University of Gothenburg

ISCN-GULF Charter Report 2012
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Introduction

University of Gothenburg was one of the first universities to sign the COPERNICUS charter for sustainable development in 1993. The University thus committed itself to sustainable development in research, education and outreach as well as in environmental management.

As one of but a few universities worldwide, we are environmentally certified and registered according to both the European regulation of environmental management and audits, EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) and the International standard of environmental management, ISO 14001.

Judging from the global development, the sustainability issues will become even more important in the future. Our aim here is high. In the long-term, we intend to be one of the best universities in the world in this area.

A sustainable development and a reduced impact on the climate are central issues for the University of Gothenburg. More than 300 of our researchers are active within environment and sustainable development. The students can choose from approximately 500 courses and 60 educational programs within these areas. We provide anything from behavior science and environmental pedagogics to oceanography and sustainable enterprise. Along with our neighbor Chalmers University of Technology, we have a network of environmental researchers within areas such as carbon dioxide production, deforestation, motoring and environmental economics.

Increased internationalization is an important objective for the University of Gothenburg. One of the major challenges is to reduce our own greenhouse gas emissions, and that this will be undertaken in conjunction with increasingly internationalized research and education. A climate strategy for the future environmental work was adopted during 2010. The aim is to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide from our activities with 20 percent until 2015 compared to 2008. The areas in focus are travels and meetings, energy use and carbon offsetting. We also give a series of well visited climate seminars, have set up a climate council and take interest in the question of food and climate.

The University of Gothenburg is continually evolving to ensure a good working environment where all staff and students, irrespective of sex, ethnicity, religion or other beliefs, disabilities or sexual orientation, are given the best possible chance of development. An increased diversity among both students and staff contribute to a higher quality of research and education. The university strives towards an even gender distribution in all areas of the organization. It is characteristic of the university that there is a multitude of staff and student groups. The basic principle is the equal worth of all groups and possibilities of participation in research and education. The students’ committment in the university’s decision and preparatory processes is important, and that all encounters are marked by mutual respect. Though continuous work with common values according to the university’s ethical platform, the activities absorb experience and competence in order to contribute to the vision of the broad and open university, open to the outside world and engaged in the
development of society. Sustainable development is of great concern for the University of Gothenburg, and the social, economic and environmental consequences are always assessed in a longer perspective. This applies for humans and natural resources alike and is based on a holistic view of society’s needs, prerequisites and problems.

**On the University of Gothenburg**

The University of Gothenburg has 38,000 students and 6,000 employees. It is one of the major universities in northern Europe. We are also one of the most popular universities in Sweden – the University of Gothenburg has the highest number of applicants to many programmes and courses. The University’s roughly 40 different departments cover most scientific disciplines, making it one of Sweden’s broadest and most wide-ranging higher education institutions.

The University of Gothenburg has a proud tradition. As early as 1891 socially committed citizens gathered their resources and ideas for a better future in the Gothenburg College- the center of town, near the sea, in a constant exchange with the world.

More than 120 years later the business is still characterized by pronounced social, proximity to city life and openness to the outside world. The University has a strong local and regional support while research, education and collaboration is characterized by global engagement.

This means that we not only follow and highlights current issues - University of Gothenburg is also an active force that affects society.

In an international perspective, the University of Gothenburg is unusually comprehensive, with cutting-edge research in a number of dynamic research areas. Cooperation with Chalmers University of Technology, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, society at large and trade and industry has been consistently strengthened and intensified over recent years, as have international contacts and collaborative projects with partners abroad.

The University of Gothenburg has a global responsibility and should contribute to illuminating issues of relevance for both local and global social problems. The university has identified five research profiles: Health, Culture, Environment, Democracy and social development, and Knowledge formation and learning.

The university has joined the UN Global Compact as a condition for participation in the UN’s chain of suppliers for research reports, field work or other. The Global Compact comprises ten principles that the university commits itself to supporting, among other supporting and respecting protection for international human rights, abolishing discrimination in hiring staff, and during their employment, and supporting the precautionary principle concerning environmental risks.

Nationally, the university is a member of Public & Private Social Responsibility Initiative – CSR West Sweden and participates in a learning group on sustainable procurement.
The University of Gothenburg is as all universities in Sweden a state authority. According to Swedish law we are not allowed to own property which means that the university has activities in buildings of 381,100 square meters that we do not own. Main property owners are state-owned Akademiska Hus, the largest property company for universities in Sweden and Higab, a property company owned by Gothenburg City.

University of Gothenburg is a multi-site university within the city and has as well laboratories and units outside Gothenburg.

