

TOITŪTANGA SUSTAINABILITY



At Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington we recognise the critical importance of responding to our global environmental crises and are committed to supporting the transition to a sustainable future through our teaching, research, engagement, and operational practices.

In 2022, we continued to expand our sustainability-focused curriculum content across the University, so that more students are gaining the necessary skills and knowledge to lead and participate in a more sustainable future. The first cohort of students were welcomed into our new minor in Business Ethics and Sustainability Management. In addition, a new Bachelor of Global Studies degree was approved with minors such as Environment and Sustainability, Globalisation, Movement and Change, and World Affairs and Organisations. New programmes such as these are helping to increase student access to sustainability curriculum content from across the University.

We continue to produce leading research that contributes to a more sustainable future. Examples include the development of Master's student Charlie Walkley's new textile made from wool waste, Prof Ramesh Rayudu and Dr Daniel Burmester's utilisation of hot water cylinders for cost-effective storage of solar power for community housing in collaboration with Te Āhuru Mōwai, and summer research scholar Shannon Bentley's work on the impact of small-scale on-farm wetland restoration. As a nominator for the 1 million pound Earthshot prize, we promoted three significant projects arising from University research. These included XFrame, an innovative method of green building; and Tasmanlon, a new more sustainable battery, as well as the Living Pā.

Our 'Growing our Future' collaboration with Wellington City Council to re-establish native forest on an 11-hectare block of land in Wellington's Outer Green Belt was recognised at the Australasian Green Gown Awards. With the support of community donors and staff, student, and alumni volunteers we planted 4,000 seedlings and continued field research monitoring the restoration.

We've considerably reduced our waste in partnership with all the independent cafés on campus with a reusable coffee cup campaign that has seen approximately 200,000 disposable cups avoided. We also completed our roll-out of glass milk bottles across all three campuses, seeing around 75,000 plastic bottles removed from our system.

Construction on The Living Pā—a redevelopment of our marae complex—continued through 2022. Once open, its achievement of Living Building Challenge certification will see this become a flagship for sustainable buildings. We continued good progress on our Zero Carbon Plan which aims for net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, with emission reductions ahead of schedule, and an emphasis on managing air travel as border restrictions lifted.

Our sustainability work was reflected in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, where we ranked 85th out of 1,400 institutions around the world and 12th for Climate Action.

