

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2021-2022

HKUST  Sustainability



CONTENTS OF THE REPORT

1 - Foreword

2 - HKUST Contributions to Specific SDG Target

Goal 1: No Poverty	3	Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities	22
Goal 2: Zero Hunger	5	Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	23
Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being	7	Goal 12: Responsible Production and Consumption	27
Goal 4: Quality Education	9	Goal 13: Climate Action	29
Goal 5: Gender Equality	11	Goal 14: Life Below Water	31
Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	13	Goal 15: Life on Land	34
Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	16	Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	36
Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	18	Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals	38
Goal 9: Industry Innovation and Infrastructure	20		

FOREWORD

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations (UN) Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.

They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

As a leading institution of higher education, HKUST recognizes the crucial role it plays in shaping the future and contributing to the global efforts towards achieving the UN SDGs. These goals, encompassing a wide range of interconnected issues, provide a blueprint for a more equitable, prosperous, and sustainable world by 2030.

The SDG Report reflects the unwavering dedication of HKUST towards addressing these global challenges. It serves as a snapshot of the University's progress and achievements across the various dimensions of sustainability, showcasing the collective contribution of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni that have made a tangible difference in the HKUST communities.

This report calls out the transformative power of collective action, inspiring the University to keep aiming higher and do even more to create a sustainable and inclusive world. Readers are invited to immerse themselves in the stories of impact and progress, and together, the University's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals is reaffirmed.

SDG 1: NO POVERTY



Key Stat

36

related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

43

related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Community Programmes for Eradicating Poverty

HKUST Connect is a broad-based community education program that deepens student learning, raises civic awareness, and fosters sustainable partnerships with the wider community. With programs like Struggle for Survival Poverty Simulation & Service and Street Cleaners and Scavengers Visit, students developed a sense of empathy and compassion towards those living in vulnerable circumstances and were inspired to make an impact on society, fostering a new generation of change-makers to contribute towards the global goal of eradicating poverty and creating a more equitable and inclusive society.



Financial Aid & Education Programs

HKUST offers financial aid programs for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The University Financial Assistance (UFA) is available to local students facing financial hardship, with assistance levels determined by their family's financial circumstances, including special provisions for Emergency Financial Assistance. The University also supports students with programmes such as Deferment of Tuition/Hall fees and a Loan Scheme for Off-campus Housing.

To further sustainable finance, the university also holds a special Personal Finance Ambassador Programme in collaboration with Career Sparkle for students to practice managing their financial resources that balance personal goals and long-term environmental and social sustainability.



SDG 1: NO POVERTY

Support Through Entrepreneurship

Through competitions organized by the HKUST Entrepreneurship Center, students are encouraged to use social innovation to solve poverty-related topics. The HKUST x SOW Asia Social Good Entrepreneurship Case Competition trained students with entrepreneurial skills to address the housing issues faced by those living in subdivided flats and cage homes.

HKUST also supports the local entrepreneurship ecosystem by providing financial and non-financial support to locals. In 2019, the University set up a HKS50 million fund to support startups in addition to working closely with industry partners to organise competitions to nurture startups with innovative technologies with high potential to bring about social and economic impact. The HKUST-Sino One Million Dollar Entrepreneurship Competition 2022 is a platform for HKUST and the surrounding community members to create new businesses and to prepare students to start their future careers in entrepreneurship.



SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER



Key Stat

32

related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

34

related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Research

The HKUST researches the impact of human activity on future food security and how to adapt farming to a changing climate. Adapting Food Cultivation to Climate Change in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna River Delta examines land cultivation adaptation methods in highly vulnerable regions, and studies the non-cultivation adaptation strategies such as consumption smoothing, income diversification, and migration.

Policy

The HKUST Sustainable Catering Policy extends sustainable food practices, food waste reduction strategies, and responsible consumption principles to the catering partners. The University requires the use of cleaning materials that reduce the impact on land and water ecosystems, and our caterers prepare sustainable food plans that adhere to recognized sustainable seafood guidelines. The University also encourage the adoption of organic farming and prioritizes learning experiences for its community to that teach responsible food Consumption.

