

Annual Report 2012

Shaping a green future for Maastricht University



“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



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About Maastricht University Green Office

Maastricht University Green Office coordinates and initiates ecological, social, and economic sustainability projects at Maastricht University, by empowering students and staff members.

Maastricht University Green Office promotes sustainability as a topic of active concern among students, staff and faculty, and advances a self-perpetuating process of organizational transition towards a greener campus.

www.greenofficemaastricht.nl

Greenoffice@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Message from the Chair of the Supervisory board



André Postema holds the chair of the supervisory board of the Maastricht University Green Office. He is vice-president of Maastricht University and member of the Dutch senate.

The last year has been a successful year for Maastricht University Green Office. It has shown that the work of Green Office has a significant impact on sustainability at our university.

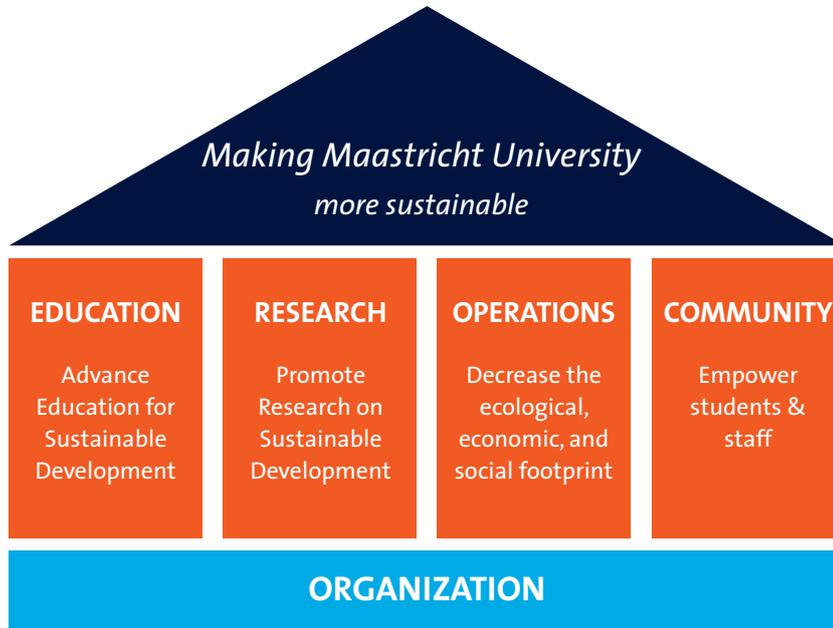
Since its establishment in September 2010 the Green Office has created a thorough baseline analysis in the form of the Climate Action Report as well as business cases on Green ICT and sustainable buildings. This baseline research has allowed the Green Office to successfully start the implementation of major projects in 2012. Measures to increase energy-efficiency in the university's ICT infrastructure and a business case on sustainability at the University College Maastricht, have been implemented and will result in lasting decrease of our climate impact and energy consumption.

I am particularly proud that the Green Office has become a fully integrated university department which takes the role to drive the transformation towards a sustainable future here in Maastricht. This unique model of a student-run university department has received broad international attention after the Green Office won the prestigious Student Leadership Award offered by the International Sustainable Campus Network and Oikos International last year. Furthermore, Maastricht University received the 'Sustainabil' for its outstanding sustainability performance, not least due to the efforts of Green Office.

One of the major accomplishments in 2012 has been the creation of a long-term Sustainability Vision for Maastricht University, outlining our long-term sustainability goals and streamlining Maastricht University's efforts in becoming a sustainable university by 2030. The participatory process that developed UM's Sustainability Vision, involved more than 200 students and staff members in the active drafting process, the University Council and representatives of our university's sustainability student organisations. I am confident that the success of Green Office will continue in 2013 and I am looking forward to working with Green Office on a sustainable future for Maastricht University.

Photo: Herman van Ommen®

Organization



Maastricht University Green Office is the sustainability department of Maastricht University managed by a team of student employees and the environmental advisor. The Green Office aims to promote higher sustainability standards within the University and its community.

This is achieved by bringing together the strategic efforts of Maastricht University with a vibrant network of innovators and facilitators active in the field of sustainability. Thereby, the Green Office operates as a liaison office as well as an incubator for open innovation, creating a dynamic and self-perpetuating process within and around the university.

In 2012, Maastricht University Green Office completed and started a range of projects with the aim of making Maastricht University more sustainable. Organized in the portfolios of Education, Research, Operations, Community and Organization the Green Office is able to work focused whilst remaining flexible and innovative. The internal organization into portfolios has been arranged in order to fully cover all aspects of Maastricht University and its community.

