



# CSR Report 2019 CZU Sustainability Report



University full of life



**University full of life**

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# 1 / Basic values of socially responsible behaviour in the CZU

The University Sustainability Report follows on from the CSR Report 2018 and introduces information on environmental and social performance. The information included concerns, inter alia, energy consumption, waste generation, structure of employees or activities of students' associations. With reference to individual statistical reports, the Report outlines activities the aim of which is to improve the current situation. The goals for individual areas and activities scheduled for upcoming years are delineated in the document Sustainability Strategy 2030 of the Czech University of Life Sciences.

By tradition, the Czech University of Life Sciences has been proactive in exploring the issues of sustainable development and impact of its activities on the society. **The social and environmental responsibility is reflected in its educational and creative activities as well as related activities**, in the course of its everyday operations, for building development and reconstruction of new buildings.

# 2 / Socially responsible behaviour of the CZU in 2019

It has become a good tradition of the Czech University of Life Sciences to take the top places in the international initiative **UI Green Metric World University Rankings**. 2019 saw the University **rank the 31st, moving forward by 15 places in comparison with 2018**. This tremendous success is mainly due to good waste management and emphasis on construction of green roofs and economical rainwater management.

The University scored success also in the **University Impact Ranking**, which assesses commitment of universities to sustainable development goals. The University ranked the 101st to 200th in the world over. The highest points were credited for quality work conditions, criteria of economic growth and protection against climate changes. **The CZU took the first position among Czech universities.**

## Strategic management

The Czech University of Life Sciences has in place a system for management of sustainability and social responsibility. This area of concern falls within competences of the Vice-Rector for Quality of Academic Activities. An appointed member of the **Quality Assurance Office attached to the Rector's Office** is in charge of implementation of this problem area. Responsibilities of the above member include the organization of students' competitions, implementation of supported projects, organization of annual CSR conferences, administration of CSR websites, updating and implementation of the strategy as well as many other minor projects relating to social responsibility.

In addition to the Strategy and Sustainability Report and relevant activities, the University has developed the **Code of Ethics**, the objective of which is to ensure that employees and students alike are aware of and consider their responsibility for their activities and impact. In particular, the Code of Ethics obliges employees and students of the CZU to respect moral principles and expects them to say no to discrimination. The complete Code of Ethics is available here.

Sustainability-related themes are communicated through the University's website [www.csr.czu.cz](http://www.csr.czu.cz). The website posts news in the area of CSR activities carried out by the Rector's Office and the individual Faculties and permanent-based projects and meas-

ures introduced by the University. **The University's Sustainability Report (CSR Report) and Sustainability Strategy 2030** are available for download at the website. Last but not least, viewers are welcome to post their comments or questions on the website; this interface makes it possible for the University's employees and students to communicate with the University's management, whereas various suggestions of members of the academic community are subsequently reflected in CSR development at the CZU. Another function of the website is to inform visitors to the campus as well as the general public of activities and current news in the area of sustainability-related events at the CZU.

## Education and research

The CZU contributes to sustainable development not only in the framework of its campus but also through its educational and creative activities. Themes such as sustainable management or nature protection are included in syllabi across all Faculties and taken account of in new accreditations of study programmes. Thanks to the institutional accreditation granted to the CZU for 7 educational areas, the CZU enjoys a great level of autonomy in developing new study programmes. The University's focus on Life Sciences predetermines the research carried out by the individual Faculties to contribute to sustainable solutions. For example, the research includes the development of biomaterials and solar panels or solutions to the bark beetle calamity.

Another contribution of the CZU to sustainability are the many international scientific/specialized conferences organized by the CZU. An immense number of conferences were organized across the Faculties during 2019. For example:

- **Conference ICGCM and AAME 2019 9** (more information can be found here)
- **23rd EMAN Conference focused on Biodiversity and Natural Capital Accounting** (more information can be found here)
- **Global Biodiversity Conservation Conference** (more information can be found here)

An important asset in solving climate changes is the Water, Soil and Landscape Centre (the Czech language acronym is CVPK). Expert

teams across the CZU Faculties cooperate to find and test solutions to current problems faced by the society - e.g. consequences of climate changes, which, in our circumstances, lead, in particular, to irregular rainfall. In 2019, scientific teams of the CZU in response developed and tested the concept of "Smart landscape", which shows a boosted resistance to long dry spells and intermittent precipitation. Based on its comprehensive approach to this problem area, the Centre formulates its findings in a form of political recommendations directed at prevention of climate changes and easier adaptation on the nationwide level. The public is informed of the Centre's activities by way of frequent press conferences and on the CVPK website.

