

2 ZERO HUNGER



SDG 02

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The Education University of Hong Kong is deeply committed to addressing the complex challenges of food security, nutrition, and sustainable food production. Through a multi-pronged strategy that integrates education, innovative research, and hands-on community engagement, the University is contributing to the development of resilient and equitable food systems in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (HKSAR) and beyond.

Understanding the Human Dimensions of Sustainability

The Department of Social Sciences and Policy Studies advances the University's sustainability mission by examining the critical intersections of society, policy, and the environment. The introductory course on Cultural and Human Geography investigates the processes and spatial patterns that underlie resource utilisation and cultural diversity in a globalising world. It places particular emphasis on how socio-economic activities, such as agriculture and food systems, impact the environment. The course explores pathways to improve food security, promote sustainable farming practices, and ensure responsible resource management, aligning directly with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The Department's commitment is further demonstrated through its active research agenda. Faculty members and post-doctoral fellows are engaged in studies that address critical sustainability challenges. Recent research includes a quantitative analysis of government agricultural spending and its direct impact on food security and productivity in developing nations. Another significant study investigated microplastic contamination in packaged beverages in Hong Kong, China, raising public awareness and informing policy discussions on food safety and packaging standards. This research enriches the curriculum and ensures students are engaged with contemporary, real-world sustainability issues, empowering them with the critical awareness needed to contribute to a more sustainable future.



Courses

11

4



Researchers



Research
Outputs

22

FWCI:1.26

740

participants



Outreach

4

events



Experiencing Ecological Sustainability in a Metropolitan City

The on-campus Eco-Garden, established in 2016, serves as a cornerstone of the University's commitment to sustainability education, providing a practical platform to demonstrate essential concepts of ecological sustainability. This Eco-Garden, which includes organic farmland, ecological ponds, a constructed wetland, and aquaponics systems, offers students vital experiential learning opportunities. The design of the Eco-Garden has been recognised for its energy-saving features, recycling and re-use of resources, and biodiversity conservation.



A key initiative, the **"Eco-Garden Farmer and Biodiversity Surveyor"** programme, recruits around 30 students and staff annually for specialised training in organic farming, biodiversity surveying, and environmental research. Participants engage in hands-on activities, from cultivating crops to conducting ecological tours for local schools, allowing them to witness firsthand the interaction between living organisms and their environment. This immersive experience fosters a profound connection with nature and equips students with practical skills. As one student reflected, the programme boosted their self-confidence and provided new avenues for personal development. Another noted that it nurtured a sense of belonging to the university.

Building on these experiences, students collaborate to create educational materials that promote a deeper understanding of sustainable agricultural practices. This work is complemented by the Department's wider research, such as a project focused on recycling food and yard waste into high-quality compost on Lantau Island to enhance soil fertility and support local agriculture. Through this embedded, reflective approach, students and researchers alike explore the roles of various stakeholders in fostering ecological sustainability within a metropolitan context.



Pioneering Urban Food Futures: Integrating Technology and Care in High-Tech Urban Farming

In response to the escalating challenges of climate change, urbanisation, and population growth, ensuring a sustainable and secure food supply for Hong Kong is a critical priority. The University is at the forefront of addressing this challenge through pioneering research in high-tech urban agriculture. This work not only explores technological solutions but also emphasises the vital role of care in creating equitable and resilient urban food systems.

A key project, "**Situating Care in Sustainable High-technological Urban Farming**," led by Dr Wang, Ying Jamie of the Department of Literature and Cultural Studies, moves beyond a purely agrotechnological perspective. Framed within the interdisciplinary field of Environmental Humanities, the research brings social and cultural insights into dialogue with agrotechnology and environmental science. It investigates emerging high-technology farming landscapes in Hong Kong, China, which often include hydroponic or aquaponic practices, the use of LED lighting, and controlled-environment automation.

Along with examining how such technologies may offer a potential pathway to climate-resilient local food sources, this project uniquely focuses on how "care" is practised and understood within these systems. Using qualitative methods such as site visits and interviews, the research explores how a critical "care ecology" can be developed. This innovative approach aims to ensure that technological advancements in urban farming lead to equitable access to nutritious food, enhance the resilience of the city's food systems, and support local communities.

The insights generated will provide a critical social and cultural understanding of high-tech urban farming, strengthening Hong Kong's capacity to expand these practices sustainably. This research directly addresses the core challenges of making cities sustainable, food security and resource efficiency, aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal of Sustainable Cities and Communities, and ending hunger and ensuring access to safe and sufficient food for all.



An AI-generated image using DALL-E 3: futuristic indoor controlled farming



Low-Carbon Cultural Exploration: The Food Tasting Tour

In addition to its core operational responsibilities, the EdUHK Estates Office organises cultural activities that promote sustainability and community connection. A popular example is the "Low-CO₂ Food Tasting Tour," which offers staff and students an opportunity to explore the diverse culinary traditions within local neighbourhoods. These tours are designed to be low-carbon by encouraging walking and the patronage of local, family-run eateries, thereby reducing the environmental footprint associated with travel and large-scale food production.

The tours serve as engaging platforms for cultural exchange, allowing participants to learn about different cuisines, the histories behind them, and the social practices tied to food in Hong Kong, China. By highlighting local establishments, traditional recipes, and community stories, these events foster a greater understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity.



Closing the Loop: Food Waste Reduction and Repurposing



EdUHK actively promotes sustainable consumption and production through robust initiatives focused on food waste. The University conducts comprehensive waste audits across its campus facilities, including pantries and restaurants, to identify the primary sources and quantities of food waste. The insights gained from these audits are crucial for developing targeted strategies to reduce waste at its source, encouraging more efficient food management, and minimising our environmental impact.

Complementing these prevention efforts, the campus implements systematic food waste collection programmes. Through these schemes, surplus or uneaten food is gathered and repurposed rather than being sent to landfill. These efforts not only divert significant amounts of waste but also support wider community needs by enabling the redistribution of edible food to those in need. Together, these initiatives foster a campus-wide culture of sustainability and social responsibility, demonstrating a practical commitment to creating a circular economy.

