The ULB’s sustainable development policy

For over ten years, the ULB has been committed to a concrete focus on sustainable development.

This began in 2006 with the approval of the ULB’s environmental policy by the Board of Governors.

“The aim of this initial commitment, in application to this day, is to continually reduce the negative environmental impact of all university activities, taking into account the social, cultural and economic dimensions of all processes concerned.

The university is committed to assessing its environmental impact and to implementing a proactive campus environmental management policy in 13 fields.”

The ULB has now gained Brussels Capital Region certification as an “ecodynamic enterprise” for its three Brussels campuses. [http://www.ulb.ac.be/environnement/Campus-Label.html](http://www.ulb.ac.be/environnement/Campus-Label.html)

In 2012, the Board of Governors, via the RIO+20 Declaration, confirmed its commitment for all its three missions: teaching, research and campus management.

“Committed to sustainable development for many years via the Board of Governors’ approval of the ULB’s environmental policy in 2006, the Université Libre de Bruxelles reaffirms, via the Rio+20 Declaration of the higher education institutions, its commitment – in its capacity as an institution providing teaching, research and services to society but also as a major employer – to lead by example and to fully assume its environmental and societal responsibility.

The Université Libre de Bruxelles thus undertakes to continue implementing its environmental policy through carrying out annually defined action plans in this field, but also through undertaking, between 2012 and 2015

1) to pursue these two complementary approaches in terms of teaching and sustainable development. This shall take the form of including sustainable development issues within its various traditional faculty teaching programmes, but also of offering specialised master courses in this field;

2) to boost the internal and external visibility, as well as more fundamentally the momentum of cross-faculty cooperation, of the many research units working in the fields of the environment and sustainable development within the ULB through listing them in a specific online tool;

3) to reduce in a targeted manner the ULB’s environmental impact in the following priority areas: energy, mobility, eco-consumption, green spaces and waste;

4) to compile, as of 2013, an annual environmental report using the template defined by the International Sustainable Campus Network and The Global University Leader Forum (ISCN-GULF);

5) to support, as a founding member, the creation of the UNICA Green Academic Footprint (UGAF) network, bringing together universities located in Europe’s capitals;

6) to pursue and strengthen collaboration with local authorities and civil society with a view to promoting consistent and concerted sustainable development efforts.”
In 2015, the ULB Board of Governors upgraded its commitment in the field of mobility through approving a sustainable mobility policy for all its campuses, the goals of which are:

1. “To reduce the ULB’s transport-related environmental footprint (for people and goods)
2. To develop the public space on the campuses to ensure good accessibility for all users (disabled persons, pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users, car users)
3. To position the university as a key player bringing weight to local, regional and metropolitan debates to develop more sustainable mobility. But also to identify the opportunities offered by certain transport projects or policies and to determine those which might negatively impact multimodal access to the campuses.”

The ULB’s 2015-2020 strategic plan for sustainable development, approved by the university authorities thus follows 4 main goals:

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<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Goals</th>
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| **O1: Reducing the ULB’s environmental footprint** | G 1.1 through reducing and rationalising our energy consumption and our demand for water and material for our buildings and facilities  
G 1.2 through preserving and increasing biodiversity in our green spaces  
G 1.3 through developing efficient programmes for reducing – but also recycling and reusing – waste  
G 1.4 through including environmental criteria in all ULB specifications for works/calls for tenders as of 2015  
G 1.5 through each year increasing our modal transfers in favour of sustainable mobility |
| **O2: Teaching the concepts behind sustainable development** | G 2.1 through including a common SD strand in all disciplines  
G 2.2 through offering specialised SD master courses  
G 2.3 through increasing the advanced training offering in the field of SD |
| **O3: Encouraging research into sustainable development** | G 3.1 through developing multidisciplinary research projects focused on SD  
G 3.2 through making our campuses “living laboratories” with regard to environmental projects |
| **O4: Becoming involved, positioning the ULB and sharing results** | G 4.1 through getting the university involved in international frameworks (e.g. Rio+20)  
G 4.2 through joining acknowledged international and European higher education networks dedicated to SD  
G 4.3 through developing privileged partnerships with other universities  
G 4.4 through positioning the ULB as a key player in the Brussels Capital Region and Wallonia with regard to mobility projects and projects for developing public spaces. |