Quarterly Newsletters 2014
Quarterly Newsletter

Hello and welcome to the quarterly newsletter of the Zero Waste Research Centre for Sustainable Design and Behaviour (sd+b).

The Zero Waste Centre celebrates 5 years!

Founded in 2008, our Centre is a multi-disciplinary research and innovation cluster. The last year has been another very active year for the sd+b Centre, with a number of new people, new grants and new projects. It is already obvious that 2014 will be another exciting year for the Zero Waste Centre for Sustainable Design and Behaviour, with important events and publications lined up.

Now is a good time to get involved in our research projects and collaborate!

At the beginning of the new year, we have rolled up our sleeves and have gone straight to work with our partner organisations and global network partners. We are particularly excited that our work in China has taken off and the important research collaboration with the United Nations will continue on several levels and with various initiatives throughout the year.

Read more

New researchers commenced in the Centre

We are pleased to welcome three new members to sd+b Centre:

- Dr Conrad Philipp, a Post-Doc Research Fellow in the Centre
- Ms Vanessa Miler, sd+b Centre Officer
- Mr Martijn Kuller, a sustainability researcher from the Netherlands

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Introducing PhD researcher Mr He He

Mr He He from Shanghai commenced his PhD studies on 1 September 2013 and is researching ‘The Development of a Demand Forecasting Tool for ETWW to support Low Carbon Precinct Planning’. Part of a larger CRC research project, this study explores the potential for greenhouse gas reductions through an integrated tool platform that deals with material flow and the waste domain, leading to better scenario planning of future low carbon districts.

He recently presented the research at the Zero Waste Board meeting.

Read more
Report on urbanisation for UN ESCAP completed

The Centre recently completed a report for UN-ESCAP entitled ‘Planning principles for sustainable and green cities in the Asia-Pacific region: a new platform for engagement’ to be launched at the World Cities Summit in Singapore in June 2014. As a follow-up, the Centre has also been commissioned to contribute a chapter to the important ‘State of Asia-Pacific Cities’ report, which will be published by UN-Habitat and UN-ESCAP this year.

Read more

International

The Executive Director of the Centre, Professor Steffen Lehmann has been invited to the World Urban Forum (WUF 7) in Medellin, Colombia, in April 2014, where he will participate in a UN-EP panel. In March he will lead a Group Mission to Beijing and Tianjin and co-organise a public research forum on 1 April at Tianjin University. Steffen will also visit Tibet for a research project with the University of Tibet in Lhasa, with the aim of exploring material flow and integrating new concepts of closed-loop management and zero waste principles.

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Research project with the City of Unley

The City of Unley (South Australia) and the sd+b Centre are committed to engaging in and developing research which addresses the issues and needs of an ageing population, identified as one of the pressing challenges of our time. The project ‘Age-friendly Precinct Standards’ deals with the definition of what would constitute an ideal situation for development of age-friendly mixed-use neighbourhoods, communities, public spaces and housing typologies. It identifies key indicators and formulates standards for the design of age-friendly precincts and communities.

Read more

Other News

A warm welcome to two new members of the Advisory Board of the sd+b Centre: Ms Janet Dibb-Leigh and Mr Stuart Moseley. Our international joint research centre, CAC_SUD with Tianjin University has been noted in UniSA’s Crossing the Horizon action plan, under Action 6: A globally visible university with international reach and leverage.

The work of the sd+b Centre will be featured in the prestigious Planet Talks at WOMADelaide on 10 March; in the Place Leaders Conference on 6 March; and in a keynote address at the IHC’s 2014 Conference in Brisbane on 20 August.
About the Centre

The sd+b Centre is a partnership between the University of South Australia (UniSA) and government agency Zero Waste SA. The sd+b Centre, founded in 2009, is a University-recognised Centre and multi-disciplinary Research and Innovation Cluster at UniSA, with interest and expertise in a wide range of environmental and sustainability issues, such as low carbon urban futures. It is located in the School of Art, Architecture & Design and develops international research expertise for intelligent, holistic solutions and improved decision-making in environmental sustainability.

For more information:
unisa.edu.au/sustainable-design
unisa.edu.au/china.australia

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Quarterly Newsletter

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**Professor Steffen Lehmann appointed new Head of School in Perth**

After 4 years at UniSA, Prof. Steffen Lehmann has been asked to serve as Head of School of the School of Built Environment at Curtin University in Perth. He will be leaving UniSA on 30 June 2014.

"After 11 years as full professor and a range of successful leadership positions, I am excited to be able to take this next step," he said. "The new position as Head of School will allow me to reposition the school as a global leader and powerhouse in sustainable design and practice. I am looking forward to the school’s transformation into a powerful research and teaching institution. It’s an exciting new challenge and I am grateful for the support of my centres at UniSA and the good collaboration over the last years."

UniSA will soon announce an Acting Director of the sd+b Centre.

[Read more](#)

**sd+b Centre leading research in urban microclimates**

On 21 February 2014, the Centre organised, together with UNSW and the University of Melbourne, a successful research workshop with 25 participants on the topic of ‘Urban Microclimates: Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide’. This $1.2m project led by Prof. Steffen Lehmann is organised with the CRC for Low Carbon Living and involves nine industry and government partners and five PhD students. The next workshop will be held September 2014.

[Read more](#)

**Introducing our new Centre Officer**

Ms Vanessa Milen commenced as Centre Officer on 1 February 2014. She holds a Master of Architecture from TU-Berlin and a Bachelor of Architectural Studies from the University of Adelaide, and has extensive experience in project management in Australia and Germany.

Over the last 18 years she has been living in Berlin, where she has been concentrating on the management and construction of green buildings. Please join us in warmly welcoming Vanessa to the Centre.

[Read more](#)
Public presentations on the topic of Sustainable Cities

The work of the Centre has recently been in the spotlight. Prof. Steffen Lehmann was a keynote speaker at WOMAD ‘Planet Talks’ and at the Place Leaders conference in Adelaide, where he spoke on “Transforming Cities”.

He also gave a series of interviews for different radio stations, including the ABC and SBS Radio.

Read more

International lecture tour

On a recent lecture tour in China, Professor Steffen Lehmann spoke at a series of leading universities, such as Tsinghua University in Beijing and Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, and at the Chinese Academy, on the topic of new research agendas in urban futures and urbanisation in the Asia-Pacific region (in April 2014). China’s rapid urbanisation is one of the Centre’s key research topics, with research published in the forthcoming book ‘Low Carbon Cities’ (Routledge, 2014) and in the UN report ‘State of Asia-Pacific Cities’ (to be launched Oct. 2014).

Read more

Group mission to Tianjin University

The sd+b Centre, in collaboration with the China-Australia Centre for Sustainable Urban Development, is working on 7 research projects with Tianjin University (China). In April, the Centre organised and led a group mission to Tianjin University, where a research forum was held: 12 researchers from UniSA travelled to Tianjin to present their research, funded by a grant of the Australia-China Science and Research Fund.

Read more

Recent publications

Members of the sd+b Centre have published new research in a series of international, high-ranking peer-refereed journals and presented papers at important conferences worldwide, including:

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