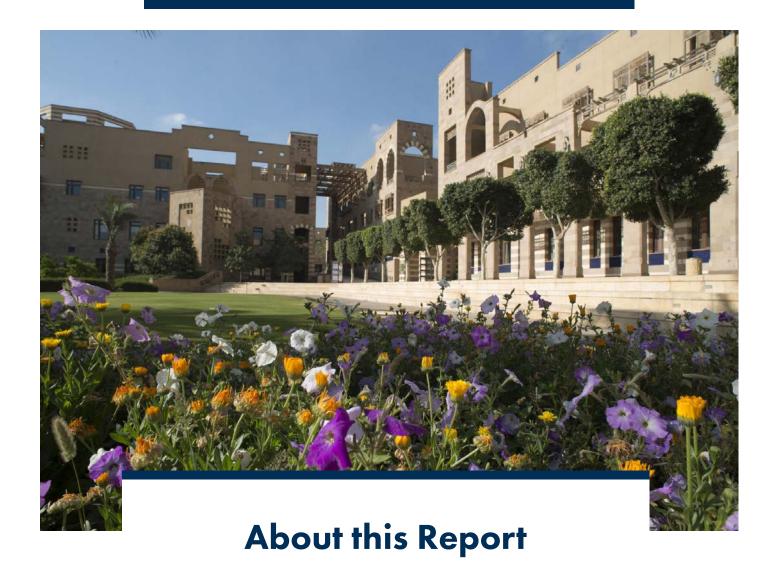


SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2020



This is the American University in Cairo's first sustainability report. Compiled by the Office of Sustainability, this report aims to give a holistic view of the campus' sustainability culture by summarizing the University's commitment to both the environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainability. This report is organized around the University's different forms of engagement with sustainability, including education, research, campus operations, campus community, and public engagement. Each chapter of the report presents a comprehensive picture of one category, including data, historical information, and specific achievements and projects.

Most of the quantitative data in this report is presented from the period of January 2018 to December 2019. In some sections, information is presented outside of this time period to provide a broader historical context. This report also highlights AUC's engagement with the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

All of the goals are linked to at least one of the chapters of the report to showcase AUC's commitment to global sustainability efforts. This correspondence examines the critical role of higher education in achieving and implementing the SDGs.

This report will be biennial, with publications alternating years with the University's Carbon Footprint Report. In alignment with international, well-established universities, AUC is launching its inaugural sustainability report as a benchmark for its sustainability performance. This report recognizes AUC's commitment to sustainable practices and identifies areas in which the University can improve to become an international leader in sustainability. By establishing our first sustainability report, we hope AUC can serve as a model for similar institutions in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Message from the President

Dear AUC Community:

As AUC celebrates 100 years of progress and achievements, we also celebrate our long-standing commitment to shape AUC into a sustainable community that serves as a regional model. Members of AUC's community are working on new sustainability projects, ideas, and initiatives on and off-campus. Communication about these actions to colleagues and peers across Egypt, the Middle East, and the world is critical for AUC's global engagement and impact: professors are publishing research, the Office of Sustainability publishes the biennial Carbon Footprint report, and AUCians' many accomplishments are receiving frequent media attention.

We encourage innovation and excellence in all facets of our mission. We must plan and implement the sustainable development of our own campus to mitigate global climate change. In doing so, we aim to position AUC at the forefront of sustainability in Egypt and as a catalyst for positive change. This inaugural sustainability report marks the next step in increasing AUC's engagement in the global sustainability movement.

This report itself represents the very collaboration it describes among academic and research departments, administrative staff, and facilities operators across campus. Each chapter highlights our focus on particular UN Sustainable Development Goals. The report recommends ways to further enhance our robust campus commitment to sustainability.

I particularly commend our core research team: Yasmin Mansour, Sustainability Officer, Sahar El Ghandour, Sustainability Manager, and Sydney Krisanda, Presidential Associate. We intend this report to serve as a model for future editions. We hope it will prove useful to our sister universities across the region and beyond.

Sincerely,

Francis J. Ricciardone

President

Team Members and Acknowledgements

Sustainability Report 2020 Team

Office of Sustainability

Yasmin Mansour, Sustainability Officer Sahar El Ghandour, Sustainability Manager Sydney Krisanda, Presidential Associate

This report is the product of the collaboration of the entire AUC community, including academic and research departments, administrative staff, and facilities operators across campus. We would like to sincerely thank all those who have supported our core research team this year.

The research team would like to express its great appreciation to the following offices and departments for their help in the data collection process and the final report preparation².

- Office of Advancement and Communications
- Office of Facilities and Operations
- Office of Food Services
- Office of Medical Services
- Office of Residential Life
- Office of Sponsored Programs
- Office of Strategic Management and Institutional Effectiveness (SMIE)
- Office of Student Well-being
- Office of The Provost
- Center for Applied Research on the Environment and Sustainability (CARES)
- John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, Civic Engagement & Responsible Business
- Department of Architecture
- School of Engineering and Science Services

We would also like to express our deepest appreciation for Audrey Lodes, Presidential Associate of Advancement and Communications, who supplied the majority of the photos in the report, as well as Anna Yates, Presidential Associate of CARES, who proofread the report and contributed some photos. Sincere thanks to Calvin Harrison, former Presidential Associate in the Office of Sustainability, for his initial work on the Sustainability Report two years ago. Finally, thank you to Sydney Krisanda, Presidential Associate in the Office of Sustainability, for designing the inside of the report.

Sustainability Highlights

Academics

440
sustainability courses
offered in AY 2018-2019

MSc in sustainable development graduates since the start of the program



research centers conducting sustainability research

\$1.29 million



in research funds from external sponsors dedicated to sustainability research³

Campus Operations



30% reduction in energy consumption since 2011



00%

of campus irrigation uses treated wastewater

35
filtered drinking water stations installed on campus



plastic bottles saved from campus filtered drinking water stations

Campus Community

45

events hosted by the Office of Sustainability⁴



100%
medical coverage for
Egyptian Students



25

student organizations working towards sustainability efforts



90%
campus approval
of the Tobacco-Free
policy

Public Engagement





14 student organizations focusing on community outreach



sustainability educational partnerships with universities and organizations across Egypt and the world



AUC ranked as the

132nd World's most sustainable university according to UI Green Metric⁵

Number of events between January 2018 and December 2019.

⁵ This is the most recent ranking from December 2019.

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About AUC

The American University in Cairo was founded in 1919 by a group of American scholars dedicated to sharing American liberal arts education and values with the world. During the 100 years since its founding, AUC has grown and evolved to better achieve that goal in a constantly changing Egyptian context. Originally a preparatory school and college for boys, AUC admitted its first female students in 1928. After closing the preparatory school in 1950, AUC focused on its undergraduate and graduate education, growing from just 400 students in 1960 to around 1,300 students by the end of that decade. That growth continued through the end of the century, with AUC adding new programs and developing older ones.

AUC's growth reached a new level in 2008 when the University opened its new campus in New Cairo, a rapidly growing suburb of Cairo. While maintaining parts of its downtown campus for events, outreach, and continuing education, the University relocated all undergraduate teaching and the bulk of its operations to the new 260-acre campus. The move has been a watershed for AUC, allowing it to expand to its current size of around 6,600 full-time students at the bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. levels.

In February 2020, AUC celebrated a century of leadership as Egypt's Global University. In order to continue on the progress AUC has made in the last 100 years, the University created the Centennial Strategic Plan 2019-2022: From Good to Great. This strategic plan is designed to capitalize on AUC's existing strengths, and to sustain and enhance its quality and distinction in the fast-changing world of the twenty-first century. The plan works to ensure AUC continues to build a culture of leadership, lifelong learning, and service among its graduates, and remains dedicated to making significant contributions to Egypt and the international community in diverse fields. Sustainability is embedded in AUC's core values of passion, responsibility, integrity, diversity, and excellence that serve as the foundation of the Centennial Strategic Plan. Through all facets of operations, AUC works to uphold these values while continuing to be a leader in the region and the world.



The Office of Sustainability

Mission and Vision

Established in 2011, the Office of Sustainability is responsible for addressing AUC's environmental challenges, including climate change, resource scarcity, pollution and waste management. The Office's portfolio consists of the biennial Carbon Footprint Report, energy and water reduction programs, waste management efforts, and initiatives to raise campus awareness of environmental concerns affecting AUC and the community at large. The Office of Sustainability is a division of the Office of the Vice President for Management and Operations.

The Office of Sustainability's objective is to integrate environmental, social, and economic sustainability into the culture, structure, and activities of the University. The Office strives to reduce the University's use of natural resources and operating costs, and to instill a mindset of sustainability in the AUC community by supporting the University's programs in education, research and operations. Since its establishment, the Office of Sustainability has spearheaded a vast array of projects and initiatives that helped in shaping AUC into a sustainable, exciting community that continues to embody regional leadership.

Timeline of Achievements

2012

AUC becomes a member of the Association for Accreditation of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

AUC publishes the University's first Carbon Footprint Report.

A

2014

AUC is ranked top green campus in Africa, top third worldwide in UI Green-Metric ranking.



Office of Sustainability established.

2011

Energy Resource Conservation and Efficency (ERCE) task forces established.

