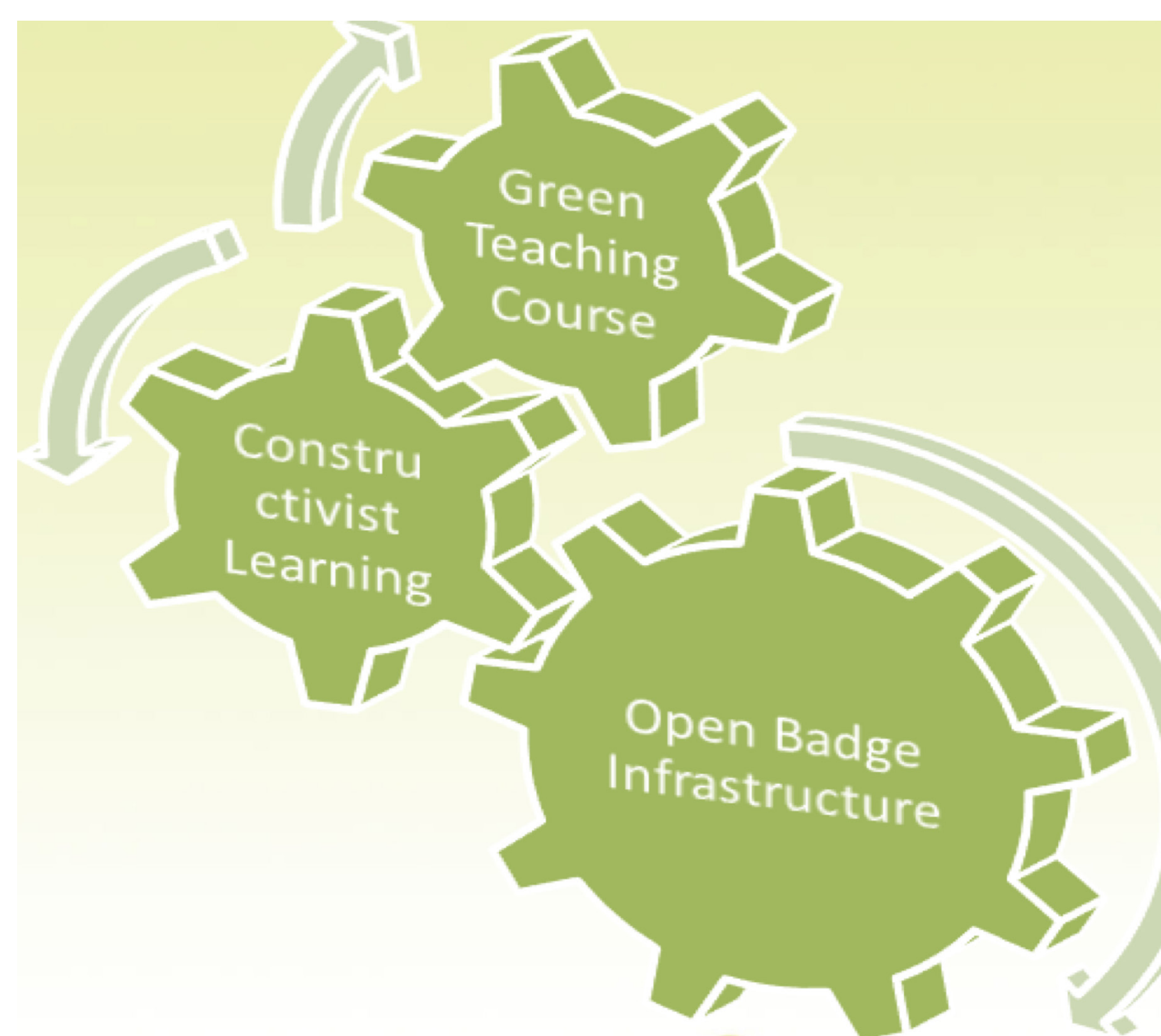# Rewarding sustainability with green teaching badges

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The Green Teaching Badges is a unique, yet simple way to use an online course to achieve the dual goals of promoting awareness of the environmental effects of higher education and maximizing the use of AUTonline tools in teaching by rewarding academics for teaching sustainably with a series of green teaching badges, as well as the 'Certified Green Course' logo displayed with the course title in AUTonline.

Step 1 • Entry Self-assessment Quiz on Green Teaching Awareness (10 questions)

Step 2 • Attending a Self-paced Green Course (read an article, see a video)

Step 3 • Final Self-assessment Quiz on Green Teaching Practices (10 questions) – **Active Learner Badge**

Step 4 • Contribute new finding to Knowledge Base (Wiki) with Comments – **Green Commentator Badge**

Step 5 • To Use Reflect (Journal) and Share (Blog) to Engage with Peers in Active Dialogue and the Exchange of Ideas – **Green Community Activist Badge**
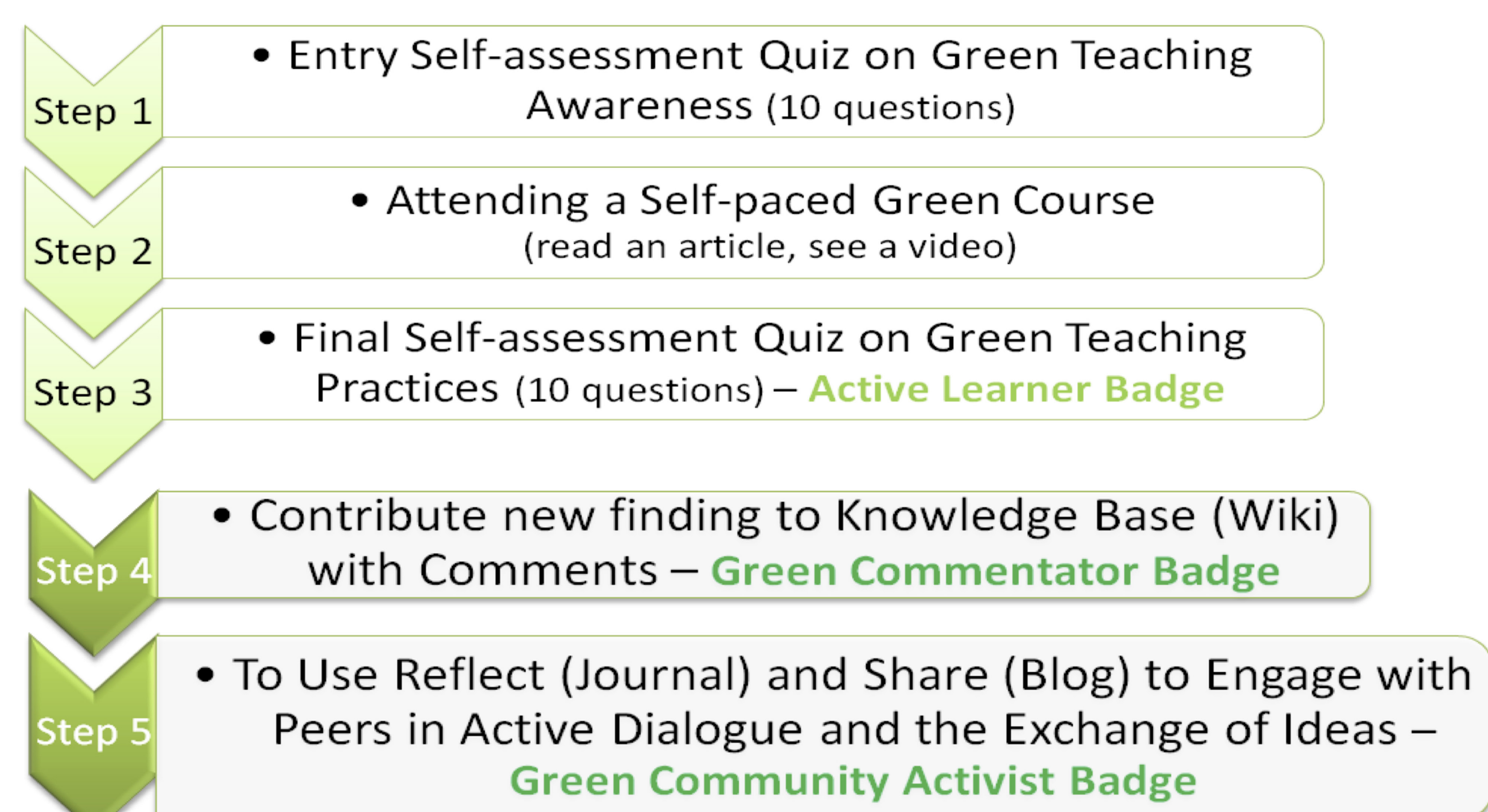
AIMS

The project is aimed to establish a pilot learning and teaching programme to educate, recognize and reward the academics who have environmental awareness, and also applying the best practices of green teaching in their courses. The Achievement Toolkit in AUTonline has been used to develop the process to achieve a series of green teaching badges. An individual academic can qualify for the green teaching badges by self-evaluating their course's sustainability through saving paper, reducing carbon emissions, conserving energy and teaching about the environment. They can transfer their badges issued from AUTonline to the Mozilla Badge Backpack, which enables them to display their green credentials across a range of different display sites: from personal resumes or web sites, to social networking profiles such as LinkedIn, Facebook and WordPress. Moreover, their AUTonline courses can be awarded with the 'Certified Green Course' by displaying a green logo. We have designed a green teaching awareness online course using constructivist principles, using self-assessment quizzes, and encouraging staff to reflect on their own learning using a Journal and share with others using a Wiki.

OUTCOMES

We have developed the process and criteria for achieving a series of green teaching badges such as the Level 1 Green Teaching Active Learner Badge, the Level 2 Green Teaching Commentator Badge and Level 3 Green Teaching Community Activist Badge by considering the different complexities of efforts needed for teaching sustainably.

