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INTERNATIONAL

# Green Office Movement

**Darren Axe, SOS-International membership & engagement manager**

# Introduction and personal motivation

- Stewardship of Green Lancaster 2009 – 2024.
- Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (UK)
- International Mountain Leader
- SOS-International membership and engagement manager
- Personal interest in sustainability resonates around systems thinking, planetary boundaries, safe and just operating space, intrinsic value of human-nature connections and learning journeys.
- Sustainability mindset (Isabel Rimanoczy) developed by first-hand experiences of the loss in environmental change.
- Experiential, interdisciplinary, co-curricular learning.



**green**  
Lancaster



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# Our work:

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We engage students and youth organizations globally to lead on their campuses and in their communities towards a more sustainable and just future

# Our work



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Launched in 2019 to support student and youth organisations globally to lead on sustainability and social justice through higher education. We connect, strengthen and scale impactful initiatives – so together we can go further, faster.

We convene (inter)national student-led and student-focussed organisations, working on sustainability and social justice, to:

- **Support more and better action** among education institutions and student organisations
- **Scale programs and campaigns** to have wider reach and greater impact
- **Strengthen capacity** of member organisations to empower student leadership
- **Amplify the voice of students** worldwide to influence systemic change
- **Web:** [sos.earth](https://sos.earth)



# Projects and programs at SOS-International



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- **Global Member exchange** between student and youth-led organizations.
- **Green Office Movement**
- **Workshops, training and development:** student and staff facing within member organizations
- **SOS-International summit:** annual event (UTwente 2024, Gent 2025, TBC 2026)
- **Higher Education Sustainability Initiative:** Student Action Group (co-convenor)
- Student and Youth representation at **Conference of the Parties** and other policy setting spaces.



# Background to SOS-International



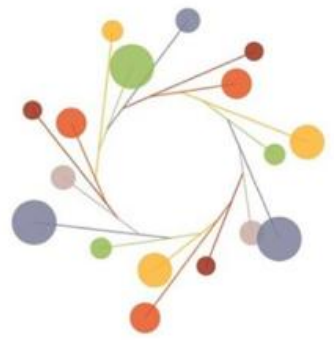
- Established in 2019
- Founding members: DSF, SOS-UK, USI.
- 32 member organizations: student or youth-led organizations working on transforming education for sustainability and environmental justice.
- Rotational presidency: All-Africa Students' Union 2023-2025
- Staff hosting: SOS-UK



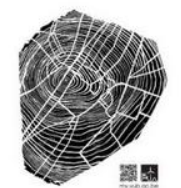


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# Green Office Movement



GreenOffice  
*movement*



# 2025 movement members

Sustainable Strathclyde (UK)	Green Office UGent (BE)	Green Team Vrije Universiteit Brussel (BE)	Green Office Gemeente Amsterdam (NL)	Green Hub Twente (NL)
Stirling University SU Green and Blue Space (UK)	UAntwerpen Green Office (BE)	Green Office UHasselt (BE)	Green Office VU Amsterdam (NL)	Green Office University of Oslo (NO)
Green Office Universität Innsbruck (AT)	Green Office ULiège (BE)	Green Office Uni Bonn (DE)	Green Office Utrecht University (NL)	LUSU Green (Lancaster University Students' Union) (UK)
Green Office Karel de Grote Hogeschool (BE)	Green Office TU Darmstadt (DE)	Green Office Uni Konstanz (DE)	Green Office TU Delft (NL)	Green Office CAU-Kiel (DE)
Leiden University Green Office (NL)	Haagse Hogeschool Green Office (NL)	Green Office Wageningen (NL)	Green Office Open University (NL)	Green Office Vives Hogeschool (BE)



