

Sorbonne Nouvelle University and Ecological Action



Ecological issues at Sorbonne Nouvelle University

1. Students
2. Staff
3. Ecological actions and decisions



1. Students : the student citizens' convention

- A presidential support
- 100 students drawn at random
- 6 days of deliberations, including training and meeting with academic staffs
- 10 students trained as facilitators
- A direct democracy proces that fosters empowerment and creates transformative experiences
- 92 recommendations



1. Students : a transversal course

- State requirement
- Interdisciplinarity and collective approach
- Systematic and mandatory starting in 2025-26, following two years of experimentation
- Second year graduate students (approximately 2.400 students per year)
- 24 hours of instruction in hybrid format (1/3 in person, 2/3 via MOOC)
- Course titled « Cultures, Ecologies, Transitions », aligned with our institutional specificities

Mixed outcomes: some students are highly engaged, while others show little motivation for a general course and no interest in ecological issues.



1. For students : Next steps

- more disciplinary integration
- more student involvement in courses conception
- more « head-heart-body pedagogy » : connexion with the living world, experience of alternative and sober ways of living and acting



2. Staff training on ecological issues

- **Awareness-raising sessions** the Presidential Team and the Research Commission

- **Participatory process developing the DD&RSE roadmap :**

Two-hours session for the entire academic staff, scheduled for March

Five thematic workshops

- An **informal network** of « engaged staff members »

- A **one-day training session** (currently in development) for all the new employees

Conclusion : There is clear interest and demand but also significant barriers :

- **Information overload** creates a sense of already being sufficiently trained

- **Paradigm shifts** encounter resistance

- Anxiety leads to **defensive reactions**

- **Limited time and resources** further constrain engagement

3. Environmental Decision-Making

Exemples of Actions and Decisions (January 2026):

- **Business Travail Policy: Train travel** must be used (*and not air travel*) when the journey can be completed in under 6 hours (threshold extended to 7 hours in 2027 and 8 hours in 2028)
- **Vegeterian menu:** once a week, for students

Partnerships : with Académie du Climat, Learning Planet Institute...



Looking Ahead: Strengthening Europe-Canada Cooperation

- **Local** engagement with a global perspective
- Exchange and sharing of existing **practices and projects**
- **Long term mobility** opportunities for students and staff
- Shared **online courses** and **conferences** in French language

