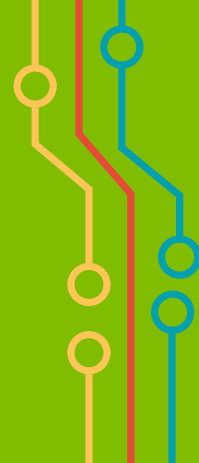


The American  
University in Cairo



# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2022



## About this Report

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This is the American University in Cairo's second sustainability report. Compiled by the Office of Sustainability, this report aims to highlight the University's unwavered commitment to the environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainability throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 spotlight of specific achievements and projects that occurred from the period of January 2020 to December 2021.

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 is biennial, with publications alternating years with the University's Carbon Footprint Report. In alignment with international, well-established universities, 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 second sustainability report, we hope AUC can continue to serve as a model for similar institutions in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA).



## Message from the President

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our daily lives and campus operations, shifting AUC to remote work and teaching and limiting our capacity to pursue sustainability efforts. Despite the myriad challenges brought by the pandemic, our commitment to sustainability has not wavered. AUC community members adapted to the limitations and found new, innovative ways to engage with sustainability on and off campus. Communication on these actions to colleagues and peers across Egypt, the Middle East, and the world is critical for AUC's global engagement and impact.

AUC is committed to using our intellectual and creative capabilities to serve our communities, have a positive and sustainable impact on the environment, and address the challenges that confront Egypt, the region, and the world. As we work to implement sustainable development on our own campus, we aim to position AUC as a leader of sustainability and inspire positive change in Egypt and the region. This second sustainability report highlights AUC's continued engagement in the global sustainability movement.

This report would not have been possible without the successful collaboration between academic and research departments, students, administrative staff, and facilities operators across campus. To confirm our commitment to international sustainability efforts, each chapter highlights our focus on the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals.

I am particularly grateful to core research team: Yasmin Mansour, Sustainability Director, Sahar El Ghandour, Sustainability Manager, and Sydney Krisanda, Researcher. We hope this report continues to serve as a model for universities across the region and beyond.

Sincerely,



Ahmad Dallal  
President

# Team Members and Acknowledgements

## Sustainability Report 2022 Core Research Team

### The Office of Sustainability



**Yasmin Mansour**  
Sustainability Director



**Sahar El Ghandour**  
Sustainability Manager



**Sydney Krisanda**  
Sustainability Researcher

This report is the product of a collaboration among 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.

The core 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 report preparation.<sup>1</sup>

- Center for Applied Research on the Environment and Sustainability (CARES)
- Department of Architecture
- John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, Civic Engagement & Responsible Business
- Office of Facilities and Operations
- Office of Institutional Equity (OIE)
- Office of Marketing Communication and Public Affairs
- Office of Medical Services
- Office of Strategic Management and Institutional Effectiveness (SMIE)
- School of Engineering and Science Services (SSE)
- Social Research Center (SRC)

<sup>1</sup> Contributors are listed in alphabetical order

# Sustainability Highlights

## Academics



**451**

sustainability courses  
offered in AY 2020-2021



**64**

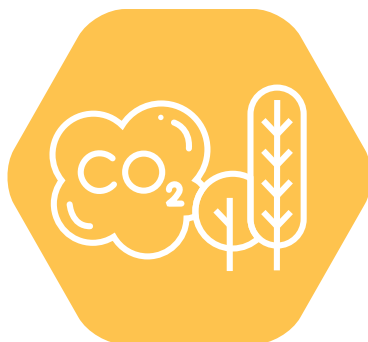
graduates of the MSc in  
sustainable development  
since the start of the  
program



**\$23.5  
million**

total research funds  
dedicated to sustainability  
research<sup>2</sup>

## Operations



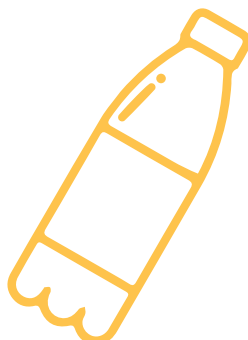
**45%**

reduction in carbon  
footprint as a result  
of COVID-19<sup>3</sup>



**100%**

of campus irrigation  
using treated  
wastewater



**7.4  
million**

plastic bottles saved from  
campus filtered drinking  
water stations

<sup>2</sup> Average per annum over the last three years.

<sup>3</sup> This reduction is based on the difference between AY19 (normal operations pre-COVID year) and AY21 (disturbed operations amidst COVID year)

## Campus Community



**16**

sustainability  
e-newsletter editions  
sent out



**93%**

of campus community  
vaccinated against  
COVID-19



**25**

student organizations  
working toward  
sustainability efforts

## Public Engagement



**6**

global sustainability  
initiative memberships

**60<sup>+</sup>**

educational  
partnerships with  
Universities and  
organizations across  
Egypt and the world



**#1**

sustainable University in Africa and Egypt  
according to 2021 UI GreenMetric World  
University Ranking

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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 7,000 full-time students at the bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. levels.

**6,980 students**  
**459 faculty**  
**1,994 staff<sup>4</sup>**



Diversity



Excellence



Social  
Responsibility



Integrity



Lifelong  
Learning

<sup>4</sup> Based on Fall 2021 AUC population statistics.



# 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 reporting and publishing the impact of AUC's operations on the environment through the biennial Carbon Footprint Report, which alters with the biennial AUC's Sustainability Report that reports the collective sustainability efforts across campus. The Office's portfolio includes energy and water demand/consumption reduction programs and waste management efforts, which are the results of the technical committees headed by the Office of Sustainability where meetings are held with professionals across campus on a constant basis. Besides, the Office's portfolio continues to consider sustainability initiatives to raise the awareness of the AUC community members towards the 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 aspects of 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, thriving community that continues to embody regional leadership.

## Strategic Plan 2019-2022

The Office of Sustainability has identified a series of goals and objectives to continue boosting the sustainable culture at AUC.

### Expand Global Recognition

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

### Improve Carbon Footprint Trends

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

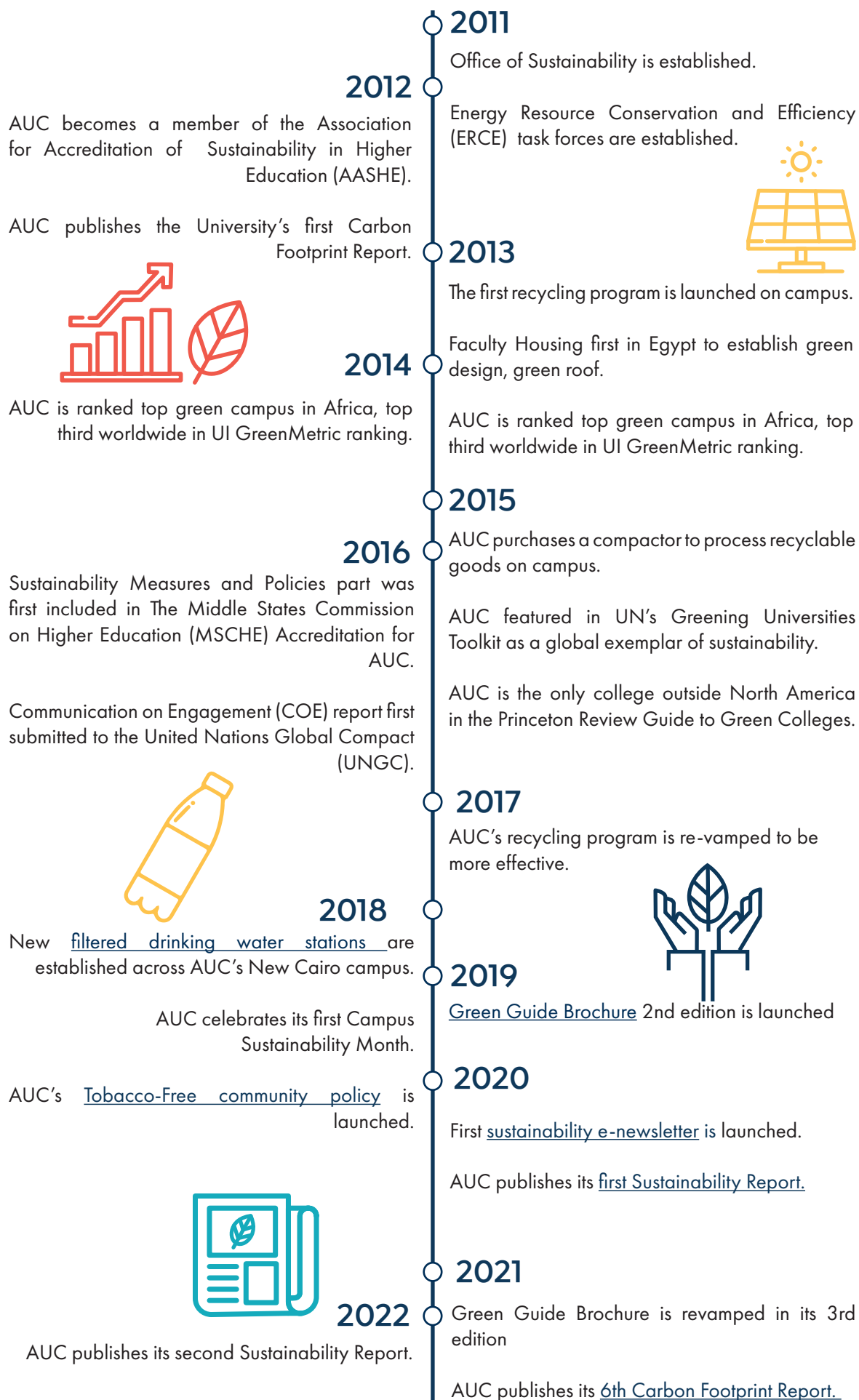
### Enhance Social Responsibility

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

### Foster Sustainable Resource Management

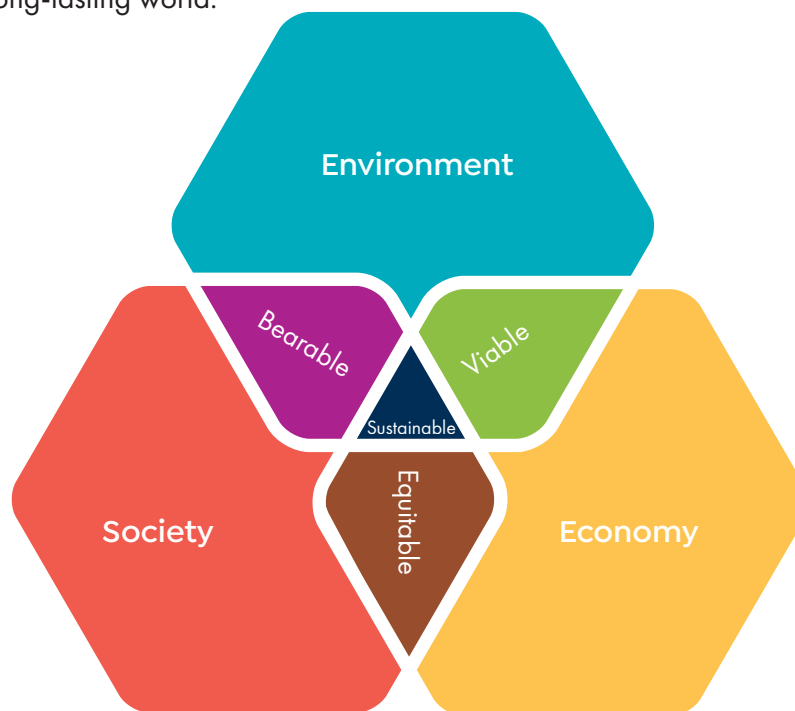
Develop and implement sustainable practices to manage energy, water, and waste consumption across campus.

