



SO, WHAT DO THE STUDENTS (ACTUALLY) THINK?

Student perspectives on sustainable universities and green mobility

Who am I?

- Master student: Study of Religion and Social science/Political science
- Climate Activist in Den Grønne Ungdomsbevægelse (The Green Youth Movement)
- I have been campaigning for sustainability in education for 3-4 years



First some statistics...

According to a 2020 survey, done by *Students Organizing for Sustainability (SOS) International*

- 92 % agree that sustainable development is something all universities and colleges should actively incorporate and promote
- 46% say their place of study takes enough action to limit its own impacts on the environment and society
- 90% are concerned about the effects of climate change

Almost 7000 responses from 45 countries



Uddannelser for Fremtiden (Educations for Future)

1. ESD should be integrated in all university studies
2. Universities should offer interdisciplinary and projectoriented courses on sustainability to all students
3. Sustainability should be part of the purpose clause in the university law
4. Universities should reduce their ecological footprint though
 1. Carbon-neutral buildings and green biodiverse areas
 2. Climate-friendly, organic and affordable food in canteens
 3. A sustainable procurement and consumption policy
 4. **A transportation policy where flying to destinations, that can be reached within a train-ride of up to 24 hours is not allowed**



Uddannelser for fremtiden (Educations for future)

5. Universities should have a responsible investment policy
6. Universities should contribute actively to a sustainable transition of society
7. Increased green research within all areas and research in further extraction and use of fossil fuels should be phased out



Perspectives from Circle U Summer School



CAMPUS MOBILITY

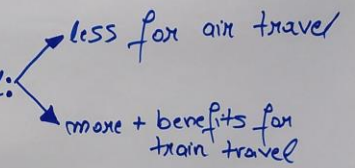
- Close, affordable quality housing for students
- Bikeservice, car-pooling system,
- University pushing for citywide transportation changes
- Students get discount for public transportation
- Universityhosted workshops on city planning

EDUCATION ON MOBILITY

- Mandatory undergraduate course on mobility and sustainability
- Community wide courses on sustainability
- Raising awareness inside the university

⇒ GOAL: Internal motivation

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND CONFERENCES

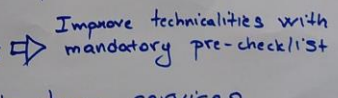
* Compensate train travel: 

* Limiting travel to 1000 km

* Encouraging local interdisciplinary conferences

* Clear communication on sustainability by organizers.

* Lower conference fees for sustainable travel.

or * Uphold hybrid formats 

* Universities cooperate with train services

* Ban international conferences for 5 years.

The hot topic: Flying!

- We need to rethink the way research and conferences is organized today
- The problem and the policies used cannot be separated from the social (equality) aspects – has to be integrated
- Disagreement about the role of compensation, but also a lot of negative aspects
- Co-benefit: Less pressure on academics

Some important points

- Students are much more knowledgeable – and expect the same level of interest and commitment
- Commitments and actions should match the severity of the problem
- However, students are also a diverse group
- Policies should be accompanied by a culture shift
- Integration with education is a sign of commitment
- Include students in decision making – but do also take leadership!



Organizations and initiatives

- Students Organizing for Sustainability UK
 - Netzwerk N (Germany)
 - Forum N (Austria)
 - RESES (France)
 - Climate Students (Global) – Klimatstudenterna (Sweden)
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- SOS Green Impact + Green Office Movement
 - Greener Academia

<https://sos.earth/sos-members/>

**#ActOnYour
ClimateScience**

Thank you!

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