

Sustainable Universities

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“Sustaining our Future”

“Sparks of Future”, Brussels, May 26, 2009

www.aegee.org/sustaining

First: what is “Sustaining our Future”?



- AEGEE flagship project 2008-2009
- Different events around Europe:
 - past: Youth Solar Days, think tank in Brussels, Sustainable SCANdinavia in Copenhagen
 - coming: European Day of Environment, Danube project, “SuFu and the City” in Madrid
- More info: www.aegee.org/sustaining, <http://sufunews.blogspot.com>, group in Facebook

Sustainable organisation

- **Social aspects**

- Training and development, involvement of members, health and safety, public participation...

- **Environmental aspects**

- Waste minimisation, energy and transport...

- **Economic aspects**

- Contribution to regional economy

- **Cultural aspects**

- Environmental education, shared beliefs, values...

Universities and sustainability

- Centres of education, research, development, innovation -> dedicated to trigger changes
-> leadership role in advancing knowledge, technology and tools to create a sustainable future.
- To fulfill this role effectively and with high credibility, they need to include a focus on sustainability also in their own operations and facilities.
- Universities can clearly reinforce their commitment to sustainability by how they design and manage their own campus.

(International Sustainable Campus Network)

Examples

- Organic food in the cafeterias
- Gender balance and cultural diversity
- Landscape design supporting nonformal learning outside of the classroom
- Energy efficiency
- Decreasing water use
- Environmental friendly transport
- Sustainability courses in curricula
- etc

International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN)

- Network of different universities and other research centres (25 partner organisations), dedicated to support the development of sustainable campuses world-wide.
- Work in 3 areas:
 - **Conference**(once a year, 3rd time this year): discussions and networking
 - **Landmarks**: research results into practical applications
 - **Dissemination**: publications (manuals, best practises, guidelines)

Key-topics by ISCN

- building design
- energy-efficiency
- renewable energy applications
- environmentally sound mobility concepts

Plus:

- technology transfer issues for environment-friendly energy and mobility solutions
- sustainability education and research in architecture, engineering, etc

International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU)

- An alliance of ten of the world's leading research universities (eg. Peking University, University of Cambridge, University of Copenhagen, Yale University).
- IARU Campus Sustainability Programme: reduce the overall environmental impact of universities, main focus on climate change.
- Campus Sustainability Toolkit: 6 steps how to implement sustainability into university management.

IARU Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets

University	Target
Cambridge	10% below 2005 levels by 2010/2011 for building related emissions
Tokyo	15% of CO ₂ emission from non-experimental sector below 2006 by 2012
Yale	43% below 2005 levels by 2020
Berkeley	Back to 1990 levels by 2014
Copenhagen	20% below 2006 levels by 2013
Oxford	20% of building related CO ₂ emissions below 1990 levels by 2010, real progress by 2020 and 60% by 2050 based on 1990 levels.

