



Guidelines
for an **European
Sustainable
Campus**



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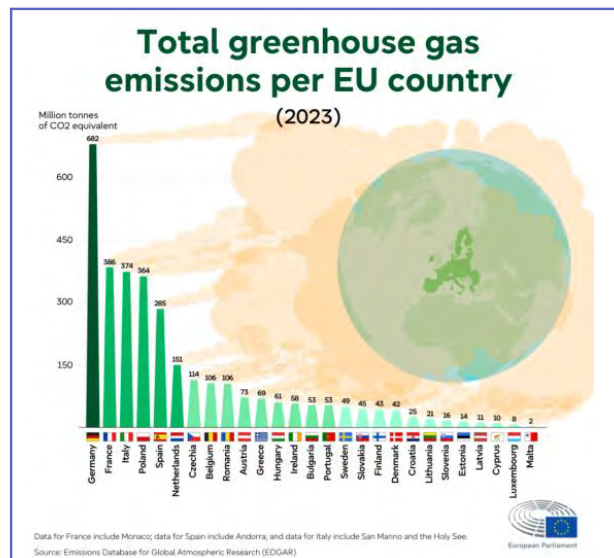
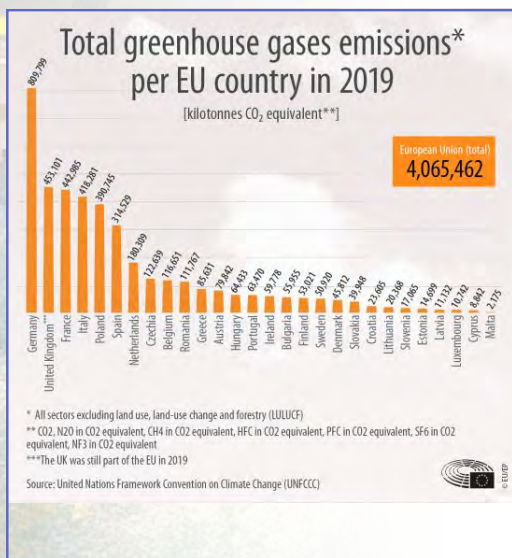
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Introduction

In 2023, the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) published a report regarding the state of the planet. Climate change is now (more than ever) undeniable, and states need to act, to reduce its effect. According to the INSEE, in Europe, 11 tons of carbon per year per inhabitant are released each year in the atmosphere¹, increasing the effect of climate change.

Carbon Emissions in the European Union in 2019 et 2023, excluding exports In November 2024, the French association “Parlons Climat” published a study called “Climate skeptic, a study as closely as possible to those who doubt”². This study analyzes the growth of climate skeptic’s number in France (36% in 2023 compared to), and their profiles. An interesting result shows that even though people may be climate skeptics, they can still act for the climate, if the actions are easy to realize. Hence, the responsibility of university and public education institute to make those actions accessible to their students.



Project presentation

Be a Changemaker for a Sustainable Campus: Actions and Results

The «Be a Changemaker for a Sustainable Campus» project was created with the goal of transforming European university campuses into hubs of sustainable innovation, reducing their ecological footprint, and promoting social and climate justice. Through the collaboration between **EDISU Piemonte, CROUS de Versailles, and ESN Torino**, the project engaged students, university staff, and local communities in a concrete path of change, aligned with the **Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda**.

Student Engagement

The project combined practical activities, training, and networking to achieve its goals, creating opportunities for dialogue with students to understand their needs. Here are some of the main initiatives:

Sustainable Mobility Day: A day dedicated to promoting sustainable mobility, featuring a **Bike Tour in the Po Park** with 50 participants, including international and local students.

Conference and Workshop Series: Three events focused on key topics such as sustainable mobility, responsible food consumption, and circular economy. Each conference was followed by **hands-on workshops** to foster active engagement.

Changemakers' Mountain Weekend: An immersive weekend in **Bardonecchia**, where 60 participants explored practical solutions to reduce environmental impact and promote sustainable lifestyles.

