

# Sustainability Monitor 2021 - EN

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## Foreword

**Building on the work of the years before, in 2021 Utrecht University continued realising its own sustainability ambitions. Some examples are: 34 hectares of ecologically managed verges and lawns, 21 student living labs on sustainability, an online module 'making your education more sustainable' for lecturers and, once again, an increase in the number of solar panels, bringing the counter to 7,388. In the Sustainability Monitor 2021 you can read about the steps that were taken in the past year.**

### **A better world**

Given its social mission as a public institution, Utrecht University aims to contribute to the creation of a better world. The university does this through research into current social issues and by educating students so that they can contribute to these issues now and in the future. The university also works to make its own organisation more sustainable. The university uses the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an instrument for identifying challenges, providing education and finding solutions ([Strategic Plan, 2021-2025](#)).

### **The campus as a living lab**

The combination of research, education and a self-managed campus offers opportunities for sustainability. In order to explicitly contribute to a better world, a sustainable society and the SDGs, the university's ambition is to use its own scientific knowledge to make the university more sustainable and to have sustainability research take place in its own buildings and grounds.

### **Why do we publish this monitor?**

To provide insight into the plans and ambitions as formulated in the [Strategic Plan 2025](#) and other ambition documents, this Sustainability Monitor provides a picture of the steps the university has taken in the past year. Besides a CO2 footprint, the monitor provides an overview of what was achieved in 2021 and what will be worked on in 2022 for five themes: (1) Future-proof campus, (2) Travelling differently, (3) Sustainability in education and research, (4) Sustainable business operations and (5) Sustainable community. Utrecht University uses the GRI method<sup>1</sup> in the compilation of this monitor.

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<sup>1</sup> In its reporting, Utrecht University adheres to GRI 101 Foundation, GRI 102 General Disclosures, GRI 103 Management & GRI Environmental 300 with specific application of, GRI 302 Energy and GRI 305 emissions.

## 2021 at a glance

**What did Utrecht University achieve with regard to sustainability last year? This summary will get you up to speed in just a few minutes.**

*Disclaimer: A number of figures in this monitor are, to a greater or lesser extent, influenced by the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns. However, despite the pandemic, major steps have been taken this year to make our university more sustainable.*

Utrecht University focuses its business operations on specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) pertaining to circularity, climate neutrality and biodiversity. It is the university's aim to be climate neutral by 2030 ([Strategic Plan 2020–2025](#)).

### What happened in 2021?

The new Master's programme 'Global Challenges for Sustainability' offered by CHARM-EU, the mobile European university of which Utrecht University is part, got started with 75 students. Besides this, the UGlobe research group led by Professor Johan Schot published the first findings of the study on the presence of SDGs in Utrecht University research. The [final report](#) revealed that the university conducts research across the entire breadth of the SDGs and that the focus is on SDG 13 Climate Action, among others. In 2021, the project to provide SDG labelling and theme filtering in [the course planner](#) will also be completed. The new filter function means that students can now search on themes, such as sustainability and SDGs, when choosing courses.

In the past year, there has been a significant reduction in air travel by staff due to the coronavirus pandemic – a 91 per cent decrease compared to measurement year 2019. The decrease for students was slightly less compared to 2020, as exchange traffic had partially resumed. Compared to 2019, students took about 50 per cent fewer flights.

In 2021, many energy-saving and energy-generating activities were carried out. The Utrecht Science Park (USP) received hundreds of new solar panels and the connection to the heat/cold storage (UTES) was further expanded. As a result, the university now generates six per cent of its own total energy demand from renewable sources. Various maintenance works (such as roof insulation, high-efficiency glass, installation pumps and hot water pipe insulation) were also carried out to improve the insulation of buildings.

In real estate and area development, five more buildings were BREEAM-NL certified<sup>2</sup> in 2021. This means that Utrecht University now has 16 certified buildings and is the first university campus in the world to have mapped out the sustainability of its own real estate portfolio on this scale. In 2021, the new tender for furniture was signed. The point of departure is for the furniture to be 100 per cent circular.

Furthermore, 34 hectares of verges and lawns are now being ecologically managed in the Utrecht Science Park. Also, from 2021 onwards, the university's caterers has a completely meatless banqueting offer.

The department Information & Technology Services (ITS) installed the search engine Ecosia as the default search engine on all of the university's computers and laptops in 2021. In a period of only

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<sup>2</sup> BREEAM-NL certification means that a building has been assessed for integral sustainability on the basis of a baseline measurement according to BREEAM-NL standards. With the baseline measurement as a basis, measurable objectives have been developed to increase sustainability. In order to assess progress, the BREEAM certification process is repeated every three years.