Examples

CLIMATE ACTION UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

**RESEARCH &
DISSEMINATION** IARU INTERNATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

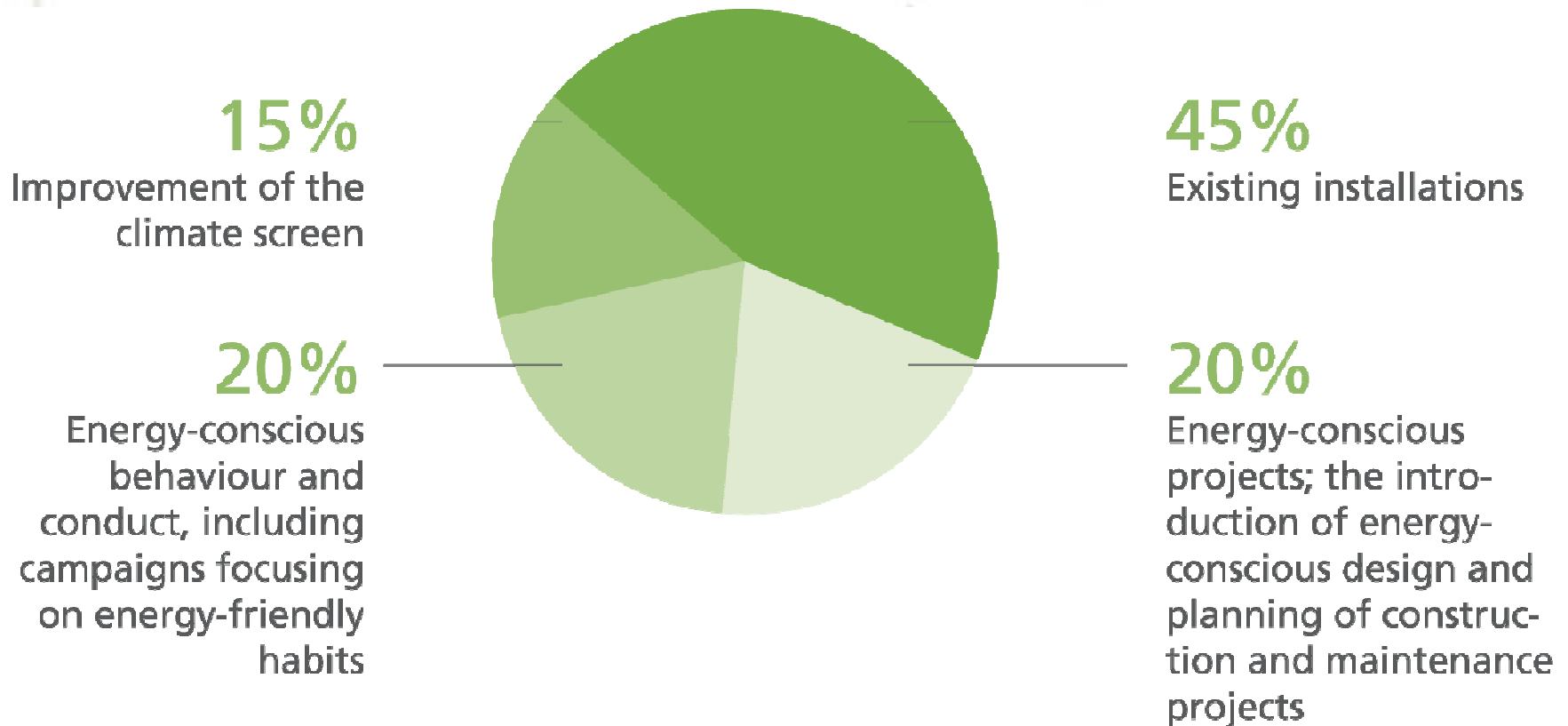
**CLIMATE
EDUCATION & DISSEMINATION**

GREEN CAMPUS REDUCING THE UNIVERSITY'S
CARBON FOOTPRINT

University of Copenhagen

- Direction to sustainability started with a student e-mail to the rector.
- Saving from reduction in energy consumption -> more money for research and education in climate change.
- Green Lighthouse - pilot project for climate friendly building.
- Green Action, energy saving campaign in Feb-March 2009: heating consumption ↓ 11%, electricity consumption ↓ 1%.

Where to achieve savings?



Technical University of Catalonia

- Sustainability Plan for 2015, focus on technology for sustainable development
- Key challenges
 - 1) Construction, energy and climate change
 - 2) Integrated water management
 - 3) Socially responsible technology
 - 4) Land use planning, mobility and logistics
 - 5) Material cycles, eco-design and waste management
- Key areas: engagement and social interaction, research, education, internal management

The background of the slide is a blurred image of green grass, with the blades appearing soft and out of focus. The color is a vibrant green, and the overall effect is a natural, fresh aesthetic.

QUESTIONS?

www.aegee.org/sustaining

Only university boards can make the necessary changes

YES

NO

Universities need initiative from students to become more sustainable

YES

NO

There is no actual change, only big amount of strategies and promises

YES

NO

The main purpose of sustainable
campuses is financial saving

YES

NO

Group work

- Questions:
 - What could be made more sustainable in your universities?
 - How can you as students/student group reinforce these changes?
- Divide into groups
- 20 min for discussion + 3 min for presentation

Group work results

1) **What could be made more sustainable:**

Energy efficiency in buildings, bicycle places, bottle refund, equipment rental, organic food, recycled paper, intelligent appliances, solar panels, prizes, save money from energy and choose what to do with the saved money.

2) **How can students reinforce these changes:**

Experience exchange (practices in different countries), green responsible in student council, competition with award between faculties, communicate with the dean, show students' support.

Main points from discussion

- Student initiative and involvement is crucial, as students are the main part of universities.
- Students want to be involved and make changes.
- Some changes take time, some are seen faster. Both of them are important.
- Though financial saving is the most material reason for change, protecting the environment and growing sustainability culture is very important too.