



The American  
University in Cairo

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# GREEN GUIDE

An introduction to campus  
sustainability at AUC





# CONTENTS

Our Sustainable Campus	02
Energy	04
Waste Management	05
Transportation	07
Water Use	08
Wellness	09
Campus Outreach and Awareness	10
Academics and Research	11
Global Focus	12

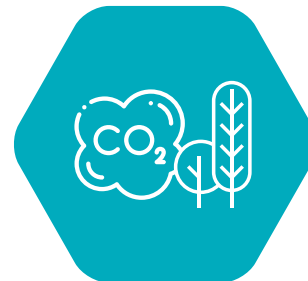
The source of facts and figures provided in this publication is AUC's Sustainability Report 2020 and Carbon Footprint Report 2021.

# OUR SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

## QUICK FACTS



In 2019, for the sixth year in a row, AUC was the **only college in the Middle East and North Africa region ranked in the Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges**



**First University in the region to produce a carbon footprint report** in response to the alarming implications of climate change and Egypt's regional energy significance



**\$1.29 million in research funds** from external sponsors dedicated to sustainability research



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



**25 student organizations** related to sustainability



**\$387,730** dedicated to sustainability efforts on campus in 2019



## 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 greener, equitable and long-lasting world.

## What Sustainability at AUC Is All About

In the face of global climate change, AUC seeks to be a regional and global leader in reducing our impact on the planet. Thus, AUC is committed to sustainable practices through a variety of global measures.

Our sustainability objectives aim to integrate environmental and social sustainability into the University's culture, mission and activities. AUC's sustainability efforts are geared toward reducing the use of natural resources and operating costs and instilling a mindset of sustainability in the community by supporting University programs in education, research and operations.

Throughout this **Green Guide**, we will break down the diverse projects that AUC works on and show you how you can get involved in our mission of making our campus, community and planet happier and healthier.



# ENERGY

In order to maintain daily operations, AUC consumes a significant amount of energy. Most of this energy is used for air conditioning and heating, as well as the lighting system and other equipment. However, the University is a diverse and dynamic place where energy is used for anything from running physics experiments to preserving rare books in the AUC Library.

The Office of Sustainability keeps meticulous data about how much energy is being used, where and how. Every month, the **Energy and Resource Conservation and Efficiency Committee** meets to discuss **energy consumption trends** and brainstorm how we can **reduce our demand**.

Energy reduction is already happening all around campus. Most of **our electricity** comes from an on-campus **co-generation plant**. Running on **natural gas**, which burns cleaner than coal, this **sophisticated system** produces both **electricity** and **steam**, which, instead of being wasted like in traditional plants, is **reused** for things like **heating**. This **reduces** the **overall amount of energy** we need and the amount of **fossil fuel** we **burn** to generate it.

The Office of Sustainability also places **informational signs** in offices and residences to **remind** users to **turn off** their **lights**, **turn down** the **air conditioning** and **practice** other **sustainable habits**.

AUC is also working on introducing solar panels on campus in an effort to turn to clean energy alternatives that save resources



**50% reduction in energy**  
use due to energy-efficient wall  
construction



**30% reduction in  
energy consumption**  
since 2011

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Turn it off

Turn off the lights whenever you leave a room, and turn off electrical equipment when not in use.

### Chill out

Always close all doors and windows when running the air conditioning, and be sure to set it no lower than 24 °C in the summer and no higher than 21 °C in the winter.

### Request maintenance

Put in a maintenance request for help with a hot, cold or drafty room.

### Use the window blinds

Remember to close blinds on hot days to keep the room cool, and open them on cold days to let the heat in.

### Don't use screensavers

Using screensavers actually wastes energy and money.

### Choose energy-saving mode

Enable power saving on your computer, and turn your computer off before you leave the office.





## WASTE MANAGEMENT

One of the biggest challenges to sustainability on any campus is waste. Every day, students, faculty and staff produce a considerable amount of waste: packaging from snacks, scratch paper from exams and more. AUC's Office of Sustainability works to reduce our waste stream and divert as much recyclable material away from landfills as possible.