A prototype of the online green teaching course is currently hosted on the AUTonline Sandpit server. It is now ready for user testing by inviting a group of academics for trials in S1 2014. Moreover, the process of requesting 'Certified Green Course' under Course Requests has also been developed. A conference or journal paper to present the research process, experience and final findings of the introduction of this program is expected after the user testing.
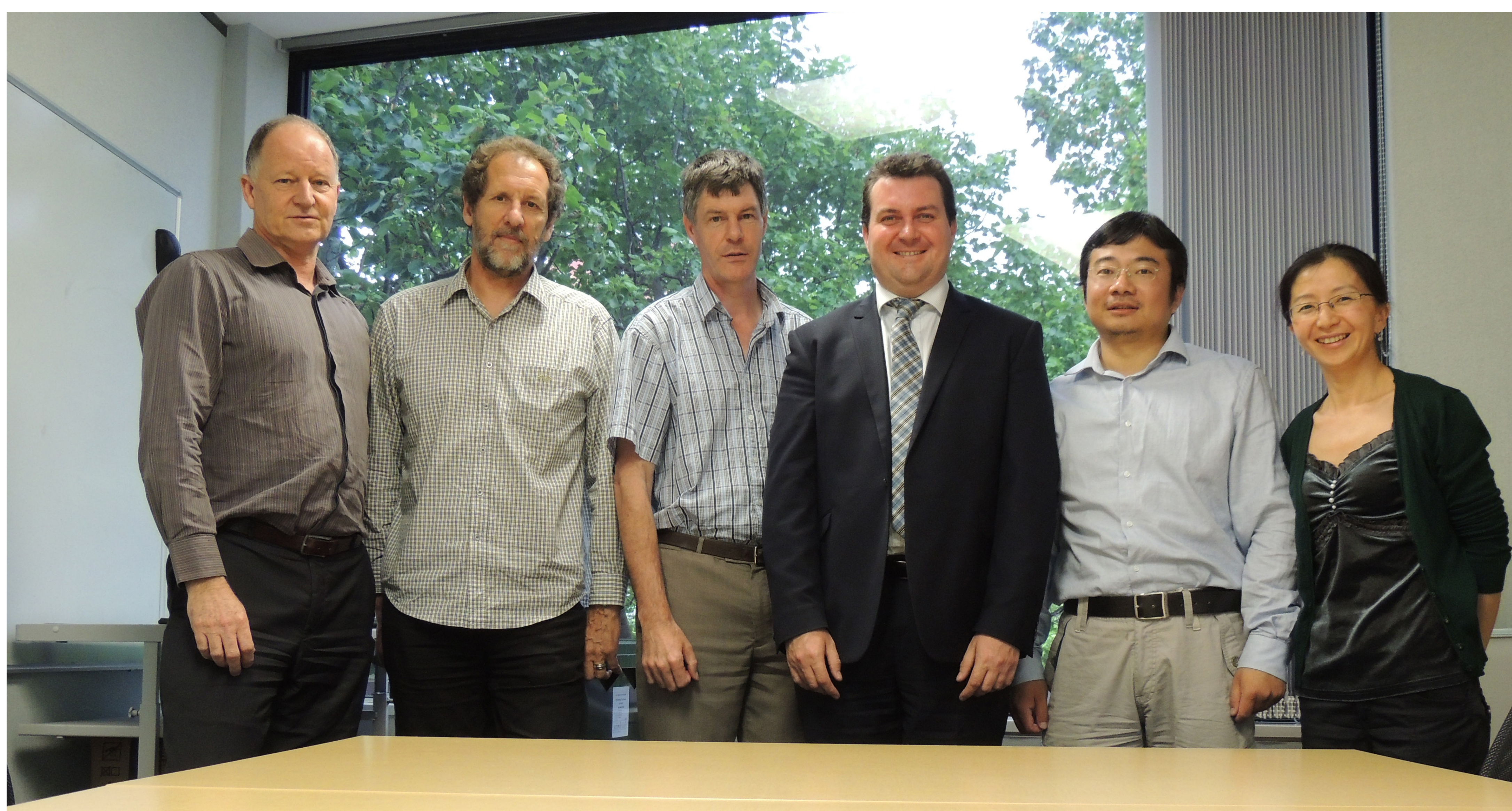
IMPLICATIONS

"As academics, we should have a role as a critic and conscience of society and are uniquely positioned to generate greater awareness of sustainability and to implement sustainable practices. "

As academics, we should have a role as a critic and conscience of society and are uniquely positioned to generate greater awareness of sustainability and to implement sustainable practices. The greater use of non-printed online resources and online course components can potentially provide greater flexibility to students and opportunities for interaction and collaboration. There is strong evidence that AUT students are embracing online and mobile technologies, and this project supports the LATENT strategy. Moreover, the programme assists in reducing the overall costs of teaching without compromising quality, and it strengthens the engagement with learning and maintaining high levels of satisfaction. It is also highly aligned with the AUT Strategic Plan 2012-2016 (5th theme, goal of sustainability).

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

In the future, the process and criteria for being a green teacher and also green certified course need to be further advanced. The current online course is only open for AUT registered learners, and we need to discover a solution to make it also open to outside participants from national and international-wide education communities.