



UNigreen DAY

CONCLUSIONS REPORT of CO-CREATION WORKSHOP UAL SOSTENIBLE

March 5, 2026

Sala de Emprendimiento · CAE UAL



Co-funded by
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0. Executive summary

To mark UNIgreen Day, the University of Almería held a co-creation workshop to gather proposals to incorporate into its environmental sustainability strategy, in which members of the university community participated: students, teaching and research staff and PTGAS.

This workshop was structured in three blocks: **context, co-creation and presentation of proposals.**

The first block explained the participatory methodology, presented the Strategic Document on Environmental Sustainability 2025-2029, and offered the **context of sustainability trends in universities.** It concluded with an individual activity to identify challenges, barriers, inspiring ideas and contribution capabilities of the participants.

In the block of **co-creation** participants were divided into five thematic tables: energy and water, mobility, circular economy, rewilding, and a culture of sustainability. The work was carried out in three phases: identifying complaints and obstacles, generating solutions, and prototyping a priority idea for each group, defining deadlines, responsibilities, resources, and expected impact.

The workshop concluded with the **presentation and evaluation of the final proposals:**

- Mobility app that helps free up 1000 parking spaces.
- Informative panels on water and energy consumption, which raise awareness and contribute to reducing this consumption and its economic cost.
- Develop a Green Infrastructure Plan which includes the creation of climate shelters
- Replacing single-use plastic containers in vending machines to reduce the amount of plastic waste generated.
- Environmental awareness and outreach program for the university community through cultural activities.

1.- WHAT IS UNIgreen?

UNIgreen, or European Green University, aspires to be the leading European university in the field of sustainable agriculture, green biotechnology, and environmental and life sciences, where students and the entire academic community develop the values, attitudes, knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to become agents of the transition to a climate-neutral and resource-efficient economy, supported by an ecosystem that connects education, research, innovation, and society to promote sustainable development.

UNIgreen is an alliance of eight higher education institutions committed to promoting excellence in education, research and innovation in the fields of sustainable agriculture, green biotechnology and environmental and life sciences: the University of Almería, the Agricultural University of Iceland, the Agricultural University of Plovdiv, the higher education institution of the province of Liège, the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, the School of Biotechnology Engineering Sup'Biotech, the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia and the Warsaw University of Life Sciences.

UNIgreen's transnational and interdisciplinary dimension opens up a wide range of collaboration opportunities for students, teaching and administrative staff, and researchers.

UNIgreen also looks outward, collaborating with local communities and public and private stakeholders to support regional development and foster the generation of knowledge and solutions that address their needs. The alliance works with other education and training institutions to co-create, test, and transfer innovative knowledge and solutions, integrate sustainable knowledge and practices, and inspire education and training institutions worldwide to think and act sustainably.

2.- OBJECTIVES of the Co-Creation Workshop

Based on UNGreen's commitment to collaborate with education and training institutions to co-create, test, and transfer innovative knowledge and solutions, integrate sustainable knowledge and practices, and inspire education and training institutions worldwide to think and act sustainably, it was proposed that, within the framework of UNGreen Day, a co-creation workshop on sustainability initiatives that could be implemented at the University of Almería be held.

In this way, the Sustainability Unit could inform the university community about the sustainability context that shapes the University of Almería's sustainability policies and the strategic lines around which its main actions are being developed. The university community, in turn, could propose actions that it believes fit within this strategic framework and best address the identified context. Likewise, to ensure that the proposals are as transversal as possible and not focused on the needs or demands of specific groups, participants were encouraged to be part of different groups (Students, Teaching and Research Staff, PTGAS) and were developed through different dynamics that facilitated the variety of profiles in the different groups and facilitated the active participation of their members.

3.- PREPARATION of the Co-Creation Workshop

In the weeks leading up to the workshop, the UAL Sustainability Unit and the UNIgreen Office promoted the workshop within the university community to encourage registration.

They also contacted University of Almería services that might be more involved in environmental sustainability issues, such as the Infrastructure Service, or departments working in related areas.