# Timeline of Sustainability Achievements



# 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 representation 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 2020, the United Nations launched the [Decade of Action](#), a recommitment to the goals first outlined by the [2030 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) in 2015. The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically disrupted efforts to achieve the 2030 goals, as the primary focus of nations has shifted to controlling the spread of the pandemic and providing immediate financial relief to aid the economic recession. It is expected that 71 million people will be pushed back into extreme poverty, making it clear that most prior progress made to achieve the goals has either been stalled or reversed by the pandemic (UN, 2020). Now more than ever, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is pressing, as the principles outlined in the SDGs are key to emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger and more prepared for future shocks. Through collaboration among all sectors of society, we need to accelerate action towards ending extreme poverty and hunger, fighting socio-economic inequalities, addressing climate change, and building a healthier, more resilient planet.

As an institution of higher education attempting to create a more sustainable world, AUC contributes directly to the following goals. All 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 DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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 climate-related 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 [here](#).





# Academics

## Teaching Sustainability

The most effective tool to instill change is education. AUC is a leading liberal arts university in the Middle East, Africa, 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.

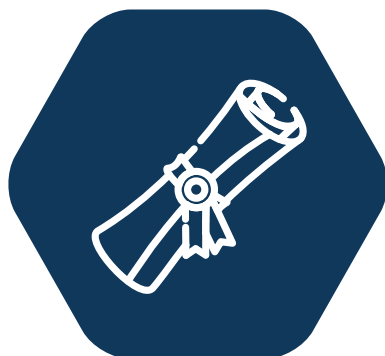


# Sustainability Education Highlights



**451**

sustainability courses  
offered in AY 2020-2021



**13**

sustainability-focused  
degree programs



**32**

academic departments  
offering sustainability  
courses in AY 2020-2021

# Schools and Courses

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. Numerous SSE departments offer sustainability-related courses including architecture, biology, chemistry, construction engineering, mechanical engineering, petroleum engineering, and physics.

## 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.

## 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 investigate 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).

## 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 offers 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 positive and sustainable way.

**PPAD 526/5128**  
**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.



**SOC/ANTH 570/5270**  
**Environments, Ecologies,  
and the Anthropocene**

This course uses a broad interdisciplinary approach to analyze the relationship between development and environmental degradation, the ways in which development enhances 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.



**11 new**

Sustainability courses  
offered in AY 2020-2021

**Social Research Center introduces a new  
COVID-19 Course**

Social Research Center Professor, Hania Sholkamy, developed an original course covering COVID-19 and the importance of framing the historical health episode in the social study of public health. The many precursors of COVID-19 (HIV-AIDS, SARS, MERS, H1N1) and the prospect of a killer contagion have been anticipated by scientists, filmmakers, writers, and a few wise politicians and public figures. The focus of this particular course is on collective experiences of contagious diseases. Epidemics, pandemics, and outbreaks follow trajectories that are decided by social, economic, political, genetic, and epidemiological factors. They expose structural and procedural fractures, deficits, and surfeits of wealth, health, power, and knowledge. The course introduces students to the theories, methodologies, and analytical tools of the anthropology of public health. It considers the multiple dimensions of contagious diseases and viral infections in terms of how states and societies act and react to these health emergencies and the implications of public courses of action to social and economic as well as political life.



# 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](#), offers a Master's of Science (MSc.) and a diploma in sustainable development, providing visionary leaders with a holistic understanding of the developmental challenges in today's world. The program, which is coordinated by the [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 their study, sustainable development students are engaged in community projects, research activities, and international initiatives. 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.



An important and unique aspect of the Masters of Science (MSc) in the sustainable development program is the students' community projects, where the students are asked to develop their community-based projects by selecting a real-world problem from their 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. In response to the COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, students had to develop solutions that could work within the online instruction and social distancing environment. In turn, students developed innovative solutions, such as Dawwar: a recycling online platform that connects households and recycling companies to facilitate the

process and determine the real reasons for the low levels of recycling in Cairo. In 2021, students had the chance to work on one of CARES' community projects, MERS, which seeks to adopt mangroves as a nature-based solution for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The students developed business models to mobilize finance into mangroves, taking into consideration local communities and how they can use these revenue streams to sustain their livelihoods and mangroves. Students worked specifically on business models for mangrove eco-tourism, and honey production from mangroves. They also developed a curriculum for climate change adaptation for vulnerable communities living on the Red Sea coast, an area where mangroves grow, to build community resilience.



**4**

**schools**

involved in the  
interdisciplinary  
program



**35**

**students**

enrolled in AY 2021

**16**  
**faculty**



**64**

**graduates**

since the start of the program



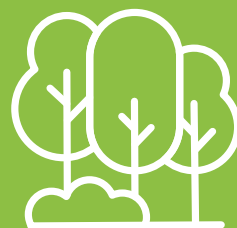
The MSc. in Sustainable Development Program (SSDV) was listed by Eduniversal as the top masters' program in Africa with a focus on sustainability and green technologies, allowing it for the second year in a row to remain the leading sustainable development program in Africa and the Middle East in terms of quality and hands on community-related activities and quality research close to the industry to enhance the students' exposure and learning experience.

# Graduate Program for Sustainable Development

## New Sustainability Courses

The Sustainable Development Program has recently introduced new courses, such as Water-Energy-Food Nexus, Renewable Energy Systems, Sustainable Agriculture, Integrated Water Resources Management, International Migration and Development, and Research Methods and Inferential Statistics for Psychology. These additions contribute to the SSDV's mission of creating a whole new generation of business and social entrepreneurs with the skills allowing them to start-up green businesses, launch innovative ventures and products, and put in place public policy and social entrepreneurship innovations that, together, address society's environmental and natural resource challenges.

Yomna El-Awamri, CARES Community Projects Manager and SSDV Alumna, 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. The course provides students with an opportunity to carry out community projects themselves and participate in field visits and community excursions, such as visits to Sekem Farm in ElWahat.



Students from the Global Changes and Sustainable Development course planted **500 trees** as part of SEKEM's **1 million trees initiative**.

## Professional Interdisciplinary Diploma in Water, Energy, Food Technologies (WEFT)

In partnership with the ESS (Engineering and Science Services unit at the SSE), CARES introduced a new professional interdisciplinary diploma in [Water, Energy, Food Technologies \(WEFT\)](#), an 18-credit program aiming to qualify professionals in the field of agriculture, energy, and water to implement sustainable resource management in desert areas. The program targets as well as tackles water, energy and food-related challenges addressed in the “Egypt vision 2030” sustainable development strategy. This is done by qualifying participants in different fields, including sustainable resource management, agriculture, engineering, entrepreneurship, and information technology.

The program aims to provide participants with a sound technical and practical understanding of innovation, design, entrepreneurship, and managing sustainable WEF projects in the desert. Participants will learn how to identify, assess, and shape WEF nexus challenges into real business opportunities through this program.

Participants of the professional diploma in WEFT will have the interdisciplinary knowledge of resource management of WEF, build a strong culture of green entrepreneurship and business in Egypt and the region, and excel in the different aspects of resource management, sustainable agriculture, and green technologies. Available courses include Sustainable Development, Agri-Entrepreneurship, Sustainable Energy Management, and more.

### WEFT 102 Agri-Entrepreneurship

The course focuses on identifying green Entrepreneurship opportunities in Egypt within the realm of business management, such as running a farm or other facilities within the sustainable commercial agriculture industry. Participants will learn how to construct greener production techniques through boosting the green mass demand, and by creating green jobs and commercializing new green innovation. This will foster the lifelong welfare; assuring inter-generalization coherence.



### WEFT 312 WEFT Technology II, Sustainable Farming Systems

This course will introduce participants to alternative modern agriculture methods, such as hydroponics and aquaponics, sandponics systems and greenhouse management. The course will discuss different systems, their economic feasibility, and their applications with other water, energy and food-related technologies, such as the use of renewable energies, and desalination.







# Academics

## 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



**\$23.5  
million**

total research funds  
dedicated to  
sustainability research<sup>5</sup>



**300+**

scholarly publications on  
sustainability<sup>6</sup>



**11**

AUC faculty among

**top 2%**

impactful scientists  
globally by Stanford  
University-Elsevier list

<sup>5, 6</sup> Average per annum over the last three years.



# 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 for Sustainable Development (CSD) and the 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 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 future generations to come. CARES envisions a region of modern, sustainable, and prosperous communities.

## Water- Energy - Food (WEF) Nexus

[CARES Research](#) is mainly tailored on three main pillars; Water, Energy, and Food - aiming to maximize the productivity per unit drop of water used under production. This holistic, yet focused research concept, was pioneered by CARES founding and current director, Dr. Hani Sewilam, who investigates the interconnectedness and the overlap of these dependent challenges. This is accomplished through utilizing synergies to reduce capital resource inputs, increase productivity and promote sustainable production in an eco-friendlier manner.



20  
peer-reviewed  
articles in 2021

Within the WEF Nexus model, CARES conducts several applied research experiments focused on renewable energy, water desalination technologies, advanced agricultural techniques, and urban farming systems. For continuous success in the research arena, CARES has several research and education facilities which include: two desalination laboratories, two solar energy-operated greenhouses, a highly advanced recirculating aquaculture system, 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 scaled-up and implemented in local communities across Egypt.



## Developing a Participatory Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration Model as a Nature-Based Solution to Climate Change (MERS)

In 2021, CARES embarked on a new project entitled “Developing a Participatory Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration Model as a Nature-Based Solution to Climate Change” (MERS). The overall objective of the MERS project is to adopt a nature-based solution to address climate change challenges and enhance the environmental, social, and economic resilience of the local communities through the restoration and rehabilitation of mangrove ecosystems in Egypt. It will contribute to greenhouse gas mitigation, climate resilience, and more sustainable production of food and materials within thriving economies by increasing the area of mangrove stands, developing commercially

viable business models in collaboration with the local communities, and developing a GIS-based knowledge platform on mangrove forests, CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration and biodiversity conservation. The next phase would be to work with the public and private sectors to develop climate policies and finance mechanisms to break barriers to investment in climate action. This is achieved by bridging the lack of information gap and offering an inventory of ideas and lessons learned from the project, such as carbon credits.

