

PLAN OF ACTION FOR OUR ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

2020-2023



How can we make Sciences Po a more eco-friendly, energy-efficient place to work, study, and conduct research? This first plan of action for our ecological transition will propose a series of priorities in order to progressively transform our institution, our campuses, and our practices between now and 2023. These priorities fall under 10 overall objectives, which aim to reduce the ecological footprint of our campuses and activities.

This action plan forms one part of the much wider “*Climate Action: Make it Work*” programme, an initiative launched by Sciences Po in 2015 in response to increasingly pressing ecological concerns, and significantly developed since spring 2019. *Make it Work* is built on three founding commitments: to transforming our campuses and practices, as envisioned in this plan of action, to undertaking a review of our teaching and research, spearheaded by Professor Bruno Latour, and to raising awareness amongst our communities and the wider public, particularly by way of a series of dedicated events.

The whole of Sciences Po is now working together to achieve these goals: acting on our responsibility as an institution, as a centre for learning, and, above all, as a place of instruction. It is both with and for our students that we hold to these commitments.

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This action plan begins by introducing 10 key objectives for a more sustainable campus, each of which is broken down into a set of concrete actions. It then outlines the procedure and tools that will be necessary in order to implement and monitor each action over the course of the project.

In November 2019, Sciences Po consulted its communities in order to gather their ideas regarding the ecological transition of our campuses. Much of the content of this action plan has been nourished by our “Sustainable Campus” consultation. Any commitments marked with a “” are taken directly from it.

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TEN OBJECTIVES FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

1. REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT: MOBILITY AND RESOURCE CONSUMPTION

Objective 1 - Reduce transport pollution from work-related travel

In 2018, Sciences Po implemented a travel policy establishing a set of common travel rules for all employees. It is now mandatory that all employees take the train for any journey of up to three hours each way. We wish to develop this policy further in order to significantly increase the number of journeys taken by train. Furthermore, though video conferencing tools do exist at Sciences Po, they are often little known. We plan to communicate about their existence, to further improve their quality, and to encourage their use as an alternative to pollutant business trips. Finally, students across all our campuses have expressed the need to expand bicycle parking space and provide more racks. We will continue to work on this in partnership with local councils.

- **Review and assessment:** Discuss the feasibility of a report on CO2 emissions related to professional travel.
- **Awareness-raising:** Inform our communities on the volume of work-related travel.
- **Commitment 1:** Optimise our travel policy in order to increase the number of professional trips taken by train.
- **Commitment 2:** Encourage the use of video conferences.
- **Commitment 3:** 🚲 Expand bicycle racks and facilitate the repairing and purchasing of second-hand bicycles onsite, notably by establishing partnerships.
- **Indicator:** Equivalent in tons of CO2.

Objective 2 - Reducing energy and water consumption

Various energy studies and audits have been conducted in recent years, leading to ad-hoc measures being adopted in order to lower our use of resources. Now we would like to implement a coordinated strategy on resource use and on the optimisation of our premises so as to significantly reduce consumption across the board.

- **Review and assessment:** Produce an energy report for all our buildings and implement regular water and energy consumption checks.
- **Awareness-raising:** 🚲 Conduct training sessions with our communities in order to reduce general electrical consumption (lighting, computers).
- **Commitment 1:** 🚲 Improve the heat efficiency of our buildings (heating optimisation, insulation, natural cooling methods).
- **Commitment 2:** Optimise our use of lighting (introduce LED or energy-efficient light bulbs, favour motion sensor light switches).
- **Commitment 3:** Reduce water consumption (installation of dual-flush toilets and automatic sink faucets, regular surveillance of consumption in order to detect and repair leaks).
- **Indicator:** kWh consumed.

Objective 3 - Reducing digital pollution

Our research and teaching fully integrates digital tools and their use is indispensable to the successful functioning of the institution and the development of its projects. Without calling this principle into question, we commit to informing our communities on the impact of excessive digital consumption and to putting measures in place to encourage more informed choices of digital software and more moderate daily use of them.

- **Review and assessment:** Conduct a review of our digital pollution (storage of emails, servers, drives, website).
- **Awareness-raising:**  Conduct training sessions to inform our communities on the environmental impact of digital tools and to provide details of potential search motor alternatives.
- **Commitment 1:**  Limit the stock of digital data (drive, website) and the exchange of files (emails), particularly by developing a set of best practices.
- **Engagement 2 :**  Promote a more considered management of our stock of IT and audiovisual equipment and limit replacements of old equipment by prolonging the lifespan of the original.
- **Indicators:** Volume of stored data and average lifespan of equipment.

