

Sustainability @KU Leuven

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Chairman Sustainability Council

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The role of universities in realising the SDGs

- They educate the next generation of leaders
- They should lead by example
- They develop the technological and social innovations of the future
- They have the ability to make the links between the SDGs
- They have the freedom to experiment with solutions



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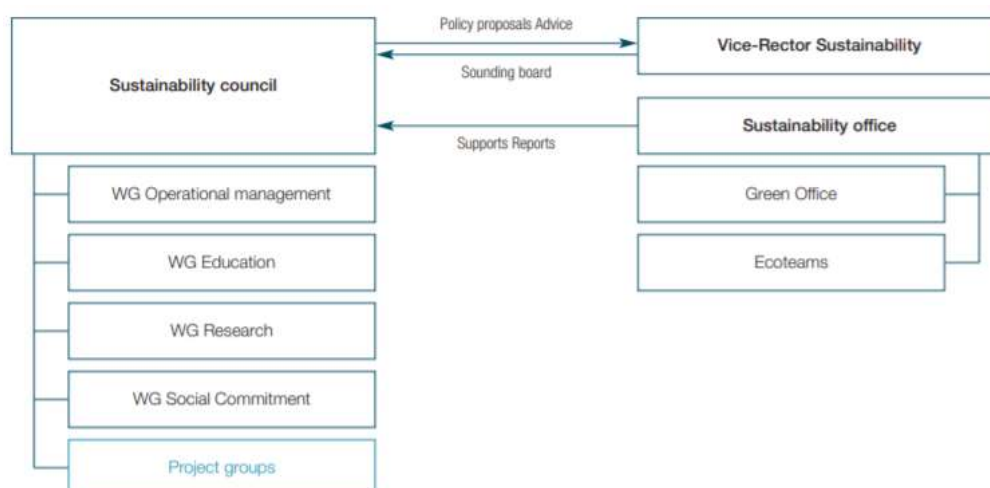
KU Leuven Sustainability Policy Plan



Starting from the SDGs and what is existing already within the university we reflect on what can be done, we take action, we coordinate actions for KU Leuven's:

- Organisation and operational management
- Education
- Research
- Social engagement

SUSTAINABILITY



GREEN OFFICE FOR KU LEUVEN

Established in October 2016 – sustainability hub of KU Leuven where students and staff members work together towards a more sustainable university.

- **organize** projects, campaigns and events, to spread information and raise awareness about sustainability.
- **offer a forum** for experts to explain and showcase their insights, while sparking off a fresh debate with the university population.
- **bridge the gap** between students, partner organizations and the university through our network.
- **engage** students interested in sustainability with our membership program.

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Green Office



2 weeks
30+ challenges

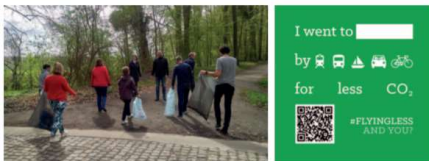
open for
all KU Leuven
students



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ECOTEAMS



- 1 Agora
- 2 HIVA
- 3 Ecoteam TD
- 4 Ecoteam DSV
- 5 De groene valkies
- 6 PGI Goes Green
- 7 KaDee62
- 8 CME
- 9 Esat
- 10 AFI
- 11 ECOOM
- 12 O&N 2 Ecoteam
- 13 Ecoteam SAB
- 14 Green Moves
- 15 Ecoteam DOPO
- 16 LINES green team
- 17 50 tinten groen
- 18 CEE
- 19 Ecoteam PPW
- 20 SBIB Green Team
- 21 BMe
- 22 Eco-marketing team
- 23 Ecoorino
- 24 ILT/NT2
- 25 LRDuurzaam
- 26 Lettoren
- 27 Amerikans College
- 28 het Groenhuis
- 29 Social Green
- 30 KADOC ECO
- 31 International Office
- 32 Green Team PBIB
- 33 Ecoteam ICTS
- 34 Ecoteam SUSST
- 35 Ecoteam Oncologie
- 36 AccentVW Ecoteam

Our FEBulous world
Ecollega's



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Sustainability report

Report on our progress in sustainability:

