

Sustainability in Education Survey Factsheet

*Faculty of Governance and Global
Affairs*

1 March 2021



Leiden University
Green Office



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Goodrise

Introduction

Leiden University Green Office (LUGO) and Goodrise conducted research on the sustainability attitudes of Leiden University students and their interest in including sustainability topics in their education. This research was conducted from December 2020 to February 2021. This fact sheet presents the findings for the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs. The full context, methods, and overall findings are described in the **main report**.

In total, we have collected 88 responses from the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, out of which 75 were bachelor students and 13 were master students. The ratio between men and women was 22 to 63. 3 respondents identified as another or no gender.

International students filled in the questionnaire 35 times, whereas 47 responses are from Dutch students. 6 respondents indicated their origin fits neither category clearly.

An overview of responses per programme is presented in Appendix I.

Defining sustainability and ranking the SDGs

The questionnaire asked respondents to briefly define sustainability. This helps the reader operationalise this term in the context of this research. These definitions are included in Appendix II. Additionally, respondents were asked to identify which five UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were most important to them. These findings are presented below.

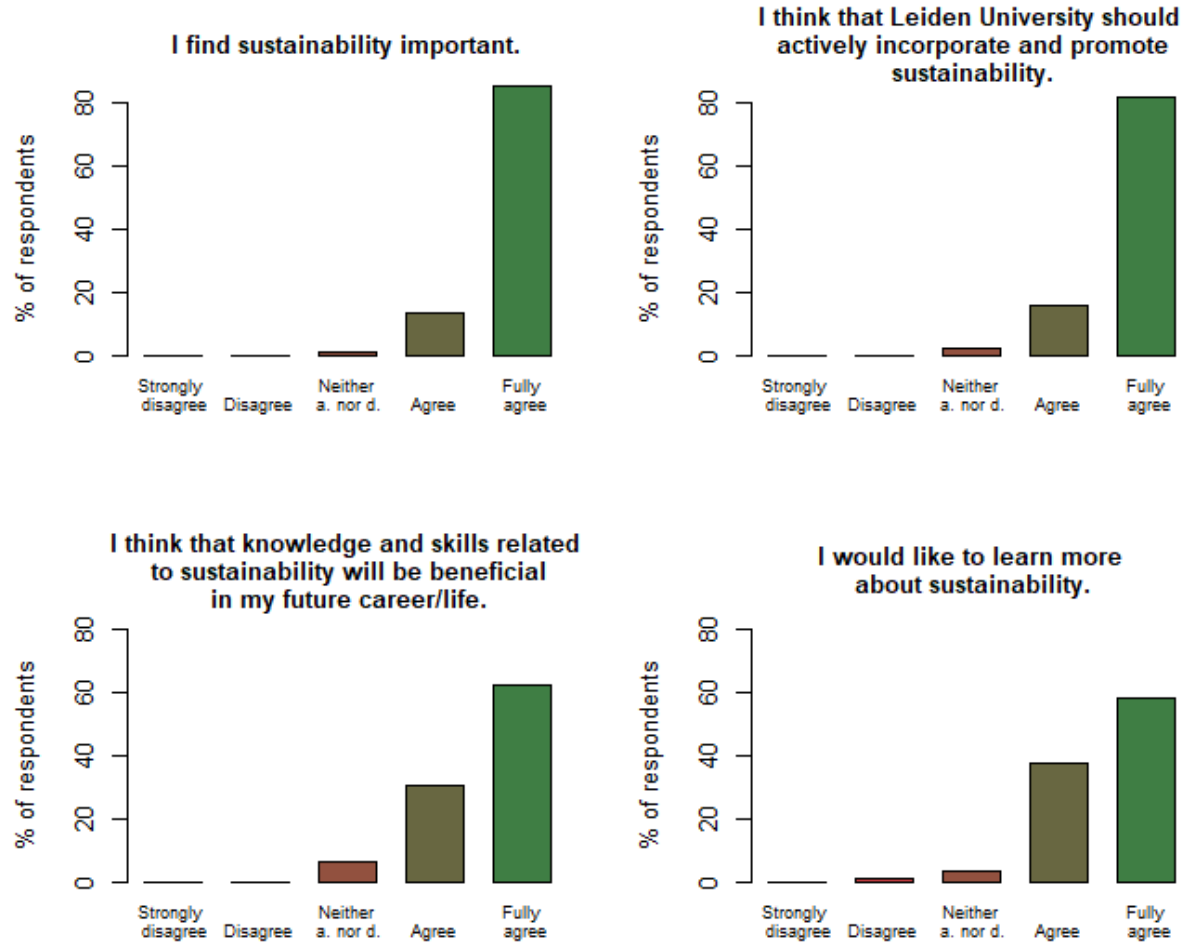
Most Important Sustainability Aspects, Acc. to Students

Climate Action	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Reduced Inequalities	Life on Land	Clean Water and Sanitation	
	Responsible Consumption and Production	Affordable and Clean Energy	Good Health and Well-being	No Poverty	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
			Quality Education	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Decent Work and Economic Growth
				Gender Equality	Partnerships for the Goals



Students' general attitudes towards sustainability

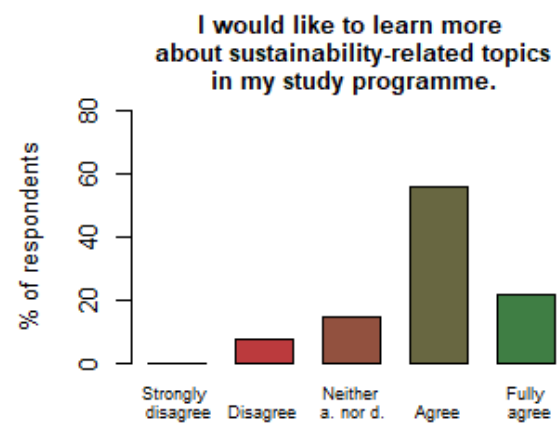
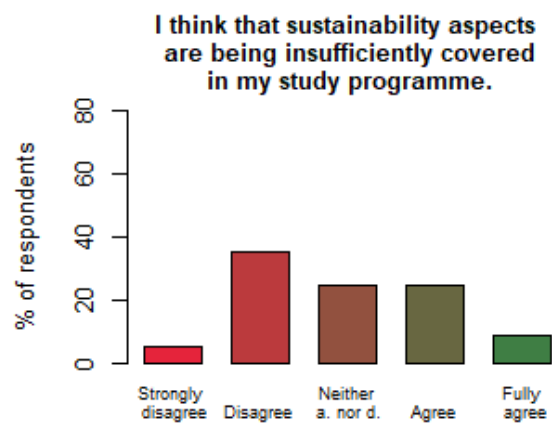
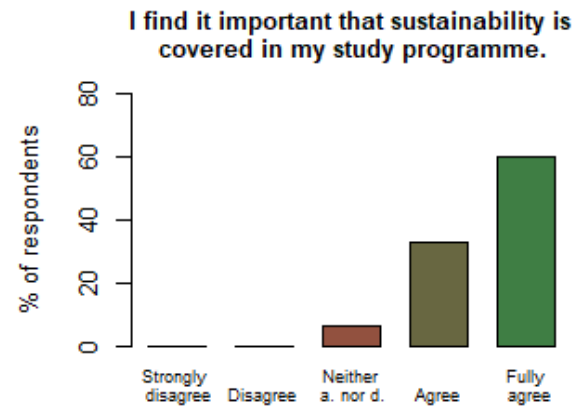
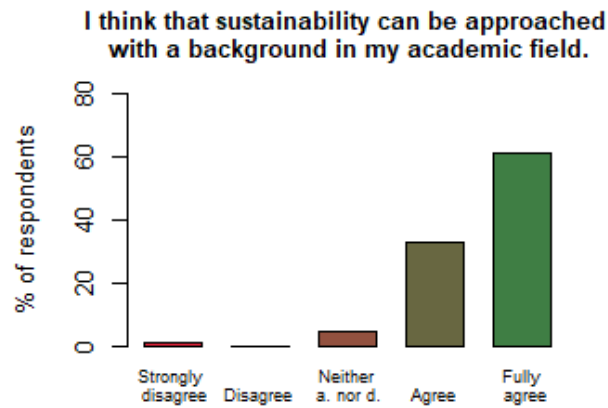
The survey presented several statements regarding sustainability to its respondents. Students were prompted to indicate the extent to which they agree with the statements, with answers as a 1-5 Likert scale. The answers to questions that were about sustainability in general or in relationship to the entire university are presented below.