In addition to registering participants, they were asked to submit an idea or proposal for improvement for the UAL, and the response was outstanding. Not only did they achieve over 50 registrations, but the quantity and variety of proposals received were also noteworthy.

At the same time, a Workshop Agenda was prepared to ensure a well-structured working methodology, facilitating spaces for inspiration and expression, and allowing for the appropriate allocation of time for the various planned tasks.

UNIGREEN DAY 2026

DESAYUNA Y DISEÑA EL FUTURO DE TU CAMPUS

Ven, comparte tus ideas y ayúdanos a construir un campus más sostenible. Tus propuestas se estudiarán para convertirse en mejoras reales. Contribuye al futuro de la UAL y desayuna con nosotros.

Plazas limitadas, ¡apúntate ya!

5 DE MARZO 2026, 9:00 AM. UNIVERSIDAD DE ALMERÍA

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UNIVERSIDAD DE ALMERÍA

UAL sostenible

UNIgreen



4. WORKSHOP DEVELOPMENT: Agenda

1. CONTEXT (1h)

- Welcome and introduction to the workshop, its structure and rules.
- Institutional Context: The Environmental Sustainability Strategy of the UAL
- Global sustainability trends on universities.
- Identifying challenges.

2.- CO-CREATION (2 hours)

- Creation of working groups
- Phase 1: Complaints and Blockages Map (30 min)
- Phase 2: Brainstorming (30 min)

COFFEE BREAK (15 min)

- Phase 3: Action Prototyping (30 min)

3. CLOSING AND COMMITMENTS (30 min)

- Presentation of each group's ideas (*Elevator Pitch*).
- UAL closing and commitments

4.1. BLOCK 1. Context

The first block, which lasted for 1 hour, focused on providing context to help address the challenges of the workshop from three approaches:

- The **objectives of the co-creation workshop** and the methodology to follow to encourage the involvement of the participants, which was carried out by Manolo Carmona as facilitator of Urban Reset.
- The **initiatives that are being developed at UAL** with a special focus on the UAL's Strategic Document on Environmental Sustainability 2025-2029. This way, participants could learn about the lines of work being implemented and **propose actions that would complement them**. This presentation was given by Laura Piedra as director of the Sustainability Unit at UAL.
- The **sustainability trends** that are being prioritized within the strategies of both universities and other entities, and which could inspire participants to replicate or adapt them to the UAL environment, were discussed. In this case, Juan José Amate, a member of Reseteo Urbano, gave the presentation.



UAL
sostenible

LIDERAZGO DE LA UAL para crear CULTURA DE SOSTENIBILIDAD.

- Plan de Acción anual de Sostenibilidad Ambiental
- Comisión de Sostenibilidad - ODS para el seguimiento de las medidas desarrolladas.
- Panel de Indicadores de Sostenibilidad Ambiental para medir y reportar impacto
- Acciones de comunicación, sensibilización y difusión sobre diferentes temáticas de sostenibilidad ambiental

Documento Estratégico de Sostenibilidad Ambiental 2025-2029



¿Cómo definimos un campus sostenible?

- Infraestructuras resilientes y de bajo impacto
- Espacios humanos y naturalizados
- Autosuficiencia de energía
- Sistemas de regeneración de aguas residuales
- Desplazamientos en medios compartidos o no motorizados
- Residuo Cero
- Alargascencia de equipos y equipamientos
- Comunidad participativa y sensibilizada
- Mide y reporta su impacto