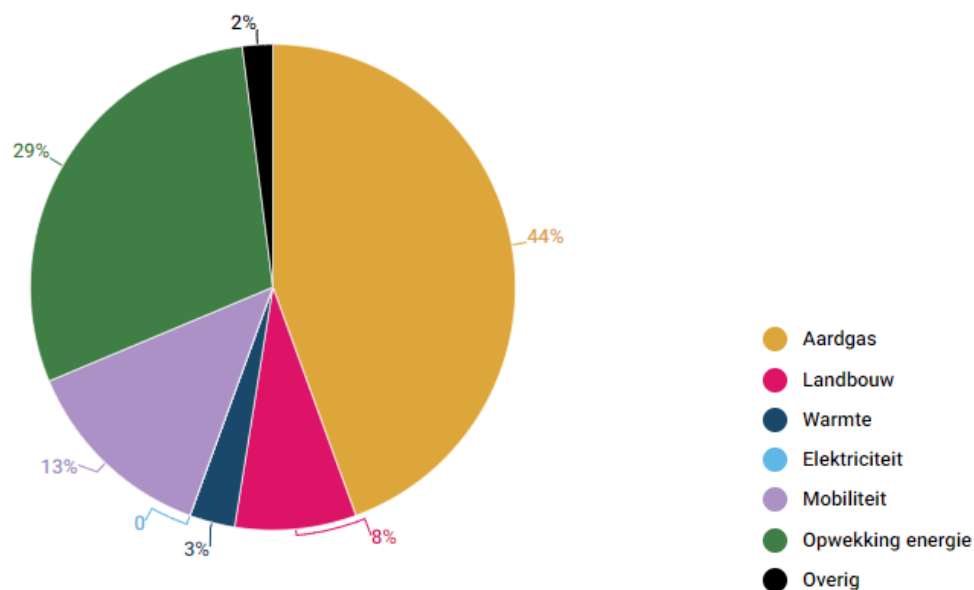
two months, more than 2,000 trees have already been planted thanks to searches by university employees. The university also set up its own environmental centre this year to separate bulky industrial waste more extensively and to see how the materials can be reused.

In 2021, five Green Teams started at various faculties. Green Teams are an extension of the Utrecht University Green Office and consist of Utrecht University staff and students who want to actively contribute to making their own faculty more sustainable.

During the year, [Studium Generale UU](#) organised fourteen digital lectures on the theme of sustainability. This year 517 students participated in the online equivalent of the Green Office Thrift Shack.

## CO2 footprint

Utrecht University aims to be **climate neutral by 2030**. Every year since 2014, the university has published the greenhouse gas emissions caused by its activities. **The total CO2 emissions in 2021 were 38,312 tonnes**. This is much less (39 per cent less) than in 2019, mainly due to the **coronavirus pandemic**. **Like 2020, this measurement year is not representative** and no conclusions about policy can be drawn from it. Utrecht University's low emissions in 2021 are in themselves good news however: it is well known that climate change is ultimately about the cumulative amount of CO2 in the atmosphere. Therefore, the simple rule is: the fewer emissions, the better.



**The main categories** of CO2 emissions are natural gas consumption (44.1 per cent), commuting (8.1 per cent), agriculture (8.1 per cent) and air travel (5.4 per cent). In addition, emissions from fuel generation (especially natural gas) make up 29.1 per cent of the total. **Natural gas consumption remained almost constant**. Buildings of the university and campus partners largely remained open – and thus heated.

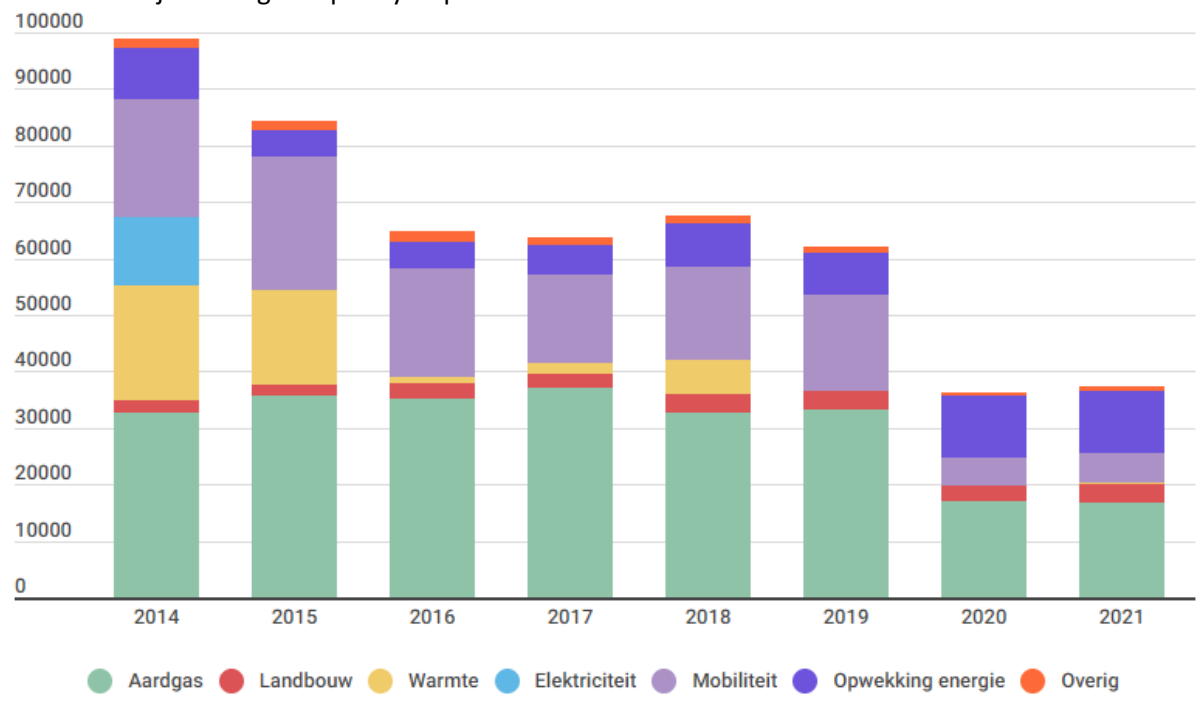
In 2021, **own renewable sources** constituted **5.9 per cent** of the energy used. Together with the purchase of wind energy and green gas certificates, the share of renewables was 61.22 per cent of the total energy mix. In 2022, local renewable generation will increase as a result of the installation of 1,198 solar panels on roofs in 2021 and the further expansion of the heat and cold network (CHP).<sup>3</sup>

**Significant activities** took place to reduce emissions, such as the previously mentioned solar panels on roofs and expansion of the heat and cold network (WKO), but also building insulation. These measures all contribute to the further reduction of the university's carbon footprint.

