



Welcome to Sustainable Living Tasmania's November 2023 Members' Newsletter

A Message from President Margaret Steadman

Hello dear people,

I've just e-biked to Office Works to get the 2024 insert for my little diary (yes, I know it is archaic to still have a paper diary! And have I told you how much I love my e-bike?). 2024 is nearly here. How did that happen?

I hope you all have a restful and restorative time over the holidays and time to celebrate the joys of being alive and in community in your own traditional ways. This Christmas in my family, I'm not buying stuff to give but meandering around my house looking for things to share – if you have been inside my house and garden you will know there is lots of scope for re-homing stuff. I'm planning to find things that have a history for my family– 'this came from England in 1954, this belonged to your great grandfather...' Not sure if anyone will want my prefect's blazer from high school that I found in a trunk the other day. How we do hang on to the past! Enough introspection.

In SLT-world, we are in the process of redesigning our website to make it easier to keep up to date and for users to access. Sandy and a Board sub-committee have been beavering away at this for quite a while and it is close to the big reveal.

I've been working with people from Net Zero Channel and Circular Economy Huon who were part of our August Sustainable Living Gathering to craft a submission to the Tasmanian government's draft Transport Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plan. This is being prepared under the recent amendments to the Climate Act. We will hit 'send' on Wednesday. According to the ReCFIT website 'Transport accounts for around 21 per cent of Tasmania's emissions (excluding LULUCF). The majority

(95 per cent) of transport emissions come from road transportation (made up of cars: 46 per cent, heavy duty trucks and buses: 31 per cent, and light commercial vehicles: 23 per cent).’ (https://recfit.tas.gov.au/tasmanias_greenhouse_gas_emissions) So the biggest part of the contribution of transport to climate change comes from our cars. Our submission makes a big point about the role of community groups in inspiring changes in how we get around. We also criticise the lack of targets and timelines. Stage 2 of the Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans is the Waste plan which is now open for public comment. A submission doesn’t have to be a many pages, academic exercise. Your ideas and concerns as a householder and community member are really important, so have a look at the draft Plan and let them know what you care about. https://recfit.tas.gov.au/emissions_reduction_and_resilience_plans/waste. Alternatively, let me know what matters to you and we will look to include it in an SLT submission (president@slt.org.au).

To finish with some good news:

<https://grist.org/energy/portugal-just-ran-on-100-percent-renewables-for-six-days-in-a-row/>

Best wishes

Margaret

Climate School

Carl Nasman, BBC Future Earth

14 November 2023



Climate education is finding its way to curricula around the world, from the US to Latin America, the Caribbean, India, the European Union and more. (Credit: Getty Images)

Stepping into the towering atrium at Science Park High School in Newark, New Jersey, I can't help but feel a few butterflies in my stomach. I am going back to school after all!

I've come to the Garden State to meet some of the students **leading the nation in climate change education**.

In 2020, New Jersey became the first state in the country to *require* that climate change be taught in schools from the youngest pupils to the oldest – kindergarten to 12th grade. The state may stand out for its climate education in the US, but it reflects a much wider attempt to teach young people about how to confront and reduce the impacts humans have on our planet. This generation will **face enormous increases in extreme weather events** due to climate change, according to scientists. So, from India to the Caribbean, schools are working to educate their students about the climate.

The approach in New Jersey avoids dwelling on doom and gloom. Instead, teachers emphasise proactive lessons – like today's.

My day begins in advanced placement science class, taught by Phoebe Gruetter. Her classroom of about 30 students is buzzing.

They take turns walking (or running) around the room where their peers give them a rapid rundown of a climate issue, like **rising sea levels**, **heat waves** or **fast fashion**. Each presentation ends with a look at how to combat the problem.



Climate education isn't confined to science class, but finds its way all around the school – including the art studio (Credit: BBC)

The effects of the new curriculum are everywhere you look.

In an art classroom, plastic bottles collected from campus are overflowing from closets and into a mound that covers half the studio. The bottles are soon to become giant sea creatures like orcas and squid to hang in the atrium.

One area of possible contention: are students too young to study a topic that has the potential **to feel overwhelming or depressing**?

"I don't think they come away from it anxious, because we touch on solutions on an individual basis and on a wider basis," says Gruetter. "They learn about the science behind it, and what can be done to actually reduce the impacts, then I think they feel a lot more confident about it."

The students, likewise, are full of enthusiasm.

"It makes me proud that we took on this idea because it's part of our daily lives, we have to be informed," says second year student Cynthia McMillon.

"A lot of people just don't know anything about how much they're contributing to this crisis or the long-term effects it will have," twelfth-grader Luciana Molina tells me. "Knowledge is the greatest tool we can have."

Life Lessons

Many students have already experienced extreme weather disasters fuelled by global warming: from **Hurricane Ida in 2021** to the **Canadian wildfire smoke** that blanketed parts of the northeast this summer.

"I remember the city was filled with smoke and fog," Vincent Nguyen, chair of the science department at Science Park, recalls. That day, the students were sent home.

