

Benjamine Duncan, Head of Sustainability, University of Technology Sydney

Prior to joining the University, Benjamine acquired experience in Sustainability Strategy and Reporting working with large organisations including Westfield and EY in Australia and she developed understanding of Risk Management and Responsible Investments from her early career in the Netherlands and the UK.

At UTS, she manages a team of Sustainability engineers and engagement professionals whose responsibility is to improve UTS's sustainability performance through the planning, delivery and communication of sustainability initiatives across campus - focusing on smart technologies, renewable energy, energy efficiency opportunities, staff & students engagement and activations.

UTS opens its plastic free food court

In 2019, UTS celebrated the opening of our newest campus building UTS Central. The public food court in the building was designed to phase out single use plastics in response to environmental concerns of staff and students. Staff and students are encouraged to bring their own reusable cups, containers and cutlery. All take-away food packaging is commercially compostable (a mix of cardboard, paper, bamboo and PLA) and all drink containers are recyclable glass, aluminium and paper board. This development of the plastic-free food court was part of the UTS Plastic Free by 2020 Plan designed to phase out single-use plastics on campus. The UTS Central plastic-free food court sets a new benchmark for Australia and is a manifestation of the university's commitment to on-campus sustainability. In 2020, UTS will be converting around 19 tonnes of waste into usable compost, by diverting food scraps and packaging to be commercially composted rather than added to landfill.