

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

THE UNIVERSITY OF OSLO  
STUDENT DRIVEN GREEN OFFICE





# WHO ARE WE?

Located at the heart of UiO's main campus at the Frederikke building, the Green Office serves as a central hub for sustainability, connecting students, staff, and local green actors. The Green Office is open on weekdays from 10:00 to 14:00 for anyone to drop by to share ideas, peruse the Free Shop, plan green events, or just enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. The office is also available for use outside of opening hours to host events, meetings, workshops, and other activities.

A core objective of the office is to help strengthen existing sustainable efforts at UiO, and contribute to making the university reach the goals outlined in the [Comprehensive Climate and Environment Strategy](#).

## THE GREEN OFFICE STRIVES TO BE:

- A SPACE FOR SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES AT BLINDERN
- AN INSTIGATOR FOR PROJECTS, CAMPAIGNS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES
- A POINT OF CONNECTION FOR STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS, ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WHO WORK TO MAKE UIO A MORE SUSTAINABLE PLACE.



# THE GREEN OFFICE OPENS ITS DOORS!

**NORWAY'S FIRST STUDENT-RUN SUSTAINABILITY CENTER WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY UIO'S VICE RECTOR METTE HALSKOV HANSEN MARCH 2023 WITH A GREAT RIBBON-CUTTING CELEBRATION AND FULL HOUSE OF OVER SIXTY ATTENDEES.**

The launch of a Green Office at the University of Oslo came about as a result of UiO's Climate and Environmental Strategy. Funding is provided by the university until the end of 2024, with the option to be extended depending on the Green Office's impact.

# LONG TERM PROJECTS & COLLABORATIONS

In the spring semester we made progress in getting organized and establishing routines. At the same time we started several projects, hosted countless events and activities, and started to connect with departments, student organizations, staff and students. Lots of work is being done by dedicated individuals and organizations and faculties, and we are excited to continue to make these collaborations central to our work.

With new events organized and promoted every week, there is always something going on at the Green Office – its been a dynamic space for green activity from the start. Since we opened in March 2023, we have hosted over 50 events! We have been given a broad mandate and responsibility to be an instigator and point of connection for sustainable activities, and have planned our activities with this mandate in mind.





# THE ROOFTOP GARDEN

The UiO Rooftop Initiative ([Facebook page](#), [Instagram](#)) was started in 2020 by a group of students in collaboration with the Park Department. The Rooftop consists of 15 planter boxes at Vilhelm Bjerknes house. The aim was to install rooftop gardens at the University of Oslo to contribute to organic food production. The students involved have graduated and the Green Office took over responsibility for the initiative. Because the Blindern Student Garden already focuses on food production, The Green Office prioritized wildflowers for pollinators in the rooftop's planter boxes, rather than vegetables. We also grew some strawberries, beans, herbs and carrots and enjoyed the produce together.

A regular group of members or volunteers is not yet in place, but we had great success involving the participants in the International Summer School. We have established a partnership with the Student Garden and have worked together with them to grow seedlings, harvest seeds for the Seed Library at HumSam, brainstorm ideas for increased biodiversity at campus, and cohost workshops planting sunflowers, creating seed bombs and insect hotels, and even a gardening workshop with the SiO Kindergarten. Partnering with the Blindern Student Garden, we hosted a garden party at the end of summer to welcome students back to campus and bring awareness to the garden.

Due to a water leakage at Vilhelm Bjerknes house, the garden has been temporarily disassembled, and we will do a proper reorganization of it during spring 2024.

# THE REWILDING PROJECT

We have worked extensively on rewilding campus which has received less attention in UiO's strategy. Just one goal and two action points in UiO's climate and environment action plan are concerned with biodiversity (Goal 4, C4.1, C4.2). Nevertheless, UiO has large campus grounds at Blindern, so we see this as a great opportunity for working toward more sustainability.

We are collaborating with the gardeners, who plan to disseminate their work on improving biodiversity at campus with signs, explaining practices such as scything and not mowing, and allowing long grass meadows to increase annually while balancing biodiversity goals with student recreation. The Green Office has authored a report with a list of seven proposals for increasing biodiversity, which it delivered to the Park Section in December 2023. We will meet with the gardeners in January 2024 to evaluate and discuss the proposals.

