' University for the Earth ' - let us act together!

In view of one of the most important challenges of the present day, related to the climate crisis and the future of our Planet, and taking into account the mission of a higher education institution, fulfilled in the spirit of its social responsibility, Jan Dlugosz University in Czestochowa introduces its new project "University for the Earth" to all the members of its community and to the socio-economic environment. Its idea is to take action formulated, among others, in the Magna Charta Universitatum: "Universities are to provide the representatives of future generations with the knowledge and skills that teach them, and indirectly others, to respect their natural environment and life as such."

Our university, as a community of several dozen thousands of people, with its academic teachers, administrative staff, students, doctoral candidates, unenrolled students, and graduates, can also set a good example of cross-generational cooperation and opportunities to take actions for our common future. In this context, we would like to encourage different forms of activity, not only on the 'macro', but also 'micro' scale. On the 'macro' scale, we will showcase what the university has done for the Earth so far, what its current objective is and what research, teaching and infrastructure activities it will be undertaking in the future. Our researchers, educators, students, doctoral candidates and administration staff have numerous ecological activities to their credit. We desire to propagate these forms of activity to encourage further efforts. On the 'micro' scale, each of us will promote the ecological actions, since, even the smallest act like saving water and energy daily, make up for the future of the Earth. It is not only in the hands of world policymakers that the fate of our Planet is, it is our doing that shapes it as well, thus, with the *University for the Earth* Project, I would like to encourage our entire university community and all who wish to cooperate with us, to work towards the respect for and protection of the environment.

Rector of Jan Dlugosz University in Czestochowa
Professor Anna Wypych-Gawrońska

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER?

Here are some guidelines we can implement in our daily life, even from that moment on!

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Let's save water!

It is estimated that while washing hands some of us consume (sometimes needlessly) considerable amounts of water. Additional losses can result from left taps running - which is not difficult when we are in constant rush. It is worth mentioning that the world's water supplies are shrinking year by year. The lack of 'rational economy' can lead to a situation in which many inhabitants of the Planet may not have access to drinking water at all.

Let's segregate rubbish!

Throughout the campus - in the office and teaching rooms there still will be bins for mixed waste to be disposed of, while in the corridors on each floor, specially labelled containers will be placed. In these, you should place the waste, segregating it accordingly. Certain types of waste are recycled, i.e. reprocessed into raw materials (recyclable materials) – these are mainly different types of plastic, aluminum, wastepaper and glass. To make the process happen, the waste mass must be segregated into fractions. Segregation of rubbish already in the place of its formation, i.e. at the university, allows for much more efficient work in sorting rooms, which makes much less waste end in the landfill.

Let's turn off the light when we don't need it!

Turning off lights when not in use means less energy consumption! Less energy is less, for example, burned coal and simultaneously less CO_2 emitted into the atmosphere.

Let's reduce paper consumption!

Think twice if you really need to print – if it is necessary to print, set the default to print Duplex. Thus, printing on both sides, without a second thought, we will start to limit the consumption of paper by 50 percent. Before printing a document, proofread it, checking it for any errors. Use an electronic mail, which eliminates paper use, as well!

Let's save energy!

Electrical devices consume up to several dozen percent of energy in our university. Turning on the power saving mode on your computer and monitor, we reduce the power consumption by up to 50 percent.

• when the laptop or phone has been charged, unplug the charger from the power socket, as, even when not charging, it consumes energy – as do power supply units,

• by copying documents in large quantities, but not individual sheets, we reduce the frequency of the operation of the copier which, shortly after switching on, consumes a lot of energy,

• in laser printers, turn on the power-saving mode.

Let's use cotton bags!

Eco-friendly reusable bags will reduce the use of plastic single-use carrier bags. Let us remember that aluminium foil bags are one of the largest sources of plastic pollution and, at the same time, one of the easiest to eliminate.

Let's use reusable water bottles! Preferably the ones made of glass!

The statistics say that a million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute! A plastic bottle releases potentially harmful chemicals and affects our bodies. Left, e.g. in the forest, it can take up to a thousand years for that bottle to decompose.

A reusable water bottle can be refilled anywhere - at the university, or at home. It allows easy access to a personal supply of water. It is worth to develop a habit of drinking water, because regular consumption of water is essential for our health.

Let's promote our project "University for the Earth" among friends and acquaintances, as well as, for example, through social media

Practical knowledge on ecology and climate change is the most important life issue today. Each of us can contribute to the improvement of the environment, as well as become the maker of an original solution, which will contribute, even to a small extent, to the development of humanity and preservation of the natural state of the Planet! We count on you!