



The APUAF GARDEN

SD-Committee Biodynamic Newsletter

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Dans ce numéro ...

Avec ce sixième numéro de notre newsletter, nous prenons un moment pour regarder le chemin parcouru depuis notre premier numéro diffusé au printemps 2022. Au fil des saisons et des publications, nous avons cultivé une dynamique collective nourrie d'idées, d'expérimentations, d'engagements – et surtout, d'actions concrètes.

Nous avons exploré ensemble des quartiers durables et des cantines solidaires, lancé des ateliers « Fresque du Climat », interrogé nos usages numériques et mis en lumière les pratiques durables des étudiantes à travers la France. Nous avons parlé friperies, carbone, biodiversité, éducation... Nous avons tenté de relier la parole à l'acte, l'intention au geste.

Ce cheminement nous a montré une chose : le développement durable ne peut plus être une simple thématique parmi d'autres dans le champ du Study Abroad. Il est devenu un axe structurant, une boussole pour repenser nos pratiques et nos programmes.

Dans ce nouveau numéro, nous mettons à l'honneur les initiatives récompensées par le Forum on Education Abroad, en saluant le lauréat 2024. Mais ce n'est pas tout !!! Un zoom est consacré à une enquête menée auprès d'étudiants américains en France, nous vous dévoilons également le projet APUAF Sustainability Awareness Month, et nous partons à la rencontre de Stanford in Paris pour découvrir comment la durabilité s'invite dans le quotidien d'un programme américain au cœur de la capitale.

Comme toujours, nous vous invitons à nourrir ce mouvement : partagez vos idées, vos actions, vos réussites comme vos défis.

Avec conviction et enthousiasme,
Le comité Développement Durable de l'APUAF

EMPOWERING CHANGEMAKERS:
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ACROSS THE GLOBE

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UN LABORATOIRE POUR UNE ÉCONOMIE
DURABLE

SD ON **PADLET**:
UN OUTIL COLLABORATIF
It's simple! It's useful!

Click [here](#) to access articles, videos, resources
that help you stay informed, share suggestions
for sustainable activities ...



EMPOWERING CHANGEMAKERS: SDGS IN ACTION ACROSS THE GLOBE

In a world where global challenges demand both local and international action, the Forum on Education Abroad continues to highlight study abroad programs leading the charge through sustainable and impactful education.

Each year, the [Award for Advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) honors institutions and organizations that not only recognize the urgency of sustainability, equity, and inclusion—but integrate these values into the very fabric of their international programming.

Rooted in the belief that education abroad can be a catalyst for global change, this award serves as a testament to the power of purpose-driven learning, collaboration, and commitment to the SDGs. It recognizes meaningful, measurable actions taken by organizations toward building a better world through education.

The 2024 award recipient is [AFS Intercultural Programs](#).

AFS's Global STEM Changemakers Initiative stood out for its deeply integrated SDG curriculum, emphasis on equity and ethics, and commitment to sustainability across all program dimensions. Their approach goes beyond theory—students are engaged as agents of change, actively addressing global issues in tangible ways.

We also applaud the 2024 finalists, whose outstanding work reflects the growing momentum within international education toward advancing the SDGs:

- Arizona State University's College of Global Futures
- CIS Abroad
- Temple University Education Abroad and Overseas Campuses
- University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign IGlobal Program

Each of these institutions has made sustainability a strategic priority—engaging students through research, community partnerships, and experiential learning that foster awareness and action on global issues.

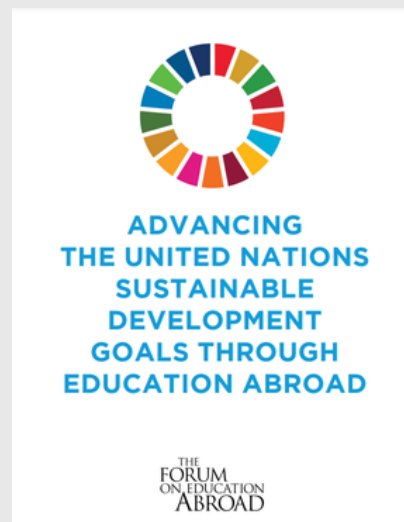
As Kira Espiritu, Selection Committee Chair, observed: *"These finalists are inspiring examples of how international education can cultivate global consciousness around sustainability, equity, and social responsibility. Their work equips the next generation of leaders with the tools to build a more sustainable future."*

While the award honors a few, it calls on all of us. Are we doing enough to align our programs with the SDGs? Are we empowering students to become part of the solution? Are we tracking and sharing our progress?