**Continuous attention** to the timely implementation of property renovation (and thus reduction of natural gas consumption), more sustainable energy generation and other measures (especially in the area of agriculture and air travel) are crucial if we are to minimise CO2 emissions in the next ten years. Ultimately, combating climate change is about the emissions that accumulate in the

<sup>3</sup> The David de Wied building was connected to the heat and cold network (WKO) in 2021.

atmosphere. Logically, these **cumulative emissions** will be lowest in 2030 if Utrecht University achieves major savings as quickly as possible.



## Travelling differently

In recent years, commuting and air travel have accounted for a quarter of the university's carbon footprint. The university wants to reduce the share of its own CO2 footprint caused by air travel and commuting. In 2021, a lot of experience was gained with other forms of connection and the university wants to use this experience to ensure that air travel does not increase to pre-pandemic levels.

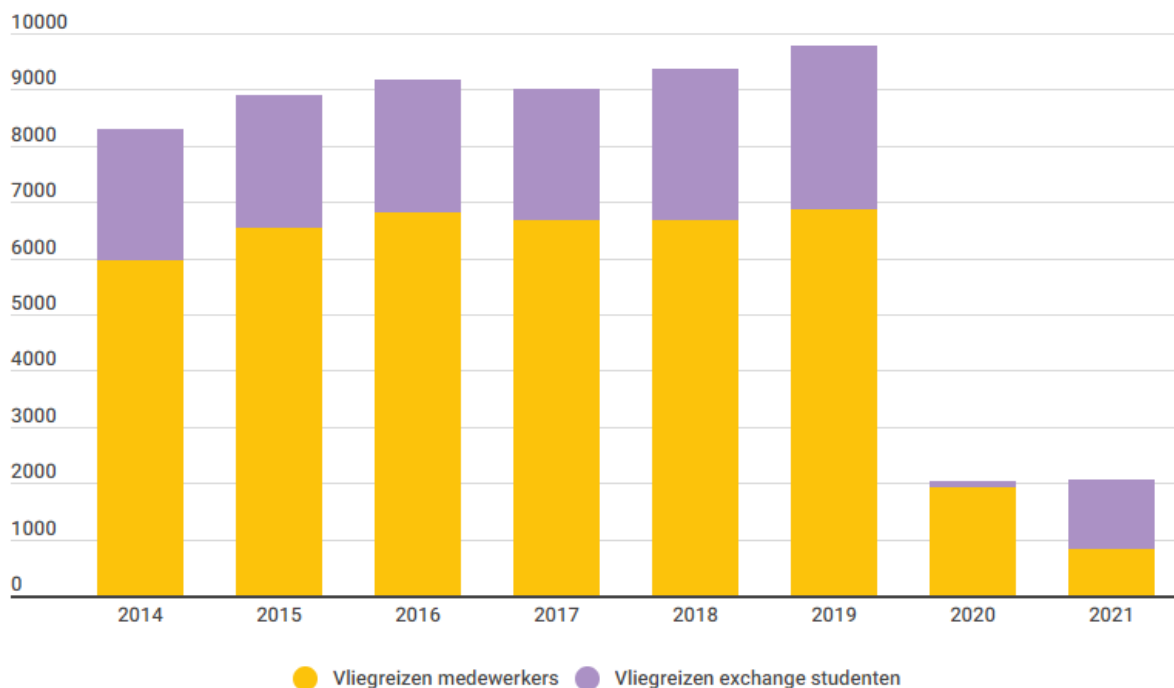
For example, the university wants to reduce emissions from air travel by 50 per cent by 2030 compared to the 2019 measurement year. The university also wants to make the [Utrecht Science Park \(USP\) a car-free environment](#). In addition, it encourages staff and students to travel to work by bike or public transport as much as possible.

<b>Air travel</b>	In 2021, employees took 91% fewer flights than in measurement year 2019. This result is an effect of the coronavirus pandemic and associated lockdowns.
<b>Commuting</b>	In 2021, the bicycle plan was used 668 times (an increase from 2020), and the average purchase amount was €27 higher than in 2020.

## What happened in 2021?

### Travel Green Grant

Last year, 160 Travel Green Grants (TGG) were paid to students, enabling them to avoid air travel. With the TGG, Utrecht University students are reimbursed for the difference in costs between a train ticket and a plane ticket when they take the train to their study destination.



### We Drive Solar

Employees can make free use of an electric shared car from We Drive Solar for business trips. In 2021, thirteen trips were made using this electric shared car (a total of 1775 km).

### What will Utrecht University do in 2022?

- Clarify which departments are responsible for which part of the sustainable mobility policy.
- Continue to support online conferences, the Anders Reizen campaign and the Travel Green Grant, perhaps with even greater ambition than before the coronavirus pandemic.
- Conduct research into mobility flows and air quality on Heidelberglaan in the Living Lab Monitoring Heidelberglaan.

#### **Factsheet mobility**

This chapter is based on the factsheet mobility, provided by operations.