Sustainable Food Engagement

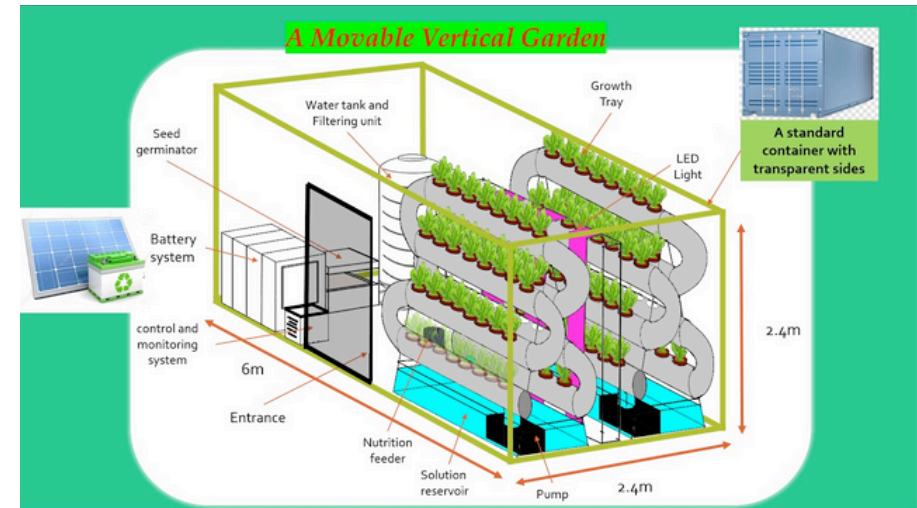
To promote a deeper understanding of sustainable food practices and food security risks, the campus's community outreach programs such as the Fellowship with Feeding Hong Kong and volunteering with HKUST Bread Run. These programs not only raise awareness but also encourage students to participate directly towards reducing food waste, addressing food insecurity, and promoting sustainable food systems within the HKUST community.



SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

Sustainable Food Engagement

The HKUST Community Garden was established in 2021 by a group of volunteers in the HKUST community. Through organic farming practices, including seed traceability and natural pest control, the garden fosters a great understanding and appreciation of land conservation techniques and sustainable land use. The garden's collaborative approach extends to the broader community, thus creating a shared commitment to sustainable food production and responsible consumption.



Sustainable Smart Campus as a Living Lab

The Sustainable Movable Vertical Garden project explores critical success factors when designing a self-sustaining, carbon-negative vertical farm. Powered by solar energy, the farm utilizes hydroponic or aeroponic techniques within a compact footprint to optimize resource utilization. By promoting sustainable agriculture practices, the project aims to enhance food security while mitigating climate change.

SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Key Stat

21

related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

1242

related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Mental Health Support

Through the Counselling and Wellness Center students and staff can arrange counselling sessions and access a 24-hour helpline for support. The University also invite the community to openly discuss vital mental health topics such as Sexual Health, Safe Sex, and Trauma and We can Heal What We Feel improved understanding about the connection between emotional well-being and overall health.

In collaboration with the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, the “Chill” Up Your Heart, camp provided students with a mindful break and an opportunity to learn and practice self-care.

MindMatters

In April 2022, the Division of Public Policy launched MindMatters improve mental well-being among Hong Kong's major ethnic minorities. The innovative program trains “lay leaders” from these communities in mental health first aid, MindMatters aims to destigmatize mental health issues while establishing community-based mental health support networks.

Research

Through extensive research and educational initiatives, HKUST aims to enhance understanding and improve outcomes related to health and well-being, fostering a culture of responsible teaching and student development.

An international research team, led by Prof. Nancy IP identified a blood protein that plays a key role in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s disease. It identified a blood protein that plays a key role in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s disease. The findings reveal an innovative strategy for reducing the risk of Alzheimer’s development and ameliorating disease pathologies in individuals living with the disease.

The HKUST researchers also developed a new hydrogel that can improve the health of homes by controlling odor problems and microbial contaminations in drainage and flushing systems. With the ability to kill 99% of the Omicron virus, the hydrogel has won the silver medal at the 2022 Special Edition of the Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions and is being trialled in the building flush water tanks for 2,880 flats at three public housing blocks in collaboration with the Housing Authority, as well as an elderly home of the Haven of Hope Christian Service.



SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Industry Collaboration

The HKUST Center for Aging Science focuses on understanding healthy aging and promoting physical and psychological well-being in old age. The research is interdisciplinary, covering genomics, social impacts, decision analytics, and technology-based solutions. With projects like Facial Landmark Detection, Improving Healthcare Operations, Smart Wheelchairs, and The Search of Cure for Alzheimer's.

With a partnership with Haven of Hope Christian Service (HOHCS), combine expertise in aging research and elderly care services to better prepare future generations for aging.

HKUST also entered into an agreement with China Resources Research Institute of Science and Technology for long-term strategic cooperation in the fields of molecular neuroscience, sustainable development and microelectronics, as well as establishing a joint research center for brain science. The agreement also provides internship or job opportunities for HKUST students and graduates at China Resources Research Institute.