## A Green Office is...

a student-led, staff-supported sustainability hub

### Community engagement



inform, connect and support students and staff to act

### Institutional change



operations, curriculum & governance

# Green Office vision: whole institution approach



# Green Office Pillars



Students in the core team



Staff support



Student volunteers, course projects, clubs and societies



Office space



Mandate



Funding

## A Green Office **strengthens...**



**Engagement** of students and staff



**Visibility & collaboration** of initiatives



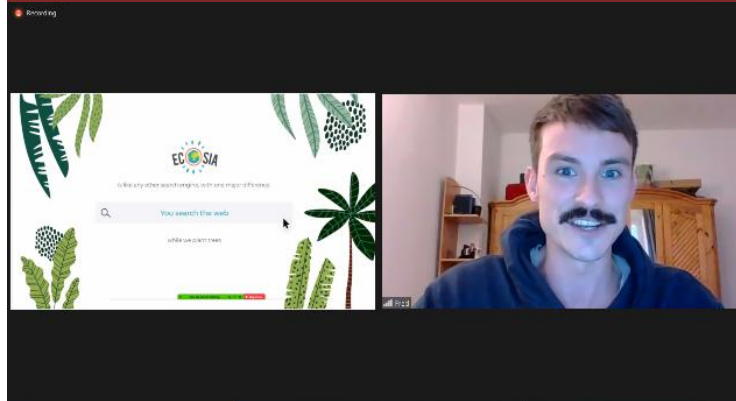
**Structural integration** in the organisation

# Green Office Movement membership

## Member networking calls



## Webinars



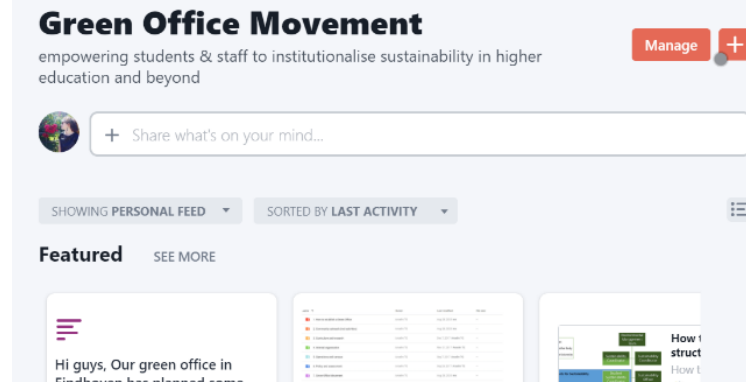
## Resources

1. Establishing a Green Office
2. Internal organisation
3. Community engagement
4. Education and research
5. Operations and campus
6. Policy and assessment

## Network events



## Platform



## Workshops



Join the GO Movement at [www.greenofficemovement.org/join](http://www.greenofficemovement.org/join)

# 2025 membership pricing

- Solidarity-based membership rates
- Ensure finance and budgets are not a barrier to engagement (especially for aspirational Green Offices)
- Enables us to focus on making things happen at and between the member GO's, rather than chasing finance

Membership type	2025 Rate	Green Office status
<b>Gold</b>	GBP 950	Well-resourced and long-established Green Office, integrated into university structures and governance.
<b>Silver</b>	GBP 700	Established Green Office that has consolidated its position within university structures and governance.
<b>Bronze</b>	GBP 450	New Green Office with small staff/student team and limited budget.
<b>Reduced</b>	GBP 200	Green Office facing financial challenges with limited staff/student team and/or reduced support from the University.

# 2025 activities



## Symposium 27-28 March:

- Hosted by Green Office ULiège (Sarah and Cécile)
- 18 delegates gathered at HEC Liège
- Sharing activities, best practice, challenges.
- Visioning our collective goals for next 5 years as a movement



# 2025 activities



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## SOS-International summit 08-09 May:

- *'mobilizing student leadership for environmental justice'*
- Hosted by Green Office UGent (Femke and Oshin)
- 100 delegates from Belgium, NL, UK, Germany, Ghana, Tanzania, Burundi...
- 2 panels, 18 presentation/workshop sessions.
- Saturday tour of alternatives in Gent



# Aspirant member pathway

- Higher Education Institution (HEI) expression of interest in launching a Green Office and joining the movement
- OR
- Existing student-led (ideally with institutional support) initiative at a HEI expression of interest in obtaining Green Office status and joining the movement.

## Process:

- Initial call with SOS-International to determine structures, financial support, budget, membership type and proposed joining date.
- Aspirant member can join a GOM member network call to meet the existing members.
- Aspirant GO works within HEI to obtain endorsement, branding and launch date (project timeline implementation).
- Aspirant GO launches and joins GOM as full member.



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