

## **Methodology**

The data was collected over a period of 35 days and the survey was distributed via social media, newsletters, direct contact with groups as well as through distribution between the different groups using survey monkey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/>). All questions can be found below. Duplicated and incomplete entries were fused or deleted for further analysis. From the 80 entries 63 passed our selection criteria. To calculate percentages, answers were divided against all groups (63) even if some black fields were present. Sub-group analysis was done with smaller groups as stated in the text. Cleaned up dataset used for the figures can be found here: <https://sels-network.org/index.php/data-grassroot/>

## 1. Introduction

**In recent years many green grassroots groups have emerged at many academic institutions and universities to make the workplace or study place more sustainable. These voluntary groups play important roles in the transition towards a sustainable future. We are currently writing an article about green grassroots groups in academia focusing on how these groups are organized and what their objectives and challenges are.**

**We would be extremely grateful if you would spend 5-10 minutes filling in this questionnaire.**

**All data will be confidential and the names of your groups will only be used if stated explicitly (see survey).**

**Thanks for your cooperation**

**Jeroen Dobbelaere  
Nikoline Borgermann  
Jan Heidelberg**

## 2. Practical Information

1. What is the name of your green grassroots group?

2. Can we use your green grassroots group as an example in the manuscript and mention it by name? (if nothing is filled in we will treat it as a no)

Yes

No

If yes but you have some comments please mention them here.

3. When did you start your green grassroots group?

Date

Date



4. How many active members does your green grassroots group have?

1-5

6-10

11-20

21-50

50+

We do not know

Comments?

5. Which type of staff/students are members of your green grassroots group? (Multiple answers possible)

- PhD Students
- Postdocs
- Research assistants
- Master students
- Bachelor students
- Staff scientists
- Admin Staff
- Professors
- Technicians
- Non-scientific staff
- Core facility members
- HR
- Other (please specify)

6. Does your green grassroots group have a website?

- Yes
- No

Please enter the website if yes

7. Do you want to be updated on the results of the survey?

We will send an email with the results before publication"

- Yes
- No

Please enter your contact email address?

(can be multiple)

### 3. Institution

#### 8. Where did your green grassroots group begin?

Organisation

City

Country

#### 9. Does your green grassroots group receive financial support?

- Yes
- No

If yes, where does the financial support come from? (external grant, internal institute/university money, donations, etc)

#### 10. What is the thematic background of your green grassroots group

- Life Sciences
- Engineering
- Astronomy
- Medicine
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Academia as a whole
- Other (please specify)

#### 11. What is the key target group of your green grassroots group?

- Our Lab
- Our Institute
- Our University
- our research society
- our research organization
- The Phd Students at my organisation
- the Postdocs at my organisation
- Other (please specify)

12. Which communication tools do you use/have available?

	Internal communications	External communications
Own website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specific group e-mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E-mail distributors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social media channels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Messenger (Slack, Whatsapp, ...)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please add any other tool you use

13. Is the work purely voluntary and outside general working hours?

- Yes  
 No

If no, specify

14. How well are you integrated in the institute/university structure

	Yes	To a large extent	To some extent	rarely	No	I don't know
Is your unit/institute management aware of your actions?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are you accepted by management?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does the management of your institute/university support you (financially or non-financially)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has the management invited you to be part of certain committees?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Can you influence decisions?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Does your institute/lab/university have a sustainability manager?

- Yes  
 No

If yes: how is the exchange with the sustainability manager. (Never, rarely, regularly, very often)

## 4. Actions and Projects

16. Where are your key areas of action/main focus areas?

(multiple answers possible)

- Awareness
- Procurement
- Waste/energy/water & disposal
- Mobility
- Lab/Research
- Food
- Building/infrastructure
- Climate actions outside of the work sphere
- Biodiversity
- Other (please add)

17. What are currently your main sources for data on the environmental footprint of academia and research?

18. Are you in contact with other green initiatives?

- Yes
- No

If yes please specify

19. Are you participating in a certification program or other to make your research more sustainable (e.g. LEAF or My Green Lab) ?

- Yes
- No

If yes what tool did you use and have you been certified already and at which level

## 5. Challenges and Comments

20. Where do you see the biggest challenges in your green grassroots group?

- No or limited budget
- Acceptance by management
- Acceptance by colleagues
- Involvement in decisions
- Group sustainability/continuity/member turnover
- Lack of time available
- Lack of information
- Lack of expertise
- Lack of appreciation
- Uncertainty on where/how to start changes
- Other (please specify)

21. If you have any comments or suggestions for the survey and manuscript please let us know.

22. Other comments or suggestions?

If you have any further questions or comments about the topic feel free to contact us by email.  
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**Table S1. Dataset of the survey about green grassroots groups.**

[Click here to download Table S1](#)