"It was quite terrifying for the younger ones. For the first time, probably in their lives, the sky was pink, and the visibility was very low. And it was just hard to breathe."

Learn more about **how and why wildfires in the US are on the rise** in my explainer video.

Catching On

New Jersey's efforts are part of a much wider trend.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, 24 countries include environmental issues in educational legislation. India revised its National Curriculum Framework earlier this year, identifying care for the environment as a "central theme". Meanwhile EU countries are working towards making sustainability education a "systemic" part of schooling.

Back in the US, the picture is still uneven. Only 20 states have signed on to *voluntary* science standards that include climate change. And recently, states such as Texas and Florida have been accused of watering down climate curricula.

But more states could be following New Jersey's lead. In 2023, Connecticut became the second state to mandate a climate curriculum. California and New York may not be far behind.

At Science Park, after the din of the group presentations dies down, Gruetter reflects on the impact the state's climate standards have already had.

"I have had students come away from my class making real changes in their lives," says Gruetter. She's seen students become vegetarian, cut back on meat, or change their transportation habits – "because of what they learned in the class."

To follow the story further, watch my report from New Jersey on BBC News.

Climate Quizz

Canada's wildfire this season was massive in scale.

How many times more land burned in Canada this year compared to the 40-year average?

- A. Four times more
- B. Eight times more
- C. Eleven times more



ANSWER:

Eight times more land burned in Canada this year than the average for the past 40 years. And it could get worse.

Lightning frequency in northern forests is expected to increase by 11-31% for every degree of global warming, making wildfires more likely. "But my take-home message is it's not too late to make a change," says climate scientist Katrina Moser from the University of Western Ontario.

[Read more on BBC News.](#)

Tamar NRM 'Going Circular' Sustainable Living Festival

Lead-up events Feb 24 - March 1 2024

Sustainable Business & Community Awards March 1 2024

Sustainable Living Festival March 2, 2024

Expressions of Interest for exhibitors, workshop hosts, presenters, entertainers and more are now open. Head to www.tamarnrm.com.au/festival for all the details.

Sustainable Living Festival 2024

Going Circular

Celebrating ways to embrace *circular principles* in everyday choices - with **SPECIAL GUEST Craig Reucassel** from ABC's **WAR ON WASTE**.

| REGENERATING NATURAL SYSTEMS | REPAIR | REUSE | REPURPOSE |
| RECYCLE | RETHINK DESIGN | REMANUFACTURE |

Saturday | 2 MARCH FREE EVENT

FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM
TRAMSHEDS & INVERESK PRECINCT, LAUNCESTON

For more information: www.tamarnrm.com.au

PROUDLY FUNDED BY:



This event is an initiative of Tamar NRM's Sustainable Community Working Group made up of members from Tamar NRM, Transition Tamar, Plastic Free Launceston, City of Launceston Council, West Tamar Council, George Town Council and the Launceston Chamber of Commerce.




www.slt.org.au/donate_once-off

To make a tax deductible donation click [here](#).

The 'Going Circular'

Sustainable Business & Community Awards

To nominate your business, community group, or to nominate someone else, click [here](#).




REPAIR | REUSE | REPURPOSE | RECYCLE | RETHINK DESIGN | REMANUFACTURE | REGENERATING NATURAL SYSTEMS |

Sustainable Living Festival 2024

With SPECIAL GUEST Craig Reucassel from ABC's WAR ON WASTE

Going Circular


Sustainable Business & Community Awards


 Sustainable Business Award
 Sustainable Organisation Award
 Sustainable Individual Award

AWARDS NIGHT
Friday | 1 MARCH
Tramsheds, Launceston

Nominations Close: Friday, January 26, 2024

PROUDLY FUNDED BY:



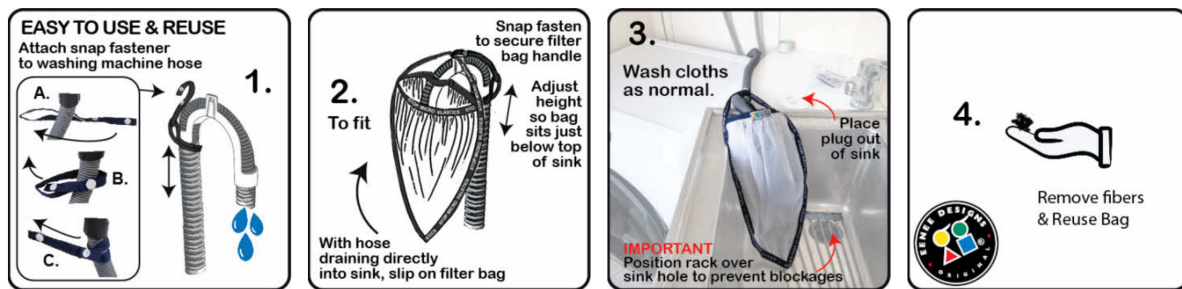
This event is an initiative of Tamar NRM's Sustainable Community Working Group made up of members from Tamar NRM, Transition Tamar, Plastic Free Launceston, City of Launceston Council, West Tamar Council, George Town Council and the Launceston Chamber of Commerce.