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4.1. BLOCK 1. Context

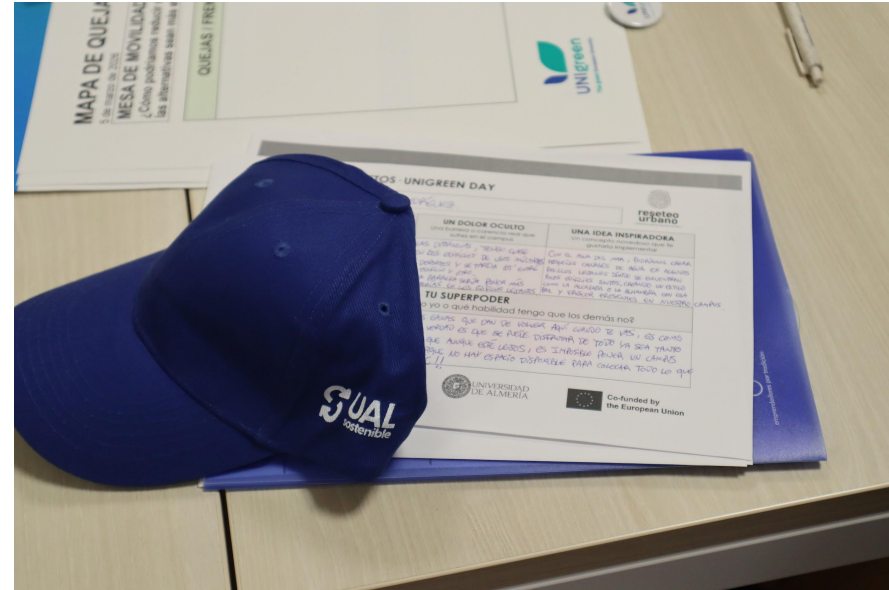
CONTEXT block ended with an initial activity that was carried out individually.

Participants were asked to identify, during the different presentations, the challenges and ideas that they found most inspiring and applicable at the University of Almería.

For this purpose, they were given a **CHALLENGE HUNTING SHEET** in which they stated:

- A striking fact, relating to the University of Almería and its performance in environmental sustainability.
- A hidden pain point or barrier in sustainability matters that they detect at UAL.
- An inspiring idea from those that have been pointed out or that have helped me to identify.

Finally, his contribution was appealed to in solving this challenge, asking him to indicate a **Super Power**, understanding as such that capacity or experience that may be useful.



4.2. BLOCK 2. CoCreation

COCREATION block began with the distribution of participants to the different tables. Given the final number of attendees, each of the five tables had between 5 and 7 participants who were assigned randomly, but seeking a balance between Students, Teaching and Research Staff, and PTGAS (Technical and Service Personnel).

The five working groups addressed the five challenges posed:

ENERGY AND WATER: *How could we transform the UAL campus into a self-sufficient "energy island" and a global model for water conservation?*

MOBILITY: *How could we drastically reduce dependence on private cars by promoting alternatives that are more efficient, faster, more comfortable, cheaper, and more attractive?*

CIRCULAR ECONOMY: *How could we modify consumption habits to reduce single-use plastics and facilitate the reuse of waste?*

RENATURALIZATION: *How could we transform campus spaces into "climate shelters" and reduce "hard zones," creating more comfortable and inviting spaces?*

SUSTAINABILITY CULTURE (Governance, Awareness, Communication): *How can we make sustainability stop being "just talk" and make it "sexy" and fun, and instead make it part of the values and identity of the university community at UAL?*

4.2. BLOCK 2. CoCreation - Phase 1

From this point, the co-creation work began in groups. The first phase focused on mapping the complaints and obstacles that each group identified regarding their challenge.

A template was prepared on which the members of each group could contribute their ideas, in an open and completely spontaneous manner. **COMPLAINTS, OBSTACLES and SHORTCOMINGS** identified at the UAL.



4.2. BLOCK 2. CoCreation - Phase 2

Once the main barriers or shortcomings were identified, the members of the different groups were asked to propose ways to reverse them.

Again, the staff were asked for their information. **IDEAS** or **SOLUTIONS**, in the form of proposals that could fit within the UAL.



