SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

SDG

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



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WATER CONSUMPTION PER PERSON

SLU manages its water through a campus-wide system in which every source is permitted, treated, and monitored.

Saint Louis University uses a water management system that covers its whole campus network. Every water used is treated, monitored, and safely sourced, which fits the standards of global metrics like the UI GreenMetric Sustainable University Rankings .



On an average day, the Main Campus and Maryheights take in about 379.985 cubic meters of water. The water comes from an authorized deep wells, operated under permits from the National Water Resources Board, and the Baguio Water District's municipal supply. Whichever source it comes from, all of it goes through standard treatment before it's distributed, so the campus never relies on untreated water.



SLU safeguards water quality from treatment to prevention, combining campus sewage plants and strict waste controls with student innovations that tackle river pollution.

At Saint Louis University, the water management system has become part of how the campuses run, from the pipes in the buildings to the plants outside them. It starts with what happens after the water is used. The Main Campus and Maryheights sewage treatment plant sits beside the Bishop Carlito Censoz Covered Court and serves the nearby academic and administrative buildings. The wastewater treatment involves biofiltration, finer filtration, and ozonation. SLU runs this with KBWorld Trading Corp. to meet or beat national effluent standards before anything is released.

Similar sewage treatment plants have opened at Sacred Heart Medical Center (December 2023), the Navy Base Campus (May 2024), and Maryheights (January 2025).



The university also endeavors to prevent pollution. The President has signed an Environmental Policy committing every unit and campus to follow environmental laws and use water responsibly. Laboratory chemicals, solvents, expired reagents, and infectious and electronic waste are kept out of drains and waterways. Waste is logged three days before pickup and monitored with tracking forms to create a paper trail. Additionally, in 2024, a team from the Basic Education School built Project D.A.N.U.M. This portable machine removes cadmium and chromium from river water, with the Agno River's heavy metal problem in mind. It won national gold and international silver and was honored at the Gizmos Global Innovators Congress on 27 February 2025.





6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

SLU has made every drop count since 2022, from water-conscious buildings to free drinking water stations on its campuses.

Advancing its water conservation efforts, SLU has saved approximately 15,681,550 liters annually through deployment. Saving water has been a gradual effort at the university. It began with the Rain Water Storage at the Diego Silang Building in June 2022, alongside upgrades to the Main and Maryheights treatment systems, and was followed by the addition of sewage treatment plants at Sacred Heart Medical Center, Navy Base Campus, and Maryheights Campus in early 2025.The free “Water is Life” refilling stations opened in November 2023 at the Main Campus, and reached other campuses and the SHMC in March 2024 and August 2024, respectively.





Today, SLU utilizes eight certified water-saving technologies, including low-flow showers, dual-flush toilets, sensor urinals, aerated faucets, and waterless urinals. These prompt the university to save about 15,681,550 liters a year, roughly six Olympic swimming pools. All fixtures meet the maximum flow rates reflected in the Philippine Green Building Code, and treated effluent meets DENR Class C standards. The 2023 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings named SLU a certified green campus, placing it 658th worldwide, 4th among private HEIs, and 12th among HEIs in the Philippines.





6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

SLU's approach to greenery has grown from a single hydroponics workshop into a campus-wide effort that conserves water and protects green space.

Hydroponics practice at Saint Louis University started as a training workshop in September 2023, in collaboration with the University Libraries and American Corner Baguio. From there, it quickly shifted to learning and putting it into practice. An example of this is the Basic Education School harvesting its first produce in June 2024, and by early 2025 the work had grown into a university-wide effort called Project PEY-AS. Harvests ran through December 2025, with the latest on 29 May 2026. Because hydroponics systems recirculate water, SLU's evidence document estimates they use up to 90% less than soil-based farming. Low-water plants add to this: bougainvillea at the SHMC Medical Arts Parking Building, which uses about 70% less water than turf; snake plants, watered about once a month; and Spanish moss, which needs no soil or irrigation. Likewise, native pine, bamboo, and coffee trees have gone in through regreening projects such as BILIG in November 2024. The university maintains 17,965.84 m^2 of planted vegetation, 49,213.53 m^2 of forest (43% of its land), and 92,763.47 m^2 of water-absorbent surfaces, such as grasslands, rain gardens, and vegetated pathways. These initiatives reflect how SLU grows plants and maintains its greenery with minimal irrigation.







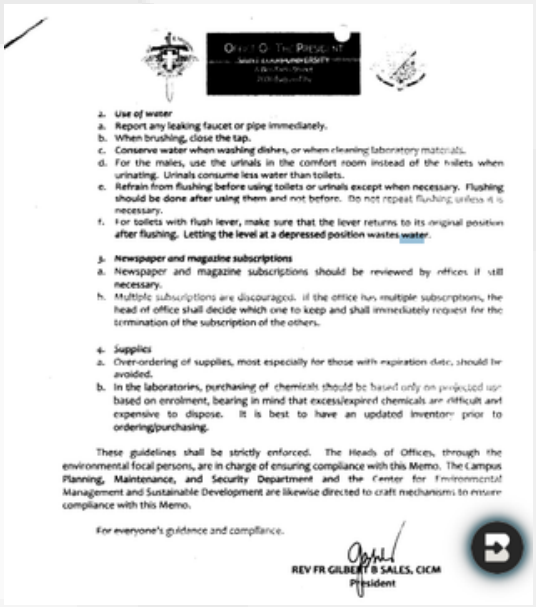


6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

WATER REUSE

SLU supports water conservation through campus-wide policy and a rainwater harvesting system.

Saint Louis University backs its commitment to water sustainability with both a campus-wide policy on responsible water use and a working rainwater harvesting system that lets the campus reuse water. The policy was issued through a memorandum from the Office of the President, signed by Rev. Fr. Gilbert B. Sales, CICM, who has stated that the University is committed to keeping campus activities ecologically sound, socially just, economically viable, and humane for future generations.



2. Use of water
a. Report any leaking faucet or pipe immediately.
b. When brushing, close the tap.
c. Conserve water when washing dishes, or when cleaning laboratory materials.
d. For the males, use the urinals in the comfort room instead of the toilets when urinating. Urinals consume less water than toilets.
e. Refrain from flushing before using toilets or urinals except when necessary. Flushing should be done after using them and not before. Do not repeat flushing unless it is necessary.
f. For toilets with flush lever, make sure that the lever returns to its original position after flushing. Letting the level at a depressed position wastes water.

3. Newspaper and magazine subscriptions
a. Newspaper and magazine subscriptions should be reviewed by offices if still necessary.
b. Multiple subscriptions are discouraged. If the office has multiple subscriptions, the head of office shall decide which one to keep and shall immediately request for the termination of the subscription of the others.

4. Supplies
a. Over-ordering of supplies, most especially for those with expiration date, should be avoided.
b. In the laboratories, purchasing of chemicals should be based only on projected use based on enrolment, bearing in mind that excess/expired chemicals are difficult and expensive to dispose. It is best to have an updated inventory prior to ordering/purchasing.

These guidelines shall be strictly enforced. The Heads of Offices, through the environmental focal persons, are in charge of ensuring compliance with this Memo. The Campus Planning, Maintenance, and Security Department and the Center for Environmental Management and Sustainable Development are likewise directed to craft mechanisms to ensure compliance with this Memo.

For everyone's guidance and compliance.

REV FR GILBERT B SALES, CICM
President

Heads of Offices, through their environmental focal persons, are responsible for ensuring their units comply. The Campus Planning, Maintenance, and Security Department and the Center for Environmental Management and Sustainable Development crafted the mechanisms that enforce it. The memo also gets down to everyday habits such as reporting leaking faucets or pipes right away, turning off the tap while brushing, and conserving water when washing dishes or lab materials. It asks males to use urinals instead of toilets when possible, since they use less water, and to flush only when necessary. Beyond water, it asks offices to review newspaper and magazine subscriptions and to avoid over-ordering supplies and laboratory chemicals.

On the practical side, the University has turned this policy into action through rainwater harvesting. In June 2022, the Rain Water Storage at the Diego Silang Building on the Main Campus was completed and began operating.



Gutters and drains carry rainwater from the building's roof into a storage container, where it is kept for later use. Because the campus can draw on this stored water, it needs to take less from the environment and relies less on the municipal supply. The University is also working toward installing rainwater storage in all of its buildings, which would make it easier to monitor water reuse and expand it across the campus.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

WATER IN THE COMMUNITY

SLU offers hands-on community-based learning on water management, from water-efficient food production to marine stewardship.

Saint Louis University has been creating practical ways for local communities to learn about good water management. In AY 2025–2026, these efforts included water-efficient practices, responsible water use, care for aquatic resources, and a better local understanding of water sources, all built on partnerships with community organizations and other stakeholders.

To understand how water-based farming supports sustainable agriculture, Louisian students and faculty visited an established hydroponics facility in Aurora Hill, Baguio City in January 2025. The visit gave birth to a collaboration with the City Veterinary and Agriculture Office and local partners. It also allowed stakeholders to share their knowledge about hydroponics and sustainable food production. Participants realized how water can be used efficiently to grow food, especially in urban and upland settings. The initiative also folded in waste management and composting, and distributing the harvested produce to local beneficiaries tied the learning to food security and social responsibility.



From there, SLU turned its attention to the community's water resources. In September 2025, it began groundwork for FlowCheck, a GIS-based water source mapping and stream water monitoring project in Barangay Happy Hallow, Baguio City. Conversations with local officials helped pinpoint environmental concerns and potential technical interventions, and the initial assessment revealed real gaps: there was no baseline water-

monitoring data and little systematic knowledge of the area's water sources. FlowCheck responds by helping the community learn about its own water through planned source mapping and stream monitoring that build understanding of water quality and generate the evidence needed for responsible management. The program's later development shows that hands-on, community-led training is central to the effort.



The learning also reached the coast. Through its partnership with Project Coastal Underwater Resource Management Actions (CURMA), SLU gave students and youth leaders a firsthand look at stewardship of marine environments. On 16 November 2025, they joined a seashore clean-up drive to clear plastic waste and debris that threaten marine life and sea turtle habitats. Beyond the cleanup itself, the activity gave participants real-world experience in protecting aquatic ecosystems and reducing pollution, and encouraged them to connect hands-on action with conservation and the sustainable use of marine resources.



Taken together, these three initiatives show a steady progression, from using water wisely in food production, to understanding local water sources, to protecting the seas. In each, SLU puts learning in the hands of the community.





SLU puts water conservation beyond its campus through hydroponics, coastal clean-ups, community water monitoring, and rainwater harvesting.

Saint Louis University carried its water conservation work beyond the campus gates through a few hands-on community projects. Its hydroponics initiative began with a January 2025 visit to a community facility in Aurora Hill, Baguio City. It continued through Project PEY-AS as a working example of water-efficient farming that local communities can copy. In November 2025, students and youth leaders joined a seashore clean-up in San Juan, La Union, under Project CURMA, hauling out plastic and other debris that put marine habitats at risk.



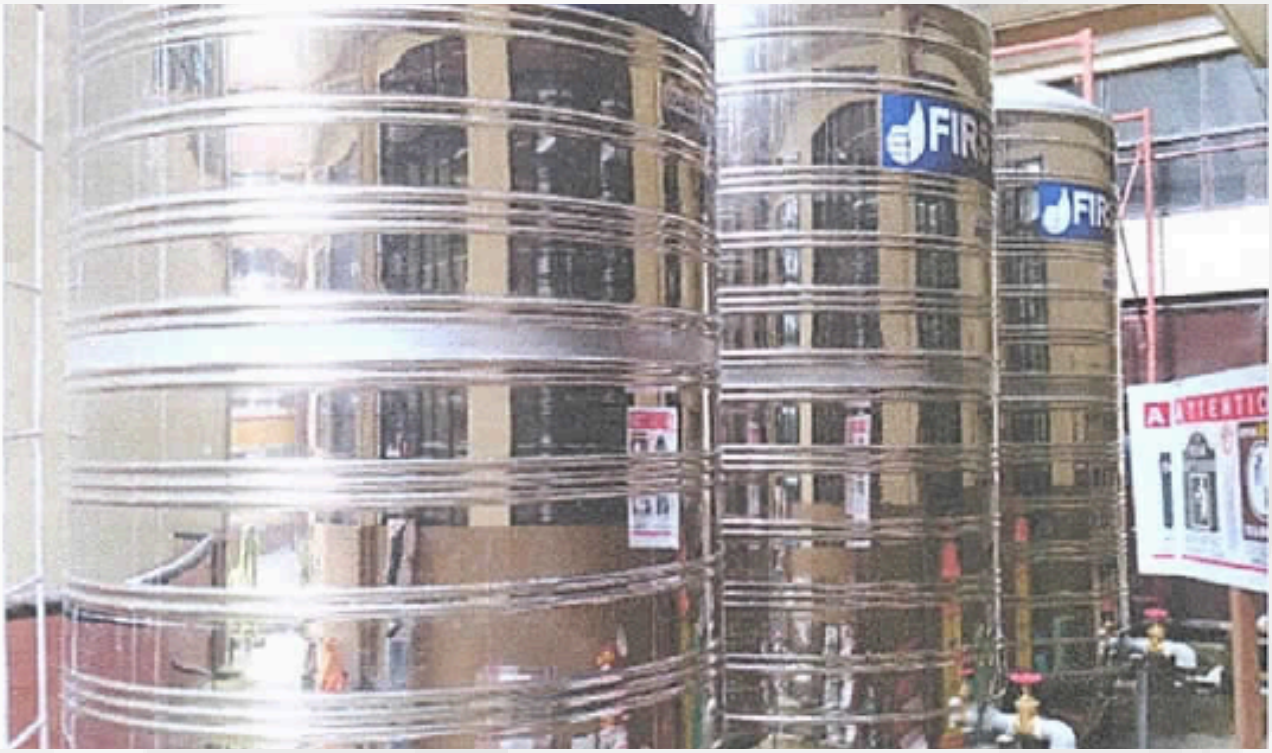
Earlier in September 2025, the university worked with the Barangay officials of Happy Hallow, Baguio City, with the aim of addressing gaps in local water-management information, laying the groundwork for water-source mapping, and stream monitoring under FlowCheck. Because the follow-up work occurred after AY 2025-2026, only the initial September groundwork counts for this reporting period. Moreover, SLU's rainwater-harvesting project, conducted with the Rotary Club at Doña Aurora Elementary School on September 20, 2026, is a strong fit for off-campus water conservation. The project captures and filters rainwater so the school can reuse it for cleaning, gardening, and sanitation.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

