جامعة هليوبوليس
Heliopolis University
for Sustainable Development

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT
2024

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ABOUT
THIS REPORT

It is our pleasure to bring to you the first sustainability report of Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development, covering the calendar year 2024. This report offers a holistic overview of the university's ongoing commitment to sustainability across teaching, learning, research, campus operations, and community engagement.

By encompassing environmental, social, cultural, and economical dimensions, the report showcases our active engagement and significant contributions to both global and national development agendas, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Egypt Vision 2030.

SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

This report was developed through contributions from all HU faculties, centers, and administrative units. Data was gathered using internal reporting forms, direct interviews, project documentation, and pilot measurement tools.

Environmental indicators, such as greenhouse gas emissions and water use, follow internationally recognized methodologies including the GHG Protocol and CoolFarm Tool where applicable.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this report, some indicators may be partially reported or based on estimates given that data collection systems are still under development.

For example, comprehensive Scope 3 emissions, biodiversity metrics, and year-over-year comparisons will be enhanced in future reports as we build capacity and systems for ongoing monitoring.

MESSAGE FROM **THE CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The journey we embarked upon over two decades ago was ambitious: to establish a university that would place sustainable development at the heart of its academic and societal contributions.

Today, Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development stands as a unique model for transformative education that nurtures both knowledge and conscience, unfolds potential, empowering students to become effective stewards of our planet and catalysts for social transformation. This report celebrates our progress toward these goals and underscores our commitment to continual improvement.

Through collaboration, we are creating a culture of responsibility and innovation, preparing our students to lead in a world that demands both wisdom and adaptability. Through partnerships, innovative research, and a holistic approach to education, we aim to foster a new generation equipped to address today's challenges with insight and resilience.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my deepest gratitude to our students, faculty, staff, and partners for their dedication to this vision. Together, we will continue to build an institution that serves as a beacon of hope and a model of sustainability in action.

Sincerely,
Helmy Abouleish

MESSAGE FROM **THE PRESIDENT**

I am deeply honored to present this inaugural sustainability report for Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development. Since establishment, our approach has been rooted in the firm belief that higher education must be a leader in cultivating an environmentally resilient, socially responsible and economically equitable future for Egypt and the world.

Over the years, Heliopolis University has made strides in integrating sustainability into teaching, research and community initiatives. Our students, faculty, and partners have collectively contributed to addressing challenges that impact not only our immediate environment but also extend to rural areas and regional communities.

These achievements are underscored by our work in developing innovative solutions, such as waste water treatment projects, sustainable agriculture, and community-based learning, which enhance the quality of life for all stakeholders while preserving the ecosystems that support us. This report captures a year of progress, yet it also serves as a reminder that our work is only beginning.

As we look forward, Heliopolis University remains committed to pioneering initiatives that contribute meaningfully to Egypt Vision 2030 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Together, we will continue to build a sustainable legacy for future generations.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us,
Prof. Gouda Helal

ABOUT **HELIOPOLIS UNIVERSITY** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development (HU), established in 2012, was founded with a mission to **pioneer the introduction of sustainable development** to the Egyptian community and to serve as a unique model for transformative education.

For us, sustainable development is about integrating cultural, economical and social and ecological life. Supported by a consortium of private and civic entities with **over 40 years of experience** in development, research, and innovation, HU has grown into a leading institution dedicated to the sustainable development of individual consciousness, economic solidarity, social justice, and environmental balance in Egypt and beyond.

HU offers **distinctive academic programs** that seamlessly blend theoretical knowledge, scientific research, and practical application with a **humanistic core program** rooted in social sciences and fine arts - designed to nurture curious and creative minds. In addition to its undergraduate and graduate programs, HU leads and participates in various **national and international interdisciplinary research and development projects** aimed at fostering social innovation.

PROUD PAST, EXCITING PRESENT

The university's roots trace back to **1999,** when research and educational activities began under the name SEKEM Academy for Applied Arts and Science.

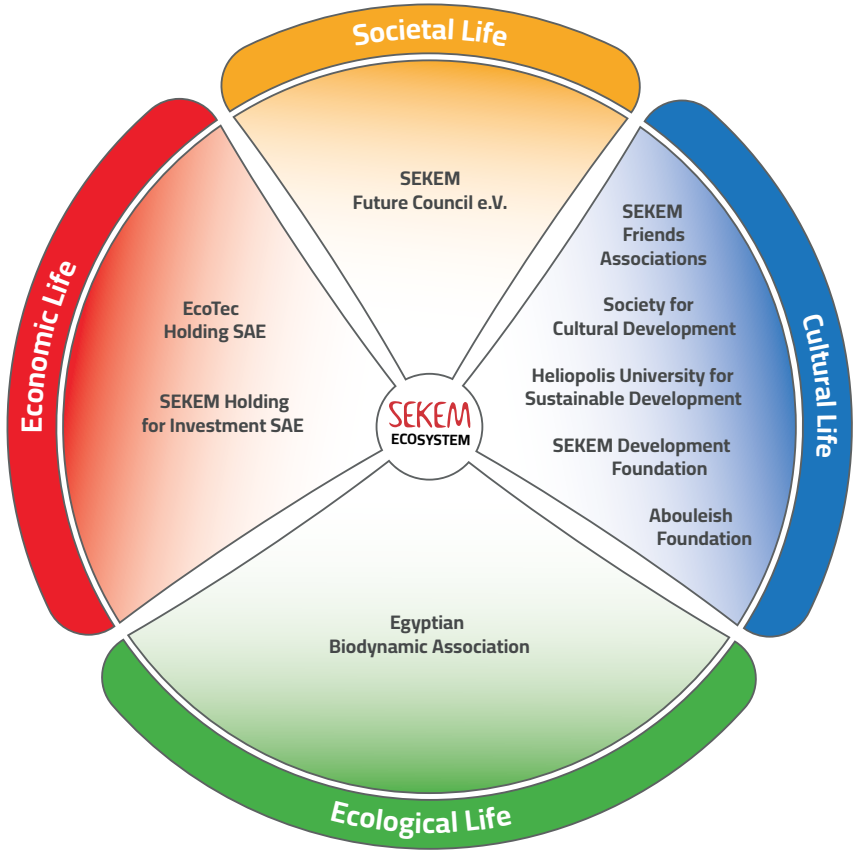
In 2002, as these efforts became more specialized, the academy was renamed the Heliopolis Academy for Sustainable Development for Research and Training.
In the following decade, applied research and higher education activities were solidified and the campus was built, leading up to the **official** establishment of Heliopolis University by presidential decree in **2012.**

INSTITUTIONAL ECOSYSTEM

HU is an integral part of the broader SEKEM Initiative - an ecosystem of interconnected entities that collaborate toward shared goals - the SEKEM Vision Goals.

These goals are closely aligned with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and thoughtfully adapted to the Egyptian context.

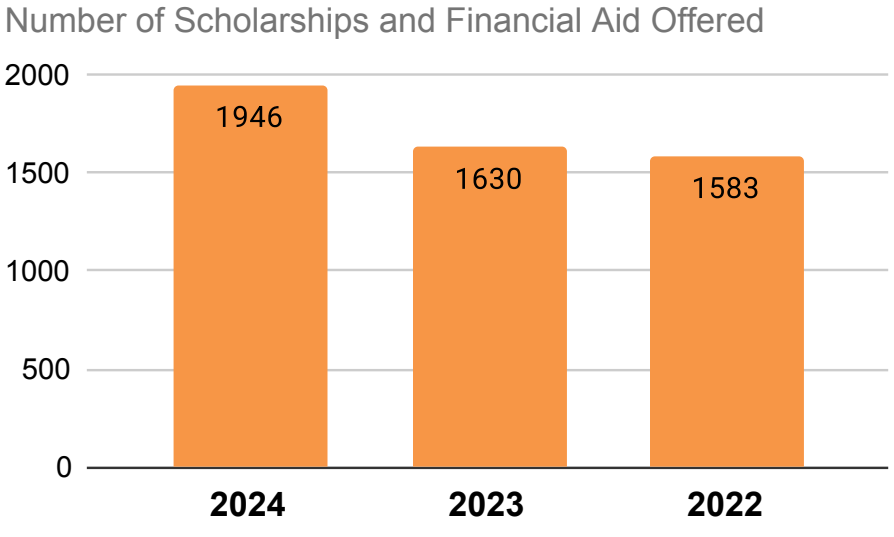
As a member of this ecosystem, HU operates within a dynamic local, national, regional, and international network. It actively engages with diverse stakeholders across the **quadruple helix model** which includes academia, industry, government, and civil society; fostering cross-sectoral dialogue, innovation, and impact.



CORE ACTIVITIES

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Education at HU combines teaching, scientific research, and application with a unique humanistic core program that integrates the principles and approaches of sustainable development, equipping students to become **champions of sustainability** across all spheres of life.