Lastly, we have begun collaborating with Ignite, a student innovation project with a workshop and laboratory situated at Vilhelm Bjerknes' Hus. The building is home to the university's Natural Sciences students, an audience which the Green Office has struggled connecting to. Our first collaborative project is making flower beds in the winter of the spring semester 2024; in these we shall plant meadow plants to increase biodiversity at campus.



# PLANT-BASED UNIVERSITIES CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED



This year the Green Office facilitated the formation of the Plant-Based Universities (PBU) project group, an independent student-led activism campaign under the umbrella of UK-initiated 'Plant-Based Universities' campaign, which has already achieved landmark votes for fully plant-based transition at eight universities since its launch in 2021.

The goal of the Plant-Based Universities campaign is to make the food selection on campus more sustainable, with a special emphasis on shifting to 100% plant-based canteens. The campaign focuses its effort on SiO canteens, cafes, and kiosks on campus.

PBU is part of a broader network of universities spanning multiple countries that are working to get universities aligned with their scientific research by transitioning the University canteens to plant-based, a solution often cited as one of the most effective ways to reduce the university's carbon footprint. The campaign has been in the works throughout the fall semester, and has achieved the following:

- Completed a campaign strategy training
  - Built a core team of 4 students
  - Gathered information about key actors and avenues for creating institutional change
  - Created a table banner, and are in the process of painting a 10-meter banner for a banner drop action next semester
  - Held 2 tabling sessions talking with students about the campaign and answering questions

Efforts will continue in 2024, with goals to grow student involvement, arrange actions, and start conversations with university stakeholders at SiO and the student parliament.

# THE FREE SHOP

2023

To facilitate more sustainable consumption among students and employees, the Green Office has established a Free Shop. One corner of the Green Office is set aside for clothing racks and a shelf as a constantly running swap space where people at UiO can donate pre-loved goods and get secondhand things for free.

More than 200 garments have swapped owners since we started, and at the end of the year the shop has been expanded with furniture gifted to us by the Estate department. Goods in the Free Shop are labeled with information about the effects of production of clothes and goods, bringing facts about clothing overconsumption to those who use the free shop. Instead of Black Friday, we hosted a Green Friday Pop-Up Free Shop with an expanded selection of pre-loved clothes, a presentation about sustainable consumption and a mug painting activity that kept students engaged and chatting all afternoon!







# REPAIR WORKSHOPS

By repairing our belongings, we reduce waste. We have acquired a basic supply of tools for clothing repair, including sewing machines, needles, thread, fabric scraps, scissors, and more. The back room of the office has a drop-in working space available for students during office hours. We also host repair workshops at least once per month that give students and employees the opportunity to repair broken objects like textiles and electrical appliances. Gamle Oslo Husflidslag has been our main collaborator and skilled support. In the future we hope to expand our collaborations with the main organization to get help from all surrounding regional Husflidslag.

We have also had one-off workshops in collaboration with other initiatives such as the “Knit-off!”, Repair workshop for wool and knitwear and Green Christmas crafts workshop together with the Hum-Sam library, Strikk og Drikk, and Repair party with Restarters Norway. More than 100 people came to the events. At the repair party with Restarters, we managed to repair 9 items with an estimated 664 kg CO2 emissions, or 18kg of waste prevented. These events have shown that joining existing initiatives helps introduce new crowds of students to the Green Office.



# THE GREEN NETWORK

According to our mandate, the Green Office should be a hub for environmental student associations at UiO. This has primarily been accomplished through monthly Green Network gatherings, which are regular and informal evening meetings with green associations at the Green Office.

Fifteen different organizations joined the first Green Network gathering in the spring, and we had the chance to learn about the environmental work students are already engaged in. Over the course of the year, we saw lower numbers in attendance as organizations have limited capacity. Our goal was not to add more work to students' plates, but to support existing initiatives, so the future of the Green Network Gathering is currently being restructured so that interactions between the Green Office and student associations can be more effective and valuable to student associations.

