

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT **2024**



What is a sustainability report?

A sustainability report is a report produced by an organization, company, or institution that provides information about its economic, environmental, and social performance.

This is The American University in Cairo's (AUC) third Sustainability Report. Compiled by the Office of Sustainability, this report aims to highlight the University's holistic, steadfast commitment to the environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainability. AUC operates as one University with two Campuses: New Cairo Campus and Tahrir Square Campus. This report is structured around the various ways of engaging with sustainability, including education, research, campus operations, campus engagement, public engagement, global focus, and governance. This report acknowledges AUC's dedication to sustainable practices and outlines areas for improvement to position the University as a global leader in sustainability. By releasing its third sustainability report, AUC aspires to enhance its position as a role model for comparable institutions in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and beyond.

Academics



Teaching and Discovering
Sustainability



Engagement

Campus and Public Engagement:
Living and Sharing Sustainability

Governance



Way Forward:
Sustainable Future

Operations



Embodying Sustainability

Global Focus



Excellence in Sustainability



Academics

Teaching Sustainability

As education is the most effective tool for creating change, AUC is deeply committed to sustainability in its educational mission. AUC offers a range of courses across various departments that examine sustainability from different perspectives. Throughout their studies, students learn and explore sustainability concepts and have the opportunity to develop innovative solutions to complex environmental challenges. Whether at the undergraduate level, graduate level, or in professional programs, AUC integrates sustainability into its different levels of education.



52

graduates

since the establishment of the
Sustainable Development
Graduate Programs



Top

MSc. in Sustainable
Development
program in Africa
recognized by
Eduniversal

Spotlight: Design Studio III Imaging a Fossil Fuel Free Future

The thematic of Design Studio III (ARCH 3554), at the Architecture Department at the School of Sciences and Engineering, offered a studio brief focused on “Imaging a Fossil Fuel Free Future: Transitioning Gas Stations to Local Resilience Hubs.” This studio brief, developed by Dr. Sherif Goubran and Dr. Khaled Tarabieh and taught by them and Dr. Amal Hamdy and Dr. Islam Mashaly, allows students to explore retrofitting, future thinking, the environment, and sustainability through architecture. With the growing global challenges of climate change and social issues, there is a clear need for environmental awareness and new design solutions. Students can analyze and implement environmentally responsible designs by building on existing sustainable design strategies. This includes considerations such as material conservation, recycling, and waste management so that students can gain practical experience through field visits.



Academics

Discovering Sustainability

Research on sustainability plays a crucial role in finding innovative and practical solutions to global environmental, social, and economic challenges. AUC prioritizes innovation and strongly motivates students and faculty to participate in original academic endeavors spanning various disciplines. At AUC, students and faculty delve into research on sustainability topics, emphasizing on projects that support the social well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental health both locally and internationally.



7
AUC faculty
listed in the
top 2 %

of impactful research by
Stanford University - Elsevier



\$ 7.4
million

total research funds
dedicated to
sustainability research

Spotlight: Utilization of Plastic Bottles in Building Construction Research Fund

Under the supervision of Dr. Ahmed Abodonya, Dr. Ezzeldin Yazeed, Dr. Khaled Nassar, Dr. Khaled Tarabieh, Dr. Omar El Kadi, and their research assistants Eng. Mayar Khairy and Eng. Zeinab Abdelaziz. The main aim of this research project is to use discarded plastic bottles in the construction of sustainable walls, utilizing cost-effective, environmentally friendly ways to handle materials while building. The research aims to:

- Introduce the integration of mechanically compacted sand as a filler with the construction of main construction elements that can support their weight.
- Minimize and eliminate cement usage by incorporating more eco-friendly resources, such as cob material.
- Present a green solution for construction to repurpose plastic.



Operations

Embodying Sustainability

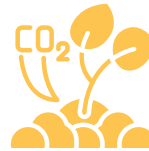
AUC recognizes the importance of embodying sustainability in the campus's daily operations and is committed to the conservation, efficient, and responsible use of resources. The Office of Sustainability monitors and tracks the University's campus energy consumption, water usage, waste management schemes,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



Almost 50% of AUC's total water demand is covered by the treated wastewater used to irrigate 100% of the campus landscape.

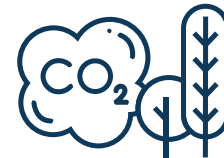


The orientation of buildings and the design of indoor and outdoor spaces reduce the energy requirements for cooling AUC's campus by **40%**



168
MTCO₂e

sequestered from landscaping and composting in AY 23



38,713
MTCO₂e

AY 2023
Carbon footprint



50%

reduction in energy use due to energy-efficient wall construction



15.2
million

plastic bottles saved from campus filtered drinking water stations



28

Reserved parking spots for carpoolers



Engagement

Campus Engagement: *Living Sustainability*

The members of the AUC community are crucial partners in building a sustainable campus. Encouraging AUC students, faculty, and staff to adopt sustainable habits and foster a culture of awareness is essential. Sustainability efforts within AUC's campus community empower future changemakers with the tools and knowledge needed to build a more sustainable and equitable world.



32

Published e-newsletters issued by the Office of Sustainability since the inaugural edition in March 2020



1st

AUC wins first place as the Best Smoke-Free University in the region

Spotlight: Mental Health and Well-being Initiative

As mental health challenges continue to rise globally, AUC is committed to addressing this issue by fostering a supportive culture, providing dedicated resources, and offering services to help students manage their mental health issues. According to the University President's statement on the Mental Health Initiative Kickoff Event, statistics reveal that one in four individuals experiences mental health challenges, which affect us all either personally or through our relationships with family and friends. To further support students in meeting their needs, AUC has introduced the Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative, as announced by Ahmad Dallal AUC President in May 2022.



Engagement

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 impact the surrounding community positively. AUC is committed to sharing sustainability beyond its campus boundaries through public events, external partnerships, and global initiatives.



14

student organizations actively participate in community service and civic engagement

150+

AUC delegates of faculty, students, and staff participated in COP27



Spotlight: AUC Road to College Program

In 2023, the University launched the AUC Road to College program to provide free and online self-paced courses specifically designed for high school students in Egypt. AUC is the first educational institution in the Middle East to offer this program, which is a fully online 12-course English-language program. These courses are tailored to be academically and culturally relevant, allowing Egyptian high school students to compete for admission to English-language universities, including AUC and other institutions in Egypt or abroad. The program also aligns with the University's strategy of increasing access to higher education institutions like AUC for talented students, regardless of their financial ability.



Global Focus

Excellence in Sustainability

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



1st

sustainable University in Africa and Egypt according to the 2023 UI GreenMetric World University Ranking

7

global sustainability initiative memberships



Spotlight: Race to Zero Campaign

In 2022, The American University in Cairo became a signatory to the global UN-backed Race to Zero Campaign for Universities and Colleges. The Race to Zero initiative was launched by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2019. By being a signatory, AUC is added to the UNFCCC Race to Zero campaign. As this initiative aims to reduce carbon emissions, AUC, as a signatory, has committed to reducing its carbon emissions by 2035 and achieving a nearly net-zero campus by 2050.



Governance

Way Forward: Sustainable Future

After shedding light on AUC's different sustainability efforts, it is clear that governance plays a crucial role in AUC's commitment to addressing the climate crisis as one of the greatest challenges of our time.

To promote sustainability initiatives and practices on campus, it is essential to comply with both internal and external guidelines. This can only be achieved by maintaining good governance within the University. Good governance involves developing policies, procedures, and best practices to integrate sustainability factors into AUC's policies, establishing a robust framework for responsible decision-making, and promoting a sustainable culture to ensure the efficient and effective management of resources while encouraging the University community to act sustainably. By doing so, universities can play a significant role in creating a more sustainable future for all.

Spotlight: Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) Report

In December 2022, AUC established the "AUC Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) Report". This report describes the management's processes and procedures that formulate the ESMS established by AUC. The ESMS is designed to analyze and control environmental and social risks and impacts in compliance with the IFC Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability. It will guide the design and implementation of IFC Projects and Activities to avoid, minimize, and mitigate environmental and social risks and impacts regarding AUC's Campus 2026: AUC's visionary development project, designed for student-centered excellence and sustainability.

To learn more about the Office of Sustainability, visit
www.aucegypt.edu/sustainability



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