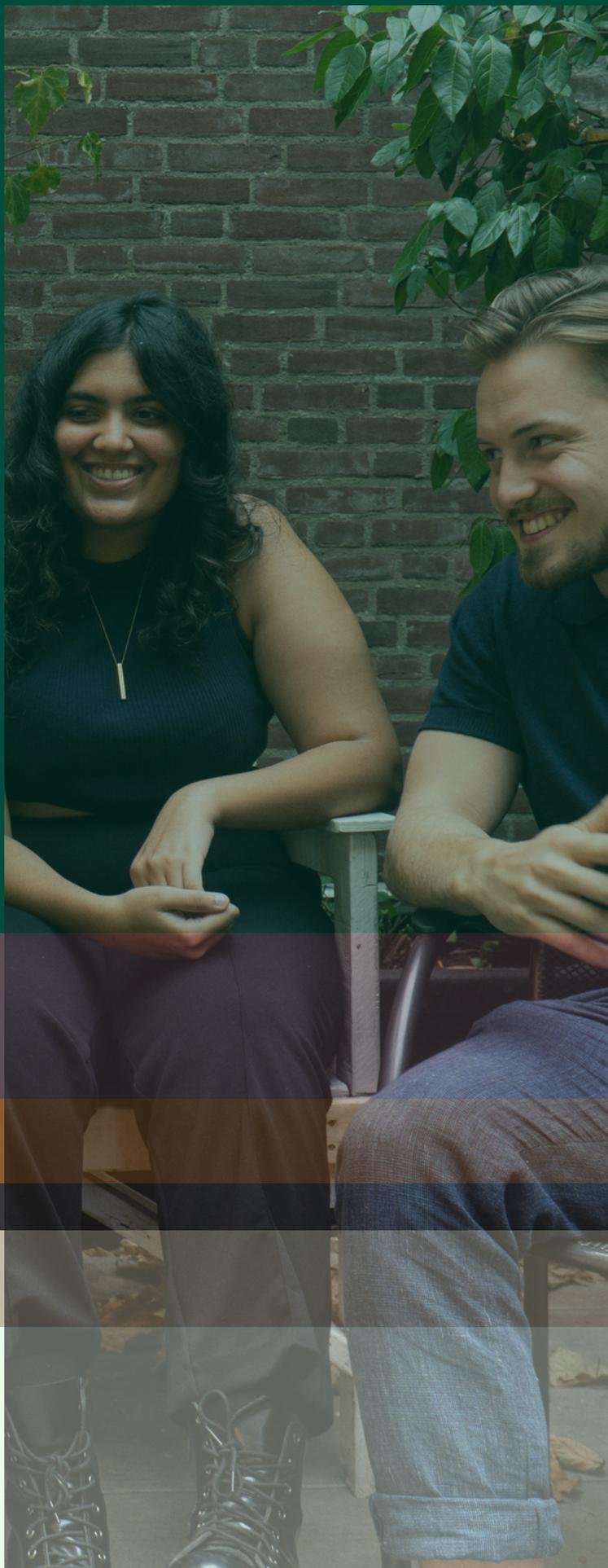


UVA GREEN OFFICE
**SEMI-
ANNUAL
REPORT
2022**



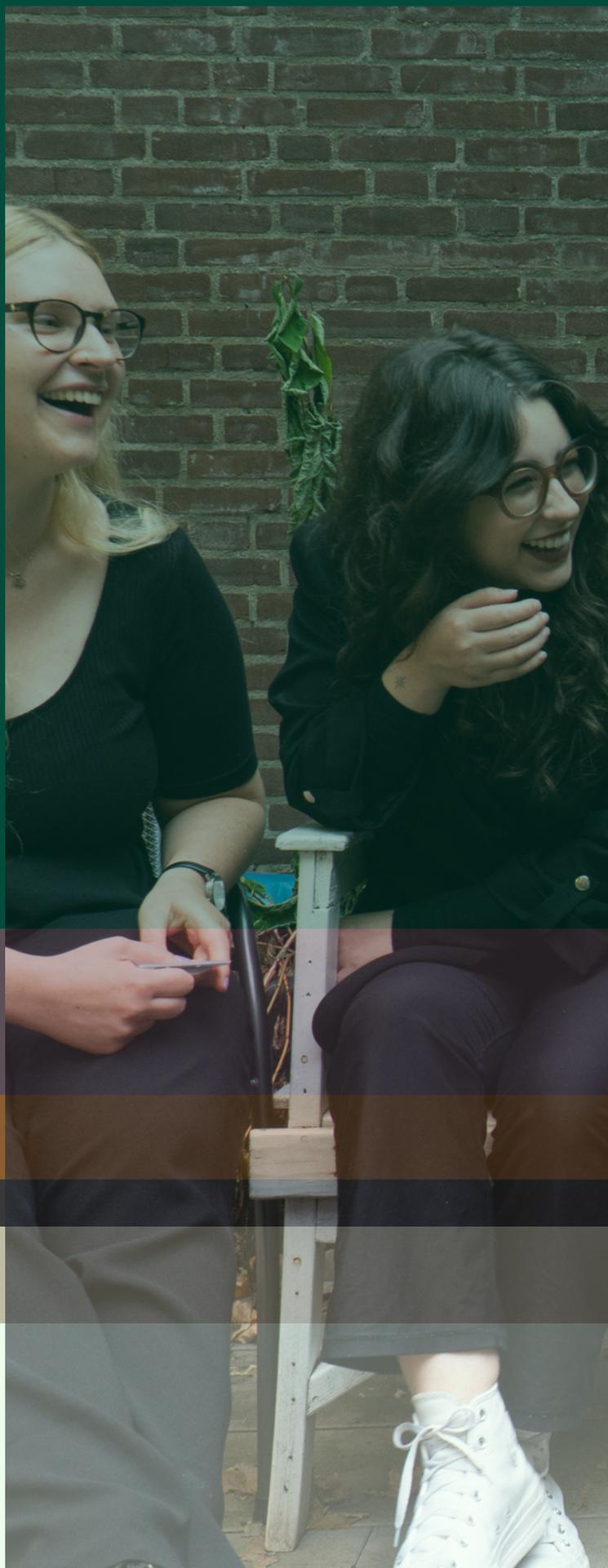
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01 INTRODUCTION

The UvA Green Office was established in 2016. Since then, the Green Office has continuously increased its output of policy recommendations and projects to accelerate the prioritisation of sustainability at the UvA. The Green Office is a student-run platform integrated into the UvA's institutional structure. Together, four team leaders, two general managers, and a number of voluntary student members work under the supervision of one central staff member (bestuurstaf), Ewout Doorman, and in extension, under the board of directors (College van Bestuur) (CvB) of the UvA.

For the first time in many months, we were able to spend the entirety of this semester meeting in-person and hosting on-site activities. The following report is filled with summaries of all of the wonderful things we were able to do, including some returning favourites like the Green Career Days, and some new and exciting initiatives like the first-ever Green Weeks. We two co-managers (Lucy and Zita) had a very memorable year leading the Green Office - it was wonderful to be able to coordinate another group of 50 motivated members, and work with our dedicated core team who facilitated a great transition back into on-campus Green Office life.



01 INTRODUCTION

We moved from our original (and historic) office in the J/K building on Roeterseiland Campus to our new office in the ABC building, held a number of lovely member borrels, and of course hosted a number of sustainable projects across our four teams. Here's hoping for a permanent return to on-site life where the Green Office and its members thrive best!

After another wonderful academic year of work, it is time to say goodbye to our current core team and welcome a new group of leaders. We want to thank; Khushi (Communications), who spread the word of our efforts within and without our organisation by coordinating all of our communication channels; Ivan (Campus), who tackled crucial behind-the-scenes issues like waste management, single-use cups, and UvA bank accounts to make our Campus a greener place; Gabi (Research and Education), who continued to fly the flag of our Knowledge Hub as well as giving it an outstanding upgrade, and who managed all kinds of events and initiatives related to improving awareness and understanding of environmental issues from a number of different perspectives;

And Gio (Community), who fostered our internal Green Office community and built connections to expand our networks beyond our organisation to alumni, green organisations and local businesses.

While Gabi, Ivan, and Gio seek new opportunities, Khushi will stay on as the communications team leader for another year. It is also our moment as managers to step down, Zita after two dedicated years on the core team, and Lucy after three years. We look forward to the fresh future of the Green Office and how the new core team will take this opportunity to make the organisation their own.

The Green Office welcomes the new team which includes Khushi, Meriç, Yashi, Aiden, Sara, and Sofia. The new team will be shortly featured on our social media channels so stay tuned to learn more about them and which new projects they will be introducing at the UvA Green Office!

**LUCY UPTON AND
ZITA KOSARAS**

UVA GREEN OFFICE GENERAL
CO-MANAGERS

02 STRUCTURE

ROLES

The UvA Green Office has many students working towards a more sustainable university. Each of us has different roles and responsibilities, which helps us divide tasks and allows many to participate.



i. SUPERVISION

Our supervisor, Ewout Doorman, is the link between the UvA Green Office and the University of Amsterdam. The supervisor supports the Green Office wherever needed and makes sure it performs well within the university's institutional structure.

ii. MANAGEMENT

The current managers, Lucy Upton and Zita Kosaras, are responsible for all the actions of the members of the UvA Green Office and make sure everything goes according to plan. The managers determine the general strategy of the Green Office, monitor the progress of the current projects, and the work of the portfolio holders. The managers also decide on the expenses so that the allocated budget is used optimally.



02 STRUCTURE

iii. TEAM LEADERS



Team leaders are an essential part of the Green Office. Together the four team leaders as part of the core team spend a considerable amount of time devising the long-term strategy, and driving policy change at the UvA. In addition, they manage the Green Office members and their respective projects - sometimes overseeing and facilitating up to 10 unique projects at a time. They motivate members by organizing social events and provide opportunities to develop skills and knowledge through things like workshops, meet-ups, or their weekly or bi-weekly team meetings. This year the leaders are Giovanna Hunsrao, Gabrielle Aguilar, Khushi Garga and Ivan Muso.

iv. MEMBERS

The Green Office consists mainly of student members in addition to our managers and team leaders. The members work on creating and implementing projects individually or in small teams. Some projects were initiated and brought to life by members, others are continuous projects. We now operate with about 53 active student members working on projects in addition to our core team.



03 OUR PROJECTS

GREEN WEEKS 2022

In this section we would love to introduce a brand-new initiative - the UvA and HvA Green Weeks! For the first time ever, the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and the Hogeschool van Amsterdam (HvA; also known as the University of Applied Sciences or AUAS), came together to design a sustainability initiative that would put green projects at the forefront of both academic institutions for a dedicated period of time. What started as just the seed of an idea to run one week of sustainable events started snowballing into a month's worth of projects, and eventually the Green Weeks was finalised as a multi-week programme with 13 unique projects spanning from the 21st of April to the 31st May. As the UvA Green Office we worked in close contact with FLOOR (the cultural centre of the HvA) and the UvA facility services team to run two of these projects, and help with the construction and promotion of the Green Weeks concept. Our Green Weeks projects were both smashing successes and we look forward to the continuation of this initiative in 2023!

Even though the events were a team effort with multiple collaborators, we would like to dedicate a special thanks to our wonderful R&E lead Gabi Aguilar, who spearheaded the organisation of both of these events and did a truly fantastic job. You can read Gabi's summary of each of the projects on the next page.



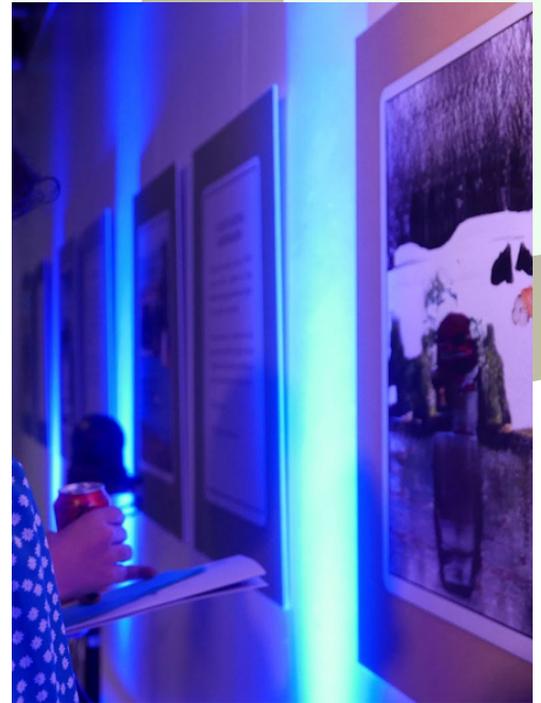
Photos provided by Pepe Carrasco

03 OUR PROJECTS

I. EXHIBITION: ALL GONE

On April 21st, we came together at FLOOR to celebrate the opening of the *All Gone: Invoking Climate Futures* exhibition by the Visual Methodologies Collective. This exhibition opening marked the beginning of six weeks of activities and events across the UvA and HvA which were dedicated to sharing knowledge on climate justice and sustainability– the ‘Green Weeks’!

All Gone is an experiment in imagining our future climate, with the help of Artificial Intelligence. Exhibition attendees engaged in a multimedia experience which included audio stories, a visual and take-home tarot deck, a wall tapestry by the Amsterdam Fashion Institute and a filmed performance by the Zikzira Physical Theatre.



II. FILM SCREENING: ICARUS BALANCE

On May 10th, we came together once more during the Green Weeks and welcomed scholar and writer Dr. Catherine Lord, and Brussels-based director and filmmaker Mischa Dols to engage in a film screening and Q&A Discussion of Patrick Jean’s *Icarus Balance* at Filmtheater Kriterion.

photos provided by Pepe Carrasco

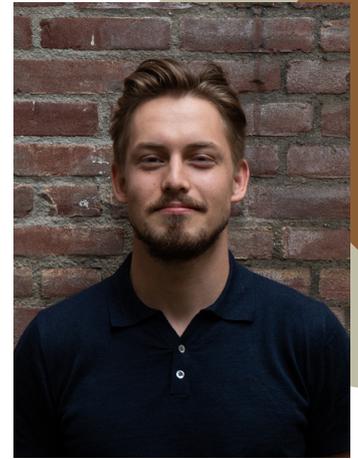
03 OUR PROJECTS

TEAMS

Our projects are divided across four teams: Campus, Community, Research and Education, and Communications. Read on to see the awesome projects each team is working on.

I. CAMPUS TEAM

In the second semester, the Campus Team continued with the great initiatives that began in the first semester. This yielded two amazing outcomes and collaborations with both the Executive Board and the Facility Services. The Campus Team relied on the support of the Central Student Council which was a core pillar of our successes.



Ivan Muso

CAMPUS TEAM LEADER

İ. REUSABLE CUPS

In the past months, the UvA Green Office's Campus Team has worked consistently to fight the waste from disposable coffee cups at the UvA's campuses. The team has worked on an extended proposal for the Facility Services of the UvA and lobbied for a Billie Cups that facilitates a reusable system. You can find the full proposal on the Knowledge Hub. Meanwhile, we managed to get the first cafe on board in Amsterdam to switch to reusable options. As a result of our efforts and proposal, the Facility Services decided to hire an independent company ("Mission Reuse") to evaluate the whole market for reusable options, in order to choose the best fit for the UvA. Billie Cups company was included in these options too. In the last days, Mission Reuse decided to shortlist two companies to start two pilot projects:

- UvA: Foodcourt REC-H, app-based solution by Vytal company
- HvA: Wibauthuis + Coffeebreak, digital deposit based solution by WeCup company

These pilots will run for a few months to test which company is the best fit for the UvA and the company will facilitate all the UvA's campuses. In the end, our efforts and voice were strong enough to lead to this (tendering) procedure and thanks to the UvA Green Office, there will be no more disposables at the campuses!

03 OUR PROJECTS

ii. ECO-SCORE AT THE CAFETERIA

At the beginning of the year 2022, the Campus Team had sent a proposal to the Facility Services of the UvA to implement a pilot with CO2 emissions scores (eco-score) in one of the UvA's canteens.

Although this pilot got positive feedback from the Facility Services, there was no space between the university and the company that provides catering for the school (Cirfood) to try this pilot. Perhaps, next semester, there will be space for implementing it. The proposal was made in collaboration with an amazing company Green Fish which connects sustainability with technological solutions. Find more about them at: <https://www.greenfish.nl/>. You can find the full proposal on the Knowledge Hub.



iii. FIRST YEAR GUIDES

This project was done in collaboration with the Community Team. We have gathered multiple sources from the Green Office and did external research, in order to provide a handbook of various tips for first-year students that come to Amsterdam. It was published at the end of June on our website.

03 OUR PROJECTS

iv. UvA BANK ACCOUNT TRANSITION

The Campus Team aim is to propose and implement innovative and sustainable policies and technologies. In order to really improve the environmental impact, the Campus Team delved into the finances of the UvA which are very dirty at the moment.

The UvA is connected to several banks which handle different financial operations. However, according to the Annual Plan of 2020, the Deutsche Bank is the official bank of the university. This means that the majority of the UvA's budget flows from Deutsche Bank, including the students' tuition fees which counted for €101.5 million. Moreover, the total income of the UvA in 2021 was €760.5 million with expenses worth of €757 million.

The problem regarding this amount of money is the fact that such an enormous amount is channelled through Deutsche Bank. According to the Banking on Climate Chaos report from 2021, Deutsche Bank is the 20th largest banker of a fossil fuel activity in the world. In 2021, Deutsche Bank provided \$9.126 billion to fossil fuel companies, and from 2016 until 2021, it provided \$74.624 billion to fossil fuel companies. The fact that the UvA has a bank account at Deutsche Bank directly contributes and provides finances for environmentally and socially harmful activities. Secondly, in the light of the latest developments of war in Ukraine, Deutsche Bank was also mentioned among the largest bankers of the Putin's regime company Gazprom. This fact indirectly makes every student a potential funder of the Russian's aggression.

All these fact led us to unite with the Central Student Council to write an unsolicited advice to the Executive Board of the UvA, demanding a tendering process to choose a bank that does not breach human rights and does not invest in fossil fuels or military. The Executive Board has accepted these demands and committed to the change. Because of this, the UvA Green Office will oversee the tendering process selection in the upcoming year.

THAT'S ALL FROM THE CAMPUS TEAM!

03 OUR PROJECTS

II. COMMUNITY TEAM

The Community team focuses on building and sustaining a community of like-minded UvA students. This year, the team has had about 10 members who work on separate projects, in small teams. Chelsea and Rebecca have been conducting interviews for the Alumni Portraits, Emma, Flore and Kim have been working on the Sustainable Citizens of Amsterdam project, while Aaron, Rhoda and Emily perfected the First Year Guide - and last but certainly not least, Luna, Emma, Flore, Bianca, Kenza and Concha have made sure that the Green Career Days had a successful third year.

**GIOVANNA
HUNSRAO**

COMMUNITY
TEAM LEADER



I. GREEN CAREER DAYS 3.0

This year for the third time, the Community team organized the Green Career Days! This event allows students and soon-to-be graduates to talk to professionals pursuing sustainable careers. We invited a range of companies such as Too Good to Go, Dopper, Metabolic, Gemeente Amsterdam, Fashion for Good and many more. Each company got the chance to introduce themselves, their mission, their link to sustainability, their team and possible open vacancies. After the talk, the participants of the Career Days also had the chance to ask the speakers about their personal career path and for advice. The cherry on top was the location of the Career Days: De Brug on Roeterseilandcampus! Special thanks to Luna, for helping us out last minute!

03 OUR PROJECTS

ii. SUSTAINABLE CITIZENS OF AMSTERDAM

The Sustainable Citizens of Amsterdam project is a relatively new addition to the portfolio of the Community team. It aims to highlight individuals or businesses within the UvA and Amsterdam that promote and live eco-friendly lives. The latest edition will be on the Blog section of our website!

iii. ALUMNI PORTRAITS

This project was started in 2020, where we approach and interview UvA alumni who are currently pursuing a sustainable career. The project aims to shed light on possible sustainability-oriented careers and document the path of our alumni. This past semester, we conducted interviews with Aleksandra Dragozet, marine and freshwater biologist and founder of Sea Going Green, Lobke Jurrius, associate for sustainability responsible governance at PwC, and Rebecca Braak, founder of Ecuafina. All three interviewees share details of their education and also dive into the reasons for starting a sustainable career. They also explain in detail what makes their businesses sustainable and how they make impact in vastly different areas of sustainability.

iv. FIRST YEAR GUIDES

The First Year Guides is a new addition to the portfolio of the Community team! It combines all the information, tips and tricks the Green Office has acquired over the years, and puts it in a digestible form for new UvA students. The guide offers advice on sustainable public transport, banking, second-hand furniture and many many more. We hope that this will help first-year students start their lives in Amsterdam on a more sustainable side, and build habits that stick with them for the coming three years. Keep an eye on our website and social media if you want to check out the guide!

03 OUR PROJECTS

**THAT'S ALL FROM
THE COMMUNITY
TEAM!**



03 OUR PROJECTS

III. RESEARCH & EDUCATION TEAM

The Research & Education team is responsible for building, and sustaining, an active sustainability research community through fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and promoting any events and developments related to sustainability at the University of Amsterdam, actively participating in encouraging the integration of sustainability into new programmes as well as reviewing and promoting existing sustainability-related curriculum at the University of Amsterdam, and fostering a culture of research and theory-based approaches to sustainability within the UvA Green Office



GABRIELLE AGUILAR

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TEAM LEADER

i. GREEN EXCHANGE GUIDE

The University of Amsterdam offers a wide variety of exchange programmes globally. Our objective is to share sustainability-related information on some of our selected European University-partner mobility programmes including calculating the carbon footprint of your flights, finding other University Green Office communities, understanding local transport options in your selected city and more! We are looking forward to releasing the Green Exchange Guide on July 1, 2022. The Green Exchange Guide will feature 20 academic institutions!



03 OUR PROJECTS

ii. SUSTAINABLE COURSES INVENTORY

The UvA Green Office publishes a semi-annual review of sustainability-related courses at the University of Amsterdam. This inventory lists courses offered at the UvA, alongside details of their credits, block, and language of instruction so that students can weave sustainability into their studies! The most recent release of the list is now in a spreadsheet format where students can filter their search by educational institution, language of instruction, and number of study credits.

iii. COLLABORATION WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCES (IIS)

The Research and Education team lead maintained an advisory role in the pilot-phase of the new IIS Sustainability Minor programme. In addition, they also joined an interdisciplinary committee responsible for establishing a future Sustainability Master's programme across the SSH Domain: Faculties of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Humanities, Law, and Economics and Business. The committee put forward three options to develop and implement a sustainability Master's programme which are currently under review by key figures within the University of Amsterdam. Stay tuned to future Semi-Annual Reports for future updates regarding the outcome of this initiative!

iv. RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Research and Education team lead is currently assisting two PPLE students working towards completion of their Bachelor Thesis work on the topic of disposable cup usage.

One student project explores how visual nudges can help to reduce disposable cup consumption and increase the usage of sustainable alternatives such as [Billie Cups](#). The experiment was conducted at Café de Krater and Eetcafé Oerknal and findings will be summarized on the UvA Green Office blog once it has been fully completed!

The other student project is about pro social behaviors, and more specifically how people may reduce their use of disposable cups and substitute them with a reusable cup, through an economic incentive. In order to motivate people to bring their reusable cup, this student is organizing a lottery at the café Good Beans, where the more someone comes in with their reusable cup, the more tickets they get for a lottery. In the end one ticket is randomly selected and the winner receives a prize! Stay tuned to social media for more details.

03 OUR PROJECTS

V. PODCAST (COMMUNICATIONS TEAM COLLABORATION)

The Research and Education team continued on with the Green Office Podcast in tandem with the Communications Team. We were so grateful to speak with Dr. Cameron Brick for our SustainableEDU series where student, Arda Ergin dove into the course 'Applied Social Psychology: Towards a Sustainable Society.' Together, Arda and Cameron dove into the contents and objectives of the course, environmental psychology, policy communication, and how existing psychological processes can be harnessed to deal with climate change. We will also be releasing a new BookTalk episode where Zarah Noorani and Lydia Jach dive into the Climate Fiction (Cli-Fi) world of Ernest Callenbach's Ecotopia. Tune in on your favorite podcasting platform, so you don't miss out on other Green Office podcast episodes including the Green Gen series!