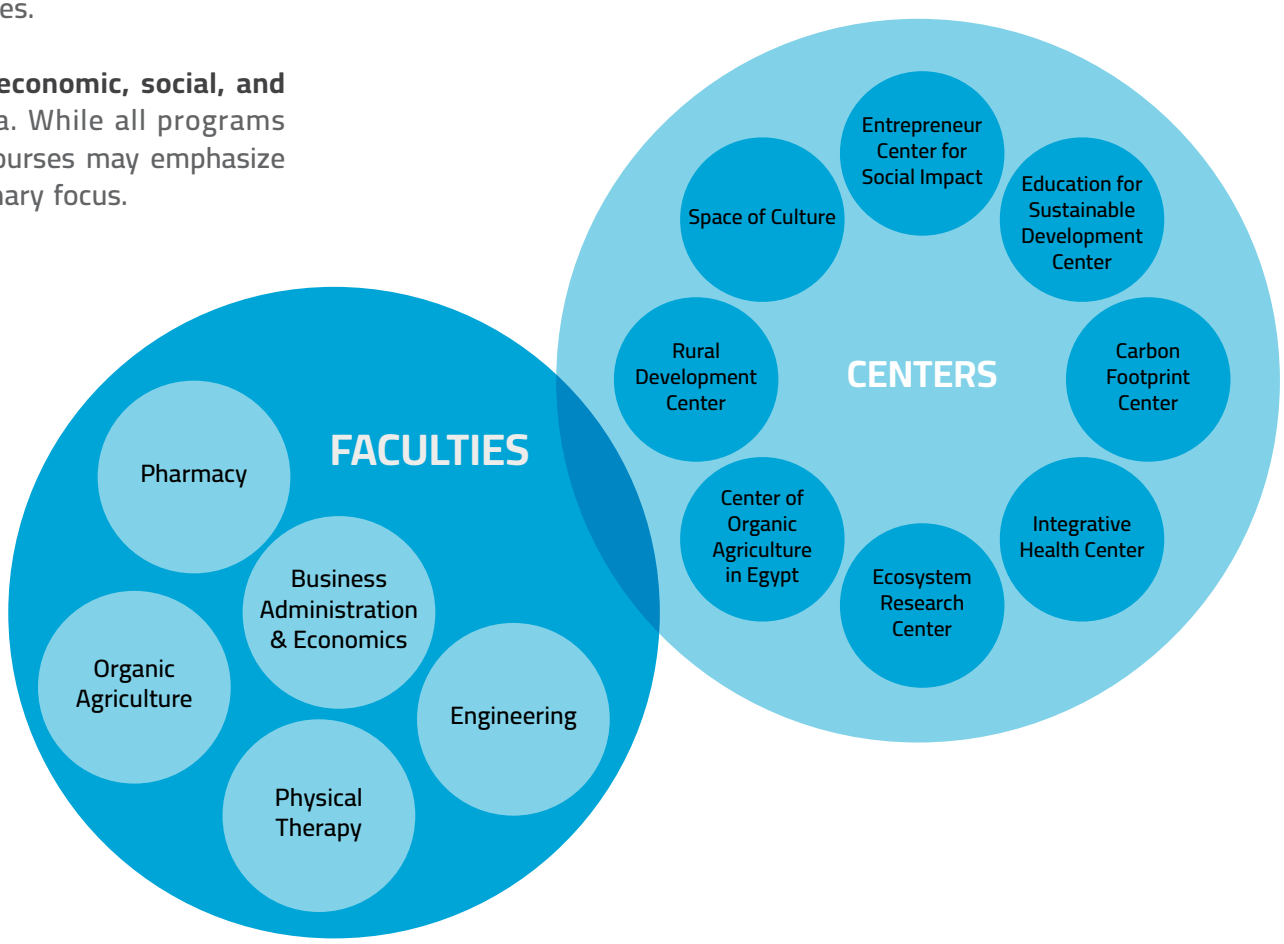
3250

Enrolled students in 2025

FACULTIES AND PROGRAMS

HU's faculties and departments offer a wide range of discipline-specific and interdisciplinary courses, all grounded in sustainability concepts. These are paired with **practical tools and methodologies** that empower students to develop solutions to urgent local and global challenges.

The four pillars of sustainability-environmental, economic, social, and cultural - are fully **embedded** across the curricula. While all programs address these pillars, individual departments and courses may emphasize one or more dimensions depending on their disciplinary focus.



FACULTY OF
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMICS

The Faculty is committed to pioneering **innovative and alternative economic models** that promote sustainable development and long-term resilience. In 2024, the faculty updated its academic offerings to place greater emphasis on **"industry-based learning",** real-world case studies, and interactive sessions with guest speakers from the private and civic sectors. These changes aim to bridge the gap between theory and practice while strengthening students' critical thinking, creativity, leadership, and decision-making skills.

Prof. Idalina Sardinha from the Lisbon School of Economics and Management, shared her extensive experience in sustainable business models and introduced students to the concepts and practices of sustainability reporting.

In parallel, efforts in advancing sustainability research included three key projects led by students and faculty:

- The first project, in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering, examined bio-waste management through a community-centered lens. It identified technological limitations, low public awareness, and unsustainable consumption habits as key barriers. The study proposed practical solutions-from promoting sustainable lifestyles to improving infrastructure-to help build a more resilient circular economy.

- The second project tackled the urgent issue of plastic pollution, reimagining recycling through bioenergy-powered systems that conserve resources, protect the environment, and create new job opportunities. This work highlighted the role of education and policy in enabling a closed-loop plastic management system.

- The third project focused on empowering women in the Bahariya Oasis. Through sociological research and capacity-building workshops to support rural women's economic participation and strengthen community engagement efforts.

Additionally, current and previous senior students complete graduation projects that address the different dimensions of sustainability.

In line with its **community-based learning (CBL)** strategy, the faculty launched the **Business and Economic Training Module** (BETM), which delivered practical business skills training to women and youth in rural communities.

More about **Community-Based Learning** is on page 20

International and national partnerships also expanded significantly. The faculty participated in the **GREEN Erasmus+** project to promote green hydrogen education across the Mediterranean, partnered with **EGBank's MINT program** to foster student entrepreneurship, and signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce to develop an **Executive Master of Business Administration (MBA) program.**

The collaboration with Zuyd University also continued under the **Social Sustainable Entrepreneurship (SSE) Program,** which includes capacity building activities, exchange, and mobility opportunities to promote social entrepreneurship and cultivate a new generation of changemakers.

In 2025, the faculty plans to deepen the integration of sustainable development themes into its curricula, theses, and research publications. The shift toward project-based learning will be expanded across programs, and the newly established **CBL Committee** - comprising faculty and student representatives-will oversee the strategic development and alignment of CBL initiatives with societal priorities and academic goals.

FACULTY OF **PHARMACY**

The Faculty is dedicated to preparing **skilled, socially responsible** pharmacists who contribute to advancing pharmaceutical services and sustainable healthcare practices. It offers a five-year Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, as well as a Master's program that blends academic excellence with practical application.

In 2024, the faculty's seven departments delivered **82** academic courses, many of which integrated sustainability principles. Topics included reducing water and energy use in pharmaceutical production, proper pharmaceutical waste disposal, and sustainable packaging solutions. To enhance teaching methodologies, the faculty began **piloting problem-based learning** across several courses to promote active learning by engaging students in solving real-world challenges.

A notable **student-led initiative** launched during the year focused on promoting **herbal and natural remedies** as sustainable alternatives to synthetic compounds. Awareness campaigns - held both on and off campus - highlighted the benefits of these remedies, especially for the environment, including reduced chemical pollution and biodiversity conservation.

As part of its CBL activities, the faculty led outreach campaigns in rural communities, covering responsible medication use, pharmaceutical waste management, and nutrition education. In 2024, **20% of all courses included a CBL component,** engaging over **250 students** in hands-on learning experiences.

The faculty also partnered with the **Integrative Health Center (IHC)** to implement the **Farmers' Health Project,** aimed at improving the health and well-being of smallholder farmers. Students participated in health screenings, sample analysis, survey administration, and coordination of field activities-gaining practical experience in community health interventions.

More about **Farmer's Health Project** on page 31

Throughout 2024, the faculty expanded its **network of national collaborations** to enhance academic and professional development opportunities.

In cooperation with the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA), it facilitated internship placements, workshops, and training sessions on drug regulation, compliance, and industry practices. Clinical training opportunities were also expanded through collaborations with Police Hospitals and Zagazig University Hospitals.

The faculty also organized a wide range of workshops and learning activities to complement classroom instruction. Highlights included a **Pharmaceutical Technology Exhibition** and a dedicated Nutrition Day organized by the Biochemistry Department. Through its Training Unit, the faculty offered targeted capacity-building workshops on **research ethics, leadership and management skills,** alongside **career development** sessions during the annual Job Fair focused on resume writing and job acquisition strategies.

Faculty and teaching assistants also benefited from professional development courses, including Scientific Writing for Research, International Publishing, and Statistical Analysis-all aimed at enhancing academic and research capacity.

In 2025, the faculty aims to expand **experiential learning** opportunities by developing new partnerships with pharmacies and healthcare facilities to increase exposure to real-world pharmaceutical practice. Strengthening ties with academic institutions and industry actors-particularly in the areas of integrative medicine and pharmacy practice research-remains a strategic priority. Community engagement efforts will continue to grow, with a renewed focus on health literacy and expanding access to pharmaceutical care in underserved areas.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS:

Professor Dr. Khaled Al-Adl, Head of Chemistry Department, and Professor Dr. Ahmed Abulsoud, professor of biochemistry were chosen among the 2% list of the most influential scientists in the world according to the Stanford University classification.

FACULTY OF **ENGINEERING**

The Faculty of Engineering at Heliopolis University is committed to preparing competent engineers who are able to design and implement solutions that are **sustainable, safe, economically viable, and community-centered.** The faculty offers a five-year Bachelor's degree program with specializations in Green Architecture, Renewable Energy, Mechatronics, and Water Engineering, alongside two advanced graduate programs: M.Sc. in Sustainable Energy Engineering and Management and M.Sc. in Sustainable Water Engineering and Management.

Sustainability remains central to the faculty's academic offerings. In 2024, **nearly 50% of all courses** were **directly** linked to sustainability and included a **CBL component.** Curriculum enhancements introduced problem-based learning, flipped classroom models, and expanded field visits, all of which fostered practical skill development and critical thinking among students.

The faculty continues to benefit from **strong international collaborations** with institutions such as Maastricht University (Germany), Zuyd University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands), and the Euro-Mediterranean University (Slovenia). These partnerships support student and faculty exchanges, summer mobility programs, and collaborative research initiatives.

In 2024, several major applied research initiatives were underway with students actively involved at every stage - from field investigation and conceptual design to testing and operation under faculty supervision.

One notable project is **MED-WET** ("Improving MEDiterranean irrigation and Water supply for smallholder farmers by providing Efficient, low-cost and nature-based Technologies and practices"), which led to the development of a nature-based, cost-effective wastewater treatment unit with 91% pollutant removal efficiency. Installed at both the Bahariya Oasis and Belbeis, this innovation now benefits more than **10,000 smallholder farmers,** supporting climate-resilient agriculture and water reuse. The MED-WET project has been selected as one of the **top 20** successful projects part of the European Union Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (EU **PRIMA**).

This year, the faculty received official notice of **accreditation from the National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education (NAQAAE)** in Egypt, affirming its commitment to academic excellence and quality standards.

Looking ahead, the faculty plans to further strengthen its research and development efforts across several priority areas, including sustainable infrastructure, water-energy-food nexus innovations, renewable energy technologies, advanced materials for environmental applications, and green manufacturing. The integration of digital technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and blockchain, will also be prioritized to enhance environmental monitoring and carbon tracking.

Future projects will continue to align with global trends in green mobility, bioengineering, climate adaptation, and circular economy practices, ensuring that students are equipped with cutting-edge knowledge and the skills needed to drive transformative change toward a regenerative future.

FACULTY OF **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

The Faculty is dedicated to cultivating a new generation of farmers, agricultural engineers, and biotechnologists equipped with the values, knowledge and awareness necessary to advance **alternative and regenerative farming practices.** The faculty offers a four-year Bachelor's degree with specializations in Organic Crop Production and Food Processing Technology.

To support its mission, the faculty has developed **strong partnerships** with leading national and international institutions, including Padova University (Italy), Hohenheim University and RWTH Aachen University (Germany), the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (Italy), Demeter International, and IFOAM-Organics International (Germany).