AUC has full **waste-sorting stations** in the most frequented locations on campus, with options for **plastic**, **cans** and **other trash**. Additionally, we have individual **recycling and trash bins** around campus, and almost **every office** at AUC has a **paper-recycling** bin.

Collecting and initially processing recyclables and waste is only half the battle. Luckily, the Office of Sustainability has partnered with the Clean and Green Committee – a group of dedicated faculty and staff members – to ensure that we correctly handle the **recyclable materials** we collect. Some **paper** is **donated** to **local charities** like Resala and The Association for the Protection of the Environment; the remaining **paper**, **aluminum** and **plastic** is **compacted and sold**, with **proceeds** going back into **sustainability** efforts on **campus**.



**Coffee cups at the on-campus TBS branch are recyclable**, made from craft and double-layered paper



**Tabali at AUC New Cairo switched from placing food orders in paper bags to reusable bags**

AUC has **water dispensers** in various locations around campus that supply **filtered, chilled drinking water for students, faculty and staff** to fill their reusable bottles. This initiative **reduces plastic water bottle usage on campus** and helps decrease AUC's solid waste emissions.



**2.9 million plastic bottles** saved from campus filtered drinking water stations

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Bring your own and reuse

The first step to sustainability is to use less! Bring a reusable bottle, mug and cutlery to work or school. You will avoid all the waste of single-use plastic, paper and Styrofoam.

Before you buy something new or throw something away, think about how it can be reused.

Use unfinished notebooks in the following semester.

Choose multiuse shopping bags instead of disposable plastic bags. Seoudi Mini Market on campus sells reusable bags that customers can buy instead of using plastic bags.

### Recycle

Use the waste-sorting bins on campus and sort your recycling.

Keep in mind that any recyclable item should not contain liquid, food waste or residue.

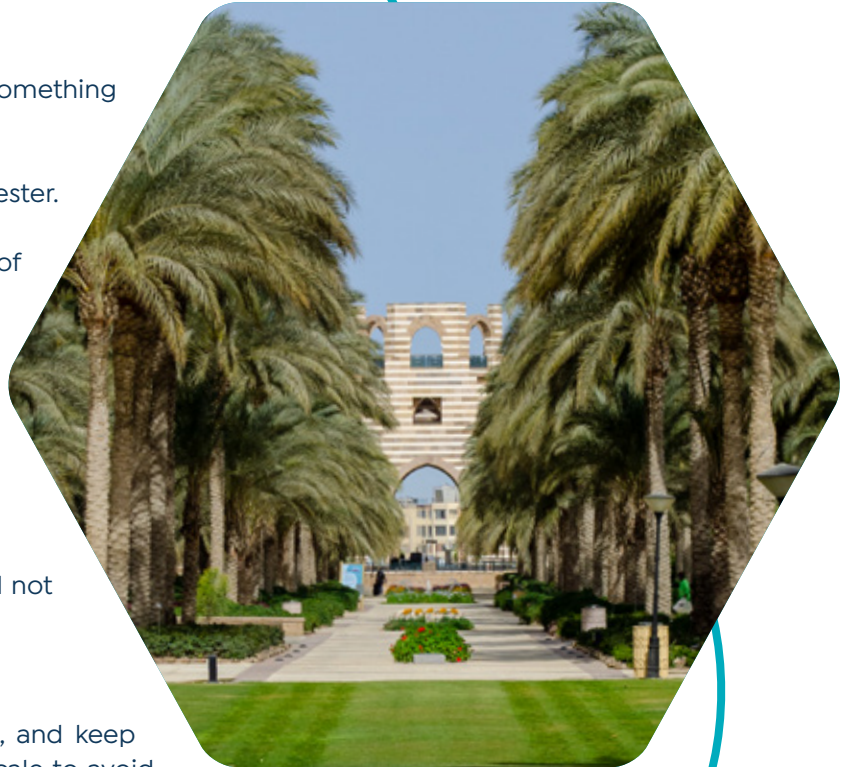
### Go e-green

Do you really need to print that? Use email, and keep things online or print two-sided and in grayscale to avoid wasted paper, ink and energy.

