

YOUTH VOICES FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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As part of our research project, we organized a workshop for undergraduate students studying a wide variety of degrees to share their perspectives on their sustainability education. Based on our research, we drafted a policy brief with recommendations for decision makers in higher education to improve the quality of sustainability education and equip students with the knowledge, tools and resources to tackle sustainability-related challenges.



Key Recommendations

CURRICULUM

- Introduce compulsory learning outcomes focused on climate change and sustainability which are framed by hopefulness, focus on solutions and foster critical thinking
- Provide compulsory climate change and sustainability training which is tailored to students' disciplinary expertise
- Introduce interdisciplinary learning opportunities, for example, by providing sustainability focused modules taught by academics from multiple faculties
- Ensure opportunities for students to critically engage with climate change and sustainability within their degree with students and academics who conduct related research

CAMPUS

- Prioritise transparency, evidence-informed actions and long-term impact for campus-wide sustainability initiatives
 - Elect leaders of the institution that have a clear and pragmatic agenda and goal to achieve sustainability and mitigate the effects of climate change
- Provide opportunities for students to become directly and regularly involved with university decision makers
- Review university affiliations with unsustainable, polluting or environmentally negligent companies and organisations

COMMUNITY

- Prioritise improved communication between university administration, academic departments, students and students' groups such as the Student's Union
- Encourage extra-curricular opportunities on climate change and sustainability in departments, societies and through volunteering
- Promote accessibility, inclusivity and knowledge by providing free learning opportunities to members of the general public
- Provide monetary incentive for students to conduct research projects to implement or evaluate climate change and sustainability solutions