- at the level of the university
- showing what we do already
- critical about what we don't do yet
- following the GRI reporting standards

<https://www.kuleuven.be/duurzaamheid/sustainability/sustainabilityreport>

-> new report 2022



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OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

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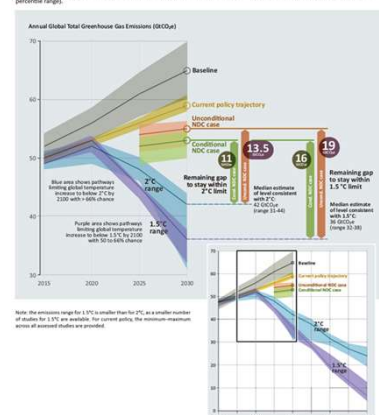
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A clear emphasis on KU Leuven's operational management

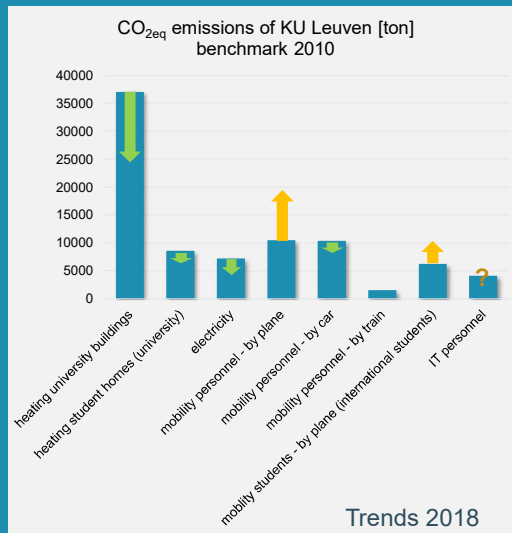
- Leading by example
- Focus on reduction of CO₂ emissions and climate change
“Beyond gas” energy plan
- Complementary to the other SDG-dimensions driving KU Leuven's internal policy
 - High quality education
 - Decent work
 - Good health and well being
 - Gender equality

Figure ES.2: Global greenhouse gas emissions under different scenarios and the emissions gap in 2030 (median estimate and 10th to 90th percentile range).



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The current state of affairs at KU Leuven

Emphasis on

- Buildings (heating)
- Mobility
- Food
- Sustainable purchasing, recycling

New CO₂ monitoring framework and tool
(scope 1, 2, and 3)
mid 2021

EDUCATION

“Does every student know the sustainability challenges we face today and in our future?”

“Do our students have enough knowledge about the complex problems we face today?”

Goal: sustainability throughout a student's career

4. Platform for (cross-disciplinary) educational initiatives and social commitment



1. Freshers' week

2. Micro MOOCs SDGs

3. University-wide course
"Global sustainability
challenges"

5. Micromaster "From facts to
policy" in collaboration with
UNA Europa

6. Module sustainability in education to support lecturers; in collaboration
with Ecocampus

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Education on Sustainability

"TO LEARN TODAY FOR A
WORLD OF TOMORROW"



"We believe that students should be provided with the necessary knowledge and skills, not just in order to be successful individuals in a complex society, but also to help build a more sustainable global society." Gerard Govers, vicerector Sustainability

First edition = 1500+ students

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RESEARCH



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Research



- Steering research = delicate
- KU Leuven as 'Living Lab'
 - Demonstrating own innovations
 - Collaboration with regional partners
 - Striving at more sustainable financing
- KU Leuven Institutes
 - Leuven Urban Studies Institute
 - Sustainable Metals and Minerals
 - ...

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SOCIAL COMMITMENT AND NETWORKING



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SOCIAL COMMITMENT AND NETWORKING

- Green Office: motivated and entrepreneurial students
- Ecoteams: interaction with personnel (e.g. Green Impact Campaign)
- YourSS: Young Researchers for Sustainability
- Participation in local, regional, national, international networks (a.o. LERU and Coimbra)
- Embedding in local and regional sustainability initiatives :
The Shift, Leuven Circular Economy platform,
Leuven 2030 → KU Leuven 2030 City Lab, ...

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