

# UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

rootAbility and Maastricht University Green Office developed the University Sustainability Assessment Framework (UniSAF) to make sustainability assessments cheaper, easier, faster and more fun.

## UNISAF IS FOR...

- **Students and staff** who want to better understand how their institution performs on sustainability,
- **Students** searching for a thesis topic,
- A teacher looking for an assignment for a course,
- **Sustainability staff** tasked with writing a sustainability report.

UniSAF offers you a set of indicators to collect, analyse and communicate on the sustainability performance of your university, college or school.

## WITH UNISAF, YOU SAVE TIME, MONEY AND ENERGY TO...

- **Identify** socio-economic and environmental issues that are relevant for your institution,
- **Collect and analyse** data to measure progress on these issues through indicators,
- **Communicate** your findings to make them decision-relevant to students, staff and faculty.

UniSAF is freely available, easy to use and tailored towards the higher education sector.

## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

1. **Indicators:** No need to 'invent' your own indicators. Just get inspired by the list that we already compiled. The core of UniSAF is an excel sheet that provides quantitative and qualitative indicators.
2. **Implementation guide:** You learn about the best tips and tricks on how to identify relevant issues to assess, collect, analyse and communicate data on sustainability.
3. **Database template:** No need to reinvent the wheel to collect and analyse your data. Just use our database template.
4. **FAQs:** Have questions? We compiled answers to common questions we got about how UniSAF.

## HOW TO USE IT?

UniSAF can be adapted in a **flexible** way, to fit the needs of students, staff and faculty:

- **Inventory:** Take an easy start. Just use 3-5 indicators to conduct a curriculum inventory or collect data about electricity, gas, materials consumption or transportation.
- **Per capita footprint:** Collect information on indicators relevant to calculate the average footprint of a student or staff. You can then use this information to raise awareness among the community.
- **Policy briefs:** Collect data on indicators relevant for decision makers, such as the Executive Board or University Council, and communicate your observations and recommendations through policy briefs.
- **Comprehensive assessment:** By gathering data on 20-30 indicators you conduct a first baseline on the existing state of sustainability in education, research, operations, community and governance.

For your assessment to be impactful, it is important that you communicate your findings. We recommend you do this through infographics, posters, presentation or social media campaign.

## NEED OUR SUPPORT?

Four ways in which we can work with you:

(1) Lunch time talk	To get started, invite students, staff, faculty and higher management. We present UniSAF and answer questions.
(2) Half-day workshop	A dedicated group participates in a half-day workshop. We work with them to identify relevant sustainability issues and indicators, plan data-gathering and analysis.
(3) Process support	We run three workshops, combined with advice hours, to support the project team in analysing the data, making it decision relevant and preparing its communication.
(4) Final check	Before you publish your assessment, we have a final look at it. We check if there are no embarrassing mistakes with data sources, presentation and analysis.

## START TODAY!

Are you excited to get going with UniSAF?

- Download the indicators, implementation guide and templates for free from [www.rootAbility.com](http://www.rootAbility.com)
- Email Anselm via [Anselm.Grahl@rootAbility.com](mailto:Anselm.Grahl@rootAbility.com), if you have any questions on how to work with UniSAF and want to work with us.