Student organizations are very active at Blindern, despite lower participation since the Covid-19 pandemic. We will continue to support and funnel new students into these initiatives by showcasing their work at the Green Office.

Additionally, the Green Office has begun a close collaboration with Arbeidsutvalget at the Student Parliament, specifically with the Environmental Chair. We meet monthly, co-host relevant events, and coordinate strategy for green policies at UiO.

The Green Office also serves as a physical space for green associations to utilize. So far, Spire, XR, and the Student Garden have used it as an office space to host meetings, and we hope more student groups will make themselves at home in our office in the future.

# COLLABORATING WITH STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Green Office is proud to be a space that can be accessed and utilized creatively by those in our community! Some examples of these initiatives are workshops and events hosted by friends of the office. Some students taking part in a course 'Meat Cultures' decided to host a panel discussion at the green office, discussing possible futures of meat consumption and sustainability, with more than 50 people in attendance. In the autumn, a Daniel Fuller, a local poet, hosted an eco-poetry workshop, which was well attended and facilitated creative and expansive conversations.

## WASTE REDUCTION PROJECT WITH THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Another exciting collaboration is a pilot project with the Faculty of Humanities (HF) and the Estate Department on waste management, focusing on paper waste and disposable cups. We are very happy that they reached out to us as we believe we have a potential to function as a partner in co-creating projects and campaigns. A project group at GO worked out a comprehensive document with ideas and background information to send to HF, who will hopefully implement some of the ideas in 2024.



## BORROWING IS RADICAL

We work closely with the HumSam library, co-hosting events and supporting their norm shifting work. We believe that borrowing is a radical idea and the library is one of the oldest institutions based on the idea of a circular economy.

We have collaborated on introducing environmental magazines and books on re-design and repair in the library's collection. Together with the student association Strikk & Drikk (Knit & Drink) we organized a series of events focusing on reuse and repair of wool and yarn. More than 100 students joined these events. The Green Office also contributed to one of the library's book club events and gave a kick-off talk to their employees during semester start, to instil notions of the library being a leader and norm-shifter in relation to sustainability.

In the coming year we will collaborate on further developing the tool library and establish a seed library.

# GREEN OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

The Green Office launched a volunteer program shortly after opening in March. By promoting the opportunity to volunteer by collecting signups during the March opening event, stand during the fall semester start, and on a QR code sign that is always visible in the window of our office, we have collected over 50 volunteer signups. In Fall 2023 we launched a GO Volunteer WhatsApp community, with separate groups for each of our large projects. Despite the high level of interest in volunteering, volunteer engagement has been lower than expected so far. Communication with volunteers has been limited due to resource constraints.

In 2024 we plan to create a more structured volunteer program, devoting more time to connecting with volunteers, including hosting volunteer-specific events and regular meetings. We will focus on deepening volunteer engagement, rather than widening our reach. We also plan to post specific volunteer opportunities on our website and emphasize their value as work experience and a CV boost for students.



# GREEN PROJECT FUNDS

According to our mandate we shall contribute to measure U5.2 in the action plan for climate and environment by distributing project funding that students can apply for in collaboration with employees and/or student organizations. A plan has been in development in collaboration with UiO's Vice Rector for Energy and the Environment (Mette Halskov Hansen) and her team, and we plan to launch the funding in Spring 2024.

So much great work and an abundance of fresh ideas are popping up all around the university, and we hope that this funding will support these initiatives, with broadly diverse focuses, and shared goals. We hope that it can provide resources to empower students to partner with faculty and bring their sustainable ideas to life!

# EVENT AND PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



## WELCOMING STUDENTS AFTER SUMMER VACATION

During Semesterstart, we were present with a stand at Frederikkeplassen each day from August 14-18 during the Buddy start week, when students were welcomed to campus for a new semester of studies 14-18 August. The aim was to be visible and approachable for new students to learn about ours and UiO's work related to climate and the environment. At the stand we offered a free Green Oslo Map, seedlings, and coffee. Part of the Free Shop was also brought outside. We organized an alcohol-free movie night and sustainability scavenger hunt. Overall, the stand was a remarkable success in terms of outreach, and we estimated that we spoke with over 1,000 students throughout the week.