The first recycling program is launched on campus.

2013

AUC is the only college outside North America in the Princeton Review Guide to Green College.

AUC purchases a compactor to process recyclable goods on campus.

2015

Strategic Plan 2019-2022

In alignment with AUC's Centennial strategic plan, the Office of Sustainability has identified a series of goals and objectives to continue boosting the sustainable culture at AUC.

Foster Sustainable Resource Management

Develop and implement sustainable practices to decrease energy, water, and waste consumption across campus.

Enhance Social Responsibility

Increase the number of sustainability awareness raising events and campaigns on campus each year.

Improve Carbon Footprint Trends

Improve the accuracy of the carbon footprint data and maintain emissions reduction trends.

Expand Global Recognition

Increase participation in international forums and networks for universities committed to environmental sustainability.

2017

AUC's recycling program is re-vamped to be more effective.



2019

AUC publishes its 5th Carbon Footprint Report.





New filtered drinking water stattions are established across AUC's New Cairo campus.

AUC celebrates its first Campus Sustainability Month.

AUC's Tobacco-Free community policy is launched.

2018

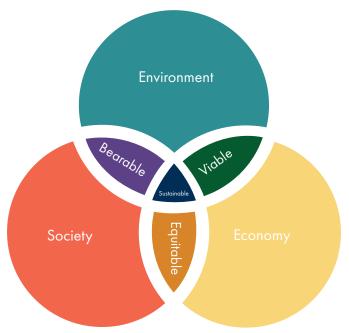
New bike share program is developed and launched.

AUC publishes its first Sustainability Report.

2020

Understanding Sustainability

Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The concept of sustainability is typically composed of three pillars: economy, environment, and society. It is essential to recognize the linkages between the pillars of sustainability in order to achieve a more green, equitable, and long-lasting world.



There are many different ways to define and visual sustainability. The venn diagram is one common respresentation of sustainability. The venn diagram suggests in order to acheive sustainability, the 3 pillars - economy, society, and environment - must be in harmony.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, the United Nations established the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 goals that serve as a toolkit for achieving a more sustainable future for all. The goals embody a holistic approach to global challenges, including poverty alleviation, water sanitation, global education, and economic growth. Now, five years after their adoption, the SDGs serve as a benchmark in which participating nations around the world can strive for. Likewise, the private sector has stepped up its efforts to aid nations in achieving the SDGs by researching environmental issues and funding sustainability initiatives. Through collaboration between all sectiors of society including public, private, non-governmental (NGOs), and non-profit organizations, we can end extreme poverty and hunger, fight socioeconomic inequalities, address climate change and ensure that no one is left behind.

As an institution of higher education attempting to create a more sustainable world, AUC contributes directly to the following goals. All of the goals listed are linked to at least one of the chapters of the Sustainability Report. This correspondence will examine the critical role of higher education in achieving and implementing the SDGs. The SDGs also elevate the information communicated through the Sustainability Report to a national and international scale, and provide access to a wider audience outside of the scientific community. The following information is not our own- it is a reference to the United Nations targets for each Sustainable Development Goal by 2030.

SUSTAINABLE GEALS DEVELOPMENT GEALS



By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.



By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.



By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.



By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons



By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.



By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.



By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.



Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climaterelated hazards and natural disasters in all countries and improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.



By 2030, ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.



By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.



By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.



By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.



By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.



Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all, develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, and promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.



Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.



Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.



By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.

Note: Only one target is listed for each goal. View the full list of targets and indicators <u>here</u>.

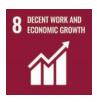


Teaching Sustainability

The most effective tool to instill change is education. AUC is a leading liberal arts university in the Middle East and the world at large. The University's commitment to sustainability extends greatly into its educational mission. Across the University, students are given opportunities to learn about sustainability concepts and find solutions to complex environmental issues. AUC offers a variety of courses across departments that investigate sustainability through different lenses. From undergraduate to professional programs, sustainability is incorporated into all levels of education at AUC.

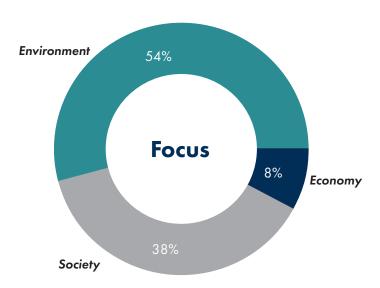


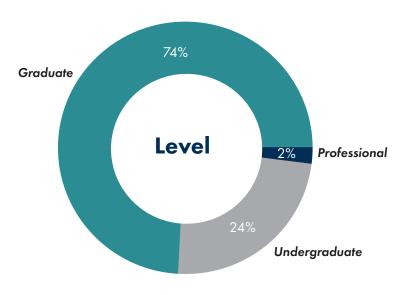




Sustainability Education Highlights

440sustainability courses
offered in AY 2018-2019







academic departments offering sustainability courses in AY 2018-2019

Schools and Programs

Schools and departments across AUC are tackling various sustainability topics through innovative and unique academic courses. The three pillars of sustainability are woven throughout the curriculum of numerous courses at AUC, with specific schools and departments focusing more heavily on each of the thematic areas: environment, economy, and society. The courses and programs in the following AUC's schools are essential in strengthening our students' understanding of sustainability in a local and global context.

School of Sciences and **Engineering**

The School of Sciences and Engineering (SSE) promotes an environment of interdisciplinary cooperation and social responsibility and provides sustainable solutions to emerging challenges. The school offers students various undergraduate, graduate and PhD programs, in addition to graduate diplomas. The disciplines within SSE focus mainly on environmental sustainability, seeking to address the planetary challenges in the midst of human progress, such as the built environment, health, ecological degradation and preservation, energy, and food. Sustainability-related courses are offered by numerous SSE departments including, architecture, biology, chemistry, construction engineering, mechanical engineering, petroleum engineering, and physics.

256 sustainability courses

PHYS 4241 Introduction to Solar Energy

AUC students can pursue a bachelor's degree in Physics with a specialization in Solar Energy. The Solar Energy specialization is in alignment with both national and international trends that emphasize the importance of renewable energy in general and solar energy in particular. This course investigates the principles and fabrication of solar cells, PV module construction, and the design of a PV system. Other topics discussed are suitable semiconductor materials, device physics, cost aspects, and market development.

School of Business

The School of Business offers a wide range of programs that extend beyond the classroom to provide a holistic and engaging learning experience. Undergraduate programs focus on the foundations of business, economics and accounting, while the graduate and executive education programs provide hands-on, practical and integrated perspectives in dynamic fields of study to aspiring professionals.

The school's main themes are entrepreneurship and family business – a vital engine for economic growth and job creation; responsible business - an imperative vehicle for enabling social mobility and sustainable growth; and finally, economic development with a focus on inclusiveness and accountability. The focus area of economic sustainability is of increasing significance in our region, which is on the threshold of economic transformation and societal development.

sustainability courses

CEMS 5205

Global Supply Chain Management

This course focuses on the planning, processes, and activities of supply chain management for companies involved in international commerce. It discusses the basic theories of international trade, cultural differences in global supply chains, sustainability, risks, and security and the decision dilemmas related to outsourcing, offshoring and nearshoring. Students examine the end-to-end processes and operational challenges in managing global supply chains, such as, the basics of global trade, international transportation, duty, taxes, cultural differences, risks and security, and green supply chain issues.



School of Global Affairs and **Public Policy**

The School of Global Affairs and Public Policy (GAPP) focuses on social-economic aspects of sustainability. Many courses offered by GAPP nvestigate the interaction of international and public affairs, with a commitment to ethics and the rule of law, and a recognition of the unique role that the media play in shaping public policy.

GAPP consists of three academic departments in law, public policy and administration, and journalism and mass communication, in addition to five academic and research centers. Within GAPP, several departments and research centers incorporate sustainability concepts into their coursework, including the Department of Public Policy and Administration (PPAD), the Department of Law, the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS), and the Cynthia Nelson Institute for Gender and Women's Studies (IGWS).

sustainability courses

PPAD 5128

Corporate Social Responsibility and NGO **Partnerships**

This course provides an overview of corporate social responsibility principles and applications from a developing country perspective, focusing on issues in responsible corporate management, including addressing environmental, social, and accountability challenges. It also investigates the tools used for implementing and assessing corporate social responsibility programming, including mechanisms for developing effective partnerships with nonprofit organizations.

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HUSS), the home to the core disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, and arts at AUC, focuses mainly on social- environmental aspects of sustainability. HUSS offer both undergraduate and graduate courses that incorporate sustainability concepts into the fields of Arab and Islamic civilizations, history, philosophy, political science, psychology, sociology, egyptology and anthropology.

The academic programs within HUSS help to foster a deeper understanding of what it means to be human and to address the challenges that confront Egypt, the region and the world in a postive and sustainable way.

sustainability courses

SOC/ANTH 5270

Environment and Society

This course uses a broad interdisciplinary approach to analyze the relationship between development and environmental degradation, the ways in which development enhances environmental protection, and the issues of sustainable development. It covers the social movements that may emerge around the environmental concerns, and the social processes that lead to environmental risks.