## Environmental management – the University's operations

In 2019, the number of students the CZU exceeded that in previous years (see Tab. 1), and new buildings were constructed, with the result of a larger built-up area. However, the built-up area is compensated by green roofs (for more information see the subchapter Water).

### Development and reconstruction of buildings

The year 2019 saw the Czech University of Life Sciences execute the construction of the High-tech Pavilion of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, the reconstruction of the Hall, and continue the construction of a new building for the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences. All areas feature **barrier-free access** as a matter of course, along with energy-saving devices, such as photocells, **LED lighting**, etc. The specific ecological measures are delineated in the following chapters.

### Waste

The CZU keeps records of sorted waste within the whole campus. Waste is sorted in all buildings as well as at the level of the University as an institution. Table 2 below provides information on the quantity of waste of individual categories according to corresponding quantities.

**TAB. 1 THE CZU AT A GLANCE**

	Area of the CZU complex (m <sup>2</sup> )	Thereof built-up area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Water areas in the complex (m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>CZU 2019</b>	437 798	60 658	793
	Number of students (distance-study and Erasmus)	Number of employees	Number of students and employees
<b>CZU 2019</b>	19 431	1676	21 107

The number of students relates to 31.10.2019 and includes students in full-time study (14,095) and combined-type of study (5,336) at all Faculties and the Institute, including incoming foreign students on study stays. The total number excludes students of Lifelong Education, Third-age University and individual courses (8,418).

**TAB. 2 GENERATION OF WASTE AT THE CZU (2019)**

Type of waste	Total volume in t
Total quantity of waste	409,7226
<b>Degradable waste</b>	
Bio-waste removed from the complex	51,05
Composted bio-waste	cca 105
<b>Other sorted waste</b>	
Paper and cardboard packaging	29,6685
Plastic packaging	34,9740
Composite packaging	2,4021
Glass packaging	41,0616
Metal packaging	0,336
<b>Mixed waste</b>	
Mixed municipal waste	195,9104
Bulky waste	54,04
Mixed packaging	0,28

In addition to the types of waste shown in the Table above, other materials are sorted at the University; however, no records are kept of the total volume of such materials. These materials include:

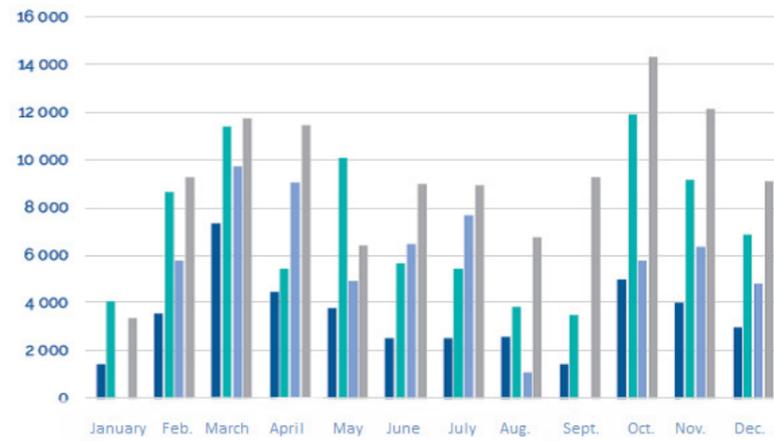
- oils and fats;
- batteries;
- bulbs;
- toners;
- textile.

The University is committed long-term to reducing waste. In 2019, a whole range of related activities were organized. Cigarette butts scattered on the ground were picked up en masse within the campus and a permanent information campaign took place with the aim of keeping the campus lawns clean. The CZU complex is a no smoking area, except for places reserved for smoking.

