Objective

The objective of the Sustainability Ambassadors programme is to promote the engagement in sustainability projects within the framework of each faculty from the University of Groningen. Therefore by appointing sustainability ambassadors in each faculty, sustainable activities will flourish within that faculty.

We are looking for Sustainability Ambassadors for each faculty. The number of ambassadors should not be restricted to one, but rather open to as many people as they want. However the following requires consideration:

- The team should consists of at least one student and one staff member.
- There should be as many staff members as possible, since they have a more and constant presence in the university.
- There should be a clear commitment towards the project from the participants. Thus, every member should sign an agreement, this helps to build a community feeling within each faculty.

Why

Faculties often seem like separate little island within the University. Not everyone is aware of what happens within the faculty, at the same time a lot of students and staff members don’t know what efforts the UG is taking to become more sustainable. As Sustainability Ambassador you stay up to date of the UG’s efforts and also initiate change. We believe that with the help of ambassadors, we could inspire many more people at the UG to make more sustainable choices. By initiating change within your own faculty, you contribute to making the university more sustainable!

What

Sustainability Ambassadors are the link between the faculty and the Green Office in the field of sustainability. This works in two ways:

1. You are advocating sustainability in your faculty. This can be as broad as you want. For example propose to make you building more sustainable, put sustainability on the
agenda in the governance of you faculty or in education and research. You can find a list of projects in the appendix of this document for inspiration.

2. You are reporting on what happens in the faculty: cool events, researches, courses, but also shortcomings of the faculty such as unnecessary lights, screens, heating or flushing toilets. This way we have an overview of what is already happening at the faculties!

Role Green Office

The role of the Green Office in this program is to support the Faculty Ambassadors in their operations and brainstorming/information sessions. There is also a budget allocated for the Sustainability Ambassadors Programme, i.e. budget needed for printing. Moreover, we will organise a meeting every two months to keep each other updated.

However the GO will not intervene and impose projects based on its own agenda. This means that the Faculty Ambassadors develop their own way to contribute towards sustainability. Nevertheless, the Sustainability Ambassadors programme is a Green Office project and thus we are associated with the projects you choose to do. Therefore we encourage teams to organise events with many different theme’s and not only focus on food, energy or water.

Expectations

We expect from you that you know your way around in the faculty and we stimulate that you talk to a lot of people. Look for opportunities to put sustainability high on the agenda within your faculty! We love knowledge, so please share everything you do in the Drive. At the same time, we will update you with events and information what the Green Office is doing (beside Twitter, Facebook and our newsletter).

We are well aware of the academic and professional activities that the Ambassadors have besides this project, therefore we emphasize the following:

- There are no weekly meeting or deadlines to accomplish with the GO
- Every faculty works at their own pace, therefore there is no need to feel pressured. Every small step counts!
- You and your team are free to decide how much time you can invest. There are no requirements from the GO on this aspect.

What’s next?

Do you want to become a part of Sustainability Ambassadors programme? Great! The first step is to contact us via e-mail (greenoffice@rug.nl) or phone 050 - 363 4884 to set up a meeting.
Appendix

Examples of activities:

- Inventory of the sustainable aspirations of students
- Reduce energy use (i.e. shutting off computers)
- Promote a study environment (take the stairs, taking a walk during the break)
- Raise awareness about reducing waste (visual communication, use mugs instead of paper cups)
- Stimulate integration sustainability in education
- Stimulate sustainable purchases faculty (presents)
- Organise interactive activities with students and staff (movie night/debate)
- Work out your own ideas!