Graduate Program for Sustainable Development

Launched in 2013 and the first of its kind in the MENA region, AUC's Graduate Program for Sustainable Development, offering a Master's of Science and diploma in sustainable development, provides visionary leaders with a holistic understanding of the developmental challenges in today's world. The program, which is coordinated by Center for Applied Research on the Environment and Sustainability (CARES), offers a comprehensive and in-depth study of sustainability, covering the three dimensions of economy, environment and society.

The program uniquely brings together many disciplines and perspectives in an innovative collaboration between the School of Business, the School of Sciences and Engineering, the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Students pursuing an MSc or diploma in sustainable development have the opportunity to choose from four concentration modules: Green Technologies, Entrepreneurship, Sustainable Cities, or Sustainable Communities.

Throughout the duration of their study, sustainable development students are engaged in community projects, research activities and international initiatives. Students also have the opportunity to receive double master's degrees from AUC and Politecnico di Milano in Italy. The graduate program in sustainable development enables students to find ways to reduce pressure on the local environment and support the creation of sustainable communities.



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An important and unique aspect of the MSc in sustainable development program is the students' community projects, where the students are asked to develop their own community-based projects by selecting a real-world problem from their own communities (work, society, university, school, etc.). To develop the project, students must work in groups to transfer a community problem into a project, which includes problem identification, objectives to be achieved, work-packages, milestones, time-plan, responsibilities then implementation and assessing its impact.

Dr. Hani Sewilam is the director of CARES, teaches the core main course of the sustainable development program titled Global Changes and Sustainable Development. This course focuses on sustainable development and global change - vital issues for humanity - with specific attention to the challenges in Egypt of the transition from unsustainable to sustainable development. in The course provides students with an opportunity to carry out community projects themselves and participate in field visits and community excursions.











"Studying the MSc in sustainable development at AUC was a turning point in my life. It changed my perspective about how to use resources and my vision for the coming years. It also helped me move forward in my career, as I am now working on developing the health sector in the Sustainable Development Strategy for Egypt 2030." -Wessam Adly, class of 2016



Discovering Sustainability

Sustainability research is research that leads towards solutions that support social wellbeing, economic prosperity, and environmental health. Sustainability research is a critical part of finding innovative and practical solutions to the world's environmental, social, and economic issues. Innovation is core to AUC's values, and the University pushes its students and faculty to explore creative academic endeavors across a variety of disciplines. Student and faculty research at AUC addresses sustainability issues on both the local and international scale, with many projects relating to Cairo and the surrounding areas.







Sustainability Research Highlights



In 2018

faculty from

academic departments published a total



sustainability research articles in peer-reviewed journals



in research funds from external sponsors dedicated to sustainability research

Research Themes



Research Centers and Labs

Center for Applied Research on the Environment and Sustainability (CARES)

The Center for Applied Research on the Environment and Sustainability (CARES) is a result of the merger of the Center of Sustainable Development (CSD) and Research Institute for Sustainable Environment (RISE). It is hosted under the newly established Institute of Global Health and Human Ecology (I-GHHE) and is headed by Prof. Dr. Hani Sewilam, the director of the former CSD. The mission of CARES 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. CARES envisions a region of modern, sustainable and prosperous communities.

CARES conducts a number of applied research experiments focused on water desalination, advanced agricultural techniques, and renewable energy. CARES research and education facilities on AUC's New Cairo Campus include a desalination laboratory, solar energy-operated greenhouses, an aquaponics research laboratory, soil, and water laboratory, a permaculture garden, rooftop gardens, and an organic community garden. At these facilities, the CARES team works with researchers, volunteers, trainees and students in educational, research, and community projects. The solutions and innovations discovered on-campus can then be upscaled and implemented in local communities across Egypt.



27 students engaged in research

9 staff members working for CARES

12 articles published in peer-reviewed journals



Water- Energy - Food (WEF) Nexus

The Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus is at the core of CARES' research activities. The research, led by founding director of CARES, Hani Sewilam, PhD, includes examining the interconnections between water, energy, and food with the goal of ensuring the security of all three for an ever-growing population in the Arab world. CARES has established a WEF Nexus lab that makes use of the sunny weather in Egypt to generate electricity to power a modern hybrid desalination unit for salt and brackish water. Through Reverse Osmosis membrane technology, the desalinated water is used by aquaponics for modern drip irrigation in agriculture. The brine (byproduct) is utilized to produce fish. The idea is to use the sun to produce energy, then to use this energy to prepare the water for agriculture. The water is flown through irrigation systems that use the water as efficiently as possible for food production. This system will be zero-waste and have zero environmental impacts while still being economically profitable.







Research Centers

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

The John D. Gerhart Center consolidates the University's activities aimed at encouraging engaged citizenship and service and promotes philanthropic giving in the Arab region. 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.

Research Topics: social responsibility, sustainable businesses

Social Research Center

The Social Research Center strives to inform policy formulation and implementation while contributing to knowledge in the social sciences. It aims to contribute to developing skills and building institutional capacity in the region, as well as to advancing public debate about important issues. The center engages in a wide range of social topics pursuing programmatic directions in five main thematic areas.

Research Topics: women's empowerment, health inequities, poverty and social policies, investment climate assessment, agriculture and rural development

Access to Knowledge for Development Center

The Access to Knowledge for Development Center (A2K4D) aims to actively promote access to knowledge, and inclusive development in the Middle East and Africa by becoming a knowledge hub for research on the different dimensions, interactions and intersections pertaining to access to knowledge, technology and inclusive development in the region.

Research Topics: gender equality, youth employment, technology and innovation for sustainable development

Yousef Jameel Science and Technology Research Center

The Yousef Jameel Science and Technology Research Center at The American University in Cairo is an interdisciplinary center that draws on the expertise of the University's engineering and science departments. Their mission is to establish an internationally competitive research activity at AUC resourced and supported to the highest standards.

Research topics: renewable resources, biotechnology, environmental research

Center for Migration and Refugee Studies

The Center for Migration and Refugee Studies focuses on systematic collection of information and data on migration, asylum-seeking and refugees in the Middle East and North Africa region while also conducting in-depth studies on current and emerging migration and refugee issues.

Research topics: international human rights, labor migration

Cynthia Nelson Institute for Gender and Women's Studies

The Cynthia Nelson Institute for Gender and Women's Studies provides students with an interdisciplinary and transnational perspective in Gender and Women's Studies in the Middle East and North Africa with a special emphasis on situating the Middle East and North Africa region in a comparative Global South perspective.

Research Topics: gender equality

Building Sciences Lab

The Building Sciences Lab (BSL), located in the Architecture Department, draws faculty and students from across the University from disciplines such as construction engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science, physics, chemistry and psychology. The research groups use state-of-the-art equipment, primarily the Environmental Testing Chamber, which allows for a full-scale thermal testing on composite walls made with any building materials currently used in the market or under development, such as building blocks made with compressed earth or upcycled building materials made from plastic bottles in lieu of dumping them in landfills or shredded waste paper and resin. The Building Sciences Lab is formed of two main research groups: The Sustainable Design Group and The Design Computing and Fabrication Group.

The Sustainable Design Group

The Sustainable Design Group, led by Assistant Professor of Sustainable Design, Khaled Tarabieh, PhD, works primarily on material testing and performance validation for the residential building stock in Egypt. Research includes performance measurement and optimization of window assemblies, parametric investigation of the thermal performance of the common brick in Egypt, the impact of finish materials pre/post occupancy on the indoor air quality for residential buildings, and carbon footprint mapping and emissions management and forecasting for educational environments.

The Design Computing and Fabrication Group

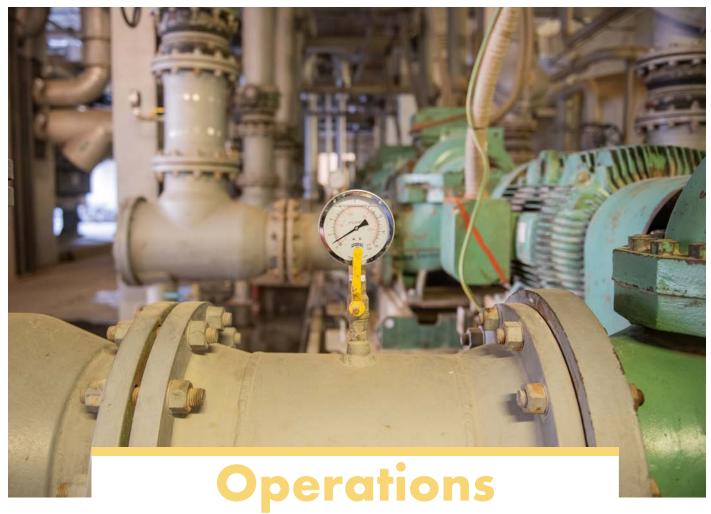
The Design Computing and Fabrication Group is led by Associate Professor of Architecture, Sherif Abdel-Mohsen, PhD. The group's main research involves a variety of topics, including the development of low-cost soft adaptive façade systems using hygroscopic properties of wood, automated post-occupancy space management using BIM and GIS, and the design and fabrication of complex facades using robotic depositing and multi-point forming.



