

Sustainable Development

Strategy: Research

TU Delft is ranked first in the Netherlands (Elsevier's SDG-based ranking) for research in SDG 6,9 &11. Additionally, student teams and a vibrant entrepreneurship atmosphere has helped push the boundaries of what is technologically feasible. Nevertheless, there are areas where TU Delft is yet to harness its full potential. Based on data from rankings and comparison with other universities, the threefold vision for research is:

1. Encourage new and interdisciplinary research areas related to sustainability and encourage researchers to contribute towards them.
2. Create a common platform to facilitate sustainability related research for all university stakeholders.
3. Promote concept of university as a living lab connecting researchers, operation teams, and students.

With this vision in mind, GreenTU has formulated a set of goals for the next ten years:

1. Perform a comprehensive study on areas of research and cross-disciplinary opportunities for cooperation. Identify the areas of improvement.
2. Encourage and support new research projects contributing to sustainable development. Review and act on TU Delft's commitment to contribute towards climate action research.
3. Establish a channel for communication between the TU Delft operations team and the researchers.
4. Encourage students to work on living lab projects for these thesis.
5. Provide knowledge and financial support to student teams who come up with ideas for sustainable development.
6. Encourage clean tech academic spin-offs through Yes!Delft.

With as aim to achieve these goals, GreenTU suggests three initiatives:

1. **Perform a comprehensive study on TU Delfts research potential and current progress:** University impact rankings with respect to SDG's are becoming increasingly important. Although TU Delft ranks quite high for research on clean water, energy , infrastructure and sustainable cities, it is important to evaluate the effect of appropriate key words and carry out a comprehensive study on research contributions and related rankings.
2. **Set up a Centre For Sustainability:** Although TU Delft has researchers working on sustainability in a wide variety of fields, there is a need for a unified platform to support collaboration and transparent sharing of information amongst students, researchers, operation teams, industry, and academic partners. Sustainability is at its core a multidisciplinary subject, requiring a multidisciplinary approach.
3. **Vision for living lab:** The Green Village acts as a perfect platform to encourage student contributions through innovation funds, supporting theses/internships, and furthering the concept of a 'living lab'. Also, TU Delft owns its own power grid and power plant. This could be a great asset in testing new innovations for future power systems. Establishing these connections could accelerate the feasibility, testing, and scalability of the projects.