



student
sustainability
committee

Annual Report 2022



Welcome to SSC

We are the **Student Sustainability Committee** (formerly Student Sustainability Commission) of VSETH, the general student association of ETH Zürich. While the roots of the association started around 2001, we act as a committee of VSETH since 2016 with the goal of fostering sustainability within and around ETH. Our main activities consist of organizing a large variety of events, reaching out to students with sustainability topics, and developing new ideas for a more sustainable university. This report shows the achievements of our committee in the year 2022.

Where we stand

ETH Zurich students will realize their careers in times in which we need to limit climate change to 1.5°C and become net zero as quickly as possible. In addition to this climate challenge, they will also be confronted with other sustainability challenges, such as the biodiversity crisis. While some actions finally get started, such as the net zero project of ETH, we think that many students, professors, and scientific staff could benefit from becoming more aware of the existing and upcoming issues. We want to take an active part in the sustainable transition of the university, but also of society in the upcoming years.

We are a dynamic group of students from all fields taught at ETH, studying in our bachelor's, master's, or even PhD's. Everybody interested in joining a small project, one of the teams or the board is always welcome.

This annual report provides a comprehensive overview of our activities in 2022. For every team, you can find a description and some highlights from the past year. Have fun reading through it, and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or remarks.

The SSC Board, March 2023



President (Victor)



Vice-President (Jan)



Communication (Victor)



Events (Justine)



Outreach (Ghjulia)



Outreach (Max)



Development (Christian)



Development (Leoni)



Development (Caterina)



Internal Affairs (Emma)



Finance (Taylan)

Activities

Events

The SSC **events team** organizes sustainability-related events that are mainly targeted at students of ETH Zurich, but open to everyone. We already hosted a large variety of events – from large event series around big environmental challenges to small excursions about local nature.

SSC @ NHWZ 22

Discover events and initiatives organised under the impulse of the Student Sustainability Commission, during the Sustainability Week!

<p>Climate Change AI: Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning</p> <p>Date: Monday, 7 March 04:00-05:00 PM Location: Zoom</p> <p>Machine learning can play an impactful role in many strategies for reducing and responding to climate change. However, it's not a silver bullet, and should supplement (rather than divert attention from) other impactful actions to address climate change.</p>	<p>Visualizing Environmental Impact</p> <p>Date: Monday, 7 March 11:00 AM to Thursday, 10 March 08:00 PM Location: ETH Zentrum, HG, Main Hall</p> <p>The environmental impact of our lifestyle is often difficult to understand in terms of numbers only. In this poster exhibition, we visualize these numbers in an intuitive way.</p>
<p>Pitch Event: "Building a Sustainable Future"</p> <p>Date: Tuesday, 8 March 04:00-06:00 PM Location: Student Project House, ETH Zentrum Registration required</p> <p>How are students tackling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? Find out at the Pitch Event, where students will pitch their innovative projects that contribute to the SDGs. Get inspired, network, share, and create synergy!</p>	<p>Our interdisciplinarity future – a structured debate</p> <p>Date: Friday, 11 March 01:00-03:30 PM Location: TBD Registration required</p> <p>To counter the one-dimensional view of climate change debates, we aim to create a space where renewable technology, social justice, philosophy and systems are discussed. With us, we team field leaders in a structured exchange, with room for your questions.</p>
<p>Speed dating – meet the student sustainability commissions</p> <p>Date: Tuesday, 8 March 04:15-05:15 PM Location: Hardstrasse 235, Zurich, third floor</p> <p>Have you ever wondered how to make changes towards more sustainability at your university? During the speed dating you will get to know all the student sustainability commissions and learn how to get involved!</p>	<p>Self-sustainability</p> <p>Date: Friday, 11 March 02:30-04:00 PM Location: Student Project House, ETH Zentrum Registration required</p> <p>Why is society struggling to become more sustainable? How do you personally take care of yourself? In this workshop, we want to have an open discussion about the parallels between these two questions.</p>





The first highlight of the spring semester was, as usual, the **Sustainability Week (Nachhaltigkeitswoche Zürich NHWZ)**. During the third week of the spring semester, students from the five universities of Zurich (ETH, UZH, ZHdK, ZHAW and PHZH) presented over 40 events. Of course, the SSC events team worked hard to contribute to this large event.

Throughout the year, **many smaller events** have been organized, such as the informal lunch on eco-feminism. We organized talks on *"1.5°C and Degrowth"*, *"Healthy Vegan Diet"*, *"Sustainable Careers"* or *"Ecosystems and Biodiversity"*. More interactive events were a *tofu workshop* where participants could produce tofu themselves and a roundtable on *"Decolonizing Ecology and the Environmental Sciences"*.

JOIN US FOR...

An informal lunch on Eco-feminism

On April 7th at 12:15pm
at the Greenhouse Lab
(Haldeliweg 19, 8044)

To limit food-waste, please scan this QR code or sign up here : <https://bit.ly/3CYUFkO>










The Student Sustainability Commission (and partners) are bringing COP27 to you, with two weeks of events to learn, reflect, and engage.

