Version 2: Sustainability Rating of Swiss Universities 2024

Dear Sustainability Managers,
Dear University Sustainability,
Dear Survey Participants,

We would like to invite you to take part in our survey on sustainability at Swiss universities. The information you submit to us will form the basis for the sustainability rating of Swiss universities conducted by WWF for the fourth time (following the ratings for the years 2017, 2019 and 2021 – cf. link for the rating of 2021 in [German](#) and [French](#)).
Subject to this rating are all accredited universities, universities of applied sciences as well as the 8 largest universities of teacher education.
Please complete the survey in its entirety and to the best of your knowledge by May 31, 2024. The survey can be completed by different individuals: You may save your answers and send an updated version via an automatically generated link to other persons responsible for completing the survey. Some criteria may not apply to your university because of its type or its institutional affiliation with another host university. Should this be the case, please tick the "not applicable" box.

The company econcept will analyse your data and evaluate it together with WWF on the basis of defined criteria. If necessary, we will contact you in mid-June to further specify the information provided. All data provided will be treated confidentially by econcept and WWF and used exclusively for the sustainability rating. Only assessments of the individual criteria shall be published in the rating report; information from the questionnaire is treated confidentially.

Please note the following information (detailed definitions can be found in the glossary):
Sustainability:
Sustainability in the university context means a comprehensive commitment to aligning institutional practices, academic missions and values with the twin imperatives of respecting planetary boundaries and the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
University: All questions relate to your university as a whole. We refer to it as "university". This also includes universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education.
Students: The term "students" refers to Bachelor's and Master's students, not PhD students.
Time frame: All questions refer to the foundations, processes and activities of your university *within the last three years* and since the last sustainability rating in 2021.
Sources: We kindly ask you to cite the sources for your answers with the relevant documents (published or internal documents; screenshots) or links to websites. Please also indicate the corresponding page number.

Should you have any questions, please contact Nadine Elsener, scientific collaborator at econcept AG, via nadine.elsener@econcept.ch

Many thanks and best regards,
WWF Switzerland and econcept AG

Name of your university

Your first name and surname   **E-mail address**   **Function**

Please enter the number of students studying at your university (2023 or most recent figures):

Please enter the number of full-time equivalents (FTE) at your university (2023 or most recent figures) for the following staff categories:

Academic staff   **Technical and administrative staff**

Please enter the number of faculties/departments/colleges at your university:

Overview of the criteria used in the rating:

Performance Mandate

What sustainability objectives are included in the performance mandate?

Are these objectives provided with target values and/or indicators? If so, which ones?

Please link or upload the current performance mandate (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number) | **Document**

Strategic principles

How is sustainability defined in the strategic principles? How are the university's role and contribution to sustainability defined?

What are the strategic goals for sustainability?

Which stakeholders were involved in the development of the strategic principles for sustainability?

University management

Management of departments/faculties/colleges

Academic staff incl. PhD students

Students

Technical and administrative staff

Extra-academic stakeholders

Please link or upload the current university strategy, sustainability strategy and/or action plans (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number) | **Document**

Verifiable goals and measures related to teaching

Is there a programme directory of sustainability-related courses?

If so/planned, please provide or upload the link to the directory/courses catalogue (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number) | **Document**

Have learning outcomes relating to sustainability (generalist and/or subject-specific) for undergraduates been formally adopted?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current university strategy, sustainability strategy or report (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Is Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) actively promoted at your university via programmes or support measures?

If so/planned, for whom?

If so/planned, please link or upload documentation of programmes or incentives offered in the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Is there an interdisciplinary centre or organisation at your university that promotes sustainbility in teaching ?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current university strategy, sustainability strategy or report (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Is there an ongoing programme that provides incentives for academic staff to develop new sustainability courses and/or incorporate sustainability into existing courses or departments?

If so/planned, please link or upload documentation of programmes or incentives offered in the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Verifiable goals and measures related to research

Is there an inventory of the university's sustainability-related research projects?

If so/planned, please link or upload the most recent data available in the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Are there any programmes to promote and/or support sustainability research or research in the field of Education for Sustainability Development (ESD)?

If so/planned, please link or upload the active programmes and policies, and incentives offered in the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Does your university award a prize for outstanding achievements in sustainability research?

***If so/planned*, please link or upload the most recent award and occurrence (website *or* document):**

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Does your university have assessment and/or monitoring mechanisms in place to ensure that the 3Rs principles are respected in all research activities involving animals?

If so/planned, please link or upload the latest available data on 3R animal trials (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Which departments/faculties/colleges are involved in research activities specifically focused on sustainability?

Choice3 (ist hier gemeint: Choose 3?)

Please link or upload current policies and programmes (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Verifiable goals and measures related to governance

Does your university have mechanisms in place to ensure the acceptance of third-party funding and avoid conflicts of interests?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current composition and practice of the committee (website or document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Does your university invest its assets responsibly, i.e. according to sustainability criteria?

