



UiO : University of Oslo

Inga Bostad, Prorector

UNICA Green Academic Footprint

Universities committed towards environmental sustainability

The Process

The Pledge

The People



The imperative

The imperative

Environmental sustainability is at risk

- How can human needs be met without undermining the capacity of the planet's ability to support life in a long term perspective?

The era of plentiful and cheap resources is over.

- Over the 20th century, the world increased its fossil fuel use by a factor of 12, whilst extracting 34 times more material resources. Today in the EU, each person consumes 16 tonnes of materials annually, of which 6 tonnes are wasted, with half going to landfill. Whilst demand for food, feed and fibre may increase by 70% by 2050, 60% of the world's major ecosystems that help produce these resources have already been degraded or are used unsustainably.

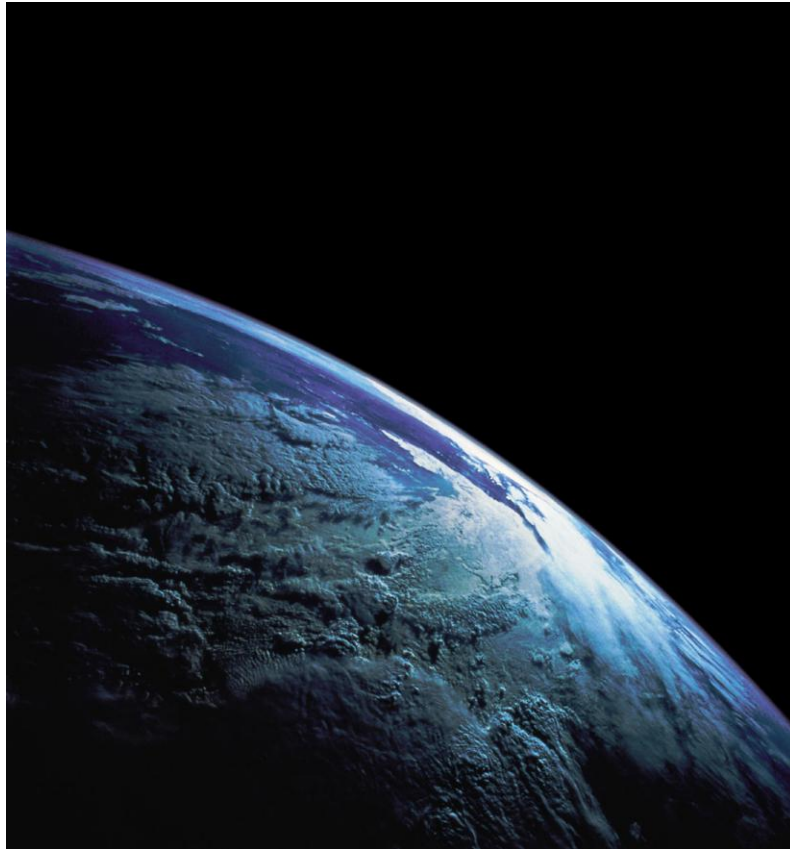
(European Commission: Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe)

Unprecedented scale and speed of global warming

- We believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to minimize global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality. Campuses that address the climate challenge by reducing global warming emissions and by integrating sustainability into their curriculum will better serve their students and meet their social mandate to help create a thriving, ethical and civil society.

(American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, 670 Universities and Colleges signed)

The Imperative: Global and local



The Initiative

Unica 2010: Student Meeting in Rome

Suggestions towards the establishment of The UNICA Green Academic Footprint:

1. Expert group
2. Self Assessment Tool
3. Declaration of commitment

Needed:

- Resource Group
- Taking the first steps ...





Last GA in Vienna...

UNICA Green Academic Footprint



A way to make universities stay
committed and connected
when it comes to environmental sustainability.

A workshop to start make it happen.



Vienna Oct 2010
Inga Bostad
prorector, University of Oslo

Follow-up in Oslo...

Oslo May 2.-3. 2011:

1.st Unica Green Academic Footprint Workshop



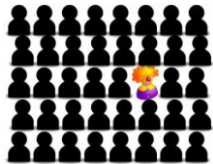
1. 12 universities
2. Concept discussed
3. Milestones established
4. Working Group Created

Work in progress

- Working Group and Reference Group (rectors):
Lisbon, Brussels, Lausanne, Tallin, Oslo:
 - Provide suggestions.
- UNICA Steering Board:
 - Give feedback, support and propose to the network.
- GA: Decisions and support

The Insistence

We are needed ...



Sustainability literacy

How do you spell your environmental footprint?

Increased Consumerism:

the Solution of the Financial Crisis or a Major Environmental Threat?

The *Economics* of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Responsible individuals and societies:
the dynamics when individual initiatives leads to

mass movements and major changes

The *Functioning* of Biological Diversity and Ecosystem

The Climate *Changes* and the needed adaptations

We are the universities in the capitals of Europe.

Why We Pledge to Become Greener:

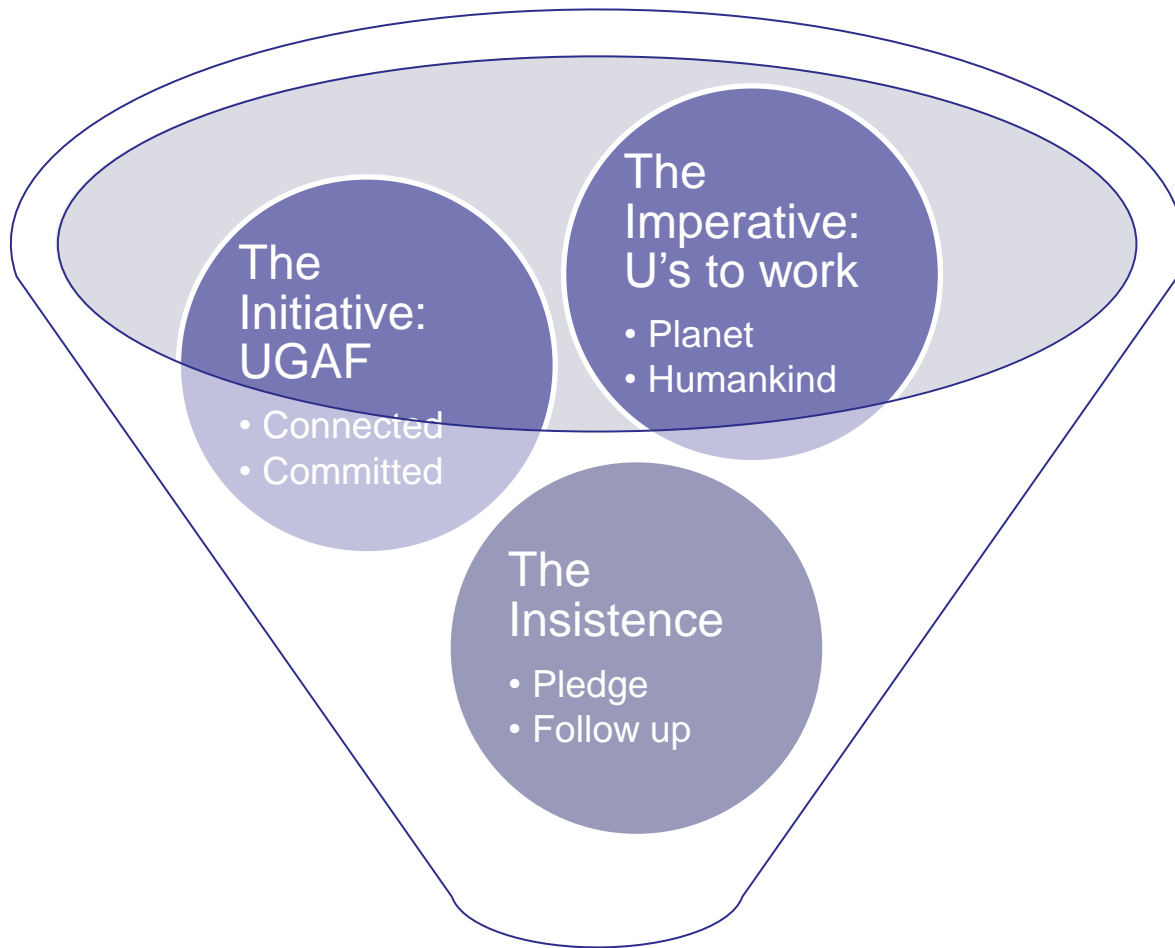
We acknowledge that Environmental sustainability is at our core mission and as universities, we have a unique:

- Potential and capacity to enhance knowledge and understanding, and provide necessary skills and innovation
- Responsibility and duty toward raising awareness and enhancing sustainability literacy for students, staff and communities
- Position and reason to develop our campuses as living laboratories of environmental sustainability in practice

to meet the global environmental challenges.

We commit ourselves to:

- promoting environmental sustainability in every aspects of our work at universities
- set environmental sustainability on top of our priorities
- work closely with policy makers, municipalities & communities, industry & business and other universities
- share examples of our green practice, evaluate and report our status, plans and progress to all stakeholders

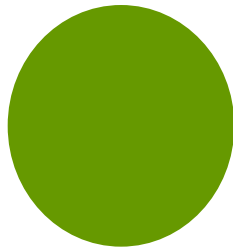


The Moment: GA2011

- Discussion
- Approval
- Support

The Process towards establishing Unica Green Academic Footprint

We are
here



WG and
WS in
Lausanne



-3 The Imperative

-2 The Initiative

-1 The Insistence

0 The Moment

**1 The Commitment to
collaborate and communicate**

2 The Strategy: to invite and include U's to make
green impact through common projects and
shared experience

3 The Launching: 2012

Are we ready to take responsibility?

The University of Oslo is ready to take responsibility for helping to resolve global challenges, particularly those related to climate and the environment. UiO will take responsibility for facing environmental and climate-related challenges both through research and education related to the environment and through operations at the university. In this way, UiO will establish itself as a green university. (UiO Strategy 2020)

- We are not there yet (UiO 2011).

Is *UNICA* ready

as a *network* of the universities of the capitals of Europe to take responsibility when it comes to the environmental challenges?

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