The black pyramid represents the volume of greenhouse gases emitted by AUC in the 2016 academic year. It is roughly five times the volume of the three pyramids in the Giza complex combined.
The carbon footprint is a tool to assess the impact of an organization or activity on the environment by measuring the amount of greenhouse gases – the cause of global warming – emitted into the atmosphere each year.

At AUC, the main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions include: heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC); domestic hot water; transportation; lighting; and electrical equipment. Other contributors are natural gas, water supply, refrigerant leakage, paper use and solid waste disposal.

The University’s carbon footprint estimates the quantities of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere as a result of its direct operational emissions, such as electrifying the campus and indirect emissions, which include commuting by faculty, students and staff. The carbon footprint is expressed in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

AUC'S AY2016 CARBON FOOTPRINT 46,299 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent

See the Office of Sustainability's full 2017 Carbon Footprint Report for more information.

aucegypt.edu/about/sustainable-auc/sustainable-campus
2016 ACADEMIC YEAR

DID YOU KNOW

FACTS ABOUT AUC’S CARBON FOOTPRINT

46,299 metric tons of carbon dioxide

= 107,192 barrels of oil burned (30.4 million liters of oil)

= 1,199,892 trees for 10 years

40% Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC)

32% Commuting by bus or car

19% Electricity used for lighting and powering equipment

7.7 metric tons Carbon emission per AUC student

11,477 metric tons Commuters driving cars to campus

aucegypt.edu/about/sustainable-auc/sustainable-campus
Excerpt from Message from the President,

Scientists across the world have raised their voices to warn of imminent threats to global health, security and order due to climate change. These risks span a vast range, including flooding from sea level rise, increased incidence of severe storms, and geopolitical instability due to climate refugees. While many of these threats have yet to manifest fully, some are already taking hold of the world’s most susceptible regions. Given its coastal exposure, already harsh climates, and growing population, the Middle East and North Africa region can be considered one of the world’s most vulnerable.

We at The American University in Cairo recognize that climate change is a global challenge and solving it will require decisive global action. We also believe that global institutions such as AUC have a particular responsibility to catalyze action in their communities. This series of Carbon Footprint Reports represents the first attempt in the region to measure a university’s impact on global climate change. The data we have collected and the expertise we have grown enable us to work towards lessening our impact, and our working method is primed to serve as both a model and a challenge to others to measure their own impact.

Francis J. Ricciardone
President
The American University in Cairo