### Use paper alternatives

Use AUC's prepaid electronic payment system, AUC Pay, for on-campus purchases instead of cash.

Switch to hand dryers to eliminate the need for paper towels in the restroom.



# TRANSPORTATION

When AUC moved to its new home in New Cairo, 35 kilometers east of Downtown, we committed ourselves to providing more **sustainable transportation options** for our community members – other than private cars – to get to and from campus. AUC currently provides **multiple buses** a day along **13 routes** that serve greater Cairo, connecting New Cairo to **Maadi, 6th of October, Downtown** and **more**. The bus service is available to staff members and students **six days a week** at peak commute times. Find out more about AUC's bus system by visiting [www.aucegypt.edu/services/bus](http://www.aucegypt.edu/services/bus).

AUC works on **increasing bus ridership** and encouraging people to make smarter choices about their commute through **designed campaigns**, such as the **“Go Green, Go Bus”** campaign that was designed to educate students, faculty and staff about the bus options available to them.

For people whose busy schedules do not quite align with the bus schedule, we have worked on various projects to **connect** AUCians to potential **carpool partners**. We also **waive** the **parking fee** for **carpoolers** to incentivize ride sharing.

The campus itself is completely **walkable**. Most areas are reserved for **pedestrian-only** use, making it a safer and more pleasant experience. Students, faculty and staff get to stretch their legs, enjoy the **fresh air** and take in the beautiful **architecture** and **landscaping** by walking between classes and meetings.

For another viable and sustainable transportation option on campus, AUC is launching **Bikie**. This new **bike-share system** provides **bicycles** for campus **community** members to **share** and use for **short periods of time**. The program promotes a **healthy lifestyle** to community members through **exercise**, **lowers environmental impact** through **emission reduction** and endorses **community-oriented transportation**.



**39%** of AUCians use  
AUC's bus service to  
commute to and from  
campus

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Take the bus

AUC buses go all over the city at convenient commuting times. Check out all 13 routes; you will surely find one that gets you close enough to home to take local public transit, walk or take a short taxi ride.

### Share a ride

Carpooling is better for the environment. Fewer cars on the road means reduced emissions and improved air quality. It also means less money spent on car fuel and parking.

### Apply green driving techniques

- Check your car tire pressure. Under-inflated tires can increase fuel consumption.
- If you are stopping for more than 30 seconds, turn your car off.
- Drive smoothly. Aggressively accelerating and braking lowers your fuel economy.
- Roll down your window in bearable outdoor weather. Air conditioning can increase fuel consumption by up to 20% because of the extra load on the engine.
- Service your car regularly. A well-tuned car will use less fuel.
- Make sure your fuel cap is firmly screwed on to avoid evaporation and leaks.
- Don't store heavy objects in your car for long periods of time. Extra weight decreases gas mileage.





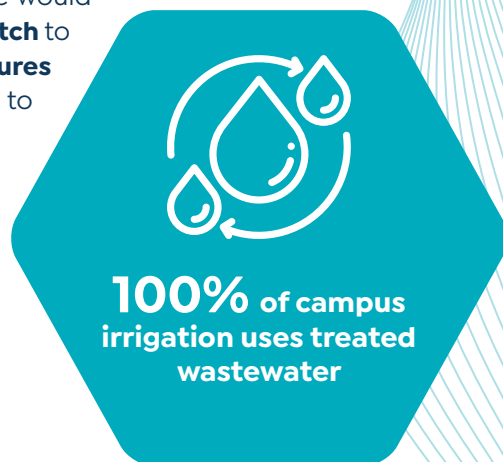
# WATER USE

Our campus **water consumption** has major **environmental impacts**. Not only is water a **scarce resource** here in the **desert**, but also **pumping water** throughout **campus** requires **energy**, which contributes to our overall **carbon footprint**. AUC's **Energy and Resource Conservation and Efficiency Committee** meets on a monthly basis to **discuss water-use levels** and ultimately **reduce** how much **water** our **campus consumes**.