4.2. BLOCK 2. CoCreation - Phase 3

Finally, based on the ideas gathered in each group, the members selected one to develop further. This third phase focused on creating prototypes of the ideas, through which each group specified aspects such as:

- **The description of the selected IDEA.**
- **Implementation deadlines or phases.**
- **Those responsible for its implementation or entities that could be involved.**
- **Resources needed.**
- **Planned goals and results.**
- **Expected impact.**

PROTOTIPADO DE IDEAS · UNIGREEN DAY

5 de marzo de 2026

Idea de la MESA DE CULTURA DE SOSTENIBILIDAD

Responsables / Entidades involucradas	Descripción de la IDEA	Plazos y/o fases de Implantación
Recursos Necesarios	Impacto esperado	Metas o Resultados

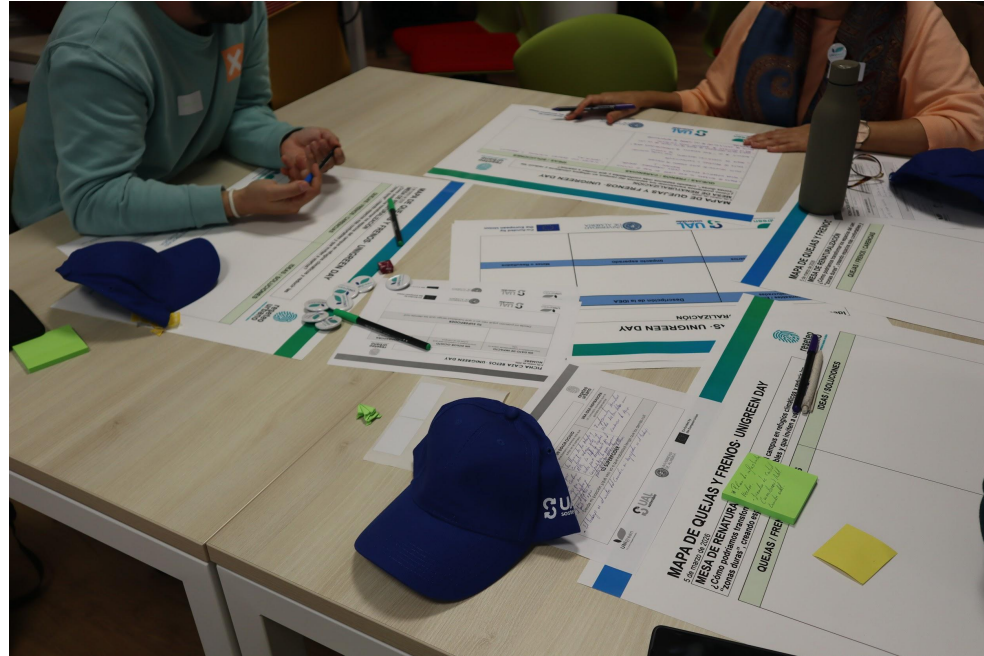
4.3. BLOCK 3. Presentation of Ideas

Once the prototypes of each group were completed, Block 3 consisted of the presentation of these and their evaluation by the participants in the workshop.

To do this, each group designated one or more spokespeople who had 3 minutes to present their idea.

The recommendation was to start with a description of the idea and a brief review of the context or the complaint that motivates it, to then go through the different sections developed in the prototyping (deadlines, responsible parties, resources and goals) to end with the expected impact.

In this way, the narrative would facilitate the transition from the proposal, presented as a solution to a complaint, to the transformation achieved in the university community, as an impact generated by the application of this idea.



4.3. BLOCK 3. Presentation of Ideas

MOBILITY

Description	Mobility app that connects users with mobility-related services and rewards sustainable transport habits.
Timelines / Phases	App development (5 months) Testing with the university community Launch in 2026/27 academic year
Responsibilities	STIC / VIDESUS / Communications Office
Resources	Social media UAL IT team
Goals / Results	1,000 downloads in the first month after launch 10,000 downloads during the 2026/27 academic year 100 registered drivers
Impact	1,000 parking spaces freed up



4.3. BLOCK 3. Presentation of Ideas

ENERGY AND WATER

Description	Information panels displaying water and energy consumption, providing real-time data and comparisons between UAL buildings.
Timelines / Phases	1 year for the development of the data control panel, installation of information screens in buildings, and starting up
Responsibilities	UAL Infrastructure Directorate and Technical Unit.
Resources	Smart data collection meters. PVD screens. Data management system.
Goals / Results	Water and energy savings. Reduced environmental impact.
Impact	Raised awareness and reduced consumption. Reduced costs.