Based on the 2018 agreement "Enough of waste" between the CZU and Ministry of the Environment, another water filtration fountain was installed in front of the Refectory. Fountains (drinking installations) are used for filling bottles with still or sparkling water, thus reducing the generation of plastic waste. When calculated to half-litre plastic bottles, as many as 300,608 bottles were spared in 2019, i.e. 7,515kg of plastic. Since the first device

Quantity of PET bottles spared in 2019

■ CULS, FEM, at large lecture halls  
 ■ CULS, FEM, at small lecture halls  
 ■ CULS, Rector's Office  
 ■ CULS, AGRO



Filtermac was installed in May 2017, 529,302kg of plastic (see Fig. 1) were spared in the campus.

There are extensive options for filling up bottles with potable water from various drinking installations, fountains and taps in individual buildings. The CZU had six Filtermac devices in 2019, the highest number in the Czech Republic. The building of the Faculty of Economics and Management is equipped with red stands at small lecture rooms and blue stands at large lecture rooms. Filtermac in the desk version is available for use in the club dining hall of the Faculty of Economics and Management. Similar equipment is provided at the Faculty of Agrobiolgy, Food and Natural Resources, on the ground floor near the lecture rooms. A small portable Filtermac device is taken to fair trades and various events. Importantly, the above-mentioned brand new Filtermac device located in front of the Refectory is a source of a number of interesting statistical data (see Fig. 2):

*The fountain was used 38,672 times from February to December (another 751 attempts were unsuccessful - basically for the reason that registration was attempted with a wrong card). This Filtermac device was used by 3,735 persons.*

*With 768 uses of the Filtermac located in front of the Refectory, a student of the Faculty of Economics and Management became the most active user. She filled up her bottle with water more than twice a day (and it is well possible that she also drew water from the stands installed in the Faculty's building). The Filtermac device with registration was the most popular with the following persons:*

- 1st place** – a student of the Faculty of Economics and Management (768 registrations)
- 2nd place** – a student of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (325 registrations)
- 3rd place** – an incoming student (Erasmus) of the Faculty of Agrobiolgy, Food and Natural Resources (245 registrations by June)
- 4th place** – an employee of the Faculty of Engineering (231 registrations)
- 5th place** – an employee of the Study and Information Centre (224 registrations)

In addition to filtration devices, novelties introduced by the University in 2019 included **reusable drink cups**, which support public events of the University and individual Faculties. Effectively replacing disposable cups, the reusable version contributes considerably to the prevention of waste in activities within the CZU complex.

A pilot project of reusable coffee cups was launched in 2019. At present, a returnable cup can be purchased from "Hodně dobré jídlo" cafés. Cups can be used for own needs and also in coffee vending machines across the whole campus. The project is expected to extend to other establishments in the upcoming years.

The University houses a "**Freeshop**", where students can exchange clothes, furniture and other items. The Freeshop contributes to prevention of generation of waste and reduces redundant consumption of new things.

Reconstructed in 2019, the "**CZU Shop**", operated by the University, offers various souvenirs and visitors can purchase detergents by filling their own containers and buy other ecological products.

