SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

SDG

15 LIFE ON LAND



SLU AND LIFE ON LAND: HIGHLIGHTS OF AY 2025-2026

Saint Louis University sits in the mountains of Baguio, and much of its work on SDG 15 starts close to home: in its own pine forest, in the city's watersheds, and in farming villages a few hours away.

Sustainable use of land

The Benguet Coffee Project now runs Harvest Season Tours every November to February. Visitors travel to Domolpos, Itogon, where Iwak farmers guide them through backyard farms and the whole coffee process: picking, pulping, drying, roasting, and tasting. Hikers can carry on to the summit of Mt. Ugo. What began as a three-year SAMCIS extension project has grown into research that draws in IT, Biology, and partners as far as Japan.

On 28 February 2026, during Scholars Week, SLU's chapter of the Baguio Association of Government Grantees and Scholars and the International Students' Association went back to the Busol Watershed. Working with CENRO Baguio and DENR-CAR, they cleared grass and weeds, picked up litter, and looked after seedlings planted in earlier years. Their point was simple: planting a tree is only the start.

SLU also helped organic farmers reach a national stage. In October 2025, the SLU DTI FabLab and the Department of Agriculture-CAR trained members of the Itogon Integrated Organic Farmers Association on packaging, labeling, and organic certification under the Participatory Guarantee System. A month later, their products were on display at the 18th National Organic Agriculture Congress in Bacolod.







Sustainably farmed food on campus

SLU grows some of its own food. Project PEY-AS, run with American Corner Baguio, the City Veterinary and Agriculture Office, and Barangay South Central Aurora Hill, keeps hydroponic crops coming in season after season, most recently in December 2025. Students, faculty, and staff plant, monitor, and harvest the crops themselves.

At the Maryheights Campus, the Biodynamic Coffee Project has tended coffee trees since 2022. NSTP classes clean the site, fertilize the trees, and plant new seedlings, 30 of them in 2024. The first harvest came in January 2025, from seven trees planted two years before.

SLU also buys from local farmers. On 15 May 2026, SAMCIS bought about 1,700 kilos of cabbage straight from farmers going through a hard season, then shared it with students, staff, campus canteens and the Halfway Home for the Boys. On campus, concessionaires such as Amare Caffe and Green Foods serve meals made with locally sourced ingredients, fresh herbs, and plant-based options.





Maintain and extend current ecosystems' biodiversity

The largest ecosystem SLU looks after is its own. The forest covers 49,213.53 m², 43 percent of campus land, most of it native pine with natural undergrowth at Maryheights. SLU has chosen to keep this forest rather than build on it. Around it are 17,965.84 m² of mostly native plantings and 92,763.47 m² of grassland, fields, and rain gardens that let water soak in and give wildlife room to move between green spaces. The Campus Planning, Maintenance and Security Department keeps these areas mapped.

Beyond campus, scholars cared for young trees at the Busol Watershed in February 2026. SLU also joined Project CURMA in La Union, cleaning nesting beaches in November 2025 and releasing dozens of sea turtle hatchlings on 24 January 2026.

Educational programmes on ecosystems



Through its School of Advanced Studies, SLU offers two graduate degrees for people who want to protect ecosystems for a living: the Master of Science in Environmental Science and the Master of Science in Environmental and Conservation Biology. Both train students to study and protect local and national ecosystems, including wild plants and animals.

Learning also happens outdoors. The One Scholar, One Tree activity at the Busol Watershed showed students, including international students, that caring for a forest means coming back year after year.

Sustainable management of land for agriculture

The School of Advanced Studies also offers the Master of Arts in Environmental Habitat Planning. Its courses, including Land Use and Site Planning and Ecological Aspects of Planning, teach students to weigh the environment in every planning decision, and their thesis research feeds into land management in local communities.

SLU starts even younger. On 20 January 2026, the Science and Mathematics Department took Louisian Kindergarten pupils, with parents and teachers, to the Bureau of Plant Industry in Baguio for their first look at plant research and how crops are grown.

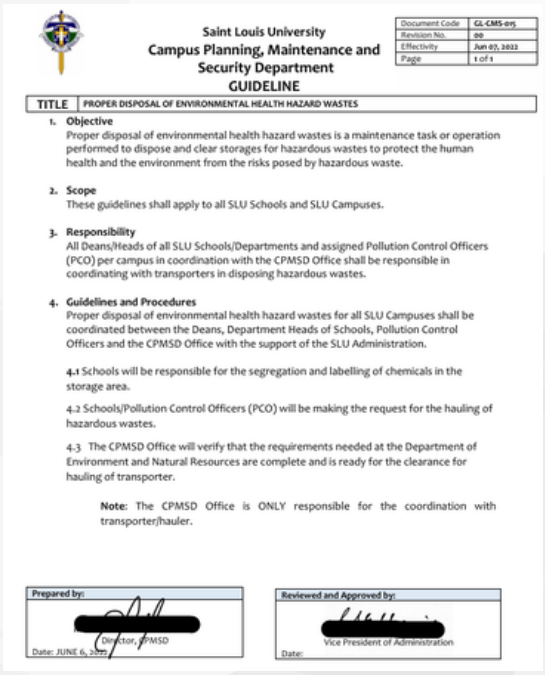


Collaboration for shared land ecosystems

SLU's closest land partnership is with the Iwak people of Domolpos, Tinongdan, Itogon. Their ancestral domain is a living landscape of forest, farms, and watershed that they have cared for over generations under their own customary laws. The coffee growing there is both their livelihood and part of that ecosystem.

SLU's role is to support, not to direct. The University secured the community's free and prior informed consent, works under an agreement with the community and the NCIP, and cannot move any tourism recommendation forward without the community's approval. The NCIP can withdraw its certification if the community's rights are ever at risk.

