



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG

SUSTAINABILITY RESULTS 2015



UNIVERSITY OF
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**Quality-driven
research, education and
cooperation in an inspiring
environment, strong social responsi-
bility and global engagement
enable the University of Gothenburg
to contribute to a better
future.**

From the The University of Gothenburg's Vision 2020



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FROM THE VICE- CHANCELLOR

2015 has been an eventful year in many ways. We have been reminded more clearly than for many years of the importance of our social responsibility and global engagement. The University of Gothenburg contributes to a sustainable society in many ways: by educating responsible citizens; by offering education to everyone, regardless of background; by recruiting employees from different cultures; and by shedding light on and helping solutions to be found for major global problems through our research.

This year the UGOT Challenges have enabled us to continue the strategic research initiatives previously taken by the University of Gothenburg. Six outstanding cross-faculty areas are being allocated resources to develop strong research profiles targeted at specific global societal challenges. The Centre for Sea and Society was established with a view to creating a single point of entry to the extensive activities at the University with a marine and maritime link and also to develop knowledge about the relationship between the sea and society. A new Department of Marine Sciences has also been established.

When looking back at 2015, I am extremely satisfied with everything we have achieved or contributed to as a university. At the same time, we must always strive to identify neglected areas and improve our operation. This is key to achieving Vision 2020.

Pam Fredman, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gothenburg





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ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Gothenburg is one of the major universities in northern Europe, with 37 000 students and 6,200 staff members. The University's eight faculties offer training in Fine Applied and Performing Arts, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Humanities, Education, Information Technology, Business, Economics and Law, and Medicine and Health Sciences. The unique breadth in education and research provides good opportunities for creative cooperation between disciplines as well as with business and public stakeholders. In 2014, the University offered over 240 study programmes and 2,500 courses.

The University of Gothenburg has joined the UN Global Compact as a condition for participating in the UN's supply chain for research reports and fieldwork. Thus, the University is committed to – for example – supporting and respecting the protection of human rights, eliminating discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, and supporting a precautionary approach to environmental risks

Environmentally certified since 2004

The University of Gothenburg has been environmentally certified since 2004 in accordance with both the international environmental standard ISO14001 and the EU's Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) programme. The environmental management system has resulted in reduced environmental impact in several areas and the work to integrate sustainable development in education has been reinforced. The University's environmental policy guides all of our operations. The environmental management system enables a goal-oriented and systematic approach to achieve the ambitions set forth in the University's policy document Vision 2020.





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INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The University of Gothenburg's annual report for 2014 includes an integrated sustainability report. These pages present the results with respect to the University's aims for sustainable development and the environment.

Our core activities can contribute to sustainable development. Active environmental work reduces the University's negative environmental impact in the form of for example resource consumption, climate impact and use of chemicals. By systematically integrating sustainable development in research, education, interaction with the surrounding community, student participation, staff training and our daily operations, we are contributing to a sustainable development of society.

Positive impact for sustainable development

- Research
- Education
- Student participation
- Interaction
- Professional development

Negative environmental impact

- Purchasing and procurement
- Recycling and waste
- Chemical substances
- Environmental risks
- Climate impact
- Energy and buildings
- Travel



RESEARCH

Objective

The University shall promote research within sustainable development in accordance with the University of Gothenburg's Vision 2020.

Outcome

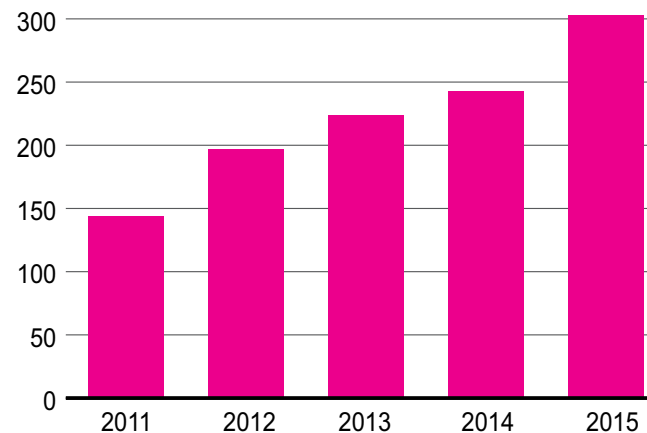
303 scientific articles within sustainable development were published in 2015, out of a total of 3,956 scientific articles, representing an increase of 25 per cent compared to 2014. The number of scientific publications within sustainable development has increased by 110 per cent since 2011, while the total number of scientific articles increased by ten per cent. This follow-up is implemented with the help of a number of key words identified within each scientific field.

Research in interaction

During the summer of 2015, the University of Gothenburg and Chalmers arranged the World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC) international conference through the Centre for Environment and Sustainability (GMV). Eight hundred delegates from over 70 countries came to discuss research and learning within sustainable development over a four-day period.

The Valand Academy at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts organised an international two-day symposium entitled Environmental Photography and Humanities – Contributions to Research and Awareness. The symposium brought together multidisciplinary issues, methods and studies within humanities, social sciences, art and natural sciences.

Number of peer-reviewed scientific articles within sustainable development year 2011–2015.





EDUCATION

Objective

The University shall increase the integration of sustainable development in education in accordance with the University of Gothenburg's Vision 2020.

Outcome

The University is increasing the visibility of the level of integration of sustainable development in education through sustainability-labelled courses and study programmes. Eight per cent of courses (200 of 2,504 courses) and 13 per cent of study programmes (32 of 243 study programmes) have had an increase of two percentage points for both courses and study programmes compared to 2014.

Toolboxes for integration of sustainable development

The Centre for Environment and Sustainability (GMV), together with the faculties, has developed faculty-adapted web-based tool boxes to help teachers to implement sustainable development in first-cycle courses and study programmes. The School of Business, Economics and Law, the Sahlgrenska Academy and the Vocational Education Teacher Training programme have their own toolboxes, and faculty

adaptation work is underway at other faculties. GMV held three University-wide workshops for teachers on use of the toolbox during the autumn. Teachers were allowed to apply the content of the toolbox to their own course or study programme in the course of the workshop. All of the participants were very satisfied, and the opportunity to have discussions with colleagues from their own area and from other subject areas was emphasised as being very positive.

Sustainability through art and green humanities

The Valand Academy developed a single-subject first-cycle course on the Environment and Photography following the Environmental Photography and Humanities symposium, held in April 2015. A course entitled Art and Food – Material and Process was also held during the summer of 2015.

A green humanities network was launched at the Faculty of Arts after the faculty reserved strategic funds for a three-year activity that will arrange faculty-wide research seminars, invite visiting research fellows and organise network meetings and international conferences within the area.



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STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Objective

The University shall increase the number of activities and collaborative projects in sustainable development together with the students.

Outcome

217 activities and cooperation projects within sustainable development were implemented for students in 2015, representing an increase of 43 per cent.

Active students for a sustainable future

Many students at the University of Gothenburg have become involved in sustainability issues and several new student associations were formed over the year. Besides the various associations being active in their own department or faculty, they have also started to pursue a variety of projects through the joint organisation Gothenburg Students for Sustainability Alliance (GSSA). The Student Sustainability Summit conference was arranged in Gothenburg in November, bringing together almost 50 students involved in 18 different student associations throughout Sweden. These discussions covered, among other things, how use can be made of and attention drawn to student involvement in sustainable development at the university.





INTERACTION

Objective

The University shall strengthen its interaction with the surrounding community within sustainable development in line with the University of Gothenburg's Vision 2020.

Outcome

The University provided 540 activities with a sustainable development focus over the year. The statistical basis from and including 2015 has been obtained purely from the University's calendar together with information about public activities at the Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Sciences, for which reason it is not possible to make a comparison with previous years.

Northern Europe joins together for sustainable solutions

The UN adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in 2015. These goals are to govern the development of policies, agendas and solutions over the forthcoming 15-year period, and the Centre for Environment and Sustainability (GMV) was tasked with hosting the Secretariat for Sustainable Development Solutions Network Northern Europe (SDSN NE). The network brings together knowledge, experience and capacity within the region's academia, trade, industry and civil society stakeholders in order to promote sustainable solutions for global challenges.

Measure easily or correctly?

The Nordic Sustainable Campus Network (NSCN) arranged a workshop in Gothenburg in May on follow-up, indicators and reporting within sustainable development. This was part of the Rio +20 sustainable development project within institutes of higher education that has been run within the network for two years. The objective was to provide common recommendations for institutes of higher education to make it possible to facilitate and strengthen sustainability work, both within research and education and within operative campus activities.

The Segerstedt Institute

The Segerstedt Institute was inaugurated in August to help reduce the recruitment of people into violent ideologies and movements. The Segerstedt Institute was created following a mandate from the Government. The formation of the Institute is based on the Tolerance Project, an existing working model against violent extremism, which was developed by the Municipality of Kungälv in cooperation with the University of Gothenburg. This model will form part of the activities of the Segerstedt Institute.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Objective

The University shall ensure that everyone in a managerial position with responsibility for personnel has undergone training in environmental management. The University will work to strengthen the skills of staff within sustainable development.

