

GOING GREEN AT THE EUI

What has the REFS been doing over the course of the years? Our efforts towards the implementation of a proper Environmental Management System and a few concrete initiatives.

- i) On 22 & 23 June 2018 the REFS hosted at the EUI 2 external consultants to perform an audit procedure (gap analysis) to work towards obtaining International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) certification on sustainability and environmental strategy (EcoCampus ISO 14001).
- ii) In June 2018 the REFS launched the first EUI Workplace Environmental Sustainability Survey ever, which was addressed to the whole EUI community in order to both raise awareness and assess the current carbon footprint of our institution. The survey was completed by 150 EUI members, with many fruitful and useful comments and suggestions.
The Survey Report is available for consultation [here](#).
- iii) The EUI decided to join the fight to reduce plastic consumption: as of 2018 plastic cups, plastic cutlery and straws are definitely banned from the EUI canteens.
- iv) Starting September 2018, on the occasion of registration days, the REFS has distributed several stocks of GREEN EUI branded BFA free/aluminium flasks to all newcomers to raise awareness on environmental issues and limit the use of plastic bottles and cups.
- v) On 8 & 9 October 2018 the REFS organized the 12th EU Greening Network annual meeting at the EUI: 32 participants registered for the event (including external speakers), 21 EU Agencies and Bodies were represented (ECA, CURIA, CEDEFOP, EULISA, EFSA, EUROPOL, OSHA, EUROJUST, EMSA, EIOPA, ECDC, EMCDDA, EMA, FRONTEX, ACER, ETF, ECHA, EASA, EEA, the European Parliament and the European Commission). The event succeeded in strengthening the network of EU Agencies and Bodies for a common environmental and sustainable strategy as well as the mutual relationship between these and the EUI, with a strong contribution provided by the FSR Climate & Energy. The meeting confirmed and convinced the REFS that the EUI should move towards the implementation of a proper environmental management system (EMS) through the achievement of the ISO 14001 certification and/or the registration under the EMAS regulation.
- vi) To enhance access to free drinkable water across the Campus, more than 20 new water dispensers were installed in all EUI premises (including non-academic buildings) starting end of 2018, providing cold, hot and sparkling water.
- vii) To encourage a more sustainable mobility within the campus, in 2019 REFS has replaced one of the current shuttle buses with an electric passenger transportation vehicle.
- viii) In addition to the above, in order to facilitate sustainable mobility within the Campus, a brand new bike station, equipped with repair tools and an inflation

- pump, was installed in P2 car park at the Badia Fiesolana. Additional bike racks, possibly sheltered, will be installed in the upcoming months at the Flats
- ix) With the current contract for cleaning services, the REFS managed to structurally put in place a series of environmental initiatives:
- Introduction of the "pre-impregnated" cleaning system PRE-GUARD, which uses pre-impregnated microfiber cloths aiming at reducing considerably the consumption of water and the usage of chemical detergents. In those environments where it is infrastructurally allowed, this innovation guarantees an annual saving of about 20 litres of water and 1 litre of detergent for each cleaned square meter.
 - Usage of eco-capsules detergents, monodoses and water-soluble (ECOCAPS) that allows for the complete elimination of plastic containers where detergents products and their packaging were kept and stored.
 - Introduction of waste recycling bins collectors in each office, through the provision of a specific bin equipped with three compartments for the collection of paper, plastic and organic waste. Bins will be emptied on a daily basis. In all common areas recycling bins collectors of paper and plastic will be kept anyway.
- x) The REFS organized collection points for disposal of used waste batteries across the EUI Campus in ALL premises, including EUI flats.
- xi) In 2019 some PIs were defined in order to monitor the effectiveness of sustainable provisions (waste reduction and plastic bottles reduction):
- WRR (= Waste Recycling rate): volume of recycling at the EUI p/typology (including savings for paper, detergents....)*
 - PB (= Plastic Bottles): number of plastic bottles sold within the EUI Campus over a calendar year, to measure plastic reduction.
- xii) In cooperation with Researchers' REPS, the REFS agreed for the creation of a sustainable garden with permaculture in the area of Villa Paola, managed by the EUI gardening club
- xiii) In terms of energy efficiency, the REFS managed to finalize in 2019 and 2020 all necessary activities to keep under control 90% of the centralized heating and cooling units across the EUI Campus.
- xiv) Maintenance works started in 2019 on windows, doors and external fixtures of some EUI buildings (Badia Fiesolana and Villa Schifanoia), to reduce energy waste, continued all throughout 2020 and were finally completed as planned

Further details are available on our dedicated website: <https://www.eui.eu/green>