EMPOWERING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

RENĀRS KAIRIS

UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA
CHAIRMAN OF THE ECO-COUNCIL

THE JOURNEY OF PRODUCT “X”

Before the production begins

Extraction of materials

Land-grabbing

Land clearing

THE JOURNEY OF PRODUCT “X”

Discrimination of local communities

Issues with human rights and democracy

Deforestation

Loss of biodiversity

Emissions and pollution in the process

THE JOURNEY OF PRODUCT “X”

Establishment and production phase

Monoculture plantations

Exploiting labor

Infrastructure systems

THE JOURNEY OF PRODUCT “X”

Migrant workforce discrimination and exploitation

Human right violations

Limited social protection

Soil erosion

Habitat destruction

THE JOURNEY OF PRODUCT “X”

Producing the product

Harvesting Processing Expanding

THE JOURNEY OF PRODUCT “X”

Transportation and operations = emissions

Further biodiversity decline

Water and air pollution

Health risks for local communities and workers

Damaging eco-systems

THE JOURNEY OF PRODUCT “X”

Expanding and shipping the product

Supply chains Shipping Intensification

THE JOURNEY OF PRODUCT “X”

Contributing to climate change

Human rights violations

Damaged communities

Loss of biodiversity, eco-systems and cultural heritage

Pollution in all phases of the production process

An aerial view shows deforestation near a forest on the border between Amazonia and Cerrado in Nova Xavantina, Mato Grosso state, Brazil, in July. (Amanda Perobelli/Reuters)