4.3. BLOCK 3. Presentation of Ideas

RENATURALIZATION

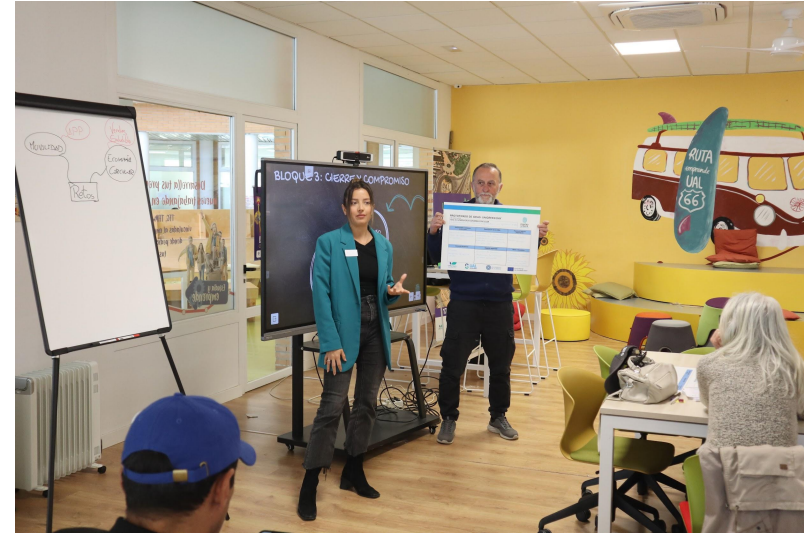
Description	Develop a Comprehensive Green Infrastructure Plan for the University of Almería (UAL), including the creation of climate shelters and the promotion of biodiversity.
Timelines / Phases	Initial assessment: 6 months. Plan development: 6 months. Plan implementation: at least 6 months.
Responsibilities	VIDESUS / UAL Gerency / Other associations and entities
Resources	Funding for technical work. Drafting and supervisory team.
Goals / Results	Establish a planning and monitoring tool for biodiversity and green spaces for UAL
Impact	improve climate comfort at UAL. Improve the quality of the environment.



4.3. BLOCK 3. Presentation of Ideas

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Description	Replacement of single-use plastic containers in vending machines at the University of Almería.
Timelines / Phases	Approximately 4 years (depending on the tender specifications).
Responsibilities	VIDESUS / Procurement Service
Resources	Legal advice. Communication campaigns.
Goals / Results	Less consumption of products packaged in single-use plastic. Raising awareness within the university community.
Impact	Reduction of the amount of plastic waste generated at UAL Changing habits within the university community.



4.3. BLOCK 3. Presentation of Ideas

SUSTAINABILITY CULTURE

Description	Environmental awareness and outreach program for the university community through cultural activities.
Timelines / Phases	6 weeks long.
Responsibilities	VIDESUS / Cultura UAL
Resources	Website and social media for communication and dissemination Volunteers needed to collaborate on activities
Goals / Results	Increase environmental awareness within the university community. Reduce waste generation by 20%.
Impact	Create a university community more aware of environmental issues.



5. Closing and conclusions

The closing of the day was led by **Tomás Lorenzana, the rector's delegate for the UNIGreen project**. In addition to thanking the participants again for their involvement, he highlighted the process of identifying and prototyping ideas that took place throughout the morning.

Likewise, the Sustainability Unit and VIDESUS will take these proposals into account for their incorporation into the measures planned in the UAL's environmental sustainability strategy.



5. Closing and conclusions



Group photo of participants in the UNGreen Day Co-Creation Workshop at UAL

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