### Power engineering and emissions

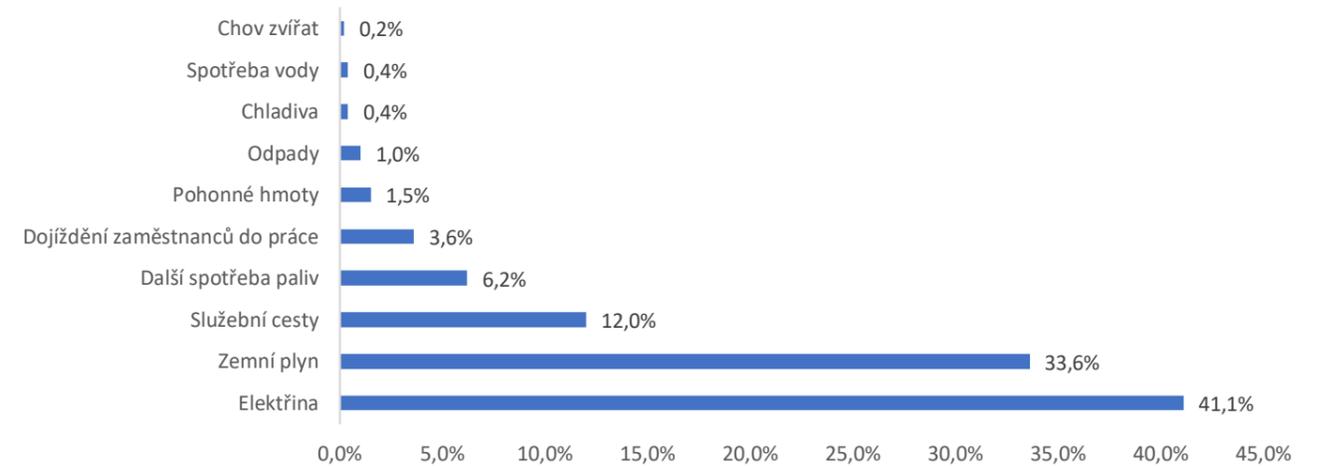
The topic of greenhouse gas emissions and related problems of power engineering have gained in importance on both global and national levels as well as on the University's ground. **Calculation of the carbon footprint of the CZU for 2018** signified a crucial milestone in the preceding year. Results of these calculations constitute the basis of the sustainability strategy, which, inter alia, incorporates a plan for reducing the University's energy demands and the general reduction in the quantity of greenhouse gases released in connection with activities of the CZU employees and students.

TAB. 3 ENERGY AND EMISSIONS AT THE CZU

	Total consumption
Electricity consumption	9 850 607 kWh
Thereof renewable energy from own resources	19 222 kWh
Consumption of natural gas	1 786 074 m <sup>3</sup>
Consumption of electricity and gas	96 278 GJ

A portion of consumed electricity is generated by **photovoltaic panels** installed on the University's buildings. Specifically, photovoltaic panels provide power for the building of the Inter-faculty Centre of Environmental Sciences II and the building of the Faculty of Engineering. The photovoltaic panels made it possible to save dozens of thousands Czech crowns in 2019, and the plan for 2020 is to continue to increase their capacity. Electronic devices can be charged within the complex by means of island solar systems. Examples of these charging stations for renewable resources include a solar bench with a vertical garden located in front of the building of the Faculty of Agrobiolgy, Food and Natural Resources, or a **solar pergola** in front of Dormitory F.

GRAF: SHARE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S ACTIVITIES IN CARBON FOOTPRINT



Results of carbon footprint calculations revealed that the University's results per employee and student and with respect to the total area of the complex are very good (see Tab. 4.).

An absolute majority of carbon footprint is caused by consumption of electricity and natural gas for everyday operation of the buildings. However, employees' travelling is also to blame. The calculation of carbon footprint shows a large potential not only in energy savings but also in emission reduction by purchasing "green electricity" from suppliers and by compensating emissions from business trips (air travel especially). A number of measures were adopted in 2019 with a focus on reduction in carbon footprint.

The University encourages its employees and students to use **alternative ways of commuting**. Students and employees can lock or store their cycles in a number of places. Bike storage rooms are located in buildings of the Faculty of Economics and Management, Inter-faculty Centre of Environmental Sciences II, Faculty of Agrobiolgy, Food and Natural Resources - B, and other storage rooms are under construction. The University intends to support the use of electrical bikes for commuting of employees and students in the future.

TAB. 4 CARBON FOOTPRINT OF THE CZU

	Total emissions	US (\$1 and \$2 and \$3) per one student (FTE)	US (\$1 and \$2 and \$3) per m <sup>2</sup> of floor area
CZU carbon footprint in 2018	11 875,26 t CO <sub>2</sub> e	0,5 t CO <sub>2</sub> e per employee / student	76,4 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e per m <sup>2</sup> of area

The project **Uniqway** is in progress, enabling students to use shared cars. Shared cars also function as a pilot project of Škoda Auto, which in cooperation with the Czech University of Life Sciences, University of Economics and Czech Technical University, operates Uniqway as its testing platform of **carsharing services**. Shared cars were introduced at the CZU in 2018. In two years' time, 704 students and employees registered in the project and 409 of them were active users at the end of 2019. Drives can choose among 24 different cars. So far, **124,960km** was covered by the CZU-registered participants. Interestingly, the average time of car hire is 267 minutes. Cars are used not only for commuting to the University but also for longer journeys.



