



# Green Steps

Sustainability training and internships

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# Outline

- Green Skills
- Green Steps
  - What?
  - Why?
  - How?
  - And...
  - Oh! and..
- Shameless plug



# Green Skills

- ?
- New jobs vs 'Green' implant
- ACF, ACTU, UNEP
- Skills for the new Carbon Challenge
- ... Education for Sustainability?

# What? - Green Steps

- Sustainability training and internship program
- Cross-disciplinary
- Focus on sustainability within organisations
- Broad, introductory, first steps
- Survives on govt. grants and some income

# Why? - A brief history

- Began at Monash in 2000
- Students wanting to engage business
- Create change
- New skills/experience
- Supportive network
- Entrepreneurs/employability



# How? - Program structure

- Two main phases:
  1. Sustainability training
  2. Internships
- 12-14 students selected per course (competitive process)
- Free
- Extra-curricular



# 'Typical' group



# How? - Sustainability Training

- Content:
  - Environmental auditing
  - Change management
  - Communication skills
  - Action planning and strategy
- Intensive
- Highly interactive, hands-on
- Facilitators – past participants



# How? - Internships

- 12 days
- Real sustainability projects
- Paid (generally!) – hosts charged
- Host organisations:
  - Private business (Banks, energy providers, retailers, manufacturers)
  - Government (federal, state, local councils)
  - Not for profit organisations
  - Schools

# Typical internships

- Environmental assessments
- Education and behaviour change
- Sustainability reporting
- Action planning
- Research
- And a whole lot more....



# Example host organisations

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Austin Hospital</li><li>•Department of Justice</li><li>•National Australia Bank</li><li>•Wesley Mission Melbourne</li><li>•Red Cross Australia</li><li>•National Gallery of Victoria</li><li>•Office of the Governor (Vic)</li><li>•Parsons Brinkhoff</li><li>•Australian Unity</li><li>•Shell Australia</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Department of Environment</li><li>•Surf Life Saving Australia</li><li>•Northern Territory Airports</li><li>•City of Port Phillip</li><li>•Greenfleet</li><li>•Seaway Ltd</li><li>•Cochlear</li><li>•Lifeline Brisbane</li><li>•Ambulance Victoria</li></ul> |
|---|--|



# And...outcomes for Steppers

- Recognised program
- Chance to translate theory to practice
- 'Real-world' experience
- Contacts in sector
- Foot in the door
- Growing national alumni

# And... Green Steps today

- 10<sup>th</sup> year
- ≈200 Monash students
- Partnerships with other universities
- ≈500 alumni nationwide
- ≈300 host organisations
- Green Steps @ Work



# And... Partners past and present

- Australian National University\*
- Curtin University of Technology\*
- Flinders University\*
- Griffith University\*
- University of Queensland
- Macquarie University\*
- University of Sydney
- Monash University\*
- University of Melbourne
- James Cook University

# And... some bragging

- *"I am ready to take on the world!"*
- *"Am looking forward to trying out the tools I learnt in the real world... I wish university could adopt such an approach to teaching."*
- *"One of the best things I have done throughout my university studies."*
- *"Increased my confidence immensely. I now have the tools and knowledge to work towards environmental change"*

Eureka Prizes



Category Winner



MONASH University

Green Steps  
Sustainability Training  
and Consultancy



# Oh! and...

- University sustainability programs
- Education for Sustainability (a start?)
- Green skills for students

# Shameless plug...

- **Green Steps for your students?**

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[www.monash.edu.au/research/sustainability-institute/green-steps/](http://www.monash.edu.au/research/sustainability-institute/green-steps/)