

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

## NEWSLETTER

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### GET TO KNOW THE EC

Hello again EC-ers, we've missed you! Newcomers, we hope you've been adjusting to life in Geneva and taking advantage of all the fun events we've been participating in. To all readers, new and old, we'd like to give you a quick introduction (or a reminder) to who we are, what we do, and what we care about here at the Graduate Institute!

Founded in 2010, the EC is a specialized committee of the Institute. Our work falls under the umbrella of the GISA student association and our engagement with school politics and the administration allows the President of the Committee to have a permanent seat on the GISA Board, advocating for sustainable practices in all student activities.. Our Mission is to advocate for and promote environmental protection and sustainable development at the Graduate Institute, to raise awareness of these issues among students, administration, staff and faculty, and to promote healthy, environmentally-friendly and sustainable policies.

We're open to any and all Graduate Institute students who care for the environment!

### INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED? WE NEED YOU! WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Director of Communications
- Director of Events
- Projects Managers
- Target Initiative Advocate
- Treasurer
- Podcast co-hosts
- Volunteers



We'll be holding our first General Meeting and Election very soon to fill these positions. If you'd like to know more, run for a position, or even volunteer to help out with upcoming events, please fill out this important and time-sensitive survey to determine our meeting date and time. Can't wait to see you!

**[CLICK HERE TO FILL OUT THE GENERAL MEETING SURVEY!](#)**

Have any questions about running for a position? Feel free to message us on Instagram @environmental\_committee, send an email to gisa.ec@iheid.ch, or ask in the WhatsApp group chat! We'd be thrilled to chat with you about it :)

# OUR PROJECTS

We manage a number of weekly, monthly, and annual projects and events. You can be involved in any capacity, from director to occasional volunteer. Speaking of volunteering, you can find our master signup document, where we post all upcoming volunteering needs [here!](#)

## THE ECOLOGIST PODCAST

Each episode has a different guest, offering their insights on a particular field/matter related to sustainability!

## SAVE THE FOOD

Every Friday, we save the food leftovers from the cafeteria and give them away to students to cut food waste!

## SCOOP

We resell products non-profit from farmers and producers from Geneva and its surroundings to promote local, organic consumption!

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

Gardening at Grand Morillon and at Jardins de la Paix to promote local food systems and organic products!

## CUISINE LAB PARTNERSHIP

We are starting a partnership with a high cuisine restaurant that only employs refugees, both in the kitchen and as servers, while promoting the consumption of local and sustainable products!

## TARGET INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABILITY

Working in close collaboration with the Institute to improve its internal and external policies on sustainability, from recycling, transportation, food waste to curriculum, sustainable habits, and more.

## SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

A whole week dedicated to advocacy on sustainability and environmental activism! An amazing opportunity to learn more and to engage in the topics you are interested in, and a chance to engage with the city of Geneva and its grassroots, green movements.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

We always welcome all sorts of proposals for events, hikes, and nature activities and we have ongoing projects for expanding our advocacy outreach and local environmental activism!

YOU CAN FIND US ONLINE HERE:



# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS AND EVENTS

## LOCAL

Event: The Graduate Institute's **Sustainability Initiative Days**, October 17-21, hosted by IHEID's Target Initiative on Sustainability and CIES (Center for International Environmental Studies). Activities include a photo exhibit, bike repair and zero waste workshops, and a film screening. **Sign up here to volunteer!**

Event: **Forum de l'alimentation durable à Genève**, October 11-16.

The latest article from CIES: **The Ecosystem Approach and the Barrier of State Sovereignty in Environmental Treaties**.

Event: **2022 State of Climate Services Report Launch**, which features the ARP work of IHEID Master's students.

Event: **Deep Sea Mining: Current Challenges**, October 12, collaboration with the EC and Water Initiative

## NATIONAL

News: **More than 70% of Swiss homes heated by burning stuff**: "Statistics published this week by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO), show that 70.1% of homes in Switzerland are heated by burning either mazout (heating oil), gas or wood."

News: **Climate activists arrested for blocking Swiss oil refinery**: "Climate activists who blocked the entrance to Switzerland's main oil refinery, located in the northwest of the country, were arrested on Monday by police and their barricade was removed."

News: **Swiss glaciers break melt record this summer**: "Swiss glaciers have not melted as much in a year as they did in 2022, according to a report by the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT).

## GLOBAL

Report: **The State of the World's Forests 2022**, FAO, published October 2022

Event: **World Food Day**, October 16, with the theme "Leave NO ONE Behind".

News: **They're 'World Champions' of Banishing Water. Now, the Dutch Need to Keep It**: "As climate change dries out Europe, the Netherlands, a country long shaped by its overabundance of water, is suddenly confronting drought."

News: **Plastic pollution may have met its match: The saliva of wax worms**: "Researchers said two enzymes identified in caterpillar saliva were found to rapidly and at room temperature degrade polyethylene, the world's most widely used plastic."

If you're looking for something new to listen to, take a look at this list of **Environmental Podcasts**.

**Hoping you've had a wonderful start to your semester!  
When we've finalized a date for our General Meeting, we'll let you  
know as soon as possible.**

Until then:  
May the forest be with you.