Executive Summary

Sustainability Progress Report

The first Sustainability Progress Report (SPR) tracks the development of Maastricht University's sustainability efforts and is a key tool to monitor and measure current successes and failures. The key findings were that energy usage decreased by 4-5% per square meter, the usage of natural gas decreased by 10.5%* per heating degree day and square meter, water usage decreased by 3.2%*, waste increased by 8.1%.

**Per student and staff member*

Control-Alt-Delete Emissions

In 2012 the CADE (Control-Alt-Delete Emissions) Team worked on the implementation of PowerMAN, a program that manages the energy consumption of computers, to reduce energy consumption and CO₂-emissions of the university's computer environment. Next to this, a PC Power Management awareness campaign was started to inform the university community about the energy efficiency measures.

Sustainability Vision 2030

In February 2012 the Green Office initiated a participatory process, involving students and staff-members, which led to the development of Maastricht University's Sustainability Vision 2030. The Vision defines the shared goals and values that the student community, our staff members as well as the university's Executive Board, strive towards and aim to realize by 2030.

Sustainability Roadmap 2030

To address the need for guidance towards achieving the goals agreed upon in the Sustainability Vision 2030, the UM Green Office began working on the Roadmap 2030. The Roadmap will outline different project paths which have to be followed in order to improve the sustainability of the university. A first draft was finished by December 2012 in close cooperation with representatives of students and staff.

Green Academy

The Green Academy is a student run educational pilot project on sustainability related skills, consisting of theoretical and practical workshops chaired by experts from academia and civil society. This year, the Academy was focused on topics such as energy efficient behavior, environmental policies, marketing and communication, presentation skills, lobbying and negotiation, business case writing and financial planning.

Premium Research

Three groups of excellent Master's students worked on different projects for the Green Office over a period of eight to twelve weeks. They covered topics ranging from sustainable behavior, waste reduction to the renovation of historic and protected buildings.

The results that these research projects yielded were enriching for the future work of the Green Office and the involvement of students added to the profiling of sustainability as a central topic at Maastricht University.

Joint Board Meeting

Through establishing Joint Board Meetings the Green Office initiated a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange between Maastricht's numerous student organizations concerned with the topic of sustainability. Next to providing a valuable networking platform the Joint Board Meeting resulted in better coordination between the student organizations as well as in joint events and initiatives.

UCM Business Case

An extensive pilot study at the building of the University College Maastricht shed light on the large potential that relatively simple innovations can have for sustainability at UM. After thorough research, the Green Office recommended to install LED lights and movement sensors in order to save a significant portion of UCM's electricity consumption. Valuable experience can be collected throughout the planning and implementation process for further implementation on the university level.



Events

Sustainability Vision Kick-Off

On 8 May 2012 Prof. Dr. Martin Paul officially launched Maastricht University's Sustainability Vision process during an opening event at the Aula Minderbroedersberg. At the event, Green Office presented an outline of the process and officially launched an extensive participatory process involving more than 200 students and staff members in the drafting of Maastricht University's Sustainability Vision 2030. More information: www.vision2030.nl

Sustainability Barbeque & Info Market

In May 2012, the Green Office hosted, in cooperation with the WE Festival, the second Sustainability BBQ at Landbouwbelaag. Interested students did not only get to enjoy organic and vegetarian food but also gained insight into Maastricht's sustainability community. Student organizations such as GECCO, the Student Workforce or oikos Maastricht presented their activities and projects to more than 450 participants and gave students the opportunity to get involved with their organizations.

Klaor Loch Event

Stichting Klaor Loch, in cooperation with the Green Office, hosted a debate on air quality in Maastricht on 24 October 2012. Epidemiologist Prof. Onno van Schayck, toxicologist Dr. Theo de Kok, Ivo Stumpe (campaign leader Verkeer Milieudefensie), Albert Nuss (Elderman for Sustainability) and Franci Vanweert (counselor Lucht en Geluid Projectbureau A2) discussed about the air quality in Maastricht and possible solutions to improve air quality. The debate was moderated by Joep Dohmen, a journalist for the Dutch newspaper NRC, and was attended by about 150 participants from Maastricht and surroundings.



Education

The Education portfolio aims at advancing education for sustainable development at Maastricht University. This goal includes the evaluation of existing attempts into the topic as well as generating new ideas. In 2012, the education portfolio of Maastricht University Green Office has focused on the development of the GO-Academy. This skill program is designed to provide Green Office employees and Green Office volunteers with the necessary skills to work within the transdisciplinary field of sustainability.

Green Academy

The Green Academy is a student run educational project organized by Maastricht University Green Office. The pilot project in 2012 consisted of eight theoretical and practical skills training sessions chaired by experts from academia and civil society. The Green Academy programme is structured similarly to a regular course, with bi-weekly workshops on Wednesday evenings throughout one whole semester.

The primary aim of the course is to provide an innovative and adequate means of training and knowledge transition to the students and staff members working at the Green Office, as well as those interested in making Maastricht University more sustainable. In the long term, the course aims to build a model for student driven educational activities for Maastricht University as well as other universities throughout Europe.

Course Objectives

The Green Academy offered participants with different methods and tools for addressing complex sustainability issues as well as the practical skills necessary to work in the field of sustainability.

During the course, students learned to:

- Improve and deepen their understanding of sustainability and sustainable development issues.
- Improve their understanding of the different aspects (economic, technical, socio-cultural and environmental) of sustainability.
- Explore the legal framework of sustainability policies applicable to Maastricht University and the region.
- Understand the mechanisms and rationale behind tools such as business plans or budget proposals.
- Explore the significance of negotiation, presentation and communication skills in making Maastricht University more sustainable.
- Get acquainted with various skills that will be of crucial importance not only for strengthening the current efforts in cooperation with the Green Office, but also for their future careers.
- Adopt an interdisciplinary and integrative attitude towards the complexity of sustainability related issues.

Research

Within the research portfolio, the Green Office has primarily been concerned with facilitating sustainability related research topics and enhancing research opportunities for students. Additionally, we have worked in close cooperation with the International Centre for Integrated assessment and Sustainable development (ICIS). The portfolio aims at increasing research activities within Maastricht University, as well as promoting knowledge exchange between the various research institutes at the University.

Sustainability Journal

In 2012, the Green Office initiated the publication of the first peer-reviewed GO Sustainability Journal. The objective of the journal is to promote sustainability as a topic for students' papers and to scale up efforts to raise students' academic interest in sustainability related issues. The journal will improve the internal and external visibility of undergraduate research efforts within Maastricht University. The journal is modeled after the successful Maastricht Journal of Liberal Arts, and will be published annually beginning in June 2013. A board of editors comprising volunteers and academic staff from different faculties has been created. The call for paper has been published with the deadline in May 2013.

PhD

Maastricht University Green Office in cooperation with ICIS developed a PhD proposal for research on structural institutional transformation towards sustainability. From September 2013 onwards a PhD candidate will research on best practices of institutional change, assessing the model of Green Office as well as considering best practices from internationally acclaimed universities.



Operations

Sustainability Progress Report (SPR)

The SPR provides a concise overview of the university's core aspects of sustainable functioning and is a logical follow-up of the Climate Action Report, which was published in 2011. In 2012, all relevant data in the areas: energy, waste, water and procurement, were analyzed and compared with data from previous years. Additionally, the report provides information whether Maastricht University has succeeded in maintaining or improving its position compared to other Dutch Universities. In addition to number-based, direct comparison with previous time periods, the SPR presents a follow-up on specific recommendations from the Climate Action Report. The key findings were that energy usage decreased by 4-5% per square meter, the usage of natural gas decreased by 10.5%* per heating day and square meter, water usage decreased by 3.2%*, waste increased by 8.1%. Furthermore, Maastricht University is currently complying with 100% of the criteria for sustainable procurement set out by Agentschap NL.

**Footnote: per student and staff member*

UCM Business Case

Addressing several of Maastricht University's sustainability challenges and involving a large number of student volunteers, the Green Office's UCM Business Case is one of the first projects that were implemented by Green Office. After investigating a number of possible measures, analysing feasibility and calculating financial and ecological implications, several recommendations to improve energy efficiency at UCM (Zwingelpuut 4) were made. By exchanging conventional lamps with highly efficient LEDs, installing presence and ambient light detectors, making adaptations to the opening hours of the UCM building, and implementing PC Power Management, it was calculated that approximately 24% of total electricity usage of UCM could be saved. The Business Case is to be evaluated in 2013 and can set the stage for further measures on energy efficiency at Maastricht University.

PREMIUM projects

Three projects were executed for the Green Office by students taking part in UM's Master's Honors program PREMIUM. Each of the projects was conducted by four to six students over a period of eight to ten weeks, resulting in valuable new research insights.

1. PREMIUM: Sustainable Behavior

In order to achieve UM's energy-efficient commitments, technical and infrastructure projects will not suffice. Behavioral change may be the hardest to achieve, but it is, at the same time, the most enduring and meaningful. To make the first step on this challenging path, a group of PREMIUM students investigated different approaches to behavior change to increase energy efficiency, presented different methods and thus created a valuable starting point from which further actions can be conducted.

2. PREMIUM: Waste reduction

The Sustainability Policy 2012-2014 sets the reduction of waste as one of the major issues on the agenda of the university and the Green Office in particular. Making immediate action even more crucial is the fact that, in spite of an increasing amount of waste, no measures have been taken. The PREMIUM project focused on delivering an overview of the current waste streams, identified unnecessary expenses and produced a number of suggestions to tackle the existing problems. The results of this research will serve as a baseline for projects in waste reduction in the coming years.

3. PREMIUM: Duurzame Monumenten

As part of Hogeschool Zuyd's project Duurzame Monumenten which aims to produce research on sustainable renovation of historical and historic buildings in the Euregio Limburg through several case studies Green Office provided an assignment. The project was divided into two assignments, one starting in fall 2012, and the other in fall 2013. The assignments have to be seen as consecutive and building on each other. The first assignment produced a general framework to approach the renovation of historic buildings in order to improve sustainability performance, a problem inventory, a catalogue of possible measures and an inventory of the building investigated in this study (Grote Gracht 90-92, FASoS).

Sustainable Vending Machine Pilot

In September 2012, the Green Office, in cooperation with UCM's Sustainability Committee (GECCO) and UM's caterer Albron, was able to present Maastricht University's first vending machine selling sustainable snacks and drinks. During the pilot phase, organic and fair trade products are sold in addition to the conventional product range. The most successful products will then be identified and an introduction on a university-wide scale will be considered. This project helps to increase the share of sustainable food stuff sold at Maastricht University and to test and influence consumer preferences concerning sustainable products based on the conviction that once a better alternative is offered, it will also find consumers.

Green Energy Report

In summer 2012, the Green Office produced an extensive report, analyzing the current energy policy of UM and different technical options to generate renewable energy in the future. The report provided a structural analysis of the status quo, technical information on alternatives, an overview of best practices by other universities and recommendations towards green energy production. The report was used as a baseline for the Green Electricity Transition Project which was started in the end of 2012 and will recommend ways for sustainable energy production for Maastricht University.

Green Electricity Transition Project

Maastricht University's Sustainability Vision 2030 sets ambitious aims in the field of energy procurement and production. The Green Electricity Transition project builds on the results of the Green Energy Report and takes the first step towards achieving the goals set in the Vision. In its initial phase, it assessed the quality of UM's current energy policy and applied the recommendations of the Green Energy Project to the specific context of Maastricht University. During the first months of 2013, specific scenarios will be analysed and checked for feasibility. The best option will be recommended for implementation.

Control-Alt-Delete Emissions (Green ICT)

In 2012, the CADE (Control-Alt-Delete Emissions) Team worked on the implementation of PowerMAN to reduce energy consumption and CO²-emissions of the university's Computer environment. Next to this, a PC Power Management awareness campaign was started to keep the university informed about future changes. Finally, the CADE Team is working on a public screen as well as an online platform to give a better insight into what the university's achievements are.

PC-Powermanagement

In its 2011 business case the CADE (Control-Alt-Delete Emission) team targeted the energy consumption and CO² emissions of the university's IT environment. In 2012, CADE aimed at enforcing the decision of making the IT environment greener. To achieve this aim, the CADE team is working closely together with ICTS to implement the PC Power Management software Power Man at the university, which will help to reduce the electricity consumption of PCs significantly. While the current phase of the project is limited to the IT environment of FASOS, ICTS and UCM, the final phase, starting in the first half of 2013, targets a university wide implementation. In order to communicate this development, a PC Power Management Awareness Campaign was initiated to keep staff members informed about changes and their potential.

Data Visualization

Next to this, the CADE team is currently developing "The Display", a data visualisation tool, in order to make the university's achievements in sustainability visible on public screens and on UM's website. In the current phase of the project the CADE team is working together with the university's energy coordinators as well as ICTS to pool all available data in one central database which is set up internally. Furthermore, the team is evaluating where the university already employs suitable screens which can be used to display the cumulated data. The target is to launch the website before summer 2013.

Community

The community portfolio of the Green Office supports and empowers student and staff initiatives to foster a strong and vibrant sustainability community. By giving access to information and resources, as well as connecting stakeholders from within and around the institution, it provides channels for participation and engagement in sustainability projects and governance questions at Maastricht University. In 2012, the community portfolio contributed to a stronger sustainability culture at Maastricht University through several projects. While the Green Office takes ownership in some projects, others were conducted in collaboration with student groups or provide ongoing support for projects.

Sustainability Vision 2030

In February 2012 the Green Office initiated a participatory process, involving students and staff-members, which led to the development of Maastricht University's Sustainability Vision 2030. More than 200 people from all faculties and various departments contributed their personal views on sustainability at Maastricht University and entered a competition for the best ideas to make Maastricht University sustainable. All contributions were used to draft the Vision document which was finalized by the Green Office in cooperation with members of the University Council and the Executive Board. The Vision defines the shared goals and values that the student community, our staff members as well as the university's Executive Board, strive towards and aim to realize by 2030.

Our goals:

- “Educating green change agents through a holistic approach to sustainability Education and Research”
- “Making a positive environmental impact”
- “Living a culture of sustainability and participatory policy-making”

WE festival workshop

In order to involve as many students as possible in the creation of a shared Sustainability Vision 2030 for Maastricht University, Green Office hosted a workshop at the annual WE-Festival, a student initiative which focuses on cultural exchange and organizes a yearly festival around the topics of student collaboration, sustainability and politics. As part of the workshop a group of 10 students worked on the first drafts of the Sustainability Vision which has later been adopted as official university policy.

Sustainability Roadmap 2030

To address the need for guidance towards achieving the goals agreed upon in the Vision 2030, the UM Green Office is developing a roadmap. The Roadmap 2030 mentions different project paths which have to be followed in order to improve the sustainability of the university. The three focus areas of the roadmap are Education & Research, Community & Culture, and Operations of Maastricht University.

A group of fifteen UM students was gathered for a SWOT analysis of UM, thereby using the knowledge and previous research of the Green Office. This team of students was later divided, based on preference for one of the focus areas, in three teams. These teams focused on problems inherent to one particular area and developed projects plans to solve these, while having the goals of the Vision 2030 in mind. Through weekly meetings the teams worked on their respective portfolio. By means of peer reviewing and update presentations the teams communicated with each other. These efforts resulted in project plans with multiple milestones towards 2030 and a detailed timeline for each portfolio. The result of the student teams was discussed within the Green Office and used as reference point for the first draft of the Roadmap 2030.

Sustainability BBQ and Info market

In May 2012 the Green Office hosted, in cooperation with the WE Festival, the second Sustainability BBQ at Landbouwbelang. Interested students did not only get to enjoy organic and vegetarian food but also gained insight into Maastricht's sustainability community. Student organizations such as Gecco, the Student Workforce or oikos Maastricht presented their activities and projects to more than 400 participants and gave students the opportunity to involve with their organizations.

Joint Board Meetings

Maastricht University has various student organizations that are concerned with the topic of sustainability. Yet, these organizations missed a platform for exchanging information on their efforts. Thus, the Green Office initiated a monthly Joint Board Meeting of all sustainability organizations at Maastricht University. The meetings did not only allow to increase the knowledge exchange between student organizations, streamline efforts but also to jointly organize events such as the Sustainability BBQ or gain valuable input for the Sustainability Vision 2030.

Project Partnerships



Gemeente Maastricht | Sustainability Roadmap 2030



Gecco | Sustainable Vending Machine



Hogeschool Zuyd | Duurzame Monumenten



Albron | Sustainable Vending Machine



Klaor Loch | Clean Air for Maastricht Debate



ICIS | Green Office / ICIS PhD position



Oikos Maastricht | EcoMap

Finances

Maastricht University Green Office is financed through Maastricht University's General and Technical Services. It has received a starting budget of 25.000 € in 2010. For the years of 2011 and 2012 an annual budget of 75.000 € has been agreed upon with the central level management. A surplus made in 2011 was partially used in 2012, however most of it could be carried to 2012 and used for increased salary and training costs. In total, a net surplus of 12.793 € was made.

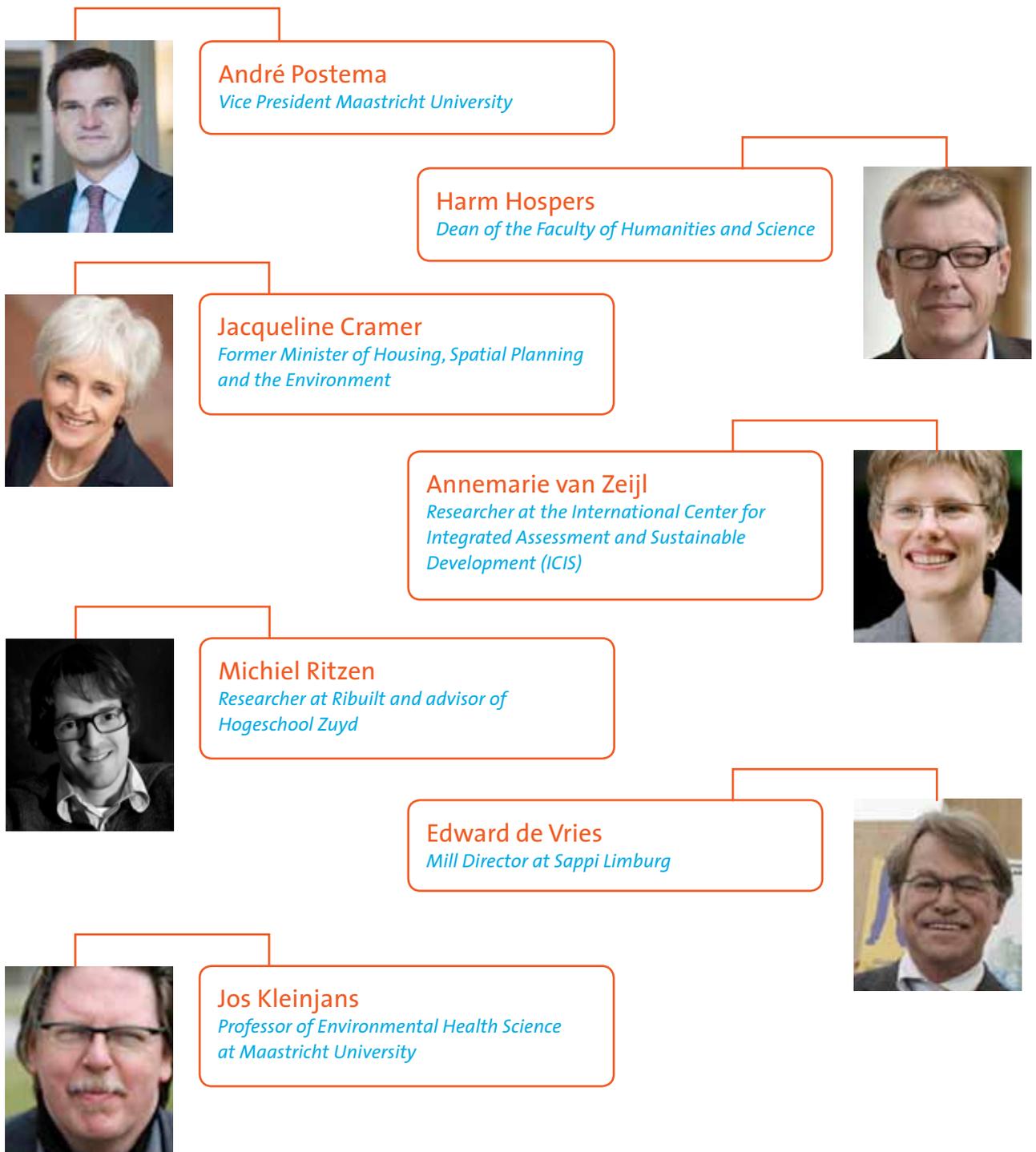
Budget 2012	75.000
Savings 2011	20.138
Salary	-52.615
Facilities	-11.520
Office Supply	-2.054
Catering / Events	-5.565
Training & Planning	-4.850
Print	-4.603
Travel	-1.138
Total	12.793

The working budget of the Green Office covered in 2012 several elements. Among these were printing costs for information material and the published Green Office reports. Next to that, travel expenses were covered as well as catering for different events. Additionally Green Office used a significant amount of its operating budget for internal staff training since the Green Office had to manage the transition from the founding staff to a new team. Furthermore, first major projects such as the Sustainability Vision 2030 and Business Cases resulted in increased project planning costs.

In 2012 it became clear that Green Office operated on a very tight budget. The savings which were initially made in 2010 and carried over to 2011 had to be used to compensate for the total spending of € 82.674 (given a budget of € 75.000). However, the savings of 2010/2011 allowed for a positive balance of 12.793 € at the end of 2012. To ensure the sustainability of Green Office's output an increased budget for 2013, reflecting the initial budget plans for 2010, has been requested by Green Office and approved by central level management.

Supervisory Board

The work of the Green Office is supported by the input from its supervisory board. In 2012, valuable input was provided in four meetings. Reporting to the Supervisory Board provides the Green Office with great access to knowledge and ensures an ongoing monitoring process. The members of the Supervisory Board are:



Employees in 2012



Volunteers in 2012

Operations

Florian Simonsen
Moritz Winkler
Marie Zweynert
Franziska Salzer
Alex Zaicu

Camila Vargas Poulsen
Julius Schiesser
Niklas Grabbe
Heiner Salomon

CADE (Green ICT)

Doris Bamberger
Felix Müller-Irion

Christopher Sauer
Julian Bartke

Community

Laura Niessen
Simona Gorgjevska
Carmen Esser
Lisa Krumm
Lea Bressensdorf
Magali Mohr
Toni Baldauf

Christina Trappe
Anna Carolina Zuiderduin
Gina di Maio
Raphaella Montandon
Anselm Grahl
Moritz Poll
Farina Hoffmann

Education & Research

Schwedeler, Michaela
Priyanka Paul Chowdhury

Lehtonen, Anu
Quitsch, Svenja

Awards

In 2012 Maastricht University and the Green Office received two awards for their efforts in the transformation towards a sustainable university.



International Sustainable Campus Network Award for Excellence in Student Projects

The International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) and oikos International recognized the achievements of Maastricht University Green Office with the ISCN-oikos Student Leadership Award on 20 June at an official ceremony in Eugene, USA.

This reward presents the highest international award for sustainability student activism. “This year’s award winners truly raise the bar on campus sustainability projects” said Dr. Matthew Gardner in the name of the international Jury selecting the Green Office. “Each winner represents a best practice and a lighthouse-type of project that campuses around the world can learn from.”

Maastricht University Green Office is the sustainability change agency of Maastricht University, initiated and run by students. The Green Office was established in September 2010 and has developed into an integral part and driver of Maastricht University’s sustainability strategy. Students have already successfully implemented several sustainability projects through the Green Office, such as the first sustainability baseline analysis of Maastricht University, the new sustainability policy 2012-2014, business cases for a more energy efficient computer infrastructure and light system, as well as several conferences and networking events.

Already in March 2012, Maastricht University was awarded with the Sustainability Award, as the Dutch university with the most transparent sustainability efforts. Back then, Jeanine Gregersen – Director of Marketing and Communications – already acknowledged that “we owe this award to the driving force of our students at the Green Office.” With the Student Leadership Award, the achievements of the Green Office are recognized worldwide.

The award also comes at the right time for a key spin-off project of four founders and former student employees of Maastricht University Green Office. Recently, they have founded Green Office Europe, a NGO to promote and create more student-driven Green Offices at European Universities. “The Green Office is an unique and very powerful project, in the sense that it provides practical sustainability education for the students engaged in the office, and creates a positive impact on the university sustainability efforts. Through Green Office Europe we want to bring this lighthouse project to more universities”, explain the four founders of Green Office Europe Arian Meyer, Ulrich Scharf, Valentin Tappeser and Felix Spira.

Sustainabul for the most sustainable and transparent Dutch university



The *Sustainabul* 2012 Award was presented to Maastricht University on Tuesday 20 March this year. Jeanine Gregersen, director of Marketing & Communications, accepted the award on behalf of the university. The *Sustainabul* Award is presented each year to the university with the most transparent and sustainable policies. The results were based on an independent investigation of the transparency and sustainability of 14 Dutch universities conducted by Rank a Brand and Morgen.

Honest about performance

According to the study, UM not only pursues a sustainable policy which was drafted by the Green Office in 2011, it also provides insight into its policy documents and performance. UM performs well on energy consumption, water consumption, waste volume and sustainable procurement. The research results were based on data from the 2010 annual reports and information published on the corresponding university websites. “We owe this award to the driving force of our students at the Green Office and we as management embrace this honour wholeheartedly,” says Gregersen.

Media Coverage

Faktor N Career and Lifestyle meet Sustainability 

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Student-driven Green Office wins international sustainability award

21 JUN 2012
(Press Release)

The International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) and oikos International recognized the achievements of Maastricht University Green Office with the ISCN-oikos Student Leadership Award last night at an official ceremony in Eugene, USA. This reward presents the highest international award for sustainability student activism. "This year's award winners truly raise the bar on campus sustainability projects" said Dr. Mathew Gardner in the name of the International Jury selecting the Green Office. "Each winner represents a best practice and a lighthouse-type of project that campuses around the world can learn from."

observant

10,000 euros for Green Office Geotimes 30aug 2012 02:07

Maastricht University's Green Office wants to green and become a European sustainability role model. The city of Maastricht has granted 10,000 euros, as an incentive within the framework of its Sustainability Strategy.

The Maastricht Green Office wants to provide a role initiative at other European universities. In addition, the Green Office is expected to use the money also to make Maastricht towards a sustainable city in 2030, the jury report states.

Green Office Maastricht was founded by students in September 2010, and initiates and coordinates sustainability projects at the university.

The city council awarded a size of executive ideas, both from within the UM and outside. The Maastricht Green Office of the international sustainability organization. These will receive 870 euros subsidy to create an Eco-Map, a street map in English identifying sustainable shops, restaurants and other sustainable locations in the city.

Award for Green Office Geotimes 20jun 2012 14:48

The Green Office has received the oikos Student Leadership Award. This award is given to outstanding student projects or initiatives contributing to a sustainable campus and encouraging other students to start their own initiatives. Ulrich Schaff of the Green Office accepted the award on Wednesday at the award ceremony at the University of Oregon in Eugene, USA. The award is granted by the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN), a network of leading universities in the field of sustainable campuses. In a 7-day, Stanford, United Kingdom in cooperation with oikos, an international student organization engaged in sustainable economic and management. The award of the award can attend the oikos Winter School, a teaching week for beginning social entrepreneurs, taking place in Berlin. Last year the award went to Cornell University.



Maastricht University Green Office wins ISCN-oikos Student Leadership Award

Filed under: [Diverse Awards](#)

The distinction represents the highest international award for sustainability student activism.