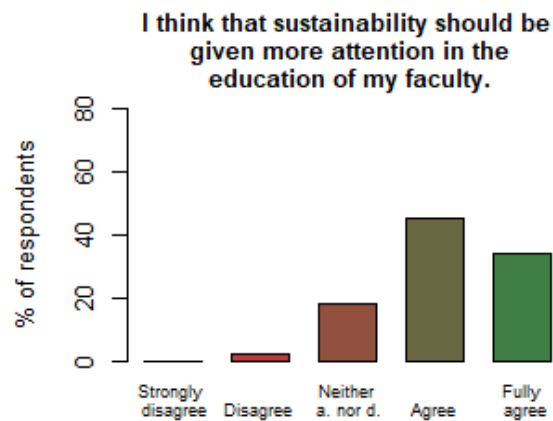
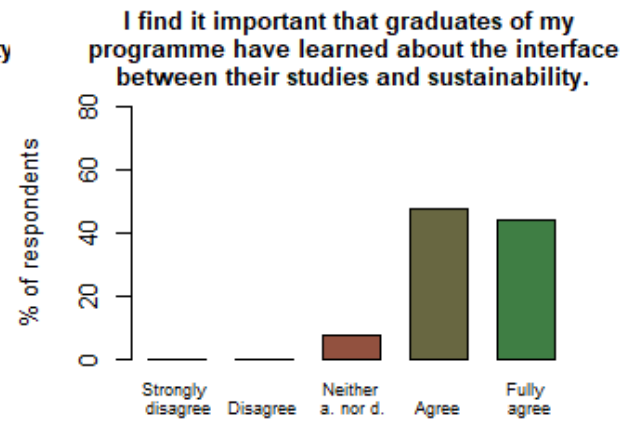
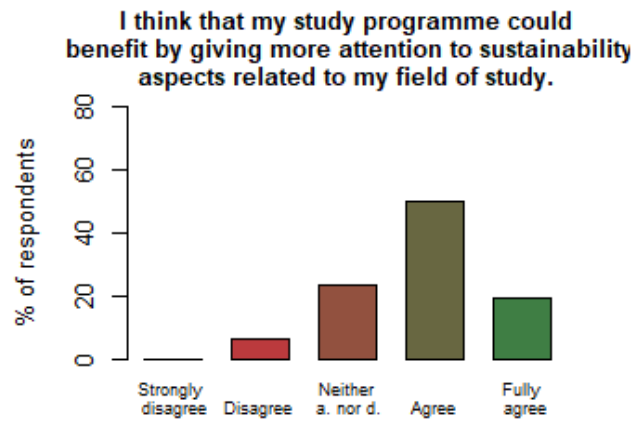




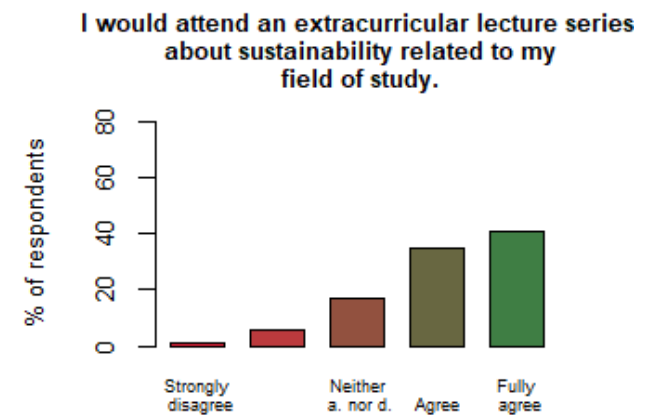
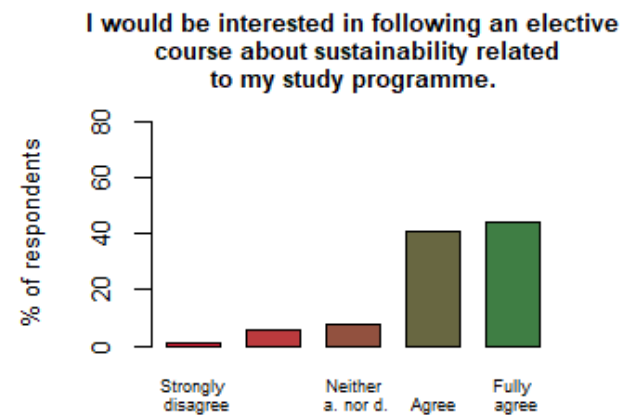
Students' attitudes towards sustainability in their study programme

