SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

SDG

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



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POWERING A GREENER CORDILLERA: HOW SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY IS TURNING CLEAN ENERGY COMMITMENTS INTO ACTION

The solar panels on Saint Louis University's rooftops in Baguio City are the most visible part of a wider effort, and SLU's SDG 7 report for academic year 2025–2026 shows a university working to shrink its own carbon footprint while helping its Cordillera neighbors do the same.

Building Green from the Ground Up

SLU's commitment to energy efficiency starts with how it plans its buildings. Every construction, renovation, and repair project follows the university's Guidelines for Bidding and Implementation Procedures in Infrastructure Projects. These guidelines are tied to its Environmental Policy, which requires low-carbon technologies in buildings and equipment.



GUIDELINES FOR
BIDDING and IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES
IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

INTRODUCTION

In order to ensure that the University is responsive to the needs of its stakeholders in terms of infrastructure and facilities development, there is a need to maintain, restore, and renovate existing infrastructures and facilities as well as construct infrastructures and facilities in furtherance of the mission-vision and strategic direction of the University. To this end, and in compliance with our Quality Management System, these *Guidelines for Bidding and Implementation Procedures in Infrastructure Projects* is hereby promulgated.

TITLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Preliminary Matters

Section 1. *Title.* These guidelines shall be known as the Guidelines for Bidding and Implementation Procedures in Infrastructure Projects (hereinafter referred to as "Guidelines").

Section 2. *Purpose.* The Guidelines has for its purpose the establishment of rules and regulations in the conduct of bidding and implementation in infrastructure and facilities development projects in order to seamlessly interface the processes that are germane to the various offices involved in infrastructure or facilities development projects in the University. This ensures the timely, efficient, effective, and compliant conduct of bidding and implementation, thereby protecting the rights and interests of the University.

Section 3. *Coverage.* These Guidelines shall be applicable to infrastructure and facilities projects including, but not limited to, construction works, renovation works, and repair works.

Before any project goes to tender, it needs an approved design that includes resource-saving specifications. A Bids and Awards Committee chaired by the University President oversees contractor selection, and only accredited contractors can bid. The university also aligns its development with Baguio City's Green Building Ordinance, which adopts the BERDE rating system, and it draws on international benchmarks such as LEED.





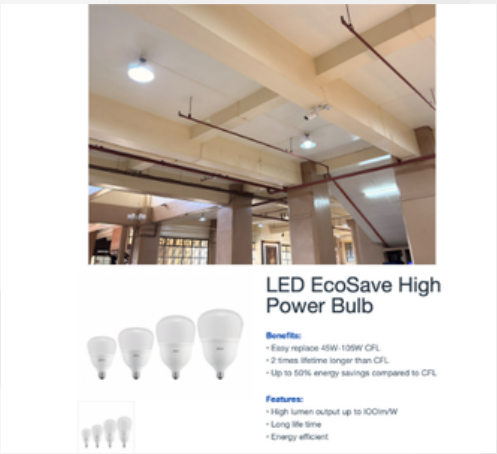
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Breathing New Life into Existing Buildings

SLU has chosen to upgrade the buildings it already has rather than relying only on new construction. Its plan rests on three strategies: smart building design, energy-efficient lighting and appliances, and renewable energy on existing rooftops.

The SLU Sacred Heart Medical Center's Medical Arts Building parking structure uses an open, porous design that takes advantage of Baguio's mountain breezes. As a result, it needs no exhaust fans, air conditioning, or daytime lighting in its driving areas. On the Main and Maryheights campuses, old fluorescent and metal-halide fixtures are being replaced with LEDs and occupancy sensors.

The newly renovated University Library, the Msgr. Charles Vath Building, was redesigned to let in more natural light and uses zoned LED lighting. A rooftop solar array for the library is planned for AY 2026–2027.




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Cutting Carbon at Every Level

SLU's carbon reduction work is led by the Vice President for Administration, with support from the Campus Planning, Maintenance, and Security Department. Every office head must align their plans with the Environmental Policy. University President Rev. Fr. Gilbert B. Sales, CICM, has described the university's campus activities as meant to stay ecologically sound and humane for future generations.

