



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

AUC's Communication on Engagement for the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)

2017 - 2018

Office of the President

مكتب رئيس الجامعة

June 25, 2018

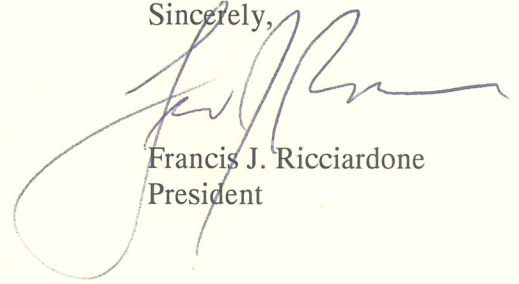
H.E. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Your Excellency,

I write to reaffirm the American University in Cairo's full support of the ten UN Global Compact principles on human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption. We at AUC commit to advancing these principles in higher education and are eager to join new UN Global Compact activities where appropriate and feasible.

We do hope you find our 2018 Communication on Engagement enlightening.

Sincerely,



Francis J. Ricciardone
President

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HUMAN RIGHTS	3
Assessment, Policy, and Goals	3
Implementation	3
Measurement of Outcomes	4
LABOR	5
Assessment, Policy, and Goals	5
Implementation	5
Measurement of Outcomes	5
ENVIRONMENT	6
Assessment, Policy, and Goals	6
Implementation	7
Measurement of Outcomes	8
ANTI-CORRUPTION	11
Assessment, Policy, and Goals	11
Implementation	11
Measurement of Outcomes	12
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH	12
Research Institute for a Sustainable Environment (RISE)	12
Center for Sustainable Development (CSD)	13
John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, Civic Engagement, and Responsible Business	14
AUC'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LOCAL UNGC NETWORK	15
Acknowledgements	15

HUMAN RIGHTS

Assessment, Policy, and Goals

AUC has, for the last 100 years, strived to be a leader in the region and the world. Throughout its history and across all facets of its operations, AUC has stayed and continues to stay true to its core values of excellence, diversity, social responsibility, integrity, and lifelong learning (*Principle 1, 2*):

- **Excellence:**
We continually aim to be among the best in all we do: in teaching, research, creative expression, service to our communities, and service to each other in our daily interactions.
- **Diversity:**
We seek to treat all individuals with dignity and fairness and to promote understanding and respect for diversity of perspectives, traditions, and experiences.
- **Social Responsibility:**
We are committed to exploring the challenges that confront Egypt, the region, and the world and to using our intellectual and creative capabilities to address these challenges, serve our communities, and have a positive and sustainable impact on development, business, the environment, and society.
- **Integrity:**
We believe that individuals are accountable for their actions and, as members of a community, our individual actions have an impact on others. We are stronger as a community when we reflect on the consequences of our decisions and actions, and we uphold the principles of academic integrity, including fairness, accountability, and honesty.
- **Lifelong Learning:**
We believe that the pursuit of knowledge, understanding, and personal and professional development should continue throughout one's lifetime.

Implementation

- The University seeks to ensure that AUC community members and visitors across both campuses experience a safe, healthy and secure environment. The Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Department provides a wide range of services to the AUC community, including but not limited to training (in firefighting, risk assessment, safe driving, ladder safety, equipment handling, personal protective equipment, etc.), hazardous waste management, chemical safety, firefighting, fleet safety, ergonomics and more. The EHS Department coordinates multiple drills across the year in order to orient the AUC community on emergency response procedures. (*Principle 1, 2*)
- The AUC administration recognized the need that all students should be insured in case of a medical emergency. This is best practice at most American universities. Effective Spring 2018, AUC has begun enrolling Egyptian students in a mandatory health insurance plan provided by Globe Med/Libano-Suisse. The benefits of this insurance plan include 100% coverage for hospitalization, doctors' visits within the network, ambulance services, and much more, as well as up to 80% coverage for medicine and reimbursements for hospitalization and doctors visits outside of the network. (*Principle 1, 2*)
- AUC also provides staff and faculty with medical coverage that meets and exceeds the provisions stated in Egyptian law. The University provides a well-equipped clinic with qualified staff members, physicians, and nurses that is open to the whole university community. Health plans are available for employees and their dependents, in addition to group life insurance for all support staff. (*Principle 1, 2*)
- As part of its commitment to the health of everyone on its campus, AUC's plans to go tobacco free were officially implemented in February 2018. After years of maintaining an Air Quality Protection Policy to limit smoking on campus, the Committee for a Tobacco-Free AUC announced a university-wide policy that will, in phases, ban smoking (including e-cigarettes) and

the use of any tobacco products on campus altogether. The committee, composed of students, faculty, and staff, utilized research, coordinated with public health experts from NYU, and completed a campus-wide survey to inform their plans. The policy has three phases. Phase 1, which will last until September 2018, limits smoking and tobacco use to nine designated smoking areas within campus' pedestrian entrances. Phase 2 will ban smoking anywhere within the pedestrian entrances, and, finally, in February 2019, Phase 3 will ban tobacco use on any AUC property, both inside and outside the pedestrian entrances. These new rules are enforced by a series of progressive consequences for students, faculty, and staff alike. In order to help smokers quit or reduce their smoking, AUC offers a smoking cessation clinic and education sessions about the harmful effects of tobacco, ways to quit, and alternative stress management strategies. The University will also be installing a number of "stress-free zones" throughout campus to address stress-related factors that cause people to smoke. This university-wide effort is helping make AUC a healthier place for all of its stakeholders. (*Principle 1, 2*)

