

LEIDEN UNIVERSITY GREEN OFFICE



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

INTRODUCTION

In 2022, LUGO was subject to several changes, from team composition and management to goal prioritisation. This resulted in some challenges, however throughout the year, LUGO worked consistently towards its goals:

- Becoming more visible
 - After Covid-19, and aware of the online presence / social media fatigue that had permeated societies, we focused on becoming more visible physically, in person, fostering a community around the organisation of students who are inspired to learn about and mobilise towards a more sustainable future. This was done with more frequent info-markets that increased our outreach presence physically at the University. The strong participation in our Seasonal Competitions, which will be discussed below, are a best practice that also showed the results of the involvement of our community and increased visibility.
- Increasing our 'legitimacy'
 - With the new board, we aimed at increasing LUGO's legitimacy. By this, we mean to increase our credibility (or perception of credibility) in the eyes of University's stakeholders and becoming more involved in decision making. We believe that increasing our relevance can reflect efforts of increasing the relevance of the climate crisis issue at Leiden University. We also wanted to be seen as a credible point of contact for students and staff to approach to air their concerns and feedback, and which could be trusted in terms of honest, open communication and collaboration on issues of sustainability at Leiden University. We have worked towards this through especially the launch of the LUGO Press and more frequent meetings with the Executive Board as well as increasing physical interactions with students. Admittedly, more impactful work on facilities or strategy, however, was not achieved.

In March 2022, four new members and a new manager joined LUGO, creating a substantive change in the internal workings of the organisation. It was important that all the members of the team learnt and understood their responsibilities for LUGO to perform at its best. Two members of the team, however, struggled to meet the expectations and responsibilities that working with LUGO requires, therefore for half of the year, LUGO had to rely on the work of only four coordinators, while the issues related to sustainability at Leiden University kept increasing. Nevertheless, LUGO managed to create and execute a number of events and projects that had a relevant impact on the sustainability community of the university. Below follows a chronological summary of our main activities.

JANUARY

- **Co-participation X Sustainability Conference**

- On January 20th LUGO, together with the University Council, invited the Faculty Council and Program committee (OLC) to join an online event. In this event, LUGO and the co-participation bodies discussed questions and concerns on how to integrate sustainability in their education, plans and roles within the departments. The key partners in the organisation were Eefje Cuppen, Jiahui Plomp, and Esther Kentin.

MARCH

- **Onboarding of the new team!**

- As of March 1st 2022, LUGO gained four new members and a new manager. A transition period and onboarding were necessary for everyone to learn more about LUGO and their position.



- **Podcast Episode: Challenges of Packaging in our contemporary society.**

- The Community Committee published a podcast which, together with Katarzyna Cwiertka - an expert on food and waste in East Asia and Professor of Modern Japan Studies - explored the challenges that we are facing in our contemporary society regarding food and product packaging.

- **Deconstructing the Circular Economy (Lecture)**

- Guest Lecture with Patricia Megale Coelhom on the 17th of March, at Wijnhaven, on the Hague campus, we deconstructed the circular economy model, reviewed its importance, disadvantages, and practical applications. Patricia walked us through the life cycle of a specific product, from pre-production to post-disposal.



APRIL

- **Teambuilding and brainstorming of LUGO's mission and vision**

- The new team got to know each other better and started to think about interesting future projects, goals, and LUGO's mission!



- **Launch of the LUGO press**

- The LUGO press is an evolution of what used to be the LUGO blog. With the new lead in Communications, the blog was transformed in a platform with pieces of higher quality. It is a semi-academic platform where students and employees can submit pieces that share their perspectives on environmental challenges, and spark discussion in the community. In 2022, 44 pieces were published on the LUGO press, with the most read article being clicked 844 times.



- **Launch of first competition: Spring Poetry April 13-May 3**

- On April 13 we launched our Spring Poetry competition, on the theme: (Environmental) Guilt. The existential threat that is the climate crisis harms mental wellbeing in different ways, with terms like eco-stress, eco-anxiety, or even eco-rage becoming more popularised as climate-related disasters increase in numbers. We asked: What is your relationship to (environmental) Guilt? What is it to be guilty at all? 15 submissions were received and celebrated on May 10th during the related event. Later on, all the submissions were published on the LUGO press.

MAY

- **Spring competition event: Clothes Swap and Poetry Reading**

- On May 10th, the first medium sized event of the new LUGO team took place. Hosted by Rapenburg 100, and with the catering provided by the Green Kitchen, LUGO organised an event which consisted in a clothes swap combined with a poetry reading. The Green Kitchen provided vegan snacks and finger food to the participants, and GOSSA, as well as Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Centre for Sustainability, supported in the organisation of the clothes swap. The main event was the poetry reading followed by the announcement of the winners of the Spring Poetry Competition. Between 30-40 people were present and engaged in the event.



- **Biodiversity Day and guerrilla gardening**

- On May 23rd, in occasion of biodiversity day, LUGO decided to shed light on the concept of guerrilla gardening. Therefore, the Green Office handed out flower seed packages, of species local to the Netherlands, at Wijnhaven in the Hague.

- **Guest at Code Red for Humanity Podcast**

- On May 25th, the podcast Code Red for Humanity, by the students of the International Studies bachelor programme invited LUGO for a chat about LUGO's role at the University, and sustainability issues at the institution. Communications and Outreach participated in this.



PODCAST EPISODE

Code Red for Humanity - A Conversation with Leiden University Green Office

Radi8 Radio

JUNE

- **Recruitment plan**

- During the month of June, the LUGO team started working on a plan to expand the reach and engagement with the organisation. The goal was to expand the active community working with LUGO. While in the following months the Community Committee, the Visibility Committee, and the active group of writers, editors and illustrators of the LUGO press were achieved and recruited, the Green Teams, on the other hand, unfortunately were not recruited.



- **Merchandise proposal**

- Part of the new team’s goal was to find a renewed “image”. This was executed in the form of new but yet sustainably sourced and produced merchandise of the Green Office. In preparation for the summer introduction weeks, new merchandise was designed and ordered.

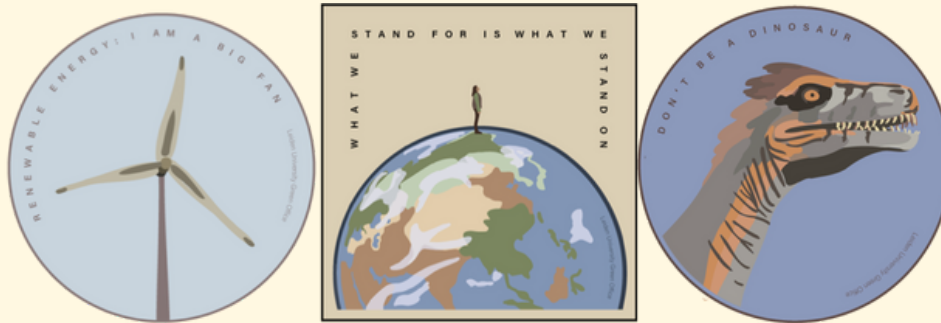
- **Student voor morgen general assembly**

- On June 15th, the Green Office participated in the general assembly of Studenten voor Morgen. This was a great opportunity to network with similar realities and learn from other green offices best practices. LUGO presented the recruitment plan during the assembly and received general praise and interest on the idea.

JULY

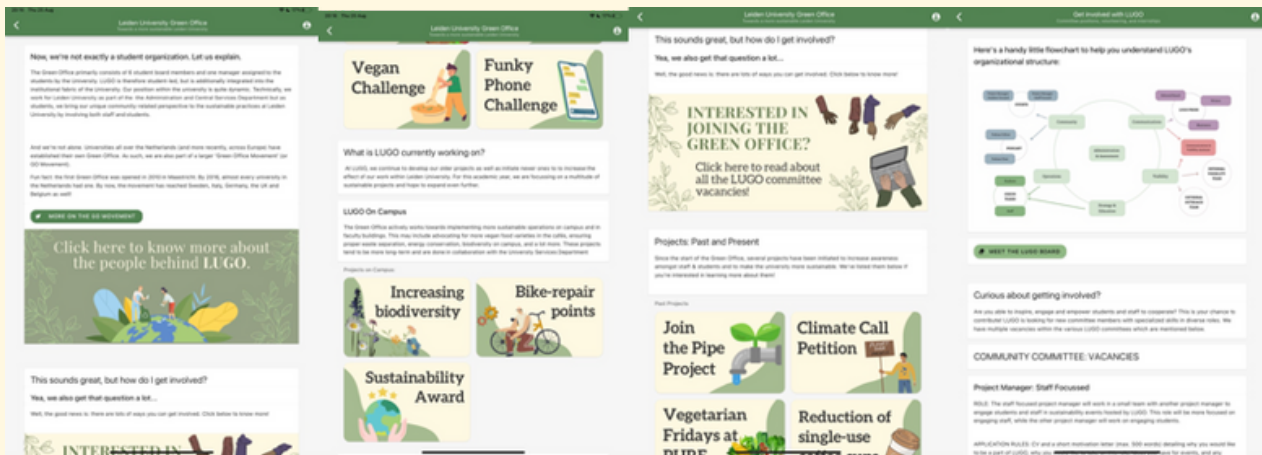
- **Launch of new LUGO stickers**

- As part of the new image of LUGO, we also launched a new design for stickers in the month of July. The stickers, while being small, have a large impact on increasing the visibility of LUGO within the students. They are distributed during events and info-markets.



- **HOP week app launch**

- In preparation for the HOP introduction week, LUGO was able to be strongly present in the new HOP week app. This included efforts in terms of design, communication and back-end interaction to make the page user friendly and appealing.



- **Launch of the new LUGO newsletter**

- On July 11th, LUGO launched a new design of the newsletter as well as the first newsletter under the new team composition. This also included a new approach to the content shared and increased effort to expand its reach.

- **Earth overshoot day**

- On July 28th, in the (grim) occasion of earth overshoot day, LUGO released an informational guide on digital footprints.

AUGUST

- **Introduction Weeks**

- The month of August is characterised by the participation in the various introduction weeks. The participation in these events is crucial to make new incoming students aware of the work of LUGO. The participation in such events can take different form, but the most common and standard is as info-markets. This year, we combined the general info markets in which we disseminate out merchandise and inform the students about LUGO, with an interactive seed-bombs-making workshop. Taking inspiration from the dissemination we had previously done on the importance of guerrilla gardening, this workshop also gave a hands-on experience for students to actively participate in the movement by creating seed-bombs with seeds native to the Netherlands and sourced sustainably. LUGO took part in:
 - EL CID introduction week: present with an info-market on August 15th.
 - HOP introduction week: present with an info market and seed-bomb making workshop on August 23rd. On August 24th LUGO hosted a walking tour of sustainability landmarks in the Hague.
 - OWL introduction week: present with an info-market and seed-bomb making workshop on 31 August.



- **Planting day**

- On August 25th, LUGO in support of the real estate office organised a planting day in the roof of the Snellius Building, which is the host to the largest solar panel roof in the BeNeLux region. LUGO opened a call for volunteers, and with about 10 people, we contributed to planting plants and flowers on the roof to make it greener. The volunteers received merchandise from LUGO as a token of appreciation.



- **August newsletter**

- On August 8th, the August newsletter was distributed.

SEPTEMBER

- **September newsletter**
 - On September 23rd, the September newsletter was distributed.
- **Info market in Lipsius**
 - To promote the incoming new position at LUGO, on September 29th the team held an info-market at the Lipsius Building in Leiden.

OCTOBER

- **Green Morning**
 - On October 10th the largest green solar roof of the Benelux opened at the rooftop of the Snellius building. To celebrate this, Leiden University Green Office organised, under the lead of the Sustainability Office of Leiden University, an active Green Morning. Participants could choose from 3 different set ups:
 - A walk with Marco Roos (Naturalis) about Biodiversity at the Bio Science Park.
 - A photo walk with LUGO to participate in the new theme of the LUGO autumn photography competition: decay.
 - A tour on the new green solar roof.
 - After the workshops a clean-up walk would follow A well-deserved lunch was offered to all the about 20-30 participants



- **Launch of Autumn Photography Competition October 10-November 2**
 - After the Green Morning, LUGO announced the new competition of the season: a photography competition of the theme of (Environmental) decay. We invited participants to reflect on what decay meant to them through photos. A total of 14 submissions were received and celebrated in November in the related event. All the submissions were later published and highlighted on the LUGO press.

