

**Kym Witney-Soanes, Sustainability Officer, Charles Sturt University**

**Ed Maher, Manager, CSU Green, Charles Sturt University**

Kym has previously worked in a diversity of positions as a project manager, evaluator, researcher and natural resource management professional in Wagga Wagga, South Coast WA, the Western District of Victoria and the Queensland section of the Murray-Darling Basin. She believes in the power of connecting people to create change.

Kym has a Bachelor of Science from ANU and a Master of Science degree from Griffith University in Environmental Management. Kym's role at CSU Green for almost four years is to facilitate the implementation of the Learning in Future Environments (LiFE) Index across the university. She presents annually at the ACTS conference and is on a national LiFE Working Party. She also drives biodiversity management across the six campuses.

Ed is proud to be associated with Australia's first certified Carbon Neutral University and is currently tasked with leading the organisation's 2030 Clean Energy Strategy.

Ed's particular areas of interest and experience include:

- Sustainability leadership
- Carbon reduction
- Energy & water efficiency
- Student/staff engagement
- Waste minimisation and resource recovery

Ed has 15 years' experience working in resource efficiency roles and possesses formal qualifications in Environmental Science, Carbon Management, Small Business Management and University Leadership.

**LiFE Framework Session**

Charles Sturt University adopted the Learning in Future Environments (LiFE) Index in 2012 as their sustainability framework. This Index is used by 70 tertiary institutions internationally, and administered across Australasia by ACTS. The LiFE Index is a structured process for evaluating current practices that support or impede good sustainability practices, and for developing improvement plans via cross-organisational participation.

This session will examine Charles Sturt's interpretation and implementation of the Index. This involves a taste of the participatory workshop experience implemented on a six monthly basis across the university. Charles Sturt coordinate an ongoing annual schedule of participatory workshops that identify existing areas of good sustainable practice; opportunities for improvement across all activity areas of the organisation; and ways of prioritising and resourcing improvement actions towards best practice. This process is core to continually engaging key stakeholders and to working towards an annual embedded LiFE key performance indicator in the Charles Sturt University Strategy.