



Theme 11: Education and learning for climate change

Symposium

Sustainable Campuses: Universities Walking the Talk

0830 – 1000 hrs.

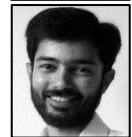
2 July, THURSDAY

Room T219, Hovrätten

Gothenburg

A sustainable campus is one that develops process or management systems that help create a vibrant campus economy & high quality of life while respecting the need to sustain natural resources and protect the environment. Considerable numbers of universities are embracing sustainability within and beyond their traditional domains. The learners are “putting theory into practice” whilst the educators are leading by example “teaching through action”. Moreover, the sustainable learning environments ‘green campus’ promotes adoption of sustainability attitudes and values into the daily practice of educators and learners. However, many universities are still struggling with the concept and agenda of university “greening”. Completion of a showcase green building is not the same as embracing a university-wide commitment to ensure all future buildings are built green – the former is a project success, the latter a systemic transformation, which is more desirable for sustainability. However, sustainability needs not be considered only from perspectives extrinsic to universities, but also from more intrinsic perspectives. These should motivate universities to adopt sustainable/green university strategies which should demonstrate sustainability principles. Sustainable campuses serve as a living model of sustainability, providing learning experiences that students, faculty and staff may develop, apply and practice at their campuses and in their extended communities.

Mahesh Pradhan, UNEP and Malay Dave, University of New South Wales, Australia: As one of the outputs under the Eye on Environmental Education Special Initiative, the Greening Universities Toolkit builds on the first version of the Toolkit, launched at the 7th World Environmental Education Congress in June 2013 in Marrakesh, Morocco. The updated Toolkit includes updates measuring sustainability across universities, cost/benefit analysis, as well as new case studies on the greening of campuses.



Eddi Omrcen, University of Gothenburg: implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) during 1998 and 1999 according to the recommendations given by the Swedish government, first in "Ecological sustainability" (1997) and "Integrating environmental issues in Governmental Organizations" (1996). In February 2000 the University Board decided that the objective for the university should be to receive an ISO14001 certification. After six years of hard work the University finally achieved its ISO14001 certificate in January 2006, along with an EMAS registration. The University of Gothenburg has also developed an action plan for environment and sustainable development 2011-2015.



Jenny Forshufvud, Chalmers University: The Centre for Environment and Sustainability, GMV, in Göteborg, Sweden is a network organisation at Chalmers University of Technology and University of Gothenburg. GMV creates and encourages research projects and multidisciplinary initiatives.



Gayatri Ragwa, Environment Agency, Abu Dhabi, UAE: The Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD), in conjunction with Borouge, has launched the Sustainable Campus Initiative, an extension of the Sustainable Schools Initiative. The main goal of the project is to have university students in the UAE take responsibility for their ecological footprint at their university campuses.



The Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability (GUPES)

<http://unep.org/training/>

<http://weec2015.org/programme-2/parallel-programme/symposiums/theme-11/>