

Advance Praise for
Planet U

Timely and inspiring, *Planet U* is above all a call for action at a time when much is spoken and disappointingly little is done in respect of the practical implementation of sustainable principles into university life. Thanks to its scope and enriching sets of information and experiences, the book should motivate universities across the globe to take their rightful, but long neglected, place at the forefront of innovation for sustainability and thus honor the commitment to future generations.

— Professor Walter Leal Filho (BSc, PhD, DSc, DL), Distinguished Professor of Environmental Management and Editor of the *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*. TuTech Innovation, Hamburg, Germany

The modern university is at a tipping point. It can either continue its contemporary flirtation with the corporate world and submit to its assigned role as enforcer of the status quo or it reassert its claim to leadership on society's intellectual frontier. With *Planet U: Sustaining the World, Reinventing the University*, M'Gonigle and Starke provide the rationale and inspiration for universities to break rank from the growth and globalization mainstream that is destroying the planet. Only by reinventing itself can the university hope to become society's champion for the locally-rooted global sustainability that is the quest of people and communities everywhere.

— Professor William E. Rees, School of Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia, and co-author of *Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth*

Planet U brought many topics together that are dear to my heart. Highlighting the experience of one campus, in one place, M'Gonigle and Starke give us a window on how we might use democratic practice to confront power, and become better stewards of the earth. The book offers an important challenge, including to my institution, and

our project on the The City, Land, and The University. In that work we ask, “How can universities be responsible urban institutions — being true to their own mission *and* take leadership and responsibility in their own cities?” *Planet U* ask us to look both deeper into our core values and further out into the future. How can these institutions that are the stewards of our moral, intellectual, and cultural values not take leadership and responsibility for their campus, their city, and our planet? By grounding our actions in democracy and stewardship, M’Gonigle and Starke challenge us to reach for the stars.

— Rosalind Greenstein, Sr. Fellow and Co-Chair, Department of Planning & Development, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA

This hopeful and insightful book sets out an irresistible challenge: for the university to become an “urban catalyst” for reinventing and invigorating the cultural and ecological fabric of our society. Following M’Gonigle and Starke’s prescription, universities could lead the charge to meaningful action to protect our world.

— Elizabeth E. May, O.C., Executive Director of the Sierra Club of Canada

Smart, savvy and sassy, *Planet U* takes on big ideas in specific ways. M’Gonigle and Starke rightfully point out that the 20th century University is an artifact of the past, and if “the university” is to be sustained and to sustain, then dramatic changes need to take place. *Planet U* provides the blueprint — a must-read for engaged intellectuals.

— William G. Tierney, Wilbur-Kieffer Professor of Higher Education, and Director, Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis, University of Southern California

M’Gonigle and Starke deserve an A+ for demonstrating that universities could be, should be, and indeed *must* be transformative forces in the race for sustainable solutions, beginning on campuses and then radiating across the planet. This book should be mandatory reading for all university students, faculty, and administrators.

— David R. Boyd, environmental lawyer, Trudeau Scholar at the University of British Columbia, and author of *Unnatural Law: Rethinking Canadian Environmental Law and Policy*

This really is a terrific book! Universities are places where ideas start, and they can be at the forefront of social change. They can also be at the forefront of environmental destruction. *Planet U* shows exactly how to turn universities into a force for sustainability in a democratic society. It is full of good stories and great ideas. The world can be changed for the better, and the university is the place to begin.

— John S. Dryzek, Professor, Research School of Social Sciences,
Australian National University

Millions of people work and study in universities, yet precious few pause to consider their proper role in the wider society. This inspirational book reclaims the university from those sharp suits who would turn it into a corporation trading in intellectual property and credentializing future workers. *Planet U* recalls the great tradition of universities as change-making and precedent-setting institutions, as places of free speech, dissent, and the cultivation of wisdom. It identifies a gap: between what the university is, and what it could be. M’Gonigle and Starke have written a passionate, political book that enjoins us all to make universities the vehicles of global environmental sustainability they can be but are not yet. It is a privilege to recommend such a wonderful book which should be compulsory reading for everyone involved in higher education.

— Professor Noel Castree, School of Environment and Development,
Manchester University

Planet U gives a colorful introduction to how universities should conduct themselves internally and in their local environments to become working models of democracy and innovative change for global sustainability. This fascinating book challenges readers to rethink the concept, structures and mission of their own institutions of higher education, at the same time also offering to network for achieving the goal of global sustainability by activating the potential imprisoned in mechanistic, linear and far from democratic structures of contemporary universities.

— Elzbieta Goncz, Scientific and Education Associate, Chemical Faculty, Gdansk
University of Technology, Poland

For those of us who've been slogging away in the trenches of the environment movement for the past two or three decades, *Plant U* does two things. First, through its survey of the burgeoning campus-based sustainability movement, it reassures us that a new generation is in fact emerging, and one which will take over the movement — sooner rather than later, hopefully. Second, it introduces us to a new, very wide-ranging and yet practical way of experimenting with truly integrated sustainability, right in the “heart of the beast” of North American suburbanized, corporatised, consumer society. Only time will tell whether or not a transformative non-violent revolution can save the planet, but *Planet U* offers a vision of how this could be led by and through this ancient iconic institution of Western civilisation. Clearly, things are happening on campus, and M’Gonigle and Starke’s book is an engaging call to sit up and take notice of the future as it evolves. Read it.

— Steve Sawyer was Executive Director of Greenpeace International (1988-1993) during which time he initiated the organization’s climate campaign. He presently serves as the organization’s climate policy director.

As an academic who has been involved in treating the effects of industrial pollution on our population, I highly recommended this book. Anyone interested in what the university can do for the development of civil society will learn from this book. It will be most useful for universities in Eastern Europe.

— Dr. Lew Gerbilsky, President of Ukraine’s Green Doctors (a national branch of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment), Ukrainian National Mining University, Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine