



Universities Going Greener

by moving from

- policy to strategy*
- strategy to plans and targets*
- plans to projects and lasting changes*
- projects to effects*

UNICA Green Academic Footprint

Parallell session

Tallinn Oct 13. 2011

Jorulf Brøvig Silde, Project Director Green UiO and
chair of UGAF Working Group

Maryam Faghihimani, Master in Sustainability in
Higher Education, Green UiO/UGAF

Unica Green Academic Footprint

This Workshop:

How to move from policy and green pledge to real environmental sustainability effects?

An invitation to discuss

1. Strategy
 2. Projects
 3. Communication
 4. The unique contribution of UNICA
-



UNICA GREEN ACADEMIC FOOTPRINT

Should this footprint *increase* or *decrease*?



Environmental sustainability?

- ▶ We define **Environmental Sustainability** as meeting human needs of current and future generation without undermining the capacity of the planet's ability to support life (The UN Development Group, 2009).



5 years from now; **Imagine**

- ▶ UNICA is recognised as a network of universities being **living laboratories for new practices within environmental sustainability** bringing symmetry in their research, curriculum, outreach and daily operation.
 - ▶ *Ecological impact: ...*
 - ▶ *Ecological footprint: ...*
 - ▶ *UNICA and EUA: ...*
 - ▶ *Campus: ...*
 - ▶ *The city / capital: ...*
 - ▶ *Energy, water, waste, transport, purchasing, IT, labs, events,*
-



We are the universities in the capitals of Europe.

Why We Pledge to Become Greener:

We acknowledge that Environmental sustainability is at our core mission and as universities, we have a unique:

- ▶ Potential and capacity to enhance knowledge and understanding, and provide necessary skills and innovation
- ▶ Responsibility and duty toward raising awareness and enhancing sustainability literacy for students, staff and communities
- ▶ Position and reason to develop our campuses as living laboratories of environmental sustainability in practice

to meet the global environmental challenges.

We commit ourselves to:

- ▶ promoting environmental sustainability in every aspects of our work at universities
- ▶ set environmental sustainability on top of our priorities
- ▶ work closely with policy makers, municipalities & communities, industry & business and other universities
- ▶ share examples of our green practice, evaluate and report our status, plans and progress to all stakeholders



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Your university

- ▶ How can your university relate to this pledge?
- ▶ How will you make it happen?
- ▶ *Barriers, drivers, risks, opportunities, ...*



A way to make universities stay
committed and connected
when it comes to
environmental sustainability



1. UNICA GREEN ACADEMIC FOOTPRINT Workshop

Oslo. 3.- 4. May 2011

Tasks

1. Make a map of the process towards establishing the UNICA Green Academic Footprint,
2. Describe main elements and milestones and how to get there.
3. Establish a Working Group



Facing the Global Challenges



Mihkel Kangur
Rolf Vogt
Hal Wilhite

[\(Link\)](#)



Other networks

- ▶ for focused action on environmental sustainability





Association for the Advancement
of Sustainability in Higher Education



AASHE's Mission

- ▶ to empower higher education to lead the sustainability transformation by providing resources, professional development, and a network of support to enable institutions of higher education to *model* and *advance* sustainability in everything they do, from **governance** and **operations** to **education** and **research**.



AASHEs Goals

- ▶ Deliver services that increase its value to a growing and diverse membership and will increase its impact on sustainability in higher education;
- ▶ Convene experts and collect, evaluate, and disseminate information and tools to increase the understanding of sustainability and its relevance to higher education stakeholders;
- ▶ Support and enable higher education to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of global climate disruption;
- ▶ Lead the transformation of educational practices (including the curriculum) to ensure that all students acquire the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to meet sustainability challenges;
- ▶ Lead the assessment and reporting of metrics of sustainability in higher education for the purpose of driving improvements in sustainable practices and education through its Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS).



The International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN)



ISCN
International Sustainable Campus Network

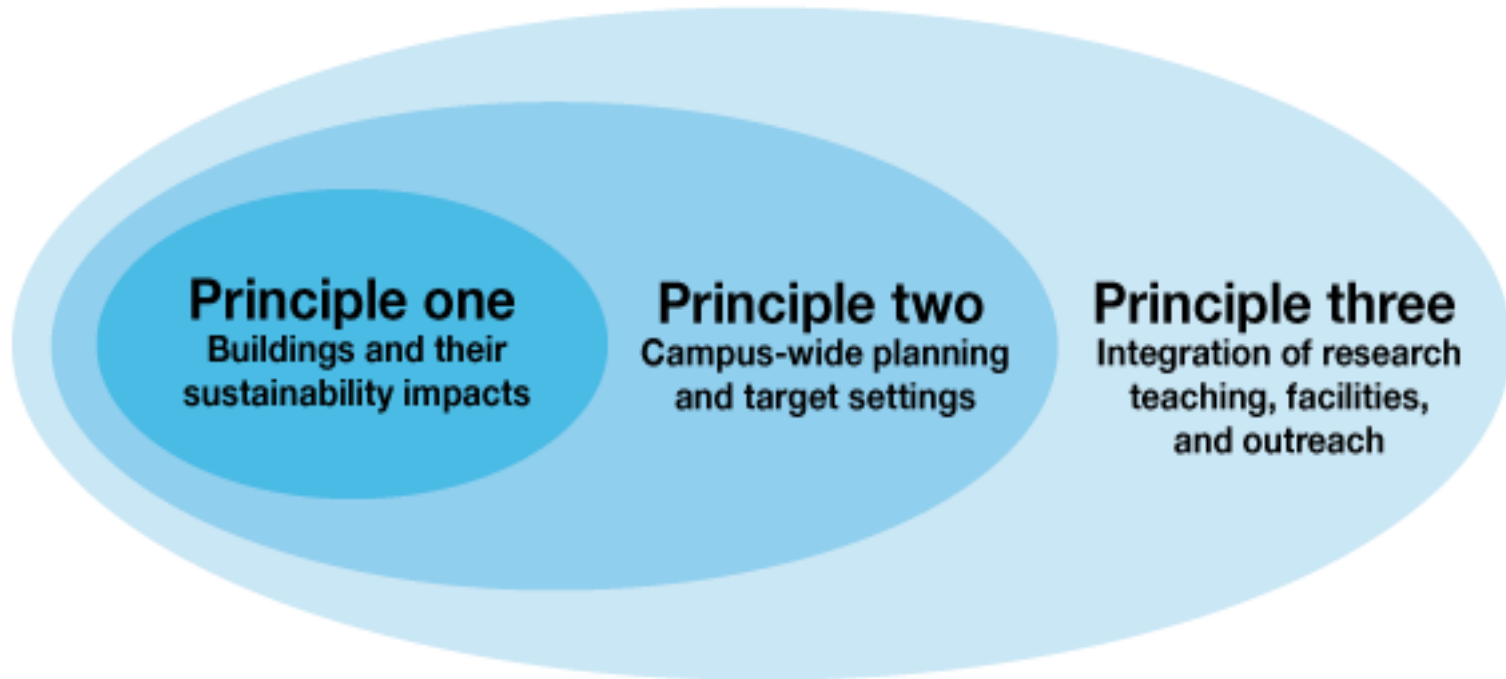


The ISCN Mission

- ▶ **To provide a global forum to support leading colleges, universities, and corporate campuses in the exchange of information, ideas, and best practices for achieving sustainable campus **operations** and integrating sustainability in **research** and **teaching**.**



The ISCN Principles



Learning in Future Environments (LiFE)



LiFE Mission

- ▶ LiFE is a comprehensive *performance improvement system* developed specifically to help colleges and universities to **manage, measure, improve** and **promote** their social responsibility and sustainability performance.



The LiFE Index : online performance improvement system

- ▶ Life: five key institutional priority areas:
 - ▶ Leadership
 - ▶ Governance and Management
 - ▶ Teaching, Learning and Research
 - ▶ Partnership and Engagement
 - ▶ Estates and Operations



How to build a working network?



