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# Greening the **CAMPUS** with **EMAS**

EMAS. performance – credibility – transparency.



## WHAT IS A GREEN CAMPUS?

*A green campus is one which addresses environmental challenges in all its fields of activity: administration, research and education. Higher education institutions are in an outstanding position to act as incubators, role models and multipliers for sustainable development among researchers, people in leadership positions, and in wider society.*

## WHY INTRODUCE EMAS AT UNIVERSITIES?

Twenty European universities are currently EMAS registered. An Environmental Management System according to EMAS is a valuable tool for paving the way to a green campus, helping higher education institutions exploit their environmental sustainability potential in a systematic and accountable manner. Apart from playing a particularly effective role in reducing the direct environmental impact of the higher education institution, the implementation of EMAS can also serve as an object of study and as a focus point for environmental learning among stakeholders within the university and in wider society.



## ADMINISTRATION

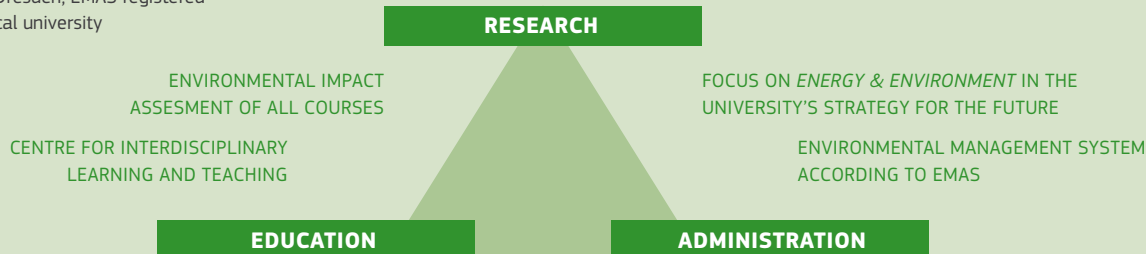
Universities, like any other organisation, can use EMAS to plan and implement measures that will reduce the environmental impact of their everyday operations. Apart from standard environmental management issues like water and waste management, the most important application areas for EMAS at universities are the following: procurement – choosing a renewable energy provider, recycled paper, refillable toner cartridges,

etc.; energy – installing more energy-efficient heating systems and computer hardware, turning off lights and IT appliances when not in use, etc.; mobility – encouraging the use of public transport among staff and students and creating parking spaces for bicycles; cafeterias – increasing the use of organic and locally grown produce; and building construction – for instance renovations and insulation that increase energy conservation.

# Greening the **CAMPUS** with **EMAS**

Including EMAS in  
all fields of activity

Components of the Green Campus  
at TU Dresden, EMAS registered  
technical university



## RESEARCH

EMAS registered universities have initiated fruitful exchanges between applied research and day-to-day environmental management. At the nexus between theory and practice that is present at universities, there is great potential for the development evaluation and implementation of innovative environmental management measures. Environmental management practitioners benefit from the new impulses and insights that result from research, while scholars in turn are finding it useful to learn directly from the practical experience gathered during the implementation of EMAS at the university.

## EDUCATION

At higher education institutions, students are among the most important stakeholders as they will be the multipliers of tomorrow, carrying sustainability knowledge into their work places in business, management, education, or research. EMAS registered universities' experiences have shown that there is considerable support for sustainability actions from the students. For instance, at the University of Tübingen in Germany it was the student sustainability initiative 'Greening the University' that suggested to the university to adopt EMAS and that initiated the development of a seminar programme that offers sustainability courses for students at all levels.

## Participation is key

*Involving stakeholders at  
EMAS registered universities*


- Bi-annual Environment Day with films, lectures, discussions
- Lecture series on environmental management and sustainability
- Student project groups or part-time job positions for participation in EMAS implementation
- EMAS working group with members from all university stakeholder groups
- Appointment of an environmental representative in each relevant facility / department
- Online participation tools (idea pool, forum, eco-tips, mailing list, Facebook)
- Information posters hung in university buildings

## Additional Information:

- [ABIS](#) (Academy of Business in Society)
- [GUNi](#) (Global University Network for Innovation)
- [Alliance of sustainable Austrian universities](#)
- [Guideline for introducing EMAS at universities](#) (in German)
- [Hochschulen für eine nachhaltige Entwicklung](#) (Brochure by the German UNESCO Commission, including sustainability self-assessment for universities)

## Imprint

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Student with speech bubbles: © Marish / istockphoto.com

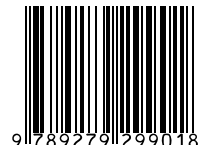
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