- **Eco-Anxiety workshop**

- On October 11th LUGO organised a workshop to address the rising eco-anxiety in students and staff. People were able to share their concerns, fears and coping mechanisms in a safe environment, and were able to find comfort in knowing that nobody is alone in these uncomfortable feelings. The workshop took place in the Schouwburgstraat building in the Hague and was attended by about 10-15 people.

- **Movie night event**

- As a follow-up to the eco-anxiety workshop, LUGO on October 18th organised a movie night screening a more positive movie in times of climate crisis. The screening of the movie "The Biggest Little Farm" was organised in Wijnhaven, and participants were encouraged to bring tupperwares and home-made snacks while benefitting from popcorns and drinks provided by LUGO.

- **New management system**

- Notably, from an administrative and managerial side, the management of the team's tasks was moved from MS Teams to ClickUp, a more detailed project management platform.

- **Billie cup petition and piloting**

- To combat the use of disposable cups within the university, and to comply with the new Dutch laws coming into place by July 2023, LUGO started, in collaboration with the UFB and the Faculty of Law a pre-pilot for the use of the "Billie Cup". While the pre-pilot was considered a step in the right direction, LUGO also launched a petition asking for:

- Reusable cups in the restaurants and cafes;
- Reusable cups in the coffee machines;
- Deposit on the reusable cups;
- Disposable cups completely phased out on all our campuses.



- **October newsletter**

- On October 21st, the October newsletter was distributed.

NOVEMBER

- **Farm excursion**

- On November 5th, LUGO organised an excursion to a bio dynamic farm, as a follow up to the eco-anxiety workshop and movie screening. The 15 participants (maximum number) were shown around the farm, encountered animals and most importantly learn about the challenges and opportunities of growing organic food.



- **Green Drinks**

- On November 2nd, to celebrate the new LUGO community, the tradition of hosting “green drinks” at the LUGO office was re-installed. For the first hour the direct community working with LUGO had the opportunity to meet and brainstorm about ideas to make Leiden University More sustainable, in the later hours the doors opened to the wider community and participants were invited in for drinks and snacks.



- **Clean Up walk**

- LUGO has been considering organising more recurrent and small events. On November 16th, we organised a brief clean up walk with a start in front of Lipsius. While multiple people showed interest, only a few took part for brief moments. Therefore, it was decided that for now it would be wiser to dedicate the energies towards bigger projects and events.

- **Autumn Competition Event: Decay Exhibit**

- On November 22nd, LUGO organised at the Grey Space in the Middle the exhibition of the photographic submissions receives for the competition. During the event, Rotterzwarm gave an insightful talk about their work on growing mushrooms from organic waste of the Rotterdam area. The over 40 attendees were able to visit the exhibition, eat some snacks, listen to the Rotterzwarm lecture and celebrate with the tree winners of the competition.



- **Green Garden Proposal**

- During the month of November, the team presented a draft proposal on renovating and repurposing the small garden in the Schouwburgstraat building in the Hague. While work is still underway, November marked the starting month of the project by visiting the site, collecting information from the various stakeholders, and drafting a plan and proposal for the future of the garden.

- **November Newsletter**

- On November 15th, the November newsletter was distributed.

DECEMBER

- **Brussels Excursion**

- In collaboration with GOSSA, LUGO organised an excursion to the European Parliament in Brussels to learn more about the policy making of sustainability and its application in institutions such as universities. The group of 50 people was given an interesting introduction held by an EP employee, after which we were able to visit the Hemicycle while an event was in session. Afterwards, we had an engaging and interesting Q&A session with two APA's working for MEPs of the Greens and S&D.



- **Sustainability Award 8th December**

- As part of the role of LUGO, each year we are responsible for selecting the student or study organisation that was the “most sustainable”. LUGO analysed the applications and made a selection. The winner was announced during a high-level event with representatives from all the student bodies as well as executive office.

- **December newsletter**

- On December 28th, the December newsletter was distributed.