Outcome

21 of the 228 managers participated during the year in the course on the University's environmental work, the purpose of which is to clarify the responsibility of managers in environmental management work. This corresponds to nine per cent of the people in management positions. 152 managers have taken this course. In total, 940 people participated in some form of competence development within sustainable development in 2015.

A selection of courses and trainings

- The good conversation – competence development for teachers at the School of Business, Economics and Law.
- Study visits to, for example, the Swedish School of Textiles, the Museum of World Culture and Älvrummet
- Workshops on learning for sustainable development
- Training courses in GU's system for reporting risks, incidents and deviations (GURIA)



PURCHASING AND PROCUREMENT

Objective

The University shall increase the proportion of purchases and procurements (measured in economic value) for which social, ethical and environmental requirements are set.

Outcome

Social, ethical and environmental requirements were imposed in 2015 in 40 per cent of the procurements (SEK 171 million of 429 million measured as an economic value). This represents a reduction of 41 percentage units since 2014 (no social, ethical or environmental requirements were imposed for one large procurement of IT consultancy services).

Responsible procurements

One new supplier of courier bags within Gothenburg was procured last year that only carries goods by bicycle, providing environmentally friendly transport and contributing to sustainable urban development. Sustainable coffee breaks and catering is a new sub-area within the University's catering services where particularly stringent sustainability requirements have been imposed on the suppliers based on them being KRAV certified.





RECYCLING AND WASTE

Objective

The University shall reduce the total quantity of waste by 10 per cent by 2015 compared with the 2009 level. The University shall increase the proportion of waste from which materials are recovered or which is composted by 10 per cent by 2015 compared with the 2009 level.

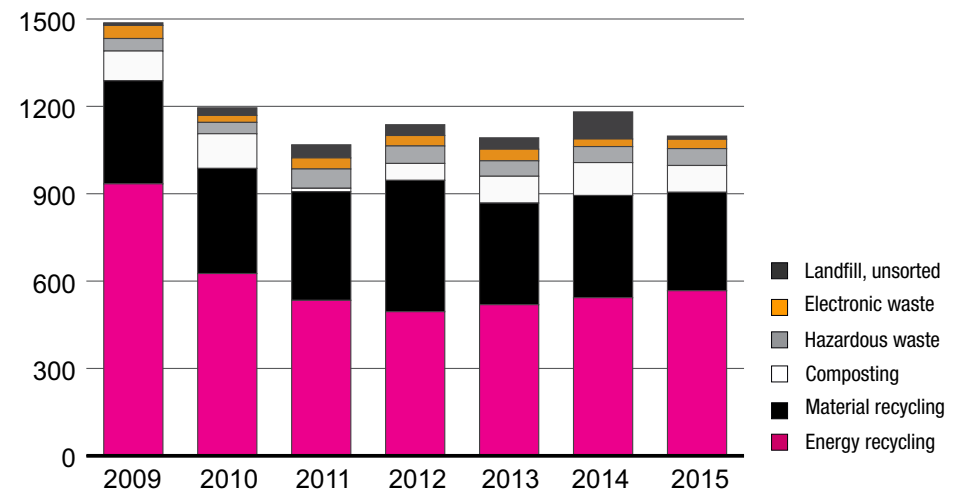
Outcome

The total amount of waste amounted to 1,098 tonnes in 2015, entailing a reduction of seven per cent compared to 2014.

The proportion of waste subjected to material recovery or composted amounted to 39 per cent of the total waste, a figure that has remained the same since 2014.

Since 2009, the total quantity of waste has reduced by 26 per cent and the proportion subjected to material recovery or composted has increased by eight percentage units (from 31 per cent to 39 per cent).

Waste per fraction (tonnes) year 2009–2015





CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

Objective

The University shall reduce the number of incidences of chemical products included on the SIN List by at least 5 per cent by 2015 compared with the result for 2012. The SIN List, developed by ChemSec (the International Chemical Secretariat), consists of substances classified as particularly hazardous according to the EU REACH regulation.

Outcome

The number of chemical products included in the SIN list that are found at the University increased to 1,946 in 2015, representing an increase of twelve per cent from the preceding year. The number of chemicals on the SIN list has increased from 510 to 844 since 2012.

Hazardous chemical substances replaced

Several 'CMR-classified chemicals' at the Department for Odontology were phased out for less hazardous chemicals. CMR-classified chemicals are carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic for reproduction.





ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS



Objective

The University shall minimise the number of incidents leading to adverse consequences for the environment and work to minimise the consequences of any incidents.

Outcome

14 preventative activities were implemented in 2015 with a view to reducing the occurrence of incidents with an adverse environmental impact. Four incidents with adverse consequences for the environment occurred in 2015.

Environmental risks prevented

The University of Gothenburg introduced the risk, incident and deviation reporting system (GURIA) in the spring of 2015. Employees and students are able to report incidents, deviations and proposed improvements in GURIA within the areas of environment, security and work environment.



CLIMATE IMPACT

Objective

The University shall reduce carbon dioxide emissions from travel and energy by 20 per cent by 2015 compared with 2008 levels.

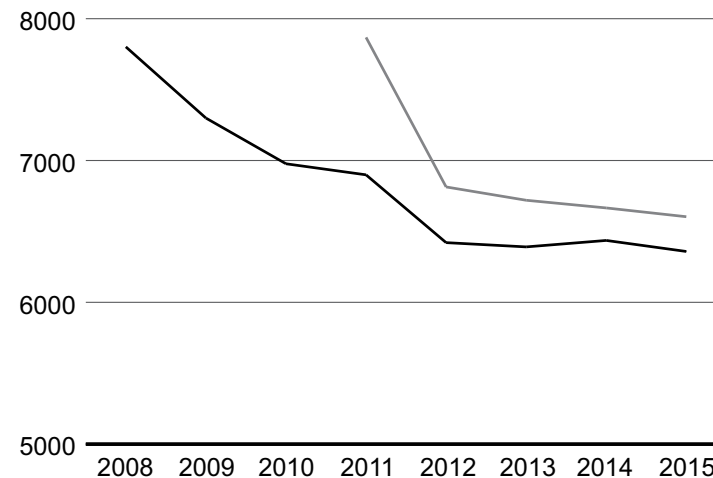
Outcome

The University's total carbon dioxide emissions from travel and energy amounted to 6,604 tonnes in 2015, representing a reduction of one per cent compared to 2014. Total carbon dioxide emissions have reduced by 18 per cent compared to 2008.

Internal climate fund to reduce emissions

Projects which were granted funds from the University's internal fund for climate compensation in 2014 were implemented in 2015. One project has received money to place climate buoys in Antarctica. The buoys measure the temperature of the sea bed and, with the help of this new technology, researchers will have time series sent home by satellite and thus be able to see the first results of how ice melting and sea bed temperature are connected. The number of trips to the Antarctica can thus be reduced from three to one over a six-year period, which is very beneficial to the climate.

Carbon dioxide emissions (tonnes) year 2008–2015*



*Carbon dioxide emissions from fossil energy (natural gas and oil) and boats are shown separately since these emission sources have only been measured since 2011.

- Excluding fossil energy and boats
- Including fossil energy and boats



ENERGY AND BUILDINGS

Objective

The University shall reduce energy use by 10 per cent per square metre by 2015 compared with the 2008 level.

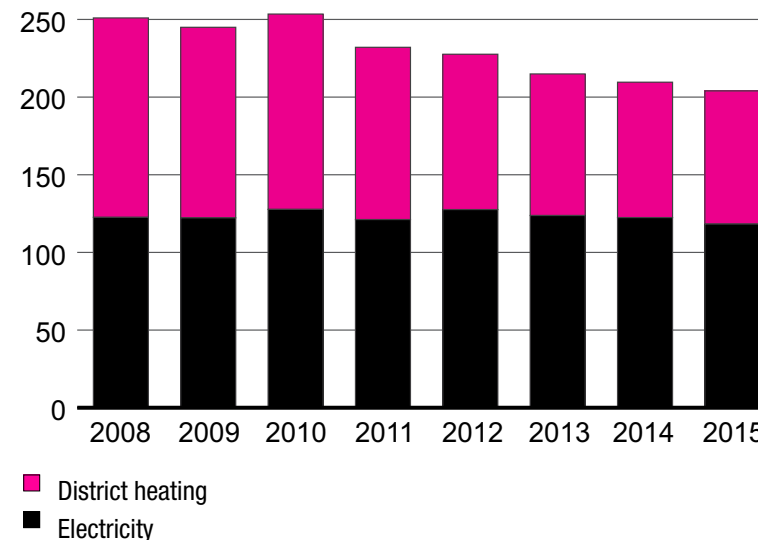
Outcome

Electricity consumption and normal-year-corrected heat consumption amounted to 204 kWh/m² in aggregate in 2015, representing a reduction of three per cent since 2014. The energy use per square metre has reduced by 19 per cent since the base year 2008.