Waste Sorting Day: A sustainable cooking workshop, organized in collaboration with **Panacea Social Farm**, showcasing how to reduce food waste and creatively reuse leftovers.

Achieved Results

The project generated significant and lasting impacts:

Guidelines for Sustainable Campuses:

The «**European Sustainable Campus Guidelines**» were developed and shared, providing a set of standards to guide the ecological transition of European universities.

«European Sustainable Campus» Logo*:

A distinctive label to identify institutions that meet the sustainability standards defined by the project.

Green Skills for Students and Staff:

Events and workshops provided **practical tools** to adopt sustainable practices in daily life and professional settings.

Sustainability Community Platform:

A **digital hub** for sharing resources, ideas, and best practices, ensuring the dissemination and replicability of the project's results.

A Sustainable Legacy

Thanks to its **collaborative and inclusive approach**, the project has left a tangible legacy. The **Guidelines and resources** are freely accessible online, allowing new organizations to adopt sustainability principles. The network built among partners and stakeholders will continue to grow, fostering the spread of a sustainable **university campus model** in Europe and beyond.



*«Design chosen by the jury in September 2024 as part of action 2 of the project»

European
Sustainable
Campus

Eating

Environmental Issues

For French people, food represents 22% of their carbon footprint, with more than 2tCO₂e/person/year³. Agriculture can also pose other environmental problems, such as pesticides, water resources or new technologies for agriculture. It appears that the stakes are equally high beyond the sole prism of the carbon footprint.

Globally, agricultural and feeding activities are responsible for about 15% of greenhouse gas emissions (direct emissions). Agriculture occupies 38% of the world's land surface and consumes 70% of the world's freshwater (60% in France). These figures show that agriculture and food, despite being vital, are sectors that need to be rethought to ensure their impacts reduction.

Actions

Increasing vegetarian meal consumption

Livestock is responsible of 18% of global greenhouse gas production⁴. Opting for vegetarian meal enable to reduce by half the meal's footprint. Moreover, other issues are to consider, such as water consumption (15 000L of water is needed to produce 1kg of beef⁵), deforestation (especially with soy culture in Brazil), etc.

However, it appears difficult to convince people to go for a vegetarian diet (in Europe, only 5% of people are vegetarian⁶ and 3% are vegan⁷) or to reduce its meat consumption (23% of European are flexitarian). A public establishment with a restauration offers ought to promote those types of meals, to help students change their habits and act for the environment.

The Crous de Versailles started to aim this goal since 2023 with several actions:

Increasing the number of vegetarian alternatives: every day, in the Crous de Versailles' restaurants, 3 meals options are offered to students. In September 2023, it has been decided that twice a week (every Thursday

and Tuesday), 2 out of 3 of these options would be vegetarian. This measure is a good alternative to the "Green Mondays" that was done in many restaurants, where every Monday all meals would be vegetarian. By having more options, students are more likely to choose the vegetarian meal, but still have the choice to do otherwise.

Training cuisine staff to cook vegetarian options: This action came from a simple thought: in order to cook a good meal, you have to learn how to do so. This applies to vegetarian meals. Hence, the Crous de Versailles has decided to train its cuisine staff to cook savourous vegetarian meals. In 2024, 4 of these formations were given to our staff, each one training about 20 persons. Those formations included cooks, but also administrative staff, in order for them to understand the cooks' constraints. Thanks to this, Crous de Versailles has been able to organize working groups with their cooks to create new vegetarian recipes.

Facilitate the discovery of vegetarian meals by students: one of the most difficult obstacles to the consumption of vegetarian food is everyone's habits. In fact, most people won't taste vegetarian meals because of their 'neo' phobia. At the Crous de Versailles, we tried to reduce this effect by organizing tasting vegetarian meal in our restaurant. This measure will be tested in 2024, results are to come.

Thanks to all those actions, the percentage of vegetarian meals consumed by students went from 23% in September 2023 to 35% in September 2024, and this rate is still increasing.

