# GHENT UNIVERSITY: SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA A PATHWAY OF TRIAL AND ERROR

HUMANE SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT: UTRECHT UNIVERSITY, 13 May 2019



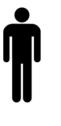
#### GHENT UNIVERSITY (EXCL. GHENT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL)



**42.162** students

**57** bachelor programmes

150 master en postgraduate programmes



**9.069** staff



I.412 rofessors



1.491 assisting academic staff



3.441 researchers

**6.344** academic staff



2.725 administrative 8 technical staff



+/- 700 million euro

yearly turnover



+/- **200** buildings

2,5 km<sup>2</sup> campusses

940.000 m² gross floor area



#### SUSTAINABILITY VISION

Ghent University aims to be an innovative knowledge institution for a future that is sustainable in ecological, social and economic terms within a local and global context.

#### For this purpose:

- Ghent University generates substantial support for sustainable development
- Ghent University integrates sustainability in the education, research and societal engagement in provides
- Ghent University implements sustainability in its management and organisation



(Board, december 2013)

#### **ORGANISATION**

- Sustainability Council
- Green Office
- Sustainability Report (every two year)









#### TRANSITIE UGENT

A think tank of more than 200 committed staff and students, experts and policy makers













#### TRANSITIE UGENT

... generating support, commitment and involvement

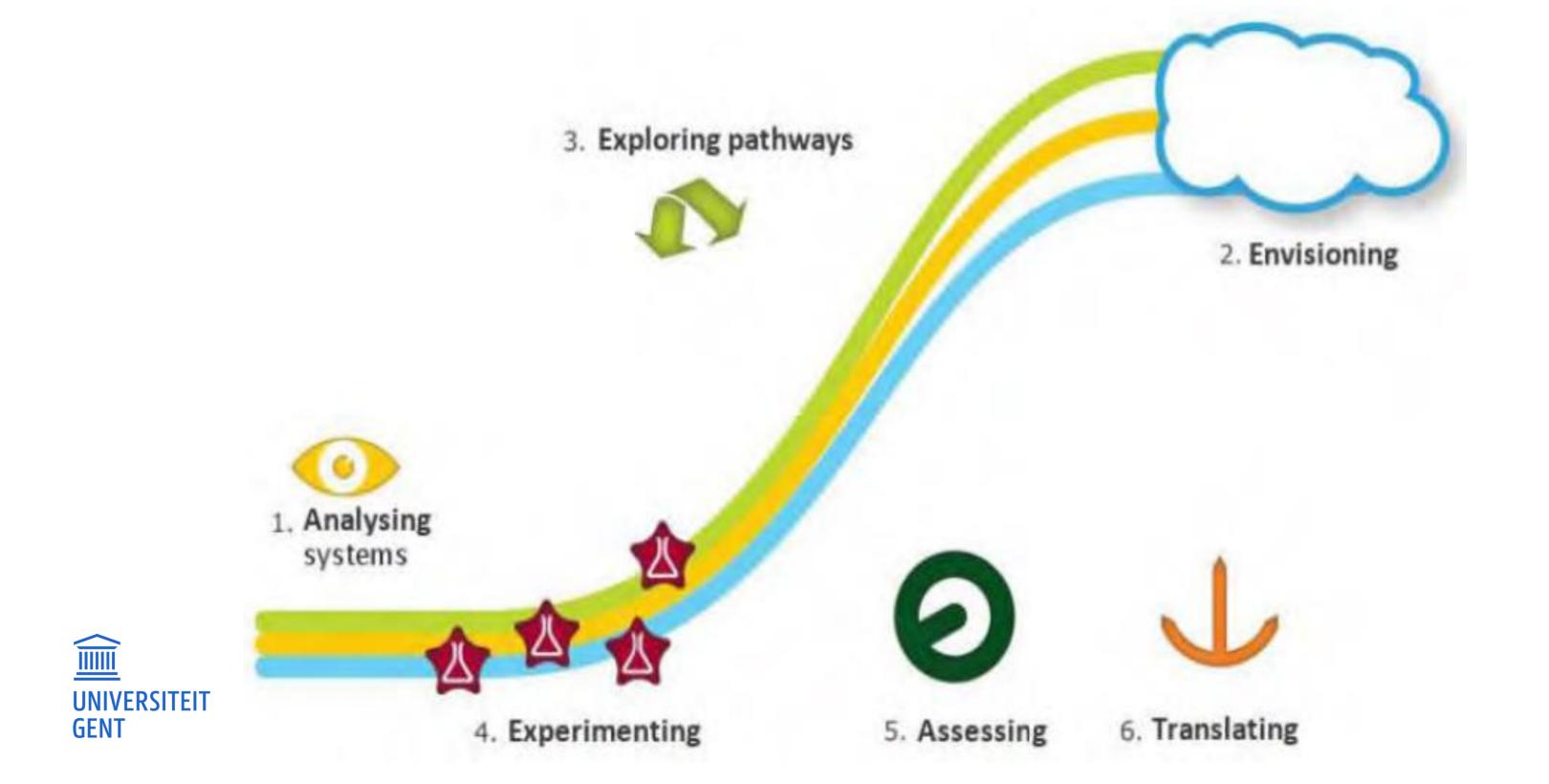


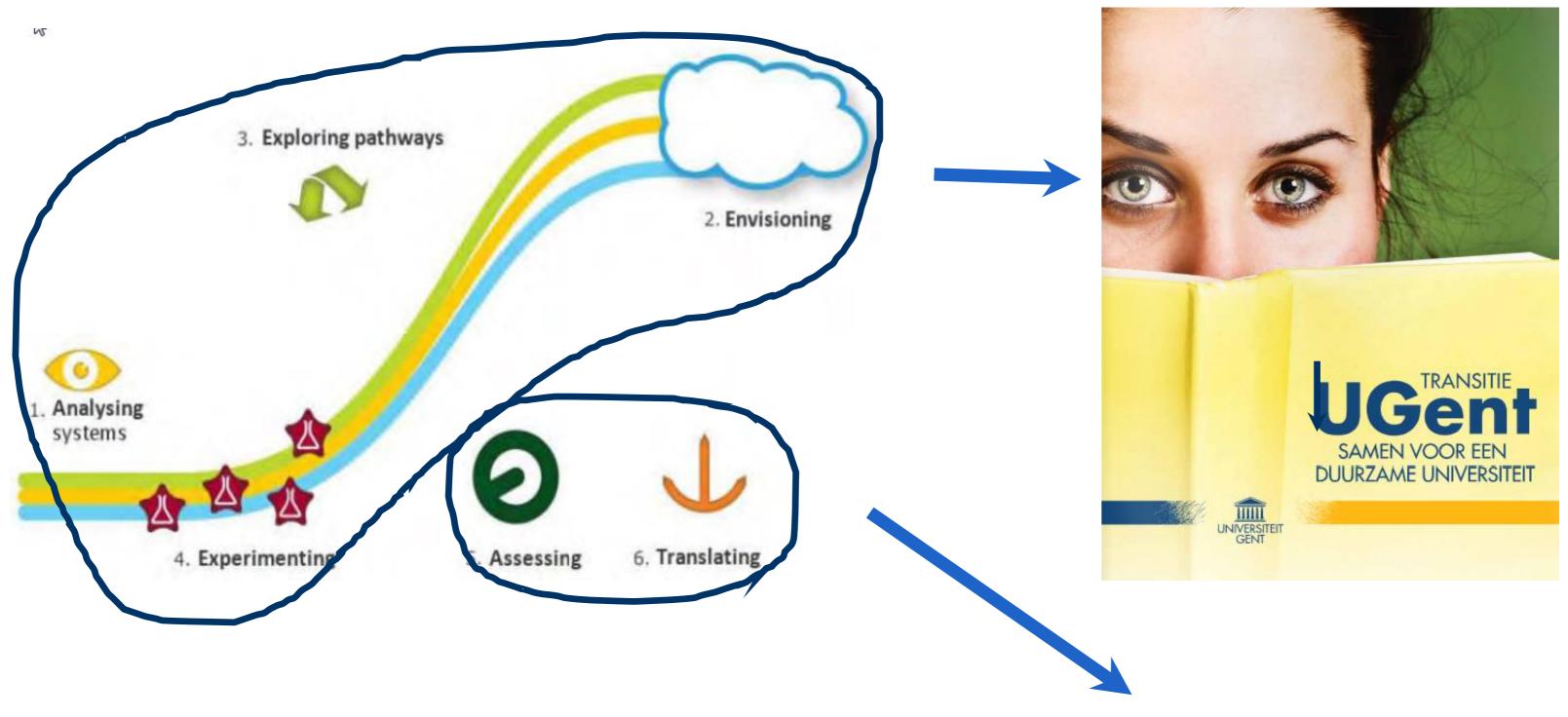






#### TRANSITIE UGENT







#### Sustainability policy

#### STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2022

- 1. Towards more activating learning methods
- 2. Strengthening the alumni network
- 3. Diversifying the student and staff body
- 4. Speeding up the sustainability agenda
- 5. Strengthening the societal identity of the university
- 6. Fostering and attracting talent



