



Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12)

Utrecht University aims to have 'zero waste' operations by 2030. From the university's perspective, this means no longer burning or dumping waste and reusing products as much as possible and as high quality as possible, and no longer buying products unnecessarily. The UU also aims to reduce food waste in the catering locations together with the caterer by 50% by 2030.

In 2022, we took the following steps

Zero Waste Programme

We have launched the Zero Waste Programme. This programme serves as purposeful management of a large number of activities, deliberately weighing up and prioritising them, and responding flexibly and effectively to ongoing waste developments. To achieve Zero Waste business operations, in which no more waste is incinerated or landfilled, strategic goals have been drawn up. These goals recognize the four aspects of waste as a business process: insight into waste, circular procurement, waste separation and high-quality reuse.

Single use coffee cups

As a result of legislation against single use plastics (SUP), the university will no longer be allowed to dispense disposable cups by 2024. UU therefore took part in a nationwide Coffee Cup Pact survey, in which disposable coffee cups were removed from coffee machines in a number of buildings and replaced with ceramic tableware. A reusable coffee cup will be introduced in 2023.



Photo: ceramic mugs

Circular furniture

UU aims to no longer purchase new furniture and to reuse existing furniture with maximum high quality by 100% redeployment. To this end, the new contract for 'Furniture management, supply of used and new circular furniture' took effect on 1 February 2022.

Purchasing and procurement

In all new European product procurement processes completed in 2022, UU's Purchasing and Procurement Centre structurally addressed the university's sustainability ambitions, such as the reduction of residual waste. Some projects also specifically focused on recycled and plastic-free products, such as hygiene and cleaning products, or refurbished products, such as office furniture and waste collection equipment. In the 'Hygiene products' and 'Waste collection products' tender processes, we challenged suppliers to explicitly state their contribution to certain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This was a successful experiment, which is now being implemented in other processes.

Sustainable disposal of IT equipment

We have signed a new contract with a supplier for the sustainable and safe disposal of ICT hardware and mobile phones. This ensures that equipment is reused and components and raw materials are reused as much as possible.

Return days for private hardware

The Information Technology Services (ITS) department organised hand-in days during which employees could hand in outdated private hardware so that it could be disposed of safely and sustainably. The total proceeds



of € 2,000 were donated to Stichting Leergeld Utrecht. Hardware handed in was made up of computers, laptops, mobile phones, printers, scanners, faxes, modems, routers, and tablets. The campaign was a great success and will be repeated in 2023.

Social Sustainability Awards

UU has won the CO2 Trophy at the Argo360 and UW Social Sustainability Awards for its sustainable disposal of IT hardware. This trophy is awarded to companies that have saved the most CO2 in kilograms by giving their IT equipment a second life through Argo360.

Sustainable catering

We are collaborating with Eurest to roll out the data tool 'Winnow', which will better monitor relevant information on food waste. This helps reduce food waste, CO2 emissions and saves costs. In addition, our

UU catering locations have been signed up to the app 'Too Good To Go'. Through this app, leftover food is offered at a greatly reduced price. This helps in preventing food waste.

UU environmental street

Since 2021, UU has had its own environmental street in the USP. It is the place where (bulky) material streams are collected, sorted and (temporarily) stored. In this way, these products, materials and raw materials are brought back into the chain in a high quality manner. This enables UU to minimize residual waste and boost the circular economy. In 2022, UU launched a feasibility study into the potential of turning the environmental street into a raw materials center, so that USP partners can also make use of it.

Specialist Residuals

To better oversee the correct handling of



Photo: zero waste lunches



special waste questions and special waste streams, UU has created the new position of 'Residues Specialist' at the Facility Service Centre (FSC). The specialist thinks with and advises on waste streams that are released, this way waste is processed according to a higher R-strategy as much as possible.

Circular pavilion

The Executive Board has approved plans to develop the [Circular Pavilion](#), a sustainable meeting place for the public and science, at the USP. The building will be built at the entrance to the Botanical Gardens and will be fully future-proofed. This means that besides being circular, it will also be energy-positive, healthy, functional and climate-adaptive.

Dismantling project

Earth sciences building

The dismantling of the Earth Sciences

Building revealed that the concrete shell was in better condition than expected. In line with UU's ambitions in terms of sustainable use of materials, it is preferable to preserve the shell of the building. It was therefore decided in 2022 to integrate it into the new laboratory building to be developed by an external party on the site of the Earth Sciences Building.

Dismantling project

Martinus de Bruin building

UU has started preparing for the circular dismantling of the Martinus G. de Bruin Building. This means working on a method to ensure that materials and products from the building are reused in the highest possible quality. Reuse within and outside of our own property is being considered.



Photo: demolition earth sciences building