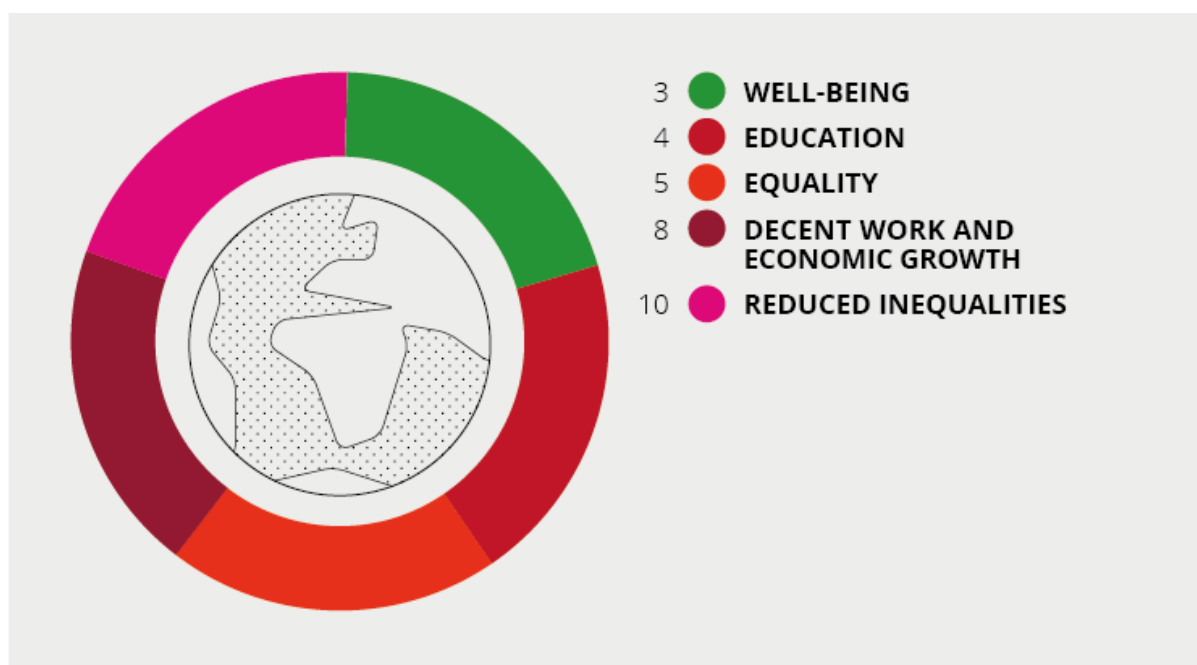
[View the factsheet \(NL\)](#)



## Sustainability in Education and Research

Utrecht University is focusing on sustainable development: the sustainable development goals (SDGs) will become an integral part of education, research and business operations ([Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#)). The university is working towards a better world by connecting knowledge about sustainability from education and research to its own business operations and making a targeted contribution to reaching the SDGs. To boost multidisciplinary research, Utrecht University has been concentrating its research on [four strategic themes](#) for more than ten years: Dynamics of Youth, Institutions for Open Societies, Life Sciences and Pathways to Sustainability. These four themes link up with several United Nations SDGs, such as SDG 3 (Good health and wellbeing), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 13 (Climate action) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

In education at Utrecht University, every student comes into contact with sustainability, regardless of their field of study. The university educates this new generation to become leaders and drivers of the sustainable transition. The university does this by integrating sustainability into education and working to increase sustainability awareness among students, using the SDGs as a guiding principle.



### *Accent SDG's onderwijs - Strategisch Plan*

Meanwhile, the university continues to work intensively on making its research and education more sustainable. The number of students coming into contact with sustainability is growing thanks to new offerings in sustainability education such as the new Master's programme 'Global Challenges for Sustainability', which started in September 2021 and is part of the CHARM-EU<sup>4</sup> curriculum. In research, the university works on integrated solutions that contribute to a fairer and sustainable future for all within the strategic theme 'Pathways to Sustainability', among others.

### In short

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<b>Education</b>	In 2021, the new Master's programme offered by CHARM-EU called 'Global Challenges for Sustainability' got started. Utrecht University is one of the five
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<sup>4</sup> CHARM-EU is an alliance of five European universities that offers transdisciplinary, challenge-based education.

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	universities that are part of CHARM-EU. Utrecht University students can also follow this Master's programme.
<b>Research</b>	Over the past year, the research team led by Professor Johan Schot delivered the first results of the study on the research efforts of Utrecht University in relation to the SDGs. The final report revealed that the university conducts research across the entire breadth of the SDGs and more specifically the SDG 13: Climate change.
<b>Living Labs</b>	In 2020, there were eighteen Green Office Living Lab projects. In addition, the Utrecht Sustainability Institute, in association with several partners, realised Europe's first energy-generating high-rise building (Inside Out) in the Utrecht district of Overvecht. As part of <a href="#">this Living Lab project</a> , Utrecht University assesses the results of energy performance and comfort levels, in association with Utrecht University of Applied Sciences.

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## What happened in 2021?

### Mixed Classroom

In the Mixed Classroom of the Urban Futures Studio, students and policy makers investigate together how they imagine the future and how it can be improved. With this innovative form of education in which students and professionals learn from and with each other, the Mixed Classroom team won a Dutch Higher Education Award worth 800,000 euros in 2021. This is the second prize in the academic education category, awarded by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW).