One of the most exciting parts of AUC's water conservation efforts is our **use of treated wastewater** to **irrigate** our beautiful **landscape**. Treated water is **cheaper** than drinking-grade water and has a smaller carbon footprint. It also **reuses precious water** that otherwise would have gone to **waste**. In this, we are part of a **national movement** to **switch to treated wastewater landscaping**. We have also installed **low-flow fixtures** (faucets and showerheads) and informational signs **across campus** to **reduce** domestic **water use**.

AUC's filtered, chilled drinking water stations put cleaner, healthier water within everyone's reach. These **stations** help **reduce lead** and other **harmful particulates** in **drinking water** and allow for **minimal splashing** when filling **reusable bottles** and **cups**.

**35** bottle-filling stations  
around campus providing chilled  
and **filtered** drinking **water**



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Turn it off

Make sure to turn off the faucet while shaving, brushing teeth, scrubbing hands or doing dishes. Only turn it on when you need to rinse. You will save lots of water!

### Shorten your shower

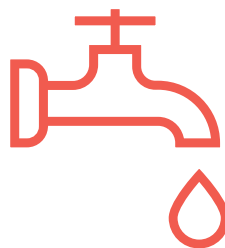
Your shower should not take longer than 3 minutes. If you want to be even more conscious, turn off the water while shampooing your hair and between soaping up and rinsing.

### Drink filtered water

Refill a reusable bottle with filtered water instead of buying bottled water.

### Don't throw trash or paper towels in the toilet

Every time you flush a tissue or other small bit of trash down the toilet, you're wasting liters of water. Throw trash in the wastebasket instead.



# WELLNESS

The ultimate goal of all **sustainability** efforts is a **healthy planet** that will allow more people to live **happier** and more **productive lives**. AUC New Cairo's **large plazas** and **extensive garden areas** provide an excellent opportunity to **walk around** and get some **fresh air** and **exercise**.

When in need of a snack, several **food outlets** on campus offer **healthy** and **nutritious options** like salads, smoothies and fruit. People can also make use of our beautiful, **three-mile running and biking path** that winds around inside the campus gates, providing a **safe** and **comfortable place** for anyone wanting to **run outside**.

**Students** who want to get exercise while developing **teamwork skills** and **friendships** can participate in numerous **team sports** at the club and **intercollegiate levels**.

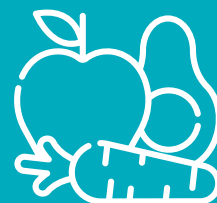
In 2018, AUC became the **first University** in Egypt to **ban smoking**. A **tobacco-free** campus **clears the air** for everyone who works and studies at AUC, and encourages **smokers** to take steps to **reduce** their **nicotine addiction** and risk of coronary and pulmonary diseases, including cancer.

View the Tobacco-Free Community Policy here:  
[www.aucegypt.edu/about/university-policies](http://www.aucegypt.edu/about/university-policies).

AUC provides **free smoking-cessation services** daily at the **Office of Medical Services**. Many choices that are healthy for your body are also better for the planet.



**90% campus approval of AUC's tobacco-free policy**



**100% of surveyed food vendors** on campus use **local products** and **50% purchase fruits and vegetables** only when **in season**



**1,175 trees** planted in AUC's garden

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Eat green

Meat is one of the biggest contributors to greenhouse gases, and raising animals uses a lot of water and resources. You do not have to be a vegetarian to make smart choices and cut down on your meat intake. Grab a salad or a piece of fruit. It is better for the planet and for you!

### Eat local

Seasonal and sustainable food is riper and more flavorful than imported, off-season food. Eating local means treating your taste buds. It also means supporting our local food producers who depend on us, showing that we care.

### Go outside

Enjoy the sunshine and fresh air in our campus gardens. It is a great way to relax, recharge and reconnect with nature.