From a sustainability perspective the university board’s areas of responsibility are strictly regulated according to the laws that govern the university’s responsibilities and undertakings. Seven of the fourteen members of the board represent general interests. These are appointed by the government, after a proposal by the university. Moreover, there is the Vice-Chancellor, three teachers and three students who are all regular members of the board. Representatives of the staff, three labor union representatives, have the right to be present and speak at the board’s meetings. In the annual report there is an account of the board’s work pertaining to how student influence is apportioned and developed from a gender equality perspective. Since the university is not for-profit enterprise, there is no connection between the remuneration of the board and the university’s financial performance. Funds are invested with respect to ethical and environmental criteria, among which are OECD’s ethical guidelines and UN conventions. Thus, all funds are in principle invested with regard to sustainable development. In the annual report there is also an account of the board members’ other board assignments in order to preclude possible situations of challenge.
The University of Gothenburg has total revenue of 5,400 MSEK and is funded two thirds by appropriation funds and one third by external funds and other revenues.

**On this report**

This Charter report is based on the Sustainability Report 2012 and the Annual Report 2012 for the University of Gothenburg. In our action plan for sustainability 2011-2015 we set goals for all three principles focused on in the ISCN Charter;

1) *To demonstrate respect for nature and society, considerations should be an integral part of planning, construction, renovation and operation of buildings on campus.*
2) *To ensure long-term sustainable campus development, campus-wide master planning and target-setting should include environmental and social goals.*
3) *To align the organization’s core mission with sustainable development, facilities, research and education should be linked to create a “living laboratory” for sustainability.*

Our main focus lies in principle three; research and education. Together with our Sustainability Report 2012 and reports to Swedish authorities, examples and results from all activities can be found regarding to the Charter principles.

The Sustainability Report 2012 accounts for the University of Gothenburg’s work mainly in the environmental perspective. Social and economic perspectives is displayed in the GRI Content Index 2012. The report comprises the areas of essential impact of sustainable development that the university has identified.

The reporting is a follow-up of the university-wide action plan for environment and sustainable development for 2011-2015 and the commission for the faculties’ activities. The university’s environmental work is organized around the aspects of the activities that have the greatest environmental impact.

Links to The Sustainability Report 2012, The GRI Content Index 2012 and The Annual Report 2012 are attached to this Charter Report.
Principle 1

A short overview of management approach and performance of Principle 1 topics is given below. More details can be found in our Sustainability Report 2012.

Management Approach Principle 1

From a sustainability perspective the university board’s areas of responsibility are strictly regulated according to laws that govern the university’s responsibilities and undertakings. Seven of the fourteen members of the board represent general interests and are appointed by the government after a proposal by the university. Moreover, there is the Vice-Chancellor, three teachers and three students who are all regular board members.

Representatives of the staff and three labour union representatives, have the right to be present and speak at the board’s meetings. The board members who are appointed by the government should have competence and experience from activities of importance for the university’s commission in terms of education, research and interaction with the surrounding world.

The Head of University Administration reports directly to the Vice-Chancellor. The Head of University Administration represents four different University departments with eleven units and brings the concerns of each to the attention of the board of directors through this process.

During 2012, the President established a policy for new construction and refurbishment. The policy sets clear requirements on sustainability and the environment in new construction and refurbishment. Strategic issues related to profiling and visibility of the University's physical presence in the city are also managed here. A sustainability group will be appointed with the mandate to ensure that sustainability issues are included, and followed up in the major new construction and renovation work planned at the University of Gothenburg.
**Topics and Performance under Principle 1**

The Table below gives a short overview of the topics addressed by the University of Gothenburg, and related performance. Further information can be found in our Sustainability Report and the GRI Content Index (See Appendix 2 & 3):

- Indirect energy consumption: EN4 GRI, Sustainability Report p. 16
- Total Water Consumption: EN8 GRI
- Weight of Waste by disposal method (incl. recycling): EN22 GRI Sustainability report, Recycling and waste p. 12
- Number and Volume of Significant Spills: EN23 GRI No spillages occurred in 2012.
- Fines/Sanctions for environmental non-compliance: EN28 GRI ‘The University complies with relevant environmental legislation, and has not received any related fines in the period under review’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority topics (with units of measurement)</th>
<th>Performance 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resource Use</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct (fuels) and indirect (electricity/steam etc.) energy use</td>
<td>Electricity and heating consumption corrected for a normal year totalled 230 kWh/m² in 2012. This represents a drop of two per cent compared with 2011.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water use</td>
<td>A total water consumption of 146 746 m³.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall purchased products/materials (Auto emissions and green cleaning product requirements)</td>
<td>In 2012 environmental requirements were defined for the product or service in six out of nine procurements under framework agreements. Environmental questions or environmental requirements were defined for the supplier’s internal environmental work in seven out of nine framework agreements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waste Recycling, local emissions, and non-compliance</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solid waste and recycling</strong></td>
<td>The total volume of waste was 1,136 tonnes, representing an increase of four per cent compared with 2011.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waste costs, and savings achieved</strong></td>
<td>A total water consumption of 146,746 m³.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The volume of hazardous waste has fallen by nine per cent since 2011. Waste that is unsorted or is taken to landfill constituted three per cent of the total volume of waste in 2012.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Since 2009 the total volume of waste has fallen by 23 per cent and the proportion that is recycled or composted has risen by 14 percentage points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hazardous waste from laboratory facilities</strong></td>
<td>A total of 60 tons of hazardous waste from laboratory facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The volume of hazardous waste has fallen by nine per cent since 2011. In 2012 the number of chemical products included in the Swedish Chemicals Agency’s PRIO database (chemicals listed and in priority for removal by Swedish Chemicals Agency) was 2,138, an increase of about 28 per cent compared with 2011.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Principle 2

**Principle 2: To ensure long-term sustainable campus development, campus-wide master planning and target-setting should include environmental and social goals.**

Sustainable campus development needs to rely on forward-looking planning processes that consider the campus as a whole, and not just individual buildings. These processes can include comprehensive master planning with goals for impact management (for example, limiting use of land and other natural resources and protecting ecosystems), responsible operation (for example encouraging environmentally compatible transport modes and efficiently managing urban flows), and social integration (ensuring user diversity, creating indoor and outdoor spaces for social exchange and shared learning, and supporting ease of access to commerce and services). Such integrated planning can profit from including users and neighbors, and can be strengthened by organization-wide target setting (for example greenhouse gas emission goals). Existing low-carbon lifestyles and practices within individual campuses that foster sustainability, such as easy access for pedestrians, grey water recycling and low levels of resource use and waste generation, need to be identified, expanded and disseminated widely.

**Management Approach on Principle two**

As mentioned in the Management approach for Principle one The Vice-Chancellor heads the University and is its principal representative. The Vice-Chancellor leads the University’s activities with his or her responsibilities including implementing the decisions of the Board. Alongside the Vice-Chancellor is one Pro-Vice-Chancellor, who is also the Vice-Chancellor’s deputy. Together, the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the Head of Administration comprise the University’s executive function.

From July 1, 2012, the University of Gothenburg has four Deputy Vice-Chancellors with specific areas of responsibility. One is responsible for issues regarding education, chair of the Board of Education. One is responsible for issues regarding research. One is responsible for issues regarding external relations and innovation efforts. One is responsible for issues regarding quality management.

To secure that we have the required autonomy and that we are able to respond to all of the changes around us, we must clearly define our line of action for the future – both to ourselves and to our partners. This is the background to Vision 2020.

Four basic principles shall guide the University of Gothenburg: Our research, education and cooperation shall be characterised by a quest for high quality. Our standpoints and decisions shall be based on a clear responsibility for the development of society. Our work shall be guided by a global engagement that constantly reminds us of our role in the world. An inspiring work environment is an important prerequisite.
Topics and Performance under Principle 2

The Table below gives a short overview of the topics addressed by the University of Gothenburg, and related performance. Further information can be found in our Sustainability Report (See Appendix 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct &amp; Indirect (Scope 1 &amp; 2) Emissions</th>
<th>EN 16 GRI and Sustainability Report, Affect the climate, p.15 (emissions from travels, heating and electricity use)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other (Scope 3)</td>
<td>EN 17 GRI and Sustainability Report, Affect the climate, p.15 (emissions from travel, broken down by car train, and flight)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity in Management &amp; Staff</td>
<td>LA 13 GRI and Annual Report: Gender composition of the university see: Measures at recruitment p.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Groups engaged</td>
<td>Examples of Stakeholder communication, <a href="http://medarbetarportalen.gu.se/miljohan">http://medarbetarportalen.gu.se/miljohan</a> dbok/Uppfoljning/hallbarhetsredovisning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approaches to Stakeholder engagement</td>
<td>Examples of Stakeholder communication, <a href="http://medarbetarportalen.gu.se/miljohan">http://medarbetarportalen.gu.se/miljohan</a> dbok/Uppfoljning/hallbarhetsredovisning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Operations at which the right to freedom of association/collective bargaining may be at risk:

HR 5 GRI, ‘All employees are covered by collective agreements (see LA4). The freedom of association and collective bargaining is not at risk at any operations of the university’.

