

## Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Green Commitment

**Why has the Green Commitment been produced?** The UvA Green Office aims to improve sustainability at the University of Amsterdam. UvA Bodies are part of the UvA, and therefore the Green Commitment has been produced. It provides concrete guidelines to improve the sustainability of UvA Bodies.

**What is expected from parties that sign the Green Commitment?** Signing the Green Commitment means that you become party to the Green Commitment and that you intend to pursue sustainability (or more specific: Environmental Sustainability as defined in the Green Commitment). To bring Environmental Sustainability into practices, the UvA Green Office has set up guidelines for sustainable practices.

**What is the role of the UvA Green Office regarding the Green Commitment?** The UvA Green Office will monitor the implementation of the Green Commitment, and help with implementation if requested.

**Who can be party to the Green Commitment?** The UvA Green Office produced the Green Commitment for all UvA Bodies. A UvA Body is any body or association related to the University of Amsterdam or students from the University of Amsterdam. So it can be signed by, among others, study associations, faculty councils, student associations.

**Why does the Green Commitment only consider sustainability at the UvA?** Since the aim of the UvA Green Office is to improve sustainability at the University of Amsterdam, that is our focus. Of course, sustainability should also be improved beyond the UvA. However, that goes beyond the remit of the UvA Green Office.

**To what extent is the Green Commitment binding?** The Green Commitment is not binding. It declares the intention to pursue sustainability. This means that the principles are not necessarily to be achieved immediately. Signing the Green Commitment means starting a process of improvement, to the best of one's ability.

**How long are parties bound to the Green Commitment for?** The signing is effective until the end of the academic year in which the Green Commitment is signed. However, the document has an automatic renewal clause for an additional academic year. If the UvA Body does no longer want to be party to the Green Commitment, this is to be declared before the 31st of October of the new academic year.

**How should parties communicate to the UvA Green Office?** Parties can choose how they wish to communicate to the UvA Green Office. The UvA Green Office will ask for an annual update on the implementation of the Green Commitment, by means of a survey at the end of the academic year. The parties will then provide a self-assessment. Communication will help the UvA Green Office to learn about the sustainability practices of UvA Bodies. In addition to this, the UvA Bodies can always request support or consultation from UvA Green Office if desired.

**The principles seem quite difficult, how can they be achieved?** The principles stated in the Green Commitment spell out guidelines to accomplish the vision of an environmentally sustainable university. They are long-term, and cannot be achieved with immediate effect. Signing the Green Commitment means starting a process of improvement, to the best of one's ability. If a party struggles with a principle or has any questions, it is always possible to consult the UvA Green Office by sending an email to [greenoffice@uva.nl](mailto:greenoffice@uva.nl), or by walking by our office in REC JK 1.33. We are very happy to support parties in their pursuit of sustainability. Additionally, the Uva Green Office website and social media channels can be consulted for tips and tricks regarding sustainable practices.

**What is supposed to be done with principles irrelevant to a party?** If certain principles are not relevant to a party, for example, because no travels are made or no partnerships exist, these principles are not guiding for the particular actions of the party.

**What if parties do not have a say about certain practices?** It may be the case that UvA Bodies do not have a direct influence on certain practices, for example when catering is provided by third parties. Also in these cases applies the principle of best efforts. The UvA Body can lobby to encourage the preferable choice.

**What kind of partnerships is inconsistent with the pursuit of sustainability?** This will not always be clear. For certain partnerships, including banks, comparisons can be found on [eerlijkegeldwijzer.nl](http://eerlijkegeldwijzer.nl). For other partnerships, it will be up to the UvA Body to decide whether it is considered consistent with sustainability or not. When in doubt, the UvA Green Office can always be consulted.