³ [MyCO₂] Empreinte carbone française moyenne, comment est-elle calculée ?

⁴ Livestock production and greenhouse gas emissions: Defining the problem and specifying solutions | Animal Frontiers | Oxford Academic

⁵ Il faut 15 000 litres d'eau pour produire 1 kg de viande de boeuf, VRAI ou FAUX ? - Chaire bien-être animal

⁶ Europe: share of people following a vegetarian diet, by country | Statista

⁷ Europe: Over 20% Now Flexitarian & Number Of Vegans Doubles, According To New Study

Opting for food which respect the environment

Chemicals inputs are harmful for the environment: impact on biodiversity, by reducing the pollinating, impacts on the ground, by its draining, etc. Moreover, their use also comes with health issues, of the producers but also the consumers.

Opting for products whose production respect the environment can act on those two matters, to protect both citizens and nature.

In France, a law called Egalim has been voted, which fix a percentage of certified product bought in public restauration. This law encourages public establishments to invest in certified products.

In the Crous' network, the rate of certified product bought reached 30 percent in 2024. In concrete terms, each Crous de Versailles' breads are certified, such as every yogurt.

Opting for local source of supply

Transportation is responsible for 15% of eating's carbon emission⁸. Moreover, opting for local sources of supply enables public establishment to have a more shock-resistant system of supply.

Some Crous in France established a partnership with local association of bio producers. This enabled them to propose once a month bio fruits from local producers.

Moreover, some french student's associations were created to make partnership with AMAP (Associations for rural agriculture), to propose fruits and vegetables basket to a low cost for students.

Reducing food waste

In Europe in 2022, food waste reached 132kg per year per inhabitant⁹, being 59,2 millions of tons of organic waste. Households are responsible for 54% of this food waste (the rest being due to the agro-industrial system).

Reducing food waste enables us to reduce our need and consumption, and our impact on the environment.

To act against food waste, the Crous de Versailles first wanted to have a sight on its waste production. To do so, it installed a waste sorting bin and established a partnership with the company "les alchimistes", which collects every food waste and weighs it. This enabled the Crous de Versailles to have more knowledge of its production, and to see the impact of its actions. One of those actions is setting a self-service system for vegetables and starches, which enables students to serve themselves according to their hunger, hence reducing food waste. Another action is the setting up of bread bins, to raise awareness among students about their bread waste.

Zero-plastic policy

In Europe, plastic production represents 10% of our oil consumption. In the restauration, plastic is used for carryout service, conservation, etc. It has several impacts on health (with the ingestion of micro plastic), on environment (with plastic waste, oil use, etc.)

In France, a law called AGECE has been voted, which control plastic use for public establishment. This law encourages them to go for a zero-plastic policy.

Some Crous in France set up a deposit system (by using jar) for its carryout service. It greatly reduces plastic waste and consumption.

⁸ Agroalimentaire : quel bilan carbone et quelles solutions ?

⁹ Food waste: 132 kg per inhabitant in the EU in 2022 - News articles - Eurostat

Housing

Environmental issues

A part of greenhouse gas emissions come from households. Indeed, energy is used to mostly to heat homes during winters, climatized home during summers, etc. For a French, this represents 1,34 tons per capita per year, being near 15% of their carbon footprints. Other impacts are made due to our housing habits (water consumption, waste, etc.), and are worth action about. Some public establishments house their students, hence the responsibilities for them to offer them the possibility to act.

Actions

Housing isolation

Heating is one of the main uses of energy by households in Europe, accounting for 62.8% of the final energy consumption in the residential sector in 2020¹⁰. Energy source of those heating system may be reconsider, but also isolation of buildings, which helps to reduce the use of heating system.