A Tassie Invention Helps Stop Microplastics from Leaving your Washing Machine

Eenee, a Tassie company has released its latest invention responding to the fact that 35% of the primary plastic in our oceans is from washing our clothes!

After much trial and testing, they have landed on the simple, affordable and effective 100 micron filter bag which is fitted over the end of your washing machine hose outlet.

Now everyone can do their bit to help reduce this growing problem of microplastics in our environment.



Suitable for all types of domestic washing machines.

Find them here: <https://eenee.com/microplastics.filter.bag/>

How a 'kitchen table discussion' led to a \$5m solar farm funded by residents to provide local power

Goulburn community solar farm sees local investors take action against climate change and power bills

[Landline](#) / By [Justin Huntsdale](#) and [Tim Fernandez](#)
Sat 12 Aug 2023



Dimity Taylor is among the 300 investors in the Goulburn community solar farm. (ABC Illawarra: Justin Huntsdale)

At Dimity Taylor's sheep farm at Bannister, north of Goulburn, the spinning shadows of 50-metre-long wind turbine blades sweep across her property at sunset.

She not only lives happily at the feet of one of the region's many wind farms, she

does not mind the sound either.

"The reflection off the turbines during sunset is just so beautiful," she said.

"There is some noise occasionally, but it's got to be perfect conditions, and even then, when we do hear them, it kind of sounds like the ocean."

After living alongside one form of renewable energy, she is now investing in another.

Ms Taylor is one of 300 Goulburn residents who have bought into a nearly \$5 million solar farm being built by a community organisation called Community Energy 4 Goulburn on the town's outskirts to feed power into the grid.

To read more, please click [here](#)

Sustainable Living Events happening around Tasmania

Growing Food and Flowers with the Burnie Seed Library

Tuesday, 5 December, 4.30pm, Burnie Library



Burnie Seed Library is a free community seed-sharing group that aims to encourage a love of growing & gardening, promote sustainability, improve seed diversity & build food resilience & self-reliance in our community.

Chat all about gardening – share and learn about growing plants from seeds, what to plant now and much more.

Take home free seeds to get started!

[Click here for details.](#)

ReMake! Upcycling Clothes Into Something New!

Friday 7 Dec, 5.15pm, ReDress Hub, Shop 4, 94 York Street Launceston



Are you interested in reinventing clothing from your wardrobe or charity shops but not sure where to start?

This interactive workshop with the talented refashionista Lisa Haas, takes you through aspects of the design process as well as deconstructing and reconstructing garments mindfully, in order to make the best use of materials at hand.

Click [here](#) for details.

Grassroots Festival 2024

Wed, 14 Feb 2024 08:30 - Thu, 15 Feb 2024 17:30

789 Montumana Road Montumana,
TAS 7321



Grassroots Festival is an immersive, boots on the ground, hands in the soil, two day event. There will be various demonstration sites on the day, hosted by experts to provide interpretation.

The festival will wrap up with a Farmers Feast and Fellowship Dinner, giving attendees an opportunity to connect and share the fellowship of being involved with the most important industry on earth!

Bookings essential. For details click [here](#).

Behind Closed Drawers

Saturday 24 February, 2024

46 Margaret Street Launceston, 11am - 2pm

A Preloved Clothing Market at St Albies Hall. Free Entry.

For more details click [here](#).



A [Tamar NRM Going Circular Sustainable Living Festival Lead Up Event](#)

Screening of Rachel's Farm

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, Du Cane Brewery, Launceston



RACHEL'S FARM is a triumphant film, featuring intimate interviews with Rachel, her family and the people she has been inspired by on her transition from the world of entertainment to the world of farming. It gives a unique insight into her voyage from wilful ignorance about the ecological impacts of conventional agriculture to embracing a movement to restore the health of Australia's farmland, food and climate. "Rachel's Farm" is for anyone who cares about how their food is produced, how degraded our soils have become, and the changing role of women on farms.

A [Tamar NRM Going Circular Sustainable Living Festival](#) Lead Up Event. Tickets on sale January 2024.



NW Ecofest

Saturday 16 April, 2024

Camp Clayton, Ulverstone

For more details click [here](#).



Wishing our members the very best for the Festival Season.

May the season be filled with love and gratitude, sparing a thought for those who may not be as fortunate.

We look forward to planning e-forums, events, workshops and gatherings in 2024 which engage, inspire and encourage each other to live more sustainably. And we are looking forward to the launch of the new SLT website. Look out for your sneak peak early in 2024.

On behalf of the SLT Board and Staff,

Merry Christmas and a healthy joyful New Year.

Let us help promote your next sustainable living event!

Does your organisation have a sustainable living event you would like us to include in our newsletter?

Email the details and links to sandra@slt.org.au

Deadline 25th of each month



Sustainable Living Tasmania
This email was sent to sandra@slt.org.au · [Unsubscribe](#)