UNI-VERSE POET-TREE entrants 2008
Poems addressed the theme of the 2008 World Environment Day; "Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy".

In Alphabetical Order

REPAIR NOT REPLACE
By Mrs Lynne Clements, Faculty of Informatics

Sea level rising
Weather extreme
Droughts and heatwaves
What does it mean?

The planet is warming
A blanket is formed
The sun is still shining
The people are warned.

The habit needs kicking we’re constantly told,
We’ve all got a part to play, young and the old.

Take up alternatives for energy sources,
do something positive for our limited resources
get on your bike or the bus or the train,
Use low energy light bulbs, again and again.
Buy local produce, repair not replace.
Holiday locally – forget about space!
Insulate your home, your body and feet,
Forget about heaters and walk the beat.

So here’s a suggestion or three or four,
We can all kick the habit,
… let our world live far more!

CARBON BEAST
By: Mr Tom Hunt, Buildings and Grounds

We had an ice age did you know?
Just twelve thousand years ago
One of several in
Earth’s long long history
It seems our climate’s not so stable
And we can change it, yes we’re able
We found that buried carbon beast
Inadvertently released
Was a trick of nature
   cleaning up our air
A billion year storage plan
Wrecked by a few short years of man

Is it too late to make it stop
The steady warming of our lot
The ice is melting
   by degrees
Eventual 70 metre seas
And flooding all the worlds cities

Energy abounds inside Earths core
And from the Sun there’s even more
There are alternatives
   We have the money
Lock what remains up in the ground
Short term wealth is just not sound

It is the only home we know
We’ve got no other place to go
Should we continue just to row
Just to row, row up the creek
Should we continue to be meek

We can each do something to conserve
Slow down the mining of reserves
But consider dealing
   with the human plague
Speed’s not so much the big concern
It’s more the direction that we turn

We love our warmth, we love our cool
We love our cars, we are such fools
The pain to motivate
   is still a lifetime away
To get out of this comfortable rut
We need leaders with foresight and guts

MY LITTLE GREENIE MESSAGE
By A/Prof Nigel Mackay, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

I sent an email to “all staff”
But on the way I lost it:
The Uni Censor picked it up
And put it in her pocket
She was truckin' on down the avenue,
Without a single thing to do
She was peck-peck-peckin without fail
When she spied it in the mail
I sent an email to “all staff”
And told them that our flying
Would stuff our fragile climate up
And see the planet dying
She took it, she took it
My little greenie message
And if she doesn't bring it back
I think that I shall die
(Was it brown?) no,no,no,no,
(Was it red?) no,no,no,no,
(Was it blue?) no,no,no,no,
Just a little greenie message

CARING
By Mr David Moore, Faculty of Informatics

Plant more trees whispers the breeze,
PLANT more trees says the ocean,
PLANT MORE trees yells the mountains,
PLANT MORE TREES ROARS the sand as it encroaches upon the green land.
Put the carbon back into the ground tumbles from the waterfall, Use less plastic grumbles the waves as they break upon the shore, Use less plastic repeats the bush, Voices rise and CRY out to our uncaring world “DO THIS & we will look after you and your children”.
Silence then reins for a time until the next breeze reminds you of the call............

UNTITLED
By Dr Patricia Mowbray, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

We are losing our birds, bees and flowers
We are losing our plants, trees and animals
We are losing our snowfields and rivers
Our fish, plankton and coral reefs
But we are trying
We are trying
A little bit of tenderness will save the earth!

TOWARDS LOW CARBON ECONOMY
By "mystery" author, Faculty of Informatics

Once there was a clean universe
Provided to clever people with many ideas Many innovations made it worse Leaving the world with much tears
A new world is being hoped
When wasting energy we now say ‘hope’
Greenhouse gas emissions are being coped Low carbon economy is the best we can hope

**TREE OF YORE**
*Under Pseudonym, Faculty of Science*

There’s carbon in the atmosphere, it’s rising as we speak
It’s past three eighty parts per mil, and heading for a peak
It’s higher than it’s ever been, than we’ve ever seen before
Says old air trapped in ice, from an Antarctic core.
The Arctic ice is melting, and the sea is on the rise
We’ve got to slow emissions; we’ve got to stabilise

It’s burning coal that’s done it, and oil and gas and peat
Those fossil fuels of yesteryear; our transport, power and heat
It’s time to turn to cleaner fuels, the wind, the waves, the sun
They’ve been around for long enough, but their use has just begun
Sequester C O 2 away, or pump it underground
We’ve got to curb emissions, and turn the trend around

You can help to lock some carbon up, if you plant a tree
It’s just a little gesture, but it helps posterity
It seems a little seed at first, but it germinates and shoots
And stores the carbon that it breathes, in branches, twigs and roots
So when your grandchild asks you, ‘what was there you could do?’
Show the tree you planted, and say ‘I planted it for you’

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**A FUTURE**
*By Ms Anne Werner, Faculty of Arts*

When I look deep into the eyes of my amazing child,
Like any parent, I am filled with love, awe and hope.

Yet I am devastated.

The challenges she will face
  - all children will face –
to rebuild our broken world and
balance the devastation
wrought by those
  too greedy
  too thoughtless
  too busy to try
to salvage our home.
The most beautiful gift:
A world nothing short of a miracle.

CONSUME! CONSUME! CONSUME!
We are told.
With no regard for the cost
(not monetary, but environmental, ecological, spiritual)
we blindly obey.
What will it take to change our ways?
Surely
    the future
    the home
    the spirit
of an amazing child
should be enough.