



Green Office Wageningen

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2024



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1 Introduction

This report describes Green Office Wageningen's (GOW) activities during 2024 in relation to sustainability. All projects and activities align with the [GOW vision](#), emphasizing impact, visibility and network (Figure 1). With this in mind, other central activities of GOW include: creating a platform and network for organizations and individuals invested in sustainability to foster information exchange and collaboration; initiating, catalyzing and realizing innovative projects across various themes and with diverse partners to enhance sustainability at Wageningen University & Research (WUR); contributing to effective sustainability communication at WUR through its own channels and through collaborative projects; and strengthening WUR's overall sustainability strategy.

GOW is dedicated to reinforcing WURs sustainability strategy outlined in the corporate social responsibility (CSR) agenda, as outlined in the [WUR sustainability report 2022](#) (e.g., Table 2-1). It supports the achievement of sustainability-related goals defined in key WUR frameworks, such as WUR's [Strategic Plan](#), [Food and Beverage Vision](#), [Energy Vision 2030](#), [Circular Economy Vision](#), [Green Vision](#), [Gender + Equality Plan](#), and [Education Vision](#). Additionally, GOW actively contributes to the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). This report provides an overview of GOWs activities, including their connections to specific SDGs, and alignment with various WUR plans and visions.



Figure 1: Green Office Wageningen (GOW) Vision comprised of three elements: Network, Visibility, and Impact.

2 Projects

This chapter includes Green Office Wageningen (GOW) projects and activities that actively relate to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and WUR visions.

Table 1 shows those links for each GOW project active in 2024. Figure 2 shows the SDGs that the GOW activities contribute to most.

Table 1: GOW activities and links to SDGs, and WUR visions.

Activity	Links to SDGs	Link to WUR Plan/Vision
Advocating Sustainability Improvements Catering	SDG 12, Target 12.8 SDG 13, Target 13.3	Food and Beverage Vision Strategic Plan
Sustainable Menstruation	SDG 3, Target 3.7 SDG 5, Target 5.6 SDG 12, Target 12.5	Gender + Equality Plan Strategic Plan
Honours Energy Challenge	SDG 7, Target 7.3 SDG 13, Target 13.3	WUR Energy Transition 2050 Strategic Plan
Sustainability Fund	SDG 4, Target 4.7 SDG 11, Target 11.3, Target 11.6 SDG 12, Target 12.5, Target 12.8 SDG 13, Target 13.3 SDG 17, Target 17.16	
Student Cooking Corner	SDG 12, Target 12.8	Food and Beverage Vision Strategic Plan
GO Newsletter	SDG 4, Target 4.7	Strategic Plan
Project AAP - WE Collect - Collection Point	SDG 12, Target 12.5, Target 12.8	WUR's Circular Economy Vision
Sustainability Blog	SDG 4, Target 4.7 SDG 12, Target 12 SDG 13, Target 13	Strategic Plan

Activity	Links to SDGs	Link to WUR Plan/Vision
Sustainability Social Media Promotion	SDG 4, Target 4.7 SDG 12, Target 12.8	Strategic Plan
ACT: Creating a Climate-Resilient Campus Understanding Vulnerabilities and Embracing Nature-Based Solutions	SDG 6, Target 6.4, Target 6.6 SDG 11, Target 11.3, Target 11.5, Target 11.7 SDG 13, Target 13.1, Target 13.3 SDG 15, Target 15.1, Target 15.9 SDG 17, Target 17.16	Green Vision Strategic Plan
ACT: Practice what you Preach A Guide to Reduce Fossil-Based Plastics in Educational Laboratories	SDG 12, Target 12.2, Target 12.4, Target 12.5, Target 12.8 SDG 13, Target 13.2 SDG 14, Target 14.1 SDG 15, Target 15.5 SDG 17, Target 17.16	WUR's Circular Economy Vision
ACT: WURs foodprint - Serving solutions: Assessing the Optimal Plant-Based to Animal-Based Products Ratio in WUR Canteens	SDG 2, Target 2.1, Target 2.4 SDG 3, Target 3.4 SDG 12, Target 12.2, Target 12.3 SDG 13, Target 13.2	Food and Beverage Vision Strategic Plan
Sustainability Guide	SDG 4, Target 4.7 SDG 12, Target 12.8 SDG 13, Target 13.3	Education Vision Strategic Plan
Sustainable Leadership Program	SDG 4, Target 4.7 SDG 13, Target 13.3	Education Vision Strategic Plan
Facilitating Climate Fresk Workshops	SDG 4, Target 4.7 SDG 12, Target 12.8 SDG 13, Target 13.3 SDG 11, Target 11.4 SDG 17, Target 17.16	Education Vision Strategic Plan
UNFCCC Youth Delegate Program	SDG 4, Target 4.7 SDG 13, Target 13.2, Target 13.3 SDG 17, Target 17.16	Education Vision Strategic Plan
Seriously Sustainable Week (SeSu)	SDG 4, Target 4.7 SDG 12, Target 12.8 SDG 13, Target 13.3	Strategic Plan

