

"The Green Office Model: Empowering students and changing institutions"

Green Offices are platforms that inform, connect and support the university community to act on sustainability. At the same time, Green Offices initiate their own projects to advance sustainability in education, research and operations. Green Offices consist of students and university staff, working side by side. In 2010, the first Green Office was set-up at Maastricht University. Since then the model has been adapted to 35 other higher education institutions in seven European countries. The model has won the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development. The workshop looks at existing Green Offices, their structures, successes and challenges. Participants will then adapt the lessons learned from the Green Office Model to their institutions.

In smaller groups, you will reflect on you own institution. You will critically look at your own university and to what extent the Green Office Model can be a solution.

STATE
OF
THE ART



ANSELM T. GRAHL
PROGRAMME COORDINATOR
ROOTABILITY
GERMANY

He works as Learning Network Programme Coordinator at the social business rootAbility. In that role he connect existing Green Offices and help them learn how to deal with challenges. He is also scientific staff at Leuphana University Lüneburg, where he researches the Green Office Movement and teaches an online course on how to set up a Green Office, together with rootAbility. He has been greatly inspired by Roger Cox and his book "Revolution justified", outlining a legal case for governments to act on climate change. His efforts were the original push that lead to the successful climate case against the Dutch government. This approach speaks to active citizenship and fighting for your community to take action. That is what we are trying to do with universities, by empowering students to push their universities and university communities to act on sustainability.

Brings along: I will run the workshop together with my colleague from rootAbility, Felix

Spira