

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Power down to power up sustainability this Saturday

UTAS will again be turning its lights off for Earth Hour on Saturday 23 March to symbolise its commitment to sustainability.

This year's message is to 'turn off for good' asking people not only to switch off lights but also switch to renewable energy.

UTAS staff, students and the community are encouraged to participate in this year's event by ensuring that all non-essential lighting at work and at home is turned off between 8.30pm and 9.30pm on Saturday.

During Earth Hour 2012, an estimated seven million Australians switched off their lights to show support for a more sustainable world.

Highlighting the power of collective action, the recent UTAS Christmas holiday switch-off effort which encouraged staff to power down over the December–January holiday period saved the University \$30,000 compared to business as usual.

UTAS currently has 12kW of photovoltaic (PV) renewable energy systems installed across its campuses:

- A 2kW solar PV system on the Source Community Wholefoods Building
- A 2kW system on the new bike hub
- 3kW on the Engineering Building at the Sandy Bay campus
- 5kW at Green Hill Observatory at Bisdee Tier.

A further 20kW system is proposed for installation by the Tasmanian University Union (TUU) in 2013.

As part of Earth Hour celebrations, the TUU will host an Earth Hour sustainable pizza night at Source Community Wholefoods, 12 French Street, Sandy Bay, on Saturday 23 March from 7.30pm.

<https://sourcewholefoods.org.au/>

For more information about Earth Hour, visit <http://www.earthhour.org.au>

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