Photovoltaic devices for sustainable power supply

The University's first photovoltaic installation was commissioned in the autumn of 2015 and is located on the roof of the School of Business, Economics and Law. Student calculations previously demonstrated that the project would have healthy profitability. The photovoltaic installation at the School of Business, Economics and Law is 200 square metres and is expected to provide approximately 30 MWh of electricity annually. Five MWh were generated between October and December.

Average energy consumption (kWh/m²) year 2008–2015.*



* In 2015 the SHMI calculation method for normal-year corrections was changed according to the degree day method. The values for 2008 to 2015 have therefore been recalculated in accordance with the new method for a good retroactive comparison.



TRAVEL

Objective

The University shall reduce carbon dioxide emissions from travel and energy consumption by 20 per cent by 2015 compared with 2008 levels.

Outcome

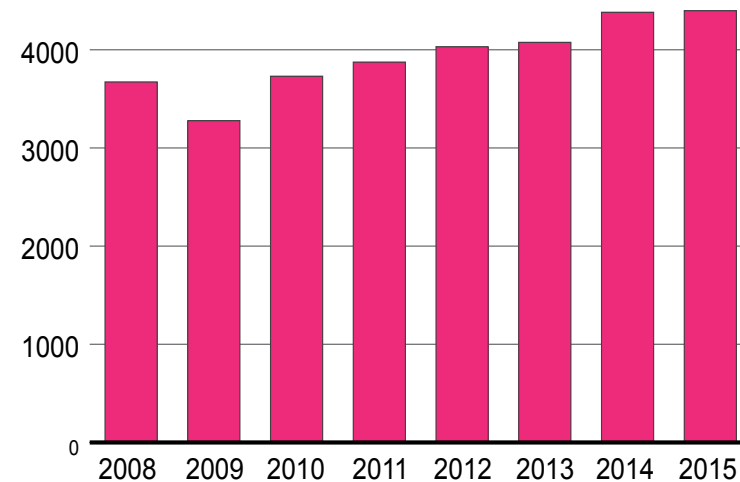
The total carbon dioxide emissions from travel on official business amounted to 4,399 tonnes in 2015, representing an increase of 0.4 per cent compared to 2014. Total carbon dioxide emissions from travel on official business increased by 20 per cent compared to 2008.

Long-haul flights dominate carbon dioxide emissions

Long-haul flights continued to comprise the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions. Fifty-seven per cent of the University's total carbon dioxide emissions come from flights of over 500 kilometres. The route between Gothenburg and Stockholm is the most common for the University's short-haul flights. The number of one-way flights between these destinations reduced from 1,643 to 1,607 in 2015 compared to 2014. The number of kilometres driven using own cars

for business travel reduced by nine per cent compared to 2014 and the number of travel-free meeting hours amounted to almost 9,000 in 2015, an increase of 1,000 hours compared to 2014.

Carbon dioxide emissions from travel (in tonnes) year 2008-2015.





OTHER REPORTING

The University of Gothenburg's annual report for 2015 includes an integrated sustainability report. Page 75 of the annual report gives a summary of all indicators related to the University's environmental and sustainability aims. The environmental work is reported in an adequate manner and meets the requirements for EMAS-approved environmental reporting.

The University of Gothenburg reports the outcome of the environmental management work to the Ministry of Education and Research and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the Swedish ordinance on environmental management in government agencies (SFS 2009:907). A review performed according to the Swedish ordinance on purchasing of products, services and buildings by government agencies (SFS 2014:480) is also reported to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

Specific indicators regarding the University's vehicle fleet are reported annually to the Swedish Transport Agency in accordance with the Swedish ordinance on environmental and road safety requirements for government agency cars (SFS 2009:1).

Every year, the University reports the results to the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN), in accordance with the Network agreement.

The yearly sustainability report is designed to enable comparisons over time. The data presented is based on the University's own statistics and statistics from suppliers and contracted companies. The most recent report was published in February 2015. No relevant changes have been made to the report since the previous report period with respect to delimitations, scope and methods of measurement. All of the results are available at www.sustainabilityreport.gu.se.

Registration number: V2016/82

Adopted by Katarina Gårdfeldt, director at Centre for Environment and sustainability

Photo: Johan Wingborg (pages 1,3, 10,13,14), Christina Drescher (page 8), Pling (page 11).

Contact

Centre for Environment and Sustainability (GMV),
Environmental management at the University of Gothenburg
miljo@gu.se
www.gu.se/miljo