The questionnaire resumed by presenting nine more statements about sustainability in relationship to their study programme.





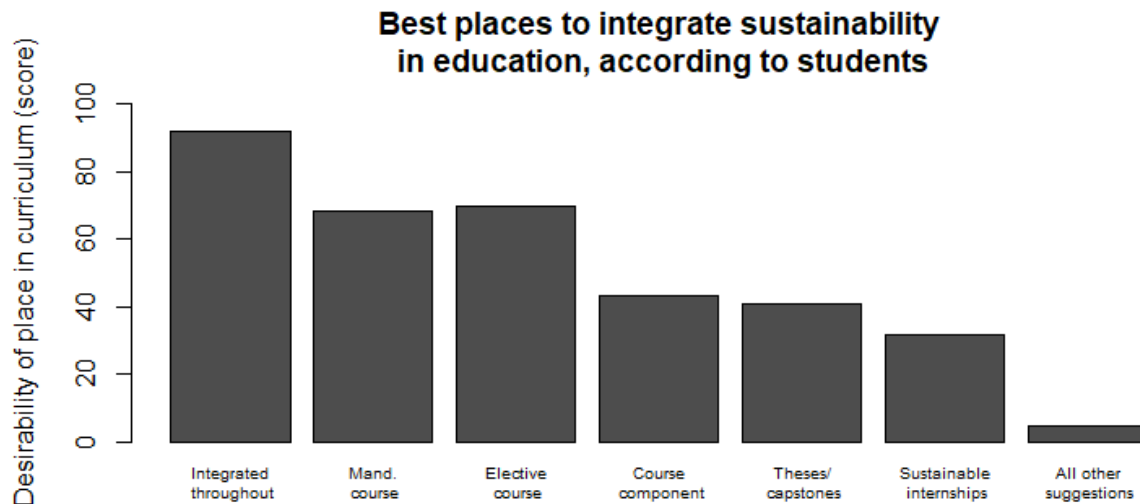
Finally, we asked if respondents are interested in an elective or extracurricular lectures.





Places in the curriculum to integrate sustainability

Several options exist for integrating sustainability in a study programme, such as creating elective courses or promoting the inclusion of sustainability throughout the existing programme curriculum. Students were asked where sustainability would fit best in their study programme by ranking seven options, including an open 'other' field. (See the full report for a detailed methodology on this metric.)



The survey also provided respondents the option to suggest a specific course in which sustainability could be given attention. These courses and other suggestions to further include sustainability in the curricula are included in Appendix III and IV, respectively. Further general comments on sustainability at the university are listed in Appendix V.



Appendices

Appendix I: Students per programme

Programme	n
BA/BSc Liberal Arts & Sciences: Global Challenges	61
BSc Public Administration Science	10
BSc Security Studies	4
MSc Crisis and Security Management	5
MSc International Relations and Diplomacy	5
MSc Management Public Sector	1
MSc Public Administration	2

Appendix II: Definitions of sustainability provided by students

Raw definitions of sustainability provided by students from the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs are provided below, in their original language.