10 graduate research assistants

25
research
articles
published in
peerreviewed
journals

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Embodying Sustainability

AUC recognizes the importance of embodying sustainability in the daily operations of the campus and is committed to an efficient and responsible use of resources. The Office of Sustainability tracks the University's energy consumption, water usage, and waste management regularly and measures the campus' consumption of natural resources.



















Campus Operations Highlights



50%

reduction in energy use due to energy-efficient wall construction

163 MT CO2e

of carbon sequestered from landscaping and composting (AY19)



30% reduction in energy consumption since 2011



treated wastewater

2.9

million

plastic bottles saved from campus filtered drinking water stations



\$387,730

dedicated to sustainability efforts on campus in 2019



of AUCians use
AUC's bus service to
commute to and from
campus

Buildings

The buildings at AUC serve as a foundation for embodying sustainability on campus. When AUC moved to New Cairo in 2008, the architects prioritized sustainability and efficiency in the design of the campus. AUC New Cairo was built using 24,000 tons of reinforcing steel, as well as 115,000 square meters of stone, marble, granite cladding and flooring. The walls were constructed according to energy management systems, which reduce campus air conditioning and heating energy use by at least 50 percent as compared to conventional construction methods. Throughout the campus, openings from plazas, courtyards and gateways between buildings are oriented toward the prevailing northeast winds and the University Garden. The water and greenery cool the breeze as it moves up to replace the rising warmer air at the center of the campus. This environmentally conscious design reduces long-term energy and maintenance costs, while also contributing to the social design of the campus.

A hollow-square building design is repeated across campus in different scales, allowing as much natural light and air as possible to enter the offices, classrooms and labs from every direction. AUC has sustainable design on most buildings through wooden paneling on windows, which helps to reduce the amount of heat entering buildings while still providing adequate lighting.





The orientation of buildings and design of indoor and outdoor spaces reduces the energy requirements for cooling AUC's campus by 40%.

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Solar Energy Project: AUC Faculty Housing Plot 2

As part of the campus sustainable development plan, AUC continues to build its renewable energy portfolio. In September 2018, AUC began a project to build a solar power plant at AUC Faculty Housing plot 2 at the New Cairo Campus. This ambitious project helps AUC diversify its source of electricity and guarantees coverage of a portion of its energy needs using a clean, sustainable, and more reliable source.

The project consists of a 78.4 kWp grid-connected plant consisting of 234 polycrystalline 335 Wp panels and two 33k inverters. In the initial stages of the project, AUC's chosen vendor provided the electric design, civil works and mounting structures. The vendor's technical team and subcontractors handled the installation and commissioning of the plant and provided training for the operation and maintenance of the plant to ensure

paramount performance. In November 2019, the project finished and is now running. Currently, the plant has an expected annual output of 133.7 MWh/year.

Through this solar project, AUC is working to transition to a cleaner, renewable energy source that offsets carbon emissions and reduces energy costs. The solar project helps AUC reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 77 tons per year.

The solar plant introduces a remarkable academic and practical experience in renewable energy for students. The inverters, together with the strings of solar panels, can be used in the future as a living learning laboratory, providing expansive research opportunities in the field of solar energy.



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Buildings

Working Towards a LEED Certification: AUC Faculty Housing Plot 3

In 2013, AUC initiated a project to earn its first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Operations and Management (O+M) certification. LEED (O+M) aids building managers in creating more green operations, helping to maximize operational efficiency, and minimize environmental impacts. Dr. Khaled Tarabieh is working with AUC Alumni Mirette Khorshed and students from the Department of Architecture, along with LEED accredited professionals and graduate research assistants, to earn AUC Faculty Housing Plot 3 LEED (O+M) certification. Throughout the project, students used the building as a living lab to learn about green building approaches and sustainable methods of building operation.

The project is currently aimed at achieving LEED Silver certification. The certification application is currently under review by the <u>United States Green Building Coun</u>

cil (USGBC) and the building is on track to receive the certificate in Spring 2020. Currently, the building has features including a green roof, solar heating, energy efficient doors and windows, motion sensors, submeters, and a landscape full of low impact native plants. Monthly water and building-level energy consumption data is being continuously monitored, and policies such as no-smoking policies, waste management or green cleaning have been either implemented or discussed for future implementation.

The project can be a case study of local building construction to monitor overall building efficiency and operational and environmental sustainability. Collecting monthly data on building consumption will provide students, researchers, and practitioners access to building-level information that can be used to inform future efficiency projects on AUC's campus as well as in Egypt.







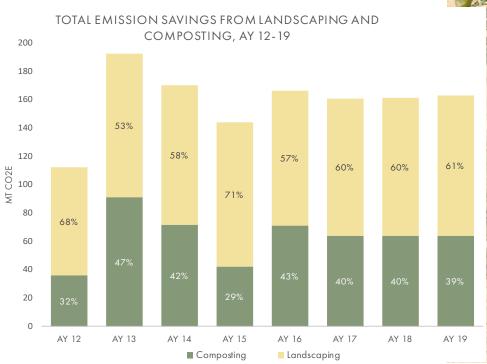


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Landscape

The landscape is a major part of AUC's efforts to demonstrate ecological leadership in the use of the environment. There are over 60 acres of gardens on AUC's New Cairo campus. The 20-acre main garden was designed by Maher Stino, the leading landscape designer of the world-famous Al-Azhar park. All trees and plants across the campus, except the date palms, were propagated and grown at AUC's own agricultural research station, formerly known as the Desert Development Center. The garden's fruits and vegetables are harvested for the benefit of AUC's community.

The landscaping features on campus store and sequester CO2 from the atmosphere through photosynthesis, purifying the air and reducing AUC's carbon footprint. The Landscaping Unit also works to avoid carbon emissions by composting landscaping waste such as pruned tree branches and grass cuttings. When a plant decomposes naturally (anaerobically), some of the carbon sequestered by the plant through photosynthesis is released back into the atmosphere. This release can be avoided through the carbon capture technique of aerobic composting. AUC uses a mix of organic fertilizer comprised of compost produced on-campus from landscape waste and of a small amount of purchased synthetic fertilizer. Synthetic fertilizer is responsible for higher carbon emissions because of its higher nitrogen content than natural compost, therefore AUC tries to reduce its consumption of synthetic fertilizer to reduce carbon emissions.



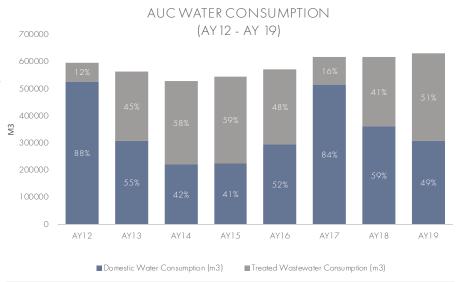


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Water

Our campus water consumption has major environmental impacts. Not only is water a scarce resource here in the desert, but pumping water throughout campus also requires energy, which contributes to our overall carbon footprint. The Energy and Resource Conservation and Efficiency (ERCE) water task force meets monthly to discuss water use levels and ultimately reduce our on-campus water consumption. The ERCE water task force is comprised of the Office of Sustainability, and representatives from Facilities and Operations, including the Landscaping Unit. The task force works to keep track of water use across campus, studying our water needs and developing strategies for both reducing demand and increasing the supply of water available to the campus in a responsible and sustainable manner.

One of AUC's water conservation efforts is the use of treated wastewater to irrigate the landscaped areas on campus. Treated wastewater is a low-cost alternative to drinking-grade water and has a lower carbon footprint. Treated wastewater also reuses water that otherwise would have gone to waste, which helps protect Egypt's water sources. These efforts help us reduce our impact and hopefully serves as a model for other institutions to switch to treated wastewater landscaping.





Energy

In order to maintain daily operations, AUC consumes a significant amount of energy. Most of this energy is used for air-conditioning, heating, and lighting. Most of our electricity comes from an on-campus co-generation plant that runs on natural gas, which burns cleaner than coal. This natural gas produces steam which is reused for heating instead of being wasted like in many traditional plants. This reduces the overall amount of energy needed and therefore also reduced the amount of fossil fuel AUC burns to generate energy.

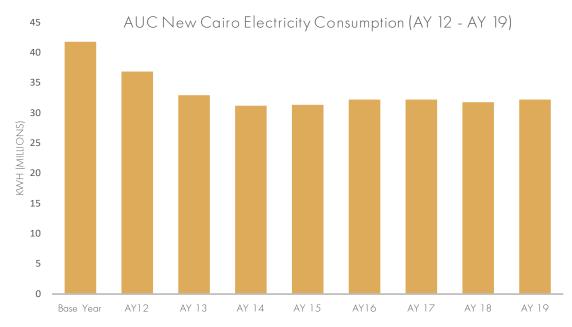
AUC keeps meticulous data about how much energy is being used across campus. Every month, the Energy and Resource Conservation and Efficiency (ERCE) energy task force meets to discuss energy consumption trends and brainstorm ways the University can reduce its demand. The ERCE energy task force is comprised of the Office of Sustainability and representatives from the Facilities and Operations team, Budget Office, and School of Science and Engineering Faculty.

Energy Projects

- · LED lights in all outdoor lighting fixtures.
- Corridors are lit with high-efficiency TL5 tube lights.
- Occupancy sensors installed in classrooms and meeting rooms across campus to adjust temperature settings and ensure lights are off when rooms are not in use.
- · Motion senors in the corridors of the SSE building.

