



SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

THE ROLE OF SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING IN DOCUMENTING, MEASURING AND FOSTERING SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

**University of Edinburgh, Scotland, United
Kingdom
14th-15th March 2019**





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/// BACKGROUND

The implementation of the theory and practice of sustainable development at higher education institutions (HEIs) has been quite intense over the past two decades. Whereas in the early 1990s only a handful of HEIs had systematic initiatives in respect of sustainability, the current figures are quite high: more and more universities are realising the many benefits sustainability brings about, and are becoming increasingly engaged.

But even though many HEIs are involved with sustainable development at present, there is a deficiency in respect of efforts related to the documentation and reporting of their experiences. Yet, sustainability reporting is an important component of the formula, since it allows an organisation to systematically identify where they stand, which progress has been achieved over a specific time-span, the deficits seen and, more importantly, their improvement potentials. Sustainability reporting is useful not only in respect of gathering metrics on elements such as energy or water consumption, CO₂ emissions or waste issues, but can also be instrumental in the design of new campus management systems, and in support of teaching and research.

In order to allow an in-depth discussion on the role of sustainability reporting in a higher education context, the "**Symposium on Sustainability Reporting in Higher Education: the role of sustainability reporting in documenting, measuring and fostering sustainability practices in higher education institutions**" is being organised by



the Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRP), and the World Sustainable Development Research and Training Centre (WSD-RTC) at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), in cooperation with the University of Edinburgh and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), and a number of institutions of higher education active in this field. It will involve researchers, campus managers and practitioners in the field of sustainability reporting, in the widest sense.

The Symposium will provide a platform for HEIs to present and discuss their initiatives in the rapidly growing field of sustainability reporting, to assess their own situations, presents an opportunity for inter-institutional interactions and informal benchmarking, and allows HEIs to document and communicate their initiatives. In particular, the event will provide a unique opportunity to participants to experience different approaches in the preparation of sustainability reports used in HEIs from various countries, and how these are being marketed and disseminated.

The Symposium will focus on the means to integrate, promote or otherwise catalyse the engagement of higher education institutions in the global efforts to further the cause of sustainability reporting, and will contribute to the further development of this central topic.

/// AIMS

The aims of the "**Symposium on Sustainability Reporting in Higher Education: the role of sustainability reporting in documenting, measuring and fostering sustainability practices in higher education**" are as follows:

- i. to provide academic, management, technical and support staff at universities active and/or interested on sustainability reporting with an opportunity to display and present their works (i.e. approaches, methods, innovation, activities, case studies practical projects);
- ii. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in sustainability reporting, especially successful initiatives and good practice;
- iii. to discuss methodological approaches and projects which aim to offer a better understanding of how sustainability reporting can be better used and deployed in support of teaching and research;
- iv. to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for further cooperation.

Last but not least, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences on sustainability reporting today. To this purpose, accepted papers will be published in the peer-reviewed "**Handbook of Sustainability Reporting in Higher Education**". This is the largest editorial project on this topic.



The Handbook will be produced as part of the **award-winning** “World Sustainability Series”, published by Springer, one of the world’s top five scientific publishers.

/// PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the "**Symposium on Sustainability Reporting in Higher Education: the role of sustainability reporting in documenting, measuring and fostering sustainability practices in higher education**" will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. These are:

- i. teaching staff
- ii. student groups;
- iii. members of university administrations;
- iv. campus managers
- v. project officers and consultants;
- vi. other people interested in the field.

It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to outline the need for integrated approaches towards sustainability reporting and, hence, contribute towards advancing this field of work even further.

/// STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The Symposium will be organised around two main strands:

Strand 1: the posters

Participating universities will be able to put-up posters describing their works and projects, and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The posters will allow close, one-to-one contacts between the participants and the exhibitors.

Strand 2: the presentations

A set of presentations, divided into four main sections will be organised, dealing with issues of strategic value in reviewing the state of the art of sustainability reporting today. These are:

- Session 1- Catalysing stakeholder engagement via sustainability reporting
- Session 2- Sustainability reporting and campus management
- Session 3- Integrating sustainability reporting in teaching and research
- Session 4- Preparation, documentation and dissemination of sustainability reports

The papers will be classified in one of of the above sessions.



/// SCHEDULE

The Symposium "**Symposium on Sustainability Reporting in Higher Education: the role of sustainability reporting in documenting, measuring and fostering sustainability practices in higher education**" will be held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, on 14th-15th March 2019. The schedule will be roughly as follows:

14th March 2019

15:00-16:00- Arrival and Registration
16:00-18:00- Presentations and discussions
18:00-19:00- Reception

15th March 2019

09:10-11:00- Presentations and discussions
11:00-11:30 – Break
11:30-13:00- Presentations and discussions
1300- 14:00- Lunch
14:00-15:15- Presentations and discussions
15:15-15:30- Sum up and close of the event

The event will end at 15:30 so that delegates may have enough time to take their planes/trains/buses and return home. In order to ensure an efficient use of the time, delegates are kindly asked to organise their travel in a way that allows them to attend the event in full- and not only on occasions- hence maximising their participation and the interactions.

/// DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30th November 2018

Deadline for submission of papers: 30th January 2019

Deadline for full, revised papers: 20th February 2019

Deadline for registrations: 20th February 2019

Since the book will be launched soon after the Symposium, the deadlines need to be followed.

/// THE VENUE

The event will be held at the University of Edinburgh, more specifically at the John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls, 18 Holyrood Park Rd, Edinburgh EH16 5AY, United Kingdom
(<https://www.edinburghfirst.co.uk/venues/john-mcintyre-conference-centre/>)



Some accommodation options for attendees, all within close walking distance of the University are:

* Edinburgh First Accommodation - www.edinburghfirst.co.uk/for-accommodation-internal

* Hub by Premier Inn Edinburgh Royal Mile - www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/scotland/lothian/edinburgh/hub-edinburgh-royal-mile.html

* Ibis Edinburgh Centre South Bridge - www.ibis.com/gb/hotel-8484-ibis-edinburgh-centre-south-bridge-royal-mile/index.shtml

* Grassmarket Hotel - www.grassmarkethotel.co.uk

Further options available to attendees are available online at www.tripadvisor.co.uk/HotelsNear-g186525-d313460-University_of_Edinburgh-Edinburgh_Scotland.html.

Edinburgh is also well served by Airbnb accommodation: www.airbnb.co.uk.

/// FEES AND CHARGES

A fee of Euro 200 (Euro 100 for students) will be charged to delegates to offset the preparation costs. Registrations fees may be refunded (with a 50% processing charge) in case of cancellations until 27th February 2019. After that date, no refunds are possible.

/// REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registrations are now open and are possible until 20th February 2018. Regrettably, registrations after the deadline will not be possible. Since the space for displays and the time for presentations is limited, **delegates are advised to submit their abstracts and register as soon as possible**. The organisers will notify any interested delegate or organisation in case there are any limitations with time for presentations, or in respect of space for displays. Registered delegates will then receive further details on the payment of the fees and updated information on the preparations for the event. The decision as to which papers will be accepted for presentation will be taken by the Chairperson.



/// ORGANISERS

- University of Edinburgh
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme
- World Sustainable Development Research and Transfer Centre
- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Chairperson

- Prof. Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DL, DLitt), Hamburg University of Applied Science (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)

Contact Person at Edinburgh University

Matthew Lawson
Programme Manager
University of Edinburgh
Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability
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Edinburgh
UK
E-mail: Matthew.Lawson@ed.ac.uk

/// CONTACT POINT FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS, STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE ON PUBLICATION

All questions related to scientific inputs and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:

Professor Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)
Hamburg University of Applied Science (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)
E-mail: walter.leal2@haw-hamburg.de

/// CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

All questions related to abstracts should be sent to:

Svenja Scheday
Hamburg University of Applied Sciences
Germany
E-mail: svenja.scheday@haw-hamburg.de



/// HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

An abstract should be up to 200 words, it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper, and some of its results. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Please see page 9 for a sample abstract. Authors whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information.

Abstracts should be sent as soon as possible to:

Svenja Scheday
Hamburg University of Applied Sciences
Germany
E-mail: svenja.scheday@haw-hamburg.de



**SAMPLE ABSTRACT –PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL CONTACT DETAILS ARE PROVIDED WHEN YOU SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT
PLEASE SEND YOUR ABSTRACT TO:**

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E-mail: svenja.scheday@haw-hamburg.de

Campus Greening: Using Living Labs to Foster Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education Institutions

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)
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Abstract

The use of university campuses as learning and research areas is not as widely made as it should. Part of the problem lies on the fact that facilities are often not well structured or organized, which makes it difficult to use them for teaching, learning, or for research purposes. This paper presents a the results of a study aimed at identifying the extent to which higher education institutions are using their campuses for teaching, learning and for research, and at describing the various modalities of use. A special attention is paid to the role that campuses can play as “living labs, where the integration of sustainability issues in higher education can be demonstrated. Finally, some concrete steps which may be undertaken in order to allow universities to better take advantage of university campuses as learning and research areas, are outlined. This paper will be useful to anyone interested on using university campuses as bridges between the theory and practice of sustainability in higher education institutions, across the world.



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REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE, SCAN AND E-MAIL THIS FORM TO: svenja.scheday@haw-hamburg.de

/// REGISTRATION FORM

1. Surname: _____
2. First Name: _____
3. Title (Prof., Dr. Mr, Ms, etc): _____
4. Institution: _____
5. Address: _____
6. Telephone (please include local code): _____
7. Fax (please include local code): _____
8. E-mail: _____
9. You intend to participate by means of: Presentation Display both
10. Title of presentation: _____
11. Title of display (if any):

13. Do you have any dietary requirements? Yes No
If so, please specify:

A fee of Euro 200 will be charged to you via invoice, upon receiving your application. The fees includes a reception on 14th March 2019 and the **lunch and coffee breaks on 15th March 2019**. Registrations fees may be refunded (with a 50% processing charge) in case of cancellations until 20th February 2019. After that date, no refunds are possible.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR REGISTRATION.