### Online module 'Making your education more sustainable'

The online module 'Making your education more sustainable' was developed within Educate-it. This online module offers teachers tools for making ecologically responsible choices in the design of their education.

### Unusual solutions for clean water

Although Utrecht University has several centres and institutes where sustainability research is the main focus<sup>5</sup>, since the launch of the Eindhoven University of Technology, Wageningen University & Research, Utrecht University and University Medical Center Utrecht (EWUU) alliance, new grants have been awarded in the Centre for Unusual Collaborations to various interdisciplinary studies in which researchers from the four partner institutes work together. This includes the research 'Unusual solutions for clean water', with which Utrecht University researcher Herman Gilissen is affiliated. This research group aims to develop an unusual cooperation network and use this network to drive clean water solutions for nature and society.

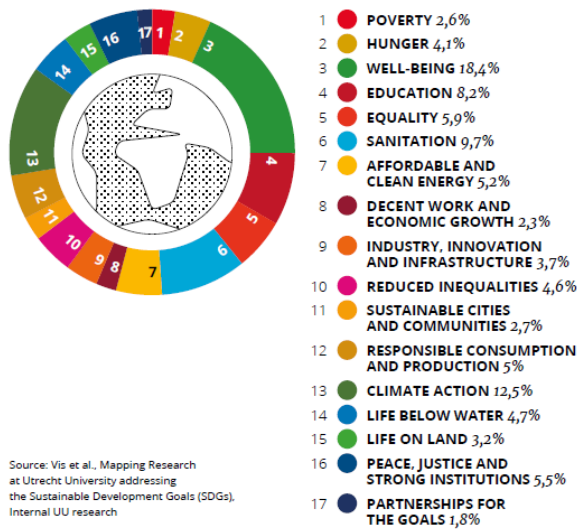
### Utrecht 2040 game

In the period from February 2021 to November 2021, 799 participants played the Utrecht 2040 game: a serious game that introduces students to sustainability with reference to the SDGs. The game was also the central theme of the Onderwijsparade 2021 during the keynote address by Karin Rebel, associate professor of Environmental Sciences.

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<sup>5</sup> Pathways for Sustainability, UGlobe, Copernicus, Urban Futures Studio, Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ), Utrecht Centre for Water Oceans and Sustainability Law, Institute for Marine and Atmospheric research Utrecht (IMAU) and Institute for Environmental Biology.

Met grensverleggend onderzoek draagt de Universiteit Utrecht bij aan de SDG's



Dit figuur toont de verdeling van publicaties van de Universiteit Utrecht per SDG in 2020

## What will Utrecht University be doing in 2022?

### Research

- This year the team of Professor Johan Schot is conducting phase two of the SDG research. Other universities, including Eindhoven University of Technology, will be included in the analysis. The research team will also organise a dialogue within Utrecht University to put into use the mirror these results offer: what do the results of the research mean for our researchers?

### Education

- Early 2022 will see the launch of the Special Interest Group (SIG) 'Sustainability in Education', in which lecturers can exchange knowledge and experiences with each other in the area of sustainability in their teaching.
- In 2022, Utrecht University will organise the prestigious LERU Summer School. The theme is 'The University of the Future', with a focus on sustainability.
- As from the academic year 2022-2023, Bachelor's students can use the Course Planner to search for courses in their profiling area across the university (e.g. sustainability).

### Factsheets research and education

This chapter is based on the factsheets research and education, provided by the department SO&O.

[Factsheet education \(NL\)](#)

[Factsheet research \(NL\)](#)

## Sustainable operations

Utrecht University will link knowledge about sustainability from education and research to operational management ([Strategic Plan 2025](#)). In this way the university wants its own campus to become an example of what the transition to a sustainable society could look like. This cooperation is already taking place in areas such as catering, the circular P-Olympos car park and electric cars on campus.

Meanwhile, the university is working on making its business operations more sustainable. Some of the goals set for the catering, logistics and housing departments are: fully recyclable catering packaging by 2022, 50% less food waste in the banqueting department by 2024 and CO2-neutral logistics, a residual-waste-free campus and 100% circular or climate-neutral purchasing of goods by 2030.

### In short

<b>Waste</b>	In 2021, the amount of residual waste from the university decreased by five per cent compared to 2020. This is partly due to the low occupancy rate in buildings caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Part of the saving came from better separation of bulky commercial waste in the university's materials centre.
<b>Catering</b>	In the past year, Eurest replaced all disposable tableware with 100 per cent recyclable and compostable products.
<b>Logistics</b>	In 2021, the number of coach journeys increased by more than one hundred per cent compared to 2020. Where possible, coaches are deployed that run on HVO diesel. This is a fossil-free fuel made from bioproducts and has 91% lower CO2 emissions than conventional fuels such as LPG and regular diesel.
<b>ITS</b>	In the new tender for hardware, the university has sharpened the sustainability criteria considerably. In addition, an external party has been contracted that can dispose of the university's used electronic equipment.
<b>Living Labs</b>	2021 saw the launch of UULabs, which focuses on activating, connecting and facilitating living labs for sustainable development on the campus and in the organisation of the university.

### What happened in 2021?

#### The campus as a living lab

Utrecht University is going to link knowledge from education and research to business operations ([Strategic Plan 2025](#)). In this way, the university wants its own campus to become an example of what the transition to a sustainable society could look like. UULabs was launched in 2021.

UULabs facilitates and encourages cooperation between business operations and academics in living labs for sustainable development. In this way, the university's knowledge is used to make its own business operations more sustainable and the campus becomes a hub of living labs for sustainable development.

