



SDG 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The Education University of Hong Kong is deeply committed to ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns. Through a holistic strategy that encompasses robust institutional policies, innovative campus initiatives, and impactful education, the University is actively minimising its environmental footprint and fostering a community dedicated to the principles of a circular economy.

Educating Future Leaders in Environmental Management

A cornerstone of the University's commitment to sustainability is the cultivation of the next generation of environmental leaders. Our Bachelor of Science (Honours) in **Integrated Environmental Management** programme is central to this mission.

The programme is specifically designed to provide students with a multidisciplinary education that encompasses the scientific, socioeconomic, and regulatory dimensions of environmental challenges. Emphasising innovative teaching and learning approaches, the curriculum integrates real-world applications through experiential learning opportunities such as internships and field trips. This provides students with a profound understanding of responsible consumption and production patterns. This rigorous training equips graduates with the critical knowledge and practical skills necessary to address pressing environmental challenges, empowering them to build a more sustainable future.



Harnessing Psychological Research to Promote Sustainable Action

Research from EdUHK is providing critical insights into the psychological drivers that underpin sustainable action. A study by Dr Liman Man Wai Li, published in the *British Journal of Social Psychology*, explores how egoistic values can influence pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours. The research reveals that individuals with stronger egoistic values are more likely to engage in environmentally responsible actions when they perceive environmental problems as psychologically close or personally relevant.

These findings have significant implications for how sustainability initiatives are communicated, underscoring the importance of framing environmental challenges to highlight their direct impact on individuals. This work provides a valuable evidence base for developing more effective strategies. By understanding and appealing to these personal stakes, communicators and policymakers can more effectively motivate pro-environmental behaviours across diverse communities.

Source: Lou, X., Li, L. M. W., & Ito, K. (2024). Egoistic value is positively associated with pro-environmental attitude and behaviour when the environmental problems are psychologically close. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 63(4), 1640–1657



Courses

27

17



Researchers

Research
Outputs

85

FWCI:1.20

895
participants

Outreach

9
events

Strategic Framework for Responsible Resource Management

The **University's Waste Management Policy** establishes a comprehensive framework to effectively manage and reduce waste generated on campus, aligning with the "**Use Less, Waste Less**" principle. This is complemented by a Sustainable Procurement Policy, which guides the University to purchase products and services with minimal environmental and social impact. These guidelines prioritise avoiding single-use items, selecting products with high recycled content and energy efficiency, and supporting fair trade and social enterprises where feasible.

Water conservation is another key pillar of our strategy, governed by a dedicated Water Management Policy. The University monitors water consumption, incorporates water-saving technologies in all new and major refurbishment projects, and actively promotes mindful water usage among the campus community.

Furthermore, Green Guidelines for campus events provide a framework for organising activities that minimise environmental impact, including waste reduction and resource conservation. The Environmental Conservation Society, a student-led organisation, plays a crucial role in advocating for ecological sustainability, organising campaigns, and raising awareness within the campus community. Collectively, these operational measures contribute to embedding sustainability into the university's daily operations and cultivating a culture of environmental stewardship.

Innovating to Reduce Waste and Promote Circularity



The University has implemented a comprehensive strategy to **manage food waste**, combining practical campus infrastructure with creative community engagement. The Estates Office has strategically established dedicated food waste collection points across the campus, conveniently located near the Canteen, the Learning Commons, and in office pantries during lunch hours. This system facilitates the proper segregation of food waste, which is then collected by the Environment Protection Department for treatment at the Organic Resources Recovery Centre in Hong Kong, China. By diverting organic matter from landfills, this initiative directly contributes to climate change mitigation by preventing the generation of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, thereby reducing the University's carbon footprint.

Complementing these operational measures, EdUHK actively fosters a culture of sustainability and circular thinking. A prime example is a creative workshop hosted by the Estates Office on 15 January 2025, which demonstrated how



everyday food waste, such as fruit peels and vegetable scraps, can be upcycled into intricate accessories. The hands-on session was designed to shift mindsets, encouraging staff and students to view food waste not as refuse, but as a valuable resource. It promoted the principles of a circular economy and inspired participants to integrate innovative, eco-friendly practices into their daily lives, actively supporting both climate action and responsible consumption.

Pioneering Sustainable Consumption and Waste Management on Campus

The University has implemented innovative, technology-driven initiatives to significantly reduce waste and foster a campus-wide culture of sustainability. A key component of this effort is the **Lunchbox Lending Programme**, a joint-university initiative under the Jockey Club Sustainable Campus Consumer Programme (JCSCCP) that has been operational since September 2023. Through state-of-the-art, AI-driven machines, campus users can easily borrow and return reusable lunchboxes, directly tackling the issue of single-use container and plastic waste. Demonstrating its commitment to continuous improvement, the programme expanded its offerings in October 2024 to include new round soup bowls, providing the campus community with more sustainable options for a wider variety of meals.

Building on this momentum, the Estates Office further enhanced the University's waste management infrastructure in March 2025. Three innovative smart recycling bins, provided by the Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department, have been installed to collect waste paper, metals, and plastics. These units feature advanced sensor monitoring, which automatically measures and records the weight of materials, allowing users to earn GREEN\$ points that can be redeemed for gifts. This incentivised, self-service system exemplifies a commitment to innovative solutions that foster environmental responsibility.

Furthermore, a dedicated collection point has been established for recycling beverage cartons, diverting this often-overlooked packaging waste from landfills. Together, these initiatives work in concert to improve waste segregation, increase recycling rates, and cultivate a lasting culture of responsible resource use among all members of the EdUHK community.



Cultivating Sustainable Lifestyles through Campus Engagement

As part of its deep commitment to the Jockey Club Sustainable Campus Consumer Programme (JCSCCP), The University has actively engaged its campus community through high-impact events designed to foster a culture of sustainability and responsible consumption.

On 15 January 2025, the University hosted the **Low-CO₂ Food Tasting Tour**, an initiative aimed at raising awareness of the environmental impact of food choices. The free event showcased a diverse range of low-carbon dishes from local vendors and campus caterers, emphasising the significant benefits of selecting local, seasonal, and plant-based foods. Through engaging activities and games, over 500 staff and students were inspired to adopt greener eating habits, learning how their individual dietary choices can reduce personal carbon footprints and contribute to global climate goals.

This focus on mindful consumption was further extended by the **Zero-waste Living Fair**, a flagship JCSCCP event held on 20 March 2025. The fair provided over 200 participants with practical skills and knowledge through interactive workshops, educational booths, and hands-on activities. Demonstrations on upcycling, repairing, and responsible recycling empowered individuals with tangible methods to minimise waste in their daily routines.



A Commitment to Excellence in Resource Management and Campus Wellbeing

The University demonstrates a profound and long-term commitment to the highest standards of environmental stewardship across its operations, with a particular focus on resource management and community wellbeing.

This dedication is exemplified by the University's continuous recognition with the WastewiSe Certificate in the prestigious **"Class of Excellence" category**, an honour held since 2009. This longstanding accolade acknowledges EdUHK's comprehensive and successful efforts to minimise waste generation, promote effective recycling, and embed environmentally responsible policies throughout all campus functions. Maintaining this top-tier certification for over a decade underscores our unwavering dedication to the principles of responsible consumption and production and to fostering an environmentally conscious campus culture.



Complementing this focus on waste reduction is an equally strong commitment to ensuring the quality and safety of our water resources. Since 2020, EdUHK has been an active participant in the **Quality Water Supply Scheme for Buildings—Fresh Water (Management System)**, an initiative by the Water Supplies Department. Our participation signifies a pledge to implementing rigorous water safety plans and meticulously maintaining the integrity of our internal plumbing systems, thereby safeguarding the health and wellbeing of our entire University community.