



STUDENTS
ORGANIZING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

JAN 2024

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM SOS-INTERNATIONAL

As we have stepped into the promising year of 2024, SOS-International is poised to bring forth a wave of opportunities for growth, development, and success in alignment with our commitment to achieving our mission and vision.

We are excited to announce that the SOS International Summit is going to be held this year, on the 14-16 of March. In this edition of our newsletter, we reflect on the outcomes of COP28, summit details, summit speakers announcement, green impact sustainability updates among others.

Get ready for a compelling read. Keep a vigilant eye for updates on our social media platform @sos_dot_earth on Facebook, X, LinkedIn and Instagram as we embark on this journey of progress and innovation.

Happy reading!



MOCKCOP

SOS-UK attended COP28 with student staff from the Mock COP campaign to support young people in advocating for more ambitious climate education policies. As one of many organizations that have long called for education to be more deeply embedded into COP, we are delighted to see this taking place and celebrate this as a legacy of youth advocacy for education. Read about the team's experience and reflections in this blog by SOS-UK's Director of Education, Quinn Runkle.

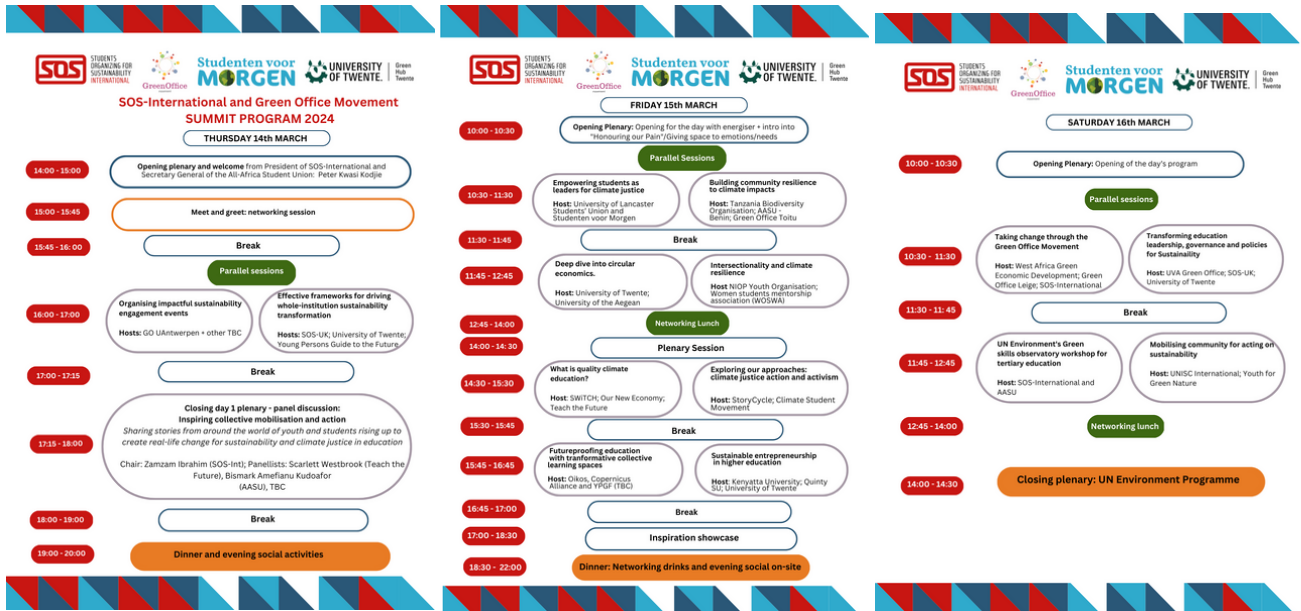
COP28: Students feel disappointed but not disempowered by Sebastian Berger and Quinn Runkle as published by the University World News on 16 December 2023 captures the pre-summit titled "Forging Futures" in October 2023, which was convened by the Global Student Forum, Students Organizing for Sustainability International and Oxfam Denmark. Deliberations to strategize and adopt collective advocacy priorities for COP28 were made. With the negotiations concluded and the world communities' shared ambition captured in the global stocktake agreement, it is time to assess whether or not this COP and its outcomes have done justice to the aspirations of youth and students. Use the link to read more COP28: Students feel disappointed but not disempowered ([universityworldnews.com](https://www.universityworldnews.com))

Students Organizing For Sustainability International Summit.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUMMIT PROGRAM!

Theme: Travelling from crisis to perspective; a holistic journey for sustainability

📅 14-16 March 2024 📍 UTwente, Enschede, Netherlands.



We showed you the agenda and timelines in our last Newsletter update. Here is a glimpse of the many thought provoking, relatable and exciting topics to be touched on by resourced and credible speakers. What are you waiting for? Come and let's make history! Ticket Deadline is February 28th! Grab Your Ticket Now! Let's meet at Enschede and have discourse that will catapult change in our society. [Tickets available on Eventbrite now!](#)

SPEAKERS ANNOUNCEMENT



Michael Mbaïke

Initiative and Policy Developer, West African Green Economic Development Institute



Anete Veidemane

A Researcher and PhD Candidate, University of Twente



Ben-Christ Tresor Saizonou

Business Analyst, C.E.O of Gochen Expertise Corporation



Sarah Robinet

Green Officer, University of Liege and a worker at the UNI for Change

There are more speakers to be announced!

Watchout for more announcement on our social media handles [in](#) [X](#) [@](#) [f](#) @sos_dot_earth Like, share and Comment! We can't wait to see you at the summit!

[Tickets available on Eventbrite now!](#)



Building international iteration of the #ResponsibleFutures programme.

Earlier this year, the International Association of Universities and Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK) came together to build the international iteration of the #ResponsibleFutures programme. After the first few months of work together, we're pleased to look back at our accomplishments:

In October, we facilitated two launch workshops on the 3rd and 5th October 2023 online (via Zoom), to bring together pilot institutions and their students, as well as to finalise the new Responsible Futures international framework.

In November, we had initial meetings with all pilot institutions to introduce them to all the various aspects of the programme, ensure they were able to access the online framework, learn more about their priorities for the year ahead, and discuss how they would like to use their tailored SOS-UK support. The identified priorities for the institutions included more student engagement in this work, further embedding of sustainability in teaching and learning, and creating working groups for Responsible Futures.

In December, we hosted our first network learning events which brought together staff and students from global partnerships to share opportunities, ask questions, provide answers and share updates on hashtag#ESD and issues related to Responsible Futures.

Learn more about Responsible Futures: <http://tinyurl.com/mr3bs9vs> <http://tinyurl.com/5bx4wekp>

green impact

Green Impact international update - embracing sustainability together!

We are delighted to share some exciting news from the Green Impact International front. This year, we're thrilled to welcome back three exceptional organizations committed to fostering sustainability in Europe: Universiteit Antwerpen, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and UC Leuven Limburg. Their dedication to environmental and social responsibility continues to inspire positive change.

In a noteworthy development, UC Leuven Limburg has taken a progressive step by adapting its Green Impact model. Now, the program extends a warm invitation to student teams, providing an inclusive platform for even more individuals to actively contribute to sustainability initiatives. Additionally, we are proud to highlight their participation in the Green Impact Project Assistant program.

The Green Impact Project Assistants (GIPA) scheme offers students valuable development opportunities and provides additional support to your program. These students join Green Impact teams within your organization, contributing extra resources, fostering sustainability knowledge, and acting as a vital link between students and staff.

As we embark on another year of collective efforts toward a greener future, stay tuned for more updates and inspiring stories from our Green Impact participants.

For more information on Green Impact check out: <https://sos.earth/greenimpact/>.

GREEN OFFICE MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT

This month, we've been reaching out to Green Offices to inquire about their membership to the Green Office Movement in 2024.



GreenOffice
movement member

During past years, we've welcomed many members from different countries and continents. We hope this will be the same for this year and the network we provide will enable the Green Offices to learn from other Green Offices and develop themselves throughout the year. Taking insights from others and learning to apply their learnings to your own situations, is one path to having a flourishing Green Office.

If you know about any Green Offices that might not have been contacted by us, but you think would like to be members of the Movement, introduce us to each other by including tobias@sos.earth in an introductory email.

P.S. A Green Office is not always called a "Green Office", but all initiatives consisting of students and/or staff at educational institutions working towards more sustainable practices at the institution and within the student and staff communities, are welcome to reach out to see if it would be beneficial for them to be part of the network.

SAYING GOODBYE

We're sad to be saying farewell to our wonderful Green Office Project Manager Maartje Zaal who has been with us for the past few years sharing her passion and commitment to a more sustainable and harmonious world. Maartje's last day is 31st January 2024 but she will be joining us in Enschede at the SOS-International and Green Office Summit in March. Best wishes for the future Maartje!



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS THE LEAP RESEARCHERS PROGRAM

The LEAP Researchers Program is designed to bridge the skill set development gap within the workforce. Our goal is to empower emerging academics, fostering authentic, value-driven leadership and collective well-being. By equipping these individuals with the tools to navigate the complexities of our world, we aim to inspire a new paradigm of leadership—one that catalyzes meaningful change.

Key Program Features:

Collaboration with UN PRME i5, PRME i5 framework, Global community of like-minded early career researchers and change agents, Individualized coaching and monthly group sessions for personal and professional development and At your own expenses onsite meeting opportunities

Who Is It For: Masters students, Ph.D. students, or postdoctoral researchers who address sustainability challenges in their research and/or teaching and have a high motivation to develop personally and professionally. We invite participants from diverse backgrounds and regions, fostering a rich and joyful exchange of knowledge and experience.

Time and Cost: 4-5 hours per month from March 2024 to November 2024. Participation is free of charge, generously funded by the LEGO foundation in cooperation with UN Global Compact.

Certification: Participants completing the program will receive LEAP Researchers Certificate, in collaboration with PRME and the Impactful Five (i5) project.

How to Join: Apply now! <http://tinyurl.com/578jafev>

For more information join our info calls in January and February and have a look on our website! <http://tinyurl.com/2wy8bdxu>

Thank you for considering this opportunity for your academic community.

Please reach out for any questions.

With warmth and gratitude,

The LEAP Researchers Team.

PLATFORMING OUR MEMBERS

We're keen to support and platform SOS-International members' work, updates, events and more in our communications. Please get in touch to share items for our newsletter by 21st of each month: contact@sos.earth.

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The SOS-International Newsletter, a monthly global guide, sheds light on key events, initiatives, and notable updates within our worldwide community devoted to sustainability. Offering perspectives on compelling narratives and noteworthy developments across the globe, it is meticulously curated by the International Communications Team at the SOS-International Secretariat. Embrace the journey towards a sustainable future with us.