Energy projects have resulted in a 24% savings in AUC's electricity consumption from base year (AY11) levels.



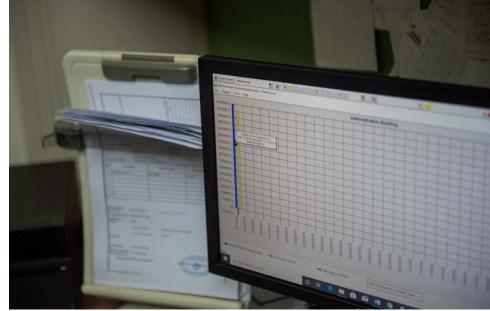


30%
reduction
in energy
consumption
(electricity &
HVAC) since the
establishment
of the ERCE
committee
in 2011.



Building Management System

AUC employs various technologies such as real-time energy use tracking to ensure efficient use of energy across campus. Our Building Management System (BMS) is a computer-based control system that controls and monitors a building's mechanical and electrical equipment such as ventilation, lighting, power systems, fire systems, and security systems.





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Waste

Every day, students, faculty and staff produce a considerable amount of waste: packaging from food, drink containers, scratch paper from exams, and more. It is important to reduce our waste stream and divert as much recyclable material away from landfills as possible.

The Office of Sustainability leads the Clean and Green Committee, a group of dedicated faculty and staff members that work towards creating an efficient recycling system on campus. The committee spearheaded AUC's campus-wide recycling program that includes 48 sorting stations on the New Cairo Campus for collecting plastic, cans, and trash.

In an effort to reduce plastic water bottle usage on campus, the Office of Sustainability has upgraded the on-campus drinking water stations by installing water dispensers that supply filtered, chilled drinking water for students, faculty, staff, and visitors to fill their reusable bottles at. Currently, there are 34 filtered drinking water stations on the New Cairo campus, 3 stations in the faculty residences, and two more stations located on the Downtown Tahrir campus. There are plans to add 10 more chilled water dispensers in other heavily trafficked areas on campus in the near future. The installation of the filtered drinking water stations has saved a total of 2.9 million plastic water bottles.

In 2015, AUC purchased a

compactor to process recyclable goods on





Dining

Food is an integral part of campus life. There are many factors that contribute to a sustainable food system including the sourcing, production, packaging, and consumption of food. Instilling practices such as buying locally, buying in season, and reducing unnecessary packaging among vendors at AUC helps reduce the University's impact on the greater environment. AUC has 13 on-campus food vendors that provide a vast array of food for the campus community. Each food vendor sources its own ingredients locally, with most of the vegetables and fruits being purchased from the Nile Delta region.

Here at AUC, the Office of Sustainability works will the <u>Office of Food Services</u> to encourage the food vendors to adopt sustainable practices. In April 2019, the Office of Sustainability led a discussion regarding sustainable practices with the food vendors on campus. The discussion included a thorough presentation by the Office of Sustainability about food sustainability in theory and practice and provided vendors with a sustainable vendor guide to help them implement food sustainability in their outlets on campus.



Achievements in reducing food packaging:

- The coffee cups at TBS are recyclable, made from craft and double layered paper.
- In 2019, <u>Seoudi Mini Market</u> began selling reusable bags that customers can buy instead of using plastic bags. The bags cost 35 L.E. and are sold in the mini market directly.
- In 2019, Tabali switched from putting orders in paper bags to reusable bags.





Note: Food vendors survey was conducted in Sping 2018. 10 out of the 13 current food vendors were surveyed.

Transportation

When AUC moved 35 kilometers east of downtown to New Cairo, it became more important than ever to have sustainable options for our community members to get to and from work and school. AUC provides multiple buses a day come to and from campus along 13 routes that serve greater Cairo. The buses have a set schedule to bring people to campus in the morning and transport them home in the evening. The bus service is available to staff members six days a week, free of charge, and students can use it for a small fee.

For people whose busy schedules do not quite align with the bus schedule, we have worked to incentivize carpooling to campus. Within the University's <u>parking policy</u>, it is stated that parking on campus is free for those that carpool to campus.





39% of of AUCians use AUC's bus service to commute to and from campus⁷.



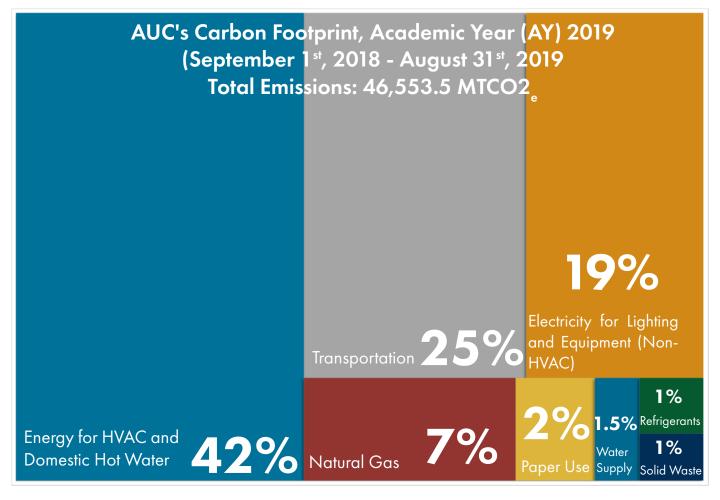
New Bike Share Program to Launch in 2020

Spearheaded by the Office of Sustainability, AUC is launching its Bike Share Program in 2020. The bikeshare program is a service that provides bicycles for the AUC community to share and use for short periods of time. The aim of the program is to promote a healthy lifestyle to community members, lower environmental impact through emissions reduction, and endorse community-oriented transportation. The ultimate benefits of the bike share program include the improvement of air quality, greater accessibility of the campus and the increased availability of alternative transportation modes in AUC's growing suburban community. The system currently includes 2 stations with 16 bike racks, 5 normal bikes, 5 electric bikes, and a reporting and monitoring system.

Climate Impact

In recent decades, climate change has created imminent threats to global health, security, and order. These threats, such as sea level rise, increased intensity and frequency of severe weather events, and the loss of entire ecosystems, will only amplify if the atmosphere continues to warm. These impacts are already disproportionately affecting the world's most susceptible regions. Given its harsh climate, growing population, and limited natural resources, the Middle East and North Africa Region is among the most vulnerable. Egypt is particularly threatened by the effects of climate change, as it is projected that sea level rise will inundate parts of the Nile Delta Region, agricultural productivity will crumble as temperatures rise, and conflict will arise as water resources become scarcer. In spite of these real threats to the livelihood of Egyptian society, Egypt is among the top countries with the fastest rates of greenhouse gas emissions and is projected to double its current rate of emissions by 2030.

AUC is committed to reducing its carbon emissions and convincing others to do so as well in order to help sustain the long-term viability of Egyptian society. AUC collects data to conduct a comprehensive study of its own impact on climate change. In April 2019, AUC published its 5th Carbon Footprint Report that shows trends for the past seven years. A carbon footprint is a widely accepted method of measuring the impact of human activity on global warming. A university's carbon footprint is the annual total of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) and other significant greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere as a result of daily activities and campus operations. AUC is the first higher education institution in the Middle East and North Africa to conduct such a comprehensive study of its own impact on climate change. AUC's Carbon Footprint report is biennial, thus in Spring 2021, the 6th edition will be published.





Living Sustainability

AUC community members are the most important partners in building a sustainable campus. It is essential to encourage AUC students, faculty and staff to practice sustainable habits and foster a culture of awareness. The sustainability efforts within our campus community give the next generation of change makers the tools and knowledge to build a more sustainable and just world. The Office of Sustainability and many other groups across campus lead an array of activities to instill support and respect for sustainable principles. These include events, campaigns, and policies aimed at increasing awareness and instilling sustainability practices in areas such as environmental issues, diversity and inclusion, health and wellness, and work and well-being.













Campus Community Highlights



25
student organizations
working toward
sustainability efforts



6 consecutive years celebrating World Autism Day



100%
medical coverage
for Egyptian
students



90%
campus approval
of the Tobacco-Free
policy

Environmental Awareness

To engage community members in sustainability, the Office of Sustainability puts on various outreach events focused on educating people on sustainable practices. AUC's Sustainable Campus Committee, composed of students, faculty, and staff members, is an important interface with the campus community. The committee is a space to exchange information, develop and share ideas, promote research and collaboration, and organize events on campus.

Since 2011, the Office of Sustainability has hosted several sustainability events, including those celebrating international events such as World Water Day, World Environmental Day, Earth Day, and more. In 2018, AUC celebrated Campus Sustainability Month, an international month-long celebration of sustainability in higher education, for the first time. In 2019, the Office of Sustainability organized a month of programming which included a series of awareness events covering an array of sustainability issues, including plastic waste, food waste, transportation emissions, and water conservation. The Office provided informational materials about sustainability at AUC, hosted reusable bag and water bottle giveaways, and encouraged the campus community members to share their ideas about new sustainable initiatives they would like to see on campus. The Office also collaborated with AUC's landscaping team to host a coffee composting tutorial where students learned about ways to mitigate food waste.