2. LIMITING THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF OUR ACTIVITIES: WASTE REDUCTION, RECYCLING, REUSE, AND CREATION OF GREEN SPACES

Objective 4 - Reducing single-use plastic waste

As of the academic year 2019/2020, Sciences Po has committed to removing all plastic water bottles from its campuses and has already put in place several measures to achieve that: purchase of carafes, market research to tender to the renewal and expansion of our water fountains, inventory of vending machines compatible with external containers). These actions will be developed and widened in order to generate a significant reduction in single-use plastic waste on our campuses.

- **Review and assessment:** Produce a review of our single-use plastic consumption.
- **Awareness-raising:**  Raise awareness of plastic pollution amongst our communities (by organising zero waste or DIY workshops, clean-up walks for students and employees).
- **Commitment 1:**  Prohibit the sale of plastic water bottles onsite, increase the number of water fountains, and encourage the use of carafes.
- **Commitment 2:**  Introduce vending machines compatible with personal containers.
- **Commitment 3:**  Reduce the use of disposable plates and cutlery within our food services (cafeterias, caterers).
- **Indicators:** Quantity of bottles and cups purchased by the institution; mass of bottles collected (recycling).

Objective 5 - Reducing paper consumption

With regards to printing, a stock of communal printer-photocopiers is available on all the campuses. We commit to implementing new measures in order to reduce our paper consumption.

- **Review and assessment:** Conduct a review of our paper consumption.
- **Awareness-raising:** Inform and train users so as to limit printing to a strict necessity.
- **Commitment 1:**  Consolidate printing policy: restrictions on colour printing (via quotas or graded permissions) and ensure that black and white and double-sided are the default settings across all our printers.
- **Commitment 2:** Reduce the number of printed institutional publications (any brochures, flyers, and pamphlets whose content is already online).
- **Commitment 3:** Promote sustainable design and communication: revise the graphic charter in order to reduce ink use and increase the lifespan of printed documents by deleting any information that will rapidly fall out of date.
- **Indicators:** Number of documents printed and mass of paper collected (recycling).

Objective 6 - Improve recycling

Sciences Po has replaced mixed-waste bins with recycling bins across all its premises. All buildings are now equipped with blue, yellow, and grey bins, allowing for the recycling of paper, plastic bottles, and metal cans. We will continue to work on improving the quality of recycling and on expanding it to include different kinds of waste.

- **Review and assessment:** Compile an inventory of the types of waste not currently recycled and estimate the corresponding quantities.
- **Awareness-raising:** Improve communication of instructions regarding recycling.
- **Commitment 1:**  Conduct a study into the feasibility of collecting and recycling cigarette butts, coffee capsules, and glass.
- **Commitment 2:**  Look into the possibility of onsite composting.
- **Indicator:** Mass of non-recycled waste collected.

Objective 7 - Encourage reuse of material

When replenishing our stock of technical equipment or furniture, we make use of external partners who only reuse a tiny proportion of old material. We will significantly increase the reuse of such items.

- **Review and assessment:** Conduct a review of the percentage of equipment and furniture that is reused.
- **Awareness-raising:** Inform our communities about possibilities for reuse.
- **Commitment 1:** Work on increasing the reuse of technical equipment externally and the reuse of furniture both internally (during room or office reorganisations) and externally, in the case of discarded or unusable items.
- **Commitment 2:** Generate opportunities for our communities to exchange material and furniture for free, during one-off organised events.
- **Indicator:** Percentage of furniture reused during room or office moves.

Objective 8 - Make our campuses greener and implement sustainable maintenance of green spaces.

Our campuses already count numerous green spaces on their premises and we pledge to plant still more. This is a particular focus of the Campus 2022 project, which will see 3,500 m² of gardens and green roofs planted on the new 1 Saint-Thomas campus, as well as the revamping of gardens at 13 rue de l'Université.

- **Review and assessment:** Calculate the total m² of all our green spaces and compile a list of garden maintenance contracts currently underway.
- **Awareness-raising:** Inform our communities on the m² of green spaces and the difference that gardens created at 1 Saint-Thomas will make to the energy efficiency of its buildings.
- **Commitment 1:** 🌱 Continue to plant on all the campuses.
- **Commitment 2:** Look into the possibility of eliminating pesticides in the maintenance of our green spaces.
- **Indicators:** m² of green space and contractual requirements in maintenance contracts.

3. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION: PURCHASING AND CATERING

Objective 9 - Reinforce our policy on responsible purchasing

Since the implementation of competitive markets in 2014, environmental selection criteria and incentive clauses have been integrated into all Sciences Po's public tenders. We wish to develop these, where appropriate, and to improve monitoring of them, so as to ensure that requirements are met throughout the course of the contract.

- **Review and assessment:** Compile a list of current contracts including one or more environmental criteria and/or incentive clauses, then draw up a roadmap by identifying the most strategic upcoming contracts in terms of the environment.
- **Awareness-raising:** Inform our communities about the criteria currently used in contracts and any potential developments planned in partnership with our contractors.
- **Commitment 1:** Introduce firmer environmental requirements or incentive clauses in all relevant contracts.
- **Engagement 2:** Improve monitoring of environment-related contractual commitments, so as to ensure that they are respected in the execution of the contract.
- **Indicator:** Green coverage ratio: the proportion of our external expenses that go towards public tenders including one or more environmental criteria and/or incentive clauses.

Objective 10 - Improving the catering offering on our campuses

Questions of catering are of key importance for students on all our campuses. The success of student association *Pavés'* self-led cafeteria on the Paris campus is a good illustration of that. We have initiated conversations with the suppliers of our cafeterias and vending machines, especially in order to improve the range of vegetarian options on offer. We will continue to research concrete solutions for tackling issues related to food, such as the quality of produce and limitation of food waste.

- **Review and assessment:** Conduct a review of the range of catering offered on our campuses and an estimation of the food waste generated by vending machines and cafeterias, in collaboration with our suppliers.
- **Awareness-raising:** Raise awareness amongst our communities as to more ecological ways of eating, particularly on the basis of the vegetable and orchard planting projects planned for the 1 Saint-Thomas campus and the 13 rue de l'Université.
- **Commitment 1:** 🌱 Increase the provision of local and sustainably sourced produce across on-site catering services.
- **Commitment 2:** 🌱 Expand the range of vegetarian options across on-campus catering.
- **Commitment 3:** 🌱 Combat food waste by offering reductions on unsold products at the end of day or by forming a partnership within the charity sector.
- **Indicator:** Proportion of local, sustainably sourced produce in on-campus catering, number of vegetarian options, and mass of unsold food waste (provided contractors deem this feasible).

A SUSTAINABLE COMMITMENT TOWARDS ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION: GOVERNANCE, STUDENT MOBILISATION, PARTNERSHIPS, AND PROMOTION

• Governance and student involvement

In order to ensure effective implementation of the action plan on ecological transition, we intend to establish a *Make it Work* steering committee. The committee will be in charge of coordinating varying elements of the initiative at an institutional level. We are also considering the possibility of appointing an ecological transition representative within each department and community.

The students of Sciences Po are already mobilised for the advancement of ecological transition: they have rich and relevant experience and are actively seeking opportunities for collaboration. We will be working with the university's student associations, especially in regards to awareness-raising and training within the student community. Numerous students have, furthermore, expressed a wish to conduct their Civic Learning Project on the theme of ecological transition. We will assist them in doing so by promoting opportunities with partner organisations and by allowing one or two students per year to conduct their project within the ecological transition team at Sciences Po.

• Academic partnerships

Environmental issues are already at the heart of some of our international academic alliances, such as the U7+ *Alliance of World Universities and the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate*. We wish to reinforce these collaborations and to enrol Sciences Po in other strategic networks of higher education both in France (the CIRSES network, for example) and internationally (*the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education*, for example), with the particular hope of sharing and identifying best practices within the field.

• Promotion

The promotion of institutional activity in relation to ecological transition remains largely to be developed. We would like to establish regular and dynamic communications on the subject, which will introduce all institutional actions currently underway, explain future initiatives, and share the university's environmental strategy with the various communities of Sciences Po. These communications will principally be executed via a page of the institutional website dedicated to the three founding commitments of the *Make it Work* initiative, as well as by means of existing internal and external communication tools.

In addition, an annual report of measures implemented over the year will be produced and presented before Sciences Po's governing body. This report will make use of the various indicators listed under each of the 10 objectives.

10 OBJECTIVES FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS



REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT: MOBILITY AND RESOURCE CONSUMPTION



LIMITING THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF OUR ACTIVITIES: WASTE REDUCTION, RECYCLING, REUSE, AND CREATION OF GREEN SPACES



RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION PURCHASING AND CATERING