These collaborations foster capacity building, knowledge exchange, and cross-border research cooperation - enriching the academic and practical experiences of students and faculty members alike.

In 2024, students were actively engaged with **sustainability-centered** assignments and **applied** research projects. Activities included: designing sustainable farming plans using crop rotation, natural pest control, and water conservation methods; implementing small-scale organic farming systems on university land with a focus on soil health management; and conducting life cycle assessments comparing the environmental impact of organic and conventional farming practices.

Students also contributed to innovation in food processing, developing organic products from surplus produce-such as fruit leather from organic mangoes and plant-based alternatives using locally sourced legumes. These initiatives explored sustainable packaging solutions, including biodegradable and compostable materials.

Research activity at the faculty remained robust throughout the year. Several projects aimed to enhance food production systems and contribute to the circular economy. One example is the **NEW FEED** project, focused on optimizing the use of agricultural by-products as animal feed. Another initiative explored the cultivation and industrial applications of prickly pear, expanding its use across multiple sectors.

The faculty also placed significant emphasis on promoting **sustainable agricultural practices.** Research into agroforestry, soil health, biodiversity, and climate change mitigation expanded alongside research on biodiversity-based intercropping. Investigations into organic disease control included a promising project on using wood vinegar as a natural pesticide alternative.

Students played an integral role in the faculty's research activities, participating in tasks such as sample collection, laboratory experiments, data analysis, and the presentation of findings at scientific events. Graduation projects remained closely aligned with the faculty's research priorities, maintaining a strong emphasis on regenerative agriculture.

FACULTY OF **PHYSICAL THERAPY**

Through its six-year undergraduate program, the Faculty of Physical Therapy promotes excellence and leadership by offering a comprehensive curriculum that integrates modern techniques in physical therapy, biomechanics, and medical sciences.

With a strong emphasis on a **holistic approach to healing,** the faculty trains students to prioritize **manual therapy as a first line of treatment,** while empowering patients to take an active role in managing their own health. This model supports long-term wellbeing and disease prevention and aligns with the university's broader mission to contribute to **a healthier and more resilient Egyptian society.** These skills are developed and refined throughout the academic journey through **extensive clinical training, accredited internships, and direct patient interaction.**

In 2023, the faculty launched a **physiotherapy outreach initiative** serving rural communities in both the Bahariya Oasis and 13 villages in Sharqia Governorate as part of CBL. In collaboration with the Faculty of Pharmacy, patients receive medical checkups followed by physiotherapy sessions when needed. In 2024, the program served **1,435 patients.**

1435
PATIENTS
served and received medical checkups

CORE PROGRAM

The Core Program is a foundational and distinctive component of the educational experience at HU, designed to **nurture** innovation, critical thinking, and a strong sense of social responsibility among students.

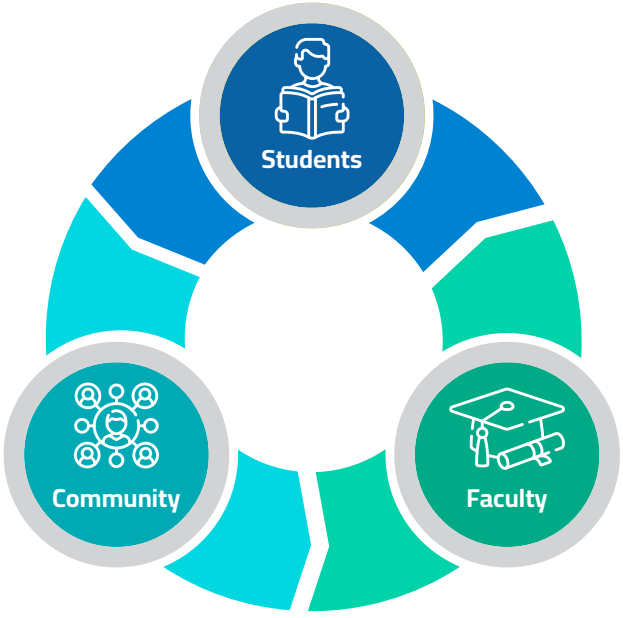
Spanning the full duration of each degree, the program offers an **integrated, interdisciplinary** learning journey through **four key tracks:**

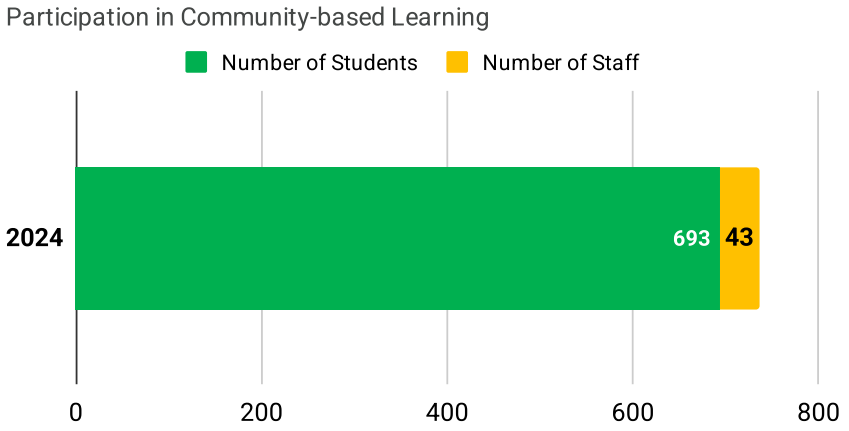
- **Language, Communication and Enterprise:** focuses on building essential skills in academic and professional expression through courses such as Academic English Writing, German Language, Communication, Creativity and Entrepreneurship, and Arabic Literature.
- **Arts, Culture, Development and Innovation:** explores personal and collective expression while fostering creativity and reflective thinking. Courses includePerception Actuality, Diversity Integration, Communication through Arts, and Artistic Creative Processes.
- **Social Sciences:** cultivates analytical and ethical understanding through studies in Research Methodology, Philosophy, Human Rights & Politics, Sociology, Principles of Law, and Psychology.
- **Nature and Community:** connects students to ecological and sustainability concepts while grounding theory in practice through courses such as Sustainable Development, Deep Ecology, Biology & Evolution

COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING

Community-Based Learning (CBL) is a transformative educational approach that bridges academic theory with real-world practice, while fostering participatory action research. It is designed to help students connect classroom learning to the realities of surrounding communities, engaging with local institutions, history, literature, cultural heritage, and the natural environment.

At HU, **one week per semester** is dedicated to CBL, during which every student participates in a hands-on project. To date, **over 2,000 students and faculty** members have taken part in diverse initiatives - ranging from public health and awareness campaigns to social entrepreneurship projects and environmental advocacy.





This year, HU students demonstrated their commitment to climate action by participating in a large-scale tree planting activity as part of the flagship initiative "Greening the Desert". Through this effort, 3,000 trees were planted in Bahariya Oasis, contributing to ecosystem restoration, carbon sequestration, and the promotion of a greener, more resilient environment in one of Egypt's most climate-vulnerable regions.

More about **Greening the Desert** on page 33

HU aspires to be a **national hub for CBL in Egypt,** championing cross-sectoral collaboration and experiential education for social impact. As part of this vision, we partner with other academic institutions to **co-create** impactful CBL experiences. Through the our Rural Development Center, we facilitate field visits and community engagement opportunities in the Sharqia Governorate and Bahariya Oasis, enabling students to work directly with the communities we serve.

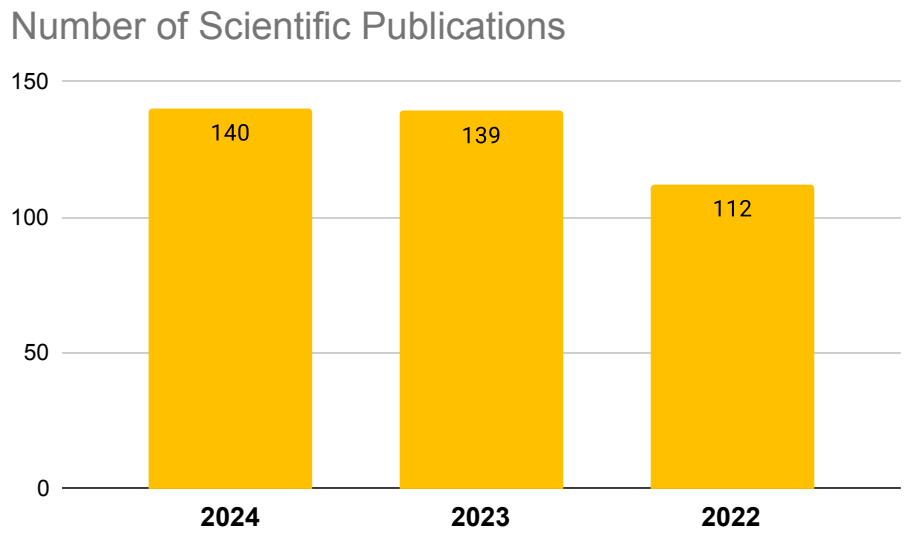
A notable example of cross-institutional collaboration is a field study conducted by students from the Faculty of Economics at the American University in Cairo (AUC). During their visit to the 13 villages of Sharqia, AUC students observed agricultural practices and engaged in direct conversations with farmers. This immersive experience provided valuable insights into rural livelihoods and encouraged solution-oriented dialogue grounded in local realities.

HU also maintains strong ties with European partner universities through mobility programs that emphasize community engagement and experiential learning, further reinforcing its mission to integrate academic knowledge with social responsibility and real-world impact.

RESEARCH AND IMPACT

HU has established a network of specialized research laboratories and centers dedicated to applied, sustainability-focused research and community development.

These facilities are designed to support interdisciplinary collaboration and contribute to the development of innovative solutions that promote social and environmental wellbeing while fostering sustainable growth.



LABORATORIES

- **Medical Research Laboratory** conducts advanced research to support the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases through innovative biomedical approaches
- **Soil Research Laboratory** focuses on soil quality and fertility assessments, enabling precision agriculture, organic farming and sustainable land management
- **Water Research Laboratory** conducts water quality monitoring and assessments with a strong focus on developing novel technologies for wastewater treatment and reuse.
- **Microbiology Research Laboratory** studies microorganisms-including bacteria, fungi, and yeasts-to advance research in health, agriculture, and biotechnology

CENTERS

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Established in 2014, the Education for Sustainable Development Center (ESDC) is HU's hub for advancing the global agenda of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). With a mission to provide **lifelong learning opportunities** across all age groups, the ESDC implements a wide range of initiatives that promote education as a **transformative tool for social, environmental, and economic regeneration.** The center oversees key programs including CBL and leads capacity-building efforts that enhance the quality of education and learning.

• ESD Program for Academic Staff

The ESD Program is a comprehensive professional and personal development program designed for HU academic staff. It aims to enhance teaching quality, learning outcomes, and faculty competencies - while emphasizing the pivotal role of education in advancing sustainable development.

A combination of mandatory and elective courses on topics such as: Inner Development Through Art, Strategies for Student Engagement, Transformative Leadership, Introduction to Participatory Learning, and ICT in Education are offered. This is complemented by individual coaching sessions to help faculty refine their teaching methodologies and improve the learning experience for students.

• Leadership for Sustainability Program

Launched in 2023, the Leadership for Sustainability Program (LSP) is a selective, four-year journey designed to nurture **future leaders and changemakers** from their first year of university. The program blends capacity building, personal development, and purpose-driven leadership training, offering a wide range of experiential learning opportunities. Activities include: volunteer placements, interactive sessions with mentors and experts, peer learning workshops and reflective exercises focused on values, vision and impact.

In 2024, 7 new students joined the program, bringing total enrollment to 18 students. The LSP aims to cultivate graduates who lead with integrity, resilience, and a strong commitment to sustainability across disciplines and sectors.

LSP students are joined by 13 Austrian youth through ERASMUS+ mobility program on a week-long retreat in Bahariya Oasis

RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Rural Development Center (RDC) leads the design and implementation of initiatives that promote economic, social, and environmental development in rural communities.

Current efforts are focused in two key regions: **13 neighnouring villages in Sharqia Governorate** and the **Bahariya Oasis** in Egypt's Western Desert.

- **Waste Management**

As part of its commitment to promoting a circular economy, the RDC launched the waste management initiative that relies on efficient collection and sorting mechanisms for waste, including plastic, cardboard and glass. This year 411,150 kilograms of waste was collected from **200 households** in the 13 villages in exchange for financial and in-kind incentives, alongside HU and other partner entities.

411,150
KILOGRAMS
of waste collected and recycle from the 13 villages, HU and partner entities

The RDC is also addressing agricultural waste. In Bahariya Oasis, a new initiative was launched to transform palm waste into a **sustainable alternative to peat moss.**

1,033
TONNES
of palm waste collected and repurposed

• Health & Wellbeing

The RDC successfully concluded the **Females' Employment in Reproductive Healthcare** project, funded by the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA). The project engaged **7,800 families** across the 13 villages through awareness campaigns and home visits led by trained female guides. These visits ensured broad community access to family planning and reproductive healthcare education.

To build up on these efforts, the RDC is now implementing the **Women Health Project** in collaboration with the Integrative Health Center (IHC).

274,345
HOME VISITS
completed by female health guides

Know more about the **Women Health Project** on page 31

• Be an Ambassador Initiative

As part of the national "Be an Ambassador" initiative, launched by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in partnership with the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, the RDC hosted a cohort of **1,105 youth ambassadors** over an 11-week program.

Participants engaged with HU's sustainability model and community service initiatives, gaining insight into practical approaches to sustainable development and experiential learning.

- **Arts for Climate**

In line with its environmental education mission, the RDC launched the Arts for Climate initiative targeting primary and preparatory school students. The program promotes **climate awareness and sustainability** through creative recycling workshops conducted in public schools.

By integrating art and environmental education, the initiative encourages youth to engage in hands-on activities that build a deeper understanding of climate responsibility.

Participation grew from **1,800 students** to **3,000 students** in 2024 - nearly doubling in one year - highlighting the initiative's growing reach and impact in fostering a generation that is more conscious of sustainability and climate action.

CENTER OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN EGYPT

Founded on the belief that **regenerative agriculture is the cornerstone of sustainable development,** the Center of Organic Agriculture in Egypt (COAE) provides technical, regulatory, and certification services to stakeholders across the agricultural sector.

In addition to capacity building and advisory support, COAE is an accredited body authorized to conduct inspections and certify organic products and inputs across Egypt and Africa. Certification is conducted in accordance with **national and international organic and biodynamic standards,** helping producers ensure quality and market compliance.

COAE is also recognized by **Egypt's Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA)** as a validation and verification body for carbon credit issuance and also has been accredited by **IAF** and **EGAC** in compliance with requirements of ISO/IEC 17029:2019 and ISO 17065:2020, ISO 14064-3:2019, ISO 14066:2023 in the field of validation and verification for qualification and reporting of (GHG) emissions and removals.

COAE collaborates closely with the Carbon Footprint Center (CFC) to help farmers assess their carbon emissions, adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices and report results for third-party verification to issue carbon credits.

This initiative not only promotes environmental sustainability but also opens new economic opportunities for farmers participating in carbon markets through climate-conscious farming.

885
FARMS
inspected and certified

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

The Entrepreneurship Center for Social Impact (ECSI) is committed to driving positive social change by promoting social entrepreneurship, business innovation, and green transformation. Serving students, aspiring entrepreneurs, and startups across Egypt, ECSI operates through three main pillars:

- **Entrepreneurial education and student activities**
- **Incubation programs**
- **Social entrepreneurship and economic empowerment initiatives.**

This year ECSI expanded its impact through key events and student-focused initiatives. It co-hosted the **Egyptian Entrepreneurship League Qualifiers - Cairo Region** with the **Academy of Scientific Research and Technology,** providing a platform for university students to pitch innovative, eco-friendly, and tech-driven business ideas.

The center also ran a successful **Entrepreneurship Week,** which engaged students in **design thinking, ideation workshops,** and **social innovation activities.**

Further, ECSI enhanced its support for student-led innovation by **relocating and upgrading its Fabrication Lab (FabLab),** now housed within the center and divided into specialized zones to improve usability.

The FabLab played a central role in supporting student projects, especially for those enrolled in the Creativity and Entrepreneurship course. Students were able to prototype ideas using 3D printing and electronics, with several advancing their projects toward potential startup ventures.

One example is LYAN, a sustainable 3D concrete printing startup. With the support of technical mentors, the team were able to produce functional prototypes that are now in the implementation phase of the EDNC project by SODIC in New Cairo - marking a significant step toward commercialization.

- **Women Economic Empowerment**

In collaboration with the RDC, ECSI leads initiatives aimed at enhancing economic resilience in local communities, with a strong focus on women and youth. A central component of this effort is the provision of microloans to help aspiring entrepreneurs launch and grow their businesses - **creating jobs, improving livelihoods, and fostering inclusive economic development.**

To ensure long-term impact, the center conducts comprehensive assessments and tailored mentorship for beneficiaries. This integrated approach-combining financial support with strategic guidance-helps nurture viable and sustainable ventures.

230
beneficiaries

9 Million
EGP in loans

INTEGRATIVE HEALTH CENTER

The Integrative Health Center (IHC) was established to provide comprehensive, **holistic healthcare** services to both the internal university community and surrounding rural populations. Unlike conventional medicine, integrative medicine focuses on identifying and addressing the root causes of chronic illness, prioritizing prevention, wellness, and whole-person care.

- **Mobile Health Services: Health on Wheels and Health Shuttle**

Since September 2023, the IHC has organized mobile health convoys, "Health on Wheels", to deliver medical services and educational health programs across 13 villages. In 2024, screenings, including blood pressure checks, diabetes testing, pediatric examinations, and weight assessments were conducted for **294 patients** with 222 cases referred to SEKEM Medical Center in Belbeis for specialized treatment.

In partnership with RDC, the IHC also operates a daily shuttle service, transporting residents from the 13 villages to the Medical Center. The service prioritizes impoverished women, individuals with physical disabilities, and children with developmental disorders.

100 PATIENTS
per month utilize the shuttle service in 2024

As part of CBL, students from the Faculty of Physical Therapy supported the diagnosis and treatment of **881 patients** in both the 13 Villages and Bahariya Oasis.

The IHC also aims to provide **health insurance coverage for 5,000 public school students.** 300 insurance cards were issued in 2024 to support initial check-ups.

• Women's Health Program

Launched early 2024 in partnership with the **Ministry of Health,** the Women's Health Program trains community-based female coaches to provide integrative health support and wellness education.

Twelve women completed a 10-week intensive training, equipping them to deliver care and awareness services to families within their communities.

• Integrative Health Screening

In 2024, **848 employees and students** from HU and other SEKEM-affiliated entities participated in preventative health screenings. These assessments enabled personalized diagnostics and generated anonymized data used to inform healthier organizational environments. To promote self-healing and well-being, IHC specialists-including art therapists, nutritionists, and movement therapists-offered weekly therapy sessions for HU students and staff. In parallel, specialized workshops focused on **mindfulness, fitness and stress management.**

• The Farmers' Health Project

In partnership with the University of Witten/Herdecke (Germany), the IHC launched a comparative longitudinal study to evaluate the effects of biodynamic, organic, and conventional agriculture on **40,000 farmers by 2027.** During the pilot phase, a well-being questionnaire was developed and distributed in November 2024 to collect baseline health data.

CARBON FOOTPRINT CENTER

The Carbon Footprint Center (CFC) provides a wide range of services to support climate mitigation and adaptation, including

- **Carbon, water, and ecological footprint assessments**
- **Sustainability evaluations and true cost accounting**
- **Technical consulting for afforestation and carbon neutrality projects**
- **Climate-focused capacity building and training programs**

The CFC is double certified with both **ISO 14064-1:2018** and **ISO 14064-2:2019,** ensuring that all greenhouse gas (GHG) emission data and offset reporting meet internationally recognized standards for accuracy and reliability.

The Center has conducted carbon footprint assessments and climate capacity-building programs for a range of organizations, including **Concrete, Metco** and the **Egyptian Clothing Bank.** This year, it expanded its reach through a strategic partnership with the Industrial Modernization Center (IMC) to promote environmental sustainability within the industrial sector and disseminate climate best practices across industries.

An existing cooperation protocol with the Authority for Import and Export continued to facilitate training sessions for exporting companies, enhancing awareness of climate change and carbon assessment processes.

The CFC plays a key role in the **Economy of Love (EoL)** carbon credit scheme- an initiative that provides market-based solutions to climate challenges by supporting smallholder farmers in adopting climate-positive agricultural practices. In 2024, **1,130** smallholder farmers were supported in assessing and reporting their carbon footprints using the **CoolFarm Tool,** a GHG and biodiversity calculator tailored for the agriculture sector.

The CFC worked closely with the farmers to identify emission reduction strategies, including fertilizer optimization and energy efficiency improvements, thereby advancing sustainable agriculture in Egypt.

To know more about the EoL click here

ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH CENTER

The Ecosystem Research Center (ERC) is dedicated to advancing research and action on biodiversity, ecosystem health, and **regenerative landscape restoration.** Recognizing that healthy, biodiverse ecosystems are essential to sustaining life, the ERC works to address the accelerating degradation of natural systems and the urgent need to restore ecological integrity.

The center's efforts focus on developing and implementing **science-based, community-driven solutions** to protect, regenerate, and sustain ecosystems that provide critical ecological, cultural, social, and economic services.

• Greening The Desert

In partnership with SEKEM for Land Reclamation, the ERC is leading an ambitious effort to transform **1,000 hectares of desert land into fertile soil** in Bahariya Oasis. 636,065 trees have been planted to date, contributing to soil fertility improvement, microclimate stabilization, the creation of new habitats.

636,065
TREES PLANTED
in the Bahariya Oasis

• Wahat Restoration Project

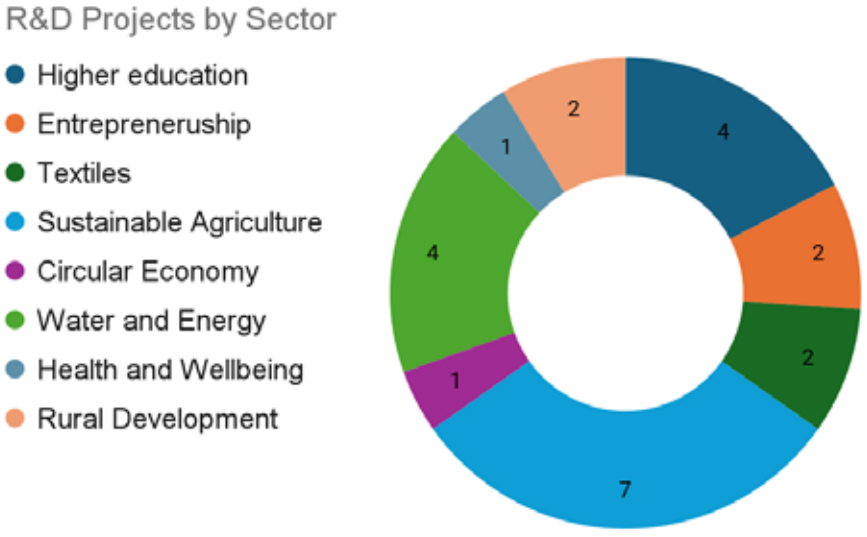
Recognizing the ecological and socio-economic significance of Bahariya Oasis, the ERC has launched a **holistic ecosystem restoration project.** This initiative began with two collaborative workshops involving local community stakeholders and experts to define a shared vision for restoration, identify social, economic, and environmental challenges, and create a strategic roadmap for long-term sustainability.

In 2023, the ERC conducted a preliminary biodiversity assessment in partnership with Nature Conservation Egypt, providing critical insights into the region's ecological landscape. Additionally, the center is actively exploring biodiversity credits and other innovative financing mechanisms to secure long-term support for restoration efforts.

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) plays a crucial role in advancing the university's research and development agenda by securing external funding and supporting the implementation of development and applied research projects.

In 2024, the OSP oversaw **24** research and development (R&D) projects, with a total expenditure of **48.5 million** Egyptian Pounds. Funding for these projects was made possible through partnerships with long-standing collaborators such as Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), Horizon 2020 (H2020), Erasmus+ and EuropeAid.



NEW PROJECTS IN 2024

- **Media For Future:** aims to create a unique platform for climate communication, offering training for journalists and scientists.
- **GREEN** - focuses on developing a curriculum for green hydrogen technologies and applications across Southern Mediterranean countries to address the region's clean energy transition
- **Towards Organic Agriculture:** supports efforts to reduce carbon emissions and strengthen the role of agriculture in climate change mitigation in Egypt's Matrouh governorate
- **Knowledge Hub 3:** aims to facilitate knowledge transfer related to sustainable agriculture in North Africa
- **SUS-SOIL:** focuses on developing and disseminating agro ecological soil management practices in urban and rural areas

CAMPUS OPERATIONS

HU campus is a reflection of the university's deep **commitment to conservation, resource efficiency, and sustainability.** Through ongoing innovation and targeted initiatives, we actively work to reduce our environmental footprint while promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation.

BUILDINGS & DESIGN

HU's environmentally conscious design philosophy emphasizes low emissions, waste reduction and energy efficiency. All buildings are constructed using sustainable materials, resource-efficient practices with architectural features that maximize natural lighting and ventilation.

The buildings feature large overarching windows to promote airflow and reduce dependence on artificial lighting and cooling. Abundant greenery and shade help regulate indoor temperatures, reducing energy consumption. Campus furniture is produced in the carpentry workshop at SEKEM Vocational Training Center using recycled and sustainable materials.

The campus also hosts hydroponics and aquaponics systems, providing fresh vegetables and fish for university dining.

ENERGY & WATER

Paving the way for a greener future, HU aims to become Egypt's first university to operate on 100% renewable energy. Currently, **two** solar stations - one at the Faculty of Pharmacy and another at the Administrative Building - supply clean energy to campus operations.

With Egypt's renewable water resources estimated at just 600 cubic meters per person per year, which is far below the water poverty line (1000 cubic meters annually per capita). With a steadily growing population and climate change impacts, the water situation in Egypt is expected to be even more tense. Therefore, we place high priority on water conservation. Efforts include treating wastewater and using it for landscape irrigation.

100%

of landscaping water sourced from recycled wastewater

Agriculture in Egypt uses around 85% of all available water. As such HU has several ongoing research projects that aim to develop **cost-effective solutions for waste water management** that are being prototyped on campus to be scaled in farms and rural areas.

In 2024, we also launched a campus-wide initiative to encourage students and staff to calculate and reflect on their water footprint. This was followed by a series of discussions and workshops, where participants collaborated to develop action plans at both the personal and organizational levels to reduce water consumption and promote sustainable water use practices.

WASTE

A considerable amount of waste is generated everyday on campus and is sorted weekly. Organic waste, such food waste from the cafeteria and byproducts of landscaping, are turned into compost that is then used to fertilize campus gardens. Non-organic waste, such as plastic and paper, is recycled to reduce the amount of waste ending up in landfills. To spread awareness and encourage students and staff to sort their waste, all trash bins around campus are separated and labeled organic and non-organic.

A clothing and fabric collection station encourages the donation of used items. In partnership with The Clothing Bank, usable pieces are distributed to families in need, while others are upcycled into materials for arts and crafts on campus.

TRANSPORTATION

Recognizing the daily travel needs of staff and students-many of whom commute from Sharqia Governorate and surrounding areas-HU offers daily shuttle services to reduce individual car use and associated emissions. Plans are underway to expand routes into Greater Cairo and explore incentives for carpooling.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

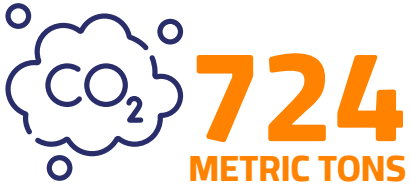
Egypt has long demonstrated regional and global leadership in addressing climate change reflected in its ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, and through its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

As of January 2022, Egypt has submitted its NDCs, which include mitigation targets, renewable energy development and energy efficiency strategies, adaptation measures, and requests for international support in finance, technology transfer, and capacity building.

HU aligns its climate strategy with these national priorities through **annual carbon footprint assessments.** By assessing and offsetting our footprint annually, we not only meet international reporting standards, but also identify key areas for research, innovation, and operational efficiency.

Our assessment follows the **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol,** a globally recognized corporate standard that provides a clear framework for the measurement, management, and reporting of GHG emissions. By adopting this methodology, we ensure that reporting is transparent, consistent, and aligned with international best practices. In 2024, our total greenhouse gas emissions amounted to **724**

metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent ($mtCO_2e$) three standard emission scopes defined by the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol.

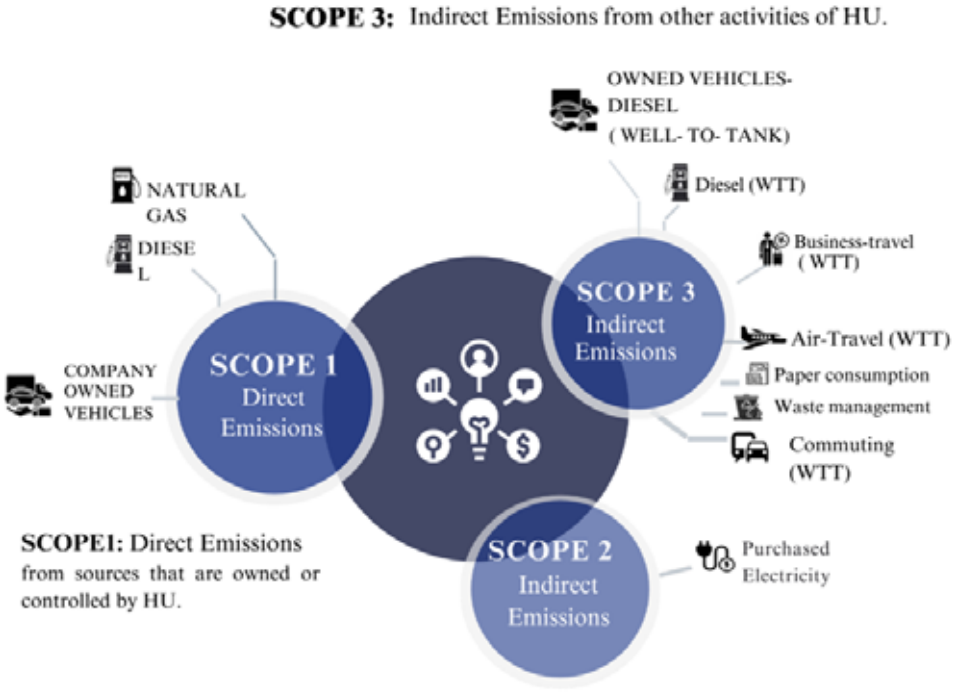


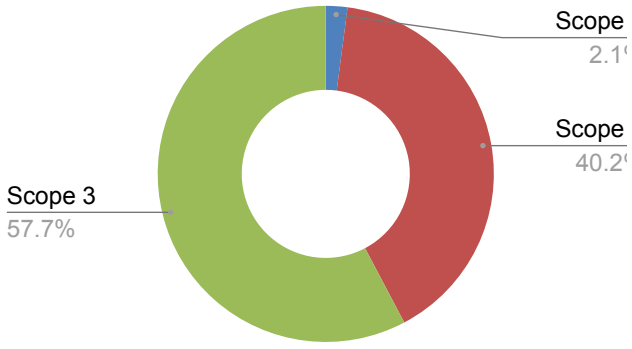
Total emissions of CO_2e in 2024

In 2024, **Scope 1 emissions,** which encompass direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the university, amounted to **15 $mtCO_2e$.** These emissions typically originate from university-owned vehicles, on-site fuel combustion (such as in boilers or generators), and other direct energy uses.

