Our vision, mission and values

TOGETHER FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Because we believe in the power and potential of youth to co-create solutions to the most pressing sustainability challenges of our time.

Together, we MENTOR youth to ACT for sustainability.
Together, we INFORM citizens to INSPIRE for sustainability.
Together, we EMPOWER higher education institutions to ENABLE sustainability.
Together, we ENCOURAGE communities to CHANGE behaviors for sustainability.

Together, we CONTRIBUTE to, and CO-CREATE, a world that holds a FUTURE for ALL.
Our Vision

We empower students to bring sustainability into all aspects of Swiss higher education institutions. Our aspiration is for students in Switzerland to turn their institutions into sustainability role models.

Our Mission

We realize our vision by organizing Local Sustainability Weeks, which have the following objectives:

1. MENTOR to ACT: skills development and youth empowerment
2. INFORM to INSPIRE: event series
3. EMPOWER to ENABLE: demands and solutions
4. ENCOURAGE to CHANGE: network for support and cooperation

1. MENTOR to ACT

We mentor youth to teach them the soft and hard skills needed to set up and run Local Sustainability Weeks. We promote and share necessary tools and materials to empower youth communities to act more sustainably and become drivers of meaningful, impactful and positive change in higher education.

2. INFORM to INSPIRE

We inform and raise awareness through a series of co-organized events that inspire actions, solutions and impact for a sustainable future. Sustainably events in various formats (e.g. panels, workshops, excursion, talks) are organized free of charge for everyone.

3. EMPOWER to ENABLE

We empower students to bring sustainability into all aspects of higher education institutions by implementing demand and solution papers. This enables institutions to become sustainability role models in education, research, governance, strategy, operations, and societal dialogue while embodying sustainability as public institutions on campus through institutional change.

4. ENCOURAGE to CHANGE

SWS - Vision, Mission, Values
To have greater impact, we encourage and facilitate collaboration through community-building and connecting like-minded students, staff and the broader public at local, national and international level. We also encourage ourselves to challenge the way we think in order to change the world we live in.

Our Values

Our values are aligned with (1) priority model of sustainability (also known as concentric model of sustainability and strong sustainability). This model is consistent with the theory of planetary boundaries. Furthermore, we work towards the (2) Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Our holistic understanding of sustainability integrates itself through (3) differentiation of the global, national, regional, and local levels (4) intergenerational understanding and timeframe, and (5) a multi-layered approach with measures at the individual, societal, and political levels.

At Sustainability Week Switzerland,

- we value the environment and live sustainably ourselves
- we are driven by passion, fun and intrinsic motivation
- we are transparent and live an attitude of honesty
- we respect, support & trust each other
- we embrace diversity and encourage everyone to co-create with us
- we take responsibility for constantly improving ourselves
- we believe in challenging the status quo and prioritize on increasing impact
- we cooperate with organizations that support our vision, mission and values
- we connect like-minded people and build a strong community
- we enable and support an atmosphere for personal development
- we value reflecting and learning
- we strive for excellence and celebrate our successes