

DRAFT UPF AGENDA 21
POMPEU FABRA UNIVERSITY

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
13 November 2007

Introduction

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development —also known as the “Earth Summit”— was held in Rio de Janeiro to analyze the serious impact of human action on the different elements constituting the environment. The states, international organizations and members of the global civil society that participated concluded that, for development to be sustainable, it must be compatible with the environmental needs of both present and future generations.

At the Earth Summit, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development was adopted as a declaration of principles, as was Agenda 21, a blueprint for action indicating different measures that should be taken in order to meet major environmental challenges. At this summit, the United Nations invited cities to develop local action plans to meet the socio-environmental challenges of the 21st Century. In the case of Barcelona, the local agenda 21, called *Agenda 21 BCN: The People’s Commitment to Sustainability*, was developed by the Municipal Council for Environment and Sustainability and approved by the Barcelona City Council on 9 July 2002.

Pompeu Fabra University signed *The People’s Commitment to Sustainability*, which calls for signatory institutions to develop Agenda 21 action plans. Moreover, UPF students requested candidates for rector in the May 2005 elections to commit to developing an Agenda 21 for the University. This UPF Agenda 21 is a response to both commitments.

I. WHAT IS THE UPF AGENDA 21?

Pompeu Fabra University has an important role to play in furthering sustainable development goals, due to the age group of the people to which its activities are addressed, as well as to its role as an educational institution in society. The first step towards attaining this goal is to improve environmental management at the University itself.

The aim of the UPF Agenda 21 is to make the university sustainable. A sustainable university means a university that takes responsibility for the consequences of the educational process with respect to both infrastructure management and the conduct of the members of the university community. Hence, the objectives of the UPF Agenda 21 are as follows:

- Making management of the University sustainable.
- Raising awareness of the new sustainable development model among the university community and fostering its participation.
- Fostering the inclusion of environmental values in educational programmes.

The UPF Agenda 21 is at once a preliminary diagnosis and an action plan. The preliminary diagnosis indicates the state of environmental affairs at the University at present, identifying the primary strengths and weaknesses. The action plan enumerates the priority objectives and fields of action for attaining the established goals. In sum, the UPF Agenda 21 establishes the measures to be undertaken in order for the university to become sustainable over the next few years, and at the same time, serves as an instrument for attaining this sustainability.

Finally, the UPF Agenda 21 is a commitment shared by the entire university community—from the governing bodies to the different groups and individuals that form a part of it—to improve habits and daily practices in order to contribute, each to the best of their abilities, to sustainability at the University.

II. THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THE UPF AGENDA 21

Pompeu Fabra University began the process of developing its Agenda 21 programme in 2006. To this end, on 9 June 2006, the Rector created the UPF Environmental Committee, which first convened on 6 July 2006 to work towards this task. On 28 November 2006, the Committee approved the work plan that was to serve as a guide for developing the UPF Agenda 21.

The UPF Agenda 21 was drawn up through a process of participation open to all members of the university community and represents an agreement for collective responsibility vis-à-vis the environment, allotted resources and society. The process was inclusive, involving the different groups and individuals comprising the university community (faculty, administrative and service personnel and students), both through their representatives on the Environmental Committee and directly, through a survey on environmental management at the UPF.

The survey on environmental management was drawn up by the Environmental Committee with the collaboration of the Rectorate's Secretarial Services and the Studies, Planning and Evaluation Unit. The survey was designed to serve as: a tool for collecting information on the behavioural patterns and perceptions of all members of the UPF community, as well as for gathering their ideas and suggestions; a mechanism for allowing the participation of the university community; and finally, a tool for raising awareness of Agenda 21 issues. The survey was done through the Global Campus, targeting the whole of the university community, from 19 April to 10 May 2007.

The survey provided indicative results allowing us to improve our knowledge of environmental issues relating to the University, and indicated that we must intensify sensitization and participation of the university community.

By the same token, the Environmental Committee was advised by the Barcelona Agenda 21 Secretariat via the company, Delibera.info, which participated as a guest in the 18 January 2007 Committee meeting.

III. TOWARDS A PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AT THE UPF

The Committee has collected a series of data relative to environmental management at the University, which comprises a first step towards a diagnosis of the state of affairs at the UPF. Now we know that some things are being done properly, though other measures must also be implemented in order to improve environmental management at the University.

A. Use of Resources and Energy Consumption

The University currently uses partially chlorine-free (ECF) or recycled paper for its printers and photocopying machines. By the same token, the majority of publications are done on offset ECF paper or recycled paper.

The University applies criteria for optimization and rationalization of the electricity supply resulting in a reduction of power consumption. These criteria include: use of low-energy light bulbs; use of dry-type electric power transformers (not requiring transformer oil); substitution of the extant, non-efficient lighting and installation of electronic ballasts to decrease electricity consumption; installation of regulation and control equipment for the University power network.

The air conditioning and heating installation at the Ciutadella Campus uses groundwater, which allows improved energy performance and helps maintain a regular water table in the area.

