

Sustainability Vision 2030

Final Draft

Sustainable development means achieving a **quality of life** (or standard of living) that can be maintained for many generations because it is: **socially desirable** (fulfilling people's cultural, material, and spiritual needs in equitable ways), **economically viable** (paying for itself, with costs not exceeding income), and **ecologically sustainable** (maintaining the long-term viability of supporting ecosystems). -*World Conservation Union*-

Maastricht University wants to become a sustainable university by 2030. A sustainable university can make important contributions towards a sustainable future by fostering research and education in sustainability and empowering the university and larger community to act in more environmentally conscious ways.

Maastricht University envisions the sustainable university as follows:

Education & Research

"Educating green change agents through a holistic approach to sustainability education and research"

Educating change agents in the field of sustainability among students, staff, and the general public, is a core objective of the university. To this end, the sustainable university offers a wide range of courses and extra-curricular activities in the field of sustainability and is a leader in both sustainability education and research. Crucially, concepts of sustainability are integrated in university programmes to promote sustainability as an integral part of everyday life

Goals:

- Making sustainability an integral component of educational programmes offered by the university
- Offering an internationally acclaimed and innovative sustainability curriculum
- Making the university a hub for research and expertise, as well as an accessible database for stakeholders outside the university
- Increasing wide-ranging and measurable awareness of sustainability issues at all levels of university staff members
- Contributing to a more sustainable future by mapping changing trends and generating practical solutions
- Promoting inter-disciplinary research in the area of sustainability

Operations

"Making a positive environmental impact"

The sustainable university generates a positive environmental impact by reducing its environmental footprint in the following ways:

Energy: The sustainable university has zero net energy consumption and is independent from the electricity grid. Through renewable on-campus energy production the energy that powers research, education and daily life at the sustainable university is emission free. At the same time the university strives to increase energy efficiency, avoiding energy waste. Virtualization and adhering to the highest standards for building and renovation also improve the efficiency of the university's ICT infrastructure.

Waste: In a sustainable university waste is no longer seen as an undesirable yet inevitable end product of consumption. Instead, waste becomes a new resource. The sustainable university reuses, recycles or composts, engaging in Cradle-to-Cradle approaches and aiming to reduce the amount of residual waste to the minimum. Paperless learning and teaching, for example, contribute to lower waste production.

Procurement & Catering: The sustainable university considers its ecological and social responsibility and takes it seriously. Strict ecological and social criteria are therefore implemented and closely monitored in all its procurement activities including Catering.

Water: Addressing the increasing global significance of available clean water, the sustainable university reuses rain water wherever possible and continues to develop innovative ways of reducing its total water consumption.

Transportation: Reducing its contribution to global climate change is one of the sustainable university's central goals. When possible the university seeks to reduce university related travel and to find alternatives or compensation for unavoidable carbon-emitting transportation.

ICT: The university prioritizes the fostering of a holistic and systematic approach to address the challenges of ICT infrastructures' energy efficiency. As ICT infrastructures are rapidly growing due to digitalization and technological advancements the role of ICT becomes increasingly important to achieve a sustainable university.

Goals:

- Reducing net energy consumption for all facilities to zero
- Using 100% renewable and self-generated energy
- Increasing energy efficiency
- Using a Cradle-to-Cradle approach to reuse, reduce and recycle waste
- Decreasing the use of paper and packaging
- Implementing strict ecological and social criteria for 100% of the university's contractors, including Catering
- Using fresh water wisely and rain water where possible
- Reducing travel-related greenhouse gases through different modes of travel, reduction and compensation.
- Implementing maximum energy efficiency in ICT

University Community & Culture

“Living a culture of sustainability and participatory policy-making”

Sustainability efforts are driven by a culture of sustainability. Students and staff strive for a sustainable future and come to identify with the university's sustainability goals through the

participatory approach of the sustainability process. The university embraces its role as a change agent within its local context and leads in global dialogues in sustainable development.

Goals:

- Making all students & staff aware of the university's sustainability goals
- Using bottom-up initiatives to encourage student and staff participation and support of sustainability
- Becoming an active participant in its local environment, adapting university policies to other contexts.
- Establishing, maintaining, and deepening strategic partnerships for sustainability with the public and private sector as well as between the university and local communities as well as other educational institutions
- Making sustainability an important part of University Public Relations

Realization through Administration

Becoming a sustainable university can only be achieved with a joint effort of students, faculty, and staff. The Green Office functions as a central hub connecting all relevant stakeholders and driving innovation. It coordinates and initiates ecological, social and economic sustainability projects at the University by empowering students and staff. The Green Office monitors the university's progress towards its Sustainability Vision, producing progress reports in regular intervals. The implementation of the Sustainability Vision is specified in the Sustainability Roadmap 2030.

Maastricht University strives not only to support the implementation of new innovations in the field of operational sustainability but to lead in its development.

“Maastricht University will be a sustainable university by 2030”