Injury and absenteeism rates

LA 7 GRI and Annual Report p. 60 Sickness absence

Serious disease prevention and risk control for staff, their families and the community:

LA 8 GRI

Land managed near protected areas

EN 11 GRI
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority topics</strong> (with units of measurement)</td>
<td><strong>Performance 2012</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institution-wide carbon targets and related achievements</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon emissions</td>
<td>The University’s total carbon dioxide emissions from travel and energy in 2012 totalled 6,816 tonnes. This represents a reduction of 13 per cent compared with 2011. More than half of the carbon dioxide emissions come from air travel covering more than 500 km. All flights were offset in a UN-approved climate project that meets the requirements of the Gold Standard quality label. Total emissions fell by about 18 per cent compared with 2008. This result is largely due to the transition to green electricity as well as a significant reduction in fossil energy used for heating.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Principle 3

Principle 3: To align the organization’s core mission with sustainable development, facilities, research, and education should be linked to create a “living laboratory” for sustainability.

On a sustainable campus, the built environment, operational systems, research, scholarship, and education are linked as a “living laboratory” for sustainability. Users (such as students, faculty, and staff) have access to research, teaching, and learning opportunities on connections between environmental, social, and economic issues. Campus sustainability programs have concrete goals and can bring together campus residents with external partners, such as industry, government, or organized civil society. Beyond exploring a sustainable future in general, such programs can address issues pertinent to research and higher education (such as environmental impacts of research facilities, participatory teaching, or research that transcends disciplines). Institutional commitments (such as a sustainability policy) and dedicated resources (such as a person or team in the administration focused on this task) contribute to success.

Management Approach Principle 3

As mentioned in the Management approach for Principle one the Head of University Administration reports directly to the Vice-Chancellor. The Administration Head represents the four departments consisting of eleven units under his jurisdiction. One of those units is the Environmental Unit and it is led by the Environmental Manager. It is responsible for internal environmental performance at University of Gothenburg.

The Vice-Chancellor heads the University and is its principal representative. The Vice-Chancellor leads the University’s activities with his or her responsibilities including implementing the decisions of the Board. Alongside the Vice-Chancellor is one Pro-Vice-Chancellor, who is also the Vice-Chancellor’s deputy. Together, the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the Head of Administration comprise the University’s executive function.

The Vice Chancellor takes reports from all participants in the University Management Organization and then presents them to the board of directors for approval.

Input from the Sustainability connected entities mentioned here ensure that sustainability and sustainable education is constantly considered by the board of directors whenever decisions are made. Since student and staff representatives also report to the board of directors, the growing demand for sustainability related education emanating from the student body etc. is consistently delivered to the board of directors. Follow the link below for details: http://www.gu.se/english/about_the_university/organisation/

Also, see Sustainability Report 2012 p.3 for more details
**Topics and Performance under Principle 3**

The Table below gives a short overview of the topics addressed by the University of Gothenburg, and related performance. Further information can be found in our Sustainability Report and GRI Content Index (See Appendix 2 and 3)

Interval principals relevant to economic, social, and environmental performance: DMA EC GRI; DMA EN GRI; DMA SO GRI

Externally developed economic, environmental, and social principles the organization endorses:

4.12 GRI, See also HR2 GRI, and Sustainability Report; Purchases p. 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority topics</strong> (with units of measurement)</td>
<td><strong>Performance 2012</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topical interaction</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labeling courses that integrate sustainability</td>
<td>25 per cent of the courses have the sustainability label (518 out of 2,024), representing an increase of two percentage points since 2011. 40 per cent of the programmes have the sustainability label (64 out of 162), representing a fall of four percentage points since 2011.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Integration</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecting Campus users with industry, government and Civil society</td>
<td>During the year the University hosted 750 activities that focused on sustainable development, representing a fall of 19 per cent compared with 2011.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student interaction and social cohesion on campus</td>
<td>The number of collaborative activities initiated by or for students was 59. 260 students took part in Sustainability Day 2012.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional development</td>
<td>In 2012, 859 people took part in skills enhancement programmes in the field of sustainable development. This represents 17 per cent of the University’s employees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2012 there were 190 published scientific articles on the issue of sustainable development, representing an increase of 36 per cent compared with 2011. The number of published scientific articles on the issue of sustainable development has increased by 97 per cent since 2008. The total number of published scientific articles during the same period has increased by 16 per cent. In 2012, 317 researchers, teachers and doctoral students participated in the Centre for Environment and Sustainability’s (GMV) sustainable development network. This represents an increase of 6 per cent compared with 2011.

Appendix 1: Overview of additional information

The Sustainability Report for 2012, along with GRI Content Index and the Annual report 2012 of The University of Gothenburg, meet the guidelines for sustainability reporting according to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

In GRI Content Index there is an account of the sustainability indicators and information on the sustainability steering that the University of Gothenburg reports for 2012.

Our Sustainability Report 2012 and our GRI Content Index 2012 is an integral part of this ISCN-GULF Charter Report, and links to these can be found in the Appendix 2 and 3.

Appendix 2: Sustainability Report 2012


Appendix 3: GRI Content Index 2012


Appendix 4: Årsredovisning (Annual report) 2012 för Göteborgs universitet (in Swedish)


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