For several years, and thanks to a housing policy supported by the German government, the Studentenwerk Freiburg has been promoting a housing policy with clear objectives of sustainability and low energy impact. Beyond the technical aspect, these constructions have highlighted the different aspects of the ecological transition by setting clear objectives in the construction programs:

Sustainable and energy-efficient construction: optimization of greenhouse gas emissions in the life cycle of the building as well as structural and technical measures to improve energy efficiency and the integration of renewable energies. Example: By optimizing the floor plan, the support system and the construction method, a space-saving, low-emission and climate-adapted building is created. It achieves both economic and ecological objectives.

Socially acceptable: thanks to high-quality construction that keeps costs within reasonable limits, a living space can be created for students with socially acceptable rents. Ex: common student living spaces are taken into account and integrated into projects from the design stage to enable social ties and exchanges between students. In addition,

despite the technical elements and energy objectives perceived as costly, rents remain within a standard range of student rents, i.e. between 390 and 475 euros including all additional costs and internet.

Oriented towards demand and real needs: construction mainly on university sites where there is a need for housing, close to the university, with a balanced combination of the types of housing requested (at least 60% individual apartments, max. 40% shared apartments).

The entire project is focused on simple techniques to limit construction costs, such as avoiding certain technologies, saving time by providing architects with precise planning in terms of deadlines but also regarding space requirements and possible costs to avoid discussions on these elements. One of the residences presented thus provides for a 1-year construction plan with work starting in September 2024 and moving in planned for October 2025.

Finally, construction projects are also considered with aspects of student life. These spaces are real living spaces, often for precarious and/or international students, and the objective of connection and meeting is part of the project because it is necessary to provide places adapted to these moments. They provide specific support for welcoming, orienting and integrating new arrivals and international students, but also by offering evening activity programs. Participation in the mandatory end-of-semester meeting (= beginning-of-semester meeting). These activities are organized by students and meetings are planned with the coordinator once a month.

Heating control system

Isolating buildings enables public establishment to have a more ambitious policy on heating instructions. Indeed, the Ademe declared that reducing by one degree the heating in buildings can lower your heating carbon emissions by 7%¹¹.

In France, Ademe suggested heating policy: buildings would be heat during the day at 19°C and would pass to 17°C at night. This policy has been applied in the Crous de Versailles's building for 2 years, realizing a great carbon economy. To control the implementation of this policy, the Crous de Versailles has installed thermal probes (on 5% of its apartment) to follow the temperature on each building. This enable the Crous to set up its policy.

Water waste

In Europe, 144L of water are used per capita per day¹². Considering the fact that climate change increases the frequency and the intensity of droughts in the next decades, reducing our water consumption seems essential.

In the Crous network, some Crous decided to install foamy on every shower and tap of their building. This measure enables every student to reduce their water consumption up to 50%.