- Live without creating too much burden for nature
- Houdbaar voor de lange termijn
- houdbaar gedrag niet schadelijk voor het milieu
- Als het gebruik maken van iets wat voor vele jaren mee gaat
- evenwicht mens en natuur
- avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.
- Zuinig zijn
- Making sure your output isn't too high
- Zuinig omgaan met de aarde
- Dat men op een toekomstbestendige manier omgaat met grondstoffen, de directe omgeving (inclusief mensen in de directe omgeving) en de aarde.
- Het aanpassen van de levensstijl van mensen aan de grenzen van de wereld (dan wel ecologisch dan wel rechtvaardigheid)



- Duurzaamheid is leven in het nu zonder de kwaliteit van leven in de toekomst te schaden
- State of living without damaging our environment in great level
- zorgen voor de juiste balans tussen menselijk leven en klimaat
- A lifestyle that revolves around long-term and non-extractionary habits.
- The ability to sustain, whether we are talking about environmental, social, economic or cultural systems
- Protect the environment with recycling way in all good to the planet
- Ability to survive without threatening the existence of future generations.
- Being mindful of the impact human action has on the environment and ecosystems around us.
- Achieving a better cycle of consumption and production that does not harm the environment.
- Using resources in such a way they can be used for a long time
- een circulaire productie system, dat voor een onbepaalde tijd door kan gaan
- The ability to avoid depleting our natural resources in order to stay at an equilibrium
- met actieve aandacht voor mens, dier en klimaat
- Het niet uitputten van de aarde. Bijvoorbeeld dmv een circulaire economie
- When something exists without damaging people or the planet.
- The effective management of the Earth's finite resources
- Conscious, responsible and ethical improvement and development
- Environment friendly



- Doing what is necessary to satisfy the needs of a people without jeopardising the future of life on earth
- Living, working, consuming, acting in a way that ensures the well-being of other living beings and the environment.
- That what does not harm the earth
- Responsible ways of producing and consuming for the future of our planet.
- Ecologisch- en sociopolitiek-verantwoorde goederenproductie.
- Societal practices that ensure that future generations benefit from scarce global resources
- Making our resources last long
- Met in achtneming van natuur mens en dier.
- iets is duurzaam wanneer deze in de te voorziene toekomst gedaan kan blijven worden omdat niks uitgeput wordt
- The ability of our planet to sustain in a longterm perspective
- Not overusing our resources so that later generations can use them as much as we do
- Acting and being in a way that is conscious of how it will affect the world in the future and our environment
- Using resources of the Earth in limitation, limitation being defined by what scientists deem to be objectively good
- A way of living in a responsible way to preserve and prolong the use of fossil fuels
- The current society being able to develop and grow, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
- Een balans tussen people, planet, en prosperity (de drie P's)
- The long term tenability of a situation and ability to uphold that stably



- a concept that allows for long-term thriving of nature and humans
- an act which can take place for a long period of time without causing harm
- Having certain lifestyle, treating nature in a certain way that aims at respecting and limiting as much as possible to harm it
- The ability of something to meet our current needs without harming future generations
- A way that doesn't deplete resources
- Acting in a manner in which humans and their environment will flourish.
- Protecting both the present and future life
- Het niet permanent belasten van uitputbare bronnen
- Making things last longer
- Meeting the needs of current generations without compromising the future of the following generations.
- Ensure that current activities do not deplete resources for the future
- Geen lange termijn impact op de aarde en oplossingen die op de lange termijn haalbaar en navolgbaar zijn
- Lang meegaand, niet verspillend
- Assuring that are practices can be sustained for an unlimited amount of time without harm to our environment
- limits
- The quest for a society in which the future is no longer sacrificed for the present
- Bewust omgaan met spullen en wat je doet.
- Groene energie. Niets verspillend.



- To sustain something
- situation in which both human and natural systems are able to survive and flourish in the very long-term future
- maintainable in the long-term
- making sure the world and ourselves are maintained in a way that is not destructive
- a non-exploitative use of resources
- conditions that ensure that human and non-human life can thrive in the long-term future
- Het leven in een wereld of een product dat gemaakt is op een manier waarop leven op aarde op de lange termijn niet geschaad wordt
- Zo leven dat dit geen significante negatieve impact heeft nu of in de toekomst
- the consideration of future generations of humans, other animals and their environments when acting in the present.
- living within the boundaries of the planet's resources
- Ideas and practices that can be implemented for long period of time without harming the environment and the overall population.
- The art of making something last
- making decisions for the long term for the planet and society
- bruikbaar voor lange tijd
- bewuste acties met oog op een beter klimaat
- Houdbaar op lange termijn
- Het ervoor zorgen dat een aanpak of manier van doen op de lange termijn houdbaar is



- omgaan met de aarde op een manier die toekomstbestendig is en waar gelijkheid een grote rol in speelt.
- triple bottom line
- compromises we make to secure our future existence
- maatschappelijk verantwoord
- Op de lange termijn een duurzaam/houdbaar gebruik van 'commons' maar ook van andere resources die noodzakelijk zijn.
- Responsible and future-proof use of resources.
- Eerlijk voor de wereld

Appendix III: Potential courses for integrating sustainability

- Global challenges
- Organisatieverandering
- Security Challenges in a Globalized World
- GC Sustainability
- Sustainability
- Global Challenges: Sustainability
- Prosperity
- GC prosperity en alle policy-gerelateerde vakken
- sustainability
- Gc sustainability
- Statistics
- Kwalitatief onderzoek



- GC: Sustainability
- More introductory courses in the majors
- in research methods courses, to open students to looking into this sphere of whatever they are majoring in
- More in sustainability (year 1)
- Infectious Diseases
- Global Citizenship Program
- oplossingsgericht groepsproject
- ees-ged track
- Statistiek
- in each specialization
- In minimaal een van de cijferopdrachten van een verplicht vak
- mandatory method courses that all students take
- beleid
- Beleid
- Vital interests
- Security challenges in a globalised world

Appendix IV: Other potential places for integrating sustainability

- Idk
- 'extra' vak (niet verplicht, wel goed voor cv)
- Een aparte onderdeel in elk vak, apart gezet in de syllabus
- None



- workshops and discussion panels
- sustainable finance - kind of a personal finance course on how to take care of your own financial stability while helping the world
- Kwantitatief onderzoek
- our daily lives at LUC - from our energy usage to the food we eat
- Other courses: Global health policy and Medical Anthropology
- External trips to see the importance of sustainability in practice
- case studies bespreken en onderzoeken naar eventuele verbeteringen
- First-year Global Citizenship training
- Specialisatie
- Geen idee

Appendix V: Further suggestions

Further suggestions on sustainability from students from the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs are provided below, in their original language.

- Encourage more composting, do not sell plastic water bottles. Use the outdoor space by Wijnhaven for more sustainable features (not just concrete throughout the whole thing)
- Binnen de vakken kunnen studenten ook meedenken over het verduurzamen van de universiteit.
- Ik vind het goed dat er in de restaurants/cafe's van de universiteit nadruk ligt op duurzaamheid. Ik zou het goed vinden als dit wordt doorgetrokken naar bijvoorbeeld de stroom voorziening (is alles groen?), en schoolmaterialen (ipv stukken uitprinten of studenten nieuwe boeken laten aanschaffen eerst kijken naar wat digitaal kan of kan worden hergebruikt).
- I believe the university needs to focus more on teaching non-Western pedagogies where sustainability, mindfulness, seeing humans as one with Earth is already incorporated and has been practiced for oftentimes thousands of years. Instead of just focusing how we can continue to live in our Western, post-colonial,



consumption based society (while scaling back) we should also address how this mentality is what has caused rapid environmental destruction in the first place.