The Award, one of the 2012 International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) Sustainable Campus Excellence Awards, was initiated by the oikos Foundation, an international student organization with 30 chapters based at universities around the world, and is given to meritorious student projects or campaigns contributing to the sustainable campus and encouraging other students to develop new initiatives.

The ISCN provides a global forum to embrace leading colleges, universities and corporate campuses and provide a platform to share information, ideas and best practices towards integrating sustainability in campuses operations, research and teaching. Consequently, these Sustainable Campus Excellence Awards want to recognize outstanding performances, leadership, creativity and effectiveness in the areas of Building, Campus, Integration and Student Initiatives.

The Maastricht University Green Office, initiated and run by students, is the sustainability change agency of Maastricht University (UM). Back in March 2012, UM was already awarded with the Sustainability Award as the university with most transparent sustainability efforts.

For more information, follow this link.

Sustainability Vision 2030

10-5-2012 -
"A goal that guides us" - this is what the Green Office is looking for in its Sustainability Vision 2030. Just as there is a strategic plan for the future of the university, the Green Office wants to write a plan for the future of sustainability at UM. But, as they explained during their presentation to staff and students last Tuesday, first they need to know where the academic community wants the university to be in 2030.

A competition will therefore be held at www.observant2030.nl for all staff and students to share their ideas until the end of May. A committee will streamline all input in June, and they hope to present a proposal policy in July. "If all goes well, the university can then adopt the policy officially at the start of the academic year in September", says Green Office member Maiko Schaffrath. After that, the Green Office will work on a 'road map' for how to achieve the goals set in the 2030 policy, which will be presented in late 2012.

To date, UM has only had short-term policies on sustainability, whereas "long-term thinking is often crucial for sustainable development", according to Ragnar Marfens, another Green Office member. "We chose 2030 because that's the year the city of Maastricht wants to be climate neutral. This way, we can coordinate our efforts."

Empowering Students For A More Sustainable University

Tappesser, Valentin

In this article, Valentin Tappesser from Maastricht University presents the Maastricht University Green Office, a student-led department that develops sustainability projects by students, staff and faculty, as a successful example of how empowering students can be a productive and major stride to help shape and transform universities in their voyage towards sustainability and innovation.

When the world's governments were meeting at Rio-20 this June to discuss the future of sustainable development, among the various issues addressed in the overwhelming plethora of side events, the role of higher education in sustainability was a fairly prominent concern. The World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities, the launch of the Higher Education Initiative for Rio-20, as well as a number of other events and forums on the issue brought together some of the leading decision-makers, movers and shakers in the field. While much progress has been made since 1992 in transforming universities to become drivers of societal change through research and education, as well as to become organizational role models for wider society in terms of sustainability, a certain structural conservatism of these often century old institutions and the still pervasive obliviousness and ignorance towards the issue on the side of many administrators, faculty members, staff and students, leaves most institutions far from where they probably could and should be.



Get Involved!

Become a student employee at the Green Office

The Green Office hires new student employees twice a year. If you are interested in the field of sustainability, this is your chance to help changing the University environment. Working for the Green Office requires a great deal of dedication, ambition, creativity, and is a lot of fun. Apply in one of our hiring rounds to join a team in a professional and challenging working environment.

Volunteer with the Green Office

Do you want to become active in the field of sustainability at Maastricht University? Then, join one of our projects and volunteer with the Green Office. You can join whenever you feel like your life needs some new dedication. As a volunteer you will gain great practical working experience in several sustainability related fields. Contact us if you feel like joining one of our projects and help changing the university environment. Just send an e-mail to greenoffice@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Realize your own project

You are a student or employee at Maastricht University and want to realize your own project focusing on social, ecological or economic sustainability? The Green Office Maastricht is the right partner to provide assistance and leverage to your efforts. Just send an e-mail to greenoffice@maastrichtuniversity.nl and tell us your idea.

Support Us!

You like the cause and the way the Green Office works? Support us now by spreading the word about our activities or giving us some financial support.

Furthermore, you can join one of the sustainability related student organizations in Maastricht and start collaborating with us. For more information on how to support our cause just visit www.greenofficemaastricht.nl

Closing remarks

We are satisfied in the face of our achievements in 2012. As the first student-driven university department in the Netherlands, we have achieved many tangible successes and instigated a process of cultural change towards sustainability at Maastricht University. However, looking at the challenges ahead of us, it becomes evident that a lot of work remains to be done. We're looking forward to an exciting and challenging year 2012.

Let us work together for a more sustainable Maastricht University!



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www.greenofficemaastricht.nl

Maastricht University Green Office coordinates and initiates sustainability projects at Maastricht University, by empowering students and staff members. Thereby, the Green Office addresses the urgent need for integrated and innovative efforts for a sustainable future at the university. This report outlines the achievements of the Green Office in 2012.



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