "water saving tip of the week" posters for the HK and committee to post on social media. (These tips include shower in bursts, wash clothes with someone, how often to flush and doing sponge baths). We then encourage the residence to focus on that one weekly tip to get into the habit of saving water in different ways. A water-saving crash-course video was made on how to save water in Minerva. We also give regular updates and presentations. We make use of the bucket system and removed the lids from the toilets. For term two, we will focus on recycling, although we still have a few projects to complete for the water theme (like a grey-water system for our washing machines). We started a plastic bottle drive in the meantime for some projects we have planned. We will also do a tip of the week for all the other themes.



Meerhoff Residence at Tygerberg campus has been consistently working on being as 'green' and sustainable as possible. The three-bin system has been in place for a few years now and we constantly try to improve it by reminding our residents to pay attention to what waste goes where. Also, it is about motivating the residents to be compliant as well and to not just give up on the system. We have recently supplied each shower in our residence (162) with a bucket and put a water-saving system in place. We also try to remind our residents that water is a precious resource and that it needs to be used sparingly. Our residence also has a worm farm. We have built these little guys a shelter so that they have optimal conditions to live in. We have shelves to put the boxes on and have built a wooden wall to give them shade. Our green committee is also planning an event for March as 'World Forest Day' and "World Water Day" which will take place this month. My aim since the beginning of my term has been to motivate our residents to get serious about sustainability and to not just brush it off.



Lydia Residence is very passionate about becoming a more sustainable residence on the SU campus. Our portfolio is relatively new, yet we are already taking great strides towards becoming a more environmentally aware entity on campus. In addition to making great efforts to raise awareness of the water crisis the Western Cape is currently experiencing, we have also made efforts to encourage water-saving practices. For example, we have implemented a bucket system in our showers so that the water collected may be used for flushing. Furthermore, we are also paying heed to the importance of recycling at Lydia. We are making a concerted effort to raise awareness about recycling. One of our projects is a recycling prize, that goes to the section in our residence that recycles the most toilet rolls. We also plan on hosting our first Earth Hour social early next term, to raise awareness about electricity consumption and to encourage sustainable use of our resources.



Goldfields Residence plans on going big this year with a focus on water collection and usage. We are focusing on finding new ways of collecting rain water in greater quantities. We are also planning on starting a hydroponics garden of vegetables and herbs which will receive its water from rainfall and our grey water system. Our focus will be on making a vertical garden in an attempt to also reduce space utilisation. At the moment we have buckets in all our showers to collect water before it gets hot and also while showering. The water is then poured back into toilet cisterns or, if there are no cisterns, directly into toilet bowls. We will also be trying to improve our refuse sorting system to increase the number of recyclable materials. Goldfields Residence has many projects in the pipeline – so keep an eye out for us!



We in **Dagbreek Mens' Residence** are doing our part in saving water by applying the following methods: Each HK member is responsible for checking up on his section's water usage, by assuring that each student is aware of the water shortage. Bathrooms: toilets are only flushed when necessary. The shower is only turned on for a short while to soak, then turned off to soap up and then turned on again to rinse. This takes approximately 1

minute of showering. We also have the water saving taps as well as shower heads. Our grey-water system is in progress of being installed where all the shower and sink's water will be captured and used again for flushing the toilets. The waste water of the washing machines is being used by the cleaners to mop the floors, thus decreasing water wastage. Dagbreek Mens Residence is fully aware of this enormous water problem and we are trying our best to do our part in saving water.



The **Venustia PSO** is very passionate about taking care of the environment. We are constantly on the lookout for the best way to promote environmental sustainability in our constituency. This year we are planning to share knowledge not only within the constituency but also to the community at large. In the beginning of the year we, together with the facilities manager's office hosted a green session for our newcomers where they were educated about environmental sustainability and participated by planting a tree as a pledge to do their part in protecting the environment. We also implemented a three-bin system in our house and in our brother PSO house to set the example to our house members that recycling is the way forward. We have quite a few programmes that are yet to follow, so brace yourself for what's about to come.



In **Helderberg** we strive to make sustainability a conscious way of life, something you need to keep in mind with everything you do and use. We have held an awareness talk with EcoMaties at the start of the year and have water-saving posters up in all the kitchen areas. The water crisis is naturally at the top of the list. Since last year residents have been catching water in buckets in the showers, which are used to flush toilets and water the (rather dismal) lawn.

Stellenbosch University Sustainability Department has agreed to assist us in installing a grey water system at the residence, which will assist us to repair our lawn and hopefully save water on toilet flushes each day. We also have timers in the showers so that residents can keep a close eye not to shower longer than the 90 second mark. Helderberg is currently organising a structure for recycling, although the logistics of the programme are proving to be difficult, this will not deter us! We aim to have all glass and paper properly recycled by the start of the second semester.

Furthermore, we re-use the plastic cups from our pub and do not serve any plastic straws on the nights when the Jack Wells (our pub) is open.



In **Nemesia** we encourage all residents to take part in water saving. We strongly encourage everyone to shower for less than 90

seconds and especially take Navy Style showers (when you shower in bursts). By using this method to shower, you can save up to 2300 litres of water per person per month. We only flush our toilets when necessary ("if it's yellow let it mellow..."). The cleaning staff uses grey water collected from the washing machines to wash the floors in res. Further we encourage general water saving in everyday use, examples include: using a tumbler to brush teeth and waiting for a full load before doing laundry. We encourage all residents to make use of the recycling bins in Nemesia and to reuse items as much as they can.



Helshoogte is currently undergoing a building upgrade on its interior, as well as on its drainage systems and water systems. These systems, once complete, will essentially mean that we will be the residence on campus that will be recycling the most grey water. Grey water tanks will be installed, which will also be used to water our gardens. There is a project currently in the pipeline to plant water-friendly plants on the deck of the fourth floor, which will also be watered by a grey water system that will run on the deck. Upon completion of our building project, Helshoogte will be the pioneer on campus for sustainable living!



As Sustainability HK for **Vesta PSO** my biggest responsibility is the Sustainability of our HK house. I send out bulletins and posters to the rest of our community to remind them of the seriousness of the water crisis. In our own house we make use of recycle bins. All our showers and taps are fitted with water saving devices to reduce the water flow. We shower with buckets and then use them to fill our cisterns. We all keep to a strict 90 second shower and we use hand sanitizer when washing our hands. When we wash our clothes, we wash all of them at once every week and a half.



Roles & Responsibilities



Who to contact...



STUDENTERAAD
STUDENTS'
REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCIL

Omri Jacobsz is the SRC member responsible for sustainability. He will assist and organise the communicationl of information to organisations and assist with how to go about developing a project. Contact: **omri@sun.ac.za**



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Sustainability

Stellenbosch Facilities Management will be the data holders and is responsible for communicating the relevant information regarding water, electricity and waste to the Green/Sustainability HKs. Facilities Management, where possible, will also assist with tools that may be needed by students. The member to contact is Dannica Pedro: **dpedro@sun.ac.za**



EcoMaties should be considered as a reference to help with events, as well as a valuable source to provide advice on projects. Contact Jonathan Saindon for assistance in this regard: **21161275@sun.ac.za**