- EES major is really good!!
- LUC could create a course similar to the College Project that makes students develop sustainable initiatives relevant to the community.
- Met hoe snel onze wereld veranderd is het belangrijk om duidelijk te maken dat duurzaamheid niet apart is van mensen leven, en dus ook alle vakken en onderwijs die wij op Leiden Universiteit krijgen. Onze fysieke en mentale welzijn (zoals je in de pandemie kan zien) en onze toekomst op aard hangt van het integreren en accepteren van duurzaamheid af.
- Create a think tank that brainstorms ideas on how sustainability can be incorporated within specific courses.
- ik denk dat duurzaamheid te vaak te krap wordt gedefinieerd (vaak in de context van environmental awareness) en dat ook zichtbaar is in de initiatieven die de universiteit neemt.
- Sustainability is in certain ways integrated into the program but might be labeled differently. Despite this, I do think it is important to continue integrating themes of sustainability into the Master and Leiden University.
- Even though we already have a mandatory course in sustainability at LUC I still think that sustainability in the sense of climate and environmental action should be included in each of the majors. From each major perspective one should learn about what can be done to work towards more climate and environmental action.
- I think it should be noted that sustainability is mostly used in the context of ecological sustainability - however, I think we are also obliged to talk more about social sustainability AND the responsibility that comes with being a “global citizen” and studying a LAS program. Maybe look at the course “The College Project: Higher Education in a Turbulent Time” taught by Ann Wilson as a course within the GC component. It does not cover the ecological aspect of sustainability that much, but gives a lot of input on the responsibility of universities and students in terms of social sustainability.
- I think LUC does a pretty good job already when it comes to covering the urgency of sustainable innovation. However, i believe that LUC mainly focusses on everything that is going wrong in the world which leads to depressing lectures/readings. More attention could be given to sustainable solutions or how students can make a



difference.

- I think more electives should be offered that are available for first years as this is the foundation for a further study in sustainability
- Its also interesting to consider how incorporating sustainability would effect major requirements And course load.
- I think it is mentioned briefly however there is a lot of scope to improve. From personal experience, EES majors have the most knowledge about the subject whilst others barely have any
- I'd like to see more from LUGO in my courses but congratulations on the presence on campus
- I think sustainability is already integrated a lot in my bachelor, but mostly from the perspective of health, climate and environment. I would be interested in including more information about partnerships, justice, reducing poverty and hunger for example in my bachelor.
- Hoe je een beleid kan introduceren wat zowel een draagvlak geniet en mensen de ruimte biedt om betrokken te raken en verbetering na te streven. Daarnaast wil ik leren hoe economische en sociale duurzaamheid kunnen worden bevorderd in een kapitalistische samenleving.
- beter zichtbaar maken
- Duurzaamheid zou meer benadrukt mogen worden, al is het via visuele 'reclame' door de faculteiten heen.
- I think we definitely would need both - separate mandatory courses for everybody regardless of their field of study, and integrating sustainability/making links to the field of study wherever even slightest possible. It's important to learn about the complexity, relevance and interconnectedness of the issue, especially in regards to what you yourself with your professional background should be aware of or can do.
- It is important to show students the different forms and aspects of sustainability as most people think only environmental.
- Ik denk dat het veel meer toegepast kan worden in andere studies en veel meer diepte en nuance. Ik studeer zelf duurzaamheid dus ben een beetje bevooroordeeld, maar wat ik van vrienden en familie te horen krijg die ook studeren (niet allemaal aan Leiden) is dat het vaak wel wordt genoemd en even over gehad, naar niet vaak



echt iets mee wordt gedaan.

- Alhoewel er groepen studenten en professoren zijn die veel actie proberen te ondernemen mbt duurzaamheid, vind ik dat de Universiteit zelf en het bestuur meer concrete veranderingen moeten doorvoeren om de gehele universiteit te verbeteren op alle gebieden mbt duurzaamheid.
- I love the approach although I still feel that it's a lot more theoretical than practical.
- Als het topduurzaamheid aankomt, valt er veel te verbeteren, het duurzaam het instituut al wel of niet is. Ik heb alleen ervaring met mijn eigen opleiding en ik kom weinig in contact met studenten van andere studies door onder andere corona, maar ik denk dat mijn opleiding en de studentengemeenschap hier al vrij veel bezig is met duurzaamheid. Echter, niet altijd vertaald een positieve houding naar duurzaamheid zich naar concrete acties.
- It's not just an environmental issue, but a technical issue and a social and issue as well
- Het onderwerp zat ook niet verwerkt in de BA Bestuurskunde. Hier zou het eveneens een goede plek kunnen krijgen.