

**The Executive Board**

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Scientists for Future

Students for Tomorrow

Universitaire Young Academies

<b>Date</b>	<b>Our reference</b>	<b>Your reference</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Telephone number</b>
3 February 2023	hc23u0047 -	
Sustainable banking and insurance	secretariaatvicevoorzittercvb@hva.nl	020 595 2341

Dear signatories,

We would like to respond to your letter in which you draw our attention to the issue of sustainable banking and insurance.

We thank you for drawing our attention to this and welcome and support your appeal. Your letter has helped us to take an even more critical look at our business operations.

Sustainability is high on our agenda. The Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS) has an exemplary role to play in this respect, and our students themselves are very committed to this issue.

We are keen to contribute to the great social project of sustainability. That is why this important issue is reflected in our teaching and research, our business operations and the way we present ourselves towards society.

We as a knowledge institution inspire students to work on the future with creative solutions and sustainable innovations. That is why Kate Raworth, the Netherlands' first Professor of Practice in sustainability in higher education, has joined the AUAS. She says that she is a witness to our "energy and willingness to change society".

The AUAS has set targets for making its operations more sustainable. We have started where we can have the most immediate impact and acted in areas such as energy use, mobility and food. You are calling for us to act in another area, namely in the way in which we procure services from third parties. We understand the necessity of your call and take it seriously. The following explains what we have achieved so far.

Sustainability has long been a criterion of our procurement procedures. A good example of this is our service contract for waste disposal, the first step we took in realising our vision for circular materials use. In addition to the sustainable collection and processing of waste, procuring sustainable materials is also a major part of our sustainability policies. We have found that as a major buyer we can encourage suppliers to innovate in terms of sustainability. Our next step is to require sustainability as a criterion for service procurement, and we are already working on this.

Together with the University of Amsterdam, we have started preparing a tender process for banking services, both internal and external, in which the main principle is that the provider should meet our sustainability criteria as much as possible. In our choice of bank, however, we are required to select a bank that meets the Ministry of Finance's terms and conditions for treasury banking<sup>1</sup> and complies with the related laws and regulations.

We have been inspired by your appeal, and when our current contracts expire, we will scrutinise our insurance policies and take a critical look at the selection criteria and guidelines for our insurers.

The education sector in the Netherlands is currently discussing its role in terms of sustainability and expressing our ambitions in our relationships with our suppliers and service providers. We will call the attention of our fellow universities of applied sciences and the Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Sciences (VH) to the necessity of our having an impact on society, and will also publicly ask our own banks to address these issues so that we can together achieve major changes.

We are most grateful for your letter. It has inspired us to examine our policies and strengthened our ambitions towards sustainability.

Yours sincerely,

The Executive Board

Jopie Nooren, Chair

Hanneke Reuling, Vice Chair

Geleyn Meijer, Rector

[1] [Schatkistbankieren | DSTA.nl](https://www.schatkistbankieren.nl)