Community Outreach

HKUST Connect actively engages with the community through programmes like Kiddy Online Game Day, Online Game, Zoom U Next Time with Elderly, and Mid-Autumn Festival Visit - Let Care Reach Street Cleaners and Scavengers, the University aims to improve the overall health and well-being of individuals in various target groups. By providing support, companionship, and care, HKUST Connect fosters positive social interactions and promotes the well-being of participants and community members.



Sustainable Smart Campus as a Living Lab

As part of the Sustainable Smart Campus as a Living Lab (SSC) initiative, the SmART Sounds project aims to enhance the well-being and experience of individuals on campus. By introducing acoustic interventions in select areas, including the complementing artwork in SmART Steps stairwells, SmART Sounds seeks to create a soothing atmosphere by incorporating nature-inspired sounds proven to reduce stress hormones. The project also fosters collaboration between faculty, students, and staff in designing, installing, and studying the effects of these interventions.

SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Key Stat

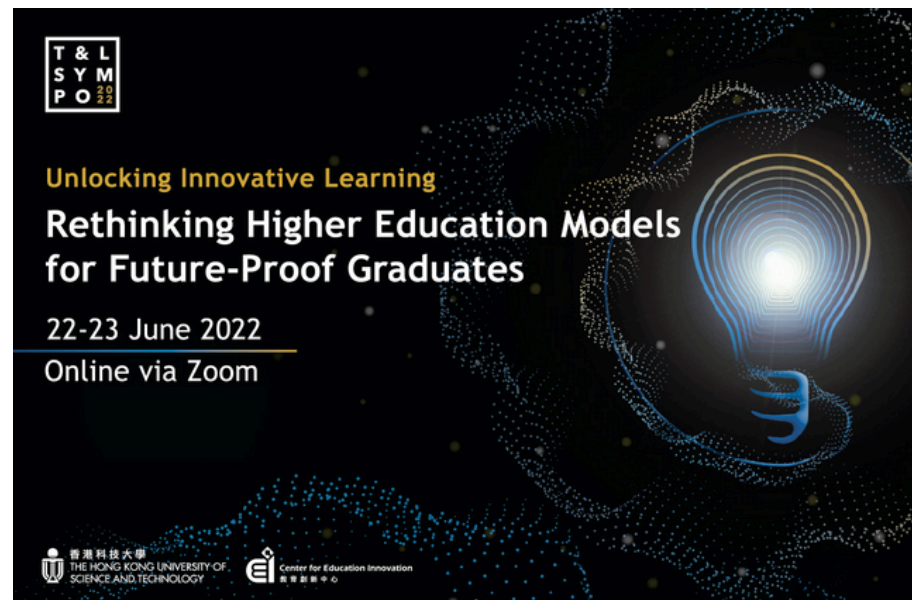
21 related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

82 related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Research

The HKUST Center for Education Innovation (CEI) organized the 2022 Teaching and Learning Symposium - Rethinking Higher Education Models for Future-Proof Graduates which brought together scholars, educators, practitioners, industry leaders, and students to envision the future of education and co-create tomorrow's education for future-proof graduates.

HKUST also launched the Education and Generative AI (EDGE-AI) Fund to encourage the integration of generative AI tools into undergraduate curriculum. To further encourage experimentation in teaching methods, the Teaching and Learning Innovation Projects (TLIP) provide funding for innovations, such as the Life Cycle Thinking Board Game that incorporates gamification and game-based learning into teaching.



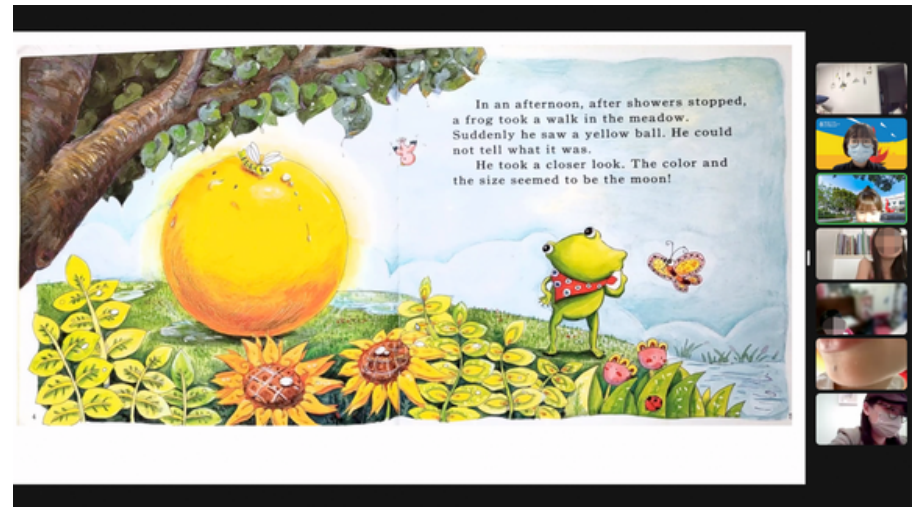
SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Community Education