12 students  
engaged in  
research

9  
staff  
members  
working for  
CARES





# Research Initiatives

## The SDG Health Equity Learning Platform

The mission of the [Social Research Center \(SRC\)](#) is to conduct and encourage multidisciplinary social science research in Egypt and the Arab region. The center is engaged in a variety of research projects at both the national and regional levels and has a distinct reputation for carrying out high-quality field studies and in-depth analytical research.

The Social Research Center recently launched [The Health Equity and Sustainable Development Goals for The Arab Region Learning Platform](#), a publicly accessible and interactive space that brings together a wide network of researchers, actors, and stakeholders pursuing and supporting the Arab region to achieve equity in health and wellbeing, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The platform contributes to the achievement of the sustainable development agenda, especially goals 3 and 10 in the Arab region through:

- Facilitating an open space for interactions and participation among researchers, actors, and stakeholders.
- Availing a wide scope of resources, tools, and training materials to build capacities in addressing different dimensions of health and assessing health equity.
- Building effective partnerships and learning from shared experiences.

The platform initially started with support from a collaboration between the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research and the Division of Health Protection and Promotion at the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. More recently, the platform has been revised and expanded with support from the United Nations Population Funds/Arab States (UNFPA/ASRO), and The American University in Beirut (AUB) through a grant from the International Development Research Center (IDRC).

The platform focuses on equity in health and health-related SDGs. It is guided by the multilevel framing of social determinants of health, and by the SDG as a core driver of wellbeing and health. The intersection between health and other sustainable development goals is highlighted. Health-centered topics, such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, communicable and non-communicable diseases, healthy aging, mental health, health information system, and universal health coverage are investigated from a wider social perspective. Addressing health and vulnerability in emergencies, including promoting the health of migrants, refugees, and displaced populations are also addressed. The main directions for research and shared experience are guided by general frameworks for social justice and health equality (HE) and social determinants of health (SDH). A new page on COVID-19 is currently under construction.

## Health Equity AND Sustainable Development Goals The Arab Region



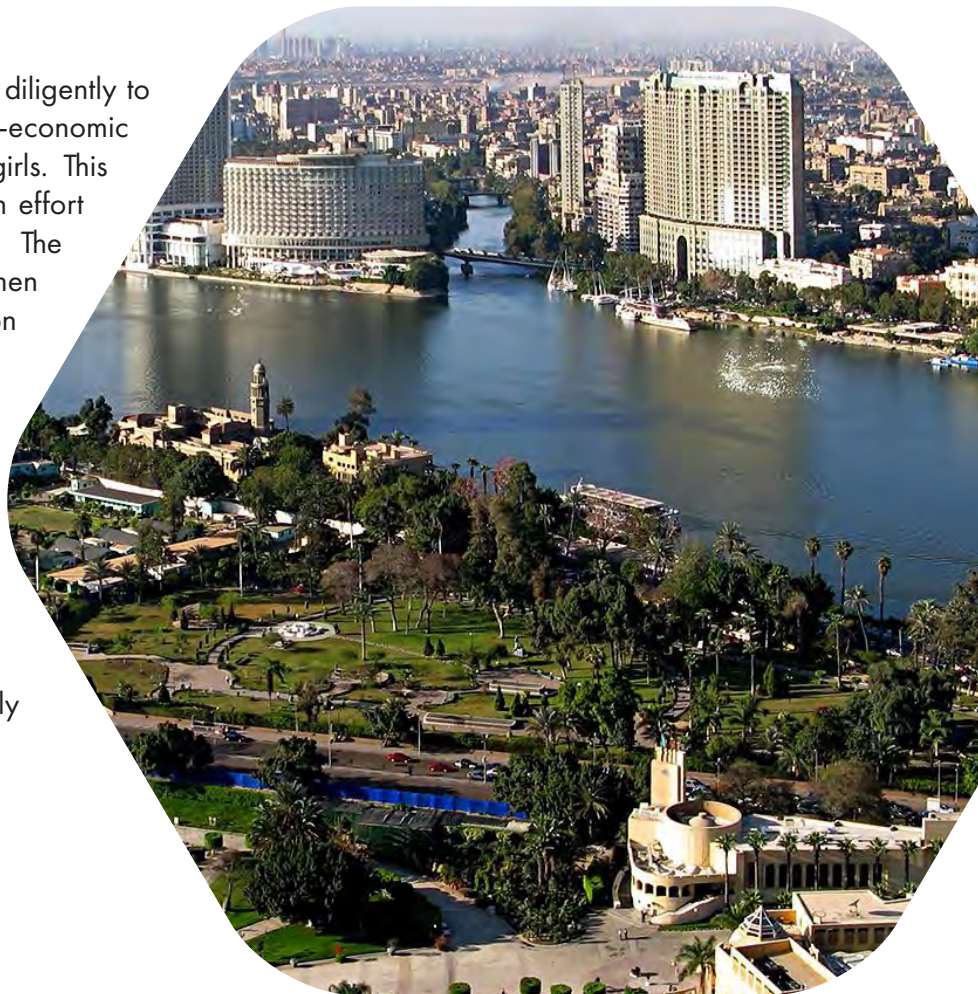
## AUC's Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Research and Innovation Initiative

AUC launched the Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Research and Innovation Initiative to support 10 different research projects aimed at creating an impact both during and after the global COVID-19 pandemic — contributing to the scholarship and innovation in the fight against it. The university has allocated a budget of about 25 million Egyptian pounds (about \$1.6 million) to the initiative. AUC has a vast array of multidisciplinary programs, such as global health, public policy, and economics that can serve the Egyptian community and provide sustainable short-term and long-term solutions to the crisis.

The Department of Psychology, in collaboration with the Social Research Center, worked on a research study on ["Coping in Egypt During the COVID-19 Crisis."](#) The study is funded by AUC's Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Research and Innovation Initiative. The study attempts to identify the different ways that Egyptians are coping with the COVID-19 crisis and which strategies are most effective for long-term well-being. Some of the questions that the project aims to answer are: What strategies are people currently using the most vs. the least? Which people are using certain types of strategies more or less?

## Cairo Safe Cities initiative

The Social Research Center also worked diligently to collect comprehensive data on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on women and girls. This data was collected alongside a research effort studying the Cairo Safe Cities initiative. The research effort included questions for women and girls about the impact of COVID-19 on people going out to public places and whether this happened to them. 85% of the women mentioned that the fear of the spread of Corona caused people not to go out to public places, and 75% of the women and girls stated that this happened to them. About the extent of the spread of the Corona epidemic, 7% of the women and girls reported that at least one of their family members contracted COVID-19.



# Faculty Research

## Faculty Recognized Globally for Sustainability Research

For the second year in a row, AUC faculty members have been named among the top 2% of the world's most impactful scientists by Stanford University and Elsevier. [The database](#) is created by experts at Stanford University, based on data from Elsevier's Scopus, "the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature." The database includes the top 2% scientists in 22 scientific fields and 176 subfields and provides standardized information on citations, h-index, co-authorship-adjusted hm-index, citations to papers in different authorship positions and a composite indicator.

### Nageh Allam

Professor and director of the nanotechnology graduate program, Department of Physics, School of Sciences and Engineering  
[Solar Fuels, Clean Water, Face Mask Filters: Technological Solutions to Critical Issues](#)

### Hassan Azzazy

Distinguished University professor of chemistry, Department of Chemistry, School of Sciences and Engineering  
[Building a low-cost sensor that monitors water quality](#)

### Tamer ElBatt

Professor and director of the computer science and engineering graduate program, Department of Computer Science, School of Sciences and Engineering  
[Technology for Good: Faculty Explores the Emerging Applications of Mobile and ICT for Human Betterment](#)

### Amal Esawi

Professor of mechanical engineering, School of Sciences and Engineering  
[The First to Specialize in Nanotubes in Egypt: Amal Esawi Works to Make Aluminum Stronger and Lightweight](#)

### Mohamed Farag

Professor of Chemistry  
[Casting a Wide Net: Mohamed Farag's Research in Metabolomics and Plant Biochemistry Leaves Impact Across Industries](#)

### Maki Habib

Professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering and director of the robotics, controls, and smart systems graduate program, School of Sciences and Engineering  
[A Passion and a Duty: Serving Humanity Through Robotics](#)

### Yehea Ismail

Professor and chair of the Department of Electronics and Communications Engineering and director of the center of nanoelectronics and devices, School of Sciences and Engineering and Zewail City  
[Chasing Circuits: AUC Spinoff Suitera Making Way for Future Generations of Electronics](#)

11  
AUC faculty among  
top 2%  
impactful scientists globally by  
Stanford University-Elsevier list



### **Mohy Mansour**

Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Sciences and Engineering  
[Paving the Way for Future Generations: Faculty Researches Generating Renewable Fuels from Waste](#)

### **Mohamed Swillam**

Chair and professor in the Department of Physics  
[Tackling Today's Issues: Faculty Research Targets Pollution, COVID-19](#)

### **Ezzeldin Sayed-Ahmed Yazeed**

Professor and chair of the Department of Construction Engineering, School of Sciences and Engineering  
[Building Materials of the Future: Faculty Researches Innovative Construction Materials](#)

### **Moustafa Youssef**

Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Sciences and Engineering  
[An Impressive Track Record: Moustafa Youssef's Research in Location Detection Technology Hailed Globally](#)

## **Faculty Research Spotlight**

[Professor Arafa](#)'s primary area of research is in the field of harvesting energy, mainly from mechanical vibrations. Energy harvesting refers to the ability to extract small amounts of energy from ambient sources that would otherwise be wasted. The aim is to provide sustainable energy for low-power applications, such as remote sensors and wearable devices, to reduce their reliance on batteries or conventional power sources. As mechanical vibration is ubiquitous, Arafa's research focuses on how to extract useful energy most efficiently and to search for novel materials and devices for energy harvesting. His research is also concerned with developing novel sensors for various applications, such as strain, temperature, and motion. This is a cross-disciplinary area that involves dynamics, materials science, and design optimization. The aim is to develop next-generation sensors for higher sensitivity and lower cost, in addition to finding ways to integrate different sensors and to study the interplay among them.

In a world increasingly aware of the need to look for new energy sources, and to use energy more wisely, Arafa's research on energy harvesting, in particular, is having an impact. The use of sensors and devices in the Internet of Things (IoT) is making possible novel ways of powering devices without relying on disposable batteries. The quest for sustainable and clean energy sources for small power levels is driving

the research into energy harvesting. More specifically, his research is paving the way to develop cheaper devices, which can have a substantial impact in low- and middle-income countries like Egypt. His research efforts are also making it possible to "fine-tune" devices to suit application domains, enabling the penetration of wider markets. Discoveries and refinements in the area of energy harvesting have the potential to make a major contribution to environmental protection and sustainable development.

**Professor  
Mustafa Arafa,  
department of  
engineering, was  
granted AUC's Faculty  
Merit Award in 2021.**





# Operations

## Embodying Sustainability

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





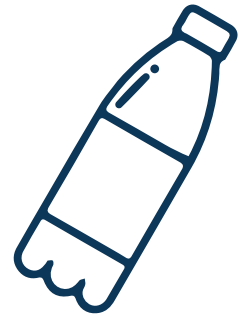
# Campus Operations Highlights



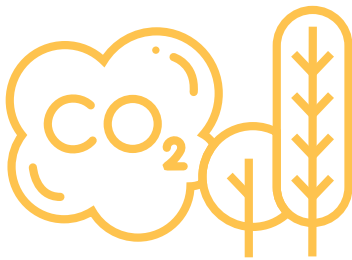
**50%**

reduction in energy use  
due to energy-efficient wall  
construction

**7.4**  
**million**



plastic bottles saved from  
campus filtered drinking  
water stations



**45%**

reduction in carbon footprint  
emissions as a result of  
COVID-19<sup>7</sup>



**19%**

reduction in electricity  
consumption since the  
start of the COVID-19  
pandemic<sup>8</sup>



**100%**

of campus irrigation  
uses treated waste-  
water



**168 MT**  
**CO<sub>2</sub>e**

of carbon sequestered  
from landscaping and  
composting (AY21)

<sup>7, 8</sup> This reduction is based on the difference between AY19 (normal operations pre-COVID year) and AY21 (disturbed operations amidst COVID year)

# 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 campus 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 a 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%.**

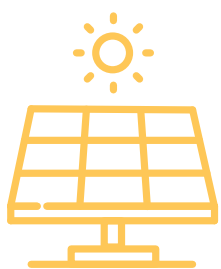


## Solar Energy Project: AUC Faculty Housing Plot 2

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 New Cairo off-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 November 2019, the project was 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 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 extensive research opportunities in the field of solar energy.



The solar project helps AUC reduce carbon emissions by an estimated **77 tons** per year.

## 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. LEED accredited professionals along with the AUC task force of faculty members, executive directors, and the Office of Sustainability director is working 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.



AUC Faculty Housing Plot 3  
Solar Heaters

The project is currently aimed at achieving LEED Silver certification. The certification application is currently under review by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) and the building is on track to receive the certificate by next academic year 2022-2033. 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 are being continuously monitored, and policies, such as no-smoking policies, waste management, or green cleaning have been partially implemented and 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.



# 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.

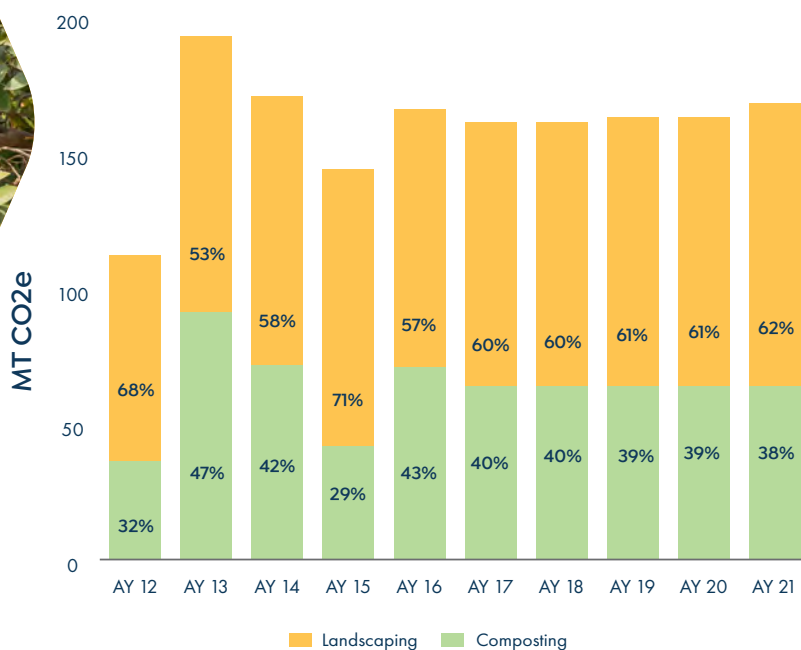
**168 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e**

sequestered from landscaping and composting in AY 21

The landscaping features on campus store and sequester CO<sub>2</sub> 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.



**Total Emission Savings from Landscaping and Composting, AY 12-21**





# 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 headed by the Office of Sustainability, and consists of representatives from senior administration, faculty members, facilities and operations with both hard and soft services, 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.

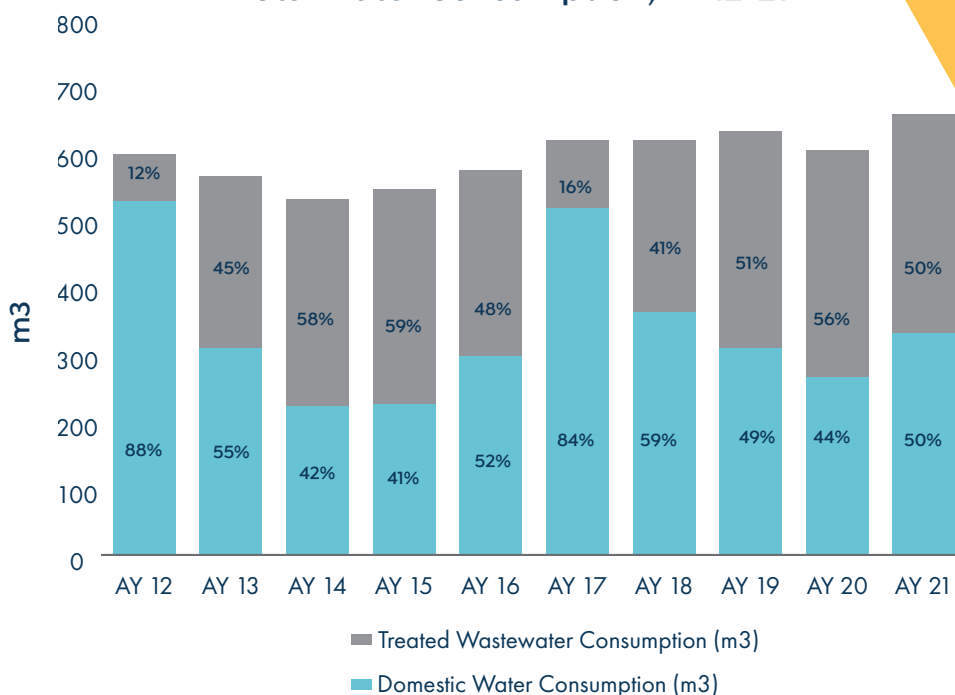
One of AUC's water conservation efforts is the use of treated wastewater to irrigate the landscaped areas on campus. Treated wastewater is a low-cost alternative to drinking-grade water and has a lower carbon footprint. Treated wastewater also reuses water that otherwise would have gone to waste, which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



AUC is meeting **50%** of its total water needs with treated wastewater, which is only used in irrigating **100%** of the campus landscape.



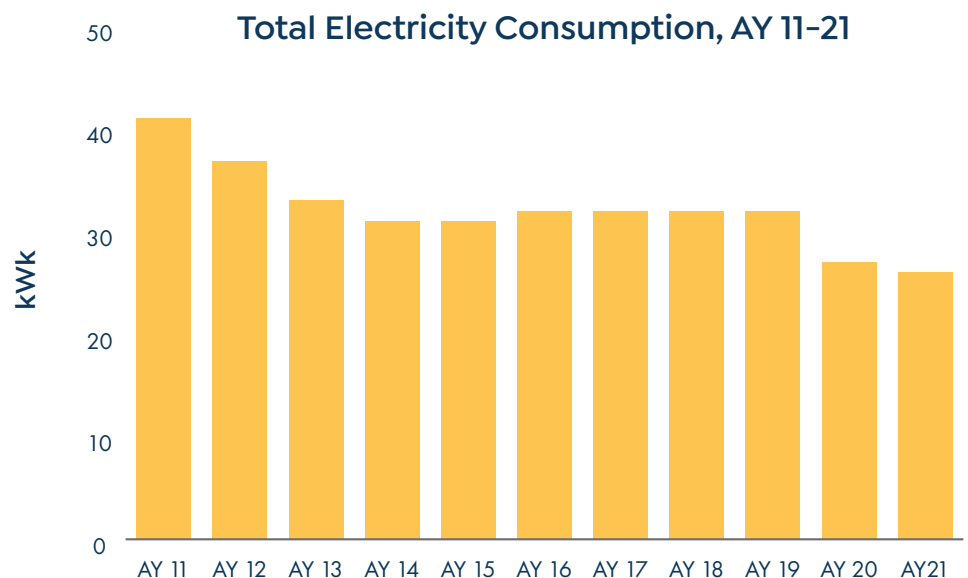
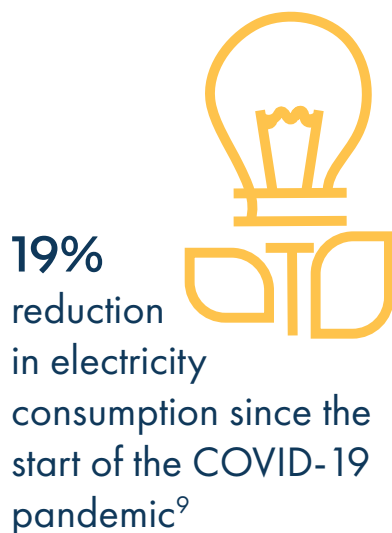
Total Water Consumption, AY 12-21



# Energy

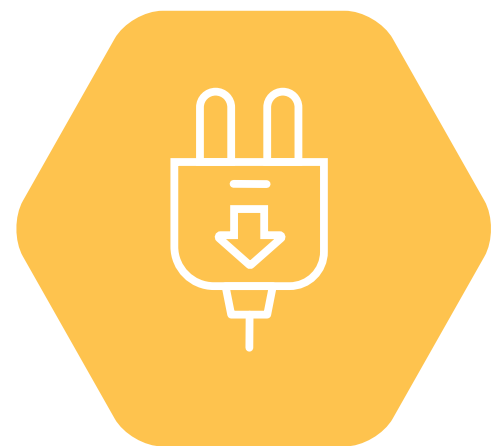
In order to maintain daily operations, AUC consumes a significant amount of energy. Most of this energy is used for air-conditioning, heating, and lighting. Most of our electricity comes from an on-campus co-generation plant that runs on natural gas, which burns cleaner than coal. This natural gas produces 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 water task force is headed by the Office of Sustainability, and consists of representatives from senior administration, faculty members, facilities and operations with both hard & soft services.



## COVID-19 Response

In March 2020, the University shifted to remote working and online teaching in response to COVID-19. As a result, the use of the HVAC system was limited to essential locations, such as the Rare Books library, IT rooms, and chemical labs and storage. HVAC operations in all non-essential locations were stopped, including the campus swimming pool. AUC effectively monitors its energy usage through a Building Management System (BMS) that controls internal comfort conditions in classrooms and buildings. Following the institutional guidelines around the COVID-19 pandemic, the ventilation and fresh air use in the buildings on campus increased. Normally, the minimum percentage of fresh air used to regulate building temperatures is 10% while the use of return air is 90%. Because of COVID-19, the percentage of fresh air increased to 40% while the use of return air decreased to 60%. This action was one of the many operational changes the University implemented to prioritize the health and safety of its campus members and prevent the spread of COVID-19.



<sup>9</sup> This reduction is based on the difference between AY19 (normal operations pre-COVID year) and AY21 (disturbed operations amidst COVID year)


# 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 who 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 35 filtered drinking water stations on the New Cairo campus, three stations in the faculty residences, and 23 stations located on the Downtown Tahrir campus. There are plans to add more chilled water dispensers in other heavily trafficked areas on campus in the near future.

In response to COVID-19 pandemic, the University has designated a new bin for disposing safely masks and gloves on campus. This precaution is in alignment with the pandemic safety measures to have a responsible waste management in such critical times.



The filtered water stations  
saved a total of  
**7.4 million**  
plastic water bottles



# 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 campus. AUC provides multiple buses a day 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 and faculty members six days a week, free of charge, and students can use it for a reasonable subscription fee.

## COVID-19 Response

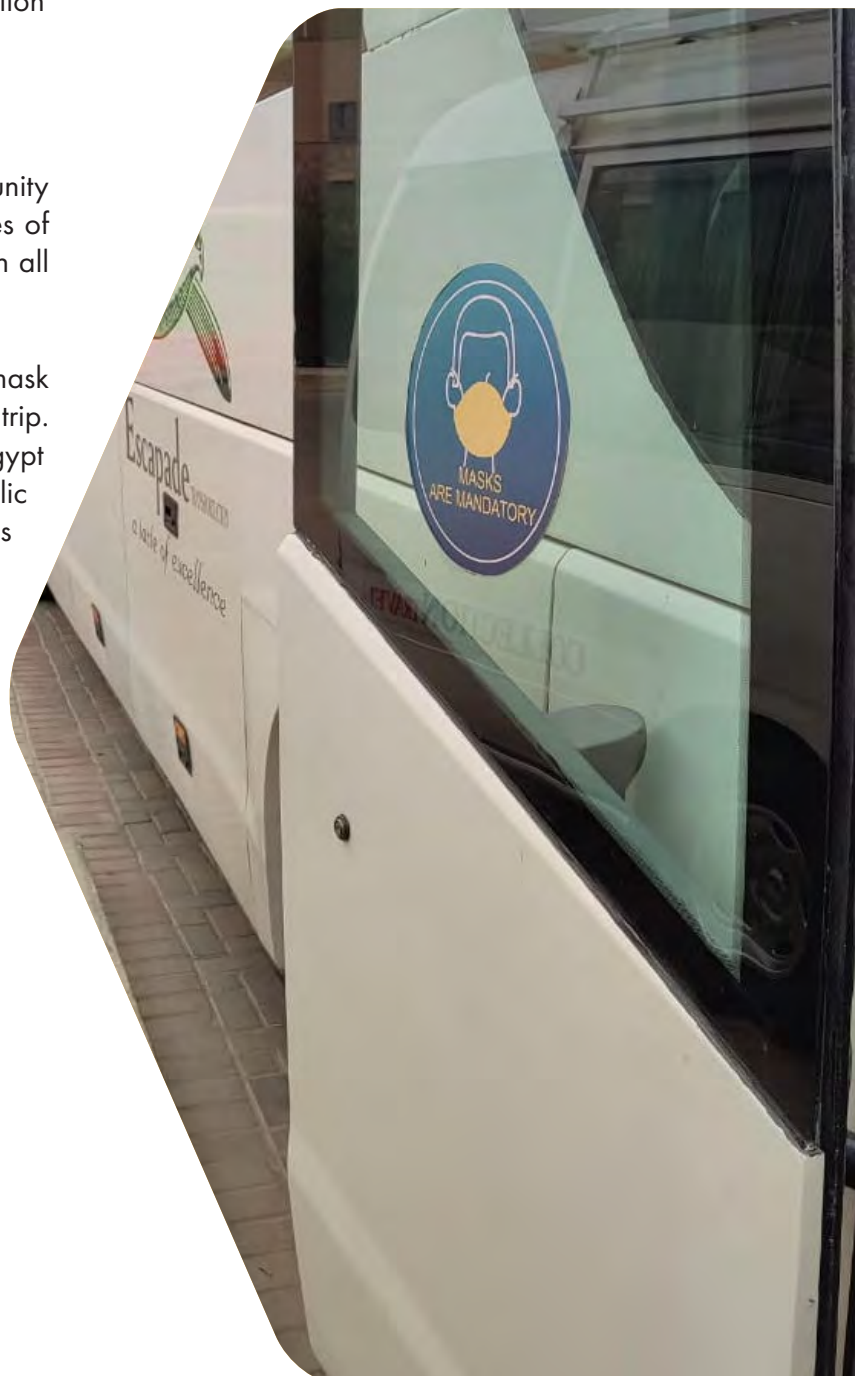
In line with AUC efforts to keep the AUC community safe during COVID-19, the following are examples of the measures that are implemented for all buses on all of AUC's bus routes:

On any AUC bus, all passengers must wear a mask before boarding and for the entire duration of the trip. This is in accordance with the Government of Egypt announcements requiring all persons utilizing public or private transportation or other for-hire vehicles to wear a face-covering over the nose and mouth during any such trips. Buses will be cleaned and disinfected after each trip, and if a COVID-19 case is found, the bus will be isolated and will undergo a deep cleaning and fumigation process.



Vaccinated passengers are **ONLY** allowed to ride the bus when their health status shows a green face via the Self-Check on the AUC Mobile app

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 [parking policy](#), it is stated that parking on campus is free for those who carpool to campus. The University is working with [Swvl](#), a ride-sharing transportation service, to provide [discounted rides](#) for those who will not be able to access AUC buses.



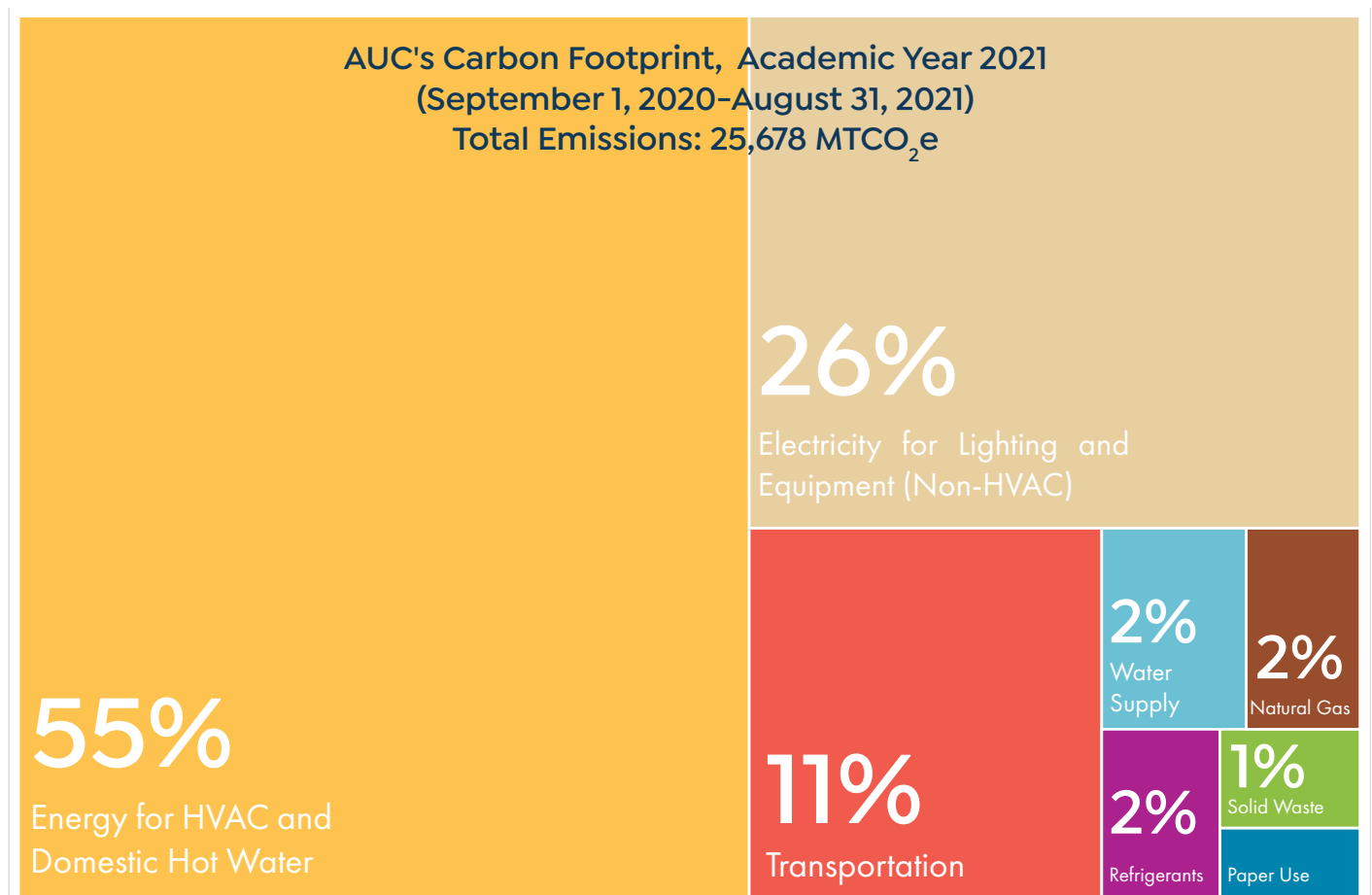


# Climate Impact

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world faces parallel threats of health, economic, and social crises. Given its harsh climate, growing population, and limited natural resources, the Middle East and North Africa region is among the most vulnerable regions to climate change impacts. Egypt faces many environmental threats, including air pollution, water scarcity and pollution, and food security. Despite 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 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 2021, AUC published its [6th Carbon Footprint Report](#) that shows trends for the past nine 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 (CO<sub>2</sub>) 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 2023, the 7th edition will be published.

The campus operations team made several adjustments to the systems and services on campus to account for the low occupancy. This included reductions in the use of the air conditioning system, lighting, food services activities, and bus services. The reductions in campus operations greatly impacted AUC's carbon emissions. The components of the University's carbon footprint decreased by COVID-19 include HVAC and domestic hot water, transportation, electricity for lighting and other equipment (Non-HVAC), paper use, water supply, solid waste disposal, and natural gas for domestic lab use.





# Campus Community

## 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 changemakers the tools and knowledge to build a more sustainable and just world. The COVID-19 pandemic severely limited in-person engagement; however, our community members found creative ways to increase sustainability awareness and instill sustainable practices while ensuring the health and safety of the campus community.



# Campus Community Highlights



**25**

student organizations  
working toward  
sustainability efforts



**16**

sustainability  
e-newsletters  
published



**93%**

of campus community  
vaccinated against  
COVID-19



**47<sup>+</sup>**

events related to  
sustainability

# Environmental Awareness

To engage community members in sustainability, the Office of Sustainability holds various outreach events focused on educating people on sustainable practices. Despite the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Sustainability continued to spread awareness of sustainability at AUC by celebrating international events virtually, such as World Water Day, World Environmental Day, Earth Day, and more.

In April 2020, to adapt to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Office of Sustainability held a [digital Earth Day campaign](#), which included the publishing of the Sustainability Report 2020 and Carbon Footprint Brochure to report AUC's AY 2019 carbon emissions. The campaign used platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, and the Office of Sustainability Newsletter to engage the AUC community in the environmental movement. The Office posted information about current global environmental issues, including plastic waste, water scarcity, climate change, and food waste, and provided tips for staying sustainable at home. The Office prepared trivia questions with sustainable prizes and posted short videos from each member of the Office of Sustainability describing what Earth Day means to them.





**1,511**  
Office of Sustainability  
facebook followers




## Digital Communication

Digital communication is an extremely important and effective tool to increase awareness and maintain engagement on important issues. To increase sustainability education and engagement across campus, the Office of Sustainability sends out a monthly Sustainability e-newsletter that updates recipients on new sustainability-related initiatives, events, and achievements on campus as well as the ways the community can get involved; besides, it gives readers green tips to use in their daily routine, and it includes an environmental calendar that highlights global sustainability and environmental celebrations. The [Sustainability e-newsletter](#) is sent through email to those who [subscribe](#) and is published to all AUC members, students, faculty, alumni, and staff, via News @AUC platform

Since the start of the Sustainability e-newsletter in March 2020, the Office of Sustainability has sent out 16 issues with topics ranging from eco-tourism, wildlife and climate change, Egypt's water crisis, and more.

**GREEN GUIDE**  
Tips for a sustainable lifestyle!

1. Ensure that you have with you a tote bag or a reusable waste bag to throw your litter in when going to the beach in case there is no nearby litter box. We know snacks are an essential part of all beach days, and we can still enjoy them whilst also protecting our environment!
2. Try to avoid taking multiple plastic water bottles to the beach, and invest in a larger reusable bottle that you could fill up and keep with you the whole day.
3. While swimming in the ocean, if you find any plastic bags, bottles or food wrappers try to take them out with you and dispose of them correctly, in order to protect any sea creature that could've ingested it.

**JUNE ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR !**

**June 5th: World Environment Day**  
Environmental awareness is the main goal of World Environment Day. Form a daily ritual that allows you to convene with nature and let yourself discover the connection between people and the environment. This will help you begin to understand our responsibility to our land, the waters and each other which benefits our well-being, and the health of the planet.

**June 7th: World Food Safety Day**  
To draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.

**June 8th: World Oceans Day**  
World Oceans Day aims to raise awareness of our oceans' role in our existence and show the importance of our oceans in sustaining life on the planet. World Oceans Day is a call to remind each and everyone of us to say no to plastic and switch to a zero-waste lifestyle to prevent ocean plastic from getting worse and to urge world leaders to protect our blue planet.

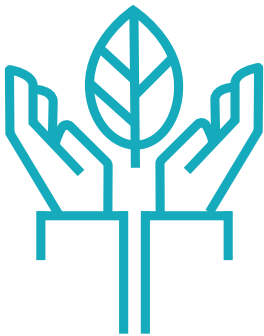


## Campus Sustainability Month 2021

After a full year of online mode of instruction, the University reopened in the Fall of 2021 with restrictions to ensure the safety of the community. With the vibrant campus back to a “new normal”, the Office of Sustainability hosted a series of face-to-face events to celebrate Campus Sustainability Month, an international month-long celebration of sustainability in higher education campuses. The month of programming included a series of awareness events covering an array of sustainability issues, including energy consumption, food and material waste, and transportation emissions. The Office provided informational materials about sustainability at AUC, hosted reusable bag giveaways, and encouraged the campus community members to share their ideas about new sustainable initiatives they would like to see on campus.



4 weeks of  
events for  
Campus  
Sustainability  
Month



# 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. 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 students' success. The

SDS endeavors to create a campus environment where all students are viewed based on ability rather than disability. AUC's [Disability Policy](#) provides and guarantees reasonable accommodations that enable qualifying students with disabilities to perform with other students.

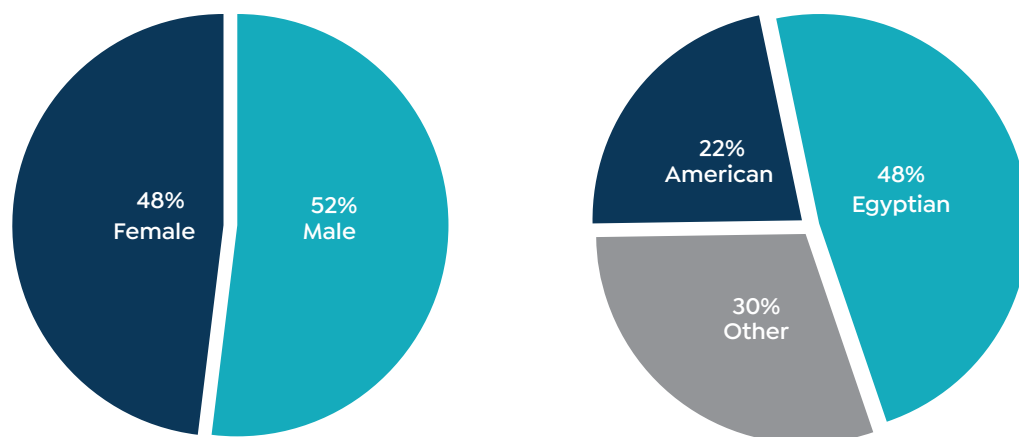
AUC also works to increase awareness and education about the importance of supporting a diverse and inclusive community. Every April, AUC celebrates World Autism Awareness Day by participating in the [Light It Up Blue global campaign](#). The AUC portal lights up in blue during the campaign to bring awareness to the day.



## 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.

Faculty Statistics, AY 20-21<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup> Data from Fall 2021 AUC Population Statistics



## AUC establishes the Office of Institutional Equity to combat sexual harassment

As a leading University in Egypt, AUC is keen to play a role in raising awareness about sexual harassment as an important social issue and support national and global efforts, in particular, as they relate to college campuses. To combat sexual harassment and safeguard its community, on August 1, 2020, AUC established the [Office of Institutional Equity \(OIE\)](#) to create a safe learning and working environment free from all forms of harassment and discrimination. The office reinforces and underpins AUC's [Anti-Harassment and Non-Discrimination Policy](#), and strengthens AUC's reporting channels. OIE educates and acquaints the AUC community with the policy set in place for sexual misconduct on and off-campus, receives reports of policy violations, investigates, and implements sanctions in accordance with the Policy, and directs individuals to available campus resources, including medical and counseling services, academic support, and legal assistance.

AUC has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual harassment in all its forms and remains unwaveringly committed to ensuring that its educational mission continues to be carried out in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. [#AUCSpeakUp](#) is a University-wide initiative to reinforce AUC's legacy of equity, inclusiveness, and safe campus. As part of this initiative, the University partnered with other institutions and prominent influencers to create a dialog series designed to raise awareness and advance this critical conversation. AUC also launched mandatory training for every member of the community, including the president and senior leadership across the board. AUC is the first to introduce such mandatory training for all faculty, staff, and students. An online training module was introduced in Fall 2020.

The Zoom training provided to senior academic and administrative leadership discussed Title IX (USA federal law) and Egyptian laws on sexual harassment/misconduct and their prohibitions and how they apply to community members, AUC's policy, the definition of sexual harassment/misconduct, reporting obligations, and more. To ensure the information was fully digested, participants were given scenarios and assessments to test their knowledge.

OIE is the principal point of contact for any harassment, discrimination, or sexual misconduct complaints. It ensures the University's prompt and equitable response in compliance with the Egyptian laws and policies to stop and prevent the recurrence of the harassment addition to remedying the effects. The office works closely with impacted individuals to provide them with the necessary support, backed by AUC's counseling services. Anonymous complaints of alleged violations can be reported through different channels, including an online reporting form, one-on-one meetings, or by emailing the OIE at [equity@aucegypt.edu](mailto:equity@aucegypt.edu). The University assures that information about cases remains confidential and is only shared on a need-to-know basis.

AUC is a founding member and the only institution outside of the United States to be part of the [Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education](#). The collaborative brings together leaders from over 60 academic and research institutions to work toward targeted, collective action on addressing and preventing sexual harassment across all disciplines and people in higher education. Action Collaborative members -- including universities and research and training institutions -- identify, research, develop and implement efforts that go beyond basic legal compliance to evidence-based policies and practices for addressing and preventing all forms of sexual harassment and promoting a campus climate of civility and respect.



# Health and Wellness

At AUC, the wellness of our community members is a twofold goal for both sustainability and 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.

## COVID - 19 Response

Due to the highly contagious and sometimes hidden nature of COVID-19, it is very difficult to control the spread of the disease or to determine whether, where, or how a specific individual may have been exposed to it. Throughout the pandemic, AUC remained committed to providing a safe academic and working environment for its faculty, students, and staff. It put in place new safety precautions and requirements, which are frequently updated, to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and protect the health of our community members as well as the wider Egyptian public. On March 15th, 2020, the University shifted to online teaching, which lasted for the entirety of the Spring and Summer semesters. The University also canceled events, limited gym, and sports activities, and urged the dorms to evacuate. At the same time, faculty and staff were required to work remotely, only reporting to campus when necessary. For the second half of AY 20 (March 15, 2020 – August 31, 2020), the campus operated with no students and very limited faculty and staff. In the Fall of 2021, AUC implemented a carefully planned and measured reopening of its campuses based on the best practices of the WHO, Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



**93%**  
of campus community  
vaccinated against  
COVID-19





In its preparations to return to face-to-face instruction in Fall 2021, AUC issued its [COVID-19 Campus Guidelines booklet](#).

Here is a glimpse of the measures taken to ensure a safe academic and work environment at AUC:

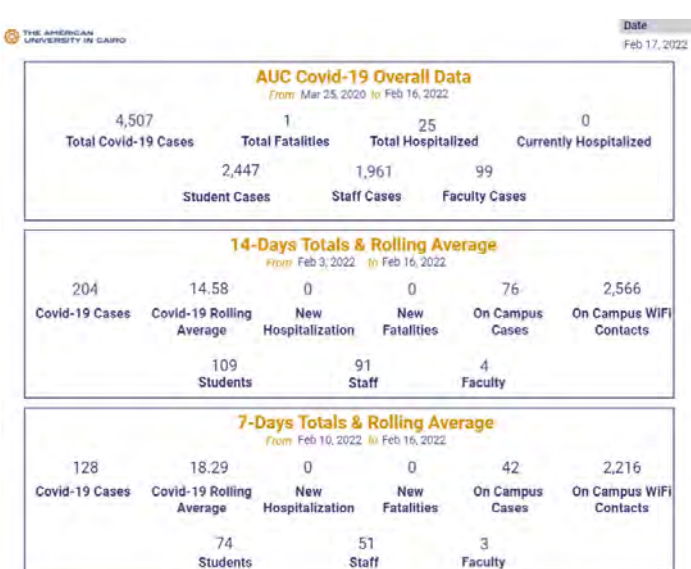
- Require COVID-19 vaccinations for all students, faculty, and staff who will access our campuses and the University Residences.
- Require submission of vaccination status, proof of vaccination, or request for exemptions from vaccination based on medical or other required accommodations before accessing the campus.
- Utilize enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols across campuses.
- Require face masks to be worn in all classrooms and shared environments on campus.
- Requesting faculty, students, and staff to observe social distancing practices, such as:
  - Maintaining a minimum distance of 1 meter in open spaces and 1.5 meters in learning spaces and other indoor areas
  - Avoid gatherings of large groups in common areas inside buildings
  - Limit large group meetings - utilize distance communication tools like zoom
- All members of the community must perform a health self-check and answer a 30-second questionnaire each day they plan to come to either campus and they will not be admitted on campus unless they present their results at the security gates.

## Campus Conversation

AUC has been closely monitoring and responding to the global situation pertaining to COVID-19 pandemic. AUC established a special Coronavirus Taskforce to review University readiness and act as a focal point of contact for sharing timely, accurate, relevant information with the AUC community and for responding promptly to individual inquiries. AUC Response Taskforce meets the community through [Virtual Campus Conversations](#) that are held regularly to provide the community with all updates with regard to AUC'S response to unfolding events regarding Coronavirus.

## Coronavirus Community Dashboard

As part of AUC's effort to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 and provide the needed data to the community, AUC developed its [Coronavirus Community Dashboard](#). The data collected for the dashboard is being used to compare with other American higher education institutions and to find meaningful trends and serve as triggers for decisions to open up the campus more in a phased approach or tighten measures. It is important to note that a key indicator is the seven-day rolling average number of AUC cases and the currently hospitalized AUC cases reported to the AUC clinic. Other important measures are national daily fatalities that are also reflected in the dashboard. AUC is closely monitoring the infection rate updates in both Egypt and the AUC community.





# Public Engagement

## 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 public events, external partnerships, and global initiatives, AUC is committed to sharing sustainability beyond its campus boundaries.



# Public Engagement Highlights



Community outreach projects

Global focus

Public events and conferences

External partnerships



Awarded a green rating of

## 98/99

by The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges



**#1** Sustainable University in Africa and Egypt according to 2021 UI GreenMetric World University Ranking



**6** global sustainability initiative memberships



**60+** educational partnerships with Universities and organizations across Egypt and the world

# 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.

## Ramadan Food Packs

In May 2021, during the holy month of Ramadan, community service student clubs, such as Mashrou3 Kheir, 3al Raseef, and Hand in Hand, collaborated with the SU's Student Social Responsibility sub-committee to raise donations and to [distribute food packages](#) for groups in need across Cairo. The packages included food items, such as sugar, oil, fava beans, salt, lemon, rice, and pasta. Through this collaboration, Mashrou3 Kheir was able to send food to more than 700 families throughout the month.

## Digitizing Community Service

To adapt to the changing circumstances around COVID-19, several AUC student organizations found ways to continue their community outreach efforts through [online modes](#). 3alraseef (On The Sidewalk), continued helping underprivileged and homeless children with their studies through online tutoring sessions. Revival, which aims to serve the homeless community in Cairo, initiated online workshops dedicated to training volunteers on how to teach illiterate people, and how to approach homeless people to accompany them to shelters.



# External Partnerships

## Digital Campaign with ECO EGYPT

In Fall 2021, The Office of Sustainability announced its collaboration with [ECO EGYPT](#), a nationwide campaign aiming to promote ecotourism and encourage sustainable tourism practices in and around protected areas in Egypt. ECO EGYPT is led by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and developed by the Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Egypt's Tourism (MBDT) project, implemented by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). As part of ECO EGYPT's Red Sea Marine Conservation Campaign, the first of its kind in the MENA region, the Office of Sustainability collaborated with the campaign by publishing its activities through the office's social media platforms to promote awareness about the importance of the marine and coastal environment and the harmful effects imposed on it by tourists. The Office of Sustainability included a list of sustainable tips aimed at keeping the coastal environment clean in its [12th newsletter edition](#).



## Sustainable Resource Management Programme to Solve Desert Ed Challenges (SuReMap)

The [Sustainable Resource Management Programme to Solve Desert Ed Challenges \(SuReMap\)](#) seeks to establish interdisciplinary MSc or diploma programs that train calibers to be suitably qualified to implement the "1.5 million feddan desert reclamation" target, as well as similar water, energy, and food-related challenges in the "Egypt 2030" strategy. The curriculum content is oriented towards the need to combine know-how in solar technology, hydrology, and irrigation with mechanical, electrical, soil engineering, and urban planning as well as ecological and environmental aspects. AUC together with the following partners have been involved in the project: RWTH Aachen, CITY College – Sheffield University, University of Palermo, Technical University of Madrid, Heliopolis University, Alexandria University, and Aswan University.

SuReMap seeks to create interdisciplinary competent engineers that are specialized in the WEF-nexus and able to design, install and maintain sustainable technological solutions in the areas of food production and agriculture, such as water and energy-efficient irrigation and production systems that are -primarily- relying on renewable energy sources. The program also aims to build the capacity of faculty and staff on e-learning and SuReMap content.

### DeVilag

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 prevent mass migration to Egyptian cities and across national borders. Every Egyptian university established or modified one or more educational programs as follows:

Graduate Program in Sustainable Development - **The American University in Cairo**

Professional Master in Sustainable Agriculture Intensification - **Cairo University**

Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture Development - **Future University**

B.Sc. in Organic Agriculture and B.Sc. in Water Engineering - **Heliopolis University**

The DeVilag program built the capacity of faculty members in four Egyptian universities to be able to teach the new or modified academic programs. In addition, four service offices were established in the four partner Egyptian universities. The DeVilag Service Offices (DSOs) conducted 52 training sessions, seminars, and webinars on topics including hydroponics and aquaponics, educating sustainability leaders, agricultural entrepreneurship, IPM, contract farming, WEF nexus, rural and urban migration, protected vegetable production.



1650+  
participants trained



# Public Events and Conferences

AUC hosts several public events to inform the public on environmental topics and engage in conversations about finding solutions to an array of sustainability issues. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of these conferences had to be shifted online. In some cases, it allowed larger accessibility for participation.

## “The Aftermath of COVID-19: The New Social Impact Ecosystem” a successful webinar series launched by John. D. Gerhart Center

The John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, Civic Engagement, and Responsible Business promotes social change in the Arab region by building a culture of effective giving, corporate social responsibility, and civic responsibility. In addition to disseminating research and policy papers, the center strives to build capacity for leadership among Arab youth and to enhance their ability to become more civically engaged, and positively impact society through social entrepreneurship, mentorship, and creativity.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the John D. Gerhart Center launched a webinar series "[The Aftermath of COVID -19: The New Social Impact Ecosystem](#)" to discuss concepts that are currently not mainstream and may (or perhaps should) become mainstream in the aftermath of the COVID -19. The webinar sessions have now become available on [Youtube](#).

These webinar sessions are free to register for, and anyone is welcome to join. Sessions take place once or twice per week, with links provided on the center's social media pages: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram. The vision was that this webinar would start interesting discussions that will later result in activities that will result in better societies and more responsible businesses. With great success, throughout the webinar series, this has already begun to take place.

The webinar series covers a range of discussions concerning sustainability and the COVID-19 pandemic including Social Justice and Health Equity, achieving a zero-emissions global economy through a Global Green New Deal, The Rise of Regenerative Economics, Sustainability Reporting in Capital Markets, and many more. The webinar series features distinguished speakers from the development field and other related fields around the world.

## SDG Progress and Building “Forward” Better

Presenter: Guillaume Lafortune, Director of Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN), Paris

[This webinar](#) discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by all UN member states in 2015, and how the SDGs can be used to support a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient recovery from the pandemic. The webinar underlined the role of political leadership and public investments to achieve key SDG transformations. It also emphasized the role of international financing mechanisms and why a strong multilateral system is needed to support the Decade of Action for the SDGs launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2019. The webinar was built on the findings of the 2021 Sustainable Development Report and insights from the Lancet Commission on COVID-19.



## Solar Decathlon Middle East (SDME)

AUC students, faculty, and staff joined forces to compete in the [Solar Decathlon Middle East \(SDME\)](#) 2021 in Dubai in November 2021. This year's competition offered to participating universities and their partners an unprecedented opportunity for global exposure since it aligned with the Dubai Expo 2020. Solar Decathlon

Middle East is an international competition for university students to design, build and operate sustainable solar-powered houses. The Solar Decathlon is considered the world's most important green construction competition, internationally known as the Sustainable Building Olympics. [AUC's Team "Oasis"](#) succeeded in the qualification phase and competed alongside a selected number of teams from internationally renowned institutions.



## International Conference on Green Climate and Smart Waste Management

In September 2021, The Office of Sustainability collaborated with the World Center for Environmental Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, a start-up company in the field of green entrepreneurship, to host the [International Conference on Green Climate and Smart Waste Management](#). Recycling waste experts from 20 different countries gathered at AUC to discuss the latest advanced environmentally-friendly technology in waste management. Those who could not attend due to COVID-19 travel restrictions have successfully participated from different parts of the world via the internet, in a highly professional interactive way, to present their valuable inputs to attendees. The conference provided insights on the best practices for recycling waste in smart cities around the world and the latest technology available for environmental start-ups interested in waste management.





# Public Events and Conferences

## Cairo Water Week

Cairo Water Week (CWW) is considered one of the biggest water-related events at the national, regional, and international levels. It is an annual event organized by the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Abdel Fatah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in collaboration with national, regional, and international partners. CWW is part of a series of activities aimed at better connecting water organizations and wider water sector industries, regional interests, and communities. The fourth edition of the CWW series of conferences, Cairo Water Week 2021, took place from 22nd - 24th of October in Cairo – Egypt. Under the main theme of “Water, Population and Global Change: Challenges and Opportunities”, this year's event discussed population issues and the impact of overpopulation on common management of transboundary rivers and climate change, as they have a direct impact on the water sector.

CWW is an important platform for professional engagement, exchanging and sharing of ideas, learning from others, and identifying areas for partnerships and collaborations. The key events, at which activities associated with the proposed topic, are several recent events and discussions that would highlight the links between water, population, and global changes.

In 2021, students from the MSc in Sustainable Development Program (SSDV) joined the CARES' team at the Cairo Water Week conference titled “Towards a Common Path for Sustainable Agriculture Management in Egypt” chaired by CARES Managing Director, Dr. Hani Sewilam, in his capacity as UNESCO Chair in Hydrological Changes and Water Resources Management in the presence of H.E. Nabila Makram, Egyptian Minister of Immigration and Egyptian Expatriate Affairs who gave the keynote speech. This event was organized by the DeVilag Project funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union. CARES Senior Agriculture Manager, Fahad Kimera ('18) discussed advances in water management and in particular improving water use efficiency during Cairo Water Week.







## The Africa Facilities Management Conference (FMCE)

In November 2021, AUC's Sustainability Director, Yasmin Mansour, attended The Africa Facilities Management Conference (FMCE), as a speaker under the sustainability theme. The overall theme of the conference was "Working Together to Accelerate Facilities Management adoption across Africa...A Year On." Mansour delivered a speech titled "Higher Education Leadership on Carbon Emissions Offset Initiative" where she also highlighted the accomplishments of AUC in emissions and published reports. The event was an opportunity to learn, conduct business, and network with fellow FM industry professionals. The conference brought together FM leaders from around the globe, including AUC's FM professionals: Eng. Sherif MagedChair AFM Africa, and AUC VP for Management and Operations, Shereen Shaker.

## AUC's Faculty Contributions

Dr. Hani Sewilam, CARES Director, participated in several workshops, interviews, and free access to public educational resources:

- [Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam \(GERD\): Power Needs vs. Water Security](#) as part of The African Strategic Forum sponsored by the Institute of World Politics
- ["Egypt, Sudan successfully internationalize Ethiopia dam crisis: Water expert"](#) in Daily News Egypt
- ["Water rivalry on the Nile"](#) in Ahram Online (English)
- "Climate Change Climate Shock - We are running out of time!" webinar as part of the Future Talks initiative, which is a cooperation between the Austrian Cultural Forum in Cairo and the American University in Cairo.



Dr. Hani Sewilam  
CARES Director

## Other AUC Contributions

Yomna El-Awamri, CARES' Community Projects Manager, was one of the panel members of the "Educating Sustainability Leaders" at the Greenish Festival held at the Greek Campus in 2021. The panel was moderated by SSDV student, Natalie Tamer, who also works at CARES as a project coordinator.

SSDV Alumna Heba Karmany '13 was interviewed in the margins of COP 26 on Nature Magazine Arabic's podcast to give her perspective on Green Technologies and the switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

# 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.

## The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges



In 2021, for the 6th year, AUC was named in [The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges](#). AUC is among 420 schools that were chosen for the guide based on an analysis of their institutional commitment to the environment and sustainability. It joins a school in Canada, one in Ecuador, and one in Greece, as the only non-U.S.-based colleges on the list. In 2021, AUC achieved a green rating score of 98 out of 99, an improvement of 4 points from the previous submission year.

"This recognition demonstrates our role as a global and regional model in terms of sustainability," said Yasmin Mansour, AUC's Office of Sustainability Director. Mansour continued, "we hope to continue implementing policies and programs that reinforce our commitment to maintaining an environmentally-friendly institution."

## United Nations Global Compact



In 2016, AUC declared its commitment to the [United Nations' Global Compact \(UNGC\)](#), 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 anti-corruption Conservation measures. In September 2020, the Office of Sustainability submitted its inaugural Sustainability Report as the [third communication on engagement \(COE\)](#). The COE is intended as a statement of continued support for the UN Global Compact and its ten principles. As part of UNGC's Egypt office, AUC has participated in training and networked with various Egyptian businesses.

## UNGC PRME

# PRME

*an initiative of the  
United Nations Global Compact*

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 [Principles for Responsible Management Education \(PRME\)](#). Through the John D. Gerhart Center, the AUC School of Business has not only implemented PRME, but has become a leader for PRME in Egypt and throughout the MENA region. In 2016, AUC hosted the regional PRME conference. With a theme of "Action for PRME and SDGs," the forum brought together professors from MENA universities participating in PRME and international PRME working group members for a series of workshops and discussions. Hosted on AUC's campus, they worked on 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.



## AASHE

AUC has been a member of [The Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\)](#) since 2011. AASHE is a membership association of colleges & universities, nonprofits, and businesses that work together to lead the sustainability transformation. The Office of Sustainability represents AUC in AASHE's annual conferences; besides, it adopts AASHE events, and practices, such as the Campus Sustainability Month in October, and AUC is featured in AASHE's newsletter. The Office of Sustainability is preparing to participate in AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS).



## UNEP Green Universities Toolkit

In 2015, AUC's sustainable campus practices were featured in the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\) 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 ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in Africa and Egypt

The American University in Cairo ranked 1<sup>st</sup> place in Egypt and Africa and 159<sup>th</sup> out of 956 institutions in this year's [University of Indonesia GreenMetric World University Rankings](#), an annual publication focused on raising awareness towards sustainability within universities. The University jumped almost 200 places as compared to 2020 when it came in at 323<sup>rd</sup> place among 912 institutions.

Using a questionnaire filled out by universities, the University of Indonesia (UI) looks at several key categories related to sustainability to calculate the rankings, including transportation, energy and climate change, setting and infrastructure, waste, water, and education. This year, indicators related to COVID-19 joined most categories, such as "the percentage of additional hand-washing facilities during COVID-19" and "number of innovative programs during COVID-19."



**AUC Ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in Africa, 21<sup>st</sup> in the Middle East**



As a leading institution in global education, we at AUC, have the unique opportunity to champion sustainability within Egypt, Africa, the Middle East, and the world at large. I believe that sustainability sits at the core of development. In Africa, in particular, it is crucial that we make the best use of our natural resources to ensure that our communities continue to thrive for generations to come

-Yasmin Mansour, Office of Sustainability Director, AUC







## Moving Forward Sustainability Future

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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.



# Achievements from the Baseline Sustainability Report

The following sustainability achievements represent a snapshot of the main areas that have been developed since the 2020 Sustainability Report. Performance assessment and progress tracking is a continuous process to monitor and evaluate the sustainability efforts campus-wide.



AUC succeeded to incorporate sustainability concepts into the curriculum of academic disciplines offered in AY 2020-2021.



Management and Operations Area Offices, including the Office of Sustainability, succeeded to create a Dashboard in cooperation with Strategic Management and Institutional Effectiveness (SMIE) Office, to monitor campus operations and develop cooperation strategies among campus operations team.



The Office of Sustainability has initiated campus-wide Sustainability Practices Policies and Procedures after working with campus' offices and departments to instill sustainability practices in their daily work routine.



The University's sustainability efforts succeeded to increase our global exposure in sustainability field by keeping the AUC engaged in up-to-date conferences, rankings, awards and others. For example, the Office of Sustainability, in cooperation with Strategic Management and Institutional Effectiveness (SMIE) Office, submitted in new global rankings under the sustainability section, such as the [Times Higher Education Impact Ranking](#) for 2022 and [QS World University Rankings](#) for 2022.

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 will continue working on practices that can be instilled on campus to further our sustainability commitment and to position our University as a sustainability leader not only locally and regionally, but also globally.

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UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals	<a href="https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/">https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/</a>
The School of Sciences and Engineering	<a href="https://sse.aucegypt.edu/home">https://sse.aucegypt.edu/home</a>
The School of Business	<a href="https://business.aucegypt.edu/">https://business.aucegypt.edu/</a>
The School of Global Affairs and Public Policy	<a href="https://gapp.aucegypt.edu/home">https://gapp.aucegypt.edu/home</a>
The School of Humanities and Social Sciences	<a href="https://huss.aucegypt.edu/">https://huss.aucegypt.edu/</a>
Corporate Social Responsibility and NGO Partnerships	<a href="https://catalog.aucegypt.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=36&amp;coid=83221">https://catalog.aucegypt.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=36&amp;coid=83221</a>
Environments, Ecologies, and the Anthropocene	<a href="https://catalog.aucegypt.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=37&amp;coid=87517">https://catalog.aucegypt.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=37&amp;coid=87517</a>
Graduate Program in Sustainable Development	<a href="https://sse.aucegypt.edu/programs/graduate/sustainable-development">https://sse.aucegypt.edu/programs/graduate/sustainable-development</a>
Center for Applied Research on the Environment and Sustainability (CARES)	<a href="https://sse.aucegypt.edu/centers/cares">https://sse.aucegypt.edu/centers/cares</a>
Global Changes and Sustainable Development	<a href="https://catalog.aucegypt.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=37&amp;coid=87996">https://catalog.aucegypt.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=37&amp;coid=87996</a>
Water, Energy, and Food Technologies (WEFT)	<a href="https://sse.aucegypt.edu/programs/graduate/water-energy-food-diploma">https://sse.aucegypt.edu/programs/graduate/water-energy-food-diploma</a>
WEFT 102 Agri-Entrepreneurship	<a href="https://catalog.aucegypt.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=34&amp;poid=6577#">https://catalog.aucegypt.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=34&amp;poid=6577#</a>
WEFT 312 WEF Technology II (Sustainable Farming Systems)	<a href="https://catalog.aucegypt.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=34&amp;poid=6577">https://catalog.aucegypt.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=34&amp;poid=6577</a>
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