

Green Challenges Call #2 November 15th, 2021
Brief description of the Challenges.

1. Raising awareness about SDGs and sustainability in general

The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. Raising public awareness is important to increase enthusiasm and support, stimulate self-mobilisation and action, and mobilise local knowledge and resources. Mini-projects to address this Green Challenge could include (for example) hosting an educational event/ organizing a voluntary project/ launching an information campaign, etc. What mini-project idea of your own would you like to work on?

2. Actions to conserve and increase biodiversity on campus

Biodiversity has been dramatically affected in negative ways by humans over the past century, to the point where more than 60% of animal species have been wiped out since 1970, according to the WWF Living Planet Report (2020). Actions to conserve and increase biodiversity on campus could include projects with local/ national botanical gardens; ways of enhancing biodiversity on campus; measuring/monitoring biodiversity on campus; and awareness programmes about the importance of biodiversity. What mini-project idea of your own would you like to work on?

3. Moving towards a circular economy at university

The circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. In this way, the life cycle of products is extended. In practice, it implies reducing waste to a minimum. When a product reaches the end of its life, its materials are kept within the economy wherever possible. These can be productively used again and again, thereby creating further value. Mini-projects to address this Green Challenge at university could include (for example) encouraging the reuse of school supplies/ promoting the collection and exchange of goods among campus users instead of throwing them away/ raising awareness of waste management, etc. What mini-project idea of your own would you like to work on?

4. Finding ways to enhance efficiency (resource use -water, energy-, alternatives to plastic, transport/mobility etc.)

Resource efficiency means using the Earth's limited resources in a sustainable manner while minimising impacts on the environment. It is key to move towards a green economy and contribute to global sustainability. Ways to enhance efficiency at university could include projects to reduce water and/or energy consumption/ proposing solutions to reduce pollution by using sustainable alternatives (i.e. to plastic)/ reducing the environmental impact of mobility, etc. What mini-project idea of your own would you like to work on?