



green impact

# Green Impact in review

2021-2022



inspiring achievements by our Green Impact partners

## About Green Impact

**Green Impact is a change and engagement program that helps people to understand sustainability in the workplace. It encourages staff and students to work in teams and take concrete actions around socio-economic and environmental issues in their office, lab and home (working) environment.**

Green Impact was developed by the National Union of Students (NUS) in the United Kingdom in 2006. Since then, the program has been a massive success and has spread across the UK (delivered by SOS-UK), as well as to Australia and New Zealand (delivered by ACTS), and continental Europe. In 2016, it was recognized with the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development.

**1,545**  
organizations have run  
Green Impact so far



SOS International currently delivers Green Impact in **Belgium, the Netherlands and France**. Discover the achievements of 5 higher education institutions who partnered with us in 2021-2022 in this booklet!

*"Participating teams continue to impress, despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic. In this year's edition, we witnessed intensive teamwork, inspiring actions, and thorough engagement with sustainability in all shapes and forms."*

- Ann-Sofie Van Enis, Green Impact Program Coordinator at SOS International



In 2021, **1003 teams** from **455 organizations** participated in Green Impact, realizing **25.547 actions** and involving **59.126 staff** and **740 students**. We are grateful for the energy, motivation and time participants and organizers have put into the program, and of course we are proud of what we have achieved together!

# Green Impact at Vrije Universiteit Brussel

2021-2022



VUB organized Green Impact for the **6th year** in a row. The program is **run by students** from the GreenTeam, with support from staff at the environmental office. Examples of actions by participants:



"We now fundamentally focus on reducing waste. For example, we give books, materials and furniture a second life. That feels very good" – Team CAVA



"Green Impact increases the willingness to become more sustainable within our personal lives. For example, team members have placed solar panels and switched to a more sustainable bank" – Team CHIS



"Mobility is a key focus. We travel to a conference in Vienna by train. Next year, we will register all of our flights and compensate for CO2 emissions" – Team HYDR

## How Green Impact teams at VUB inspire



Because the program has been running for a longer period of time, we work with **mature and experienced teams**.

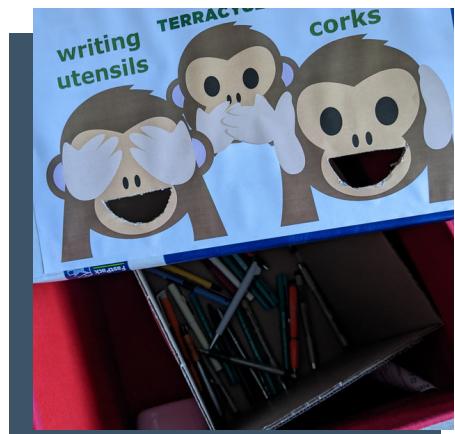
*"We talk about everything within the team. We are aware of the support facilities, and discuss everything together to sustain a happy and healthy team."*

- team CAVA

Since 2020, the toolkit contains multiple **work from home actions**. These remain popular among participants.

*"The work from home actions were the easiest to adopt, and to inspire people to take action at home."*

- team CHIS



*"Team CAVA is a very enthusiastic and driven team. They are working well together and are determined to complete all actions in the toolkit."*

- student auditors Yaël and Mirafzal

*"Team CHIS has consistently been introducing the toolkit to the department and have included more and more actions over the years regardless of the difficulties. We are excited to witness the teams' growth in the coming years!"* - student auditor Juli

*"HYDR are frontrunners when it comes to sustainable mobility, and they're constantly looking for new things to do. It is great to see them tackle climate change not only in their research but in the workplace."* - student auditors Saurav and Milan

# Green Impact at KU Leuven

2021-2022

KU LEUVEN



KU Leuven organized Green Impact for the **5th time**. The program is **run by the sustainability office**, with support from Green Office for KU Leuven. Examples of actions by participants:



Ecoteam LvdB collects non-contaminated nitril gloves for reusing purposes.

Ecoteam Letteren invited 3 experts to a "garden safari". Based on the findings, it made concrete suggestions.



Ecoteam Biology installed recycling points for cork at two university locations.



Ecoteam ECOOM organizes weekly walk meetings and badminton nights with staff and PhD students.



Ecoteam Stura hosts a weekly sustainability quiz for students on Instagram.



Ecoteam Groene Heerd bought and was gifted secondhand furniture for their office via the website of reusable goods.

Ecoteam Our FEBulous World is the first zero waste faculty at KU Leuven.

They do no longer have single-use materials and now strive to reduce paper waste.



Ecoteam Van Dale started a book hotel, where staff and students can take, leave or swap a book.

Ecoteam FaBeR sensitizes colleagues by hanging new posters every month in public areas.

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# How Green Impact teams at KU Leuven inspire

KU LEUVEN



With their actions, participants reached about **850 direct colleagues**. This number does not include students, family members and housemates. Teams also saved an estimated **47.606 kg CO<sub>2</sub>, 600.208 l water** and **4516 kg waste**.