The partnership is already bearing fruit. The community now sees coffee tourism as a sustainable livelihood, and its own guides lead the Harvest Season Tours.



Saint Louis University
Campus Planning, Maintenance and Security Department
GUIDELINE

Document Code	GL-CMS-015
Revision No.	00
Effectivity	Jun 07, 2022
Page	1 of 1

TITLE: PROPER DISPOSAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD WASTES

1. **Objective**
Proper disposal of environmental health hazard wastes is a maintenance task or operation performed to dispose and clear storages for hazardous wastes to protect the human health and the environment from the risks posed by hazardous waste.

2. **Scope**
These guidelines shall apply to all SLU Schools and SLU Campuses.

3. **Responsibility**
All Deans/Heads of all SLU Schools/Departments and assigned Pollution Control Officers (PCO) per campus in coordination with the CPMSD Office shall be responsible in coordinating with transporters in disposing hazardous wastes.

4. **Guidelines and Procedures**
Proper disposal of environmental health hazard wastes for all SLU Campuses shall be coordinated between the Deans, Department Heads of Schools, Pollution Control Officers and the CPMSD Office with the support of the SLU Administration.

4.1 Schools will be responsible for the segregation and labelling of chemicals in the storage area.

4.2 Schools/Pollution Control Officers (PCO) will be making the request for the hauling of hazardous wastes.

4.3 The CPMSD Office will verify that the requirements needed at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are complete and is ready for the clearance for hauling of transporter.

Note: The CPMSD Office is ONLY responsible for the coordination with transporter/hauler.

Prepared by:
[redacted]
Director, CPMSD
Date: JUNE 6, 2022

Reviewed and Approved by:
[redacted]
Vice President of Administration
Date:

Water discharge guidelines and standards

SLU sits in the headwaters of Northern Luzon, so what leaves its pipes ends up downstream in the Balili and Bued rivers. Every drop of wastewater from campus restrooms, showers, sinks, laundries, and refilling stations goes to SLU's sewage treatment plants. There, biofiltration, settling, and ozone treatment clean the water before it is released.

The plants are regulated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and SLU files quarterly monitoring reports with its Environmental Management Bureau. The University's Environmental Policy, signed by the President, commits SLU to the Clean Water Act, the Pollution Control Law, and DENR's effluent standards.

Policy on plastic waste reduction

Since Administrative Memo No. 32, s. 2023, SLU has banned Styrofoam and plastic food packaging on campus. Canteens and caterers cannot use them. Students, employees, and visitors cannot bring them in, and bottled water is discouraged at University events. Instead, SLU asks everyone to carry reusable containers, utensils, and water flasks, and to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

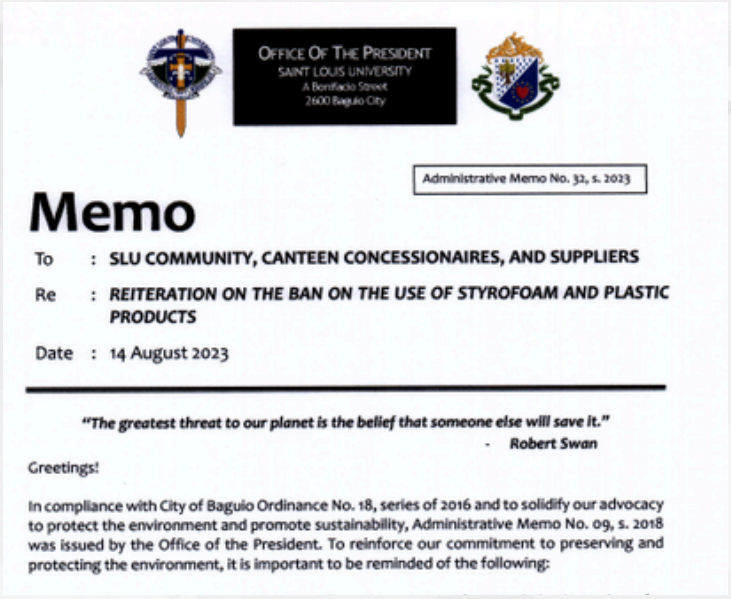
Policy on hazardous waste disposal

SLU's guideline on the Proper Disposal of Environmental Health Hazard Wastes (GL-CMS-015) applies to every campus. Deans, department heads, Pollution Control Officers, and the Campus Planning, Maintenance and Security Department share the work of sorting, labeling, storing, and disposing of hazardous materials safely, with DENR-accredited transporters taking them away.

The SONAHBS laboratories follow their own detailed procedure, approved in September 2021. It covers infectious waste, medicines, chemicals, acids, solvents, and used oil, with daily collection, proper containers, and a dedicated holding area. On 28 January 2025, SLU also blessed its fifth sewage treatment plant at the Maryheights Campus, which joins those at the Main Campus, Navy Base, and SLU-Sacred Heart Medical Center.

Looking ahead

From a pine forest it chooses to keep, to farms and watersheds it cares for alongside its neighbours, SLU treats the land as something to protect, learn from and share. The work continues every season, with every harvest and every seedling.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
A Bonifacio Street
2600 Baguio City

Administrative Memo No. 32, s. 2023

Memo

To : **SLU COMMUNITY, CANTEEN CONCESSIONAIRES, AND SUPPLIERS**

Re : ***REITERATION ON THE BAN ON THE USE OF STYROFOAM AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS***

Date : 14 August 2023

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."
- Robert Swan

Greetings!

In compliance with City of Baguio Ordinance No. 18, series of 2016 and to solidify our advocacy to protect the environment and promote sustainability, Administrative Memo No. 09, s. 2018 was issued by the Office of the President. To reinforce our commitment to preserving and protecting the environment, it is important to be reminded of the following: