



Maintaining a sustainable Future for IT in Higher Education

Wednesday 15th June 2011

Time: 14:30 - 15:00

National Collaboration on Sustainability and ICT in the Netherlands

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Abstract:

With each passing year, sustainability becomes a more relevant topic for higher education institutions in the Netherlands. Similar to many countries, our institutions agreed to a collective ambition: to reduce their carbon emissions with 30% by 2020.

By now they have come up to a point where easy made reductions (e.g. insulation) are hard to find. Many institutions and SURF believe that focussing on ICT has much potential for becoming more sustainable for at least two reasons:

- ICT is responsible for a large (and growing!) portion of energy consumption of Dutch institutions (20%-40%).
- ICT can be used as an enabling force in other areas such as reducing commuting/business travel by introducing videoconferencing.

SURF believes that working on sustainability is typically something that should not be done by institutions alone. Not only can institutions learn from each other by sharing experiences but also more can be achieved by collaborating. This is why SURF started a Special Interest Group (SIG) Green ICT.

This presentation focuses on the collaboration efforts of higher education institutions in the Netherlands. We explain the SIG and how institutions take part. Several topics receive special attention, among which: measuring/comparing consumption between institutions (results of ICT-scan(2010), future benchmarking), power management, sustainable procurement and sustainability through ICT. Also, funding has been made available for innovative Sustainability and ICT projects. Each of these topics and projects will be described to show what we are doing and hopefully inspire others.

On SURF: <http://www.surf.nl/en/oversurf/Pages/Introductie.aspx>