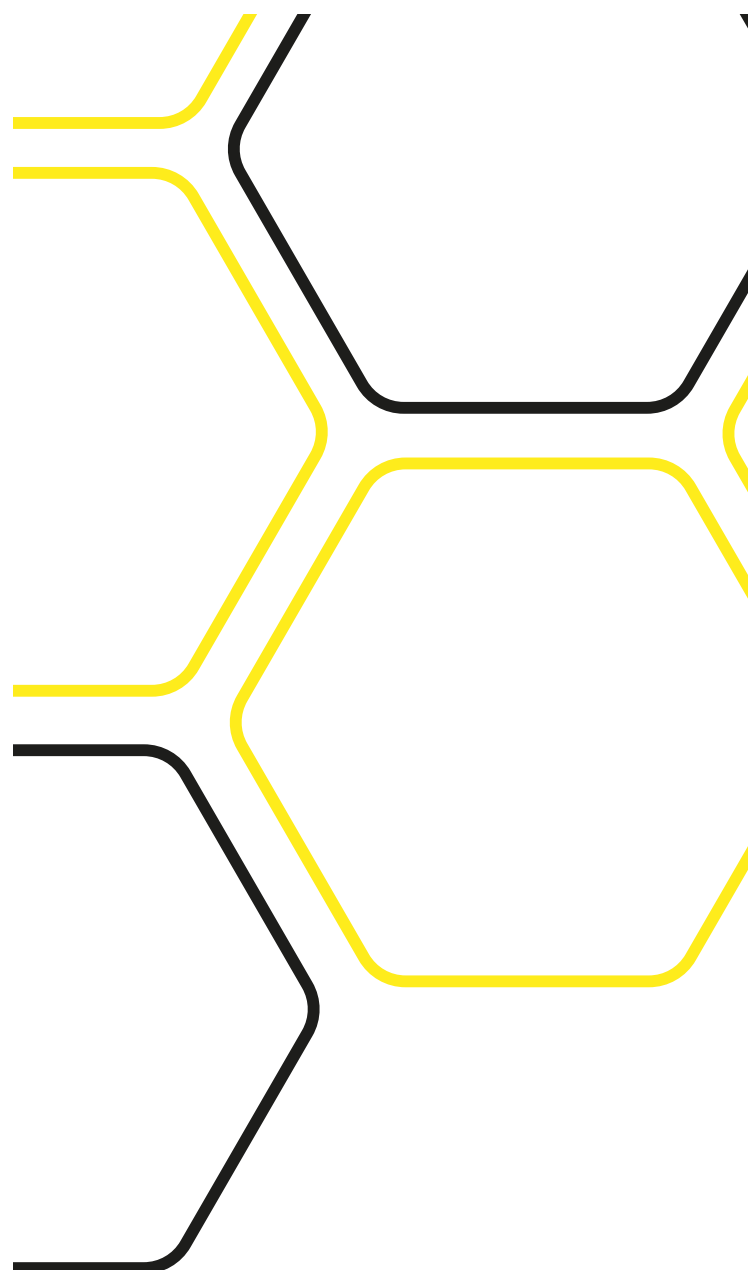
Waste Sorting

In Europe, households produce 561kg per year¹³. The management of the waste can have different impacts (whether it is stock in rubbish tip, incinerate, etc.), whose people can't easily act for. But waste sorting is still important to set up in every apartment.

¹¹ Les bons gestes pour un chauffage plus économique | Particuliers | Agir pour la transition écologique | ADEME

¹² L'exploitation de l'eau en Europe: des enjeux quantitatifs et qualitatifs — Agence européenne pour l'environnement

¹³ Gestion des déchets dans l'UE : faits et chiffres (infographie) | Thèmes | Parlement européen



Environmental Issues

Transport is the world's leading source of emissions, accounting for around 23% of global CO₂ emissions (including commercial transport)¹⁴. On a personal scale, the carbon footprint of a French person represents 2.7 tonnes (i.e. 27% of the carbon footprint), the majority of which is related to cars (over 75% of transport-related emissions).

Actions

Installing hoop bike

Our cities have been constructed to promote the use of the car, not really for the bicycles use. To support bicycling, a measure would be to install hoop bike to park students' bikes. In France, to help public establishment to do so, a financing initiative called Aveol + has been created.

The Alvéole Plus program offers financing, support and training to develop the parking offer in or outside your establishment and encourage the daily use of bicycles by your students. The goal is to support public institutions to promote the implementation of bicycle infrastructure (reimbursement of up to 40%). This allowed the Crous de Versailles to finance the installation of 200 bicycle racks for students in its academy.

Financing bike for students

Even though bike is one of the lowest carbon transportations, it may be too expensive for students. A measure is to make this accessible.

The community of St Quentin organized a bicycle exchange for students in its academy in 2024. By contacting a professional reintegration association specializing in the rehabilitation of old bicycles, it financed half the price of the bicycles sold for students. In the end, around thirty bicycles were acquired by the students, for around thirty euros. The project has a dual ecological aspect with the promotion of soft mobility and the rehabilitation of old bicycles, but also a social aspect, with low prices for

students and professional reintegration.