45 events hosted by the Office of Sustainability (January 2018 - December 2019)



Campus
Sustainability
Month
October 2019

9 events

115+ participants



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ColorAUC

During Campus Sustainability Month, the Office of Sustainability also hosted workshops for the ColorAUC project. Led by AUC's Graphic Design Program, the Color-AUC project was an AUC community effort to use recycled and sustainable materials to decorate the campus for the holiday season. Recycling workers at AUC collected and washed 10,000 empty plastic bottles that had been discarded throughout the University. Volunteers then painted the bottles and arranged them in the shape of a Christmas tree. The design of the 6 meter-tall tree was inspired by the mosaic of the hanging church in the Coptic Quarter in Cairo. The tree was recognized in the media as an achievement of AUC, applauding the University's sustainability efforts.

The Office of Sustainability worked with a local company, <u>Baria</u>, to ensure the plastic bottles from the tree got properly recycled. The bottles were compacted at AUC's recycling facility into three bales weighing 37 kg each. Bariq then took the bottles and recycled them at their facilities.





Environmental Awareness

Earth Week at AUC

Every April, AUC celebrates international Earth Day with a week of events to engage the campus community in sustainable practices and increase education and awareness about the environment. In 2019, Earth week featured interactive events where students learned about sustainable habits related to waste management, water and energy use, and food. The Office of Sustainability partnered with various AUC entities, such as the Office of Food Services, Office of Athletics, Medical Services, and on-campus food vendors, as well as various local sustainable companies. Activities varied greatly across the week, from reusable water bottle giveaways to healthy food trivia.

Earth Week 2019
Past Present Future:
A Sustainable Second Century

4 days

13 interactive events open to all of AUC

8 campus partners



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Environmental Awareness

Communication and Social Media

In the Spring of 2019, an AUC student who joined forces with the Office of Sustainability, launched the <u>Waste Free AUC campaign</u>. The Instagram campaign aims to increase awareness about environmental issues both on and off AUC's campus. The campaign also connects students, faculty, and staff who are interested in creating sustainable change and encourages AUCians to think about how their actions affect the planet. After just one year, the Instagram page has over 1,000 followers and has led many outreach efforts including an off-campus trash clean up.

In order to increase sustainability education and engagement across campus, the Office of Sustainability sends out a sustainability newsletter that contains sustainability events, initiatives, and achievements on campus. The sustainability newsletter periodically updates recipients on new sustainability initiatives on campus, as well as the ways the community can get involved. The newsletter is sent through email to those that <u>subscribe</u> and is open to students, faculty, and staff.



Residential Life Sustainable Programming

AUC is predominantly a commuting campus, however there is still a large number of students that live on campus. It is our role to provide these students with the education and resources to live sustainably in their everyday actions. Within the <u>AUC residences</u>, there is signage to encourage students to turn off the lights and use less water. There are also 13 filtered drinking water stations that are used to eliminate the number of plastic bottles used across campus. The water stations have saved a total of 325,131 plastic bottles since their installation in 2018. In 2019, new recycling bins were added across the residences.

The Office of Residential Life also hosts events to engage students in environmental education. In 2019, one of the resident assistants on the campus residences created a sustainability-themed bullet-in board. The board was made up of recycled items and displayed valuable information about the Office of Sustainability's environmental and recycling initiatives at AUC. Every year, AUC participates in Earth Hour, a global initiative that aims to raise awareness about climate change by turning off the lights in populated areas for one hour. The Office of Residential Life hosts an Earth Hour event at the off-campus University Residences. Students participate in a countdown to turn off their lights, disconnect from their fast-paced lives and listen to music and eat snacks.



As of March 2020
Data from AY 2019

Adopt-A-Plot

Launched in September 2014, the Adopt-A-Plot community garden is a popular way for AUCians to get involved in sustainability and try out their green thumb. A community garden is a piece of land gardened collectively by a group of people who belong to a recognizable community or have a shared identity. In addition to providing fresh produce, these spaces are known for promoting a feeling of community and shared identity among the gardeners themselves.

The garden is made up of individual rows, each gardened by a team of two or more people. CARES provides irrigation, fertilizer, and pest control, and ensures responsible water use and limited harmful chemicals. CARES also provides participants with information and training sessions on gardening and taking care of their plants. Over the years, the Adopt-A-Plot community garden has shown that communication and shared knowledge within a community is essential for that community's ultimate success.





Diversity and Inclusion

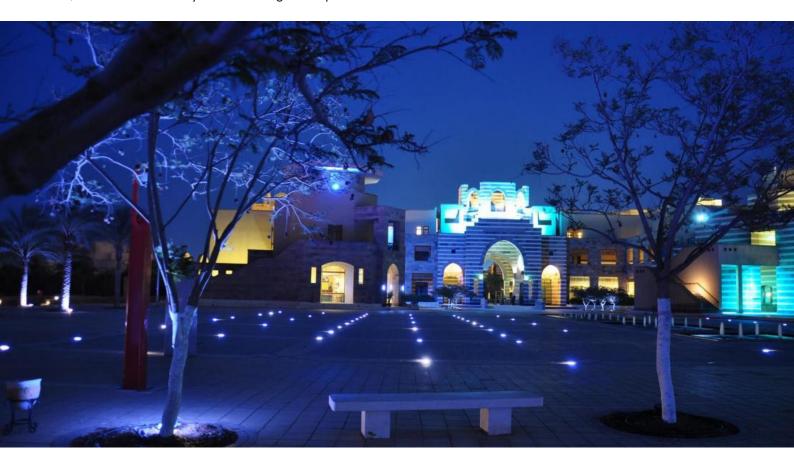


Promoting diversity and inclusion in an academic institution is an essential step in creating a more just and equitable society. Diversity refers to the similarities and differences among people, such as gender, ethnicity, race, age, culture, religion, disability, mental health and many other characteristics. Inclusion means operating in a way in which diversity is celebrated and welcomed to create a fair and productive community. An inclusive environment ensures equitable access to resources and opportunities for all. AUC works in many ways to ensure all community members feel safe, respected, and valued on campus.

The Center for Student Well-being (CSW) works to raise awareness throughout the AUC community of the challenges faced by students who live with a disability and the support services that are available to them. The Student Disability Services (SDS) unit of the CSW provides services to students with disabilities to ensure that all activities and programs on campus are accessible to them. Through partnerships with students, faculty and staff, the SDS promotes self-awareness, self-determination, and self-advocacy to encourage independence

and enhance opportunities for student success. The SDS endeavors to create a campus environment where all students are viewed on the basis of ability rather than disability. AUC's <u>Disability Policy</u> provides and guarantees reasonable accommodations that enable qualifying students with disabilities to perform with other students.

AUC also works to increase awareness and education about the importance of supporting a diverse and inclusive community. Every April, AUC celebrates World Autism Awareness Day by participating in the Light It Up Blue global campaign. The AUC portal lights up in blue during the campaign to bring awareness to the day. In 2016, AUC expanded its campaign efforts by hosting a disability conference titled Removing Barriers in Education Settings to Create an Inclusive and Accessible Society. The conference created a space for the community to have a dialogue about campus resources and accessibility for students with disabilities and encourage more support for students with disabilities in academic environments.



Health and Wellness

At AUC, the wellness of our community members is a goal for both sustainability efforts and our own health. It is important to push students, faculty, and staff to understand the intersection between human health and global sustainability by supporting initiatives that can help both our community and planet thrive.

The AUC administration recognizes the need that all students should be insured in case of a medical emergency. Effective Spring 2018, AUC began enrolling Egyptian students in a mandatory health insurance plan that provides 100% coverage for hospitalization, doctors' visits within the network, ambulance services, as well as up to 80% coverage for visits outside of the network.

<u>The Personal Well-being and Outreach</u> Unit of the Center for Student Well-being (CSW) promotes holistic well-being among all students at AUC. It provides an

awareness of the components of holistic well-being and addresses each through workshops, events and other awareness-raising activities. The "Healthier You" workshop series are offered throughout the year to encourage students to adopt healthier lifestyles that prioritize sleep, hygiene, exercise and nutrition. Students may also schedule appointments with AUC wellness counselors to help them with their personal well-being and success.

The University Health Advisory Committee (UHAC) is an interdisciplinary group of staff, professors, and students from various offices and schools working together to promote a healthy lifestyle for the AUC community. UHAC aims to educate the student body on the importance of sleep, time management skills, physical health, and mental health.

Tobacco-Free AUC

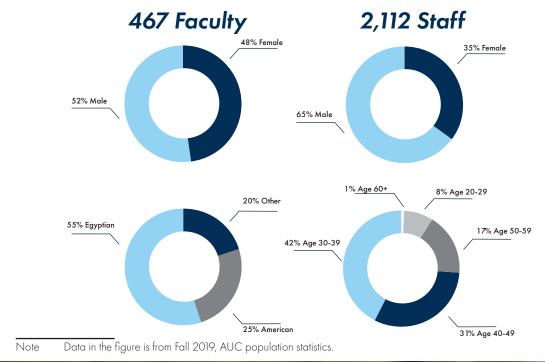
As part of its commitment to the health of everyone on its campus, AUC's implemented the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy in February 2018. After years of maintaining an Air Quality Protection Policy to limit smoking on campus, the Committee for a Tobacco-Free AUC announced a university-wide policy that will, 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 New York University (NYU), to conduct a campus-wide survey to inform their plans and to gage reactions. The current policy limits smoking and tobacco use to nine designated smoking areas within campus' 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 guit, and alternative stress management strategies. This university-wide effort is helping make AUC a healthier place for all community members.