Activity	Links to SDGs	Link to WUR Plan/Vision
Coordinating GAN Network	SDG 4, Target 4.7 SDG 12, Target 12.8 SDG 13, Target 13.3 SDG 17, Target 17.17	Strategic Plan
Science for Sustainability (S4S) Journal	SDG 4, Target 4.7 SDG 12, Target 12.8	Education Vision Strategic Plan
PBU Collaboration	SDG 12, Target 12.8 SDG 13, Target 13.3	Food and Beverage Vision
Green Volunteer Community	SDG 4, Target 4.7 SDG 12, Target 12.8 SDG 13, Target 13.3	Strategic Plan



Figure 2: The Sustainable Development Goals that the Green Office Wageningen activities contribute to.

3 Events

The Green Office Wageningen (GOW) works to foster a sustainable mindset and practice at WUR by organizing a diverse range of sustainability-focused events that drive university-wide engagement and collaboration. These initiatives promote knowledge sharing, build connections, and encourage active participation in sustainability efforts, strengthening the university's sustainability community while broadening its impact across students and employees. By bridging connections between students, staff, and the broader community, Green Office events raise awareness of sustainability topics, facilitate meaningful discussions, and inspire active involvement in sustainability initiatives. Resultantly, this approach directly contributes to the WUR's sustainability vision, to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and supports capacity building and long-term impact. Through these events, the Green Office not only cultivates a thriving sustainability community, but also embeds sustainability more deeply into the university's culture and inspires meaningful action.

Therefore, GOW plans, executes, and evaluates a broad variety of events to **educate people, promote a culture change, reinforce the sustainability strategy at WUR, facilitate knowledge, and collaboration**. The Green Office has organized educational or formal events and social or informal. The different events have a direct connection to the [Strategic Plan](#) 2019-2024, contributing to Section 2: Innovated and flexible education (CPI 4. Further integration and innovation of the Education Ecosystem; and CPI 5. Increased flexibility in learning paths and in learning spaces) and to Section 3: Culture and collaboration for impact (CPI 6. Improved entrepreneurial culture and practice in education, research and value creation; and CPI

10. Expanded connection with society and partners). The events also contribute to the [Education Vision](#), through for example the provision of additional educational opportunities and the engagement of a sustainable learning community.



3.1 Highlighted Events

Some examples of highlighted events are the COP28 Debrief, Women's Leadership in Climate Justice, Film Screening "Outgrow the System", and Intersectional Discussion & Lunch. Figure 3 includes all the events that were organized during the Seriously Sustainable Week (SeSu) 2024.

The **COP28 Debrief** was a panel discussion and interactive event with a diverse group of WUR experts, students, and representatives from organizations who were at COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This was an unique opportunity to listen to first-hand experiences, interact with experts, students, and learn what really happened at the UN Climate Conference. The event featured a

presentation on how the COP is organized and COP28 outcomes across various negotiation tracks, providing students with an overview of the structure of the COP and current state of discussions. This event provided knowledge exchange, relevant information, awareness-raising to promote sustainability and climate action, impacting directly SDG 4, 12, and 13.

The **Women’s Leadership in Climate Justice Panel Discussion** evoked by the topics touched upon in Ralien Bekkers’ book “Zo Kan Het Niet Langer” including gender inequality, systemic issues, ecofeminism, and intersectionalism. After Ralien’s book presentation, a group of inspiring women leaders had an interactive discussion around gender and women experiences in climate change and environmental issues. Additionally, to SDG 4, SDG 12, SDG 13, this event also had an impact on SDG 5 and SDG 10, as it looked to ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making and to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion.

The **Film Screening “Outgrow the System”** was organized in collaboration with Degrowth Wageningen, the degrowth association in Wageningen composed by students, scholars, and researchers. The documentary was about Transitioning to a Sustainable Economic System. "Change the system, not the climate" is a common demand in the climate movement. The film brought new economic perspectives that have the potential to change the world at its core. The film screening was followed by an interactive dialogue discussion.

This event provided knowledge exchange, relevant information, awareness-raising to promote sustainability and systems change, impacting directly SDG 4, 12, and 13.

The **Intersectional Discussion & Lunch** was organized in collaboration with Thalia, the upcoming feminist association in Wageningen. It entailed a thought-provoking discussion that highlighted how social issues we encounter these days, like feminism and sustainability, are in fact interconnected. The aim was to include people from different backgrounds and to show that intersectionality must be considered in sustainability-related issues. This event promoted inclusive and equitable approaches to sustainability, while also empowering advocacy for systemic change. Additionally, to SDG 4, SDG 12, SDG 13, this event also had an impact on SDG 5 and SDG 10, due to the discussion looked to promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.



Figure 3: Events organized during the Seriously Sustainable Week (SeSu) 2024.

4 Networks

Green Office Wageningen (GOW) plays an active role in several networks on a local, national, and international scale, and facilitates collaboration and communication between various sustainability-oriented organizations. In this section, these networks and their aims are described.

4.1 Green Active Network (GAN)

The [Green Active Network \(GAN\)](#) is a local network, co-facilitated by GOW, which unites sustainability-oriented organizations in the region of Wageningen (Figure 4). The mission is to reinforce the green movement and to build a bigger and stronger sustainability community in Wageningen. The number of GAN organizations is constantly growing, encompassing many different backgrounds, ambitious people, topics, specializations and approaches to sustainability. We strive to work together to increase collaboration, engagement, and the impact we can have together on making Wageningen and WUR more sustainable.

4.2 Studenten voor Morgen (SvM)

[Studenten voor Morgen](#) is a national student network for a sustainable future in higher education that strives to integrate sustainability into education and student life. Together with the other member organizations of SvM, GOW does this by making our voice heard in discussions around the topics of sustainability and education at local, national and international levels. The overall goal is to systematically change higher education for current and future generations.

GET INVOLVED

In the Green Active Network of Wageningen (GAN)

GAN is a network of sustainable organizations in Wageningen that deal with all different sorts of topics. Getting involved will let you become part of an amazing community of engaged students and help you do your part in having a sustainable impact. Here is a guide to help you choose an organisation based on your interests.

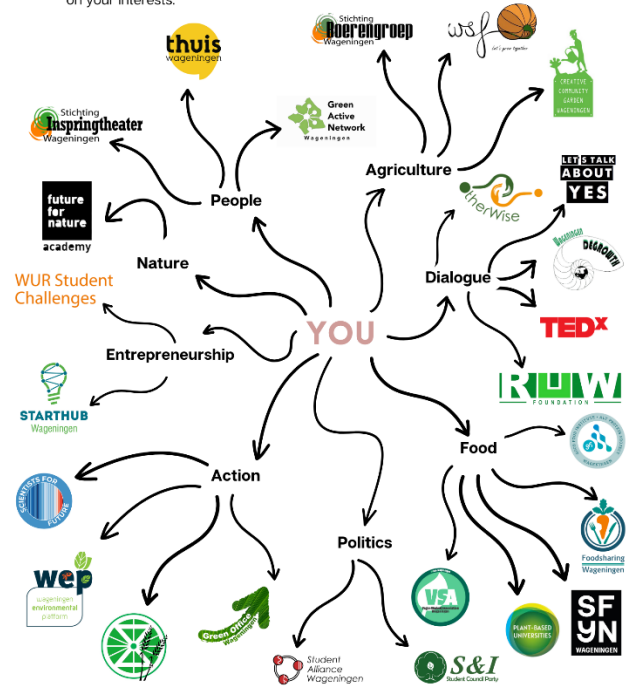


Figure 4: Map of sustainability-oriented organizations involved in the Green Active Network (GAN), co-facilitated by Green Office Wageningen.

4.3 Students Organizing for Sustainability - International Movement (SOS International)

[SOS International](#) is a network that supports student and youth groups globally to lead on sustainability and social justice. They help to connect, strengthen and scale impactful initiatives. In spring 2024, 3 members of GOW attended the international summit, hosted in the University of Twente. Events on that scale offer inspiring, invaluable opportunities to share ideas, knowledge, experiences, and best practices. They also serve as valuable networking moments to strengthen existing

networks, and to create new ones. GOW has benefitted immensely by attending networking events, for example being involved with a new sustainability in education project with the Club of Rome aimed at co-creating visions for a sustainable future.

4.3.1 Green Office Movement

The [Green Office Movement](#) (GOM) is one of SOS-International's main programmes. It is a global network that systematically tries to improve higher education by integrating sustainability topics and raising awareness on related issues. Together with the GO Movement which facilitates sharing of resources and best practices, GOW is empowering students to become drivers of change at their own universities level.



5 Impacts

The projects led by Green Office Wageningen (GOW) have made significant contributions to WUR's Strategic Plan and several key WUR visions, as summarized in [Table 1](#). This section delves into the impact of these projects, highlighting their alignment and influence. Additionally, it includes their relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the themes outlined in the CSR Agenda.

5.1 Strategic Plan

GOW and its projects work on goals defined in the [Strategic Plan](#). Two of the main transitions WUR wants to contribute to are the transition towards transformative bioeconomies and towards Data Driven Discovery in a changing climate, which GOW supported through, among others, commissioning Academic Consultancy Training (ACT) projects related to this topic. This serves as a perfect example of WUR's 'Living Lab' approach, that provides opportunities for research and for educational experiments. The ACTs and multiple other projects contributed to these transitions through, among others, gathering data on climate adaptation aspects of the WUR campus and providing recommendations for fossil-free plastics.

By increasing the focus on social sustainability and well-being through projects like sustainable menstruation, GOW aims to create a diverse and inclusive community. In the projects, GOW focused on gathering students from different backgrounds and providing a platform that allows for shared knowledge creation, dialogue, and collaboration, providing new learning experiences and providing additional skills and knowledge for students preparing them for future professions. With different collaborations, it aimed at extending and strengthening WURs networks on a local,

national and international scale to increase societal and scientific impacts. Partnerships with student organizations, university programs, and organizations, combined with the contributions of dedicated volunteers, are central to achieving the Green Office's key goals and aligns with WUR's overall aim 'collaboration for impact'.



5.2 Food and Beverage Vision

Alongside the Strategic Plan, the [Food and Beverage Vision](#) of WUR includes protein transition as one of the main principles. Green Office projects like collaboration with PBU (Plant-Based Universities), the catering company and commissioning an ACT contributed to this by advocating for more sustainable food system within WUR, which includes more sustainable, more plant-based, healthier, and more affordable options. The projects highlighted the role of plant-based options in the transition, demonstrated how WUR can take the lead in promoting the protein-transition and more sustainable diets, and raised awareness of sustainable food choices. By organizing the weekly Student

Cooking Corner, the focus was also on creating cultural awareness and making a sustainable food transition in which inclusiveness is one of the core values.

Themes from the CSR Agenda

- Research and education to contribute to societal challenges (1)
- Knowledge sharing and dissemination (2)
- High-impact partnerships (10)

SDGs

2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION

5.3 WUR Energy Transition 2050

The GOW initiated multiple projects related to the [Energy Transition 2050](#). Through hackathons and think-tank-style events, participants were challenged to create solutions that address critical energy issues, such as sustainability in IT, and therefore directly shaping WUR's impact on the energy landscape. By bringing a student perspective, the Green Office bridges knowledge gaps within WUR's energy strategy, highlighting practical insights that complement WUR's energy transition efforts. Additionally, by equipping students with knowledge about energy use, the Green Office actively supports WUR's Trias Energetica goals by increasing awareness to reduce energy demand and maximizing energy efficiency.

