

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

Sustainability Newsletter 12/20



MEET THE NEW EDITORS!

Dear Sustainability Community,

We, the **Green Hub Twente**, are excited to publish the sustainability newsletter of the University of Twente from now on! Our young and motivated spirit of 14 student officers will provide you with all the interesting information you need about sustainability at UT. Especially in these trying times of COVID-19, we hope that the newsletter can help you to stay informed, motivated and connected!

Our sustainability office is student-driven and thrives off the different cultural and academic backgrounds of its members. Green Hub Twente's coordinator and sustainability expert Alex Baker-Friesen completes our team.

Do you have someone in mind who would also be interested in reading the latest sustainability news? Please share our [subscription link!](#)

SHAPING 2030 STRATEGY

It cannot be denied that the Digital Revolution is one of the most life-changing developments of our era. It has a major impact on society as well as on personal lives. As digitalisation progresses, the new digital society has to re-invent itself in a surrounding of altered mobility, labour condition, communication advancements and increased technological intelligence.

In that sense, also the University of Twente is in the process of redefining its goals, assuming the responsibility it carries as technological high-tech university and driver of change. [For 2030, a fair, sustainable and digital society is envisioned by the UT.](#)

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE POLITICS

What are the biggest challenges for citizen in their countries?

Climate change is perceived less challenging than the **COVID-19 pandemic** in 2020. Last year climate change was on the top of the list. Now, a study of the European Investment Bank reveals that coping with the pandemic is perceived as the biggest challenge for European citizen in 2020, leaving climate change on the 4th position. Despite the fact that volumes of research have been published about the risk of global warming, the “me” component of climate change cannot hold up with the immediate and personal impact of the pandemic.

For further reading, we recommend Elke Webers (2010) article "[What shapes perceptions about climate change?](#)" and Barbier and Burgess (2020) paper on "[Sustainability and development after COVID-19](#)".

DRUM ROLLS FOR..."UNIVERSITY REBELLION"

This sections presents different sustainability stakeholders at the UT, starting with Benjamin Jabold from **University Rebellion**.

Please, introduce your group!

"University Rebellion is an **environmental protest group** of students and university staff with the aim to decolonialize, decarbonize and democratize Dutch universities. We have written the [University Rebellion Manifesto](#), which comprehensively discusses the climate crisis and biodiversity loss, global justice, the role of the fossil fuel industry and our universities."



Sustainable transformation is a long process, if you could make one change overnight, what would that be?

"From my personal point of view sustainable development is hindered primarily by our economic system and the possibility and accompanying incentives for individuals to make a personal profit. Therefore, I would change the way our economic system operates by changing private ownership to collective ownership of means of production, managed by anarcho-syndicalist structures.

As for UR, I would say, **divestment from fossil fuels by all Dutch universities** would be a good place to start."

Who gets nominated for the next edition?

"The Department of Governance and Technology for Sustainability."

The interview was shortened, the full version is available via request.

HAVE A SUSTAINABLE & COVID-19 SAFE CHRISTMAS!

The developments of COVID-19 have put a spoke in our Christmas traditions. Over the last weeks, we had to forgo crowded Christmas markets, enthusiastic Christmas shopping and the exuberant atmosphere of cosy cafés filling our stomachs with hot waffles and mulled wine. Our meetings with friends and family have shifted to digital conferences. Some might reunite with the closest family, but still the COVID-19 virus will affect the carefree holidays we all desired. So what can we do to overcome the Corona blues? Most importantly, know that **you are not alone!** Sharing your feelings with people around you can make things easier. Additionally, the UT is offering many well-being tips and Holiday events for you.

This year is a good opportunity to break some routines and implement **sustainable alternatives!** For example, buy a living Christmas tree with roots and use newspaper to wrap up your gifts. Or upcycle Tetra Pak cartons to create beautiful table lamps for your Christmas decoration. **Get creative!**



SHARE & TAKE CARE PROGRAMME

GREEN STUDENT THESIS

"How can plastic packaging be designed so that it can be made of recycled plastic, while still being recyclable?"

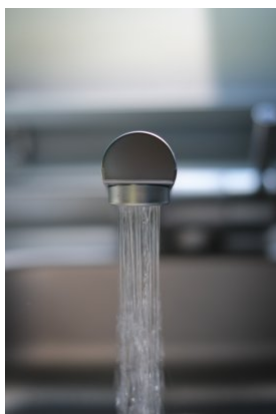
Industrial Design Engineering Student Sanne Meijer researches in her Bachelors thesis about the **recycling of packaging**. She invented a design tool to promote a sustainable lifestyle.

"I can make the biggest impact by actually performing research that could be used to make the world a bit less linear and wasteful."

Re-design of an AXE shower gel bottle out of 100% recycled material and 100% recyclable after use:



NEWS



Our water footprint in 2030

How much water does the production of a product cost? Shockingly much in some cases. A kilo of steak costs 15,000 liters of water, jeans 8,000 and a cup of coffee about 130 liters. In **Episode 5 of the Shaping 2030 Podcast** series Rick Hogeboom, Director of the Water Footprint Network, charts the water cycle and thinks about the question: **How can we reduce our water consumption until 2030?**

[News: Podcast Shaping 2030](#)

Electric Rental Cars for Business Travel



As of next year, the UT offers "green" vehicles at a discount for business travel. The new car rental agreement with supplier Munsterhuis provides the University with a sustainable alternative to petrol and diesel run vehicles and offers hybrid and electric cars for rental.

[News: Electric Car Rental at the UT](#)

Thanks for caring about the environment by staying tuned about sustainability at our University!

Yours, [Green Hub Twente](#)



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