



The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals

Integration of SDGs in

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

Tampere Universities, which constitutes of Tampere University and Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK), have pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030. Both Tampere University and Tampere University of Applied Sciences have made this commitment. 2030 is also the Tampere region's target year for achieving carbon neutrality.

Carbon footprint calculations

Calculating the carbon footprint of the Tampere Universities is a central step towards carbon neutrality. The first carbon footprint calculation covered the year 2019, and its results were finalised in autumn 2020. In the future, the calculation process will be repeated annually. The Carbon Neutral Universities group, which includes representatives from different functions of the Universities, supports the calculation task.

In addition to the footprint calculations, the carbon neutrality work continues with mapping and implementing ways to reduce the footprint. Along with this, discussions about compensations concerning the remaining footprint will be started. Moreover, a roadmap is drafted to support the carbon neutrality work.

BENEFITS

1. Calculating the carbon footprint of the Tampere Universities is a central step towards carbon neutrality.
2. Discussions about compensations concerning the remaining footprint will be started and a roadmap is drafted to support the carbon neutrality work.
3. Determining the carbon footprint brings sustainable development goals to operational level in the universities and enables knowledge-based development of operations in the future.

BARRIERS

1. The carbon footprint calculation in question is the first one completed in Tampere Universities, and collecting data has not been possible in every detail or the collected data contains some uncertainties (e.g. the precise ingredients of catered food, data collection after the emissions occurred).
2. Carbon footprint calculation methods in general and particularly in the higher education sector are still evolving.
3. As a result of these uncertainties, it is clear that the calculation in question is a rough estimate of the carbon footprint, and thus it is best to focus on the general picture it offers about overall emissions and emissions in different categories.

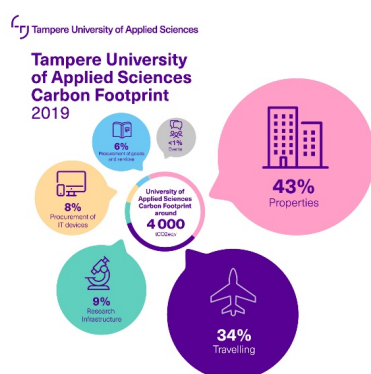


Image 1. Tampere University of Applied Sciences carbon footprint results in 2019.

SDG Accord Reporting 2021 CASE STUDY

CONCLUSIONS

The carbon footprint report focuses on describing the overall process of calculating Tampere Universities' carbon footprint for 2019 as well as the calculations of different emission sources. The report also discusses insecurities related to the calculations and suggests improvements that could and should be done in the next round of calculations. Calculating the carbon footprint is an operation which will be repeated annually from now on. In connection to the footprint, Tampere Universities start identifying possibilities for decreasing carbon emissions and discussing how the remaining emissions could be compensated in a sustainable manner.

Despite some uncertainties in the calculations, determining the carbon footprint brings sustainable development goals to operational level in the universities and enables knowledge-based development of operations in the future. Knowledge is the key to change.

More info about the Tampere Universities Carbon Footprint 2019 - Carbon Calculation Report:

<https://www.tuni.fi/en/about-us/sustainable-development-at-tampere-universities/ecological-responsibility>