Each year, the Crous de Versailles organizes the recovery of bicycles abandoned by students in residences which are repaired, or revalued for parts thanks to local recycling centers and sold at very low prices to students. In total, more than 50 bicycles are thus revalued per year and sold for 20 euros. In addition, various local initiatives organized by establishments thus allowing a real circuit of bicycle use and promoting the use of more sustainable mobility. Grenoble, which has a large student population (65,000 students), organizes a mobility challenge every year in June.

"It is a real tool for promoting and raising awareness of alternative modes of transport to the individual car intended for all companies, administrations or associations. Indeed, on D-Day, everyone is invited to leave their individual car in the garage in favor of walking, cycling, public transport or carpooling to make their home-work journey. It is also a mobilization tool to unite employees and the local economic fabric around a common event, and a fun and friendly way to promote public transport and all the safer, more economical and cleaner solutions for getting around. Higher education institutions are mobilizing students to participate in these challenges.

Consumption

Challenges

French people's purchases (non-food) represent 1.4 tons of CO2 per year, or around 15% of emissions (according to Carbone 4). There is an interest in reducing purchases, in an approach of sobriety in order to reduce our needs. Also, Europe produces 2.2 billion tons of consumables¹⁵.

Actions

Vegetable garden, shared garden

In order to put biodiversity back at the heart of the Campuses, one possibility is to allow students to have access to a shared garden. This garden has the dual effect of reintroducing new species of plants, providing an activity for students by making them aware of nature, and being able to consume very local vegetables and fruits.

At the Crous de Versailles, we have installed shared gardens in several of our residences. The problem encountered is that the gardens tend to be abandoned because of the students who leave. To overcome this problem, some Crous have set up partnerships with associations of the elderly, which allows the gardens to be maintained over the long term, and to create intergenerational social links.

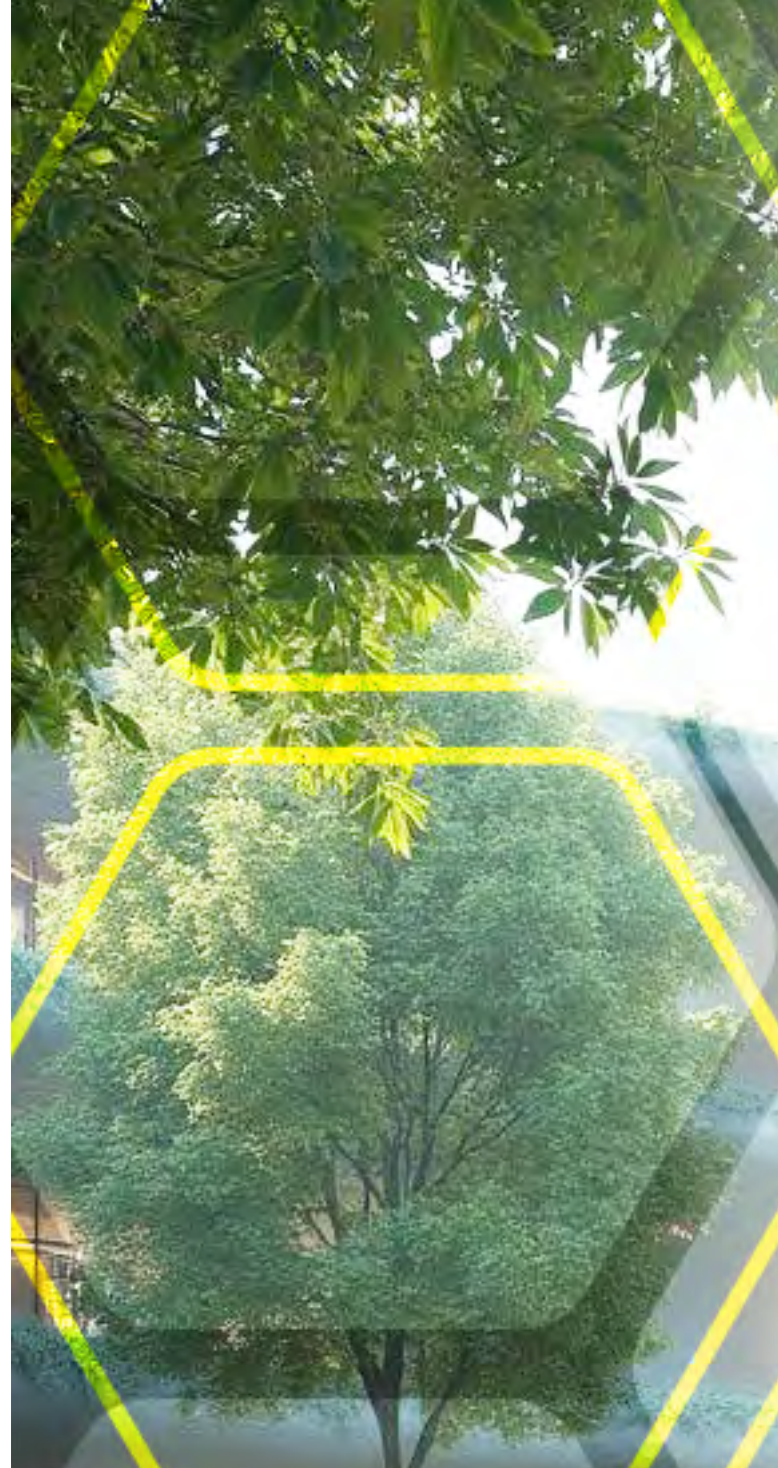
Resale store

To save the resources, a solution is to consume secondhand articles. This enables those articles to decrease their environmental cost. This can have a double effect, considering that secondhand articles are cheaper, which corresponds to student's needs.

In the Crous network, some Crous created a resale store in their buildings. Each resale collects old belongings from students at the end of the year (when most of them are moving out), and gives them back to next-year students, with premises made available.

Fablab

Fablab for repairing objects in certain engineering schools, repair café, etc.: fablab made available to students to use tools (drills, sanders, which allows the common areas to be cultivated). At the start of the school year, bicycle repair workshops are organized to allow new arrivals and former students of the residences to learn how to maintain their bicycles and also to indicate their needs for the organization of bicycle sales.



Reusable menstrual protections

In France, 10% of menstruating people are in menstrual insecurity, a percentage that rises to 15% among students (source statista). In addition, 45 billion disposable towels are thrown away worldwide (source: reseau-environnement-sante), so the social and eco-friendly aspects are cool.

Given these figures, several Crous in France, including the one in Versailles, have set up a regular purchase and free distribution of reusable sanitary protection. With regular orders each year and at least 12 distributions per year, the Crous in Versailles reaches more than 10,000 people each year.

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Social ties

Environmental issues

To motivate commitment to the ecological transition, we must also make this transition happy, by including everyone, so it is important to train people. According to a study by “Parlons Climat”, it is estimated that in 2023, 36% of people will be climate skeptics, thus showing the interest in including, raising awareness and supporting this transition in a positive way.

Actions

Organization of Green festival

Organization of festivals – different Crous in France organised festivals directly linked with the ecological transition and many of them have the project to create events that include more ecological aspects.

Ecological workshop

Crous de Versailles: workshops in the residences. Each year, several workshops are organized in the residences combining social ties and ecological transition, such as DOY workshops for eco-responsible cleaning or hygiene products, vegetarian and low-budget cooking workshops, etc.

Raising awareness

In France, it is educational establishment must provide an ecological teaching to student, in order to inform them about climate change. Understanding this phenomenon people to understand better the measures that will be implemented to fight against it.

The Crous de Versailles has decided to help establishments with the setup of those teaching. A partnership has been made with teaching associations, establishment and the



Crous Raising awareness among students in the academy. The Crous de Versailles has funded climate change awareness workshops (an UNDERSTAND workshop and an ACT workshop). By signing partnership agreements with the establishments, more than 2,700 students have been trained in these workshops.



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