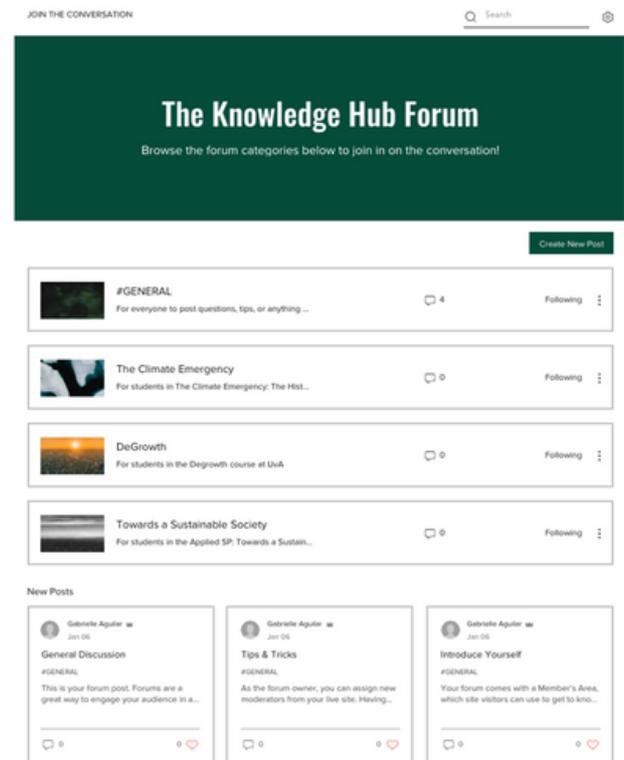
03 OUR PROJECTS

VI. KNOWLEDGE HUB

The Knowledge Hub continues to be a key priority of the Research and Education team portfolio. It strives to be a place where everyone can share their ideas and collaborate with others on sustainability related initiatives across various academic disciplines and professions. Since the initial launch of the Knowledge Hub in early 2021, the team had been discussing ways to improve on its original design. As we explored a future for connecting, creating and collaborating on sustainability at UvA and beyond, we were excited to launch several key improvements to our platform in March 2022 which includes:

- A community-based discussion forum with categories for projects, opportunities, events as well as a general discussion for anyone to ask sustainability-related questions, share tips or connect with others.
- Customised email notifications, so users can easily follow specific individuals, organisations or forum posts that they find most interesting and/or relevant to their studies
- Improved functionalities that promote post engagement such as including interactive links, media, etc.

The re-launch of the Knowledge Hub has been very well received by the community and we are happy to be growing! You can access the Knowledge Hub at uaknowledgehub.nl



Knowledge Hub Community Discussion Forum

03 OUR PROJECTS

**THAT'S ALL FROM THE
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
TEAM!**



03 OUR PROJECTS

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The Communications team is the mouthpiece for the work of the UvA Green Office! While other teams pursue new individual projects on campus or online, the Communications team focuses their hard work on improving visibility on these projects and spreading the word of the Green Office as far as possible. This means managing a host of social media platforms, keeping the website up-to-date, connecting the UvA central communications team to the Green Office, and expanding our reach as far as possible by pursuing new ways of getting content to new types of followers.

I. NEWSLETTERS

A. EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER

The Green Office newsletter is a key part of external communication. This year the external newsletter has been managed by Iona Auttolia, who joined GO this academic year. Given that our mailing list is made up of self-subscribed followers who have signed up via our website, we see the external newsletter audience as our “inner-circle” of followers compared to our 2000+ audience reach on social media. The Communications team put out the newsletter every month on the 15th via email, with three or four highlights of the month from any team. As of January 2022 we have 558 subscribers to our newsletter.



KHUSHI GARGA

COMMUNICATIONS
TEAM LEADER

B. INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

Introduced in January 2021, in the midst of the pandemic, the internal newsletter aims to connect the members of the Green Office. This year, the internal newsletter saw a revamp to become more informal and more personalized. The internal newsletter contains information about work-in-progress projects in each team, a member in the spotlight, and even New Year's Resolutions!

03 OUR PROJECTS

ii. PLATFORMS

A. INSTAGRAM

2,130 followers

10,000+ reach

331 posts

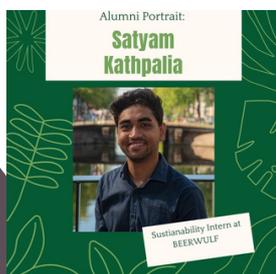
B. FACEBOOK

1969 followers

1851 likes

C. BLOG

~60 reads per post



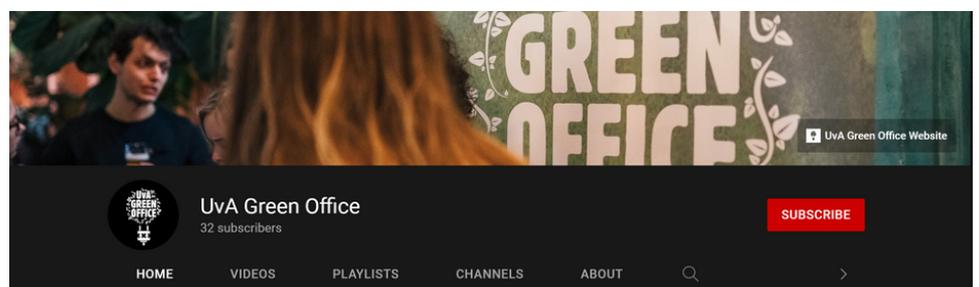
D. WEBSITE

1000+ visits this semester

530 subscriptions

32 subscribers, 1,559 views

E. YOUTUBE



04 CONTACT US

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IMPRESSUM

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JULY 2022

