



Learning in Future Environments (LiFE)

FAQ Fact Sheet for Champions

Introduction

The [LiFE Index](#) is a structured process at Charles Sturt University started in 2013 for evaluating current practices that support or impede good sustainability practices and for developing improvement plans via cross-organisational participation.

How does it work?

Sustainability at Charles Sturt supports a network of approximately over 100 Champions from across Charles Sturt who have an influence over key framework areas. We coordinate an ongoing annual schedule of participatory workshops identify existing areas of good sustainable practice, opportunities for further improvement across all activity areas of our organisation, and ways of prioritising and resourcing improvement actions towards best practice.

“Providing an educational experience that is greener, more responsible and healthier is what future students want.”

What’s in it for me and my team?

Being sustainable is a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity Providing an educational experience that is greener, more responsible and healthier is what future students want. Participants in LiFE workshops contribute their knowledge and understanding to assess current practice and identify improvements. There are leadership opportunities within and beyond Charles Sturt and you can demonstrate what sustainability best practices are. LiFE provides opportunities to explore innovations and to connect with like-minded people.

What’s in it for Charles Sturt University?

Charles Sturt University is a national leader in the sustainability space particularly for our status as [Australia’s first certified carbon neutral university](#), for our large roof-top solar installations, and both our teaching and research capabilities in the fields of agriculture, water and the environment. We have been externally recognized for excellence in sustainability at the local, state and national levels. This gives Charles Sturt credibility when attracting students and research funding, which allows us to lead by example and share our learnings with our peers and in our local communities.

Talk about sustainability with your colleagues

Sustainability at Charles Sturt has developed a [PowerPoint presentation](#) with information on our credentials and overall targets. This empowers LiFE Champions to continue communications, mentoring and coaching activities with staff and students. Perhaps you can place 'LiFE' on your regular team meetings to see what sustainability improvements can be embedded in your group?

Join your local Campus Environment Committee (CEC)

CEC's employ a collaborative approach to achieving environmental sustainability involving staff, students and neighbouring stakeholders. For more information look at the Campus Environmental Committee [fact sheet](#).



CEC members assisting in the creation of the pollinator garden

Anticipated resistance and barriers to participation

It's human nature to resist change.

Making more sustainable choices need not add to your current workload. Often it can be just tweaking what you already do. Ideas for change could be embedding a sustainability standard into a subject or assessment, operating buildings, and equipment efficiently, or implementing lifecycle costing.

Training, mentoring and coaching opportunities

The 'Sustainability at Charles Sturt' [ELMO module](#) provides training opportunities to be informed in 30 minutes. You may book in an individual or group coaching sessions with Champions and Sustainability at Charles Sturt staff. Contact us at sustainability@csu.edu.au for more information.

Other Resources

- [Grants](#) – Sustainability at Charles Sturt have Grants available for Staff and Students who have a project or research aligned with the university sustainability outcomes and [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)

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