



The American
University in Cairo

CARBON²⁰²¹ FOOTPRINT REPORT



WHAT IS A CARBON FOOTPRINT?

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 main contributor to global warming – emitted into the atmosphere each year.

At AUC, the three main contributors to Greenhouse Gas emissions include: heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and domestic hot water, transportation, and electricity for lighting and other equipment (Non-HVAC). Other minor contributors are emissions from: refrigerants, paper use, water supply, solid waste disposal, natural gas for domestic and lab use, and fertilizers.

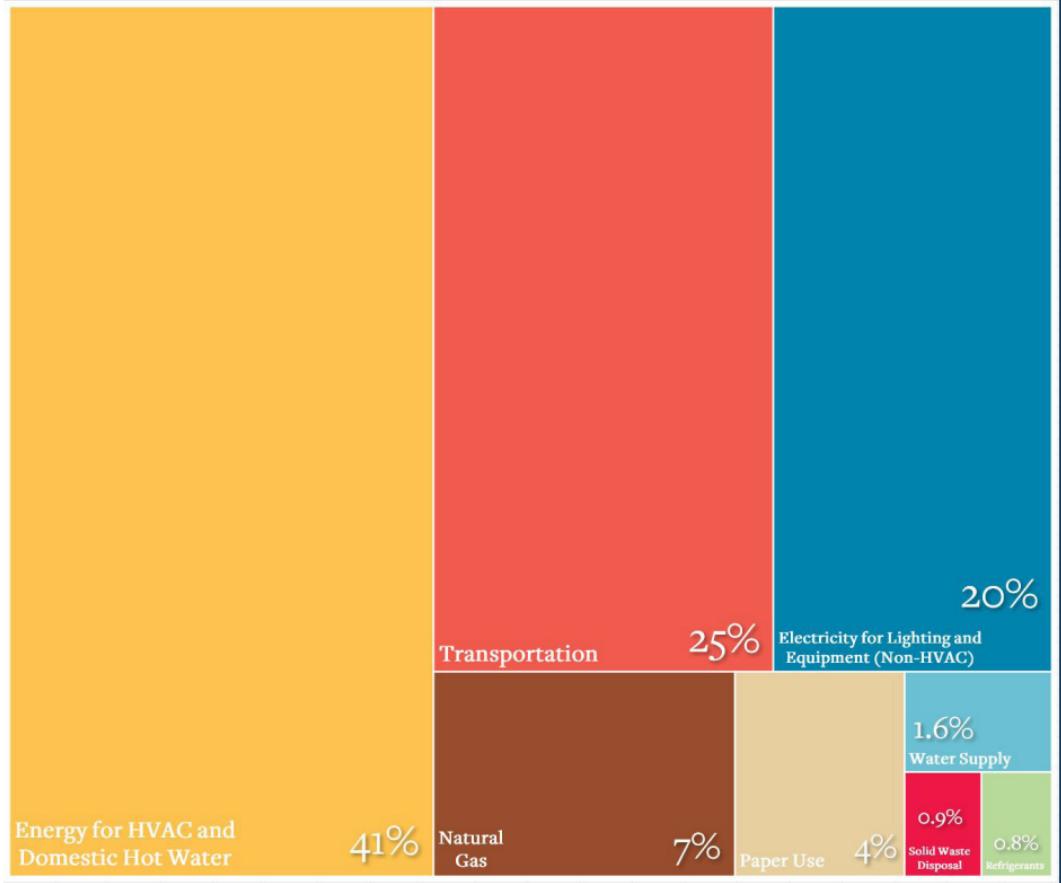
The University's carbon footprint estimates the quantities of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere as a result of its operations, such as providing water and electricity needed for faculty, staff, and student utilization on campus. The carbon footprint is expressed in Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (MT CO₂e).

AUC'S AY 2020 CARBON FOOTPRINT

34,391.3

metric tons of carbon
dioxide equivalent
(MT CO₂e)

For more detailed information regarding the University's carbon footprint for the 2020 academic year, please see the Office of Sustainability's Carbon Footprint Report 2021.





ACADEMIC YEAR
2020

DID YOU KNOW?

34,391.3



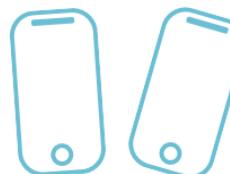
metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents

= **79,623**



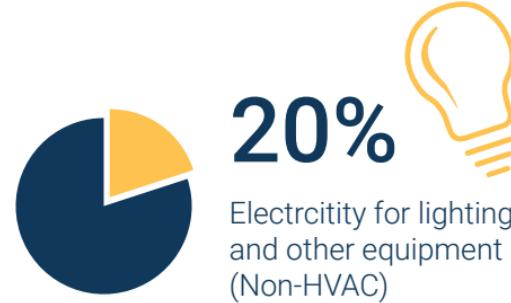
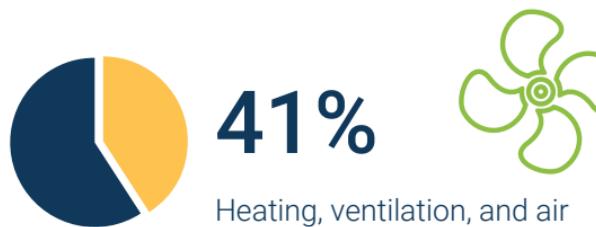
barrels of oil burned

= **5.3 billion**



smartphones charged

BREAKING DOWN AUC'S CARBON FOOTPRINT



6 metric tons
Carbon emissions per full-time student



Looking to the Future

AUC reduced its carbon footprint by about 12,000 MT CO₂e this year. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused observable changes in AUC's emissions. In the coming years, the challenge will be to continue our efforts to curb AUC's emissions while also prioritizing our community's health and well-being. **What can we do?**



1

Explore the potential for air filter upgrades, especially in collective and large spaces.



2

Increase the density in buses without compromising the health of the community.



3

Walk, cycle, use public transportation, or carpool to campus.



4

Ensure near-zero energy consumption for unused classrooms.



5

Keep doors closed when heating and air conditioning is in use.



6

Adjust temperature settings to reduce overcooling and overheating.



7

Turn off lights and unplug electronics when not in use.



8

Use email or print double-sided only.



9

Conserve water with shorter showers.



10

Develop an Eco-Rep Program to monitor sustainability in student spaces.

Message from the President

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed how our normal actions and behaviors have serious environmental consequences. Climate change presents imminent threats to global health, security, and order. Given its harsh climate, growing population, and limited natural resources, the Middle East and North Africa region is among the most vulnerable to the threats of climate change. The pandemic poses serious setbacks to gains made to address global poverty, hunger, and well-being. Now more than ever, the global community must address the environmental issues that threaten our planet.

We at the American University in Cairo recognize that climate change is a global challenge and solving it will require decisive global action. We believe that institutions such as AUC have a particular responsibility to catalyze environmental action in their communities. As far as we are aware, 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 developed enables us to lessen our environmental impact while simultaneously creating a model for others to measure and address their own impact. This edition is especially important, as it reveals how we as a university can use the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic to propel AUC's continued pursuit of sustainability.

Francis J. Ricciardone
President
The American University in Cairo



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To learn more about the Office of Sustainability, visit

aucegypt.edu/about/sustainable-auc/sustainable-campus