

Since 2018, the VESTING Board has been busy promoting sustainability within the association. This started with the initiation of monthly Green Initiatives and has been expanded to a Multi-Year Sustainability Plan by the VESTING Board 2019-2020. As a study association, VESTING believes it is important to contribute to a better climate and have an exemplary function in this regard for our members.

A multi-year plan has been made using input from the Sustainability Survey, the Green Office, VESTING's Green Officers, the Supervisory Board, and the VESTING Board. The following two goals have been adopted as guiding principles in this regard:

1. Making VESTING more sustainable;
2. The awareness of VESTING Members.

In addition to making VESTING more sustainable, the second goal is of great importance. By making members aware of the importance of sustainability, we hope to ensure that they will also give sustainability a place in their own lifestyle. To achieve awareness, exposure of the sustainable policy and Green Initiatives is very important. It is the responsibility of the Green Officer of the VESTING Board to realize the plans in this multi-year policy and to achieve the goals stated above.

The Multi-Year Sustainability Plan consists of five parts, each with several goals. The five points VESTING wants to focus on in the coming years are:

- Ecological footprint of food;
- Ecological footprint of travel;
- Ecological footprint of the VESTING Kamer and other association matters;
- Cooperation with sustainable parties;
- Paper consumption.

These five components will all be explained in this multi-year sustainability plan. In the coming years, VESTING hopes to be able to develop in the field of sustainability in this way.

The long-term sustainability policy has been formulated ambitiously and its realization still needs to be investigated in some areas. We expect that the current society will also develop further, which will, in turn, provide additional opportunities for VESTING. That is why this multi-year plan will have to be revised every year, to be able to include current developments and thus keep the policy up-to-date.

Ecological footprint of food

Fifteen to twenty percent of all greenhouse gases emitted can be directly traced back to agriculture. In addition, meat consumption is the main cause of the depletion of freshwater resources. Since food is distributed at many VESTING Activities, there is much to be gained in this area of sustainability. The sustainability goals considering food for the coming years are listed below.

2020-2021	• Vegetarian food is the standard option at all activities	✓
2021-2022	• Food from our own catering is vegetarian	✓
2022-2023	• Various products are purchased locally	
2023-2024	• Less than 5% food waste with own catering	

Vegetarian food is the standard option at all activities

Since 2020, vegetarian food has been offered as the standard option at all VESTING Activities. Registration forms have been adjusted so that participants have to go through an extra step if they want to eat non-vegetarian dishes. Since vegetarian food has been the standard option, more vegetarian food has been chosen at VESTING Activities.

Food from our own catering is vegetarian

To encourage members to eat vegetarian, all food from our own catering will be vegetarian at all VESTING Activities. This includes both multi-day and one-day activities. By introducing members to vegetarian food, an attempt is made to make vegetarian food more attractive and to encourage people to eat vegetarian food more often. At events without own catering that include a wide range of vegetarian food, efforts are also made to offer only vegetarian food to participants.

Various products are purchased locally

Local products are better for the environment. For example, local production requires less transport, which reduces CO2 emissions. In addition, buying locally stimulates the local economy. Partly for these reasons, more products will be bought locally in the future. This will mainly be done at the Introduction Weekend and the Active Members Weekend. Which products will be bought locally will be researched in the coming time.

Less than 5% food waste with own catering

Since the beginning of 2019, the purchases and remnants of our own multi-day informal activities have been tracked. By continuing this process for the upcoming years, shopping lists for VESTING Activities can be improved. In this way, less food will be leftover, which is beneficial for the climate. Leftover food can be either auctioned where the proceeds are donated to research related to sustainability, or will be donated to less fortunate and homeless shelters.

Ecological footprint of travel

About fifteen percent of all greenhouse gases are emitted by the transport sector. Daily transport choices influence the climate and also air quality. Since VESTING organises events where transport is facilitated or reimbursed for students and/or company representatives, it is in our power to become more sustainable in this area as well. To reduce the ecological footprint of travel, the following steps are taken.

2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominally compensate all train and bus journeys at VESTING Activities to and from Groningen of members 	✓
2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominally compensate all train, plane, and bus travel at VESTING Activities from and to Groningen of members • Use a travel policy 	✓
2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer members the option to compensate their CO2 emissions from train, plane, and bus journeys at VESTING Activities to and from Groningen 	
2023-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominally compensate all train, plane, and bus travel at VESTING Activities from and to Groningen of members and company representatives 	

Nominally compensate all train and bus journeys at VESTING Activities to and from Groningen of members
 An annual record is kept of which train and bus journeys are made by members at VESTING Activities. By doing so, the CO2 emission of those journeys can be compensated afterwards. To make this goal achievable, only the trips to and from Groningen will be considered. To lower the CO2 emission at VESTING Activities, CO2 neutral and other sustainable means of transport can be considered. Offsetting CO2 is done in collaboration with GreenSeat.

Nominally compensate all train, plane, and bus travel at VESTING Activities from and to Groningen of members
 Airplanes are the most polluting means of transport. Therefore, it is also important to compensate for air travel. In the future, it will be investigated whether it is possible to reimburse part of the CO2 offset in the budget of committees with trips by plane. This will also ensure that committees will think about air travel more consciously.

Use a travel policy
 An attempt will be made to make committees aware of choosing a sustainable way of travelling. To stimulate this, a travel policy will be included in the HandVESTING. This travel policy will state at which distances which means of transport are the most sustainable and practical at different types of VESTING Activities.

Offer members the option to compensate their CO2 emissions from train, plane, and bus journeys at VESTING Activities to and from Groningen

In order to increase members' awareness of CO2 emissions, an option will be added to the registration form at VESTING Activities involving a bus, train, and air travel that allows members to compensate (part of) their travel. The full details of the additions on the registration forms will be examined in the coming year, so that it can be implemented in 2022.

Nominally compensate all train, plane, and bus travel at VESTING Activities from and to Groningen of members and company representatives

Since company representatives also travel for VESTING Activities, these trips will also be compensated in the future. In addition, committees will continue to encourage company representatives to travel as sustainably as possible.



VESTING Multi-Year Sustainability Plan

Paper consumption

Reducing paper consumption is an important goal for many organizations. Making paper does not stop at felling trees, but the process from tree to paper costs a lot of raw materials and energy. The paper industry is therefore in the top 3 largest greenhouse gas emitters. This industry is also the largest consumer and polluter of water. Efforts will be made to take the next steps in the field of paper consumption with the following goals.

2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make committee applications paperless ✓• Make informal activities paperless ✓
2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make board applications paperless ✓
2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make formal activities almost paperless
2023-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Print everything on recycled paper

Make committee applications paperless

Committee applications previously accounted for the most paper consumption within VESTING. That is why it has been decided to make committee applications paperless. This was done by purchasing an iPad and keyboard, which are now used for taking notes at committee applications.

Make informal activities paperless

Previously, a lot of paper was used at informal events. Last year informal events were made completely paperless. For example, participant lists, scripts, and participant booklets are no longer printed, but used in an online format. Online participant lists and scripts proved to be more practical for committees than printed versions. In addition, there have been no reactions from members that online participant booklets were a loss of value.

Make board applications paperless

In addition to the fact that a lot of paper was used for committee applications, a lot of paper is also used for board applications. Therefore, from this year, board applications will also be paperless. Notes will also be taken here using the iPad and laptops.

Make formal activities almost paperless

In addition to our informal events, it is also important to make our formal events virtually paperless. For example, scripts and participant booklets will no longer be printed, but will be used online. In addition, an attempt will be made to encourage companies not to print cases and not to hand out flyers, since many participants do not find this of added value. Paper will only be used as scrapbook paper at company cases.

Print everything on recycled paper

In order to prevent as many CO2 emissions as possible, it is important to strive for CO2-neutral printing. This is currently done via Groenprint. Our flyers, posters and (H)ALV pieces are printed here almost completely CO2 neutral on recycled paper. In the future, efforts will be made to print all other paperwork on recycled paper, in order to minimize paper consumption.

Cooperation with sustainable parties

One of VESTING’s most important tasks is to bring students and companies together. VESTING has a lot of influence in which companies are brought to the attention. In the upcoming years, an attempt will be made to pay more attention to both companies that operate in a sustainable manner and companies with a social or sustainable goal. The following goals have been set for this.

2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise an annual event with a civil society organisation 	✓
2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer sustainable parties a platform with a page on the VESTING Site 	✓
2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have at least one speaker from a sustainable party at the VESTING Conference 	
2023-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join a sustainable bank • Join a sustainable insurer 	

Organise an annual event with a civil society organisation

In order to give members the opportunity to orientate themselves in the area of social organisations, the VESTING Board strives to annually organise an informal event with a civil society organisation. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this goal has not yet been achieved. However, this year an attempt will be made to set up a physical informal event with a civil society party.