The gas used as a refrigerant (R-134 A) in air conditioning devices is ecologic.

In any case, it seems evident that there is still room for improvement insofar as resource and energy efficiency at the University.

B. Waste Management

Some of the most significant measures adopted by the University in this field are:

The placement of waste bins supplied by the Barcelona City Council or by companies specialising in collection of batteries and fluorescent or gas-discharge lamps at all University buildings.

Wastepaper and cardboard disposal, included in the cleaning contracts for all University buildings, is done through recycling bins provided to facilitate collection.

By the same token, inkjet cartridge, toner cartridge and CD disposal is also done selectively, through special recycling bins managed by the company in charge of office supplies.

Any chemical, sanitary and radioactive waste generated by special courses of study taught at the Rambla and del Mar buildings is collected by specialized firms that provide specific containers for each of these types of waste. These companies are in charge of treating this waste and supplying new containers.

C. Environmentally Friendly Construction, Utilities and Services Contracts

In this field, the University has already adopted several measures, namely:

Introducing environmentally-friendly criteria in the invitation to tender for the construction of the Communication Campus.

One of the prerequisites for cleaning companies to obtain a cleaning contract from the University is that they have ISO 14001 accreditation, defining significant aspects of the company's environmental policy.

Moreover, a new measure has been introduced in the latest invitations to tender for construction work. Now a forestry certificate (preferably FSC) is included as part of the schedule of technical conditions in order to guarantee that the wood used in construction work generally comes from sources using socially, economically and environmentally sustainable forest management.

IV. THE UPF AGENDA 21 OBJECTIVES

The UPF Agenda 21 is also an action plan enumerating objectives and priority fields of action for attaining improved levels of environmental management and, ultimately, a truly sustainable university. The list of measures to undertake as a first step is organized according to four major objectives, with different lines of action for each objective.

A. Improving efficiency in the use of resources and energy consumption and fostering the use of renewable energy

Lines of Action

1. Reducing the consumption of water and increasing efficiency in its use. Providing greater information and raising awareness on the water cycle and water management.
2. Reducing energy consumption. Increasing efficiency both in the generation and use of energy by applying the best available technology.
3. Increasing the proportion of renewable or clean energy used, with the goal of having 12% of our overall consumption consist of renewable energy, in keeping with European Union provisions.
4. Improving the efficiency of the heating and air conditions systems.
5. Improving the efficiency of electrical energy use in classrooms, corridors and lavatories.
6. Improving the efficiency of paper use by fostering the use of recycled paper and double-sided photocopying among all members of the university community.
7. Applying environmental and energy efficiency criteria in contracts for the construction of new university facilities.
8. Introducing environmental and energy efficiency criteria in contracts for the supply of goods and provision of services.
9. Reducing the consumption of materials and fostering the use of more environmentally-friendly products.
10. Fostering the acquisition of daily habits leading to savings in electricity, water and other natural resources and fostering good purchase and use practices.

B. Reducing waste production and fostering a culture of reuse and recycling

Lines of Action

1. Minimizing waste, particularly insofar as plastics, tin and paper.
2. Fostering recycling, especially of office supplies, computer devices and paper.
3. Avoiding unnecessary packaging, bottles or tins and, at the same time, encouraging their return or reuse (refunds for the return of empty bottles and tins, beverage dispensers incentivising the use of one's own glass, etc.).
4. Increasing the number of recycling bins: installing more glass, plastic, paper, battery and organic waste bins.
5. Adopting measures to improve the management of waste generated by the different University restaurant services.

C. Improving transport and mobility

Lines of Action

1. Encouraging the use of public transport and car-sharing initiatives to reduce the use of private vehicles.
2. Fostering the use of the bicycle as a means of transport and increasing and improving bicycle parking facilities.

D. Advancing towards a culture of sustainability through environmental education and communication

Lines of Action

1. Producing and distributing useful and comprehensible information about environmental issues that raise awareness of individual and collective risks and providing alternatives so that members of the university community are encouraged to change behaviour patterns.
2. Fostering the involvement of all groups forming part of the University in the implementation of the UPF Agenda 21 and the institution's environmental management.
3. Promoting the inclusion of environmental values in academic and educational activities.
4. Fostering the creation of channels for communication, information and filing of complaints on environmental issues.
5. Developing strategies for education, communication, participation, training and support aimed at:
 - i. Making sustainable use of resources and energy.
 - ii. Reducing waste production and fostering a culture of reuse and recycling.

V. ACTIONS

To attain the Agenda 21 goals, a process will be launched for implementing the measures indicated under the different lines of action. This process will consist in the following actions:

1. Developing a manual of good environmental practice.
2. Developing indicators for monitoring environmental performance.
3. Designing campaigns to raise awareness of and inform about good practices.
4. Creating permanent tools for informing and allowing participation of the university community through the University website.
5. Setting up an Environment Management Unit for implementing the Agenda 21.
6. Creating an Agenda 21 monitoring committee with the participation of representatives from the different groups comprising the university community.