**Water**

The University works systematically towards reduction in water consumption. Automatic flushing urinals are installed in toilets. Dormitories are equipped with water taps, economical aerators and shower heads. A substantial amount of water utilized within the campus need not necessary be potable. This especially concerns water used for watering plants, water kept in fire reservoirs or "grey" water for toilet flushing. For this reason, consumption of potable water is gradually replaced by rainwater caught in classic and green roofs. **Rainwater is used for watering the marshland** (and for the fire reservoir located at the building of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences), a part of

green areas in the campus is irrigated with rainwater and toilets in the Hall are flushed primarily by water caught on the building's green roof.

On other green roofs, such as the roof on the High-tech Pavilion completed in 2019, water is stored in **underground retention tanks** and slowly soaks into the soil. This procedure prevents rainwater from leaking into sewers, where rainwater cannot reach the soil and therefore replenish the local level of groundwater. Besides, rainwater in sewers places an unnecessary strain on the water cleaning plant. Other facilities for retention and utilization of rainwater are under construction or preparation in case of new or reconstructed buildings.

**TAB. 5 METHODS OF WATER RETENTION AT THE CZU**

Building	Green roof area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Share of green areas in total roof area (%)	Method of water retention and utilization	Measurement of tanke (m <sup>3</sup> )
High-Tech Pavilion	826	96	Water is retained and utilized by the green roof. Excess water flows into underground soaking wells (unconnected to rainwater sewers).	x
Hall	401	32	Water is stored in an underground retention tank and is then used for flushing and watering green roofs.	29
Inter-faculty Centre of Environmental Sciences II	371	21	Water from the green roof fills the fire reservoir. Excess water is conducted to marshland, retention tank and also to rainwater sewers. A portion of rainwater soaks directly, not using the devices mentioned above.	41
Energy Centre	192	89	Water is retained and utilized by the green roof. Excess water is conducted to a soaking facility.	none
Centre for Economic and Management Studies II	x	x	Water from a part of the roof is conducted to a tank and is then used for irrigating the adjacent green areas.	8,8

**Life of employees**

In 2019, the Czech University of Life Sciences launched the project **HR Awards**, which revises the system of human resources management. Accordingly, the University will join the ranks of those organizations that are proud guarantors of quality care of their employees, openness and transparency of selection procedures and high quality of the work environment. Through this project, the University also advocates the principles embedded in the **European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers**.

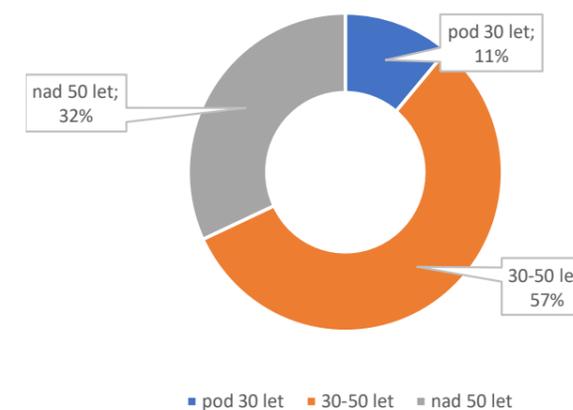
The University is open to employees of all age groups, women and men alike, a fact proven by statistical data regarding the employees' structure in 2019 (see Fig. 3). Obviously, the dominant group is made up of employees between the ages of 30 and 50. Nonetheless, also young people under 30 are given a chance to gain necessary experience at the University. A large group of employees is formed by people above 50 years of age, who, being in the "pre-pension age", face difficulties on the labour market. Their experience appreciated by the University, these employees are wanted for academic and non-academic positions.

The most sought-after benefit offered by the CZU to its employees is the option of **part-time jobs**. The popularity and importance of this benefit is ever-increasing and the University is a proud provider of 1,075 part-time jobs, i.e. more than the full-time variant. Thanks to part-time jobs, "endangered groups" on the labour market, such as students, pre-pension aged people, women or men on parental leave, can find employment. Employees are also able to combine their work at the University with study or another type of work.

The University's **kindergarten "Poníček"** has provided its services to employees since 2016, when it was transformed from a children's playroom. The capacity of the kindergarten is 12 children. However, not all children come every day and the kindergarten in addition serves as an alternative for other children during summer holidays. "Poníček" was therefore attended in total by almost 60 children in 2019.

The programme for children in 2019 included regular trips to a salt cave or horse riding lessons in **Brandejs Homestead**. Children also attended the University's events such as employees' Sports Games, Tree Planting by students, and tribute to the memory of students for freedom and democracy ideals or the Days of a Formula.

**Věková struktura zaměstnanců**



Children attended a Halloween haunting event or Epiphany singing organized by the Rector's Office. In cooperation with individual Faculties, entertaining programmes are prepared for children in zoology, zootechnics, wood processing, agricultural mechanisation etc. Students' associations are actively involved in preparation of children's programmes, when, for example, St Nicholas' Eve presents are traditionally prepared by students. The plan for 2020 is to broaden cooperation with the Faculties and students who will be willing to share their knowledge with children. The yard attached to the kindergarten will be developed with help of the CZU experts.

In addition to implementation of the project HR Awards, the CZU intends to improve its work environment to ensure pleasant and attractive conditions for all groups of employees. The University will continue to encourage its employees to adjust work to their own needs, especially thanks to the University's benefits and part-time jobs.

**Life of students**

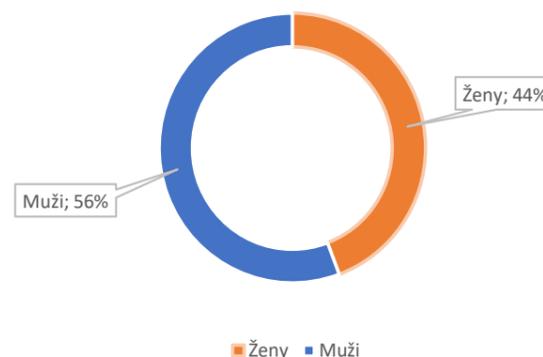
The University is a home to more than 10 different associations (see Tab. 6), which cater for an eventful student (social and cultural) life. These associations include Be fair, Pupen and Freeshop, which promote a **more environmentally friendly operation of the campus**.

The association **Be Fair** was formed at the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences. Its mission is to raise awareness of fair trade products, whereby attesting to the profile of the Faculty, a proud holder of the "title" Fair Trade Faculty. Be Fair organized a number of events in 2019, attended by approximately 500 people in total.

**Freeshop** is an association that operates at the Dormitories and enables students to exchange clothes, no longer needed furniture or other items in the framework of the Dormitories. These activities prevent generation of waste and "not-so-needed" purchases of new things.

The association **Pupen**, an organizer of plentiful activities and educational events at the Faculty of Faculty of Agrobiolgy, Food and Natural Resources, enriches its students' life in the area of sustainability. Its regular activities consist in the organization of board game contests, extra lessons in Chemistry and Genetics as well as co-organization of the fair trade Gaudeamus or the project "Vědcem na vlastní kůži" [In a scientist's shoes].

**Poměr žen a mužů**



**The Action Team of the Faculty of Economics and Management**

is mainly committed to communication with students. The association administers the portal [www.smat.se](http://www.smat.se) and helps promote the University's and Faculty's events. Through its activities, students are regularly reminded to use the water fountains.

The end of 2019 saw the formation of the association **Na Živo** at the Faculty of Environmental Sciences with the aim of organizing various social events for students in relation to ecology and sustainable development. The association's regular activities are e.g. "climbing Thursdays", trips with the photography club, ornithological outings and other workshops and talks.

**TAB. 6 ACTIVITIES OF ASSOCIATIONS AT THE CZU IN 2019**

Summer term		
14. 2.	Clothes swap	Freeshop
1. 3.	Screening event: Ditch those clothes + clothes swap	Freeshop + Be Fair
20. 3.	Talk with "Kosí zob"	Be Fair
22. 3.	DOD	Be Fair
2. 4.	Fair Trade Coffee event	Be Fair + Freeshop
10. 4.	Vermikomposters	Be Fair
16. 4.	Travel talk – Congo	Be Fair
16. 4.	Students' farm fair	Pupen
24. 4.	How to make barefoot shoes	Be Fair
14. 5.	Fair snack	Be Fair + Freeshop
19. 6.	Campus cleaning event	Green Office
22. 6.	Garden party	Be Fair
Winter term		
25. 9.	Night of scientists – How to be planet-friendly	Pupen
5.-12. 10.	Exhibition on trees	Be Fair
9. 10.	Introduction to study - presentation	Be Fair
15. 10.	Faculty of Engineering, Cocoa seminar	Be Fair + Freehop
30. 10.	CP – Šimon Lehovec	Be Fair
11. 11.	Slow fashion - talk	Be Fair
11. 11.	Agro party + Science Slam	Pupen
11.-13. 11.	Week of Science and Technology	Be Fair
17. 11.	November 17th celebrations	Pupen
22. 11.	DOD	Be Fair
26. 11.	Charity yoga session	Be Fair
26.-27. 11.	Food collection 2019	Akční tým PEF
2. 12.	CP – Anna Beránková	Be Fair
3. 12.	Christmas market	Be Fair
9. 12.	Writing letters event: Write for rights	Freeshop
11. 12.	Waxed napkins	NaŽivo + Be Fair
12. 12.	IFP	Be Fair

The CZU students and employees have formed the organization **Green Office**, which is attached to the Dormitories and Refectories. Its mission is to cooperate with students to achieve a more environmentally friendly operation of the Dormitories. Within this organization, students and employees spread awareness of responsible waste separation, stressing the importance of keeping the campus clean, and also organize cleaning get-togethers and offer bags for waste separation to students accommodated in the Dormitories.

In addition to their engagement in activities of the associations, students are invited to participate in the CZU annual **competition of Campus Sustainability Challenge**. Students present their projects with a focus on increasing sustainability of the campus or improving behaviour of other students or employees. The University supports the implementation of winning projects.

**THE FOLLOWING THREE PROJECTS GAINED SUPPORT IN 2019:**

- **Rozsviřme ČZU** [Let there be light at the CZU] – students Lukáš Vostatek and Tereza Pořeluzná initiated a replacement of eight discharging bulbs in the outdoor lighting installed between BC and JIH Dormitories with economical LED bulbs. Not only are the new bulbs more economical, but also their contribution to light pollution is much lower, insects find them much less attractive and their warm tones have no disturbing impact on sleeping students at the Dormitories.
- **Green Charge: Solar Pergola** – students Bc. Ilia Vikhman and Mgr. Brett Gallagher designed a shelter with photovoltaic panels and a battery of an adequate size for students to work under the pergola and to charge their mobile devices, including computers. Students are thus able to work out-of-doors in the shade of solar panels connected to clean solar energy.
- **Refill: Let's have it again** – having decided to do away with disposable coffee cups, students Bc. František Zdařil and Bc. František Humpál, in cooperation with company Hodně dobré jídlo, introduced a system of reusable coffee cups that can be used in cafés and coffee vending machines.

Importantly, the CZU would not be complete without its business incubator **Point One**, which underwent a turning year. New premises were opened, the portfolio of mentors and instructors were extended, and new companies were welcomed into the incubator and received its pro-active help on their business path. The business incubator supports the CZU students to find their niche in practice, but its services are also available to the general public. The business incubator operates in the areas of sustainable development, ecology, food industry, nutrition, health, crafts, traditions, society development and promotion of social values.

**FOR EXAMPLE, THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS WERE ACCEPTED IN THE BUSINESS INCUBATOR IN 2019:**

- Petr Stiblík – the founder of company **Sci|Per|Con – Scientific Permits Consulting**. This platform provides support to



researches in obtaining scientific permits necessary for their research. Currently, the company's focus is oriented at permits related to genetic sources acquired in a country different from that where genetic sources are processed during research.

- Lukáš Žatečka the founder of **LifeEducation**, working under the motto Knowledge and experience for every day and the whole life. The company develops and organizes educational events for the general public in order to share comprehensive and practical knowledge and experience in nutrition, sports activities and personal development. The main objective is to support people's healthy and sustainable lifestyle for them to accomplish their potential and be able to respond effectively to fast changing requirements of the today's society.
- Tatiana Naumová – the founder of a company for **production of healthy chocolate**. Seen in the antiquity as food of the Gods, cocoa contains a number of valuable substances, antioxidants, vitamins and minerals. JUJU chocolate is free from white sugar, gluten and artificial ingredients. Each bar of chocolate is made of quality ingredients, individual for every customer, with love, using FairTrade ingredients.
- Veronika Haisingerová – is responsible for the project **Řemeskùlna**, restoring happiness from making crafts among people. Řemeskùlna arouses interest in manual crafts and work among children and adults. The project returns the long gone glamour to crafts.