- To ensure freedom to practice one's religion, AUC provides prayer and meditation areas across campus that are accessible to all AUC community members. (*Principle 1, 2*)

Measurement of Outcomes

Full-time Faculty by Gender, Fall 2017				
Male	%	Female	%	Total
233	52	219	48	452

Full-time Faculty by Nationality, Fall 2017						
Egyptian	%	American	%	Other	%	Total
248	55	106	23	98	22	452

All Enrolled Students by Gender, Fall 2017				
Male	%	Female	%	Total
2,908	44	3,662	56	6,570

All Enrolled Students by Nationality, Fall 2017						
Egyptian	%	American	%	Other	%	Total
6,229	95	90	1.4	251	3.8	6570

Full-time Staff by Gender, Fall 2017				
Male	%	Female	%	Total
1,390	65	738	35	2,128

Full-time Staff by Nationality, Fall 2017						
Egyptian	%	American	%	Other	%	Total
2072	97	40	1.9	16	0.8	2128

Full-time Staff by Age, Fall 2017										
20-29	%	30-39	%	40-49	%	50-59	%	60+	%	Total
200	9	948	45	629	30	339	16	12	0.6	2128

LABOR

Assessment, Policy, and Goals

- Compulsory labor is not only prohibited by the applicable Egyptian laws, but it is also against public order. According to the Egyptian Civil Law, labor contracts may not be entered into except by the mutual agreement of both the employer and the employee. AUC abides by all the applicable Egyptian laws. (*Principle 4*)
- AUC strictly adheres to the rules and conditions protecting children mentioned in the Egyptian Child's Law and the international treaties ratified by Egypt. (*Principle 5*)
- The mission statement in AUC's Staff Manual states that "AUC is an independent, not-for-profit, equal-opportunity institution." Equal opportunity and non-discrimination is one of the core values that AUC stands for. In addition to AUC's strict adherence to the Egyptian Labor Law conditions in this regard, AUC has issued a "Non-Discrimination Policy" that all AUC members must adhere to. Moreover, AUC has formed a special equal opportunity committee responsible for investigating discrimination and sexual harassment cases. (*Principle 6*)

Implementation

- Two syndicates represent AUC workers. One is associated in accordance with the Egyptian Trade Unions Law promulgated under No. 35 of 1976. The other is associated in accordance with the regulations of the International Labor Convention No. 87 of 1948 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize, which is ratified by Egypt. Both syndicates represent the workers in a free environment. All employees have the right to join syndicates without being exposed to any adverse actions; no restrictions are placed on the exercise of this right other than those prescribed by the applicable laws. It is worth noting that Law No. 35 to 1976 is replaced with Law No. 213 of 2017. Accordingly, AUC will work with the syndicates to ensure full compliance with its provisions. (*Principle 3*)
- AUC fights against labor discrimination from the very beginning of the employment process. Any vacancy is advertised through AUC's website and other various channels, establishing equal opportunity for anyone to apply. No interviews are to be made to any candidate without passing through the human resources recruitment cycle. (*Principle 6*)

Measurement of Outcomes

- Once hired, employees have the ability to formally petition in response to any harassment or discrimination. AUC does not tolerate discrimination or harassment. Therefore, a University Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA) Committee has been developed to permit the university to respond to allegations of such behavior as promptly, fairly, and definitively as possible. This Committee has overall responsibility for the management of the University's policies and procedures on discrimination and harassment and ensures compliance with the applicable US federal and state laws, including Title IX, FERPA, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Violence Against Women Act and other applicable laws and regulations as required. (*Principle 6*)
- In order to ensure that employees are not only evaluated for promotion fairly but also can constantly develop professionally, AUC's HR department has developed the My Performance Journey system. This new performance evaluation scheme allows employees and managers to collaboratively set goals and evaluate performance at the end of each year. The process is tracked and checked in on in a convenient online portal. Additionally, HR's Employee Scorecard lays out a transparent, standardized process for determining merit increases, promotions, and other development. (*Principle 6*)

ENVIRONMENT

Assessment, Policy, and Goals

- AUC's commitment to promoting the three Principles on the environment is clearly reflected in both the academic and administrative operations of the University. In 2011, the Office of Sustainability was officially established to address AUC's environmental challenges, including climate change, resource scarcity, pollution, and waste management. The Office now manages sustainability initiatives within campus operations, often collaborating with the School of Science and Engineering and the Architecture Department. On the academic side, AUC offers a master's program in sustainability through the Center for Sustainable Development. The University also supports the Research Institute for a Sustainable Environment (RISE), which researches, experiments, and pilots innovative agriculture and environmental projects in communities throughout Egypt. (*Principle 7, 8, 9*).
- The Office of Sustainability is deeply dedicated to the promotion of environmental sustainability in campus operations. The Office's mission and vision are testament to this:
 - **MISSION:** To integrate environmental and social sustainability into the culture and structure of the University. The Office strives to reduce the University's use of natural resources and operating costs, and to instill a sustainability mindset within the AUC community, by supporting University programs in education, research, and operations.
 - **VISION:** To weave sustainability into the culture, mission, and activities of the University, and to become internationally recognized for its successes. (*Principle 7, 8*)
- **Water Management:**

Egypt is an arid country with minimal rainfall. New Cairo has a limited supply of water: there is only one water line serving New Cairo and the water is pumped from the Ismailia Canal 54 kilometers away. The municipal water supply has not always been enough to meet New Cairo's demand, particularly during the hotter months, when demand is higher because of increased air conditioning and irrigation needs. Water use reduction initiatives at AUC are spearheaded by the Energy and Resource Conservation and Efficiency Task Force (ERCE) committee, which meets once a month to discuss the previous month's water use. Founded in 2011 to deal with increasing water bills, the committee is made up of different facilities and operations staff and representatives from the landscaping unit. Extensive data are kept comparing different types of water use across time and area within the University. These data are compared to make educated decisions about reducing consumption. The University aims to decrease water use by 60 percent, and to increase water storage capacity by 80 percent. The ERCE committee has replaced faulty bathroom flush valves, installed low-flow shower heads in dorms, introduced efficient managing of the air conditioning system, installed a new 2,000-cubic meter water tank on campus, and pushed for using treated water to irrigate landscaping. (*Principle 7, 8*)
- **Energy Management:**

In order to maintain daily operations, AUC consumes a significant amount of energy. Most of this energy is used for air-conditioning and heating, as well as the lighting system and other equipment. Energy reduction initiatives at AUC are spearheaded by the Energy and Resource Conservation and Efficiency Task Force (ERCE) committee, which meets once a month to discuss the previous month's energy use. Founded in 2011 to deal with increasing energy bills, the committee is made up of different facilities and operations staff with the participation of some faculty. Extensive data are kept comparing different types of energy use across time and area within the University. These data are compared to make educated decisions about reducing consumption. These initiatives include improving management of the air conditioning system and chilled water, reducing lighting consumption, and developing a focused approach to overall energy use. These combined efforts have led to a 35% reduction in overall energy use between Academic Year AY17 (September, 2016 to August 31, 2017) and the base year (September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012). (*Principles 7, 8*)

- **Waste Management:**

AUC is actively developing a sustainable trash management system with the ultimate goal of reducing the overall waste generated on campus. One such effort is the establishment of the Clean and Green Committee, a working group made up of faculty, staff, professors, and maintenance personnel, and chaired by Dr. Dina Rateb, associate professor in the Department of Management. In addition to the important work of promoting recycling on campus, the Clean and Green Committee fosters greater participation of and cooperation between faculty and staff in general, and, as with regard to the environment specifically, brings in new perspectives to waste reduction planning. Currently, we have more than 40 sorting stations with receptacles for plastic, cans and other trash. (*Principle 8*)

- MISSION: The mission of AUC's waste management program is to advocate innovative solid waste management practices through training, education, and recycled product development to serve AUC and the outside community. The Clean and Green Committee is made up of faculty and operations staff and works to increase diversion in the university's waste stream.
- VISION: For AUC to become a leading educational recycling center, offering high quality facilities, services, and products comparable to the best organizations worldwide.

Implementation

- In fall 2017, the Office of Sustainability began a work-study program to involve more students in its work. As of Spring 2018, there are two undergraduate students working with the Office on various projects. This program has two primary benefits. The first is to expose students to our work and give them experience in sustainability work with the hope that they will pass on that experience to their peers and the future organizations they work for. The second benefit has been to bring fresh ideas to the Office so that our initiatives better connect with students. (*Principle 8*)
- EarthWeek is an annual event held around April 22 (Earth Day) to spread environmental awareness on campus. The event takes different forms each year, but has featured interactive games, expert panels, photo booths, and even a greenhouse with hydroponics set up in the center of campus. EarthWeek is open to all members of the AUC community and aims to attract a broad audience with a range of previous environmental awareness. (*Principle 8*)
- The Office maintains a website and Facebook page to engage people within and outside of the AUC community (<http://www.aucegypt.edu/about/sustainable-auc/sustainable-campus> and [facebook.com/sustainabilityAUC](https://www.facebook.com/sustainabilityAUC)) The web page is linked to directly from AUC's homepage, emphasizing the University's commitment and showing prospective students that AUC is serious about sustainability. The website features data, including past carbon footprint reports, and highlights some of AUC's big achievements. The Facebook page is a platform for publicizing on-campus events and sharing information about the environment and sustainability. Finally, events and accomplishments are publicized through News@AUC, AUC's daily news bulletin, which is available to students, faculty, staff, and alumni. (*Principle 8*)
- The Office chairs the Sustainable Campus Committee, an informal weekly meeting for students to participate in sustainability on campus. The group focuses on planning for the annual EarthWeek events, but it also brainstorms and plans other initiatives and events. This open forum makes sustainability more accessible to students across disciplines and further spreads sustainability through AUC's culture. (*Principle 8*)
- Transportation is one of AUC's biggest challenges. Because of our location outside of the city, many AUCians drive private cars to work, meaning that transportation is a huge part of our total carbon footprint. In order to reduce that impact, AUC has 13 convenient bus routes to take students, faculty, and staff to locations throughout Cairo at various times during the day. The buses are free for faculty and staff and are much cheaper than other options (like taxis) for students. People who carpool also have their parking fees waived. Both of these options encourage community members to make sustainable transport decisions. (*Principle 7*)



