



# NEWSLETTER WEEK 15

**Hey guys,**

Writing a newsletter for **Week 15** is difficult. Not only do we have to balance approaching deadlines, looming exam dates, and impending breakdowns with the gratifying task of writing to our lovely subscribers - but we also have to decide on the appropriate tone. And four days before the **end of the semester** (our deepest condolences to the Engineering students amongst us) what *exactly* counts as appropriate? Should we celebrate our last week? Get overexcited about Christmas? Cry and scream and faint because we just can't? There's just no good answer.

And so we turn to that very sacred text called *Fleabag* and remember: whatever we struggle with - academic or personal, trivial or existential -, **it will pass**. It will pass, and until then - well, what can we say? Four (!) days... and we are free!

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## This Week

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As you may know, this week doesn't only mark the end of a semester, but the end of our current board. But before it's time to shed some tears and say goodbye, we have a whole list of things to be excited about. So let's see:

- This Wednesday, we will conduct **interviews** with the students who applied for our open positions. After the interviews are done, we will have our final board meeting and decide on who's gonna join the Green Office next semester. Exciting? Exciting.
- Remember the **Ecowarrior Points**? Well, the time has finally come: this Friday, we will announce the top three Ecowarriors of this semester! The

winners will receive their prize in the Green Office.

- Don't know how to look after your plants over the break? The **Eleanor Plant Hotel** is once again open for guests! For just 5 euros, you can drop off your plants, forget all your worries, and pick them up once you're back. Sign up [here](#).
- Finally, throughout the week, you can expect more posts on our Instagram: apart from continuing our **MAPA** series, we will remember the **most memorable moments** of the semester, and **Lisa and Emilia** will say goodbye in a shared message.



## This Year

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What. A. Year. (Semester)

The last three months were full of challenges and adventures, and before riding off into the sunset, we wanted to give an overview of what exactly has



happened...

This semester the Green Office

- created its very own [website](#)
- published the Green Guide
- launched a [newsletter](#) and reached 125 subscribers :))
- joined two major protests
- hosted [over 10 events](#)
- got its own section in UCRadio, called [Green Talk](#)
- introduced the [Ecowarrior points](#)
- WENT TO [COP26!!](#)
- organised a sustainability film club
- started a weekly meditation session in collaboration with the Well-Being Team and SportsCO
- created [cup corners](#) by the coffee machines on campus
- had regular meetings with the Dean and contributed to the [upcoming strategic plan](#) of UCR!

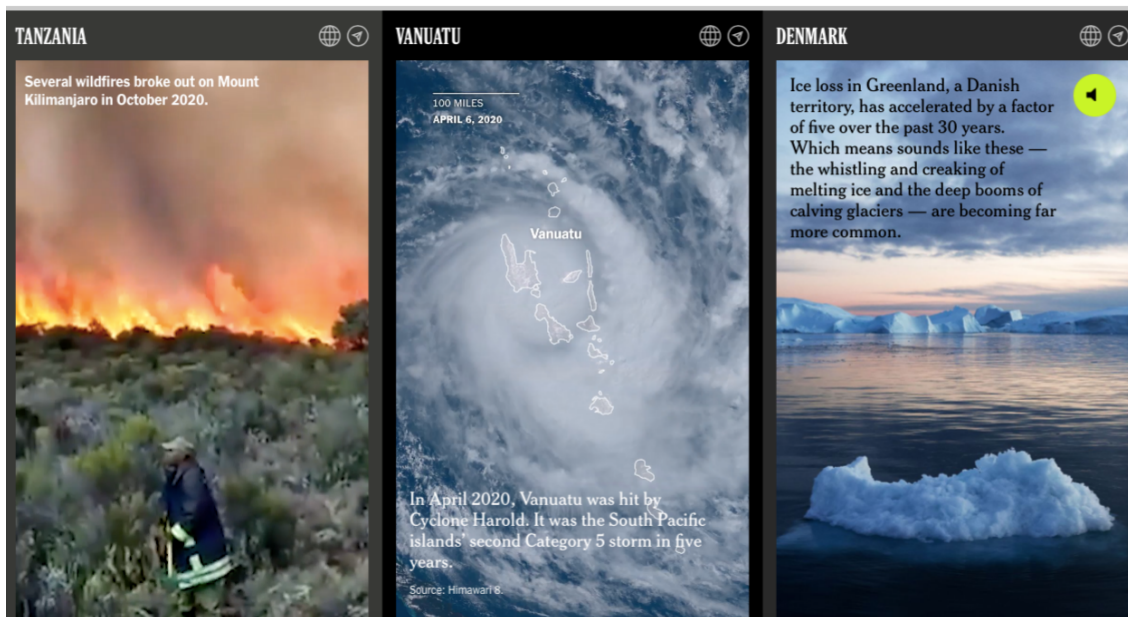
A big thank to all our volunteers for this wonderful time. :) We hope to see you in 2022 for another semester full of adventures!

## Climate News

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And now all that's left is the final Climate News of 2021. (Hopefully, next year will bring more news to be excited about.)

'Open your eyes. We have failed. The climate crisis is now', so begins an [editorial](#) published by The New York Times, titled [Postcards from a World on Fire](#). The message of the editorial board is surrounded by pictures and stories from every country in the world; a powerful testimony to the inescapable reality of climate crisis. By scrolling through the pictures, the reader can travel a world of devastation from the disappearing islands of the Pacific, through the dying baobab trees of Botswana, to the climate migrants of Guatemala. But there are voices of hope, too - be it activist suing their government in Poland or coral reef restoration projects in Belize, actions taken by a conscientious few shine a tiny light in a world of smoke and storms.



Moving on to the dilemma of a multi-crisis world: India's main **manufacturer of syringes** and needles warned its government of a possible halting of the vaccination effort. In the last weeks, more than two hundred factories have been closed due to **severe air pollution** in Delhi. Hindustan Syringes was one of the companies ordered to close down, but now it faces the threat of running out of stock. The company asked Prime Minister Modi to make an exception; it also promised to keep pollution to minimum, and said that it used renewable energy in its factories.

And finally: solving the '**charging problem**' of electric vehicles. According to an article in last week's Economist, in order to reach net-zero by 2050, **200 million charging stations** will be needed globally - in 2020, the number of stations stood at 1.3 million. Sensing a great opportunity, the private sector is already getting involved; Shell (of all companies!) is setting up plugs at gas stations and buying charging companies.

However, for the charging points to work, all actors (from owners of the sites to grid firms) need to work together; gaps in coverage have to be eliminated; and crucially, the bill (roughly \$1.6 trillion) has to be financed.

So what is the solution? **The answer might be in telecoms.** As the article points out, 'most countries auction or issue a limited number of licences or spectrum rights to firms to run regional and national mobile networks.' In return, the firms have to follow a schedule, provide universal coverage, and compete each other. And yes, the system has its shortcoming - but as the author argues, it is under such a system that mobile phones became widely accessible, everyday products.

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And that's it for today. Keep it together, the end is near,

Your Eleanor Green Office

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