SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

SDG

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



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CULTURAL HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

Saint Louis University contributes to sustainable urban living by opening its cultural heritage facilities to the public, optimizing sustainable campus transport, and building resilient infrastructure.

Public Heritage Integration, Cultural Preservation, and Civic Access

Expanding its educational mission into the broader civic domain, Saint Louis University integrates its campus facilities and heritage resources directly into the public life of Baguio City. Aligning with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SLU maintains a policy of free public access to its historically significant campus on A. Bonifacio Street.





Photo: SLU Museum of Igorot Cultures and Arts / Facebook

The campus houses eight structures documented as cultural properties by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)—including the Diego Silang, Konrad Adenauer, and Dr. Jose Rizal buildings—forming an intact ensemble of Northern Luzon's modernist academic architecture.









Members of the public can explore these grounds freely by simply presenting a valid ID at the university gates. This commitment to open heritage extends to the university's museums, where walk-in visitors receive permanent free access to the Museum of Igorot Culture and Arts in the Msgr. Charles Vath Building and the Fr. Gerard Braeckman, CICM Museum of Natural History in the Dr. Jose Rizal Building. Through these spaces, alongside specialized laboratory exhibits showcasing the Cordillera's geological and mineral heritage, the university actively preserves and shares the region's tangible history.



Beyond physical artifacts, SLU systematically integrates the wider community into its educational and environmental spaces. The University Libraries frequently open their doors for academic collaboration, hosting benchmarking visits for institutions like Mountain Province State University and Panpacific University, while the American Corner Baguio provides public information sessions on global learning opportunities such as the Fulbright Program. While prioritizing student academic needs, SLU also provides strategic public access to its green spaces and institutional facilities. The University Park, Centennial Garden, and the Fr. Paul Van Parijs Events Center are opened to the general public during graduations, special programs, and cultural festivals like the May 2025 Santacruzan and Flores de Mayo. Similarly, the St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish remains open every day for community Masses, and athletic facilities at the Maryheights Campus are accessible to the public upon request and reservation.



SLU's cultural contribution is further cemented by its performing arts groups, which delivered 49 public performances between August 2025 and July 2026. Through the Center for Culture and the Arts, groups like the SLU Glee Club, Dance Troupe, Orchestra, and Rondalla brought arts to the local community in 11 out of 12 months, participating in events ranging from the Light of the North Choral Festival to music therapy programs at the Sacred Heart Medical Center. Together, these open doors, accessible collections, and consistent public performances demonstrate SLU's enduring commitment to preserving cultural heritage and supporting the sustainable cultural development of Baguio City.

To support and preserve this urban environment, the University complements its public cultural initiatives with physical infrastructure standards and sustainable campus management practices.

Sustainable Transportation, Affordable Housing, and Resilient Campus Infrastructure



To measure and set targets for more sustainable commuting among a campus population of 29,057, the university records transportation data. Records show that 32.8 percent of the community walk to campus, and 51.54 percent utilize public transportation or alternative methods that avoid bringing vehicles onto the premises. The university tracked 71 individuals, or 0.24 percent of the population, using zero-emission vehicles, consisting of 58 conventional bicycles, nine electric bicycles, and four electric scooters. Another 51 members, or 0.18 percent, commute using hybrid vehicles operating in electric mode. To further promote sustainable commuting, the university provides bicycle racks and operates a dedicated shuttle service for students enrolled in Fit-Aquatics courses. Run in partnership with the School Services Operators and Drivers' Association, the service transports students between the main campus and the Maryheights Campus facility according to written guidelines.



The administration allows remote working and flexible study to reduce physical commuting. The School of Advanced Studies uses a hybrid flexible modality for coursework and for thesis and dissertation defenses, letting students, faculty advisers, and panelists participate from off-campus locations. The School of Teacher Education and Liberal Arts will offer a Distance Education Program starting in the first semester of the 2026 to 2027 academic year.



The Commission on Higher Education extended the university's Teacher Education Center of Excellence designation in November 2024 and awarded it the Excellence in Quality Assurance in Teacher Education in April 2025.

The university provides affordable housing for employees at the SLU Centennial Village, an 8-hectare property in Barangay Kamog, Sablan, Benguet, intended for more than 400 workers and their families. The sixth university president, Reverend Father Jessie Hechanova, inspected the site on July 9, 2010. The administration awarded the first 100 houses in 2011 to mark the university's centennial year. Active and retired employees currently occupy all 100 units of this first phase, and the administration expects to start the second phase soon.



To provide affordable housing for students, the administration operates the SLU Students Residence Halls across its campuses. The Men's Residence Hall, inaugurated in 2005 and housed in the Fr. Alberto Van Overbeke Student Center, has a 268-bed capacity for male students and recently completed the first phase of its renovation. The Ladies' Residence Hall provides a 224-bed capacity through the Cardinal Cardijn Hall, built in 1969 for board and lodging, and the Mount Mary Hall, built in 1971 for bed space. Furnished rooms house four persons each with rates at PhP 13,050.00 per month, covering three meals a day, Wi-Fi, water, and electricity, subject to a 7:00 PM curfew and an 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM study period. At the Maryheights Campus, the Maryheights Students' Residence Halls opened in 2010 with a 186-bed capacity for students of the School of Accountancy, Management, Computing and Information Studies. Board and lodging costs PhP 10,350.00 per month, while a bedspace in a furnished six-person room costs PhP 3,600.00 per month, inclusive of utilities, a cooking area, a 7:00 PM curfew, and an 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM study period.



Physical planning at the university prioritises pedestrian access on campus by relocating parking areas and vehicular zones away from major walking corridors. The infrastructure includes tactile paving for individuals with visual impairments, handrails, new ramps, and covered pathways that link academic buildings in all weather conditions.



Students also work with local authorities to address planning issues and development. Third-year Bachelor of Arts in Political Science students interviewed Baguio City officials on November 4, 7, and 17, 2025, including Representative Mauricio Domogan, Mayor Benjamin Magalong, and eight members of the City Council. The students used these interviews for a concept paper analyzing how the private sector cooperates with the local government to improve services and execute long-term goals.



The administration builds new buildings to sustainable standards by integrating renewable energy systems and completing strategic renovations. The main campus operates a 243.3-kilowatt-peak rooftop solar system, while the Maryheights Campus and the SLU Sacred Heart Medical Center added systems of 90.9 kilowatt-peak and 179.1 kilowatt-peak in 2022. The university is installing an additional 158-kilowatt-peak system at the main campus and a 51-kilowatt-peak system at the Aquatic Facility, which together will generate more than 543,840 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year.



The administration blessed the modernized Aquatic Facility on September 11, 2025, adding a pool enclosure, and blessed further upgrades, including pool heating and tiling repairs, on June 8, 2026.





At the main campus, the university blessed renovated offices and a smart classroom on January 9, 2026. The medical center opened the Cardiovascular Center and the St. Peregrine Garden of Healing and Grace on December 10, 2025.





The university builds on brownfield sites where possible, demonstrated by the Fr. Evarist Verlinden, CICM Building. The university demolished the 1999 Natural Sciences Research Unit building in early 2025 and constructed the new facility on the same site. Blessed on August 5, 2025, the expanded building houses laboratories, simulation rooms, and the Center for Counseling and Wellness without developing new land.