Student poses during Earth Week 2018

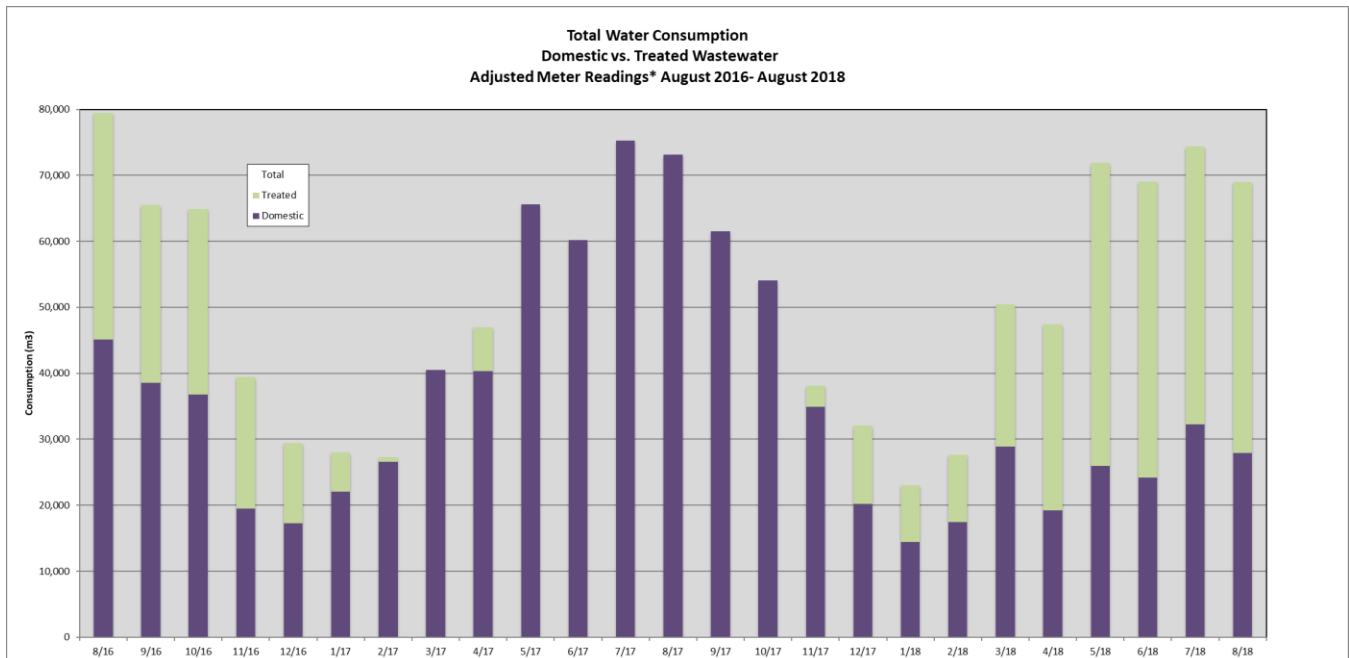
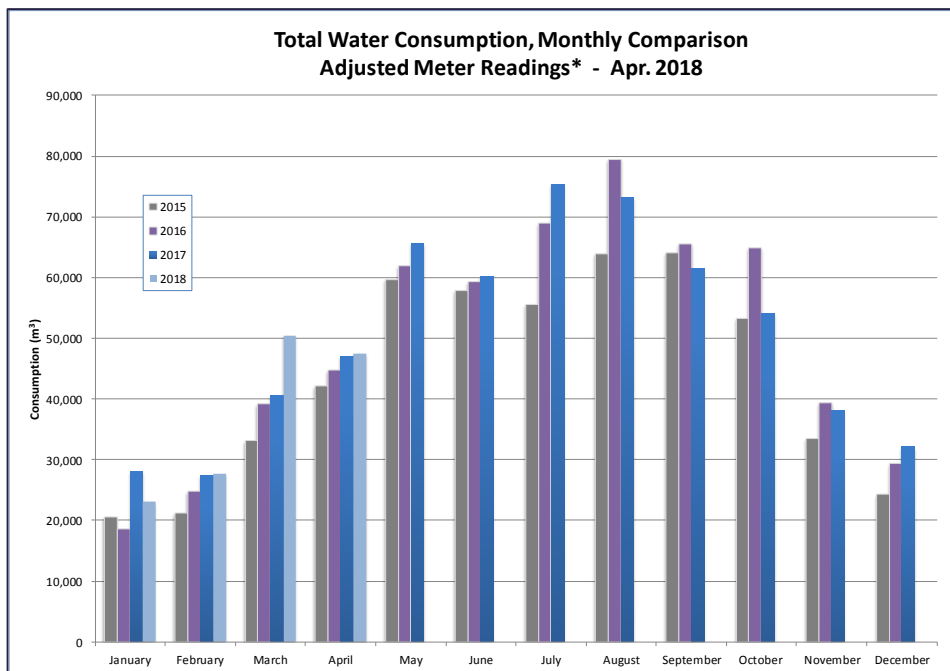
Measurement of Outcomes

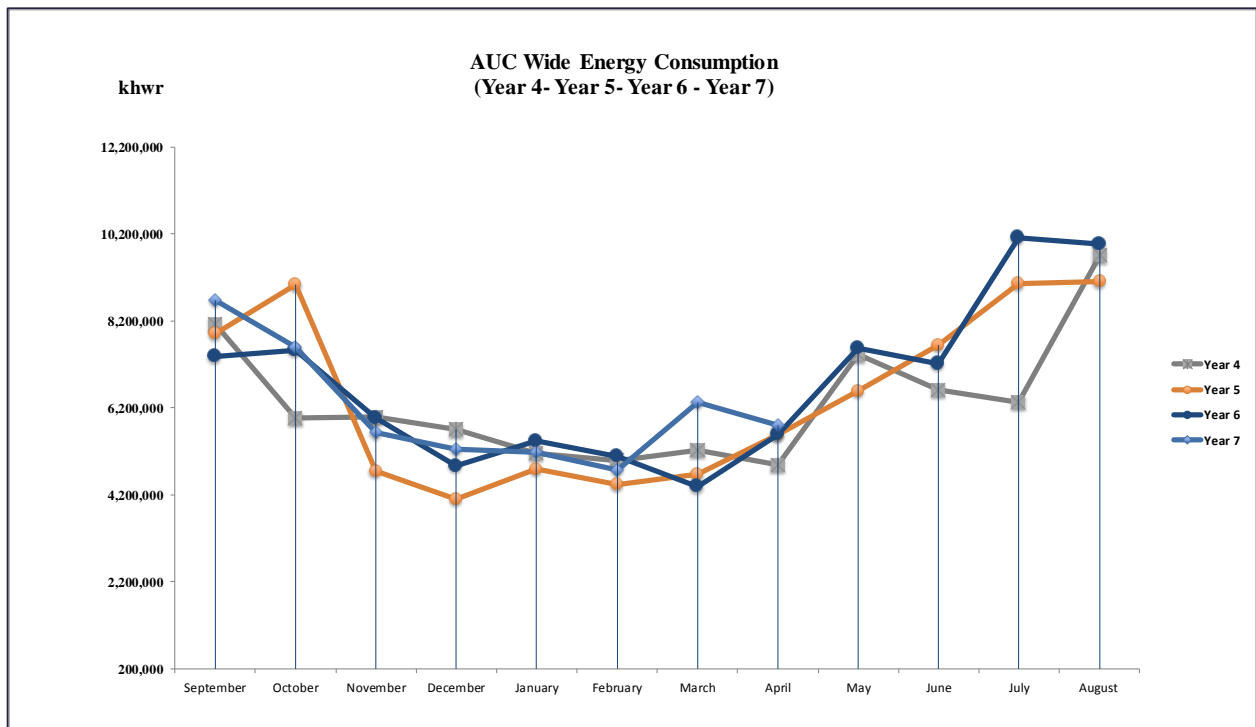
- A subgroup is continuing to work towards a 1-megawatt solar plant, and working with various companies to develop proposals which we can bring to the administration. They are requesting a professional consultation on our current utility picture. (*Principle 9*)
- Based on the findings discussed in the ERCE committee meetings, the Water Management Focus Group meets to propose corrective actions and ideas for improved data collection. For example, they have developed a single line diagram for AUC water feeding line. They are now currently investigating domestic water consumption with Buildings & Grounds by looking building-by-building at cleaning methods, occupancy, and specific usages. (*Principles 7, 8*)
- The Office is constantly looking for new technologies to keep energy use in check. These efforts take place across both campuses. For example, the University is working to introduce a new automated system for AUC's Falaki Building (downtown) to increase the monitoring and alarm capabilities of the HVAC system and ensure efficiency and accuracy in data collection. A working group is also running pilot programs for occupancy sensors in single-zone offices or fully integrated systems to ensure lights and HVAC are turned off when rooms are not occupied. Corridor motion sensors are currently being installed in one building, and occupancy sensors are set to be installed in dorm bathrooms this summer. All of these new technologies give us the opportunity to further reduce energy use. (*Principle 9*)
- Low-tech methods are also important in keeping energy use in check. The Office is always looking for new ways to instill sustainable habits in students, faculty, and staff. One example is the night patrol. Established last year, the Night Patrol keeps track of which offices leave their windows and doors open while HVAC is running, and leave their lights and electrical equipment on overnight. This initiative is currently on hold. (*Principle 7, 8*)
- One of AUC's biggest accomplishments in water consumption has been its use of treated wastewater for irrigation. Using treated wastewater conserves drinking water and reduces the carbon footprint of AUC's overall water use, as it takes less pumping energy to treat the wastewater than to pump potable water to campus. In most months, AUC is able to use 100% wastewater for irrigation, which makes a measurable impact, as irrigation is the largest water use on campus. After some technical issues, the system was upgraded and a more rigorous testing regimen has been implemented. (*Principle 8, 9*)
- There are ongoing experiments to make landscaping and irrigation as sustainable as possible. For example, the landscaping team recently used FAO and Ministry of Agriculture guidelines

to change its irrigation schedule and save water. They also implement biological pest control to reduce the use of chemical pesticides. (*Principle 8, 9*)

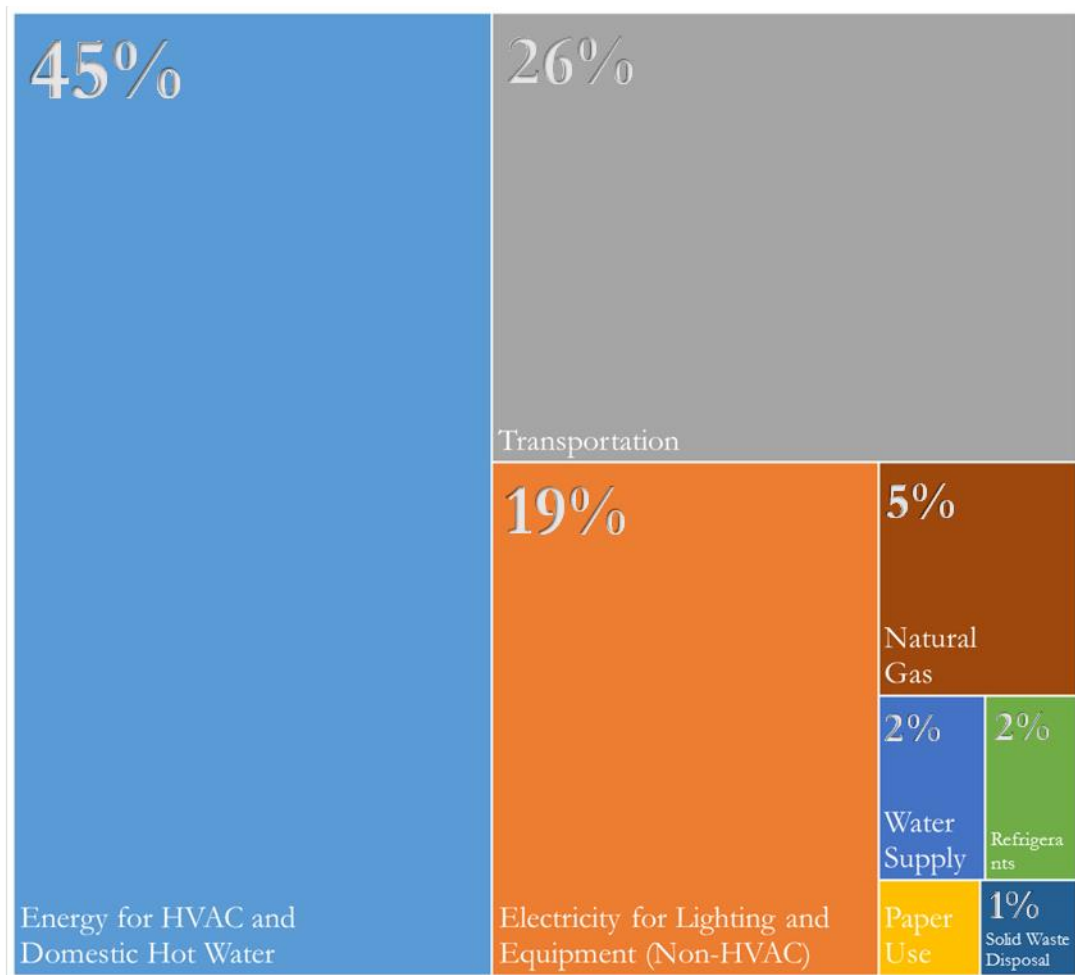
- AUC is the only university in the Middle East and North Africa to publish a comprehensive carbon footprint report. In April 2017, the Office published the 4th such report, which reported on AUC's emissions from AY 12 to AY 16. At AUC in AY 17, the main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions are HVAC and domestic hot water (45%), transportation (26%), lighting and electrical equipment (19%), natural gas (5%), refrigerants (2%), paper use (2%), and water supply (2%). Between AY 12 and AY 17, AUC's carbon footprint increased by 3,140 MT CO₂e (from 41,031 MT CO₂e to 44,171 MT CO₂e) or by approximately 8%. Between AY16 and AY17, the total carbon footprint was reduced by 5% from 46,282 MT CO₂e to 44,171 MT CO₂e. The biennial report (with annual updates to data) serves as a benchmark to our progress towards environmental sustainability. (*Principle 7, 8*)

The below graphs detail AUC's water and energy use over the past several years:





AUC's Total Carbon Footprint Report 2016-2017



- As Egypt's global university, AUC always strives to benchmark itself against peers in the United States and around the world. In order to share best practices and push itself to be better, the university participates in a number of international rankings and organizations.
 - The UI Green Metric World University Ranking is an initiative of Universitas Indonesia (UI) that collects information from thousands of universities globally to report on sustainability commitments. They rank universities based on criteria concerning the amount of campus green space, energy use, transport, water use, waste management, and green policies. For the 2017 Ranking, AUC placed #176 overall (out of 619). Overall global ranking can be seen here: <http://greenmetric.ui.ac.id/overall-ranking-2017/>
 - The Office completed a survey with updated information for continued consideration in the Princeton Review's Green College Guide. In 2017, AUC was, for the fourth year in a row, the only college outside of North America named in the Green College Guide. The guide is an unranked list of 375 colleges and universities that make concerted efforts towards sustainability. Inclusion in this list markets AUC as a sustainable campus for prospective students and faculty, helping to attract more people who will forefront sustainability in their studies, research, and teaching at the university.
 - The AUC Office of Sustainability has been a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for more than five years. Through membership in AASHE, AUC's Office of Sustainability is able to learn and share best practices with universities around the world. AUC's participation in AASHE has included attending conferences, self-reporting through the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (AASHE STARS), and submitting case studies to be presented to other members. (*Principle 7, 8*)



ANTI-CORRUPTION

Assessment, Policy, and Goals

- "Academic integrity is a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideas into action." Thus begins the AUC Code of Academic Ethics, which governs behavior related to academic integrity at the University. The code sets the guidelines of behavior for faculty, students and staff. (*Principle 10*)

Implementation

- Any purchase orders between \$1,000 and \$10,000 are subject to quotations as follows:
 - Verbal quotations - These will be obtained for purchases of standard or non-complex material with an estimated unit price not to exceed \$1,000. Prices are to be recorded on a quotation sheet that will serve as a backup documentation after the order is placed. The quotation sheet will be attached to the original requisition/purchase order.
 - Written Quotations - Written requests for quotations will be sent to vendors under the following conditions:

- All capital equipment purchases
 - Non-standard conditions, requirements, instructions, etc.
 - Any occasion where more permanent documentation is advisable (*Principle 10*)
- For purchase values more than \$10,000, a bidding process will begin. (*Principle 10*)

Measurement of Outcomes

- The Internal Audit Office investigates all incidents reported by employees. (*Principle 10*)
- As stewards of the public trust, all trustees, officers, employees, and volunteers of The American University in Cairo are expected to ensure that AUC complies with high standards in financial accounting and reporting, and engages in lawful and ethical behavior. This Policy on Reporting Unethical or Illegal Conduct is intended to remind trustees, officers, employees, and volunteers of this expectation, to encourage all to report to management any concerns about possible violations. The policy lays out the procedures for reporting and investigating allegedly unethical or illegal conduct, and to describe the protections afforded under this Policy. The Board of Trustees of AUC will oversee this policy. The Board designates the President of AUC, under the direction of the Audit Committee of AUC, to implement this policy on its behalf. This policy must be distributed to all trustees, officers and employees of AUC. (*Principle 10*)

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

As an educational institution, AUC has a unique position in the UNGC. While it strives to uphold the ten principles in its operations, it also has the opportunity to spread knowledge of the principles and sustainability to its students in the hope that they will implement those ideals in their future careers. AUC's academic engagement with sustainability education takes place across the university, but is most concentrated in the following centers:

Research Institute for a Sustainable Environment (RISE)

- RISE serves as a multidisciplinary institute dedicated to promoting research of sustainable environments in Egypt, the Middle East and North Africa. The institute represents a reaffirmation and strengthening of AUC's commitment to sustainable environmental education and aims to benefit people and nature through integrated resource management solutions to environmental problems. RISE focuses on three areas: research, service, and education. RISE's research focuses on projects addressing the management of key resources within the Egyptian environment such as water, land, plants and solid waste. It also works in direct partnerships with local communities to develop, test, and implement community development solutions. Finally, RISE's education activities include technical training for desert agriculturalists, practical research with students in degree programs, specialized short courses, and study visits for partner institutions, and environmental awareness programs for children. These three activities allow RISE to spread knowledge of sustainable development within and outside of AUC.
- One of their exciting current projects is Food for the Future, which just won an International Business Excellence award in the Sustainability Category. The project is implemented on several components: sustainable farming, solar chicken incubators, rooftop garden, economic



empowerment for women in rural area and rehabilitation of lands. The program has economically empowered 7 poor villages, enhanced rural livelihoods of an average of 460 families in communities by providing a sustainable source of income, alleviating poverty and improving food security. It is also a great example of partnership with the private sector, as the funder, HSBC, periodically sends employees to spend time volunteering at and learning about the project sites.

Center for Sustainable Development (CSD)

The mission statement of the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at AUC is to guide sustainable development efforts in Egypt, the region and beyond by providing holistic academic programs, applied interdisciplinary research and community services for improving lives and livelihoods while safeguarding natural resources for the future generations to come. In support of its mission, the CSD strategy works in three areas: education, research and community services. These pillars are built on a sound foundation that consists of different kinds of resources, strong networks and high motivation:

- **Education:** The CSD works on bringing different AUC bodies together to develop academic programs in the area of sustainable development, in collaboration with national and international institutions. Furthermore, non-formal education in sustainable development is delivered beyond the campus, through public lectures, training programs and seminars.
- **Research:** The CSD focuses on urgent topics in its immediate surroundings, especially research problems that require an interdisciplinary approach. To achieve this goal, CSD coordinates between different researchers and/or AUC bodies and seeks collaboration within and outside of AUC and brings different parties together.
- **Community Service:** The CSD concentrates on involving AUC in large national projects that can have a wide impact on the Egyptian community and enable researchers and students to implement their research results and have direct links to the real world. Student initiatives and pilot projects developed at the grassroots level will also be supported by CSD.

CSD's two-year master's program and one-year graduate diploma program both train students to take an interdisciplinary, holistic approach to sustainable development that encompasses all of the UNGC's ten principles. In addition to their classroom learning, students at CSD benefit from a myriad of public service outreach opportunities through which they can see the principles learned in the classroom in action. For example, CSD has worked for several years on EduCamp I and II, community programs aimed at fostering creative, sustainable education in Cairo's poorer neighborhoods. In the fall of 2017, they launched EduCamp III, which is explicitly working to empower Egyptian public schools in Boulaq el Dakroul to deliver education in line with the Egypt Vision 2030.