# REUSE DAY

The Green Office had a large stand as part of UiO's Reuse Day on 23 August. Our stand consisted of several activities: Free Shop with clothes and school supplies, the Deli Dumpster borrowed from Future in Our Hands with free food and a quiz about food waste, tools and paint for upcycling furniture from Renovasjonsetaten's stand, free seedlings and a DIY pot maker station with pots made of old Universitas newspapers. Inside the Green Office we had a waste art activity making paper cranes from old newspapers, and at the end of the day we filled a bus with students and took a field trip to Romerike Avfallsforedling where the students picked up free secondhand furniture and household goods for their dorms. It was a great success and we talked with about 150 students during the day.



# CAN DEGROWTH SAVE THE PLANET?

In collaboration with Centre for Development and Environment we organized the panel talk “Can degrowth save the planet?” with Arne Næss professor 2024, Jason Hickel at Domus Bibliotheca. The conversation with Hickel focused on how we can best solve the triple crises the world is facing: the climate crisis, the nature crisis and the inequality crisis.

The panel consisted of Green Office project coordinator Holly Benna and SUM professor Benedicte Bull. 195 people signed up! We're so proud to host these conversations about the systemic and oppressive roots of the climate crisis, with an emphasis on critical and justice oriented solutions.



## OCEAN WEEK

From September 25th to 29th we organized Ocean Week, a week filled with exciting activities to highlight the ocean and its importance for a sustainable future. On this occasion, we collaborated with organizations working towards this cause in the Oslo region, like Ting med Tang, Marea, Northern Company and Seaweed Solutions. The idea was to disseminate knowledge to the curious and provide a platform for organizations actively involved in existing efforts.

We aimed for a week of diverse activities with the goal of engaging and raising awareness among students, staff, and others. The themes we highlighted during the week were aquaculture, food security, ocean pollution and biodiversity.



---

To begin with, the Green Office served as a distributor of free clean-up equipment for volunteers interested in arranging waste cleanups the whole week. Participants were encouraged to find an area to clean up, bring friends or family, and visit the Green Office at UiO during opening hours to get started. The Rydde app was recommended for planning waste management.

We also hosted a workshop with Marea, an organization actively involved in marine restoration initiatives in Norway, where participants could make a sea squirt hotel.

A midweek panel discussion titled "Oceans and the Future of Food Security" took place at Klimahuset, exploring the ocean's role in providing food security. Panelists included both academics and professionals. The discussion was followed by a free tasting menu of seaweed and kelp dishes from Northern Company.

The last day of Ocean Week featured a talk and taste event about eating seaweed with Ting med Tang, offering insights into harvesting and cooking seaweed. The day concluded with an "Ocean Night" at the Green Office, including bubbles and music to celebrate the end of Ocean Week. The night featured an intimate performance with Ane Maria Døhl playing The Nøkk on her 'hardingfele', and attendees were invited to have non-alcoholic drinks, friends, and family for a break from work and school.



# GREEN WEEK

As a response to the consumption-focused Black Week November 20 - 24, we organized Green Week with a repair workshop for clothes at the Green Office, a Christmas crafts workshop with secondhand materials at the HumSam library, and a Green Friday pop-up event at KUPP, SiO's space across the hall from GO. Green Friday was a larger version of the free shop with high-quality clothing donations we had saved during the semester. Additionally we had a slideshow on the wall with information about consumption-related emissions, an idea board for sustainable gift ideas, and a mug painting station to upcycle some plain white mugs that were donated to the office. Several of the Green Office volunteers were central in the planning and organizing and the whole event was had a very nice vibe with many attendees. It was easy and simple to host while shifting the focus towards sustainable consumption.



# COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

We have spent this year developing our communications channels, strategy, brand identity and routines, in close collaboration with UiO's Communications department and in alignment with the broader UiO brand. It has been time- and resource-consuming, but we deemed it essential to do this work thoroughly.