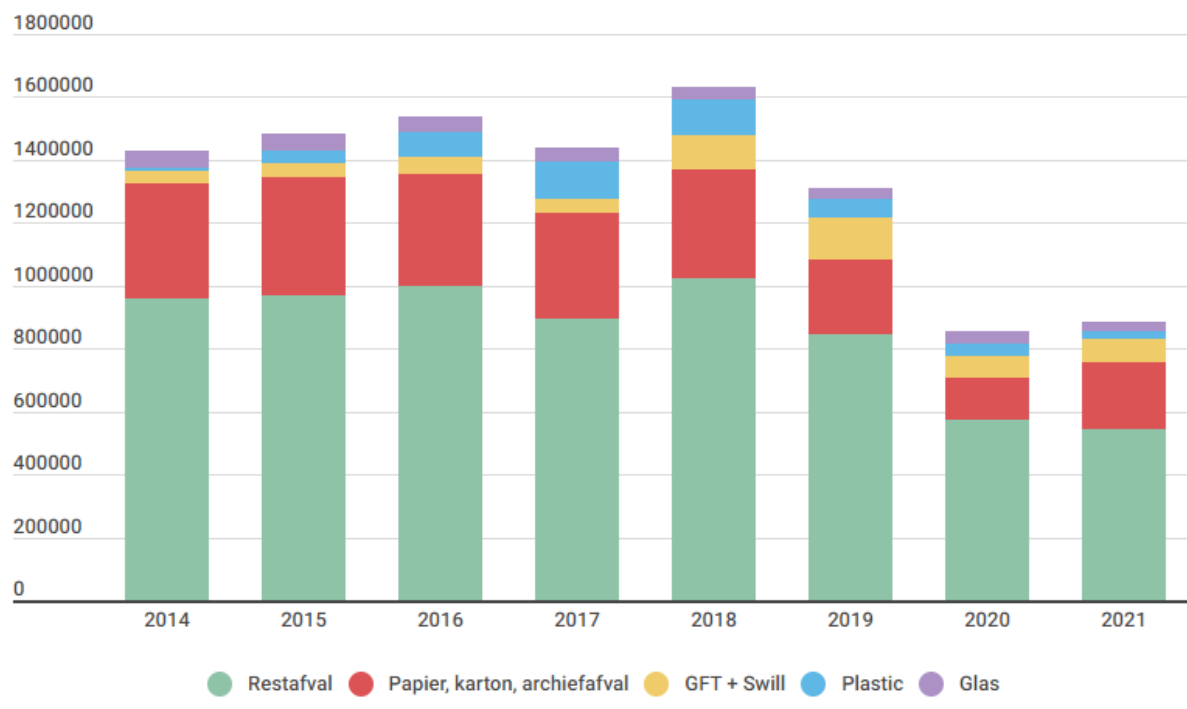
By 2021, 21 Green Office Living Labs had been implemented. The projects involve the Green Office linking students to a sustainability issue arising from their own business operations.

#### 100% meatless banqueting offer

The university had set itself the goal of having an entirely vegetarian banqueting offering by 2021. This goal has been achieved. Both caterer Vineyard and Eurest offer a completely meatless banqueting menu.

### Reduced paper consumption

Utrecht University wants to reduce the amount of waste as much as possible, and aims to be waste-free by 2030. Paper has a relatively large footprint as a waste stream. The university's paper consumption has been decreasing for a number of years and in 2021, partly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, it was drastically reduced. The total number of pages printed by students and staff in 2021 came to 1.6 million prints by students and 6.1 million by staff; in 2019, this was still 5.7 million prints by students and 19.2 million by staff. This is a decrease of 73% and 68% respectively over the last two years.



### Materials centre for the university

The university has developed its own materials or raw materials centre. Here, the coarse industrial waste (part of the residual waste) is further separated, and it is examined how the separated materials can be reused. The recycling centre is located in the Utrecht Science Park.

### Green search engine now the standard

By 2021, Information & Technology Services (ITS) made the search engine Ecosia the standard search engine on all computers and laptops at the university. With the income that Ecosia generates from paid search ads, they plant trees in more than thirty countries. In total, more than 147 million trees have already been planted by Ecosia. The search engine sends out a monthly report giving the number of searches and planted trees. Over a period of two months, almost 2,000 trees were planted thanks to the University of Utrecht's searches.

### More mail, same number of transport kilometres

As in 2020, more letters, postal packages and ordered goods were transported to and from the university's central goods reception in 2021. However, the increase did not result in more transport kilometres because routes were planned more efficiently and volumes were clustered optimally.

## What will Utrecht University do in 2022?

### Catering

- In 2022 a nudging labelling scheme pilot will start in the restaurant at the Educatorium. The aim of this pilot is to investigate whether people's preferences can be influenced by colour labels on meal products that indicate the degree of climate impact they have.
- In order to meet the objective of reducing food waste by 50% by 2030, a baseline measurement will be carried out in 2022.
- From September 2022 onwards, all packaging in the university's restaurants will be made of a single type of material per package. The material will be reusable or 100 per cent recyclable.

### Waste

- From 2022 onwards, the reporting of waste figures will be based on the reduction of residual waste and the total volume of waste instead of the weight. This will give a better indication of which efforts have yielded results.
- The number of educational and office buildings with waste separation stations will be increased to thirty over the next five years.

### ITS

- In 2022, ITS will focus on reducing energy consumption, both at workstations and in the data centres in which its servers are located.