# CAMPUS OUTREACH AND AWARENESS

AUC community members are our most important partners in building a **sustainable campus**. While the **Office of Sustainability** largely works to support and **catalyze community efforts**, AUC needs **students, faculty and staff** to lead by practicing sustainable habits and **fostering** a broad-based **culture of awareness**. The office, therefore, reaches out to our environmental activists across campus to instill in more AUCians lasting **respect** for our **fragile** campus and world. We aim to give the rising generation of change-makers the tools and knowledge to build and lead a more sustainable and just world.

We produce and support exciting, new **events every semester**. Our Clean and Green Committee of faculty and staff members is an important interface with the academic community. **Faculty** members provide **training** sessions at **orientation**, spread information about **sustainability events** and initiatives and lead **nature walks** through our beautiful **campus gardens**.

We celebrate **Earth Week** in April with several days of **diverse programming** about the **environment, climate change** and how individuals can **make an impact**. Each year at **Earth Hour**, we let the **entire campus** go **dark** for one hour to raise awareness about the amount of power used on a daily basis.

All year round, we publicize **sustainable resolutions** and awareness **tips** in AUC's daily newsletter, **News@AUC**, for people to make small, **lasting changes** in their daily routines that could **reduce** the **negative impact** on our environment.



**14** student organizations  
actively **participating in**  
**community outreach**  
projects and campaigns





## ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

AUC's **commitment** to **sustainability** extends to its **educational mission** as well. Across the University, professors, students and researchers are probing **what sustainability means** through a variety of **course offerings, research initiatives and activities**.

AUC was the **FIRST** University in the Middle East and North Africa region to offer a **Master of Science in Sustainable Development**. Concentrations in engineering, business studies, public policy or social sciences may be pursued, depending on the student's interests and background. In addition to the theoretical and analytical components of the program, students are encouraged to carry out community-based activities. The program has been ranked by Eduniversal as the top master's program in Africa with a focus on sustainability and green technologies.



**13** sustainability-focused **degree** programs



**440** sustainability courses

Sustainability research at AUC works toward solutions that support social well-being, economic prosperity and environmental health. AUC student and faculty research addresses sustainability issues on both the local and international scales, with many projects relating to Cairo and the surrounding areas.

**7** research centers on campus conducting sustainability research



Master of Science in sustainable development is **No. 1** in Africa

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Look for sustainability across disciplines

Even if a course does not have “environment” or “sustainability” in its title, it could touch on important principles and topics related to our impact on the planet. Be sure to browse all of our course offerings to see what classes in your major will give you the critical thinking skills to engage with sustainability and environmental thinking.



## GLOBAL FOCUS

Since the founding of **AUC** in 1919, it has been a **distinctly global University**. While many of our sustainability efforts are internally focused, throughout all of our work, we **maintain** an outward, **global outlook**.

AUC has been a member of the **Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)** since 2011. The University also participates in multiple international sustainability rating programs. Since 2013, AUC has been listed and ranked by the **Universitas Indonesia (UI) GreenMetric**, a global listing of universities dedicated to sustainability. In 2019, for the sixth year in a row, AUC was the only college in the MENA region ranked in the Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges. The **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** also recognized AUC as a **global exemplar of University sustainability**, one of only two schools in Africa chosen for inclusion in their **"Greening Universities Toolkit."**



AUC ranked **third in Africa in the 2020 UI GreenMetric** ranking

Central to all of these global rankings is AUC's biennial **Carbon Footprint Report**. First published in 2012, this report is **one of its kind** in the **Middle East and North Africa**. The Office of Sustainability updates the report with measurements from across campus to develop a **comprehensive understanding** of our **contributions to climate change**. By sharing our own experience, we aim to **encourage** other universities in the region to compile and analyze their own **carbon footprint** data. AUC also engages continuously with the **UN Global Compact (UNGC)**, the world's largest sustainability initiative, which urges global organizations to align operations with principles on **human rights**, labor, the **environment** and **transparency**.



**6** global sustainability initiative memberships







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