**Support of sustainable development outside the University**

The Czech University of Life Sciences promotes the idea of sustainable development outside its campus and students. In this context, the University hosted a conference themed **Social responsibility across institutions** on 7 November 2019. At the conference, various concepts

of sustainability were introduced by representatives of the Ministry of the Environment, town of Kopřivnice and company Sonnentor. The subsequent discussion among representatives of different Czech universities draw attention to methods of implementing social responsibility in the academic world. For the programme and information regarding the conference go to: <https://csr.czu.cz/cs/r-13688-konference/r-15090-konference-spolecenska-odpovednost-napric-institucemi-2019>

The University was involved in the **inter-university event Night of Scientists**, exploring how to be "planet-friendly". The opportunity was taken by the individual Faculties, which presented to the public the various research and solutions contributing to the planet-friendly concept. By way of example, the presentations included demonstrations of drones and solar panels and lectures as to the importance and principles of plants, or lectures on bees and other insects.

In addition, film screening took place on the roof of the Inter-faculty Centre of Environmental Sciences and a walk around the campus was organized with presentations of environmentally responsible measures, such as marshlands, green roofs or the Freeshop.

Education of the public found its place also in the next year of the annual international **Life Sciences Film Festival**. Students, employees and the public were invited to screening of documentary films, and to various lectures and excursions in the campus. All activities centred on themes related to the individual expert departments and the concept of "Life Science". The great award of LSFF 2019 was bestowed to the film *Lidská přirozenost* [Human Nature] considering genetic modification issues.

The Czech University of Life Sciences is a member of the **Platform for Bioeconomy of the Czech Republic**, where its role is to actively promote further findings of this discipline and to support its application in practice.

### 3 / Evaluation of the current position of the CZU for further development of social responsibility

The year 2019 marked several important steps in sustainability implemented by the Czech University of Life Sciences. As a fundamental milestone, the University's carbon footprint was calculated. The calculation results were used for updating the sustainability strategy, which advocates specific measures directed at reduction in greenhouse gas emissions related to the University's activities and also focuses on more environmentally friendly and socially responsibly operations. Today, the University is well on the way to the world top sustainable universities and its ambition is to become one of the leaders among higher education institutions in the Czech Republic.

The preceding period was again fruitful from the perspective of cooperation between the University's employees and students, sustainable projects were executed and the University was successful in interconnecting educational and creative CSR activities. The updated website informs visitors to the campus of currently introduced measures and activities. Students, employees and the general public are invited to put forward suggestions and comments with respect to sustainability of the CZU.

The panel discussion at the CSR conference opened an ever important debate on sustainability in the academic sphere and signifies a promise for cooperation among higher education institutions in the Czech Republic. As early as in the present document, the Czech University of Life Sciences is able to declare specific data regarding its environmental and social performance, which makes it possible for the University to assess the efficacy of further steps.



## 4 / Conclusion

Ranking among the most environmentally friendly universities in the Czech Republic, the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague has contributed to the society not only with a new sustainability standard but also with progressive transparency of its activities. Accordingly, the Czech University of Life Sciences should make use of the head start it has achieved in comparison with other higher education institutions in the Czech Republic, whereby setting a good example for activities in the public sector.

The CZU will be assisted in its further procedure mainly by the environmental management system, where energy and material flows, such as consumption of electricity, gas or water or generation of waste, will be monitored in detail. Subsequently, problem areas will be identified, together with the most effective solutions, and the University will determine feasible as well as ambitious partial goals. In the upcoming years, sustainability strategy is expected to be performed, not only in the context of the University's activities but also as regards its close cooperation with students, employees and other stakeholders. Furthermore, the CZU will continue to encourage the involvement of students' associations and students themselves in the University's operations.