### Logistics

- From 2022 onwards, the CO2 footprint will also include the CO2 emissions caused by coaches hired by the university.
- In 2022, the Facility Service Centre (FSC) will start discussions with the various faculties to make the Utrecht University vehicle fleet more sustainable.

### Living Labs

- In the period 2022-2025, the UULabs business plan will be finalised and adopted by the board.
- In 2022, work will continue on starting up and realising several promising living labs on the university campus.

#### **Factsheets operations**

This chapter is based on the factsheets logistics, catering, waste, ITS and living labs, provided by operations of the university.

[Factsheet logistics \(NL\)](#)

[Factsheet catering \(NL\)](#)

[Factsheet waste \(NL\)](#)

[Factsheet ITS \(NL\)](#)

[Factsheet living labs \(NL\)](#)

## Future-proof campus

**Utrecht University is working towards being a campus where sustainability is seen, felt and experienced by everyone. Building and renovating in circular fashion, increasing biodiversity on the campus, reducing energy consumption and obtaining energy from renewable sources are ways in which the university is working towards being a sustainable campus.**

Utrecht University itself aims to be climate neutral by 2030. The main categories of CO2 emissions are natural gas consumption, energy generation, commuting, agriculture and air travel.

Most of the CO2 emissions produced by the university are in energy consumption and building development. The university is en route to achieving an [energy-generating, circular, functional and healthy building portfolio](#). The area managed by the university will be [car-free and climate-adaptive](#) and will offer more space for biodiversity. The university's energy transition is in full swing: significant energy reduction, being CO2-neutral in 2030 and natural gas-free in 2040 are its goals, as described in the [energy strategy](#).

Biodiversity is an important pillar in the sustainability of the university and is explicitly included in the Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The biodiversity strategy is three-pronged and focuses on reducing the footprint, increasing biodiversity in each own area and creating more support for biodiversity.

### In summary

<b>UU buildings</b>	By 2021, sixteen buildings in the university's real estate portfolio were BREEAM-NL <sup>6</sup> certified. This makes Utrecht University the first university campus in the world to map the sustainability of its own real estate portfolio on this scale.
<b>Energy</b>	Last year, the university's energy demand decreased by 18% compared to the base year 2017. However, consumption has risen slightly compared to 2020. The decreasing energy demand is partly due to energy-saving measures that have been realised this year, such as the further insulation of buildings, installation of LED lighting and the installation of energy-efficient pumps.
<b>Area</b>	In 2021, the Area Strategy was adopted, setting the course for the development of the university's own area for the coming years. Previous research has shown that biodiversity restoration is an important theme in this respect, which is why a recovery plan was adopted for this as well in 2021.

## What happened in 2021?

### Working together on biodiversity

To increase biodiversity in its own area, in 2021 the university worked closely with partners in the Utrecht Science Park, surrounding municipalities, the water board, the province of Utrecht, Staatsbosbeheer and Utrechts Landschap. The university also involved students and staff in various biodiversity projects and Living Labs.

In 2021, the university established a Biodiversity Council. The council comprises four scientists who provide the university with solicited and unsolicited advice on challenging issues in the field of biodiversity.

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<sup>6</sup> BREEAM-NL certification means that a building is assessed for integral sustainability on the basis of a baseline measurement according to BREEAM-NL standards. Measurable objectives have been developed to increase sustainability using the baseline measurement as a basis. To assess progress, the BREEAM certification process is repeated every three years.

Research bureau Dactylus analysed the flora of the Utrecht Science Park in 2021 and drew up a map. The map paints a picture of the current situation of the flora. Based on the findings, the agency drew up a recovery plan for the Utrecht Science Park.

In the autumn of 2021 Utrecht University started planting 6,000 indigenous trees and shrubs in the meadows of the Utrecht Science Park. This green strip forms a four hundred meter long new 'wood bank', which contributes to the biodiversity in the area. It also connects the campus to the Amelisseweerd forest again. Thanks to the ecological function of the wooded bank, new habitats, walking routes and flight paths are being created in this area for various animal species.

Every year the university organises Nature Work Day for its employees. Under the guidance of Landschap Erfgoed Utrecht, over 40 volunteers put hand to spade et cetera in 2021 to restore the biodiversity of the Utrecht Science Park.

In 2021, the number of ecologically managed roadsides increased significantly. In 2022, this number will expand to all verges and lawns managed by the university, bringing the total to 34 hectares of ecologically managed verges and lawns.

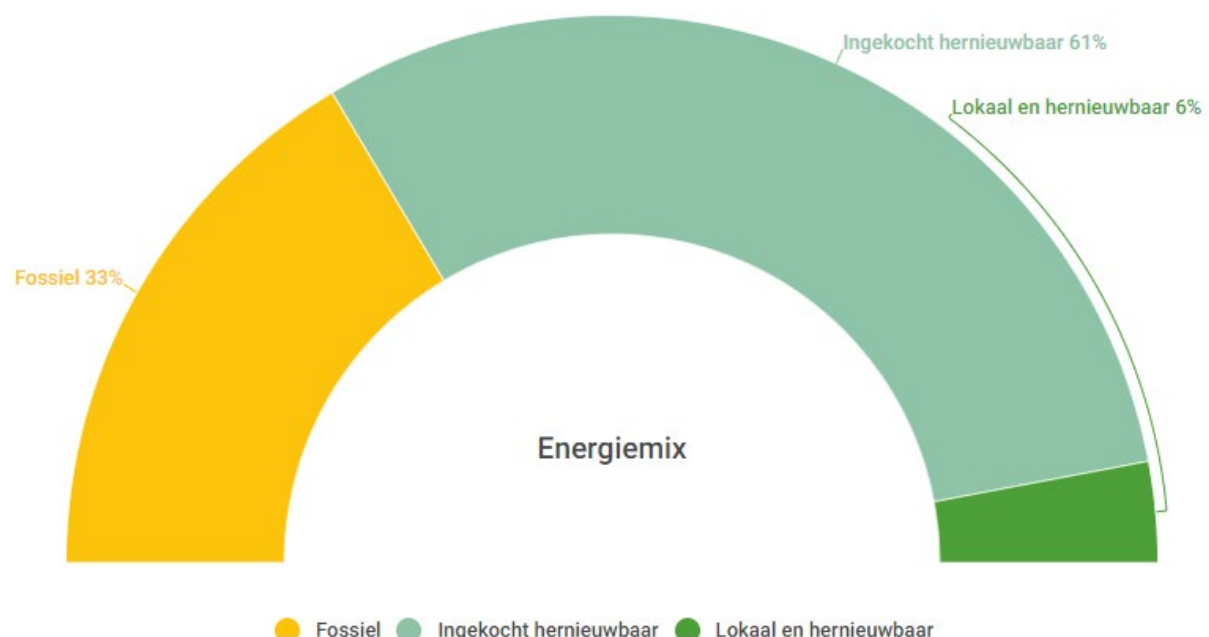
### Insulate, insulate

By better retaining heat in winter and coolness in summer, the university can save a lot of energy. In 2021, the Maintenance Team insulated hot water pipe fittings in various university buildings, installed high-efficiency glass, insulated roofs, fitted buildings with LED lighting and installed energy-efficient system pumps in renovated buildings. These measures may seem small, but together they can have a big impact. Interested to read more about what a building can save with LED lighting? Then read the green story ['The textbook example of energy saving'](#).

### Energy labelling

Besides its own initiative to certify sixteen existing of its buildings with BREEAM-NL\* certification, the university is also drawing up energy labels for the office buildings it owns. All buildings must achieve at least label C by 2023. In 2021, three buildings will be provided with energy labels.

### Energy-mix





## Sustainable local energy

The university took several measures to increase the share of locally generated renewable energy in 2021. For example, the PV installation on the Vening Meinesz building was expanded to 396 solar panels, and 842 solar panels were fitted at the new circular multistorey car park P-Olympos in the past year. In total, the university now has 7,388 solar panels. In addition, the heat and cold storage system in the Utrecht Science Park has been expanded and the David de Wied building is now fully connected to it. The university now generates 6% of its own energy demand locally from renewable sources.

## What will Utrecht University do in 2021?

### Energy

- The university will install PV/solar panels on roofs in the city centre and in the Utrecht Science Park (USP) and develop solar carports for car parks near the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.
- The university is realising a test field with innovative solar panels. This experiment will be set up as a living lab to investigate how agriculture (sheep), sustainable energy generation and the enhancement of biodiversity can be combined on a single field.
- The feasibility study into the realisation of windmills on the campus will be resumed this year.

### Area

- The university is mapping the water quality of the water bodies in the USP so that it can be improved where necessary and possible.
- In line with the Area Strategy, the university is writing a concrete policy plan outlining measures and frameworks for dealing with greenery, water, climate adaptation and infrastructure.
- The university will start the design process for the redevelopment of Heidelberglaan to provide more space for water and greenery.

### Buildings

- Ambitions for future-proof buildings will be further implemented and realised in the major real estate projects, such as the Van Unnik building, the Kruyt building, the new Veterinary Medicine building, the Inner City Teaching Centre and the Circular Pavilion.
- The university will implement sustainability measures in ongoing construction and periodic and day-to-day maintenance projects of existing buildings using the BREEAM In-Use methodology.
- In the coming years, several buildings will be dismantled or redeveloped. Based on material inventories and analyses, the reuse potential will be mapped out so that (building) materials can be reused in the best possible way.

### **Factsheets campus**

This chapter was based on the factsheets campus, buildings and energy, provided by the departments V&C and FSC.

[Factsheet campus \(NL\)](#)

[Factsheet buildings \(NL\)](#)

[Factsheet energy \(NL\)](#)

## About this monitor

This is the fourth edition of the Utrecht University Sustainability Monitor. The university adheres to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard. GRI is a globally accepted and widely used method for organisations to report on sustainability. Utrecht University applies GRI to report on its economic, social and environmental impact in a reliable, uniform and professional manner.

This Sustainability Monitor has been prepared in accordance with GRI Core. Below you will find the following detailed GRI information for this monitor:

### **GRI Content Index**

This index is a compulsory component of GRI reports and indicates for each GRI item whereabouts in the document the information can be found.

### **Material topics and indicators**

An important component of GRI reports is the materiality analysis. This is a way of asking stakeholders which topics are most relevant ('material') to report on. By using the GRI standard, we translated our ambitions into specific performance indicators. Many of these can be found in the relevant chapters in the document. This is where you will find the complete overview of all indicators.

## Previous years

Refer to the 2018 and 2019 sustainability monitors and the 2018 and 2019 CO2 footprints here.

- [Sustainability monitor & CO2 footprint 2018](#)
- [Sustainability monitor 2019](#)
- [CO2 footprint 2019](#)
- [Sustainability monitor & CO2 footprint 2020](#)

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