According to a <u>campus-wide</u>
<u>survey</u>, 90% of AUCians have
noticed a positive change on
campus since the implementation
of the policy.

Work and Well-being

AUC works to create a high-quality working environment that supports faculty and staff across the University. Through policies and programs, AUC is committed to creating a healthy, safe, and equitable workplace.





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Policies

Health and Safety

The University seeks to ensure that AUC community members and visitors 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 hazardous waste management, chemical safety, fire fighting, fleet safety, ergonomics and training in safe driving, equipment handling, personal protective equipment, etc. The EHS Department coordinates drills throughout the year to orient the AUC community with emergency response procedures.

The Medical Service Policy promotes the health and wellness of all members of the University community, with easily accessible primary health care and quick response to emergencies inside AUC campus. AUC also provides staff and faculty with medical coverage that meets and exceeds the provisions stated in Egyptian law.



The University has a well-equipped clinic with qualified staff members, physicians, and nurses that is open to the whole AUC community. Health plans are available for employees and their dependents, in addition to group life insurance for all support staff.

Anti-Harassment and Discrimination

Equal opportunity and non-discrimination are core values that AUC stands for. In addition to AUC's strict adherence to the Egyptian Labor Law conditions, AUC has a Non-Discrimination Policy that all campus members must adhere to. AUC does not tolerate discrimination or harassment. The University Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA) Committee permits the University to respond to allegations of such behavior as promptly, fairly, and definitively as possible. This Committee manages 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.

Anti-Corruption

The AUC Code of Academic Ethics governs behavior related to academic integrity at the University. The code sets the guidelines of behavior for faculty, students and Staff. As stewards of the public trust, all trustees, officers, employees, and volunteers of AUC are expected to ensure that the University complies with high standards in financial accounting and reporting and engages in lawful and ethical behavior. The 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.



Sharing Sustainability

AUC has implemented meaningful changes that make campus operations more sustainable, but as a globally-oriented University, we always seek to engage with external partners. As an institute of higher education, AUC recognizes its ability to make a positive impact on the surrounding community. Through community outreach, public events, external partnerships, and global initiatives, AUC is committed to sharing sustainability beyond its campus boundaries.





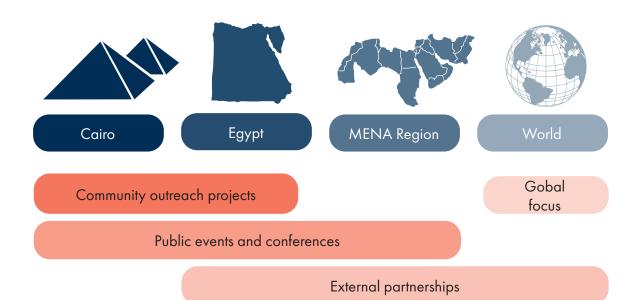








Public Engagement Highlights



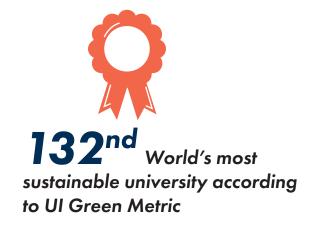


educational partnerships with Universities and organizations across Egypt and the world



12 public events and conferences led by AUC in 2019 centered around sustainability





Community Outreach

Community outreach includes actions or services that use AUC's resources and knowledge to directly benefit the community outside of the campus. Students and faculty engage with the surrounding communities in the Greater Cairo Area and across Egypt through sustainability initiatives in a non-academic setting.

Project Highlights

AUC students are dedicated to helping those in need, from donation campaigns to distributing food packs. In 2018, community service organizations across <u>AUC distributed over 3,500 food packs</u> to orphanages and underprivileged communities.

Many AUCians organize waste clean ups in the communities surrounding AUC. For example, Professor of Psychology, Kate Ellis, and her students, as well as several volunteers, participated in a <u>beach clean up in Dahab</u>. After 3 hours of hard work, the 50 volunteers collected around 37 bags of garbage. Students from the Waste Free AUC initiative also held a one-day street cleanup event in Zamalek. These are just two examples of AUC community members engaging with the local community through outreach projects.

There are 14 student organizations on campus that actively participate in the greater community through outreach projects and campaigns

In October 2019, AUC's <u>Volunteers in Action (VIA)</u> student club hosted 72 children from Dar Al Forkan and Nour El Amal orphanages for Pro-Earth Day, educating them on the environment and raising awareness of their responsibility toward it. VIA held the event in partnership with AUC's Fun Lab, Animal Rights Association, the Waste Free AUC initiative, AUC's Gaia Movement (GAIA), and the Office of Sustainability.



Public Events and Conferences

AUC hosts a number of public events to inform the public on environmental topics and engage in conversation about finding solutions to an array of sustainability issues.

Event Highlights

Tahrir Cultural Center

Established in February 2019, Tahrir Cultural Center (TCC), is an accessible full-fledged cultural center that offers affordable and meaningful wide range of conventional and innovative cultural activities, events and services that addresses the cultural needs of the community. The mission of TCC is to share and preserve culture by creating a cultural movement that nurtures the past, the present and the future while inspiring and cultivating the public and developing strong links with Egypt's, regional and international culture.

Arab International Women's Forum

In September 2019, AUC hosted the Arab International Women's Forum titled Women as Engines of Economic Growth. The conference, made in collaboration between AIWF and AUC, focused on empowering women as drivers of economic development, growth and sustainable change. Panel discussions addressed how to fulfill SDGs on gender diversity, women and youth empowerment, and societal and economic progress for all.

MENA BoP Global Network Summit

The John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, Civic Engagement and Responsible Business and Enterprise for a Sustainable World (ESW), in collaboration with the BoP Global Network Labs around the world organized the first MENA BoP (Bottom of the Pyramids) Global Network Summit in October 2019. During the three-day event, expertise from different parts of the world met with selected Egyptian BoP communities to share experiences, showcase best practices, and explore opportunities of partnerships.

RiseUp Summit

In November 2019, AUC worked with RiseUp, a platform connecting start-ups and entrepreneurs in the MENA region, to host RiseUp Summit 2019. In its seventh edition, the three-day summit included talks, panels, workshops and networking sessions with hundreds of the region's top entrepreneurs, startups, investors, creative masterminds and Fortune 500 companies.

6th International LafargeHolcim Forum: Re-materializing Construction

In April 2019, AUC's Department of Architecture hosted the 6th International LafargeHolcim Forum titled "Re-materializing Construction." The symposium brought together over 350 professionals from architecture, engineering, planning, and the construction industry from 55 countries to explore new approaches towards sustainable building solutions. Egypt was the first Middle East and African country to host the event. More than 2,000 people attended the opening session of the Forum on AUC's campus. The Forum focused on strategies to reduce consumption throughout the material cycle from extraction to processing, transport, installation, maintenance, and removal – contributing to a leaner industry.



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External Partnerships

External partnerships are the collaboration between AUC and communities or organizations outside of the campus for the beneficial exchange of knowledge, information, and resources. To strengthen our presence in the community and further our research endeavors, AUC partners with a number of local communities as well as different universities, governments, NGOs, and industries all working towards Egypt's sustainability efforts.

Educational Partnerships

HIVE Program

The HIVE Program, or Harnessing Innovation through Virtual Exchange, launched in Spring 2018 as a collaboration between AUC and the University of Arizona (UA). Khaled Tarabieh, professor at AUC's Department of Architecture, worked with Nader Chalfoun, professor of architecture and environmental sciences at UA, to design a four-week virtual exchange with students from both universities. The exchange involved a series of live video conferences with curriculum specially created to evaluate and enhance the energy efficiency of commercial buildings.

The HIVE program ran for four semesters, providing 80 students with a unique opportunity to experience virtual collaboration and gain new perspectives from students of different cultures. The program was funded by the Institute of International Education, which distributed the award on behalf of the Stevens Initiative. Due to the success of the class, HIVE and the Institute of International Education began implementing more collaborative efforts in other areas at AUC.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification Preparation Course

The School of Engineering and Science Services (ESS) offers a wide variety of services designed to meet the current and future needs of engineers, scientists and the community as a whole. The LEED preparation course is designed for industry professionals who wish to become LEED green associates. In this five-day course, participants learn how to manage the LEED project process. This includes project demonstration requirements, project calculations and software tools. Students will also learn how to register a LEED project and submit LEED credits. The goal is to share knowledge needed to maximize building performance, achieve LEED certification and help prepare for LEED examinations.



Pro-Green Professional Diploma

The Pro-Green Diploma is an online professional certification program offered jointly by The American University in Cairo, the American University of Beirut, and the Lebanese American University. The joint diploma focuses on Green Technologies: Green Buildings, Renewable Energy and Water. This serves university students and working professionals in fields related to engineering, architecture, mathematics, and natural science who want to further develop skills and compete in the emerging "Green" market economy. The Pro-Green Diploma is the first online diploma accredited by the Middle States Accreditation for AUC as an alternative method of teaching.

