

THE GREEN OFFICE MOVEMENT

“Educational institutions and governments should provide the institutional support, resources and legitimacy for youth-led change processes towards sustainability.”

UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development Youth Statement, Japan 2014

Students all around the world want to make their universities and communities more sustainable. Yet, most lack the necessary knowledge, time and resources to do so. Their aspirations and potentials as sustainability change agents remain unfulfilled.

Luckily, a **force is gaining momentum** to change this: The Green Office Movement. What began as an experiment with the first Green Office at Maastricht University in September 2010, turned into a **growing international movement** engaging hundreds of students and staff.

This movement strives to make universities and communities more sustainable, using the Green Office Model as a source of inspiration to **demand** institutional support, resources and legitimacy for student-led and staff-supported sustainability units.

By the beginning of 2015, the Green Office Model inspired student-led and staff-supported sustainability hubs at **10 Universities in the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom**, namely in Amsterdam, Exeter, Greenwich, Groningen, Kent, Konstanz, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Wageningen and Maastricht. Over 58 students and staff work in these Green Offices, which have a combined annual budget of **800 000 Euro**, and run dozens of sustainability projects and activities at their universities and communities.

Currently students and staff at universities across Sweden, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany and Great Britain are developing funding applications for their Green Offices.

Our goal is to engage over **10 000 students and staff in 100 Green Offices by 2025**. This will be a significant force to transition universities, higher education sectors and societies towards a more sustainable future.

Will you be part of this?

Learn more on the website of rootAbility a non-profit social business supporting students and staff to design, lobby for and run Green Offices: <http://rootability.com/the-green-office-movement/>

6 GREEN OFFICE PRINCIPLES

The essence of the Green Office Model can be distilled into six principles that then need to be adapted to the context of your university:



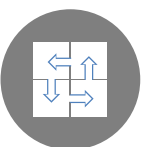
Students and staff: A dynamic team of student employees, volunteers and university staff form the core of a Green Office. They are directly responsible for running the Green Office and its activities.

Mandate: The Green Office receives an official mandate to drive the sustainability transition of the university and/or local community, by creating new impulses, connecting and empowering actors, improving communications or implementing sustainability strategies.



Resources: The university grants a budget to pay for salaries, training, project expenses and office space. These resources are crucial to guarantee the continuity and commitment of student, and enable them to implement high-impact projects.

Integration: The Green Office is integrated into the institution's organisational structure, and is supervised by a steering group. The Green Office team also joins relevant sustainability committees.



Collaboration: All activities of the team are conducted in close collaboration and partnership with internal and external stakeholders. The Green Office also becomes part of the vibrant network of Green Offices around Europe.

Training: The Green Office and its volunteers receive training from other Green Office Alumni that are engaged as rootAbility Fellows. This helps to inspire and motivate them, and build their competencies as sustainability change agents.



The Green Office Model is open-source and made freely available to everyone under a **Creative Commons License** by rootAbility. We are constantly uploading open-source material on our website. Just visit us on www.rootAbility.com You can also directly email Felix via Felix.Spira@rootAbility.com to receive an information package. Speak to you soon!