Themes from the CSR Agenda

- Research and education to contribute to societal challenges (1)
- Knowledge sharing and dissemination (2)
- High-impact partnerships (10)
- Renewable energy (12)

SDGs

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
13 CLIMATE ACTION

5.4 Gender + Equality Plan

The sustainable menstruation projects of the GOW, aligns with the WUR's [Gender + Equality Plan](#) as it aims to create a gender smart culture. By breaking the taboo around menstruation and addressing period poverty, the project promotes inclusivity and helps create a safer, more supportive campus environment.

Themes from the CSR Agenda

- Waste and circularity (8)
- Diversity among staff and students (15)

SDGs

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
5 GENDER EQUALITY
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

5.5 Circular Economy Vision

The Green Office has made valuable contributions to [WUR's Circular Economy Vision](#) by initiating projects that tackle e-waste and plastic consumption. The establishment of Wageningen's first collection point for personal electronics disposal, raised funds for charity while reducing e-waste pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. This effort increases recycling awareness and supports the circular economy in line with WUR's goals. Additionally, the Green Office addressed the extensive use of fossil-based plastics in WUR laboratories by commissioning a project to explore sustainable alternatives for laboratory conical tubes. By providing insights into reducing plastic consumption, the Green Office advances WUR's commitment to a circular economy.



5.6 Green Vision

The Green Office played a role in supporting WUR's [Green Vision](#) by contributing to a healthier, more resilient campus environment. A commissioned ACT report on climate adaptation addresses pressing issues like extreme weather, identifying strategies to combat heat islands, pluvial and fluvial

flooding, heat stress, and drought. This project included collaborating with campus residents, stakeholders, and WUR experts to shape the development and management of green spaces, ultimately aiming to create a climate-resilient campus.



5.7 Education Vision

The Green Office contributes significantly to the [Education Vision](#) of WUR by fostering impactful science and collaborative learning communities dedicated to sustainability. Through initiatives that bring together students, lecturers, and societal partners, the Green Office enables knowledge-sharing and problem-solving for real-world sustainability challenges. This approach, which includes projects like the S4S Journal and the UNFCCC Youth Delegate Program, enhances students' scientific knowledge and sustainability competencies, integrating their expertise into transdisciplinary projects that address complex environmental issues. The Green Office also empowers students to envision and pursue sustainable futures by educating them on climate change, policy engagement, and career opportunities. The Green Office ensures youth engagement and academic representation in global climate policy,

strengthening the connection between education and actionable impact while preparing students to lead in sustainability.

Themes from the CSR Agenda

- Research and education to contribute to societal challenges (1)
- Knowledge sharing and dissemination (2)

SDGs



6 Conclusion

The Green Office continues to make a meaningful impact through its ongoing projects, the organization of events that foster staff and student engagement, and active participation in various networks. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) most emphasized in 2024 include: **SDG 4:** Quality Education, **SDG 12:** Responsible Consumption and Production, **SDG 13:** Climate Action, and **SDG 17:** Partnerships for the Goals. Additionally, the Green Office has actively worked on **SDG 2:** Zero Hunger, **SDG 3:** Good Health and Well-Being, **SDG 5:** Gender Equality, **SDG 6:** Clean Water and Sanitation, **SDG 7:** Affordable and Clean Energy, **SDG 11:** Sustainable Cities and Communities, and **SDG 15:** Life on Land.

These efforts are closely aligned with WUR's Strategic Plan and the university's specific visions. Collaboration has been a cornerstone of the Green Office's success, with meaningful partnerships formed across WUR departments, student organizations, and external networks, fostering a collaborative environment to achieve sustainability goals.

Looking ahead, Green Office Wageningen is committed to increasing its impact by further aligning with WUR's visions, expanding collaborative efforts, and addressing emerging sustainability challenges. By integrating these priorities, the Green Office reinforces WUR's mission to create a more sustainable university.



7 Authors

Name	Position
Ariadni Diamantopoulou	Communication & Outreach Coordinator
Natalia Gomez Solano	Community & Network Coordinator
Ines Lappe	Food & Society Coordinator
Django Milner Vaas	Green Office Manager
Helena Voorhuis	Campus & Operations Coordinator
Sem Zijta	Education & Research Coordinator

8 Contact



www.wur.nl/en/about-wur/sustainability/green-office-wageningen.htm



greenoffice@wur.nl



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



[@greenofficewageningen](https://www.linkedin.com/company/greenofficewageningen)