The strategy addresses several sources of emissions:

- Electricity: Rooftop solar systems on the Main Campus, the Maryheights Campus, and SLU-SHMC generate over 579,000 kWh a year, avoiding more than 300 metric tons of CO_2.
- Lighting: All facilities have switched to LED lighting.
- Daily habits: “Earth Hours” turn off office lights from 7:00–9:00 AM and 12:00–1:00 PM every day.
- Transport: A monthly “Car-less Day” bars cars from campus on the last Wednesday of each month. A shuttle fleet serves Maryheights, and employees are encouraged to drive hybrid and electric vehicles.
- Carbon sinks: Students and staff plant and maintain trees in Cordillera watersheds, including the Busol Watershed.









A Plan to Use Less Energy

SLU's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan combines infrastructure upgrades, behavior change, and renewable energy. The university reported a 22% drop in electricity costs in 2024 after adopting solar. Its LED retrofits cut lighting energy use by up to 40%, and staff have been trained in energy accounting with the Department of Energy. Class schedules were also adjusted to reduce peak-hour demand.

When a global energy crisis prompted a national energy emergency in 2026, SLU tightened its rules. Administrative Memo No. 13 (April 2026) requires the following:

- Lights, fans, and computers are turned off during breaks.
- Elevators are not used for trips of two floors or fewer.
- Offices move toward paperless work.

Administrative Memo No. 09 (March 2026) requires employees traveling outside the city alone or in pairs to take public transport instead of university vehicles.

Finding and Fixing Energy Waste

To find where energy is being wasted, SLU tracks consumption separately for each campus and building. Through its partnership with WEnergy Global, the university monitors over 513 kWp of rooftop solar in real time. This lets staff compare solar output with actual demand and spot “vampire” loads in empty rooms.

The results for August 2025 to August 2026 were as follows:

Site	Clean energy generated	Savings	CO_2 avoided
Main Campus	243,013 kWh	PHP 2,187,803.39	173.07 tons
Maryheights Campus	45,161 kWh	PHP 432,917.40	32.6 tons
SLU Sacred Heart Medical	178,490 kWh	PHP 1,571,670.98	128.69 tons

Altogether, the three systems saved the university more than PHP 4.1 million in a single year.

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Putting Its Money Where Its Mission Is

As a non-profit Catholic institution run by the CICM, SLU applies its values to its finances too. Under its Sustainable Investment Policy and its commitments to the Laudato Si' Action Platform, the university's reserves, trust funds, and endowments cannot be placed in coal, oil extraction, or fossil-fuel infrastructure. During the reporting period, the Finance and Treasury offices screened all institutional accounts to remove direct fossil-fuel exposure. They redirected funds toward solar expansion and efficiency upgrades.

Bringing Energy Know-How to the Community

SLU's engineers regularly work directly in nearby communities. Through the Solar-Powered Street Lamp Initiative in Barangay Happy Hallow, an adopted indigenous community, faculty and students from the Electrical Engineering Department and Jr. IIEE trained residents to assemble, wire, and repair their own solar streetlights. Mountain footpaths that were once dark and dangerous are now lit, with no monthly electricity bill.







The outreach also covered other energy topics:

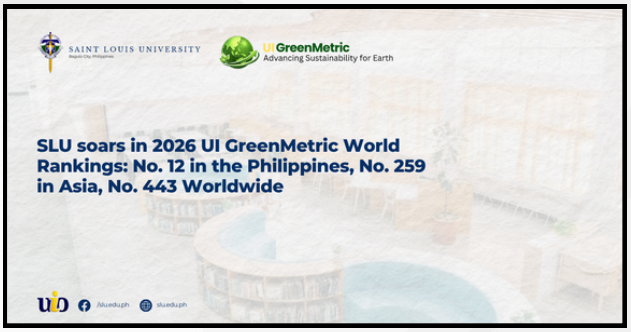
·Farm waste: Farmers in Kapangan, Benguet learned to turn rice husks into fuel briquettes.
·Market waste: Baguio City Market vendors saw how their waste could become clean hydrochar fuel.
·Household energy: Families learned to convert kitchen scraps into biogas power and to recover leftover energy from used batteries.
·Transport: Jeepney operators in Cresencia Village were consulted on solar-supported EV charging hubs.
·Healthcare facilities: In October 2026, a free public webinar taught hospital managers and engineers to measure and reduce their facilities' footprint using the national PH-SINAG system.

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A Pledge for 100% Renewable Energy

SLU's pledge to move fully to clean energy rests on several commitments. Its Environmental Policy, approved in 2021, commits the university to a low-carbon strategy based on renewable energy. In October 2025, SLU was certified as an Active Participant in the Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform, which calls on members to move away from fossil fuels.





Outside rankings show the results. In the 2026 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, SLU rose 97 places to No. 443 worldwide and No. 12 in the Philippines, and it scored 80.95% in Energy and Climate Change. The university also extends its pledge beyond campus in three ways:

- It installs off-grid solar lighting in underserved barangays.
- It advocates with BENECO for higher net-metering caps.
- It helped adopt the Binnadang Clean Energy Action Declaration at its international research conference, where partners committed to pursuing 100% renewable electricity across Northern Luzon.







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Engineering Solutions for Local Industry

SLU's School of Engineering and Architecture offers applied research and technical services to local businesses, markets, farmers, and transport groups. Its work falls under three pillars:

·Waste-to-energy: turning market waste, sweet potato peels, and rice husks into fuels.

·Heat recovery and efficiency: redesigning waste-heat steam generators, modeling passive wind towers to reduce air-conditioning needs, and producing electricity from biogas heat.

·Clean energy systems: designing a hybrid EV charging station for Baguio, recovering 13–50% of leftover power from discarded batteries, producing green hydrogen from harvested rainwater, and building road “cat's eyes” powered by passing traffic.













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Shaping Clean Energy Policy

SLU serves as a technical advisor to local governments in the Cordillera. In June 2026, it co-hosted the “From Ideas to Impact” summit with Baguio City, where it presented green technology models to city leaders. Its faculty contributed recommendations on rooftop solar and building energy standards to Baguio's Smart and Resilient City Masterplan.

The university also advises barangays and regional agencies on energy audits under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (RA 11285), and it helps set standards for off-grid solar in mountain areas. It shares results from its own campus, including over 26,454 kWh saved in quarterly evaluations, as reference points for municipal carbon goals. SLU-SHMC's ESG training in August 2026 also offers a model for other hospitals in the region.



Nurturing Low-Carbon Startups

SLU helps green ideas become businesses through several units: its RISE Center, its Innovation and Technology Transfer Office, and the SLU Incubator for Research, Innovation, and Business (SIRIB). In June 2026, it ran a venture acceleration program with the Baguio City government. One participant was EcoVerde, a startup that turns waste into usable materials and keeps organic waste out of dumpsites. As a key partner in DOST-CAR's startup mapping across Baguio and Benguet, SLU coached clean-tech founders on patents and commercialization. It also mentored student teams in the Philippine Startup Challenge. Through social licensing, SLU makes some of its own inventions available to communities and local governments at low cost. Its 2025–2028 SDG Plan names the School of Engineering and Architecture as the lead unit for this work.



Looking Ahead

Taken together, the indicators show that SLU treats clean energy as a commitment that touches nearly every part of the university, not as a single project. It shapes how buildings are designed and retrofitted, how offices use power each day, where the university invests its money, and what its engineers and students bring to farms, markets, barangays, and city hall. The solar arrays on its rooftops have already saved the university millions of pesos and avoided hundreds of tons of carbon dioxide.

SLU's report also makes clear that the work is not finished. More rooftop solar is planned, policies were tightened during the 2026 energy emergency, and the university has pledged to help Northern Luzon move toward fully renewable electricity. For a mountain community that depends on its watersheds and forests, that pledge matters beyond the campus. In the coming years, SLU intends to keep showing its students and its neighbors that a greener, more energy-secure Cordillera can be built.