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  - a) Focus on developing sustainability competences of students throughout all educational programmes
  - b) Reduction of the ecological footprint of the university (energy efficiency, compact university by sharing space and infrastructure)





## INTEGRATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND SOCIETAL ENGAGEMENT

- Specific courses: sustainable chemistry, sustainable economics, ...
- Multidisciplinar courses: sustainable cities, sustainable thinking, ...
- Participative process to integrate sustainability in all curricula
- Multidisciplinar research platforms (EnerGhentIC, Capture, Food2Know ...)
- City Academy: platform for research on Ghent's complex social challenges





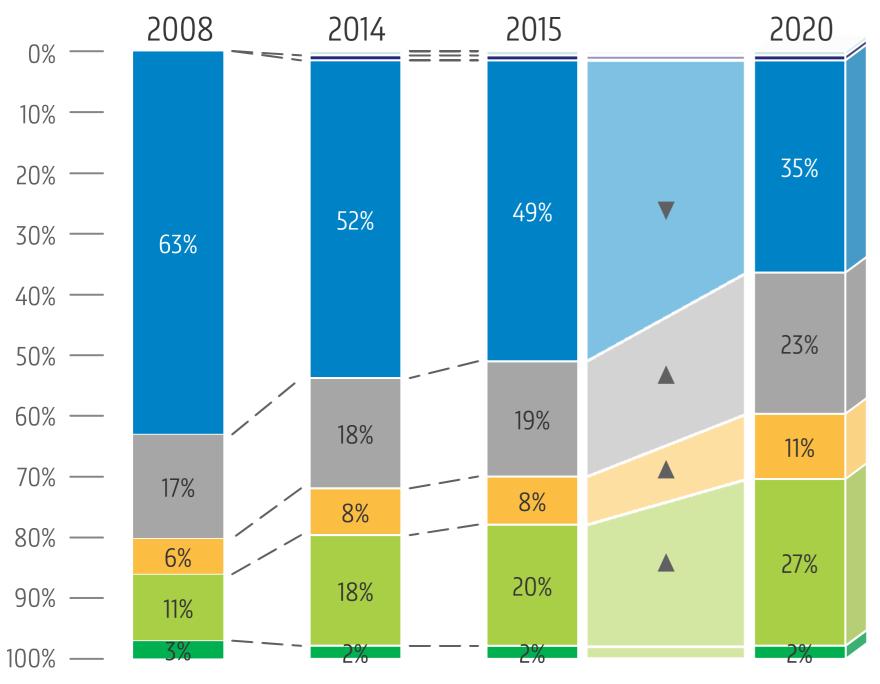
## IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION

- Campus development / Green spaces
- Energy and Water consumption
- Mobility
- Air and Water emissions
- Public Procurement and Circular Materials
- Food





#### **MOBILITY**



✓ Vervoerskeuze van personeel voor hoofdtraject van hun woon-werk-verplaatsing in 2008 (begin van telling), 2014, 2015 en 2020 (ambitie).





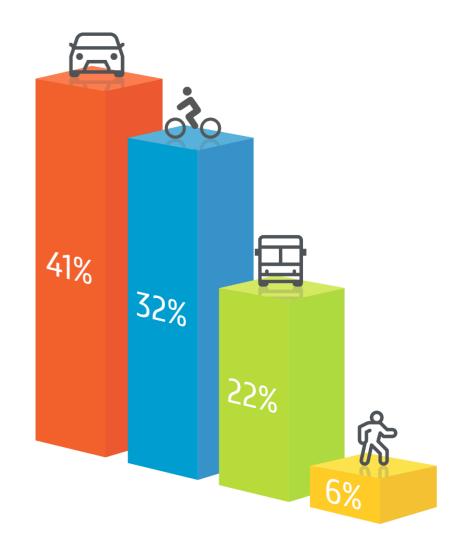


#### **MOBILITY**

- Biclycle allowance and third-party payment for public transport
- Repair service and bike rental (including electric bikes): de fietsambassade
- Test an electric bike for free one month
- Showers and lockers
- Cambio (car sharing vehicles) and bike sharing for mobility between campusses
- Shuttle buses from Train station to Campus Ardoyen
- Park and ride at Campus Sterre
- Charging stations for electric cars



obstacle: parking policy



#### MOBILITY: PARKING MAKE OVER















#### MOBILITY: TRAVEL POLICY

- Is the travel necessary?
- The train if you can reach the city within 6h
- CO<sub>2</sub>-compensation





#### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

- > 40% CO2 towards 2030 (in line with the EU goals)
- Compact university
  - Reduction instead of expanding: a demand for extra space doesn't mean a new building
  - Sharing of infrastructure: research equipment in core facilities, optimal use of lecture and teaching rooms by optimising the timetabling
  - Adjusted standards for the use of offices, labs (m²/ft)
- Energy efficiency
  - Awareness raising campaigns
  - Nearly Zero Energy Buildings
  - Scaling up the university's own green energy production





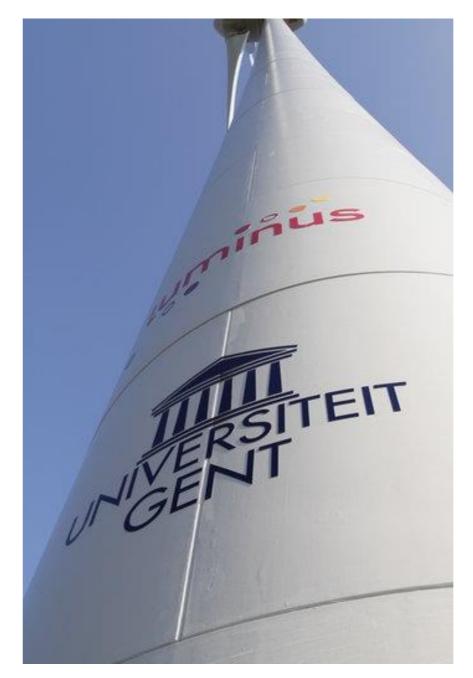


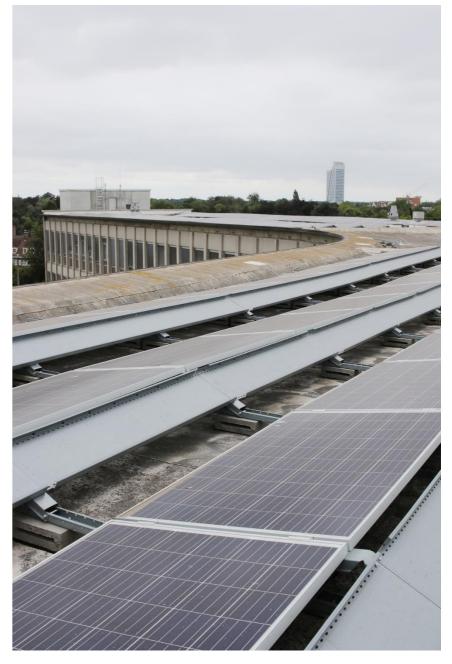




#### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Masterplan 2050: development of a long-term campus portfolio in which buildings and campuses are in line with sustainability goals (CO2 neutrality) => framework for future investments

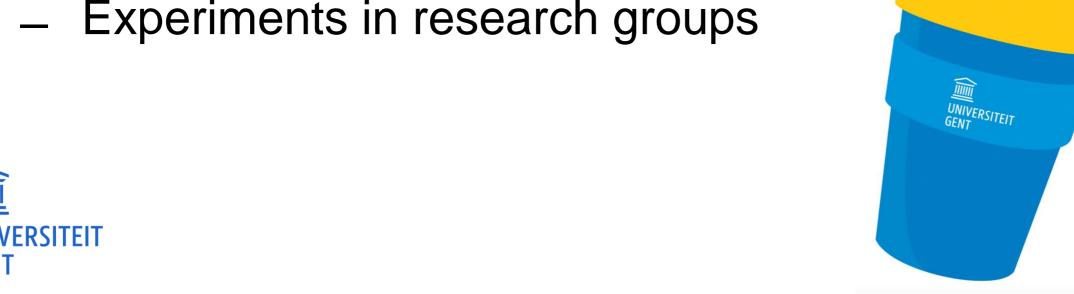






#### PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND MATERIALS

- Transition towards a circular economy:
  - Production of waste is minimized. Waste in only exceptional cases.
  - Circular economy in contracts
- The use of non-degradable plastics must be avoided
  - Bring your own cup / bottle (10 ct / plastic cup)
  - Drinking water fountains / Tap water jugs
  - Gadgets / promotional gifts
  - Experiments in research groups







### INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO: FOSSIL DIVESTMENT

Put on the agenda by the students

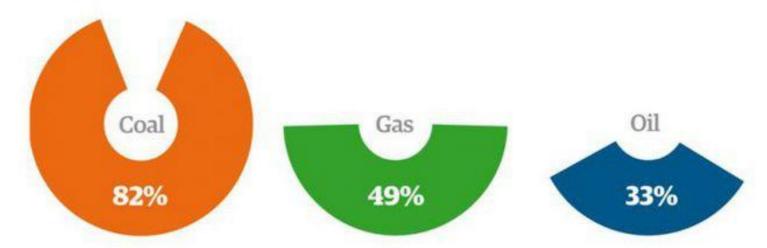
Screening of the investment portfolio > dialogue with the banks (discretionary management)

#### Unburnable fossil fuels

Known, extractable coal, oil and gas reserves that must not be burnt in order to prevent dangerous climate change of more than 2C

#### **Global reserves**

Per cent that cannot be burned



#### Result:

**GENT** 

- Exclusion of assets not in line with the sustainability agenda (e.g. fUN Global Compact, Fossil Free, ...)
- Active inclusion of assets contributing to it (renewable energy, ...)

#### VISIT H.M. QUEEN MATHILDE







#### SWAP SHOP





#### GHENT MODEL UNITED NATIONS









#### **Ghent Model United Nations**

MUN Wereldwijd bekend

Simulatie VN

Debat voor studenten, 16 - 28 jaar

**Internationaal** In organisatie en tijdens conferentie

Deelnemers uit 25+ verschillende landen

Engels als voertaal

**Doel conferentie** Debateren, onderhandelen, publiek spreken...

Nadenken over wereldwijde problematieken Sensibilisering i.v.m. internationaal debatten

Duurzame thema's GhentMUN 2019 - Water als hoofdthematiek

SDGs centraal in debatten

Duurzaamheid centraal in voorbereidingen

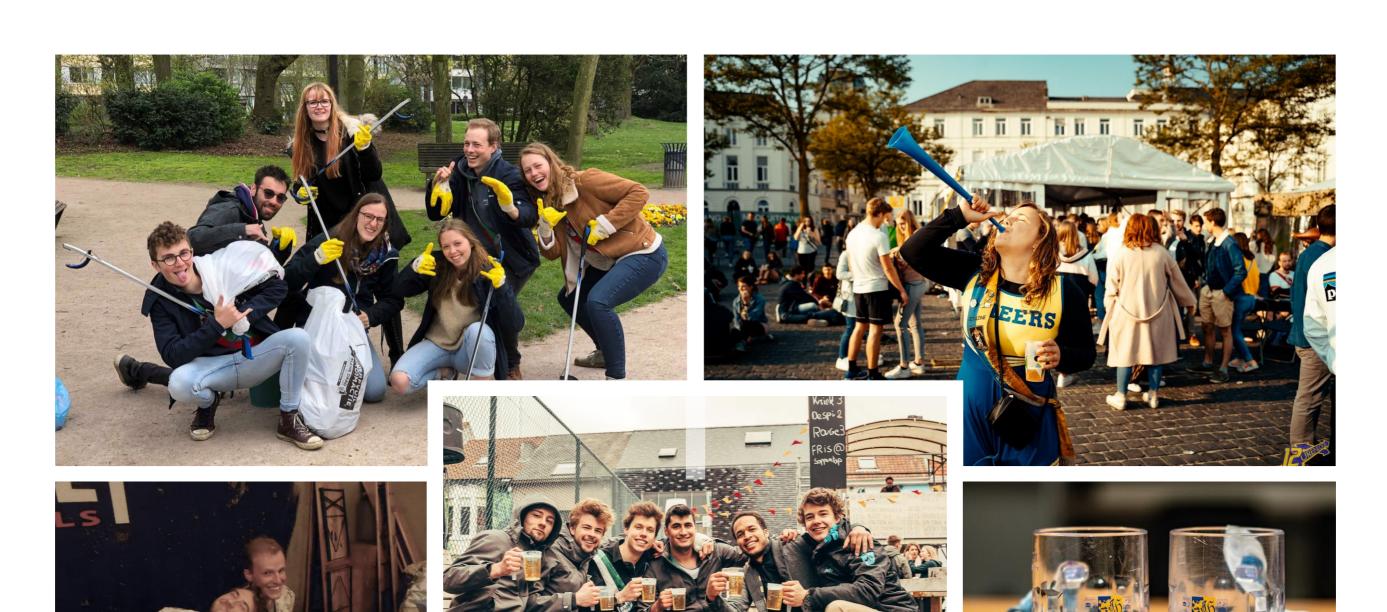
Fun Avondprogramma: Global Village en Bal

Community building





#### STUDENT UNIONS: SUSTAINABLE!





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