

CEU Sustainability Advisory Committee (CSAC) Declaration: Otto Wagner Campus Development Goals

Central European University faces a crucial moment in its quest to enhance its position as an exemplary academic institution whose research and academic excellence empowers solutions to contemporary complex social and environmental challenges. The **CEU Sustainability Advisory Committee (CSAC)** recognizes the key importance of the Vienna Otto Wagner Campus Development project in establishing a permanent home for the University's future educational and community outreach programming. During this pivotal moment in our institution's development, it is CSAC's intent to affirm our responsibility in establishing a campus environment which fulfills CEU's mission statement, while acknowledging our responsibility in setting a global example for mitigating the environmental impact of campus activity. This pursuit serves the expectations of current and future students, staff and community members, in addition to sustainable development targets established by the Vienna Municipality and Austrian Government.

Through this declaration CSAC recommends target goals which should guide the campus redevelopment process in creating an attractive learning and working environment for current and future staff, students and community members while also considering the duty of modern higher education institutions for embodying achievable sustainability transition pathways. The suggestions outlined in this declaration are based on research on the energy performance potential of the Otto Wagner Site infrastructure as summarized in the award winning [*Otto Wagner Plus Areal*](#) feasibility study, which outlined the cost feasibility of infrastructure investment that could reduce final on-site energy demand by 90% compared to typical refurbishment.

The Committee pledges its assistance in helping implement the goals outlined in this declaration throughout the campus redevelopment process and while CEU affirms its commitment to institutional sustainable development.

The **CEU Sustainability Advisory Committee** recommends the following steps in ensuring a University-wide binding commitment to improving its current and future performance in mitigating environmental impacts of campus operations:

Reducing absolute energy demand as much as feasible as a primary design goal for the future campus:

Confirm that a paramount goal of the project is the reduction of primary energy demand from infrastructure, as well as the implementation of accurate HVAC system control and monitoring equipment which supports long-term efficiency in building management. Ensure that the *Otto Wagener Plus Areal* study is considered as a baseline reference for energy performance design. Preferences for energy system design include:

- Reducing energy demand in pursuit of achieving energy plus or passive house building standards
- Eliminating the usage of gas or other fossil fuels as an energy source on campus
- Establishing infrastructure which empowers the pursuit of carbon neutrality in relation to energy consumption and net-zero emissions
- Increasing solar and thermal insulation properties of the building core
- Ensuring high efficiency of thermal energy generation and air circulation systems
- Optimized electrical energy demand for appliances, IT systems and plug loads
- High efficiency lighting fixtures and best possible interior lighting levels
- High individual user control of work, study and living spaces; user system interface which enables energy efficient occupation of campus space
- Inclusion of Building Management System (BMS) software which empowers optimized operational efficiency and smart building control
- Maximizing on-site alternative energy production (e.g. photovoltaics)

Adopt an enforceable, modern and internationally recognized campus climate mitigation strategy:

Confirm that the Otto Wagner Area site development is aligned with the University's aim to adopt and implement an internationally recognized, measurable, and credible climate mitigation strategy by 2025 which sets targets for carbon monitoring, energy efficiency, emissions reductions, and explores the feasibility of institutional carbon neutrality and net-zero emissions which incorporate the environmental footprint of campus activity for selected scopes of operation.

Commit to site biodiversity enhancement as a core goal of the Vienna Campus Redevelopment Project:

Ensure that site development includes a biodiversity enhancement strategy for the surrounding natural environment and acknowledges the value of campus green space within a larger and interconnected urban ecosystem, and the landscape's role in storing carbon.

Adopt a strategy for the incorporation of organic based construction materials, material consumption reduction, waste avoidance and management:

Campus policy and infrastructure development must encourage sustainable materials selection and procurement and waste avoidance as a primary materials usage reduction strategy. Locally-sourced, non-toxic, organic-based, reusable and recyclable materials should be prioritized during site development. A life cycle analysis study should influence materials selection during the site design and construction. Campus policy and infrastructure should encourage waste avoidance on site, and the efficient separated collection of recyclable materials and organic waste. Electronic and hazardous waste should be reduced and recycled according to the European Union's Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) directive. The University must pursue an electronics procurement and reuse policy that promotes the extended usage, refurbishment and reuse of electronic devices.

Adopt a strategy for water conservation on campus:

The site development should include a water conservation, reuse, and on-site water retention strategy for building infrastructure and the surrounding natural environment. The site plan should include rainwater and drainage management infrastructure which includes steps to reduce the amount of impermeable surfaces onsite while incorporating rainwater collection and reuse, and natural water storage as a means of biodiversity enhancement. Infrastructure should ensure convenient access to fresh drinking water at all campus locations.

Adopt a strategy for sustainable mobility and campus access:

Site development ensures that the campus is easily accessible via public transportation through integration with the City of Vienna's mass transit and micro mobility network. Planning and design should enable a bicycle and pedestrian friendly environment while providing barrier free access to buildings which is compliant with international standards

for disabled and reduced mobility access. Campus access is an aspect of a broader sustainable mobility policy which is established by the University.

Commit to pursuing a strategy which utilizes the campus development project's potential for education and civic outreach:

The project should include a strategy for communicating sustainable design principles and environmentally conscious behavior to guests and the campus community. The design and implementation process should be utilized as a tool for educational outreach which benefits the campus community and local stakeholders while serving as a landmark project portraying the sustainable renovation of a historically significant structure within the international community.

Committing to the steps outlined in this declaration will empower the following benefits:

- Increasing the attractiveness of CEU as a place of work and study for current and future community members
- Provide long term resiliency to the impacts of climate change and volatility in global energy markets, while resulting in significant savings in energy and material consumption costs
- Facilitate a healthy and productive work, living and study environment
- Provide the University with an effective means of communicating its commitment to climate mitigation in education and civic outreach

Hereby Undersigned:

CEU Sustainability Advisory Committee (CSAC)

Diana Urge-Vorsatz, Committee Chair, Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy

Logan Strenchock, Ex-officio member, Environmental and Sustainability Officer

Guntra Aistara, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy

Souran Chatterjee, PhD, Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy

Michael Dorsch, Associate Professor, Department of Public Policy

Shwetha Nair, HRSI Program Coordinator, Community Engagement Office

Elisa Omodei, Assistant Professor, Department of Network and Data Science

Ildiko Rull, Media Relations Manager, Communications Office

Olea Morris, PhD Candidate, Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy.