SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

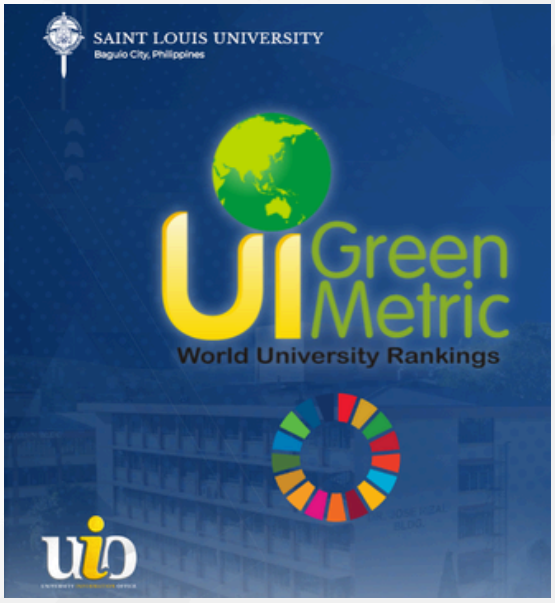
13 CLIMATE ACTION



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PIONEERING CLIMATE RESILIENCE: SLU'S STRATEGIC INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

With universities at the forefront of combating the impacts of climate change, Saint Louis University aims to reduce its energy use and carbon footprint through its sustainable programs.







Anchored in its dedication to Laudato Si' and the Sustainable Development Goals, SLU secured the 20th position among 89 Philippine higher education institutions (HEIs), the 307th position in Asia, and the 540th position globally, earning an overall score of 6,717.5 out of 10,000 in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings. As this evaluates universities based on their environmental sustainability and sustainable campus management, these results show the university's commitment to establishing sustainable environmental programs. On 7 November 2025, the university reported an Energy and Climate score of 80.95% for Academic Year 2023-2024. This was made possible through its energy management strategies, such as expanded solar power installations, enforced car-free days and Earth Hour observances, instituted light-shutoff protocols, integrated green office spaces, and managed energy-efficient equipment and modern facilities.







To institutionalize sustainability across academic programs, research, extension, and campus operations to address climate change, the university launched its three-year SDG plan for the academic years 2025-2028. To expand SDG awareness into institutional procurement, foster Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) among university vendors, and share SLU's sustainability framework internationally, it signed the global Sustainable Development Goals Accord in May 2025 and held its Suppliers Summit on 6 August 2025 as part of the Sustainable Advocacies through the Vendor-Supplier Engagement Program. This initiative resulted in the publication of its case study, "Suppliers Summit 2025: Saint Louis University strengthens partnerships for sustainability,' on the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges Sustainability Exchange on 24 September 2025.

Specifically, to transition academic and municipal systems away from the linear "take-make-use-dispose" model toward resource efficiency, waste minimization, and clean energy initiatives, the university champions the Pansa-nopen Tayo Circular Economy Resource Book Launch and Fellows Program. To quantify post-harvest agricultural losses in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), establish food-upcycling pathways, curb industrial waste, enhance food security, and connect resource efficiency with climate action, the SLU VLIR-UOS-funded project "From Trash to Treasure: Paving Pathways for Food Upcycling to Curb Post-Harvest Losses in the Vegetable Supply Chain of the Cordillera Administrative Region" was also presented in the Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers Baguio-Benguet national webinar on 17 August 2025.

Student-led initiatives like the inaugural volume of Project Innovation by the New Louisian Philosophical Society, launched on 26 January 2026, provide students with an avenue to examine relationships among human society, nature, ecological responsibility, and contemporary environmental concerns through philosophical inquiry. Additionally, student representation in the 14th SEAMEO Search for Young Scientists 2026, which was held in Penang, Malaysia, empowers youth-led STEM solutions for environmental challenges and fosters regional scientific cooperation to respond to SDG 13's call for green innovation research.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Empowering Communities and Building Institutional Capacity: Saint Louis University's Multi-Sectoral Strategy for Climate Education, Adaptation, and Early Warning

SLU proactively actualizes its stand that meaningful climate action is a shared culture rather than just a checklist of accommodations. Anchored in the 2022–2029 Laudato Si Action Plan under the Binnadang framework, it operationalizes concrete projects across carbon neutrality, renewable energy, waste reduction, and ecosystem protection. This ongoing commitment earned recognition from the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in October 2025. With this, the 2025–2028 Three-Year SDG Plan was launched, foregrounding Climate Action as one of seven core institutional goals across academic programs, research, extension, and campus administration. SLU further expanded its global accountability by becoming a signatory to the international SDG Accord in May 2025, subsequently publishing its Sustainable Advocacies through Vendor-Supplier Engagement (SAVE) Program case study on the EAUC Sustainability Exchange. On an operational level, measures such as Administrative Memo No. 39 s.2023 enforce regular campus Earth Hours, meatless Fridays, and mandatory vendor SDG commitment agreements, ensuring that sustainability is practiced daily across the entire university community.

Beyond campus borders, SLU bridges academic rigor with community empowerment by designing multifaceted climate education programs that address diverse learner needs and real-world challenges. During the 4th DOST-SEI Project STAR International Conference in November 2025, Louisian educator-trainers presented research-based strategies for integrating climate literacy and disaster risk reduction into the STEM curriculum. It also extended ecological education into non-traditional spaces through its Philosophical Enrichment Extension Program, engaging seminarians at Saint Francis Xavier Seminary in ecofeminist dialogue to foster an ethics of mutual recognition between humanity and nature.





In public resilience building, the School of Advanced Studies showcased SLU's 18-unit Diploma in Disaster Risk Management at the 38th National Disaster Resilience Month Roadshow in Baguio City. Other initiatives include food-upcycling workshops conducted for agricultural workers in San Quintin, Pangasinan, and the Youth Council of Ecolodians partnering with DENR-EMB-CAR, Smart Communications, and CEPMO to collect, segregate, and safely dismantle 39.4 kilograms of hazardous electronic waste.

Recognizing that disaster preparedness must be co-designed alongside local stakeholders to be truly effective, SLU applies specialized academic expertise to build participatory community resilience. Through the Industrial Engineering Department's extension programs, Louisian researchers collaborated with officials in Barangay Happy Hollow to develop custom decision-support tools, including network-analyzed Barangay Evacuation Maps (BEVAC/BMAPS) and the Excel-based Barangay Disaster Analytics System (BDAS)—a project recognized as Best Paper at iCREaTe 2026. Also, SLU formalized a technology-based partnership with Barangay Virac in Itogon, Benguet, establishing a GIS- and GPS-backed hazard-mapping program to mitigate the risks of severe landslides and forest fires. Internally, SLU reinforced its own crisis readiness by conducting a three-day Basic Incident Command System Training in collaboration with the Office of Civil Defense–CAR.

To actively collaborate with the local government, SLU President Rev. Fr. Gilbert Sales serves on Baguio City's Climate Change Information Education Campaign Committee under Executive Order No. 154. Further, to support local government units in making data-driven decisions, SLU translates technological innovation into actionable risk-monitoring tools and policy support. Following hands-on training for local staff, the Happy Hollow Barangay Council officially institutionalized SLU's BMAPS and BDAS tools through Barangay Resolution Nos. 30 and 41 (Series of 2026). At the municipal level, the City Government of Baguio commended SLU writers and technical working groups for co-authoring the Pansa-nopen Tayo Circular Economy Resource Book in partnership with the UNDP and the EU-PH Green Economy Partnership.





In technological research, Louisian IT students developed Cordimap, a top-10 finalist in the BPI-DOST Innovation Awards 2025, which combines Sentinel-2 satellite imagery, U-Net deep learning, and XGBoost time-series forecasting to map land-cover changes and predict water-balance trends across the Cordillera region. Additionally, SLU offers technical assistance to Baguio's ASEAN-Australia-funded Smart Flood Early Warning, Information, and Mitigation System, while continuously maintaining institutional readiness through campus-wide participation in NDRRMC-mandated quarterly earthquake drills.

SLU's comprehensive approach to SDG 13 culminates in strategic cross-sectoral collaborations with non-governmental organizations and international research networks. Partnering with Project Coastal Underwater Resource Management Actions (CURMA) in San Juan, La Union, it organized volunteer orientations and hands-on coastal conservation missions, including releasing sea turtle hatchlings, directly linking marine stewardship (SDG 14) with global climate resilience (SDG 13). In sustainable agriculture, SLU leads the VLIR-UOS-funded project "From Trash to Treasure" alongside Ghent University, Benguet State University, Central Luzon State University, and the Kanlungan Center Foundation, co-designing roadmaps to curb post-harvest losses throughout the Cordillera supply chain. By presenting these circular economy models and zero-waste carbon-capture technologies at national platforms such as the Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers webinar, SLU affirms that lasting climate solutions emerge when academic research, community participation, and inter-institutional partnerships work in harmony.

Powering a Greener Future at Saint Louis University

SLU is working toward a carbon-neutral campus, and you can see it in both its policies and its everyday routines. Under its Environmental Policy Statement, it has been reducing its reliance on non-renewable energy by adding solar panels, adopting low-carbon building technologies, and upgrading its sewage treatment systems. The community pitches in too, with car-less days, regular Earth Hours, Plastic-Free Wednesdays, and green spaces tended in offices around campus. These changes resulted in an 80.95% Energy and Climate score in the 2023-2024 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, while also improving overall operational savings.





Further, solar panels lower SLU's carbon footprint and electricity bills, allowing those savings to be redirected into student services and academic programs.

In June 2026, SLU President Rev. Fr. Gilbert B. Sales shared these efforts with local leaders and educators at the Baguio Convention Center during the launch of the Pansa-nopen Tayo Circular Economy Resource Book. He pointed to hydroponic urban farming, upcycling, and "Water is Life" refilling stations as examples of how SLU is moving away from the old "take-make-use-dispose" habit and toward a circular economy that makes the most of every resource.

The commitment reaches into healthcare as well. Hospitals leave a heavy environmental footprint, so the Saint Louis University-Sacred Heart Medical Center (SLU-SHMC) has taken specific steps to reduce its emissions and help fight climate change. In November 2025, that work earned the hospital the Gold Award for Social and Environmental Responsibility at the 48th World Hospital Congress in Geneva, Switzerland.

From classrooms to campus grounds to hospital wards, SLU shows that a low-carbon future is something everyone can take part in, every day.