

UVA GREEN OFFICE

SEMI- ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23



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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. We follow an intersectional approach to sustainability that aims to respect the boundaries of our planet without compromising social needs. 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.

Now that the 2022/23 academic year has begun and since we are able to spend the entirety of the semester meeting in-person and hosting on-site activities, the Green Office continues to actively work for making the UvA even more sustainable. 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.



01 INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first semi-annual report of the Green Office of the academic year 2022/23. As managers, we are beyond excited to work with our Core Team, our amazing volunteers, and the larger UvA staff. This document serves as an action plan that the Core Team produces to show our (upcoming) projects and structure to our members, the UvA stakeholders and anyone interested in what we do. We had a slow start of the year but we managed to finalize our Core Team in October with Anna, Meriç, Zoé, and Sofia constituting the Core Team, and Ariya and Sara as Co-Managers. At the beginning of November, we successfully recruited our members. We are also happy to see that some of the old members continue their work at the Green Office.

Since we transferred into our new office at Roeterseiland Campus Room C0.05B, we are gradually settling in by renovating the space. Thanks to Ewout for making the renovation possible; we hope to create a more communal space for members and the Core Team. Despite this obstacle we have been able to hold weekly meetings there to discuss crucial planning and updates, as well as hold interviews with prospective volunteers.

We, as managers, aim to get more involved in the Team Coordinators projects while simultaneously ensuring the realisation of these projects within the UvA's procedural guidelines. Concretely, this means drafting and maintaining the given budget and approving of the Green Office expenditures.

Moreover, in an attempt to adapt to other Green Offices' languages, we changed the name of the Team Leaders to "Coordinators." Therefore, the Core Team roles are now called Campus Coordinator, Research and Education Coordinator, Communications Coordinator, and Community Coordinator.

During the Strategy Weekend, we highlighted the following goals for this upcoming year: Our first priority is creating a safe environment for the Core Team as well as our volunteers. On that account, we and the Core Team participate in a social safety workshop to work in a safer and more approachable space within the teams as well as at social events such as borrels, lectures and the Green Career days.

01 INTRODUCTION

Further, we aim to improve our visibility twofold: Firstly, through increasing the contact and recognition by the UvA employees to establish the Green Office position within the larger UvA structure. Secondly, we hope to reach a wider audience of students from different faculties by hosting more interdisciplinary lecture events and diversifying our campus presence, such as hosting events at the Science Park Campus.

We will continue increasing our network with stakeholders across Amsterdam and the Netherlands. Regarding the former, we are planning to reconnect with companies and NGOs across the city, especially in light of the Green Career Days, whereas the latter interorganizational initiatives include Studenten voor Morgen, the Green Office Movement and other (even international) Universities that we are in contact with.

Encounters we look forward to are our meeting with the rector of the UvA, the executive board of the UvA and other relevant stakeholders involved in the sustainable transition of the university.

All aforementioned plans of actions are drafted within the framework of the working White Paper; they contribute to achieving the Green Office's mission.

This report summarises the plans, efforts, obstacles, outcomes, and successes of the UvA Green Office between September 2022 and February 2023.

We would like to thank the previous Managers and Core Team Coordinators for passing on their knowledge as well as Ewout Doorman for his continuous support.

This said, enjoy this report. We hope you can share our excitement for this upcoming year!

**ARIYA BUCH &
SARA XILLO**

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, Ariya Buch and Sara Xillo, are responsible for all the actions of the members of the UvA Green Office and they make sure everything goes according to the plans. 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

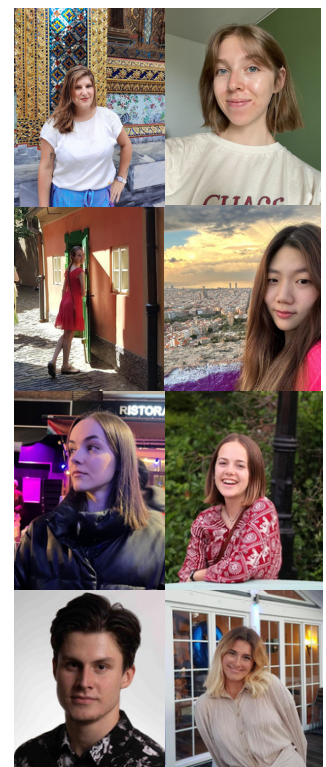
iii. TEAM LEADERS



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 Zoe Hejja, Meriç Özsüer, Sofia Helin, and Anna Ondrusek.

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.



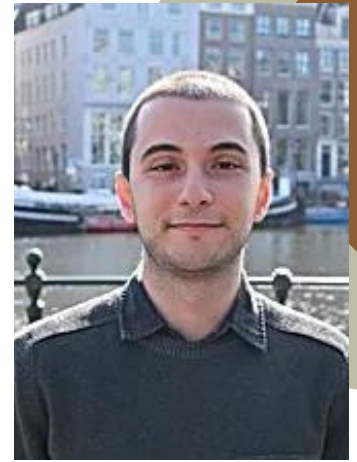
03 OUR PROJECTS

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

After a successful year, the Campus Team is again back with many exciting ideas and projects! The team consists of ten enthusiastic students. This year, the Vytal Reusable Cup Project aims for a transition to 100% reusable cup transition at the university, starting from the H-building cafeteria, and will continue where it left off! After the two successfully implemented pilot launches in April and September, Vytal cups are set to return for the students once and for all. Moreover, the cafeteria still lacks the desired level of a variety of vegan and vegetarian options. Despite the targets discussed in the 2020 White Paper, such as the 25% carbon footprint within five years, the university seems hesitant to make structural changes in sustainability, operations and maintenance. To address this issue, the Green Office Campus Team will collaborate with the CSR and ASVA to make the food option in the cafeteria 100% vegan and establish an “anti-cafeteria,” which will be run by students and provide cheaper vegan food options, such as sandwiches. Thereby, the overall footprint of each offered food will be significantly less. Furthermore, as a follow-up on the Vytal Reusable Cup Project, the Campus Team will focus on expanding the same borrowing system to plates and cutlery to further reduce the material waste around the university. There are many more ongoing projects and ideas that will be discussed below.



Meriç Özsüer

CAMPUS TEAM LEADER

03 OUR PROJECTS

i. SUSTAINABLE HOUSE BANK PROJECT

Following up on the work from the previous, the Campus Team will continue lobbying for a switch to a more sustainable house bank at the UvA with the help of the Central Student Council (CSR). The Executive Board (CvB) has already agreed upon the proposal. The project is currently at its tendering process stage, meaning the UvA is looking for alternative banks to fill up the role of Deutsche Bank. The reason for this change, as the project indicates, is the high level of investment in fossil fuel companies, according to several reports, making Deutsche Bank among the most contributing banks to the global carbon footprint. The Campus Team will oversee the process and maintain the conversation with CSR and CvB and, ultimately, will strive for the completion of the transition.



ii. VYTAL REUSABLE CUPS

Similarly, this project is a follow-up to the last year's work. Vytal Cups launched two successful trial periods within the last six months. The success and continuation of the project are currently debated at both the university and student levels. Regardless, the Campus Team will work on further promoting the idea of having reusable cups and why that is a good thing and, hopefully, reach success in the project, contributing to the material waste reduction and making the UvA more sustainable.

03 OUR PROJECTS

iii. VEGAN CAFETERIA

In collaboration with the CSR and ASVA, the Green Office is set to participate in a radical change in the university! The main goal is to make every food option in the cafeterias, starting from the H-building, 100% vegan. Furthermore, the project strives to create a space for students in the sitting area of the H-building cafeteria, where students will provide healthy and vegan food to other students at affordable prices. This project also aims to address the need and right to receive healthy nutrition for all students from different income groups, increasing the level of inclusivity in the university. The project is currently in its beginning phase. Similar to the Sustainable House Bank Project, the Green Office and other associations will work with a consultancy company called “Greendish” to look for concrete and reliable alternatives to make the cafeterias more sustainable.



iv. REUSABLE PLATES AND CUTLERY

A new idea of this year is to extend the reusability aspect of cups to plates and cutlery. The idea is that students can borrow plates and cutlery from the cafeteria for a certain period, similar to the Vytal reusable cups. In return, the caterer and different food stands will stop giving out food in paper plates and cutlery. Food contamination will be the students' responsibility, and restaurants will only make and offer the food alone. This project aims to complement the Vegan cafeteria and the reusable cup projects, reducing material waste and having an (almost) utterly green cafeteria!

03 OUR PROJECTS

V. GREEN TALK SERIES

The Green Office had the first Green Talk on the 10th of October, the Netherlands Sustainability Day. The event brought teachers from different academic backgrounds, policymakers and students together to discuss the current sustainability issues and developments. The Green Office strives to connect more people and make a further impact. We realise the importance of the presence and inclusion of different opinions when finding sustainable solutions, which are both technical and open to creativity!



VI. ECOLOGICAL IMPACT GUIDES

Due to the severity of many ongoing ecological issues and the conflict in Ukraine, the Green Office acknowledges the importance of further education for the student. Therefore, the Campus Team will prepare and spread different ecological impact guides, illustrating the process of specific problems, such as the high carbon emission level by international trade, underlining the benefit of local consumption. Another example would be how energy-negative housing contributes to global warming, emphasising the necessity for an energy-positive transition in housing in the Netherlands. The guides will contain simple illustrations that are easy and visible but also memorable.

THAT'S ALL FROM THE CAMPUS TEAM!

03 OUR PROJECTS

II. COMMUNITY TEAM

The Green Office Community Team aims to bring together motivated students who have a shared goal of learning more about sustainability while creating a strong network and community that helps to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable actions and living. The Community Team is going to consist of 8-9 students from different disciplines who, as a team, will organise and host a wide variety of social events with the main focus of building a comfortable and safe environment for all the UvA students who are interested and motivated to learn more in a no-pressure environment.

**ANNA
ONDRUSEK**
COMMUNITY
TEAM LEADER



i. GREEN CAREER DAYS 4.0

Some initiatives that will continue this year from previous years are the alumni portraits which will be tied together with the Green Office Career Days 4.0. The point of this is that people interviewed for the alumni portraits will also have the chance to present their profession during the week to students interested in pursuing a career path where sustainability is an intrinsic value.

ii. TASTE BEFORE YOU WASTE

We plan on another collaboration with "Taste Before You Waste," which will happen at the UvA Common Room or somewhere else within the university. It is a great organisation that puts great emphasis on food waste which makes the collaboration with us quite seamless. The details of this event still need to be worked out.

03 OUR PROJECTS

iii. BORRELS

Moreover, we will organise borrels regularly to allow students to meet each other and socialise, which will help us make the community more tight-knit. The Green Office already had the opening borrel for this year at Bar Botanique, which was attended by students and volunteers interested in the office's initiatives. Borrels will happen monthly, each with a different aim or target audience. This could mean borrels after lectures or workshops as well as specifically for the study association planned to happen on November 22nd to reach students better.

iv. GREEN TEA TALKS

A new project suggested by one of the community team members that we are going to implement this year is going to be 'Green Tea Talks,' which invites students for nice beverages and some snacks to talk about a different topic each month, which can be, for example, sustainable fashion. The goal is that everyone can attend regardless of how much they know about the topic. We believe that having a casual environment opens the door to effective learning. Moreover, people sharing their own knowledge could also show how sustainability can be interpreted in many different ways.

v. GREEN PICNIC

Another event we plan on having in the future is collecting trash in the parks of Amsterdam, tied together with a picnic and a clothing swap to promote sustainable consumption of clothes. It will be easier to be specific about future plans once the community team gets to know each other at our weekly meetings. The aim of the community team will be to have at least two social events per month to make sure the community that we are building stays close together.

03 OUR PROJECTS

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



03 OUR PROJECTS

III. RESEARCH & EDUCATION TEAM

Building and maintaining a vibrant network of sustainability researchers is the main responsibility of the Research & Education Team for the academic year of 2022/23. This entails encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration, promoting sustainability-related events and developments at the UvA, actively supporting efforts to incorporate sustainability into new programs, reviewing and promoting the university's current sustainability-related curricula, and fostering a research and theory based sustainability approach culture within the UvA Green Office. Currently, there are 10 people on the team, but perhaps that number will increase through the year! We are expected to have a team meeting bi-weekly.



SOFIA HELIN

RESEARCH & EDUCATION TEAM LEADER

The R&E Team will look at challenging problems at the UvA, such as the cafeteria. Together with the Campus Team, we work to improve the food served on college campuses and aim to find solutions to issues like where the meat offered in the cafeteria comes from and how much students are prepared to pay for a vegan alternative. In order to generate useful data and promote collaboration between other faculties and campuses, the R&E Team intends to conduct a number of brief studies throughout the course of the year and engage more with Science Park and not only with Oudemanhuisport or Roeterseiland.

03 OUR PROJECTS

i. THE KNOWLEDGE HUB

The Research & Education Team's portfolio continues to highlight the Knowledge Hub as a top priority. It aspires to provide a space where anyone can express their thoughts and work together on initiatives linked to sustainability in a variety of academic fields and vocations.

We work to increase the popularity of the forum-based platform with numerous posts on it this year after the relaunch in March 2022. Four categories are now available: general, opportunities, student publications, and events. The content that the Research & Education Team generates is collected in each of these categories. The opportunities area, for instance, will make it simple for users to find employment possibilities related to sustainability, whereas the student publications category gives users the chance to publish things like sustainability-related theses.

The Research & Education Team will also emphasise more entertaining information in the "general" category. This includes materials such as doing a sustainability related challenge or testing a local, sustainable store. It gives the members an opportunity to be creative with sustainability and show others how to implement small things in our daily lives which have a big impact on the planet.

You can access the Knowledge Hub at uvaknowledgehub.nl.

ii. GREEN GUIDE

The goal of the Green Exchange Guide, which the Research & Education Team created during the previous few years, was to disseminate information about sustainability-related mobility programs with some of our chosen European university partners.

However, this year, the Green Exchange Guide will be changed to the Green Guide which will offer more in-depth details about the sustainability-related courses and employment prospects.

To make information more readily available for students, the Research & Education Team intends to contact sustainable businesses and collaborate with the UvA Career Centre.

Additionally, alongside the sustainable courses inventory, the team will examine the sustainability-related courses offered at the UvA in order to provide more information about them and make choosing easier for students.

03 OUR PROJECTS

iii. SUSTAINABLE COURSES INVENTORY

To help students integrate sustainability into their studies, the UvA Green Office publishes a semi-annual assessment of courses offered at the University of Amsterdam that are relevant to sustainability.

This inventory contains all of the courses that are currently offered at the UvA together with information about their credits, block, and language of teaching.



03 OUR PROJECTS

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



03 OUR PROJECTS

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The Communications Team is the mouthpiece for the work of the UvA Green Office! The Communications Team works diligently to increase exposure for our projects and disseminate information about the Green Office as far as possible. While other teams work on new, independent projects on campus or online, we make sure these gain the visibility they deserve. This entails administering a variety of social media platforms, updating the website, establishing a connection between the UvA Central Communications Team and the Green Office, and extending our reach as much as we can by looking for innovative methods to reach new audiences for our material.

We are excited to start the first fully in person academic year since the pandemic. This presents new challenges to the Communication Team. Even though it is continuously essential to manage our online presence, we are intending to seamlessly integrate more physical promotions and events to boost our visibility on multiple campuses of the university. We have decided to keep working in task-oriented groups in accordance with the new structure established last year with a small alteration. This year, we will have meetings for the entire Communication Team on a bi-weekly basis and have task group meetings as need be. This will hopefully lead to a stronger sense of community and authority for our volunteers over the work of the entire team. This year the team consists of 10 highly creative, skilful and motivated volunteers:



ZOÉ HÉJJA

COMMUNICATIONS
TEAM LEADER

Daeun Kim - Photographer

Ela Öngören - Newsletter Editor

Enikő Szilágyi - Video Content Creator

Gergana Ivanova - Webpage Editor

Lana Laković - Social Media Manager

Lia Lederer - Social Media Manager

Max Holl - Video Content Creator

Mira Nerpel - Newsletter Editor

Saskia Blagaj Berger - Video Content Creator

Serkan Kasapoğlu - Publications Editor

03 OUR PROJECTS

i. NEWSLETTERS

A. EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER

One important aspect of external communication is the Green Office newsletter. This year two new members, Mira Neprel and Ela Ongoren, are taking over the important task of Newsletter Editorship. We consider the external newsletter audience to be our "inner-circle" of followers compared to our 2000+ audience reach on social media because our mailing list is made up of self-subscribed followers who have joined up via our website. Every month, the Communications Team sends out a newsletter via email featuring three or four highlights from all the teams.

B. INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

We are excited to relaunch our internal newsletter with the help of our new Newsletter Editors. Inter-team and intra-team communication have been a recurring issue at the Green Office, so our newsletter tool facilitates the communication within the office and makes sure that every member, regardless of their team, is informed about what the entirety of the Green Office is working on. Our newsletters will include a brief overview of the Green Office structure, a "thank you" note from our managers, updates on each team's members and projects, and individual introductions to each team. A new issue will be released every month starting in November.

ii. WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

The UvA Green Office website is the epicentre of our online presence. It contains all essential information about our work as well as links to all our projects and announcements. Due to its vital nature, it is cardinal that the page is representative of our values both in quality and content. Therefore, one of our goals for the coming year is to make our website easier to navigate, more user friendly and up to date. Our design toolkit will be revised and the mobile version of the website will be further developed.

03 OUR PROJECTS

iii. NEW SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY

A new social media strategy was designed to accomplish both a more professionalised usage of communication channels and an increase in the engagement with our growing follower base.

The plan included defining primary objectives and a primary target audience as well as creating a role of a Green Office "Social Media Manager." The primary objectives for all future Instagram material were determined to be informing students about initiatives, upcoming events, and offering advice on how to implement a green student lifestyle, while the primary objectives for Facebook content were determined to be more formally presenting information about the Green Office.

We will further focus on increasing the video content output on both our YouTube channel, Instagram and TikTok in recognising of the importance of reels in the current social media scene.



03 OUR PROJECTS

IV. PLATFORMS

A. INSTAGRAM

2,284 followers

10,000+ reach

344 posts



B. FACEBOOK

1969 followers

1852 likes

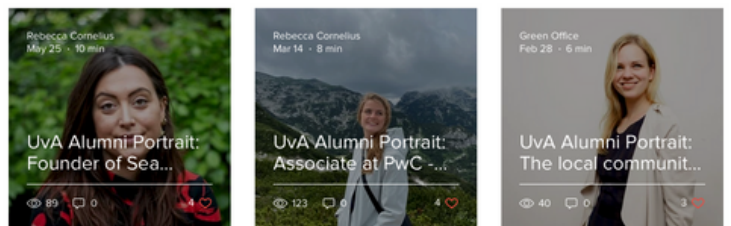


C. BLOG ~60 reads per post

D. WEBSITE

1000+ visits this semester

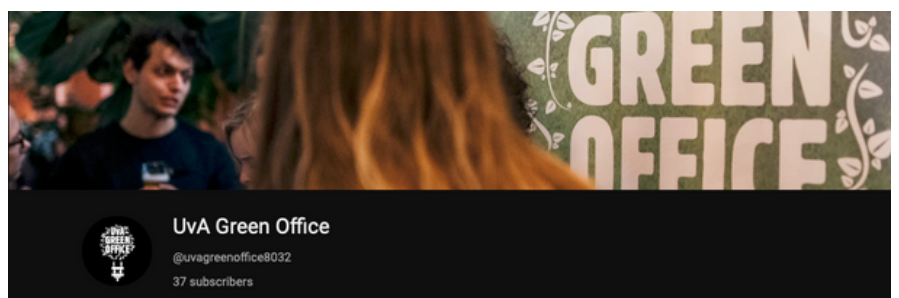
530 subscriptions



E. YOUTUBE

39 subscribers

1,706 views



03 OUR PROJECTS

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



04 CONTACT US

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: [@uvagreenoffice](https://www.instagram.com/uvagreenoffice)

Facebook: [UvA Green Office](https://www.facebook.com/UvAGreenOffice)

Youtube: [UvA Green Office](https://www.youtube.com/UvAGreenOffice)

IMPRESSUM

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