SLU collects and reuses rainwater across its campus to reduce its dependence on freshwater supplies.

Saint Louis University utilizes rainwater as an alternative water source on its grounds, cutting its reliance on conventionally supplied freshwater. At the Diego Silang Building, the system collects rainfall from the roof, directs it through gutters, and stores it for non-potable uses such as cleaning and landscaping. The university's environmental program makes this a standing practice by treating freshwater as scarce and valuable and by seeking opportunities to recycle and reuse water. Its infrastructure includes rainwater storage, wastewater treatment facilities, and other water-management systems across its campuses. The collected rainwater also goes to car washing, indoor plants, and fountains. This means that collecting and reusing water work together to lower demand for fresh water. Indeed, SLU treats rainwater as a naturally replenished resource that supports conservation and more responsible water use across the campus.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

SLU partners with local and national government agencies to protect and manage water resouces responsibly.



Saint Louis University works with government partners at both the local and national level to support water security. Its partnership with the City Government of Baguio gives the university a shared platform for sustainability work, water management included. When the Three-Year SDG Plan launched in October 2025, it brought the city government, CHED-CAR, and other stakeholders closer together and gave SLU a way to line up its projects with what the city and its communities actually need. Those projects included the Hydroponics Initiative, run with the City Veterinary and Agriculture Office and community partners, which ties classroom learning to local expertise. The December 2025 Project PEY-AS harvest shows the work hasn't stopped. SLU also answers to national regulators, working with DENR-EMB on environmental monitoring and compliance and submitting Self-Monitoring Reports on water consumption, wastewater discharge, and water quality. Its wastewater treatment systems get checked alongside DENR-EMB and accredited laboratories, so the university can be sure they meet national standards.





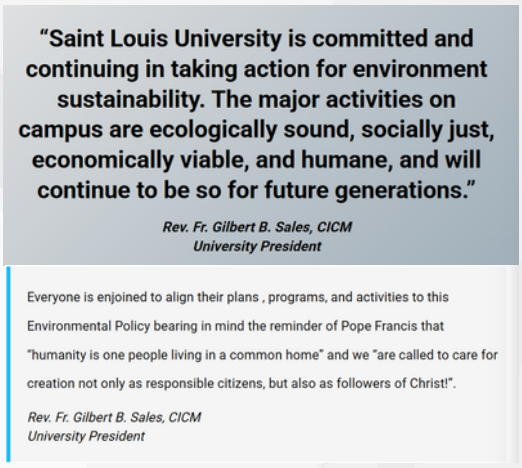
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

SLU's conscious water use starts with institutional policy and carries through to refilling stations, hands-on projects, and everyday campus operations.

Saint Louis University's Environmental Policy commits the university to using freshwater efficiently and responsibly, to recycling or reusing it, and to integrating environmental care into daily operations and sustainability education. The university's Water is Life initiative is one example of this. It provides free drinking water at refilling stations across its campuses and encourages students, faculty, personnel, and visitors to bring reusable bottles instead of single-use ones. By encouraging the use of reusable canisters, the Water is Life initiative reflects the Environmental Policy's commitment to responsible resource use and everyday environmental practices.

Water is Life remained visible throughout AY 2025-2026, including during the University of Hanoi delegation's visit to its facility in August 2025. The Hydroponics Initiative adds a hands-on side, giving students and personnel a practical look at water-efficient food production. SLU also measures its reuse of treated wastewater and captured rainwater for non-potable uses, which helps reduce freshwater demand.











SLU is building on its Environmental Policy to carry responsible water use beyond the campus and into the wider community.



SLU’s Environmental Policy gives the university a clear starting point for responsible water use. It commits SLU to using freshwater efficiently and responsibly, to finding opportunities to recycle and reuse water, and to encouraging environmental awareness and active involvement in environmental concerns. The policy also provides an institutional basis for taking these practices beyond the campus through outreach, partnerships, and community engagement. The ongoing Water is Life initiative and SLU’s developing community partnerships show that this foundation is already in place to promote conscious water use in the wider community.