Our website was launched as soon as we opened our doors. It has information about our projects and events, and invites people to sign up for our newsletter, get involved as a volunteer, or contact us. [Green Office - University of Oslo \(uio.no\)](https://www.uio.no/greenoffice)



The Green Office acts as a "mailbox" where both students and employees can provide input and suggestions on how UiO as a study and workplace can be made more sustainable. From the start we have promoted that we are here to listen to staff and students' green ideas, and then make those ideas, events, problems, and opportunities more visible for the purposes of enabling systemic changes. Some ways we have done this include:

- Promoting our Green Office email ([greenoffice@uio.no](mailto:greenoffice@uio.no)) as the place to send any questions, requests, ideas, and sometimes even complaints, about sustainability at UiO
- Placing a physical Green Idea board outside the office entrance, open for anyone to write their ideas
- Holding open office hours where anyone can come in and share, discuss, ask questions, or seek guidance
- Specific calls to action in the monthly newsletter: inviting people to drop by the office, running polls, and asking for concrete suggestions
- Strengthening connections with key actors in the green space so that they feel comfortable coming to us with their thoughts and ideas

In large part, our efforts have worked – we have received many suggestions, ideas, wishes, and proposals across all outlets (and yes, even a few complaints!). We received a total of 58 green idea board suggestions and countless more suggestions from office visitors, volunteers, emails, and event attendees. Many of these ideas have grown to become their own projects or events, improvements to existing operations like our repair workshops, and even fully-fledged activist campaigns like the Plant-Based Universities campaign.

---

# SOCIAL MEDIA

2023

Our Facebook group [UiO - Grønt kontor/Green office](#) was launched during the fall semester and has served as a collaborative network for student associations, environmentalist groups, green businesses and other students and stakeholders to learn about the work and events of the Green Office, and also to share their green work, events, and opportunities to get involved in. It has been essential for us to be able to create our own events on this platform to reach out to students. At the end of the year, there were approximately 150 members in the Facebook group. We are continuing to work on increasing our engagement and attendance during events.

Since we do not have our own platform on instagram, UiO's Social Media team shares our events weekly. We are excited to continue this collaboration and plan to develop more content together in 2024, highlighting our initiatives and sustainability best practices at Blindern.

In our monthly newsletter we share green events and opportunities at UiO by email to more than 220 recipients. [Sign up for The Green Office Newsletter](#)



# LIMA

## Oppretter nye stiler på Grønt kontorkontor

Den åpner landets første grønne studentstue i Fredrikkebygningen på Blindern. Kontoret blir en arena for klima- og aktivitet. En møteplass og et kontaktpunkt for studenter og ansatte som har ideer, innspill og spørsmål om hvordan UiO som studie- og arbeidsplass kan bli mer bærekraftig. «Det er viktig å ha et sted å gå foran i klimaarbeidet. Vi vet også at det er et enormt engasjement blant studentene og ansatte på de problemene klimakrisen medfører», skriver Prosjektleder Anne-Line. Det er studenter som har startet prosjektet ved sentret, og de har fått utlyst fem nyopprettede 20% stillinger til å jobbe med. Stillingene innebærer å innføre grønne prosjekter og aktiviteter, etter søknad og mål som er formålstilrette i den helhetlige miljøstrategien som universitetet har vedtatt. De som er engasjert i klimakampen, og har ideer om hvordan Blindern kan bli en mer bærekraftig arbeidsplass, burde da sende inn en søknad før den 1. oktober.



Mer klimafokus: Anne-Line Sandåker og Lucas Werik-Wolff sammen på det grønne kontoret. Her skal professorer og studenter løse klimaproblematikk.

UiOs klima og miljøstrategi:

## Grønt kontorskifte

Torsdag åpnes et grønt kontor på UiO som del av klima- og miljøstrategien. Studieleder avviser grønnvasking.



