

Society for Sustainability and Environmental Engineering 2012

SSEE has had an active and productive year, with many technical sessions held by our chapters. At a national level, we have achieved many of our goals for 2012 including:

- The SSEE 2011 International Conference was held in Brisbane from 26-26 October. The event was very successful with some very high profile keynote speakers such as Annie Leonard and Paul Gilding. A call to action for Engineers was also developed and agreed to by all delegates at the conference. Our next conference will be held in Canberra in September 2013, to coincide with Floriade and the Canberra Centenary Celebrations.
- A stand and technical stream at the 2012 Ecoforum, which was held in Sydney from 7-9 March 2012. SSEE intends to participate in Ecoforum again in 2013.
- A sustainability survey was sent to all members of Engineers Australia and associated societies. We are very happy to have received 3484 responses from a wide range of EA members. Most respondents were not members of SSEE. Respondents overwhelmingly believe that climate change is occurring (75%), with 65% considering it human-induced. We are in the process of having a report prepared to summarise the results, which will be published in our magazine.
- The winner of our 2012 National Student Award was Daniel Harrington from the University of Southern Queensland for his project on *Coal seam gas water as a medium to grow marine microalgae for biofuel production*. Daniel will present his paper on this topic at the SSEE 2013 conference in Canberra in next year.
- A special general meeting was held on line to vote on a name change so that it is more manageable and suited to our needs. Voting is now complete, and the result is The **Sustainable Engineering Society**; however, we still need to gain approval from Engineers Australia Council. We anticipate that Council will consider the name-change favourably, given the transparency of the process adopted by the SSEE Board.

I see SSEE as a great vehicle for assisting change in many different ways, and encourage you all to become active members so we can network and support each other. I look forward to working with the Board and our members to achieve our goals in the coming year.

Lara Harland

SSEE National Board Chair

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