Academic Community Engagement (ACE)

The Academic Community Engagement (ACE) program provides support for faculty members who wish to engage students in community service to enhance their learning. Community-based learning courses and activities are incorporated at all levels of the curriculum, from freshman to capstone to graduate, and in an array of disciplines across the schools. The curriculum integrates the value of community knowledge to strengthen student learning while employing student competencies to address community-defined needs. The program also offers consultation services, class and community orientations, faculty development workshops, resources and support grants. Since 2008, AUC has a total of 386 academic community engagement courses.

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Research Partnerships

Center of Excellence for Water

AUC and Alexandria University recently inaugurated a USAID-funded Center of Excellence for Water at Alexandria University. The initiative aims to catalyze long-term sustainable change in the sector and support the Egyptian government in its Vision 2030 to achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of life. The center focuses on three main components: education, research and exchange. This includes graduate and undergraduate courses, workshops and training programs, research grants and scholarship funding for applied research on water, and exchange programs between the U.S. universities and AUC with more than 350 student participants.

SDGs roundtable

the third round in the SDGs roundtable series, a collaboration between the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) and Cares Egypt. The meeting introduced the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt Vision 2030, as the localization strategy of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to participants. Representatives from different governmental organizations presented the ongoing efforts done by their vent mass migration to Egyptian citorganizations to support the imple- ies and across national borders. mentation and fulfillment of the SDS.

DeVilag

The John D. Gerhart Center hosted AUC's CARES, in partnership with many Egyptian universities, public and private Egyptian entities, and European universities, is developing a capacity-building program to support the Egyptian rural community. The Erasmus-funded program, DeVilag, aims to improve agricultural productivity, enable more sustainable food production, develop poor villages, and enhance farmers' income and living conditions to pre-

CARES' EduCamp

Much of the work of the Center for Applied Research on the Environment and Sustainability (CARES) involves collaborating with external partners on community development projects that have a wide impact on Egyptian communities. In 2010, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Beyond the Campus (EduCamp I) was launched. EduCamp I aimed to introduce sustainable development concepts in Egyptian schools. With funding from the EU Tempus program, Edu-Camp I involved three consecutive phases: first, producing school kits on sustainable development, energy, water, agriculture and biodiversity to enhance the existing curriculum based on a needs analysis; second, training school teachers on the newly developed kits at one of seven centers of excellence in education for sustainable development and integrating student-focused approaches such as debates, games, and experiments, and finally, pilot implementation in grades five to nine in public schools across seven different governorates, which were twinned with partner universities. In 2014, EduCamp II was launched to introduce ESD into informal areas in Egypt. The project was mainly for children, youth and women and focused on the El Warraq informal area in Giza and was funded by the European Union and the German government under the Participatory Development Programme of Urban Areas (PDP). After the success of EduCamp I and II, CARES decided to implement the project on a larger scale by transforming the poor schools in Egypt into schools that meet the objectives of Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt 2030



The Water Academy Project

The Center for Applied Research on the Environment and Sustainability (CARES) has initiated <u>The Water Academy Project</u> funded by HSBC to serve as a learning hub and research center for water efficiency best management practices. The project's main aim is to raise the public's awareness regarding efficient and sustainable water consumption in order to help alleviate the water scarcity problem and achieve the sustainable development goal of clean water and sanitation by 2030. The project uses three main approaches to accomplish its goals.

Volunteers Capacity Building Program:

This short workshop aimes to spread awareness among unspecialized volunteers from HSBC about water conservation best practices, especially using modern agriculture techniques. Participants experience hands on exercises including installing hydroponics systems, building green walls, and planting rooftop garden.

Professionals Capacity Building Program:

This condensed training program aims to qualify Faculty of Agriculture graduates, employees/entrepreneurs in the water, agricultural field, or others interested in the field to use modern sustainable agricultural techniques for water conservation. The program uses a research-based and experiential learning approach, and encourages its graduates to start their own businesses or develop their current work practices to advocate water conservation.

Education & Research Hub (The Farm):

The Water Academy project seeks to build a hub that is equipped with facilities, labs, and techniques to encourage and facilitate research in the field of water efficiency best management practices. It aims to helps the rearchers, educators, and especially those who are working in the field, the farmers.



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Project Achievements:

Trained:

523 volunteers over 16 short workshops

30 professionals over a 19-day condensed program



Built:

10 green walls at CARES facilities

1 rooftop garden at CARES, with a total of

175 rooftop garden module

11 hydroponics systems at CARES facilities

5 small portable greenhouses

5 aquaponics System



"The day was so much fun, the content was clear and the activity was useful as I now know about water and agriculture."

HSBC Volunteer, 9/17/2019



Global Focus

AUC has been a distinctly global University since its founding in 1919. While many of our sustainability efforts are internally focused, we maintain an outward, global focus by participating in a number of international sustainable associations.



PRINCETON PRIZING

The UI Green Metric is an initiative of Universities Indonesia (UI) that ranks thousands of universities globally based on amount of campus green space, energy use, transport, water use, waste management, and green policies. Since 2013, AUC has submitted to the UI GreenMetric in order to compare our sustainability progress and achievements with other universities. In 2019, AUC placed 132 out of 780 institutions, an improvement from 2018 when AUC placed 137 out of 719 institutions.

In 2019, for the sixth year in a row, AUC was the only college in the MENA region ranked in <u>Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges</u>. In 2019, AUC achieved a green rating score of 94 out of 99. The profiles in The Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges include "Green Facts" about the schools, with details on such matters as the availability of transportation alternatives at the schools and the percentage of the school food budget spent on local/organic food.





In 2015, AUC's sustainable campus practices were featured in the <u>United Nations Environment Programme</u> (<u>UNEP</u>) Green Universities Toolkit as a global example of a green, low-carbon institution. The toolkit showcases the strategies of leading green universities to inspire similar institutions to better utilize resources and reduce their energy consumption and carbon footprint.

AUC has been a member of The Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) since 2011. Sustainability Officer, Yasmin Mansour, has attended several annual AASHE conferences, and for the past two years, the AASHE newsletter featured AUC's Earth Week. The Office is preparing to participate in AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS).

AASHE Presentation

In 2018, Sustainability Officer Yasmin Mansour presented at the AASHE Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The annual conference brought together 1,862 attendees from 18 countries representing over 500 institutions around the world. Mansour's presentation titled The Role of Private Sector Partnership in Sustainable University Operations & Education highlighted AUC's partnership with the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC).

In 2016, AUC declared its commitment to the <u>United Nations' Global Compact (UNGC)</u>, a strategic policy initiative for organizations working in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Compact is the world's largest voluntary sustainability framework with guiding principles concerning human rights, environmental stewardship, labor, and anticorruption measures. In September 2018, the Office of Sustainability prepared a <u>second Communication on Engagement (COE) Report</u> to reaffirm its commitment to the UNGC. As part of UNGC's Egypt office, AUC has participated in trainings and networked with various Egyptian businesses.

As part of the duty of an academic institution participating in the UNGC, AUC has lent its capacity to the UNGC and other UN initiatives, specifically the <u>Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)</u>. 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 throughout the MENA region. In 2016, <u>AUC hosted the regional PRME conference</u>. 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 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 making progress on the SDGs.

AUC's engagement with UNGC and PRME is a case study of how university-private sector partnerships enable sharing best practices and enhance campus sustainability. This approach has been especially critical in Egypt, where public sector and NGO based sustainability initiatives are neither well established nor highly effective and where AUC does not have a large network of peer institutions. AUC engagement with the UNGC and PRME has facilitated number of campus initiatives. After partnering with the UNGC, the Office of Sustainability worked with offices like human resources to document labor and anti-corruption standards across the University. AUC is also the only university in the Middle East to publish a carbon footprint report; sustainability reporting is central to the UNGC, and this participation has provided resources and best practices that otherwise would be difficult to access.





Moving Forward

Future Sustainability

After shedding the light on the different sustainability efforts by AUC, it is clear that AUC is dedicated to tackling one of the greatest challenges of our time: sustainable development. Across all facets of the University, students, faculty, and staff are working together to generate and spread the basic elements of sustainability for current and future development. This report emphasizes the importance of collaboration in our sustainability efforts, especially in areas that we find limitations.

We must continue developing and implementing new projects and initiatives to secure a sustainable future. In order to move forward, we have made some recommendations for practices that can be instilled on campus to further our progress.



Incorporate sustainability concepts into the curriculum of academic disciplines that are lacking.



Further monitor campus operations and develop cooperation strategies with the campus operations team to ensure sustainability practices.



Work with campus' offices and departments to instill sustainability policies and procedures in their daily work routine.



Increase global exposure by keeping the university engaged in up-to-date conferences, rankings, awards and others.

The above recommendations represent a snapshot of the main areas that are tackled in this report. We will continue to assess our performance and track our progress for the next sustainability report, which will provide updates to this baseline report. We hope that the next issue of the report states further accomplishments of our University not only locally and regionally, but also globally!



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