

MEDIA RELEASE

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Climate change workshop delivers ideas to State's future leaders

A group of Tasmania's future leaders are meeting in Burnie today to discuss strategies on how best to deal with climate change issues at a local level.

Emerging leaders in local government from across the State have gathered at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus for a workshop designed to outline the challenges surrounding climate change and how local communities can take a leadership role.

The workshop is being facilitated by Dr Morgan Williams, former New Zealand Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, and Professor David Adams from the UTAS School of Management and the Australian Innovation Research Centre.

"Increasingly, there is a need for initiatives and strategies surrounding climate change to be dealt with at a local level," Professor David Adams said.

"Tasmania has already made a good start through the Local Government Climate Change Consultation report but the Commonwealth's Green Paper released last week ups the ante considerably.

"The workshop is designed to give emerging local government leaders a set of strategies and tools where they can take a lead role in risk assessing climate change."

The workshop is being held in partnership with the UTAS Institute for Regional Development (IRD) and the Tasmanian Local Government Managers Association (LGMA). The workshop is part of the association's Emerging Leaders Program.

"We want to outline to these future leaders some of the more innovative strategies that have already been put into action such as the Sustainability Street Approach," Professor Adams said.

The Sustainability Street Approach involves communities uniting to lead the charge towards turning their precincts into sustainable green environments. It has already been adopted by more than 100 communities across New South Wales and Victoria.

Information Released by:

The Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: 6226 2124 Mobile: 0417 517 291

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au