“Building a Green Academic Platform:

Unica Network for Joint Degree Program and
Research Project”

Peter Maassen, University of Oslo

UNICA/UiO workshop:

UNICA GREEN ACADEMIC FOOTPRINT – Universities Committed and Connected towards
Environmental Sustainability

Oslo, 03/04 May 2011



UNICA Green Academic Platform: How to build a Cooperation network?

Starting point I:

Academic excellence

Build on the academically excellent units and scholars from the participating universities.

Create a feeling of 'ownership' among them; don't confront them with leadership/administrative decisions

Prof. Peter Maassen, University of Oslo



UNICA Green Academic Platform: How to build a Cooperation network? (cont.)

Starting point 2:

Clear and realistic agenda/plan

What can be done most effectively by individual universities and what can be done most effectively through a joint effort?

Prof. Peter Maassen, University of Oslo



UNICA Green Academic Platform: How to build a Cooperation network? (cont.)

Starting point 3:

Stimulate the design (a few) joint projects

Create incentives. E.g. allow the identified units and scholars to compete for institutional funding for 1-3 year joint projects, ranging from joint study programmes (with guest lecturers); joint/double degree programmes; joint PhD/graduate schools; joint online publications series; joint research projects, etc.

Prof. Peter Maassen, University of Oslo



UNICA Green Academic Platform: How to build a Cooperation network? (cont.)

Starting point 4:

Stimulate creativity

Allow new ideas to come forward. E.g. discuss new forms of degree programmes, not disciplinary but thematically based. Example from the Netherlands: bachelor level honours colleges.

Prof. Peter Maassen, University of Oslo



UNICA Green Academic Platform: How to build a Cooperation network? (cont.)

Starting point 5:

**Be pragmatic: Use existing policies,
programmes, opportunities as much as possible**

Do not try to reinvent the wheel. Examples of opportunities are EQF/NQF; Erasmus Mundus; regional cooperation programmes (e.g. Nordic Council of Ministers); FP7/ERC; national research council programmes, etc.

Prof. Peter Maassen, University of Oslo



UNICA Green Academic Platform: How to build a Cooperation network? (cont.)

Starting point 6:

Make sure to have a transparent and effective evaluation/monitoring of the (joint) activities

Do not assume that all joint initiatives will be successful. Identify what works and what does not work; build on and use what works.

Prof. Peter Maassen, University of Oslo



UNICA Green Academic Platform: How to build a Cooperation network? (cont.)

Starting point 7:

**Reach out to other partners based on
excellence and relevance. Aim at forming a
global network**

Prof. Peter Maassen, University of Oslo





Step 1: Establishing a working Working Group

1. Join in

1. Identify universities to take part in the establishing process of Unica Green Academic Footprint.

2. Anchoring

1. Establish a Reference Group of Rectors/Vicerectors from these universities.

3. Describe task

1. Approve mandate for workinggroup to develop the concept of the Unica Green Academic Footprint.

4. Organize

1. Establish the workinggroup. (Dedicated senior personnell to do the work needed according to the mandate.)

5. Structurize

1. Make a plan for the workprocess, including overall and more detailed timespans, what and when to communicate with the Reference Group, defining milestones and decisions points, and how to put it forward for the UNICA Steering Group.

6. Start working

1. Workshops, videoconferences and documents to develop the Unica Green Academic Footprint.

Step 2: The Footprint – Concept

Some initial suggestions

Goal and approach

1. Commitment towards Global challenges within environmental sustainability
2. Comprehensive approach: *Increase environmental impact* (Research and education)
3. Changing behaviour and attitudes: *Decrease environmental impact.* (Operation and infrastructure)
4. Cooperation and openness, transparency in the details
5. Do and walk as we talk and teach: *environmental management system*
6. Affecting priorities on a strategic level at each university.



- a sign of excellence in environmental sustainability

Step 3: The **Green** Decision

- ▶ The pledge / policy
- ▶ Network vs institutional policy

Step 4: Green Implementation

- ▶ Drafting strategy
- ▶ Establishing projects

- ▶ 2nd UGAF workshop, Lausanne Feb. 2012

Are we ready to take responsibility?