Bård Flatjord Netland  
JOURNALIST I UNIVERSITAS



Sage Evine Jonsson Hoff  
NYHETSREDAKTØR I UNIVERSITAS



Tobias Schildmann Mandt  
FOTOREDAKTØR I UNIVERSITAS



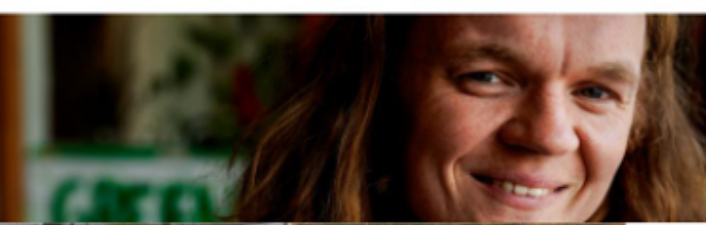
Foto: Ellen Johanne Jarli

## UiO svarer om manglende klimasatsing

Det viktigste vi gjør her på universitetet er å sikre at innen klima, miljø og bærekraft er å forberede oss på og gi studentene den kompetansen som trengs for å løse klimakrisen.

## Klimasaken er ikke bare én sak

En 40-er gruppe kan bachelorstudenter utforske vitenskapelige perspektiver på klima og miljø med fagene som samfunnsgeografi, psykologi og økonomi. Søren Nørrekær Mortensen mener mulighet er avgjørende.



Markkals Lane (Markkals Lane) is the source for 90% of Oslo's drinking water supply. Photo: Gaetan Dubois / Universitas

## Oslo to Face Future Droughts in Oslo?

Oslo has no water reserve in Norway. Oslo is investing billions in new infrastructure to strengthen its water resilience.

24. oktober 2023 - 17:48

...owers, turn off water while brushing teeth, and avoid walking lawns." More than 90% of all of the almost 700,000 inhabitants of Oslo received a message during the winter of 2022. The capital of Norway has been experiencing water shortages in spring and summer seasons. The Markkals Lane (Markkals Lane), which is the source for 90% of Oslo's drinking water supply, is facing difficulties in summer when the water level drops in the rivers of which the lake gets its water. Norway is one of the countries where the water consumption per person is the highest.

### GRØNT KONTOR

## Vil etablere grønn spydspiss ved NTNU - Mer økonomi, mer makt

Studentene Jenny Hellebust og Siri Dahl Stoknes ønsker å etablere et «Grønt kontor» ved NTNU.



Nettavis for Universitetet i Oslo

# UNIFORMUM

Søk i Uniformum

Forsiden

Nyheter

Debatt

Uniformum meiner

Om Uniformum



## UiO opna Grønt kontor for studenter på Blindern

# GREEN OFFICE IN THE MEDIA

We have been featured in various news articles from Universitas, Dagens Næringsliv, Universitetsavisa and Uniformum. Check these features out on our website!

## Samtidens kosthold i vannkanten

...ere mer enn bare slibrige tentakler i vannkanten? Forskere mener det er på tide å bakte det inn i...

Isabel Svendsen Berge  
FOTOGRAF I UNIVERSITAS

24. oktober 2023 - 11:02  
SIST OPPDATERT Tirsdag 24. oktober 2023 - 11:20



# GREEN OFFICE 2023 IN NUMBERS

**6**

**PROJECTS  
& TEAMS**

**50**

**EVENTS  
HOSTED**

**45**

**VOLUNTEERS  
RECRUITED**

**220**

**NEWSLETTER  
SUBSCRIBERS**

**193**

**FACEBOOK  
MEMBERS**

**8**

**MEDIA  
MENTIONS**

**15**

**ITEMS  
REPAIRED**

**200**

**ITEMS  
SWAPPED**

**18**

**COLLAB-  
ORATIONS**

**4**

**COMMUNITY  
DINNERS HOSTED**

**1000**

**STUDENTS  
REACHED DURING  
WELCOME WEEK**



THE GREEN OFFICE TEAM ENJOYING LUNCH TOGETHER FROM SÅDD, OUR NEIGHBOUR IN FREDERIKKE ON A MISSION TO FIGHT FOOD WASTE WITH DELICIOUS PLANT-BASED MEALS

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

We have throughout this report referred to our first year, but in fact we have only been operating actively for 8 months (March to December minus exam periods, summer and Christmas holidays). We are very proud of what we have achieved thus far and that we have established a solid base for further growth and development. We invite you to work with us in 2024 and beyond! Drop us a line at [greenoffice@uio.no](mailto:greenoffice@uio.no).