If so, according to which criteria?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current policies and actions taken in the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Does your university report publicly on its invested assets and the source of its third-party funding at least once a year?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current holdings and third-party funding (i.e. most recent snapshot available) (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Does your university have a structures assessment process to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus?

If so/planned, please link or upload the most recent assessment(s) conducted or updated during the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)	Document

Does your university have policies, programmes or initiatives in place to support underrepresented groups and promote a more diverse and inclusive community on campus?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current programme offers and status (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)	Document

Does your university have any measures in place to support students in financial difficulty?

If so/planned, please link or upload the most recent data available from the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)	Document

Does your university produce information materials and/or publications that promote learning and knowledge about sustainability?

If so/planned, please link or upload the currently used materials and publications (or examples thereof) (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)	Document

Verifiable goals and measures related to services and transfer

How regularly have public lectures on sustainability topics taken place take place in the last 3 years?

Please link or upload (examples of) events that took place in the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Does your university conduct a campus sustainability culture assessment that focuses on sustainability values, behaviours and beliefs about sustainability?

If so/planned, please link or upload the most recent data available from the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Does your university offer continuing education courses that include at least one certificate programme on sustainability through a continuing education or extension department?

If so/planned, please link or upload the most recent information available from the last three years as well as the current programme status and offers (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Is your university actively involved in strengthening the voice of Science on sustainability issues in the political arena (e.g. via the Swiss Science Council, the 2030 Agenda Advisory Group, the Swiss Academy of Sciences or any other channel)?

If so/planned, please link or upload the efforts that took place in the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Verifiable goals and measures related to campus and operations

Has your university conducted an inventory to quantify the university's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by Scope 1 (direct emissions)

and Scope 2 or 3 (indirect emissions)?

If you need more information regarding the different scopes, please click on the following link: [Scope 1, 2, and 3 complete guide | ClimatePartner](#)

If so/planned, please link or upload the current programmes, policies and practices and inventories of annual emissions completed or updated in the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)	**Document**

Has your university introduced measures to reduce energy consumption and/or generate renewable energy on site?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current programmes, policies and practices of the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)	**Document**

Does your university have programmess and initiatives to support sustainable and local food systems? (through e.g. plant-based menus)?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current policies or programmes (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)	**Document**

Does your university monitor and publish an overview of the university's overall impact on biodiversity (e.g. in connection with the management of green spaces, water or nitrogen cycles in relation to food)?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current programmes and the most recent assessment(s) completed or updated in the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)	**Document**

Does your university have a sustainable procurement policy?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current policies and practices (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)	**Document**

Has your university carried out an environmental impact analysis of its digital activities (footprint of its equipment and digital data)?

If so/planned, please link current information regarding your digital footprint (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)	**Document**

Has your university implemented strategies to encourage more sustainable modes of transportation and reduce the impact of student and employee commuting?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current policies and practices (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)	**Document**

Does your university have a water footprint reduction policy?

If so/planned, please link or upload the water footprint reduction policy and water consumption monitoring data (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)	**Document**

Reporting and monitoring

How often does your university report on sustainability?

Which hierarchical levels and bodies are involved in the sustainability reporting process?

Is a tracking system used to report on the degree of achievement of the sustainability goals?

If so/planned, in what form?

In which university areas is sustainability embedded in the internal quality assurance system? Through which measures?

Is Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) also integrated into the quality assurance system at your university?

If so/planned, in what form?

If so/planned, please link or upload the sustainability report or activity report of your university (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Sustainability office/team (day-to-day)

Does your university have a sustainability office/team?

Who does the Sustainability Office/Team report to?

If so/planned, please link or upload the organisation chart (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Which university areas is the sustainability office/team responsible for?

Please link or upload the sustainability office/team's terms of reference (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

How many FTEs (full-time equivalents) does the sustainability office/team have?

Sustainability Commission / Committee

Does your university have a sustainability commission and committee?

How often does the sustainability commission/committee meet?

If so/planned, please link or upload the sustainability commission/committee's terms of reference (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Which departments are represented in the sustainability commission/committee?

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Which actors (stakeholders?) are represented in the sustainability commission/committee?

How many faculties/departments are represented in the sustainability commission/committee?   **How many faculties/departments does your university have?**

Please link or upload the list of the members of the sustainability commission/committee (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Does the commission/committee have advisory or decision-making competences?

Leadership Engagement

Does the strategic responsibility for sustainability formally lie with a member of the university management?

If so, please link or upload the organisation chart (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Has your university set itself the goal of carbon neutrality?

In what year and according to which scope has your university formally adopted a carbon-neutral target?

If so, please link or upload the current climate policy (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Which sustainability-focused university networks and initiatives is your university involved in?

