

# 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



## SDG 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The Education University of Hong Kong is dedicated to making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Our approach integrates sustainable campus development, pioneering research in urban sustainability, robust community engagement, and a profound commitment to preserving cultural heritage, ensuring we contribute positively to the fabric of Hong Kong, China and beyond.



Courses

77



Researchers

55



Research Outputs

88

FWCI:1.02

1,332  
participants



Outreach

31  
events

## Integrating Education for Sustainable Urban Development

Education serves a crucial function in advancing sustainable urban development by equipping students with essential knowledge and skills to address contemporary urban challenges. At EdUHK, specialised programmes such as the **Minor in Urban Sustainability** enable learners to explore principles for establishing environmentally friendly, socially inclusive, and economically sustainable urban environments. This programme emphasises an interdisciplinary approach, melding perspectives from environmental science, urban planning, and social policy, while promoting experiential learning through case studies and project-based activities.

Additionally, courses like **Urbanisation and Transportation: Theory and Policy** provide students with a thorough understanding of how transportation systems shape urban growth and development. These academic offerings cultivate critical thinking and innovative problem-solving abilities, preparing future professionals to design and implement policies that enhance the resilience and sustainability of urban areas.



## Preserving Our Past, Informing Our Future

EdUHK is committed to fostering a deep appreciation for cultural heritage and its role in sustainable development. Through the course '**Issues in Heritage Conservation and its Policy**', the University delves into the complexities of preserving cultural legacy amidst the pressures of modern society.

Offered by the Department of Social Sciences and Policy Studies, the course examines the cultural, historical, and social significance of heritage in all its forms, from tangible architecture to intangible practices. It addresses the critical challenges facing conservation efforts, including urbanisation, environmental impacts, and the need to balance preservation with contemporary community needs.



Students critically analyse local, national, and international policies, including UNESCO conventions, to understand the principles of sustainable conservation. The course underscores the vital role of education in raising public awareness and fostering a conservation ethic that can be carried into professional life. Through detailed case studies and policy analysis, students develop the skills to evaluate conservation initiatives and contribute to effective, sustainable heritage management. This aligns with the University's goal of nurturing graduates with a strong sense of ethical responsibility and global perspective, equipped to build strong, culturally rich institutions for the future.

## A Living Laboratory for Sustainable Urban Living

EdUHK's campus serves as a model for sustainable infrastructure and community living. The University is committed to green building practices, ensuring that new constructions and major renovations adhere to recognised environmental standards like the **BEAM Plus certification scheme**. This commitment is formalised through our green policies and guidelines, which aims to minimise energy and water consumption while enhancing indoor environmental quality. Our campus features extensive green spaces, including an Eco-garden with an aquaponics system and organic farmland, which functions as both a recreational area and a platform for environmental education.

To promote sustainable practices within our community, EdUHK has implemented comprehensive **waste management and recycling programmes**. Clearly marked 3-colour and 8-in-1 recycling bins are conveniently located across the campus to facilitate the separation of paper, plastics, and metals. We also provide collection points for food waste and used clothing. Through the Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, EdUHK develops educational resources and programmes to promote environmental awareness and action on waste reduction among students and the wider school community.



## Integrating Biodiversity into Sustainable Urban Futures

Research from EdUHK is contributing vital insights into the development of sustainable cities by examining the intricate relationships between urban populations and the natural environment. This work is crucial for fostering more inclusive and resilient urban spaces that recognise and respect biodiversity.

A notable example is an influential study by a University scholar on the free-roaming bovids in Hong Kong, published in the *European Journal of Cultural Studies*. The research investigates the complex dynamics of ecological coexistence and promotes the broader concept of extending care to non-human life within dense urban settings. By analysing the interactions between city residents and these animals, the study provides a deeper understanding of how to cultivate harmonious human-environment relationships.

Such pioneering research from EdUHK underscores the critical significance of integrating ecological considerations into urban planning and policy. It advocates for systemic approaches that support the development of truly sustainable and liveable cities, not just for people, but for the diverse species with whom we share our environment.

Source: Zhang, Z. (2025). Free-roaming bovids in Hong Kong, worlding the more-than-human care. *European Journal of Cultural Studies*

## Preserving and Promoting Cultural Heritage

A key component of a sustainable community is the preservation of its cultural identity. EdUHK is deeply committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage. The Department of Linguistics and Modern Language Studies leverages digital techniques to document and promote local languages and cultures, which is crucial for the sustainability of urban environments. The Centre for Religious and Spirituality Education has implemented the **"ICH@Schools" project**, bringing the rich traditions of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) into 21 primary and secondary schools through courses and experiential activities. This initiative not only broadens students' horizons but also strengthens their sense of cultural identity and pride.

In January 2025, Grantham Hall organised a visit to Mei Ho House Museum in Shek Kip Mei for 19 student-residents, including four inbound exchange students. As one of Hong Kong's earliest public housing blocks, Mei Ho House offers a unique perspective on the city's post-war resettlement and urban development. Through guided tours and exhibits, students explored the architectural evolution and social impact of public housing in fostering community resilience, gaining insights into the importance of accessible housing and thoughtful urban design in creating cohesive, liveable communities.



*The visit encouraged cross-cultural dialogue and reflection on inclusive urban planning and housing equity.*

## SUSHUM Builds EdUHK's First Film Society for Sustainability through Storytelling to Explore Community History

Establishing the Society on Film and Sustainability, a sub-project of the **Sustainable Humanities (SUSHUM) Project**, continues to pioneer creative approaches to sustainability, using storytelling as a dynamic tool to connect EdUHK's campus with surrounding communities. Recent workshops and community tours have empowered students and staff to discover, document, and share everyday stories and evolving landscapes that make EdUHK unique. By encouraging participants to use their mobile phones to record changes, stories, and hidden corners, the project has made filmmaking accessible, meaningful, and participatory. Over recent months, student and staff-produced content has reached an impressive 6,166 views, demonstrating strong collective interest in the stories shaping our campus and neighbourhoods. Using film to document, connect, and reflect, the project is building a living archive of EdUHK's evolving story while nurturing a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient campus culture.



## Broadening Horizons through Experiential Learning: The Dr Li Dak Sum Scholarship Programme

The **Dr Li Dak Sum Experiential Learning Scholarship Programme (LDS)** is a ten-year initiative aimed at broadening students' perspectives through immersive experiential learning in Chinese Mainland. Selected students deepen their understanding of recent developments in education, the economy, history, culture, and urban planning, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of quality education and sustainable cities and communities. The programme seeks to promote cultural heritage and values through education, preparing students for their future roles as educators. This year, 39 students have been selected to form groups and submit proposals for their experiential learning tours. Each student will be awarded a scholarship upon fulfilling all requirements, including participation in the outbound tour approved by the Student Affairs Office, delivering a post-tour presentation to EdUHK students, and submitting a report to the donor.