

Introduction

Breakfastclub 1: Faculty Club, Leiden

The theme of this Breakfast club was sustainability within Leiden University.

Three guest speakers introduced the topic:

- *Aoife – Manager of Leiden University Green Office (LUGO)*

LUGO showed us a short movie where they explained what the LUGO does and what kind of activities they already set up to create more awareness for sustainability and to give students the opportunity to actually do something about sustainability. Examples of initiatives are the ‘Join the Pipe’ project, the Foodsharing project and clothing swap events.

- *Amber Hensema – Environmental advisor of Leiden University, coordinator of executing the Environmental Policy Plan and guiding the LUGO*

Amber Hensema discussed the three main topics of the environmental policy plan: waste, energy housing and mobility.

Waste is separated at all faculties, but not all waste is recycled right now. Especially the PMD waste is very difficult to recycle. It is very hard to find a company which is willing to recycle the PMD waste. The university is still working on this problem and searching for a recycle company which can help.

The university has already some good initiatives on making energy housing more sustainable, such a heat-cold storage and solar cells on the Gorlaeus building. However, this is only still a fraction of our total energy. More nationally and internationally oriented projects are going on right now, such as the use of windmills and cookstoves in Africa.

Considering mobility, the main challenge are the longer distance business trips. For the trips taking less than 6 hours, such as Paris and London, employees should take the train. However, it is hard to find alternatives, other than digital meetings, for the longer distances.

- *Harriët Sjerps – Education advisor*

Harriët Sjerps discussed the different possibilities for sustainable education. Leiden University offers sustainable courses, minors, challenges and expertise centra like the Institute for Environmental Sciences . In 2019 Leiden University wants to enhance the offer of sustainable education. Thereby, the ‘student as partners’ project will be launched in January 2019, which enhances the overall student experience on sustainability. In this project student can do their own research on sustainability.

Recommendations per theme:

1. Paperless university

- Let students choose if they want digital or hard copy readers. For some students, with concentration issues for example, only hard copy readers will work. However, for most students digital readers works fine and do not think it is necessary to print them. This should be organised by course coordinators.
- Students especially dislike the fact that paper is the standard, they would like to hand in their assignments digitally and if a professor likes to read it on paper he/she could print it out themselves, this would decrease the footprint per student and could increase the threshold of professors printing out every assignments. This should be encouraged by the deans of the different faculties to all professors.
- Some teachers want to have a hard copy and digital paper. An idea for a pilot-study (e.g., a student as partner project) is to talk with the teachers and study why they still want papers on hard copy. The system to comment online is not working very well, so it could be a nice idea to investigate this and implement tools and learn how to use these tools to examine a paper online. This pilot should be executed per faculty.
- Some studies have the opportunity to print for free (e.g. physics) and are therefore printing a lot more than their peers. It also raises a sense of unfairness and thus students would like to see that a price is going to be put on this. This would, again, increase the threshold to print something and would thus probably decrease the amount of paper that is printed per student (with this opportunity for free printing). This should be explored and be executed by the boards of the different faculties.
- Paper waste: set up a system (or printing) policy that knows how much and how often students and docents / staff members print for their lectures to create more awareness about the amount of paper used. This should be explored and be executed by the boards of the different faculties.
- A set-up study on digital examination is just started.
- If students have an open book exam, they could bring their notes and articles on an USB-stick. This is hard, since you then also need a laptop or computer but it still could be taken in consideration by the directors of studies of the different faculties.
- Leiden University could offer the possibility to make personalized agenda via USIS via your Google account. This is already happening at TU Delft and a lot of other cities.

2. University cafés

- In the café of the Faculty of Law you are charged if you want to drink it in the café and use tableware instead of a plastic cup: this should be the other way around.
- Charge for plastic cups when buying a drink (e.g., coffee or tea) in the university cafes
 - This could first be set up as a pilot study in one faculty café, possibly as part of a ‘student as partners’ project
 - Combine this with discount on the LUGO coffee cups
 - Skip the misleading information on the cups right now (they are not sustainable, because they still contain plastic material)
 - The FSW ‘think-tank’ could possibly be used for ideas how to make this work best considering consumer behaviour.
- Bring your own cup
 - LUGO will soon sell bamboo coffee cups which students can bring to the university cafes
 - For washing the cups another tap next to the ‘join the pipe’ taps could be installed
 - Students really like the system that starbucks, hema and the kiosk at stations are using, which includes bringing your own (thermos)-mug and fill it up with coffee against a small discount (15 % or something). This would decrease the amount of paper cups the university uses and thus reduce waste. This should be considered by Leiden University.
- Put LUGO bottles with water in the machines instead of pet bottles
- No more pet bottles in front of the cafe displays, but e.g. drink jars with fruit water
- The university restaurants could join the ‘Too good to go’ app: this app gives you the opportunity to buy for a small amount of money leftovers of bakeries and other shops that otherwise would be thrown away. This should be explored by the different faculties.
- Lactose free or other vegan products should not be more expensive than the other products
- There should be more vegan options in the university restaurants. There was also a question if the vegetarian or more sustainable options could be reduced in price so that students are more tempted to buy the sustainable foods. This should be considered by the boards of the faculties.
- At the Huygens restaurant people often use the disposable plates because they often take their lunch to the new gorlaeus building which is quite a walk. It would be more sustainable if more people would use ceramics, but they don't want or don't have the time to walk all the way back to the huygens to hand in their