Network/initiative 1

Network/initiative 2

Network/initiative 3

Network/initiative 4

Network/initiative 5

Network/initiative 6

Network/initiative 7

Network/initiative 8

Network/initiative 9

Network/initiative 10

Please link or upload the list of networks and initatives (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Does your university enable students to actively participate in curriculum development?

If so/planned, please link or upload the activities from the most recent semester (or equivalent), the most recent year, or the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Does your university promote co-curricular programmes or initiatives related to sustainability?

If so/planned, please link or upload the currently available programmes that that have been carried out in the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Has your university set up a platform to support student sustainability initiatives?

If so/planned, please link or upload the currently available programmes that that have been carried out in the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

How does your university support the mental health of students, including doctoral candidates, raise awareness of mental health issues on campus?

Please link or upload information of the specific resources available, such as counseling services, peer support programmes or other similar measures.

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Is there a direct dialogue between the university management and students on sustainability issues?

What institutional framework is used for this dialogue?

How often do the exchanges on sustainability between the university management and the student body take place?

If so/planned, please link or upload the last campaign(s) for which data is available in the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Staff Engagement

Does your university promote professional development and training opportunities in the field of education for sustainable development for academic staff?

Does your university promote professional development and training opportunities in the field of sustainability to non-academic staff?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current programme status and offers and professional development activities that have taken place in the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Does your university consult its employees on work-related sustainability issues such as health, green spaces or soft mobility?

If so/planned, please link or upload the most recent assessment conducted during the last three years as well as current policies and practices (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Extra-academic stakeholders

Does your university have a permanent structure for working with the local community and and organising the collaboration with them in the area of sustainability?

If so, which projects?

If so, with which extra-academic stakeholders?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current partnerships and projects (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Output Teaching

Does your university have an introductory module on sustainability/ESD?

Are ECTS credits awarded for the introductory module on sustainability/ESD?

If so, how many?

If so/planned, please link or upload the current programme status (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Is the introduction module on sustainability/ESD mandatory or optional?

What proportion of first-year students are enrolled on the module?

Please link or upload the current programme status (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Is an evaluation of the acquired knowledge carried out at the end of the course?

If so: What learning outcomes are assessed?

Please upload the current programme status (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Which departments/faculties/~~schools~~ (colleges?) offer undergraduate programmes with a focus on sustainability?

Not applicable

Which departments/faculties/ ~~schools~~ (colleges?) offer graduate programmes with a focus on sustainability?

Not applicable

Is the sustainability literacy of the students assessed in a standardised manner?

Please link or upload the sustainability literacy assessment tool (e.g. Sulitest) (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Does your university run living labs related to sustainability? If so, what are the names of the living labs?

Not applicable

How many students are involved?

Please link or upload projects and initiatives currently in progress or conducted during the last three years (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Output Transfer

*Please answer the following questions with in relation to your university's **largest transfer project** that is linked to ecological and social change and has a **societal** focus.*

Largest transfer project linked to the ecological change with a societal focus

Does your university have a transfer project linked to the ecological and social change with a societal focus?

How many university employees were/are involved?

How many students were/are involved?

How many extra-academic practitioners were/are involved?

Please link or upload the project information (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

What issues of ecological and social transition issues does the project address? What are the specific objectives and outcomes?

What indicators of success oror evaluation criteria are used to measure the impact of this project or collaboration?

Please link or upload the project information (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

What is the role of non-academic players? Are they involved in all phases of the project?

Please link or upload the project information (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Largest transfer project linked to the ecological and social

transition with a focus on economy

*Please answer the following questions in relation to your university's **largest transfer project** related to environmental and social change with a focus on the **economy**..*

Does your university have a transfer project related to ecological and social change with a focus on the economy?

How many university employees were/are involved?

How many students were/are involved?

How many extra-academic practitioners were/are involved?

Please link or upload the project information (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

What ecological and social transition issues does the project address? What are the specific objectives and outcomes?

What indicators of success or evaluation criteria are used to measure the impact of the project or collaboration?

Please link or upload the project information (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

What is the role of non-academic players? Are they involved in all phases of the project?

Please link or upload the project information (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Largest transfer project linked to the ecological and social transition with a focus on the environment

*Please answer the following questions in relation to your university's **largest transfer project** related to environmental and social change with a focus on the **environment**.*

Does your university have a transfer project related to the ecological and social change with a focus on the environment?

How many university employees were/are involved?

How many students were/are involved?

How many extra-academic practitioners were/are involved?

Please link or upload the project information (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

What ecological and social transition issues does the project address? What are the specific objectives and outcomes?

Please link or upload the project information (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

What success indicators or evaluation criteria are used to measure the impact of this project or collaboration??

What is the role of non-academic players? Are they involved in all phases of the project?

Please link or upload the project information (website *or* document):

Link to the relevant website / details of the uploaded document (e.g. page number)   **Document**

Final Remarks

Do you have any final remarks that you deem relevant for the rating?