Green Commitment for Institutional Bodies, Study and Student Organisations of or affiliated with the University of Amsterdam 2026/27

Preamble

The Parties to the Green Commitment

Being the Green Office of the University of Amsterdam, with its office at REC C0.05B, Valckenierstraat 65-67, 1018 XE Amsterdam, The Netherlands ('**UvA Green Office**'), and any institutional body, study or student association of or affiliated with the University of Amsterdam that signed this document ('**UvA Body/ies**'), being the Green Commitment for Institutional Bodies, Study Organisations, and Student Organisations of or affiliated with the University of Amsterdam ('**Green Commitment**'),

Recognizing an increasing concern raised by UvA Bodies regarding the sustainability of the University of Amsterdam ('**University**'), among others, relating to the communication and physical operations of the University,

Acknowledging that improving the overall sustainability of the University requires the overall improvement of sustainability of UvA Bodies since the latter are part of or affiliated with the University,

Acknowledging the responsibility of UvA Bodies for the sustainability of their own practices,

Recognizing that adequate sustainability cannot be achieved through individual or isolated measures alone, but requires structural and systemic adjustment within the University's policies, governance, financial practices, and external partnerships,

Acknowledging that sustainability efforts must also address broader social justice dimensions, including labor conditions, economic equity, and the University's role in shaping society beyond its immediate operations,

Acknowledging that UvA Bodies, by pursuing sustainability of their practices, can lead with a positive example for other UvA Bodies, the members of their body and the University, and by leading with a positive example promote the improvement of sustainability at the University,

Recognizing that consistent usage of generative AI platforms is an unsustainable practice,

Recognizing a demand for assistance in improving the sustainability of the practices of UvA bodies and a demand for a standard set of guidelines for sustainable practices of UvA Bodies,

have agreed as follows:

PART 1
Purpose and scope

Article 1

1. By signing the Green Commitment, UvA Bodies and the UvA Green Office become Parties of the Green Commitment. The Green Commitment is a non-binding agreement and cannot be legally enforced. By signing the Green Commitment the UvA Body states its intention to pursue sustainability, as further specified in sub (2) of this article, and the principles of Articles 3 to 8, and the Green Office states its intention to provide support in this pursuit.
2. For the purpose and scope of the Green Commitment, sustainability refers to the aspects of environmental protection of sustainable development ('**Environmental Sustainability**'), as described by the Brundtland Commission:

   > "*development that meets the needs of the present* [1]*without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*." The aspects of environmental protection can be put into practice by "*enhancing the ... environmental ... well-being of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations, in ways that ... enhance the natural ... environment and respect its limits – using only our fair share of the earth's resources … .*"

   Environmental Sustainability is further [2] specified in the principles of Articles 3 to 8 ('**Principles**').
3. The Green Commitment primarily aims for student and study associations at the UvA to apply general sustainability principles to their daily operations, and encourage each association to promote further awareness of sustainability in their respective student base.

Article 2

The Green Commitment aims to assist in improving the sustainability of the practices of UvA Bodies and to provide a standard set of guidelines for sustainable practices of UvA bodies, in particular study and study assosciations, specifically by

a. Raising awareness and promoting agenda-setting regarding Environmental Sustainability;
b. Promoting the overall reduction of carbon emissions and ensuring commitment to the reduction of carbon emissions;
c. Making deliberate selection of partnerships consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability;
d. Making deliberate decisions regarding catering consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability;
e. Deliberate reduction of energy consumption, consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability;
f. Promoting conscious decisions regarding waste management, consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability;
g. Promoting conscious decisions regarding the purchase of products, consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability;
h. Promoting conscious decisions regarding organizing events and travels, consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability;
i. Promoting the limitation of AI usage where unnecessary, consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability;
j. Promoting communication about Environmental Sustainability, the progress made in pursuing Environmental Sustainability and initiatives taken in pursuing Environmental Sustainability;
k. Actively reviewing its current practices to identify areas for improvement and potential alternatives, consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability.

l. Developing and updating a short internal plan outlining specific steps toward more sustainable operations (e.g., event organization, catering, communication, and procurement). The UvA Green Office will provide templates, examples, and tailored advice to assist in this process.

PART II
Principles

Article 3

1. UvA Bodies should have partnerships, including financial partnerships, which are consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability.
2. Partners, including financial partners, with which UvA bodies have a sponsorship agreement, Should not have been held in violation of environmental rights.[3]

Article 4

1. Catering arranged by UvA Bodies should be consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability.
2. When UvA Bodies provide food and/or beverages, the following guidelines apply:
    a. Vegetarian and vegan options shall be provided.
    b. UvA Bodies are encouraged to set plant based options as default options.
    c. UvA Bodies are encouraged to progressively reduce the consumption of meat over time.
    d. UvA Bodies are encouraged to provide organic and local food.
    e. UvA Bodies are encouraged to reduce food waste to zero.[4]
3. When UvA Bodies attend events where food and beverages are provided, or when UvA Bodies make use of external catering services, the guidelines of sub (2) of this Article apply and UvA Bodies are encouraged to communicate their ambition under the guidelines to external parties.

Article 5

1. Under the White Paper on Sustainability, one of the five goals is: “Towards a fair ecological footprint: 25% reduction in five years”. According to data, the level of energy consumption at the campus level has the majority among the other ecological costs; therefore: Study associations should
    a. Acknowledge their part and strive towards finding ways to reduce energy consumption (such as electricity) in their working space.
    b. Encourage their student base, members, sponsors and other parties to collaborate to spread the importance of less energy consumption.
    c. Creating more awareness through their social media platforms.
    d. Organize their events throughout the year by prioritizing the most efficient usage.

Article 6

1. Waste management of UvA Bodies should be consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability.

2. The waste hierarchy - refuse, reuse, reduce, recycle - applies to all relevant practices of UvA Bodies. The following guidelines apply:
    a. The production of unnecessary waste shall be prevented.
        i. Printing shall only be done when this is necessary.
        ii. UvA Bodies are encouraged not to purchase products with unnecessary packaging.
        iii. UvA Bodies are encouraged to progressively reduce the use of disposables and single-use products over time.[5]
    b. If prevention of waste is not possible, UvA Bodies are encouraged to reuse products.
    c. If the reuse of products is not possible, materials shall be recycled. Therefore, waste shall be separated and disposed of in the correct bins.

Article 7

1. The purchase of products by UvA Bodies should be consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability.
2. When purchasing products, the following guidelines apply:
    a. When not necessary, no new products shall be purchased.
    b. UvA Bodies are encouraged to repair existing products.
    c. UvA Bodies are encouraged to purchase second-hand or refurbished products.
    d. When a product needs replacement, UvA Bodies are encouraged to purchase products with a relatively low negative environmental impact. For electrical appliances, energy labels shall be taken into account .[6]
3. UvA Bodies are encouraged to bring no longer used products to Hergebruik or a second-hand[7] store, or to the UvA Green Office's swap.

Article 8

1. Travels organized by UvA Bodies should be consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability.
2. When organizing travels, the following guidelines apply:
    a. Distance shall be taken into account when organizing travels.
    b. UvA Bodies are encouraged to travel by train, bus or ferry rather than by airplane.
    c. UvA Bodies are encouraged to offset travel carbon emissions.
    d. The Principles of Articles 3, 4 and 5 of the Green Commitment shall apply similarly to travels organized by UvA Bodies.

Article 9

1. Communication by UvA Bodies towards third parties should be consistent with the pursuit of Environmental Sustainability.
2. When communicating with third parties, the following guidelines apply:
    a. UvA Bodies are encouraged to communicate their pursuit of Environmental Sustainability and signing of the Green Commitment to their committee chairs, members and other third parties.
    b. UvA Bodies are encouraged to communicate their progress in pursuing Environmental Sustainability and implementing the Principles of the Green Commitment to their committee chairs, members and other third parties.

c. UvA Bodies are encouraged to inform their members about Environmental Sustainability.

PART III - Miscellaneous

Article 10

No reservations about the Green Commitment can be made.

Article 11

1. Compliance with the Green Commitment shall be monitored by means of self-assessment. UvA Bodies shall communicate, in a format considered suitable by the UvA Body, to the UvA Green Office their progress in pursuing Environmental Sustainability and implementing the Principles of the Green Commitment. Yearly updates shall be requested by the UvA Green Office.
2. On request of UvA Bodies, the UvA Green Office shall provide assistance in pursuing its Environmental Sustainability commitments.

Article 12

The Green Commitment will be effective as from the date of signing the Green Commitment by both the UvA Body and the UvA Green Office. The Green Commitment will be effective until the end of the academic year in which the Green Commitment was signed. The Green Commitment shall every academic year be extended for one (1) additional academic year unless on or before October 31st the UvA Body provides to the UvA Green Office written notice of its desire not to automatically renew the Green Commitment.

Thus signed by:

UvA Green Office

Represented by: Stefana Feciuc
Green Office and Participation Coordinator

Date: 12/10/2026



[1]World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), chaired by Gro Harlem Brundtland, Our Common Future, 1987.
[2]Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015
[3]With regards to banking, the tool of the Eerlijke Geldwijzer can be of assistance (eerlijkegeldwijzer.nl/bankwijzer)
[4] Measurements to reduce food waste to zero can include careful planning of the amounts needed and providing the opportunity to take home leftovers, e.g. by promoting bringing reusable containers.
[5]In order to assist UvA Bodies with the reduction of the use of disposables and single-use products, the UvA Green Office sets up a renting system for reusable plates, cutlery and cups. Information on this can be found on the website, www.uvagreenoffice.nl.
[6]With regards to assessing the environmental impact of a new product, energielabel.nl/apparaten can be of assistance.
[7] Hergebruik is the repository depot of the University of Amsterdam (marktplaats1.sharetribe.com). An agreement exists and contact can directly be established via hergebruik- fs@uva.nl. 3 Environmental Sustainability and implementing the Principles of the Green Commitment
[8]The UvA Green Office can be contacted via greenoffice@uva.nl.