John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, Civic Engagement and Responsible Business

Founded in 2006, the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, Civic Engagement and Responsible Business promotes social change in the Arab region through building a culture of effective giving, corporate social responsibility and civic responsibility. In addition to disseminating research and policy papers, the center strives to build capacity for leadership among Arab youth and to enhance their ability to become more civically engaged, and positively impact society through social entrepreneurship, mentorship and creativity. These goals are pursued with an array of national, regional, and international partners in the academic, civil society, and corporate sectors. Through fellowships, seminars, conferences, publications, and digital platforms, the center is filling important information gaps and providing analysis of trends and critical issues in the field. The Center also seeks to develop the pool of next generation scholars and to link them with social activists, donors and philanthropy professionals.

The Center hosts a range of events focusing on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainability. Specifically, they have hosted the SDG roundtable series. This dialogue helps to develop a shared understanding of priorities and pre-requisites (potential/expected roles and means of coordination) for their localization and implementation, while bringing together the civil society, private sector, key government actors, and other key stakeholders. It provides a platform for a number of invited participants to share and exchange relevant knowledge, outcomes, and solutions to support policy actors to mainstream the new sustainable development goals (SDGs) and assess progress of implementation overtime.

They also host the Gerhart Center Social Talks, a series of lecture style events that intends to open a community dialogue on imperative current social and developmental topics. Delivered by CEO Ashraf Bakry of Unilever Mashreq, the first series of Gerhart Center social talks highlighted the local and international trends that are moving the CSR agenda to the next level in Egypt. Against the backdrop of taking a more active rather than reactive approach when it comes to the role of business and the private sector in development, a shift away from the traditional concept of CSR is necessary. As a result, new terms have emerged, such as corporate sustainability (CS), corporate responsibility (CR), or responsible business practices (RBPs). The idea behind this new terminology is to emphasize a shift from a mindset based on charity to a mindset, which focuses on a new way of doing business that incorporates economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

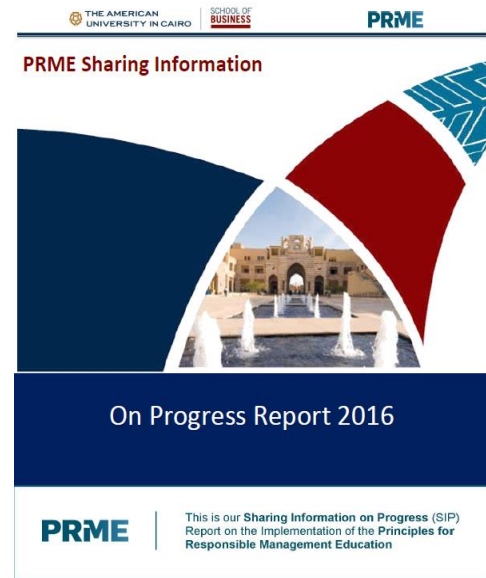
The Center's capacity development training project also advanced the goals of the UNGC. In cooperation with USAID's Strengthening Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development (SEED) Project, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Federation of Egyptian Industries, the Gerhart Center conducted an eleven-day training over the course of four months by eight trainers. The aim of the training was to encourage companies to integrate MSMEs in the supply chain. Attendees were from more than fourteen corporations, including but not limited to Raya Holding, Etisalat Egypt, Housing and Development Bank, TE Data, Titan Cement Egypt, among others.



AUC's Engagement with the UNGC Local Network

As part of its duty as an academic institution participating in the UNGC, AUC has lent its capacity to the UNGC and other UN initiatives, specifically the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). Through the John D. Gerhart Center, the AUC School of Business has not only implemented PRME, but has become a leader for PRME in Egypt and regionally. In 2016, AUC hosted the regional PRME conference. With a theme of "Action for PRME and SDGs," the forum brought together professors from MENA universities participating in PRME and international PRME working group members for a series of workshops and discussions. Hosted on AUC's campus, they worked on using linking PRME to the SDGs, sharing information across institutions, and PRME's relation to anti-corruption. These types of discussions are crucial to spreading the UNGC's mission of private sector advancement of the SDGs. Some other highlights of the School of Business' PRME engagement include:

- In 2016, the School of Business launched its 2030 Vision, which is centered around areas such as entrepreneurship, family business, economic development, and responsible business.
- In partnership with the US Institute for Peace, the School of Business' Gerhart Center hosted the Tashbeek Community Lab program which taught project management, leadership, and team building, problem solving, and technology to 30 Egyptian youth over 2016-17.
- In 2017, the Gerhart Center began providing advising and consulting services to NGOs and corporate social responsibility (CSR) units of other companies. For example, the Center is working with the Housing and Development Bank to restructure their CSR unit.
- The School of Business is working with other departments on campus to pilot a sustainability literacy test, which is administered to college students to test their understanding of both local and global sustainability concepts.
- The Gerhart Center hosted the 2017 Ma'an Arab University Alliance for Civic Engagement awards, which honored outstanding student teams who presented solutions to issues in four different areas: women's empowerment, education, entrepreneurship, and human rights.
- More recently, the Gerhart Center signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the UNGC Egypt Network. As per the agreement, the two parties will work to advance the SDGs, build capacity, and raise awareness about the importance of corporate social responsibility through dialogue, trainings, and research.



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