Congratulations once again to AFS Intercultural Programs and all the 2024 finalists!

Together, let's take the next step—big or small—toward a more sustainable global education landscape.

Learn more on the [FORUM's guidelines for Advancing the UN SDGs through Education Abroad](#), [here](#)!



COMING SOON: APUAF SUSTAINABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

The wide-ranging and varied learning experience of study abroad offers many ways of engaging with the subject of sustainability and the debates surrounding sustainable development practices, not least through the prism of intercultural learning. With this rich potential in mind, the APUAF Sustainability Committee proposes to inaugurate an annual APUAF Sustainability Awareness Month starting in October 2025 to raise awareness around this subject, share ideas, and actively engage students. All APUAF members will be invited to participate by organizing a special event or action, whether through curricula, course assignments, games, workshops, institutional practices and internal systems, thematic visits, talks, etc., freely choosing the form, scale and duration of the event.

These actions offer students many possible learning outcomes such as acquiring intercultural knowledge, developing awareness of local and global environmental issues, field research for assignments and study projects, work experience opportunities and more.

Members who already have an activity or event that promotes sustainability awareness can use this month to highlight what they do and share their ideas and practices with other APUAF members with the goal of fostering dynamic and meaningful sustainability engagement across our sector and throughout France.

This proposal embraces the broad definition of sustainability advocated by [UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDG), which encompasses environmental, social and economic challenges and views them as complementary and interconnected. One of the ambitions of the Sustainability Awareness Month is for APUAF members to link their actions and events to one or more SDGs.



Several dates in October can spark ideas for developing thematic activities:

- Oct 4 - World Animal Day
- Oct 6 - World Habitat Day
- Oct 10 - World Mental Health Day
- Oct 15 - International Day of Rural Women
- Oct 16 - World Food Day
- Oct 17 - International Day for the Education of Poverty
- Oct 18 - World Wildlife Day
- Oct 21 - World Energy Saving Day
- Oct 24 - International Day against Climate Change

Your SD committee will be back in touch soon with more information about this project. In the meantime, we encourage you to begin thinking about how you might incorporate Sustainability Awareness Month activities into your programming this fall.

SUSTAINABILITY AND AMERICAN STUDENTS IN FRANCE: SMALL CHANGES, BIG IMPACT

Studying abroad is full of new experiences—new cultures, new ways of learning, and, for many American students in France, a new approach to sustainability.

A recent survey conducted with a small group of American students studying in France shows how eco-friendly habits have become an important focus for many of them. While some arrived with sustainable practices already in place, life in France has encouraged them to rethink their daily choices and adopt even more environmentally conscious habits. Simple changes, like taking shorter showers, using reusable shopping bags, walking or biking instead of driving, and composting food waste, have become second nature for many of those interviewed. Though these habits may seem small, they add up and contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle.

Living in France has also introduced students to sustainable practices they hadn't considered back home. Public transportation is more accessible, making it easier to rely on buses and trains instead of cars. Many students have also adjusted their approach to clothing, wearing items multiple times before washing them and shopping second-hand more often. Composting, which isn't as common in many parts of the U.S., has become a new habit for those living in cities with waste separation systems.

Despite these positive changes, staying sustainable isn't always easy. The convenience of major supermarkets like Carrefour makes it tempting to prioritize affordability over eco-friendly shopping. The widespread availability of plastic water bottles and the ease of ordering an Uber after a long day can make it difficult to completely avoid wasteful habits. For students used to a car-centric lifestyle back home, adjusting to a city where walking and biking are the norm requires time and effort. And even with the best intentions, small habits like turning off lights or unplugging electronics can be hard to remember in the middle of a busy semester.

Even with these challenges, these American students plan to continue their sustainability efforts when they return home. Some want to rely more on public transport, reduce their meat consumption, or be more mindful of recycling. Studying in France has also encouraged them to think more critically about their shopping habits, with many prioritizing second-hand clothing, cruelty-free products, and sustainable brands when possible. However, they often cited financial constraints that make it difficult to always choose the most eco-friendly options, highlighting the reality that sustainability isn't just about awareness, it also requires accessibility.

Beyond personal habits, studying abroad has deepened students' understanding of global environmental issues. Many have become more aware of climate change, pollution, and the effects of overconsumption. Some have noticed that French universities, like UCLille, often have stronger sustainability initiatives than their respective American campuses.

Through small changes, students have learned that sustainability isn't about perfection but about progress. Many emphasize the importance of simple steps—using reusable bags and bottles, recycling, composting, and reducing waste, etc.

For American students in France, sustainability has become more than just a trend—it's a mindset they hope to carry forward. While maintaining every eco-friendly habit isn't always realistic, the experience of living abroad has shaped their awareness and commitment to making a difference.



STUDY ABROAD : UN LABORATOIRE POUR UNE ÉCONOMIE DURABLE ET UNE HUMANITÉ ENVIRONNEMENTALE

Gros plan sur un beau programme porteur de sens proposé par Stanford à Paris

Depuis trois ans, Stanford in Paris propose au printemps un cours sur le développement durable intitulé « Exploring Sustainability: Ecological Economics and Environmental Humanities » co-enseigné par Audrey Strebelle, directrice de Stanford in Paris, et Eloi Laurent, économiste de l'environnement et professeur à Sciences Po. Le cours est divisé en 10 séances de 3 heures pour un groupe de 15 à 20 étudiants de parcours variées, majoritairement de profil STEM. Le principe d'interdisciplinarité qui s'inscrit dans le propos rend le cours attirant et accessible, en parfaite cohérence avec l'approche très large à l'étude du développement durable affirmée sur le campus de Stanford par la [Doerr School of Sustainability](#).

« À travers ce cours, Paris, grande cité minérale, est envisagée comme un espace d'analyse critique et d'expérimentation en développement durable » explique Audrey. En effet, comme projet final les étudiants font des propositions concrètes et durables pour sortir Paris de cette minéralité sur un sujet de leur choix. Propositions qui seront présentées pour certaines à la Mairie de Paris dans le cadre du dispositif de participation citoyenne.

Audrey, qui a eu la chance de travailler 15 ans avec Michel Serres à Stanford, inscrit dans ce cours une réflexion sur l'éthologie humaine à travers l'étude de textes philosophiques et littéraires. Cela donne un caractère innovant au cours, qui se nourrit à chaque séance d'un matériau philosophique tout en s'appuyant sur des travaux scientifiques, pour interroger la place prépondérante occupée par l'homme et l'activité humaine dans un monde à ressources limitées que nous partageons pourtant avec d'autres êtres vivants.

A partir de ce socle théorique et critique, les enseignants mènent les étudiants sur le terrain pour analyser comment les enjeux du développement durable s'incarnent dans le quotidien de la métropole parisienne. Les étudiants visitent les égouts de Paris, le Salon de l'Agriculture et le marché international de Rungis pour appréhender les enjeux de l'eau, de l'agriculture et de la distribution alimentaire. La visite des coulisses du marché de Rungis après avoir étudié en classe la surproduction, les émissions de carbone ou la justice sociale, fait prendre conscience de la réalité concrète où « d'un coup tout à un sens ». L'horaire très matinal - 3h00 ! - y est certainement pour quelque chose dans le choc ressenti ! Impossible, en tout cas, de continuer à regarder la nourriture de la même façon après une telle visite. Et pour boucler le sujet, retour à Paris sur les traces des anciennes Halles en passant par la lecture des extraits du *Ventre de Paris*.

L'approche interdisciplinaire, conjuguée aux visites insolites et aux textes loin des références attendues fait de ce cours un tout cohérent auxquels les étudiants américains adhèrent avec enthousiasme et qui « marque les mentalités ». C'est aussi une excellente façon d'approcher l'interculturalité. Les retours des étudiants témoignent ainsi de l'impact profond de ce cours sur leur expérience parisienne.

Comment faire mieux ? Les deux enseignants ont clairement réfléchi à la question. Pour les prochaines éditions de ce cours, ils vont demander un engagement personnel fort des étudiants : on leur demandera de signer un « sustainability pledge », promettant d'une part de privilégier le train pour leurs voyages en Europe et d'autre part d'éliminer le gaspillage alimentaire. Deux mesures concrètes qui prennent tout un sens lorsqu'elles sont liées aux réflexions éthiques suscitées par ce cours passionnant.



Marché de Rungis-Stanford