*"We sensitize colleagues about e.g. water use by becoming the contact point for technical defects. More and more members across the faculty get to know us and join our team."* - team FaBeR

The program appeals to both staff and students, but this was the first year we had a dedicated **all-student team** and a **mixed team** of staff, students and researchers - gaining results never seen before.

*"We are proud of the small-scale actions being taken by our team members. Simultaneously, we set up larger initiatives. We get a good responses and new ideas from department members through our survey."* - team Letteren



Student Ida De Boodt from team Letteren at KU Leuven won the Green Impact International Special Awards in the category "**Student Leadership Award**".



As a student ambassador in the Ecoteam, Ida participates in discussions aimed at encouraging the Faculty board to promote sustainability topics within education, in research and in operational management. What is more, she is involved in the organization of the Ecoteam's monthly actions that are aimed at increasing awareness on various environmental issues amongst staff and students.

*"Sustainability is very close to my heart, so I am very grateful for this recognition. I definitely feel empowered now to continue building support for a more sustainable society and faculty. Thank you very much!"* – Ida

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# Green Impact at Wageningen University & Research

2021-2022



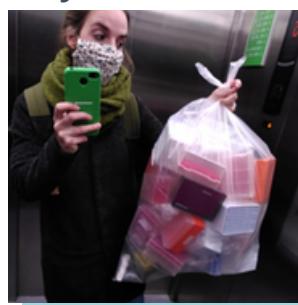
WUR organized Green Impact for the **5th time**. The program is **jointly run by a staff member** from facility services **and a student** from Green Office Wageningen. Examples of projects by participants:

## The Three Sisters Sowing Challenge by Team Actio(n)



A WUR-wide challenge for people to grow vegetables at home

## The Plastic Pilot by Team AFSG



How to make smarter use of plastic waste within WUR?

## Sustainability Bingo by SSG Green Team



Bingo game to energize the WUR community on the topic of sustainability

## The Butt in the Drain by Team Green ESG

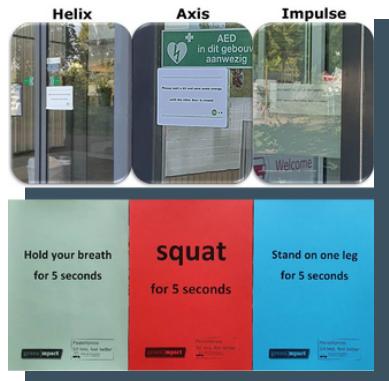


Tackling cigarette butt litter on a smoke-free campus

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# How Green Impact teams at WUR inspire

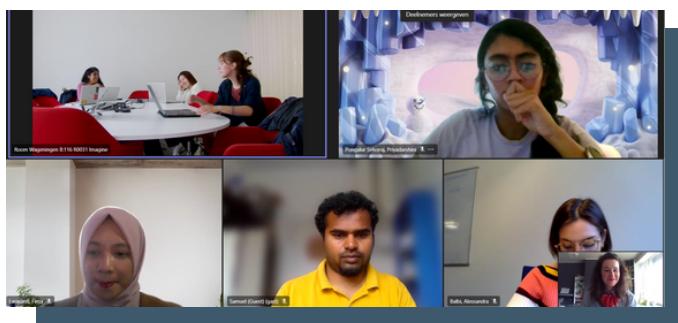


Teams are **based per building** and **reach up to 300 people** each through their activities and projects.

*"Our team has one goal: raising awareness. Through fun actions, projects and challenges, we increase the motivation among colleagues and students to try out more sustainable ways of living - and we encourage them to keep these healthy habits."* - team Actio(n)

7 students engaged themselves as **Green Impact Project Assistants** (GIPA) for at least 3 months. In this volunteer position, they join the teams as full-fledged members.

*"Everyone in the team is equally ambitious and motivated. We all share the same vision and hence implementing projects is not that challenging"* - team Green ESG



*"In our opinion, this program really helps campuses in realizing the concept of sustainability in every activity or program they undertake. In addition, this program can also make campus residents more active in voicing their ideas for campus progress."*

- student auditors Firda and Priyadarshini

# Green Impact at the University of Antwerp



2021-2022



UA organized Green Impact for the **second time**. The program is **run by the student-led GreenOffice**, with support from the environmental department. Examples of actions by participants:

Team Bibliotheek (Library) is proud of the material changes they've made (switched to Fairtrade tea, more vegetarian catering, repurposing paper waste...) as well as the social changes in the workplace: many colleagues and job students are now engaged to think and act more sustainably.

Team FLW (Faculty Secretariat of Arts and Philosophy) did several actions together in the workplace, and individually at home, but also realized some larger projects on campus. One of these is the creation and maintenance of indoor gardens.

Team FBE (Faculty of Business and Economics) incorporates every Green Impact action into the daily operation of the faculty. The team did almost all toolkit actions available for staff teams, linking themes together. For example, they created guidelines to make catering sustainable in every way.



The students of Team Paradijs eat mostly vegetarian now, and continue to make more sustainable changes and decisions in their household. In the long run, they want to transform their student house into a 'community' that is self-sufficient.



Team Milieudienst (Environmental Office) implemented new things at home: more vegetarian food, reduced water consumption and feeding birds in winter. Additionally, the team seizes the opportunity to collaborate with other departments, target groups and stakeholders at UA.

Team Ruusbroecgenootschap is especially proud of the insect hotel and rain barrel in the institute's garden. They joined team FLW on a team outing which included a vegetarian lunch and a litter picking walk. The team is keen to collaborate with more departments.



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# How Green Impact teams at UA inspire



Green Impact teams at UA are **diverse**: faculty staff, researchers, employees from multiple campuses, co-habitating students... Through their actions, they reach an equally diverse audience of colleagues, peers and housemates.

*"Our team is made up from different groups across different campuses. There was a massive response to join!"* - Team Bibliotheek

Although half of the teams were new in this second edition, we witnessed a **high engagement rate**. Participants succeed in activating others while contributing to a more sustainable environment.

*"We grew organically because all members were already environmentally conscious, and Green Impact was an extra motivator for us to make sustainable choices."* - Team FLW



*"We were pleasantly surprised by the time and effort that went into achieving such a level of sustainability."* - student auditors Brent and Thijs

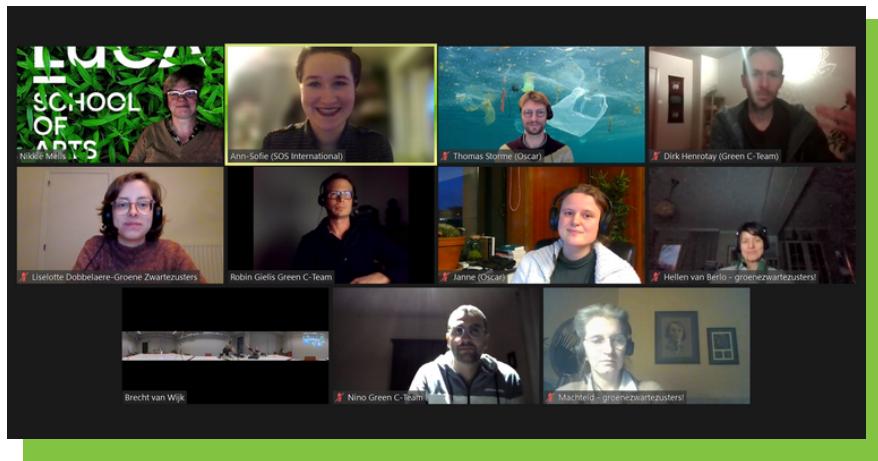
*"I think this project needs to be more promoted among students. Within our study there are many people consciously working on sustainability, joining Green Impact can be an extra push."* - student participant Tom

*"I found the audit itself very interesting. I learned a lot about possible actions and little things that I could apply in my own day-to-day life."* - student auditor

# Green Impact at the LUCA School of Arts



2021-2022



LUCA organized Green Impact for the **first time**. The program is run by the **sustainability & diversity manager**, with support from the sustainability taskforce.. Examples of actions by participants:



"We are a group of enthusiastic people who came together because of Green Impact. The toolkit especially made us think and question things. We are proud of the catering and waste actions taken thus far."

– Team Groene Zwartzusters



"As the executive committee, we want to make LUCA's sustainability policy tangible and concrete. We joined Green Impact to be more conscious about the framework in which we shape sustainability as a fundamental value."

– Team Green DC



"There is a lot of strength in just doing the little things. Just starting was important. We have been aiming for quick wins, focused on our own campus. We are ready for the second edition to begin!"

– Team Oscar



"Our team consists of a mix of profiles. We have started to structurally notice and mention sustainability issues. We are located in a gorgeous old building which brings along challenges in that regard."

– Team Narafi

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## How Green Impact teams at UA inspire



LUCA is the first higher education institution for applied sciences in Belgium, and the **first school of arts** worldwide to take part in Green Impact.

They are also the first SOS International Green Impact partner to introduce "**diversity and inclusion**" as a new category in the toolkit. Teams took many actions in this category, paying equal attention to environmental as well as social issues.

The goal to establish an Impact Team on each of LUCA's campuses, was met and exceeded.

**5 campus teams and 1 overarching team** (the board) took part in this edition, 4 were audited.

It's unique in the history of Green Impact that all board members participate in the first edition. It strengthens our efforts to support **bottom-up and top-down initiatives** simultaneously.



# Congratulations to all participants!

We look forward to working with all of these organizations again in the academic year of 2022-2023.

Moreover, we are welcoming 2 new organizations, UCLL School of Applied Sciences in Belgium and Emylon Business School in France, who have started Green Impact in Spring 2022.



## Interested to run Green Impact at your organization?

join us in creating impact together!

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Other participating organizations include:



and many more.

Do you think Green Impact might be a match for your organization? Or do you have any questions? Get in touch for a **free consultation**.

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