Offer sustainable parties a platform with a page on the VESTING Site

From this year onwards, the VESTING Board will provide sustainable parties with a platform. To keep this initiative accessible, this will be done with a ‘Sustainable Parties’ page on the VESTING Site. On this page, parties that use econometrics for a social or sustainable purpose will be given the opportunity to promote themselves to VESTING Members.

Have at least one speaker from a sustainable party at the VESTING Conference

The VESTING Conference is one of the biggest events within VESTING its event portfolio. Many VESTING members attend this event. In order to respond to the interest in sustainability within econometrics, the VESTING Board and the Conference Committee will try to welcome at least one speaker from a sustainable party to this VESTING Conference.

Join a sustainable bank

In the future, the VESTING Board strives to have its financial affairs at a sustainable provider. At present, Rabobank handles the banking of VESTING. Currently, switching banks can be difficult due to our risk profile. Furthermore, the new sustainable bank must support Exact Online, the accounting programme used by the VESTING Board. In the coming years, it will be investigated to what extent it is possible to switch to a sustainable bank.

VESTING Multi-Year Sustainability Plan

Join a sustainable insurer

The VESTING Board also aims to have its insurance at a sustainable party. Currently, the insurance is provided by Van Stolk & Havelaar. The next VESTING Boards will investigate which insurers are sustainable and whether it is possible to switch to those more sustainable insurers.



Ecological footprint of the VESTING Kamer and other association matters

VESTING has its own office at the Faculty of Economics & Business. This office is provided by the Faculty. VESTING strives to make its daily choices in the field of facilities and office environment more sustainable. In addition, other association matters will also be included in the following goals.

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| 2020-2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply the VESTING Kamer with green electricity ✓ • Minimize product purchase ✓ |
| 2021-2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of continuous committees receive only one committee sweater ✓ • Ensure accessibility to the VESTING Kamer for disabled people |
| 2022-2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make goodie bags optional at formal activities |
| 2023-2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful lobby for a more sustainable building management |

Supply the VESTING Kamer with green electricity

At the time of writing the multi-year plan, it was still unclear how the university's power supply had been arranged. That is why the goal has been drawn up to provide the VESTING Kamer with green electricity. However, since this was arranged by the university, which purchases green energy itself, this goal was quickly achieved.

Minimize product purchase

VESTING owns a lot of products, of which people didn't know the association had. As a result, items were often purchased unnecessarily. To minimize the purchase of products, an inventory has been made with all items VESTING owns. This inventory will be kept up to date in the coming years. In addition, VESTING often collaborates with other study associations, by lending products to each other. As a result, much fewer products are purchased than before.

Members of continuous committees receive only one committee sweater

In the past, members of continuous committees could declare a committee sweater annually. To decrease the ecological footprint of VESTING, committee members of continuous committees will only be able to declare one committee sweater throughout their time within the committee. In addition, future VESTING Boards will be looking for a sustainable partner to provide all committees with more sustainable sweaters.

Ensure accessibility to the VESTING Kamer for disabled people

To encourage inclusiveness, VESTING will be more concerned with accessibility for the disabled. First of all, the VESTING Kamer will become more accessible, since a lift will be added next to the stairs at the interim. In addition, disability has been included in the registration form, so that the VESTING Board can take this into account at VESTING Activities where disabled members want to participate.

VESTING Multi-Year Sustainability Plan

Make goodie bags optional at formal activities

At formal events, participants are often provided with a goodie bag. These goodie bags contain gadgets from companies. However, it has never been investigated whether participating students think this goodie bag is of added value. Therefore, in the future, the goodie bag will become optional for participants. When registering for the event, participants can indicate whether or not they want the goodie bag. Furthermore, efforts are also being made to make goodie bags more sustainable by asking for sustainable gadgets and not accepting flyers.

Successful lobby for a more sustainable building management

VESTING is very dependent on the Faculty in the field of sustainable building management. There are still many steps to be taken in this area regarding sustainability. For example, the VESTING Board cannot regulate the heating or lights itself, but this is all centrally controlled by the Faculty. As a result, a lot of energy is often unnecessarily consumed. The VESTING Board strives to make the building management of the VESTING Kamer more sustainable in the future. To achieve this goal, conversations will be held with the Faculty and EBF.