Scope 2 emissions, which refer to indirect emissions, primarily from the consumption of purchased electricity from the government, were recorded at **291 $mtCO_2e$.** The relatively high contribution of Scope 2 emissions highlights the critical importance of improving energy efficiency across campus operations. We are working towards expanding the share of solar energy in the upcoming years, particularly given the geographic advantage of HU's location in a high-sunlight area.

The largest contributor to HU's carbon footprint in 2024 was **Scope 3 emissions,** which totaled **418 $mtCO_2e$.** Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions that occur as a result of HU's activities but from sources not owned or directly controlled by the university. These include emissions from staff commuting, paper consumption, procurement of goods and services.





80% of Scope 3 emissions actually come from staff commuting using their own vehicles. We are currently looking into strategies to incentivize carpooling, in addition to expanding our bus routes to include key areas within greater Cairo.

As part of our ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability, we offset our carbon emissions through the voluntary carbon credits market.

This initiative reflects our dedication to not only measuring and reducing emissions, but also to actively contributing to global climate mitigation efforts by supporting projects that generate verified environmental and social benefits.

Economy of Love

VOLUNTARY CARBON CREDIT

CERTIFICATE

Afforestation | Compost | Renewable energy | Soil carbon sequestration | Livestock

PROJECT NAME COAE — EOL Wahat Farm
CERTIFICATE NUMBER — COAE-SEKEMWAHAT-EG750-EG760-689-11940/5226-5949
SERIAL NUMBER — EOL 2592
UNDERLYIG METHADAOLOGY — EOL carbon emissions were calculated

using representative soil and tree parameters, information on specific management practices, and the Cool Farm Tool for assessing individual farm impacts. EoL complies with IPCC principles and guidelines of the CDM methodology. The COAE is validating and verifying the EoL licensees according to ISO 14065 based on the EoL project design document provided by the Carbon Footprint Center.

The Economy of Love standard certifies that

Heliopolis University

Neutralized

723

ton(s) of CO2 e emissions by supporting the Greening the desert project verified and validated by the Center of Organic Agriculture in Egypt which is verified and validated ISO 14065.

www.economyoflove.net | 3 Cairo Belbeis Desert Road | 2834 El-Horreya | Cairo, Egypt

LIFE ON CAMPUS

Beyond academics and research, HU fosters a vibrant campus life that encourages **creative expression, personal development,** and **social responsibility.** A wide range of **extracurricular activities** are available to both students and staff which include

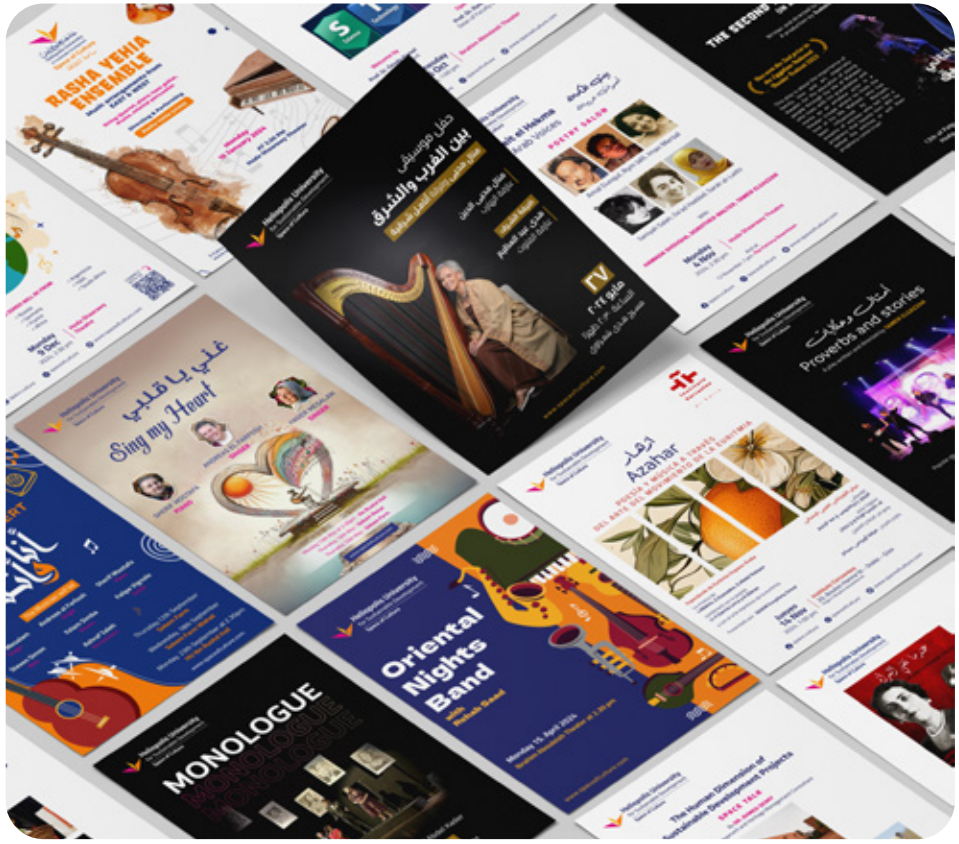
- Facilities for arts and movement
- Sports programs and tounames
- Cultural events and exhibitions
- Volunteering and social service opportunities

SPACE OF CULTURE

Art is a powerful language - connecting individuals, bridging intellect and emotion, and nurturing the will to create change. At HU, this vision is realized through the Space of Culture (SoC) program, which brings the arts into everyday campus life. Through its Space on Tour initiative, SoC also extends its offering to surrounding rural communities.

This year, SoC hosted over 30 events including, concerts, theatre performances, exhibitions, dialogues, and festivals featuring renowned artists, academics, and performers from Egypt and abroad. Highlights ranged from musical collaborations like the Nile-Danube Trio and SEKEM School Choir, to powerful theatrical performances by local and international artists, and thought-provoking talks on themes such as sustainable development, gender in STEM, and entrepreneurship history.

Operationally, 2024 marked an important expansion phase for SoC with several events organized off-campus in venues like the Austrian Cultural Forum, Jesuit Theater, and Cervantes Institute, strengthening its outreach and visibility in Cairo's cultural scene.



EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

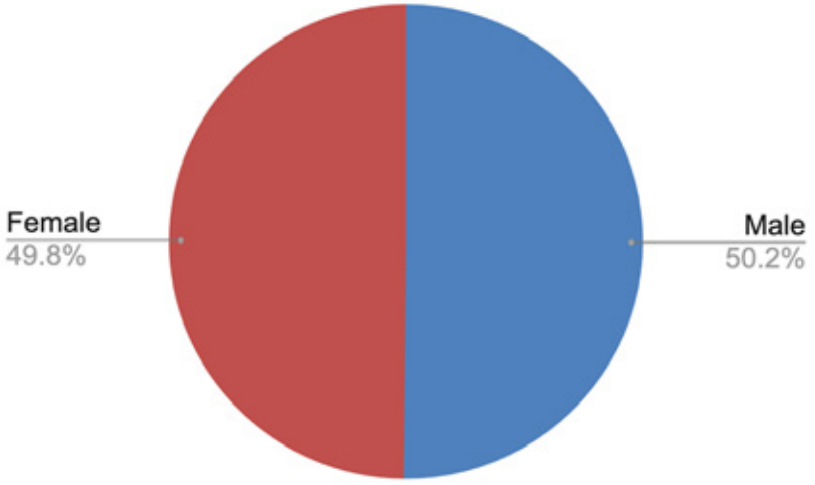
EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

Equality and diversity stand for providing all people with equal opportunities and removing any chances of discrimination. This is an integral part of HU's culture, where people with different backgrounds, nationalities and beliefs are working together every day.

Monthly non-monetary benefits are offered to all HU employees including subsidized meals and transportation, private health insurance, and access to higher education for employees' children at subsidized rates. HU also offers both maternal and paternal leave.

100%
OF EMPLOYEES
covered by private health insurance

Gender inequality is a major issue in Egypt, with the country ranking 129th out of 156 in the Global Gender Gap Index. Along with our partner institutions, we work continuously towards increasing female participation in the workforce. We are proud to have achieved near gender parity in 2024. We remain committed to supporting women through on-site childcare facilities, ability to work from home and access reproductive health consultation services.



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328

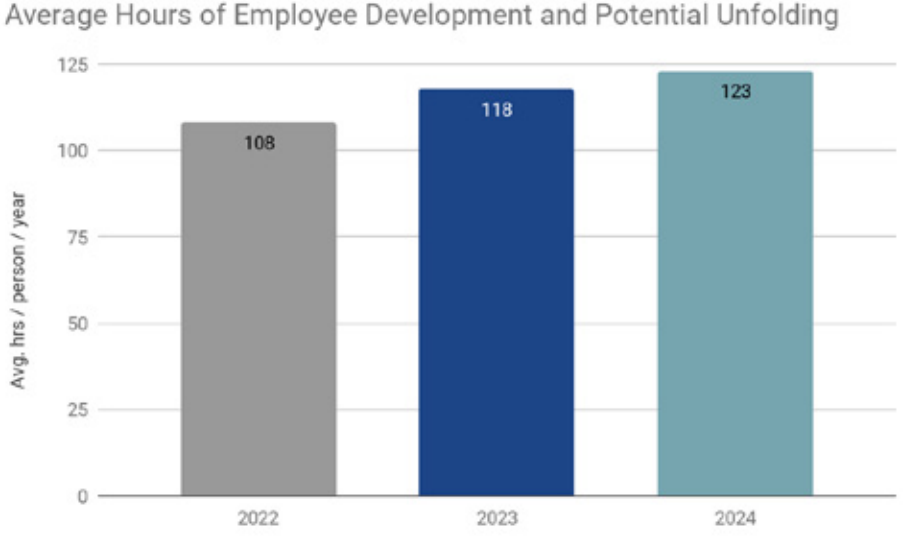
SEXUAL HARASSMENT FREE CAMPUS INITIATIVE

HU is committed to ensuring a safe learning and working environment. In addition to strict policies being in place to protect our community, a campus wide campaign addressing sexual harassment campaign was launched in 2022 with the goal to create a safe space where everyone is encouraged to speak up and to raise awareness. This year marked the launch of the fourth phase which included interactive theatre performances, information days and discussion circles moderated by gender experts, engaging both staff and students in meaningful dialogue and awareness-building.

Watch highlights

TRAINING ACADEMY

The Training Academy ensures that staff have continuous access to personal and professional development opportunities. A wide range of courses covering topics such as the development of interpersonal skills, knowledge of sustainability and sustainable leadership. HU aims to increase staff development hours progressively to reach **10% of total working hours by 2027.**



LOCALLY ENGAGED, GLOBALLY CONNECTED

SOCIAL INITIATIVE FORUM

HU is an active member of the World Social Initiative Forum (SIF), an international network of social initiatives dedicated to addressing pressing local and global challenges. SIF serves as a vibrant platform for dialogue, education, awareness, and knowledge exchange, engaging national and international stakeholders across sectors.

Throughout 2024, Heliopolis University hosted several editions of the forum that brought together thought leaders, practitioners, and young changemakers to explore pathways for sustainable development and regenerative transformation.

SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT
FEBRUARY 2024

The event brought together experts and thought leaders from the Ministry of Water Resources, the National Water Research Center, and the Ministry of Agriculture to discuss unconventional water practices, the water-food-energy nexus, desalination, and food security. Interactive sessions explored actionable strategies for sustainable water governance, culminating in a dynamic panel featuring voices from academia, youth, and the priv ate sector, including HU students and local community leaders. The event was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Hani Sewilam, Egypt's Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, who delivered a keynote address on integrated water resource management.

Keynote presentation by his excellency Hani Sewilam, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt

SOLUTIONS FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE: LIVING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE
APRIL 2024

In April 2024, a special edition of the Social Initiative Forum took place in parallel with the World Future Council's Annual General Meeting in Egypt under the theme "Solutions for Our Common Future: Living in Harmony with Nature" The forum featured thought-provoking sessions on ecosystem restoration, climate policy, peace and security, and regenerative leadership. Highlights included contributions from global changemakers and World Future Councillors such as Dr. Michael Otto, Dr. Otto Scharmer, and Thais Corral. HU students participated in a dedicated youth panel, reaffirming the university's commitment to empowering the next generation of sustainability leaders.

INDUSTRY-BASED EDUCATION
SEPTEMBER 2024

In September 2024, HU organized another edition of SIF focused on Industry-Based Education, reflecting the university's efforts to develop an innovative educational model that integrates community-based learning, industry-based training, and problem-based approaches. The forum explored global best practices and examined the intersection of education, employability, and sustainability in Egypt's evolving landscape. Academic leaders, industry experts, and university stakeholders participated in hands-on working sessions to co-create future directions for action-based research and experiential education.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In 2024, the International Relations Office (IRO) at Heliopolis University significantly expanded its global footprint, reinforcing our mission to promote cross-cultural collaboration and global academic exchange. We signed 14 new international agreements and renewed 9 existing ones, facilitating robust student and staff mobility, joint research, and dual-degree pathways.

Our academic mobility programs enabled **52** students to engage in international experiences through semester exchanges, summer schools, scientific camps, and internships across Austria, Germany, Slovenia, and the Netherlands.

In parallel, **37** faculty and staff participated in outbound and inbound mobility programs, including three representatives who attended the Summer Peace University in Italy-a masterclass in peacebuilding and sustainability.

HU was also selected as one of five institutions in the MENA region to establish the EMUNI Knowledge and Innovation Center (EKIC) in Egypt, marking a milestone in regional academic leadership. Furthermore, we launched the EU-funded MOBILIZE Project, which will provide 18 annual internships for students in the Organic Agriculture program in partnership with the Maastricht School of Management.

The IRO also coordinated over **60** international delegation visits, hosting more than **700** guests. These included institutions such as EMUNI University, Osnabrück University, King Fahd Foundation, Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI) and Green Banking initiatives from France and Kenya.

COP29 AND COP16

In 2024, HU played a leading role at two global forums-the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (COP16). Together with SEKEM, and in partnership with organizations such as the Future Economy Forum, NOW Partners, and the UN Global Compact, we co-led several high-level side events and dialogue.

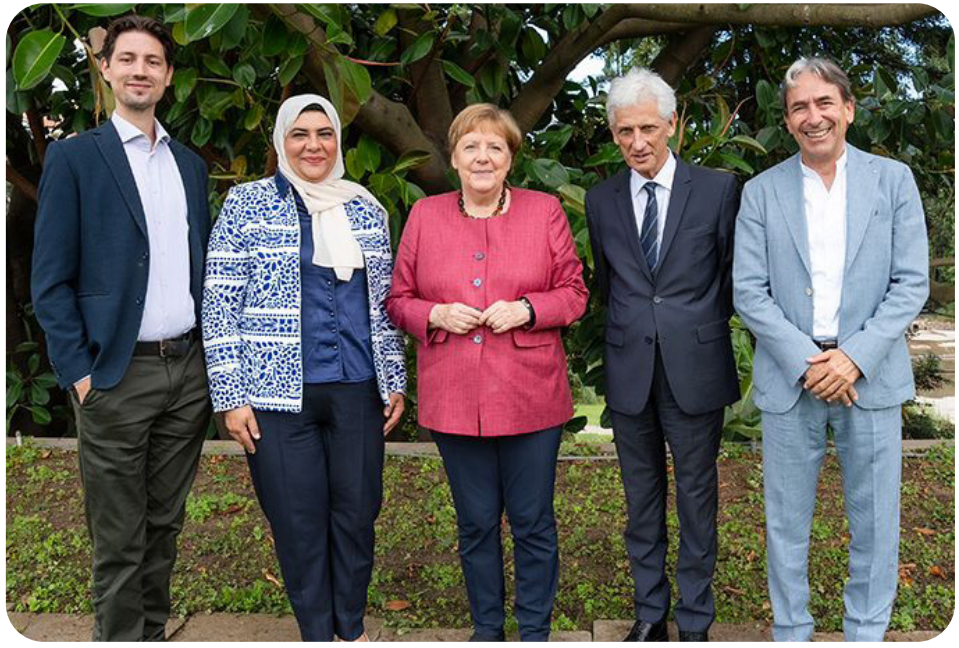
Through technical panels and roundtable discussions, we contributed our expertise on critical topics such as soil health, carbon sequestration, and sustainable food systems. Our interventions highlighted the transformative potential of regenerative agriculture, climate finance, and land restoration as key strategies to combat climate change and desertification.

Along with partners, we developed and promoted a joint call of action for organic and climate positive agriculture, advocating for a robust framework - The Economy of Love (EoL). Through the EoL smallholder farmers are able to generate and trade certified carbon credits in the international voluntary carbon market (VCM), with the revenues reinvested into improving their livelihoods and scaling regenerative practices. This call to action has since been endorsed by numerous local, regional, and international organizations, reinforcing momentum for sustainable agricultural finance.

Read the Call to Action here.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

A major highlight at COP29 was the recognition of Helmy Abouleish, Chair of HU's Board of Trustees, as a **Climate Champion** - Impact Maker by the UNFCCC for his pioneering leadership in biodynamic agriculture. Mr Abouleish was also awarded the prestigious **Champions of the Earth Award** 2024, the UN's highest environmental honour.

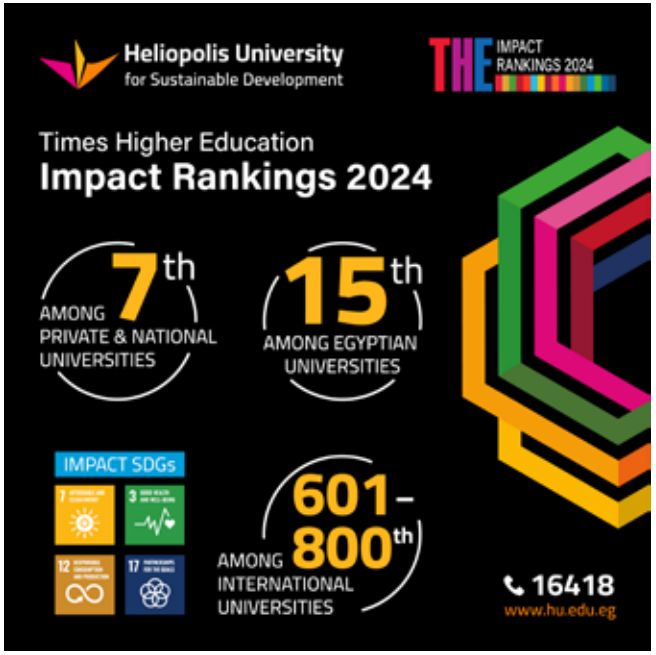


Our partners, SEKEM and the Egyptian Biodynamic Association (EBDA), were awarded the 2024 **Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity** which recognizes outstanding contributions to climate action and solutions that inspire hope and possibility. HU is proud to be an active supporter and contributor to their mission of empowering 40,000 farmers to embrace EoL certification and transition into organic and biodynamic agricultural practice by 2030.

THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKING

For the third consecutive year, HU has been recognized in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, which assess universities' contributions to advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the 2024 rankings, Heliopolis University was ranked 7th among Egyptian private and national universities, 15th among all Egyptian universities, and placed within the 601-800 range globally.

This marks a significant improvement, with the university climbing by 9 spots nationally and 200 spots internationally compared to the previous year. Heliopolis University's achievements were particularly strong in four key SDGs: SDG 3 (Good Health & Wellbeing), SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), reflecting the institution's ongoing commitment to sustainability and global impact.



UI GREENMETRIC WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING

For the first time, HU participated in the UI GreenMetric World University Ranking, a global initiative launched by Universitas Indonesia to assess universities' environmental performance and sustainability practices. The ranking evaluates institutions based on **39 indicators** across **six key criteria: Setting and Infrastructure, Energy and Climate Change, Waste, Water, Transportation, and Education and Research.** These indicators reflect the extent to which universities are committed to creating environmentally friendly and resource-efficient campuses.

In 2024, the ranking included **1,477 universities** from **95 countries,** representing over **2.3 million faculty members** worldwide. HU was ranked

- **886th globally out of 1,477 universities**
- **34th among African universities**
- **26th among Egyptian universities**
- **9th among Egyptian private and national universities**

UI GreenMetric
World University Rankings

THE WAY FORWARD

Over the past year, our teams worked across disciplines, departments, and communities to gather and reflect on the actions that define our holistic mission. The process was not without its challenges. Like many institutions in the Global South, we faced limitations in data collection, capacity, and systematization. Yet, this experience has strengthened our resolve to build robust mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and impact.

This report lays the foundation for a new phase of institutional learning - one where we move from inspiration to measurable transformation. Our next steps include formalizing our governance structures, digitizing data systems, and deepening engagement with all stakeholders, especially our students and local communities.

We thank every faculty member, staff, student, partner, and community leader who contributed to this report - whether through data, insight, or action. Your commitment reaffirms that sustainability is not a department, a strategy, or a trend - it is who we are.