The University is ready to take responsibility for helping to resolve global challenges, particularly those related to climate and the environment. UiO will take responsibility for facing environmental and climate-related challenges both through research and education related to the environment and through operations at the university. In this way, UiO will establish itself as a green university. (UiO Strategy 2020)

- We are not there yet.

How to make *UNICA* ready

as a *network* of the universities of the capitals of Europe to take responsibility when it comes to the environmental challenges?





Exploring environmental sustainability

- Much promised already:
Copernicus Declaration: **principles of action**
- Much said already:
Other treaties and **declarations for higher education**
- Much done already:
Looking to others for examples: networks and associations



Copernicus Declaration: Principles of action

1. Institutional commitment:

The University shall demonstrate real commitment to the principle and practice of environmental protection and sustainable development within the academic milieu.

2. Environmental ethics:

The University shall promote among teaching staff, students and the public at large sustainable consumption patterns and an ecological lifestyle, while fostering programmes to develop the capacities of the academic staff to teach environmental literacy.

3. Education of university employees:

The University shall provide education, training and encouragement to the employees on environmental issues, so that they can pursue their work in an environmentally responsible manner.

4. Programmes in environmental education:

The University shall incorporate an environmental perspective in all its work and set up environmental education programmes involving both teachers and researchers as well as students - all of whom should be exposed to the global challenges of environment and development, irrespective of their field of study.

5. Interdisciplinarity:

The University shall encourage interdisciplinary and collaborative education and research programmes related to sustainable development as part of the institution's central mission. The University shall also seek to overcome competitive instincts between disciplines and departments.

6. Dissemination of knowledge:

The University shall support efforts to fill in the gaps in the present literature available for students, professionals, decision-makers and the general public by preparing information didactic material, organizing public lectures, and establishing training programmes. The university should also be prepared to participate in environmental audits.

7. Networking:

The University shall promote interdisciplinary networks of environmental experts at the local, national, regional and international levels, with the aim of collaborating on common environmental projects in both research and education. For this, the mobility of students and scholars should be encouraged.

8. Partnerships:

The University shall take the initiative in forging partnerships with other concerned sectors of society, in order to design and implement coordinated approaches, strategies and action plans.⁸

9. Continuing education programmes:

The University shall devise environmental educational programmes on these issues for different target groups: e.g. business, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, the media.

10. Technology transfer:

The University shall contribute to educational programmes designed to transfer educationally sound and innovative technologies and advanced management methods.



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Declarations: Universities and environmental sustainability

- ▶ Talloires Declaration
- ▶ Halifax Declaration
- ▶ ACU -- Swansea Declaration
- ▶ Kyoto Declaration
- ▶ CRE Copernicus Charter
- ▶ Earth Summit Agreements
- ▶ Student Declaration for a Sustainable Future
- ▶ ...



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Networks and associations environmental sustainability, some examples

- ▶ [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#)
- ▶ [International Sustainable Campus Network](#)
- ▶ [Society for College and University Planning](#)
- ▶ [Campaign for Environmental Literacy](#)
- ▶ [International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education](#)
- ▶ [University Leaders for a Sustainable Future](#)
- ▶ [Second Nature](#)
- ▶ [Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium](#)
- ▶ [Campus Environment 2008: A National Report Card on Sustainability in Higher Education](#)
- ▶ [Salzburg Seminar: Greening the Minds: Universities, Climate Leadership, and Sustainable Futures](#)
- ▶ [UNESCO Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership](#)
- ▶ [A shared vision for sustainable development in higher education \(UK\)](#)
- ▶ <http://www.princetonreview.com/green-rating-methodology.aspx>
- ▶ [Copernicus Alliance,](#)



Working Group Members:

- ▶ • Lisbon University: Marcia Martins Vila, Carla Farelo
- ▶ • Tallinn University: Mikhel Kangur
- ▶ • University of Lausanne: Antoinette Charon Wauters
- ▶ • Université libre de Bruxelles: Alexandra Demoustiez
- ▶ • University of Oslo: Jorulf Brøvig Silde, Maryam Faghihimani