dishes. A solution that came up is to have carts or rollable trays on which the plates can be slid (think of the ones in hema) to place dishes there and so that a restaurant employee can roll it back to the restaurant after lunch has ended. This should be considered by the board of the faculty.

3. Waste separation

- For a lot of students and staff members it is still not clear in which waste bin their waste should be thrown away and the system is too 'difficult'. There should be more focus on clear information and communication about the system and why it is important to do. Possibly you could already put the colour of where the waste should go on the products. Also the trash cans could be made seen-through, so students would be more aware of the amount of waste they throw away.
- There are toilets where the sink is put on top of the toilet. In this way the water you use for washing your hands can be used for toilet water. This can be considered by the university of Leiden.
- We could place a paper bin in toilets just allowed to throw in the paper towels, so these can be easily recycled.

4. ELCID-week

- Bring your own (reusable) cup during the ELCID-week/pubcrawl
 - Last year they used plastic reusable cups, but more than half of them got lost, but the ELCID will use them this year again and charge for the cups.
- Use reusable cups at the LEF. People have to hand in their cup in order to get a new drink and can hand in their cup at the end in return for their money or a coin. *Gemeente Amsterdam* has a very good policy on making festivals 100% sustainable. Possibly, the ELCID board could contact them for tips.
- The program booklet should only become available as a app and not hard copy anymore.
 - The ELCID board is already busy on building an app. They already use QR-codes for all dinners and they stopped publishing their paper magazine.
- Considering food waste during the ELCID-week they could also join the 'too good to go app', as earlier mentioned for the university restaurants or bring the food to homeless shelters.
- Buy 'sporks' for all students, which they have to keep all week, so other parties do not have to buy plastic cutlery and throw it away
- Only offer vegetarian food
- Create more awareness for sustainability at the mentor training day and among the new students

- Another concern for the students were the flyers, they would like to integrate in-app advertising instead of paper flyers that are almost instantly thrown away. This is a lot of work so an alternative solution from the students was to not give the flyers to each student but to hand them out to people who want them and collect them on their own initiative. Another alternative would be to integrate the information/promotion in a QR or NFC tag so that people can watch it on their phones. This also increases marketing possibilities as the opportunity for video attachment arises.

Everything mentioned in this part of the ELCID should be taken into consideration by the ELCID board 2018-2019.

Ambition of Leiden University

- Focus on more awareness among students
- Embed sustainability in education as part of the study
- The overall opinion of the students was that the university should be more of an example to students. They came up with different possibilities for the university to enact this:
 - At the FWN, implement previously mentioned sustainability awareness methods from the start of the academic careers.
 - At each study implement sustainability into a course, by e.g. setting the subject of courses such as academic writing in that it needs to be something sustainability related, this would increase the awareness as people are still working on the subject while doing a course. For law this could be environmental laws, for natural sciences possibly green chemistry etc. etc.

6. Effects and visibility of current actions and improvements

- Enhance the visibility of what the university is doing now and especially the things where students can get involved, for example by publishing facts and figures where the university stands right now considering sustainability. This could be published on social media or on the screens at the coffee machines. The information that is showed there right now is too fast and had outdated information, so this could be updated and used more efficiently.
- Students would like more promotion for sustainability challenges and initiatives such as LUGO, STaP, iGem, those sort of things. This could possibly be done through study associations or the according organizations by giving short (3 min) lecture talks or collaborate with them in courses to create challenges that the students can do in that course.

7. Sustainable education

- Increase the capacity of existing sustainability minors, since they are already very popular and quickly filled. This could be taken into consideration by the board of the university of Leiden.
- Making courses on sustainability obligatory could be possible, but will deliver a lot of problems with the faculty coordinators and their current curriculum.
- Arrange a meeting in September/October 2019 with all faculties to make an inventory how they implemented sustainability in their programs, since it is one of the agenda points of the academic year 2018-2019. (*Hester Bijl & Harriët Sjerps are planning to work this out*)
- Enhance the Leiden-Rotterdam-Delft collaboration and minors, since this brings very interesting insights on sustainability. Also think of collective challenges with LRD. Should be taken into consideration by the board of Leiden University.
- Current courses could focus more on sustainability, without implementing a new course. This could be encouraged by the boards of the different faculties.
- Give attention to the subject in the first period of the study during mentor classes