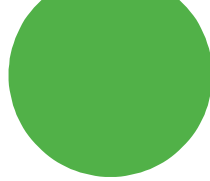




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forthem.

***Climate and
Resources Lab***

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Sustainability Concept



Why is there a need for a sustainability policy at FORTHEM?





1. **Developed** by the FORTH **student body** and reviewed by **academic staff** from partner institutions.
2. We will **evaluate** through **online questionnaires** how the current actions of Alliance partners accord with this sustainability concept then disseminate these results to the Alliance partners as we release the policy.
3. A **second evaluation** in one year will determine if there has been any change in behaviour as a result of adoption of the policy, and education about how well our activities matched the policy before it was adopted.



Themes

1. Travel and Transport
2. Computing
3. Carbon Budget
4. Catering
5. Meetings and Teachings
6. Offices Materials
7. Biodiversity
8. Outreach



Travel and Transport

1

Policy	Justification
<p>When travelling between Alliance partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Choosing land-based, shared transport such as trains or buses over private vehicles or flights• Purchasing carbon offsets for all travel when offered• Choosing to meet virtually rather than personally when feasible• Negotiating group discounts on the lowest impact transport local travel	<p>Global climate change is accelerating as a result of greenhouse gas (particularly CO₂) emissions, and travel, particularly by plane, is one of the most substantial sources of CO₂ emissions from universities globally.</p>



Computing

2

Policy	Justification
<p>Wherever possible,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• convene meetings and carry out teaching virtually, except for initial relationship-building.• Use environment-friendly search engines that invest in climate projects.• Focus on using servers that are run by renewable energies, such as Google's Hamina Data Centre in Finland.	<p>We aim to lower the carbon footprint of our digital space.</p> <p>However, the large servers require a lot of energy to run, and the computers themselves contain a wide variety of metals and synthetic compounds that must be extracted from Earth, or recycled or synthesized in energy-intensive processes.</p>

Carbon Budget

3

Policy

Evaluate the carbon budget of the Alliance annually, and report on this to all partners.

Develop a plan for the Alliance to become carbon neutral by 2030 and work with each partner institution to implement it. JYU have already carried out such an exercise and we will disseminate their model through the rest of the Alliance.



Catering

4

Policy	Justification
<p>Vegetarian and vegan options will be offered by default at all FORTHEM events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -We will aim to provide food in small, combinable portions to reduce waste. -We will employ caterers devoted to using regional and organic produce. -Food will be served on/with reusable or biodegradable utensils. -Water will be provided in glass over plastic bottles. Whenever possible, water dispensers will be used. -When present, coffee/tea dispensers will be equipped with paper cups. <p>At all FORTHEM events we will ensure there are adequate, clearly labelled bins for different types of waste, and will highlight the importance of using them during introductions to the events.</p> <p>Leftover food will always be provided to food-rescue services or offered via food-sharing apps such as OLIO</p>	<p>Many fertilizers and 'factory farming' practices employed in most of Earth's food industry have adverse environmental impacts. These impacts are minimised through consumption of organic foods.</p> <p>Whole plant foods have a lower carbon footprint than animal products. However, processing methods, packaging, and transportation of foods can absorb substantial energy and resources. These effects are minimised when regional/local food is consumed.</p> <p>Food waste is a huge problem, particularly in western society.</p>

Meetings and Teaching



Policy	Justification
<p>FORTHEM chose to meet virtually rather than in person, but wherever possible, first meetings of collaborators and between students and teachers will be held 'in person'.</p> <p>Increase awareness of sustainability aspects in course and curriculum planning.</p>	<p>Our participant's experience has demonstrated it is most effective to establish relationships with collaborators, and between students and teachers, 'in person', then carry out further communications virtually.</p> <p>Increase agency in sustainability by dissipation of knowledge, actions and sharing of good practices.</p>

Office materials

6

Policy	Justification
<p>We will operate as much as possible 'paperlessly' so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All meeting agendas and conference abstracts will be digital - Email will be used instead of letters or facsimiles - Electronic forms will be used, and electronic signatures accepted - For workshops and meetings where these items are needed, sustainable gadgets (e.g., textile bags, recycled paper notepads, reusable bottles) will be provided to participants. <p>When paper is needed we will purchase recycled products.</p> <p>We will purchase carbon credits to offset purchase of office materials when possible.</p>	<p>The environmental effects of paper production include deforestation, enormous water and energy demands as well as air pollution and waste problems.</p>

Biodiversity

7



Policy	Justification
<p>Foster biodiversity and life quality at the university campus at each university by parks and green areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tree and flower plantings / 'adopt a tree' initiative - Building of insect hotels, bee stocks and bird nesting boxes - Change of maintenance regime (e.g., less mowing) - 'Green' architecture for future buildings? 	<p>Biodiversity is an essential component of ecosystems that ensures natural sustainability for all life. Human existence depends on biological resources.</p> <p>We will create green campuses, that are attractive habitats especially for important pollinating insects and birds.</p>



Policy	Justification
<p>We will support sustainable and environmentally-friendly campaigns such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean-ups of beaches/parks/oceans - Proper waste disposal and recycling (zero waste initiative) - Bicycle recycling and sharing schemes - Courses and lecture series concerning climate change, renewable energies, circular economy, sustainable development goals, etc. <p>We will disseminate the results of our assessment of sustainability development and outcomes within the Alliance for purposes of University/Faculty/Department policy revision.</p>	<p>There should be some sort of quality control in matters of sustainability. Agency of sustainability will be considered throughout all activities in FORTHEM and partner organisations.</p>

Would you like to be informed when our survey
goes online?

Register your interest here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/forthem-sustainability-survey-tickets-179931027547>

Thanks!

You can find us at

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Time to discuss!

How did you travel here (or your online meeting site) today?

Car



Bus

Bike



Walking

I'm online



Which opportunities are there to collaborate with your company/ institution in terms of sustainability?

Do you have any other suggestions how to make our Universities more sustainable?

Was there any disposable packaging involved in the food and drink you've already consumed today?

How can we solve issues like this together?