MIRROR COP27

Date: 8. November - 20. November 2022
Location: Across ETH Zürich
More information: scan QR code



In the autumn semester, the big highlight was the events series **Mirror COP27**, held during the climate summit COP27 in Egypt. For this event series, we collaborated with several organizations around ETH. The Mirror COP27 was an intense couple of weeks, to say the least: there was such a nice diversity of events, so many people mobilised for it, and a lot of interesting discussions. We're aiming to turn it into a yearly thing, so see you at Mirror COP28!

Development

The SSC **development team** focuses on making ETH more sustainable at the institutional level, through working groups with specific focuses such as mobility, education, and food. It closely works together with the VSETH HoPo team (university politics team) and other units at ETH, such as ETH Sustainability and Campus Services. Members of the development team hold several delegate positions of VSETH, which makes them the elected representative of students for their project.



Education



Mobility



Food



NetZERO



Divestment



Energy,
Infrastructure,
Biodiversity



Strategic
Development

Over the course of the spring semester, the SSC Development Team also initiated the creation of **working groups** on the topics of **education, campus mobility, divestment, net zero, energy & infrastructure, and biodiversity on campus**. These working groups were a consequence of the dialogue between SSC and ETH Sustainability about the ETH Sustainability Report 2019/2020. In the working groups, which are still active, students come together to develop proposals to incorporate sustainability in these different domains of ETH. These proposals are then brought forward to the responsible people in the ETH administration in coordination with VSETH.

The development team was also involved in the **Food4Thought** event in the beginning of April, a 3-day fare on the topic of sustainable food organized by ETH Sustainability. Here, the SSC was running a stand where visitors could make their own bee wax cloths for food conservation using locally produced beeswax and cotton cloth retrieved from thrown-away clothing, while also promoting the activities of the committee.

In May, the **food team** gave a presentation during a session of the gastronomy commission, where they presented the results of a survey among students from December 2021 on the topic of vegetarian and vegan food choices at the ETH cafeterias. This survey showed that there was demand for more vegetarian and vegan food choices. The president of VSETH in demanding then joined the delegate to the gastronomy committee that the vegan choice at the larger ETH cafeterias should be among the cheapest, at a price of 6.50 CHF.



Outreach

The **outreach team** is dedicated to building connections and partnerships with other organizations that are focused on sustainability, both within and outside of ETH. It was founded in 2022 and successfully organized a first sustainability summit at ETH.



In May, the SSC outreach team organized the first **ETH Sustainable Initiatives Summit**. This summit proved a success in bringing together a diverse range of initiatives by ETH students, staff and alumni. It promoted different aspects of sustainability in academic and everyday life. 18 different sustainability initiatives presented themselves in short pitches of five minutes and were able to network at the following apéro. On this note, the team created a Slack workspace for an improved network between the initiatives.

In the autumn semester, the team participated in the second version of the Sustainability Summit which was hosted by ETH Sustainability this time. It included posters

from the different initiatives showcasing their work and a networking event.

The outreach team is in contact with sustainability organizations from outside ETH as well, such as the university associations of the other universities in Zurich or of EPFL. It also joined the newly established "Green Teams" network, which connects sustainability-oriented teams in companies across Zürich.

Communication

The **communications team** is responsible for promoting the organization and ensuring a strong online presence to be a resource for ETH students on sustainability issues.

The communication team promotes our projects and events on **social media**. The team is active on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. They post sustainability related posts, e.g., for special days in the year dedicated to sustainability like the Biodiversity Day (May 22), the Sustainable Gastronomy Day (June 18), or Overshoot Days (May 13 for Switzerland)



One yearly highlight of the communication team is the **advent calendar** on Instagram, where there is one post everyday with interesting sustainability knowledge, facts about SSC, giveaways and more.

Being part of the SSC community

Internal events

This year we were fortunate to have several new members, with new ideas and new projects. We were happy to be back on campus to get together and meet each other. Before the start of the many events organized and their associated memories, we had several dinners and get-togethers at BQM or the UFO bar. For the next year, a team will be specially in charge of the internal events. Some of the nicest events are presented here.

Every year, we traditionally go for a **hike** in the beautiful Swiss nature. This summer, we headed to Mettmen in the canton of Glarus. On a wonderful, sunny day, we enjoyed the mountains and were even able to take a cool bath in the barrier lake.



In October, the last **SSC retreat** took place. It's the beginning of the semester, a good time to get together and discuss our ideas for the association. For one day, we walked to the Pfannenstiel, discussed the future projects of SSC and what we would like the association to be.

The last meeting of the year after a year full of events and discussions was our **end-of-semester dinner**. We enjoyed the friendships we have made throughout the year and shared the best SSC experiences we had made. The perfect time to meet all the beautiful people we have met and to get motivated for a new year full of new events and collaborations.



Contact

Contact us!

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or on social media

Twitter: https://twitter.com/SSC_ETHZ

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sustainability.ethz>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ssc_ethz/

Student Sustainability Committee (SSC)

VSETH - Verband der Studierenden an der ETH Zürich

Universitätstrasse 6, CH-8092 Zürich

February 2023

Editors:

Jan Linder, Victor Jaeck