ANNEX

ALIGNMENT WITH GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

We recognize the importance of aligning our sustainability practices with globally recognized frameworks. This inaugural sustainability report has been structured to reflect core principles and reporting elements outlined by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While data collection systems are still being developed and refined, this report lays the groundwork for a robust, standardized reporting structure. In future editions, we aim to deepen alignment with these standards and expand both the breadth and accuracy of reported indicators.

Report Section	GRI Standards	Relevant SDG
About HU / Institutional Ecosystem	GRI 102-1 to 102-7: Organizational Profile	SDG 4, 17
Teaching & Learning	GRI 103: Management Approach	SDG 4, 12
Core Program / Community-Based Learning	GRI 413: Local Communities	SDG 4, 10, 11
Research and Impact	GRI 203: Indirect Economic Impacts	SDG 9, 13
Campus Operations	GRI 302: Energy, GRI 303: Water, GRI 305: Emissions, GRI 306: Waste	SDG 6, 7, 12, 13
Carbon Footprint Center	GRI 305: Emissions	SDG 13, 15
Life on Campus / Space of Culture	GRI 401, 403, 404: Employment & Wellbeing	SDG 3, 5, 10
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	GRI 405: Diversity & Equal Opportunity	SDG 5, 10
Integrative Health Center / Wellbeing	GRI 403: Occupational Health & Safety	SDG 3
Ecosystem Restoration / Greening Projects	GRI 304: Biodiversity	SDG 15
Social Initiative Forum / COP Engagement	GRI 102-40 to 102-44: Stakeholder Engagement	SDG 13, 17

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SDGS

UN Sustainable Development Goal	HU Contribution Examples	Related Sections
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	Sustainable agriculture curriculum, agroforestry, organic food research	Faculty of Organic Agriculture, COAE
SDG 3: Good Health & Well-being	Community health screenings, Women's Health Program, IHC services	Integrative Health Center, Physical Therapy
SDG 4: Quality Education	Sustainability-integrated curricula, CBL, ESD Program	Core Program, Teaching & Learning, ESDC
SDG 5: Gender Equality	Gender parity in employment, on-campus childcare, diversity and inclusion initiatives	Equality & Inclusion, Campus Culture
SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation	Water treatment projects, water footprint awareness campaigns	Campus Operations, Faculty of Engineering
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	On-campus solar stations, renewable energy research	Engineering Faculty, Campus Operations
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation & Infra.	Applied research on wastewater, bio-based recycling tech	OSP, Faculty of Engineering, Carbon Center
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	Inclusive rural outreach, community engagement, women's empowerment	RDC, CBL, Entrepreneurship Center
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities & Comm.	Local development in 13 villages, urban waste reduction	RDC, Community-Based Learning
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption	Circular economy efforts, sustainable packaging, composting campus waste	Campus Ops, Business Faculty Projects
SDG 13: Climate Action	Carbon accounting, afforestation, COP participation	Carbon Footprint Center, ERC, COP Highlights
SDG 15: Life on Land	Tree planting, desert ecosystem restoration	ERC, COAE
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	Erasmus+, GIZ, PRIMA, AUC-AHU projects, global networks	OSP, Social Initiative Forum, Partnerships

SEKEM ECOSYSTEM

SEKEM HOLDING GROUP OF COMPANIES

The history of SEKEM starts with a group of companies under the SEKEM Holding founded in 1977 by Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish to strengthen sustainable development in Egypt. On the scale of Egyptian and international markets they produce, process, and market Organic and Biodynamic foodstuff, textiles, and phyto-pharmaceuticals.

LOTUS S.A.E /LOTUS UPPER EGYPT S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 1977/2008

Services:
Production, import and export of organic and biodynamic products

Products: Herbs, spices, seeds

ISIS ORGANIC S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 1997

Services:
Production of organic food

Products: Herbal teas, honey, juices, spices, fruit and vegetables, oil

SEKEM FOR LAND RECLAMATION S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 2008

Services:
Reclaiming and cultivating new pieces of land according to biodynamic principles, operating in total 3 SEKEM farms located in Wahat Bahareya, Sinai and Minya.

NATURETEX S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 1998

Services:
Design, manufacturing, marketing of the products

Products:
Baby and kids wear, toys, home textiles, fabrics, assorted adult items from organic cotton

ATOS PHARMA S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 1986

Services:
Manufacture & marketing of phytopharmaceuticals

Products:
Natural medicines and healthcare products

SEKEM LABORATORIES S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 1979

Services:
Management of SEKEM main farm (Sekem 1,2,3) and Adleya farm, grafting and plant cultivation services for fruit and vegetable plants; animal welfare, production of milk, eggs, beef, sheep, and chicken.

LIBRA S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 1988

Services:
Animal husbandry, compost production

EL-MIZAN S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 2006

Services:
Nursery for trees and agricultural crops, crafting of plants

SEKEM EUROPE GMBH

Year of establishment: 2005

Services:
Import and sales of SEKEM's products, customer care, export marketing, market development.

PARTNER NGOS

EGYPTIAN BIODYNAMIC ASSOCIATION (EBDA)

Founded by Dr. Ibrahim Abuleish in 1994, EBDA (also known as Demeter Egypt) is an independent non-governmental organization that supports farmers in Egypt to shift from conventional practices to sustainable agriculture. Ever since its establishment, EBDA has continuously guided more than 2100 Egyptian farmers towards organic and biodynamic agriculture. EBDA was able to increase the living standard of its members through sustainable production methods and well-coordinated market access of organically and biodynamically produced raw materials.

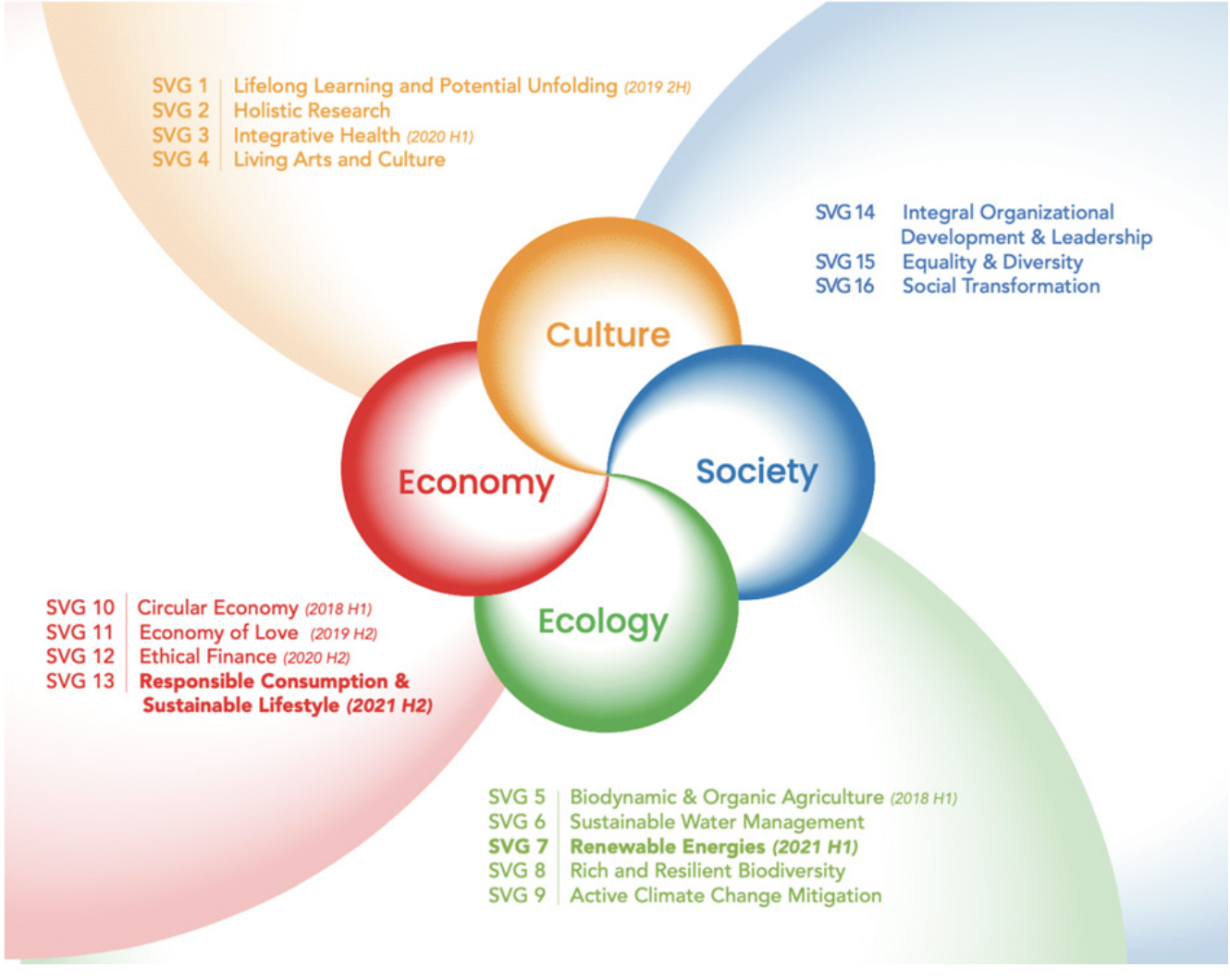
Learn more from: http://ebda.earth/

THE SEKEM DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (SDF)

The SDF is a private non-profit organization that works to improve the quality of people's lives. It implements a variety of projects and programs in the field of social development, health care, education and ecology. Financed partly by a profit share from SEKEM's companies and supported by a variety of organizations and donors (e.g. SEKEM friends)

Entities: SEKEM Primary and Secondary Schools, Nursery, Kindergarten, Vocational Training Center, Medical Center.

SEKEM VISION GOALS



INDEX OF ABBREVIATIONS

AASHE	Association for the advancement of sustainability in Education
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
CBL	Community based learning
COAE	Center of Organic Agriculture in Egypt
COP	Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CFC	Carbon Footprint Center
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
CO2e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
EoL	Economy of Love
EU	European Union
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
ESDC	Education for Sustainable Development Center
ERC	Ecosystem Research Center
FRA	Financial Regulatory Authority
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ha	Hectare
HU	Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development
H2020	European Union Horizon 2020
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
IHC	Integrative Health Center
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
KPI	Key performance indicator
MSMEDA	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency
OSP	Office of Sponsored Programs
PRIMA	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
R&D	Research and development
RDC	Rural Development Center
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLR	SEKEM for Land Reclamation
STARS	Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Vision 2030	Egypt's national sustainable development strategy

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