THE JOURNEY OF PALM OIL

Contributing to climate change

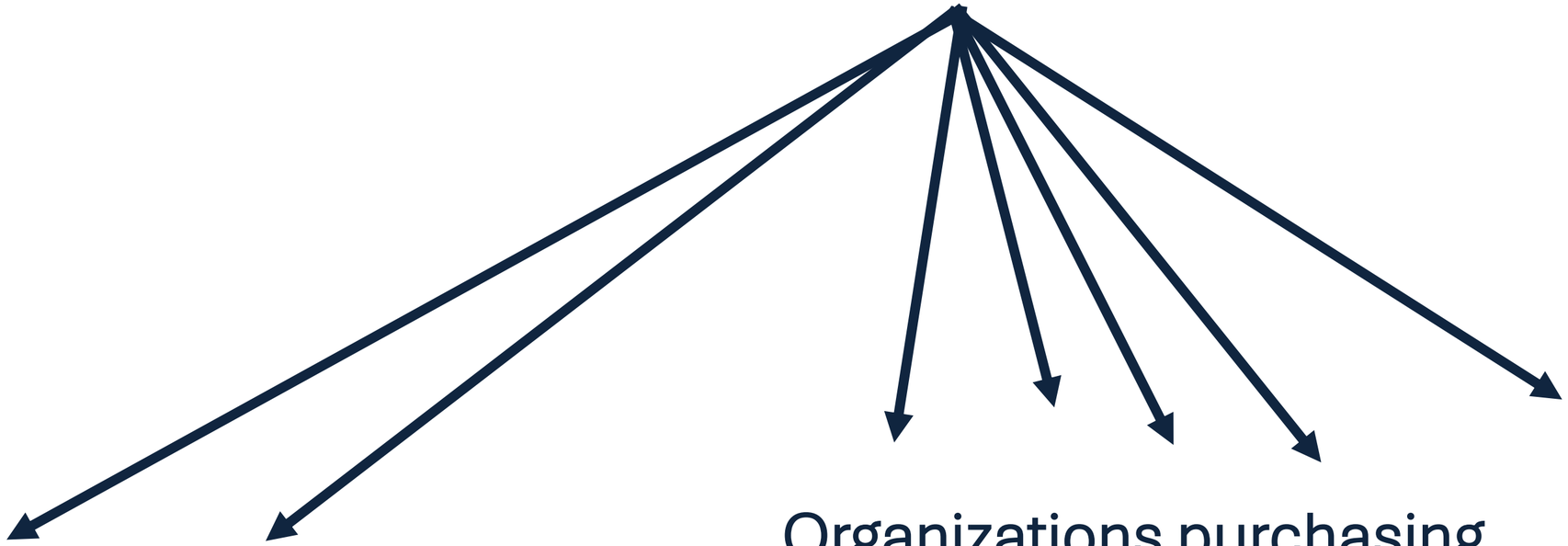
Human rights violations

Damaged communities

Loss of biodiversity, eco-systems and cultural heritage

Pollution in all phases of the production process

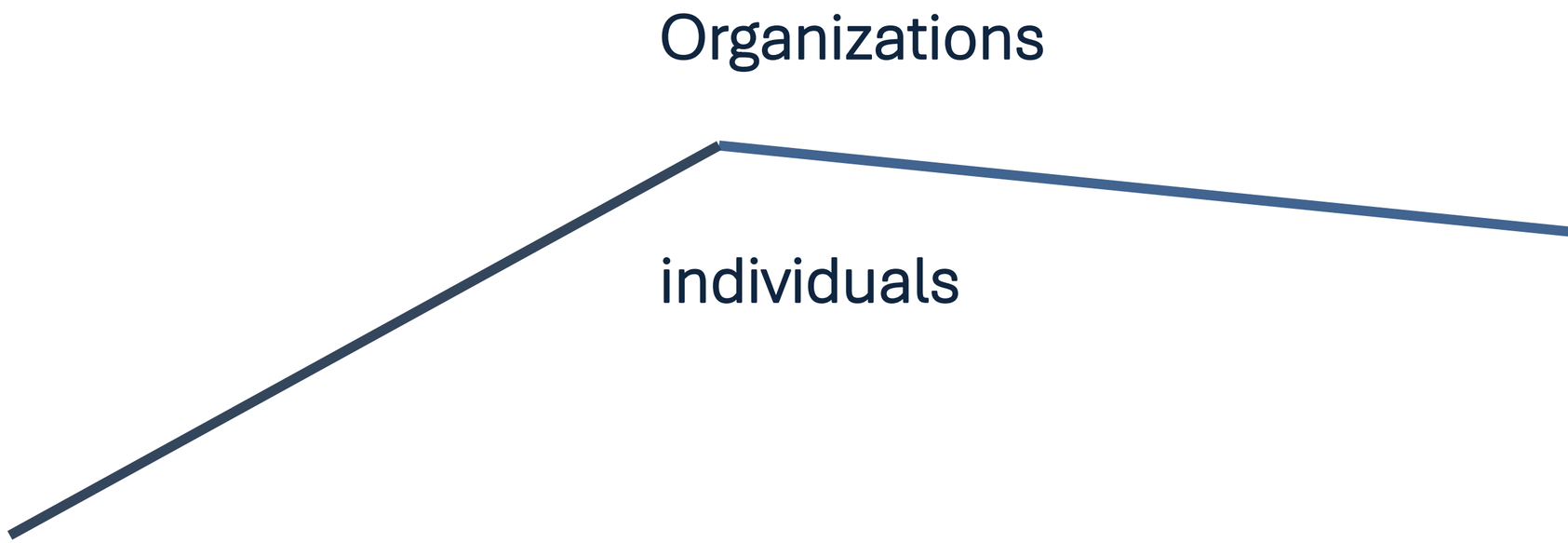
THE JOURNEY OF PALM OIL



Individuals purchasing products with palm oil

Organizations purchasing products with palm oil for all of their individuals

HOW CAN WE CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABILITY?



SUSTAINABILITY?

ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Diversity and Inclusion

Health and Well-being

Equality and Equity

Community Engagement

Education and Lifelong Learning

Resource management

Responsible investments

Corporate responsibility (ESG)

Green procurement

Circular economy solutions and innovations

Biodiversity conservation

Climate action

Sustainable operations

Waste reduction and management

Reducing greenhouse emissions

Voluntary inclusion of **social**, **economic**, **environmental** and human rights values in daily activities and relations with stakeholders

Founded 2021.

UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA

Eco-Council

The Eco-Council is a joint initiative of the UL Students' Council, the UL Study Development and Governance Improvement Programme and the UL Academic Centre Development Programme.

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Bottom-up approach to change

Sustainability goals doesn't have to come with a hefty price tag

Identifying our impact

Combines the UL Administration, departments, students and academic staff

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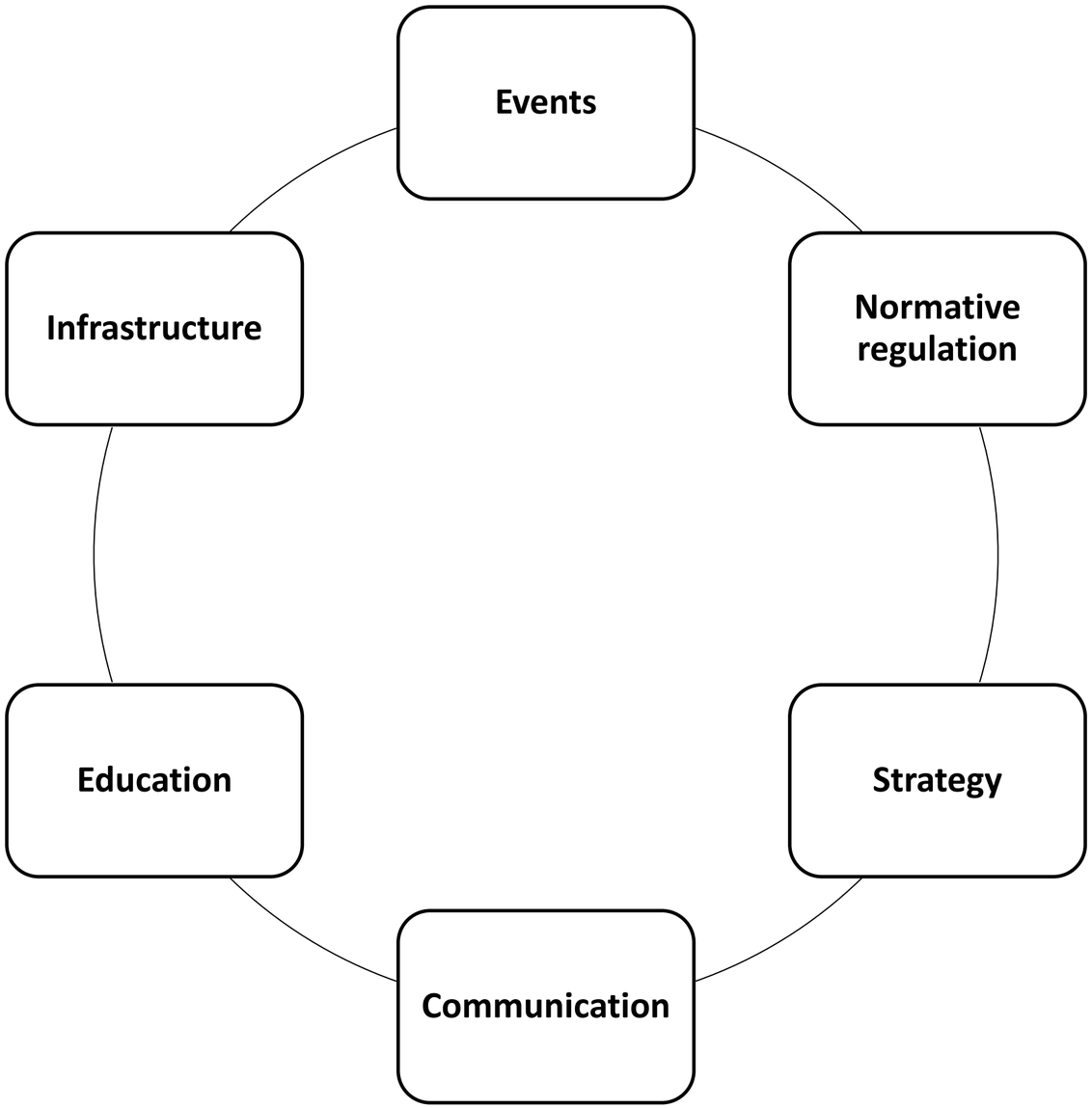
Eco-Council



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Eco-Council

UL Sustainable Development Policy principles

- leadership in research and education at national level;
- participation and openness to internal and external initiatives;
- systemicism and holism;
- open communication;
- transparency and accountability;
- continuity in development.

UL Sustainable Development Policy directions

- research, innovation and knowledge transfer;
- communication and engagement;
- socially responsible investment;
- resource management;
- well-being of society;
- cooperation to achieve regional and global sustainability goals.

UL Sustainable Development Policy instruments

- climate innovations, smart city;
- environmental management system;
- circular economy-based solutions;
- socially responsible procurement;
- involvement in the international Eco-University program and the evaluation of the university's sustainability and
- in certification-oriented systems;

UL Sustainable Development Policy instruments

- creation of common understanding in the UL family and society as a whole;
- directions and principles of sustainability are interwoven in the research of both exact and humanities sciences,
- in education, cooperation;
- support programs

Done and undergoing:

Gender equality policy;
Sustainable development policy;
Code of conduct;
Green University campus;
Urban Community garden;
Green procurement;
Discussions and engagement;
Event organization principles;
Communication principles;
Collaboration and networks

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Done and undergoing:

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Done and undergoing:

Urban Community garden;
Green procurement;
Discussions and engagement;
Event organization principles;
Communication principles.

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forthem.

Fostering Outreach
within European Regions,
Transnational Higher Education
and Mobility

UNICA

Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

MISIJA NULLE

VESELĪBA UN DROŠĪBA SĀKAS AR MUMS

MISSION ZERO

HEALTH AND SAFETY STARTS WITH US

Eco-Schools

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

University of Latvia
RANKED 101–200

www.thewur.com

Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023

UI GreenMetric

World University Rankings

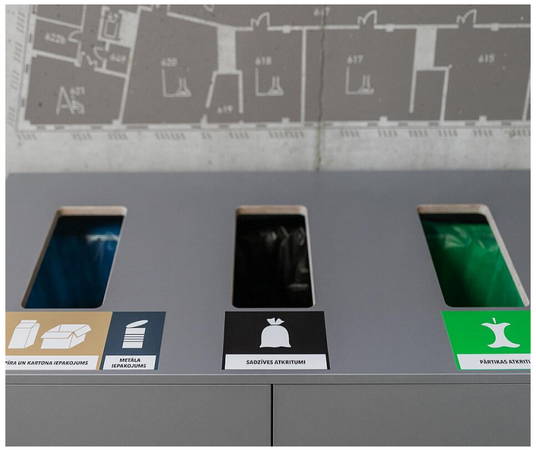
InCSR

THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2021

DISKUSIJA
PAR VIDI UN

Sveicam starptautiskajā
praida mēnesī!

SURVEY
DISCRIMINATION
IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
LATVIJAS UNIVERSITĀTE
ej.uz/discriminationsurvey


METĀLA IEPAKOJUMS
SADZĪVES ATKRITUMI

Development can start with you!

- Working together with students and employees;
- Involve the departments who are responsible for project implementation in the decision making;
- Policies; strategies; guidelines are crucial, so is the involvement of international actors in the making of them;

Development can start with you!

- Monitoring sustainability in regional and local systems;
- Departments similar to “UL Eco-council” help to communicate important changes to students and employees and monitor the success and flaws of important project implementation.

THANK YOU!

LET’S EMPOWER SUSTAINABLE FUTURES!

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