Through the Academy for Bright Future Young Engineers (ABFYE), HKUST engages high school learners with innovative and authentic engineering experiences to inspire them to embrace an engineer's mindset. Students build resilient problem-solving skills and are empowered to think like engineers through a series of collaborative and student-directed projects.

HKUST Connect has actively engaged in community outreach initiatives to support public education as well. They collaborated with various organizations such as YMCA and NAAC TOUCH to provide English storytelling sessions for primary students from grassroots families and ethnic minorities, enhancing their language skills and social interaction.

The University also collaborated with the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society to offer a specialized education programme, Exploring Space with Kids, to teach space science to children from divorced or blended families, fostering interest and knowledge in astronomy. Additionally, volunteers also provided online tutoring and assistance with homework for students from low-income families, helping to bridge educational gaps.



SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

Key Stat

17 related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

24 related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Policy

HKUST is committed to creating an inclusive environment, and treating all community members with fairness and respect. Discrimination and harassment are actively opposed, following the university's Equal Opportunities and Anti-discrimination Policy guided by the Diversity and Equal Opportunities Committee (DEOC), which plays a crucial role in ensuring equal opportunity, diversity, and inclusion at the university.

The University has implemented Anti-discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policies to ensure a fair and inclusive working environment. These policies are based on the four anti-discrimination laws in Hong Kong, which cover sex, disability, family status, and race.

Community Education

HKUST organizes talks and trainings to promote diversity, equity, and inclusiveness in the workplace, bridging the gender gap in the tech industry, and preventing sexual harassment on campus. International Women's Day events in March 2022, such as LEAP Talk: Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness in the Workplace prepared women to face invisible barriers in the workplace and how to overcome diversity/equity/inclusion issues when they encounter them. The University also served as an academic partner for the AmCham HK: Bridging the Gender Gap in Tech which highlighted how technology companies are seeking to accelerate diversity and inclusion and let participants hear from a panel of female leaders on how they address challenges they face in the workplace due to their gender.



SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

International Women's Day@HKUST

HKUST is committed to achieving gender parity and actively promotes diversity and the reduction of stereotypes for a more equitable society, especially in STEM fields. In celebration of International Women's Day (IWD), the university organizes a range of events every year, including a book corner celebrating women's achievements and encourages individuals to participate in these events or become ambassadors to share the message in person or on social media.

Women Faculty Association (WFA)

The Women Faculty Association (WFA) at HKUST was established in 2011 by a group of dedicated women faculty members from all schools of the university. The Association provides mentoring and support networks for women faculty and students, organizes seminars and forums, supports university initiatives, and has established scholarships and camps to encourage women's participation in underrepresented fields.

Women in Business

The Women in Business (WIB) at HKUST aims to empower women, introduce aspiring executives to professionals, and close the gender gap in leadership. WIB offers mentorship and projects for students such as the Project Leadership Program which enhances students' professional development by connecting them with successful female industry leaders.

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Scholarship

The WISE Scholarship established by HKUST aims to encourage high-achieving female students to pursue studies in science, engineering, or interdisciplinary studies by providing financial support and recognition. The scholarship not only recognizes academic excellence but also considers non-academic talents, achievements in science and technology competitions, and interview performance.



SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Key Stat

65

related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

383

related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

UROP

Under the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), the Lead contamination in high-rise building water supply systems project investigated the complex interactions causing lead concentration in Hong Kong's water networks. By combining experiments, modelling, and material examination, the university aims to mitigate lead contamination and ensure safe drinking water while fostering responsible water usage and sustainable consumption.

Advanced Water Treatment Research

In 2021, Dr. Yin Ran, a 2020 PhD graduate from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was recognized for his exceptional contributions to advanced water treatment. Dr. Yin's research has filled crucial knowledge gaps, optimizing water treatment processes. The project is internationally recognized through numerous publications and active participation in the International Ultraviolet Association (IUVA) Young Professionals Committee.

Water Saving System Upgrade

HKUST has upgraded the central chiller plant into a district cooling system which resulted in significant cost and energy savings. By adopting seawater-cooled central chilling and expanding the capacity of the plant instead of constructing a new system, HKUST increased efficiency and reduced the University's carbon footprint. The upgrade saved annual energy consumption, reduced operation costs, and reused waste heat, aligning with HKUST's commitment to sustainability and its goal of reducing energy consumption by 15% by 2028.



SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Policy

HKUST takes pride in its clean and safe drinking water supply, backed by government monitoring and adherence to international guidelines. With over 150 water fountains equipped with filters and UV disinfection systems across the campus, the university ensures the best quality water for its community. The Health, Safety, and Environment Office (HSEO) conducts regular monitoring and testing, while the Facilities Management Office (FMO) maintains and upgrades the fountains.

HKUST High Performance Building Standards & Guidelines prioritize water conservation and sustainability. Guidelines include using efficient toilets, avoiding potable water for landscaping, and repurposing condensate water from air conditioning systems for irrigation or other uses, promoting water efficiency and environmental responsibility.

HKUST has strict regulations on the disposal of hazardous materials and liquid effluent. The Disposal of Hazardous Materials and Items under Regulatory Control stated the HKUST's strict regulations for the disposal of hazardous materials such as chemical, radioactive, and biological wastes. In terms of Liquid Effluent, HKUST follows environmental standards set by the Environmental Protection Department, conducts regular monitoring and analysis, and prohibits the disposal of hazardous materials into the sewer system. These Guidelines aim to protect water resources and the environment, and prevent contaminations from entering water bodies, safeguarding water quality, and ensuring access to clean water and sanitation for everyone.



SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Public Education

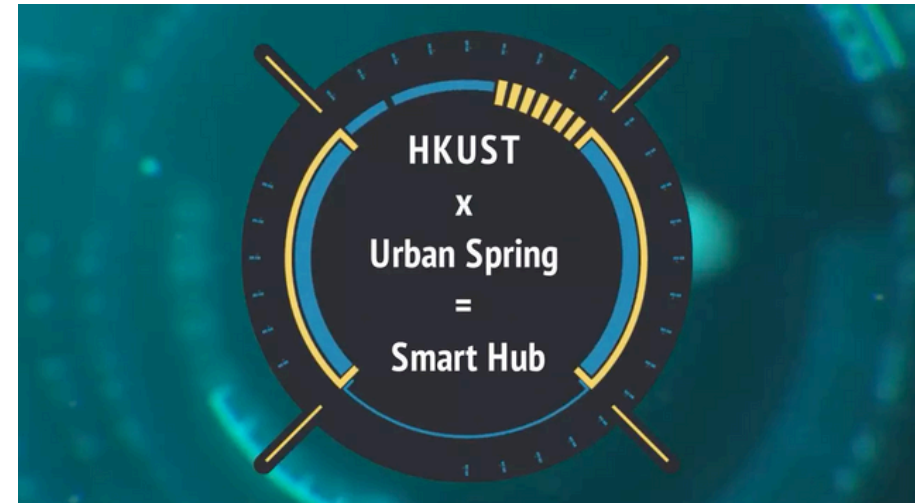
HKUST, as the project management office of the Jockey Club Sustainable Campus Consumer Program (JCSCCP), launched the Water-Saving Smart Showerhead Program in eight universities with the aim to reduce per capita water consumption by 5%. The showerheads have an integrated water-powered LED light that changes color based on water usage. With a design that cuts water consumption by 26%, the showerheads promote responsible water consumption. A real-time water consumption dashboard will be implemented to raise awareness and encourage student engagement, including challenges and rewards for water-saving halls.

The HKUST Water Resources Lab Visit, co-organized by the "Academy for Bright Future Young Engineers" and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, offers an opportunity to explore two key aspects. Participants will visit the water lab to learn about the innovative use of waves to conserve water and energy. Additionally, they will visit the Smart Water Network project on campus, where waves have led to the development of novel technology.



Public Education

Through the Sustainable Smart Campus as a Living Lab (SSC) initiative, the Urban Spring Smart Hub project was developed to enhance drinking water facility management and raise water quality awareness by integrating with 50 water dispensers. By collecting data for efficient management and displaying information on saved bottles and water consumption through public dashboards, the Smart Hub encourages environmental consciousness.



SDG 7 : AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Key Stat

48 related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

1476 related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Research

A research team with the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering and the Department of Chemistry developed a new electrode design that makes it possible to recharge alkaline zinc batteries. This is one of the most common types of non-rechargeable batteries used in the daily lives and can accelerate the move away from fossil fuels.

HKUST Institute for the Environment

Institute for the Environment (IENV) is an interdisciplinary research institute that addresses the serious environmental problems that the world is facing, such as climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, and resource scarcity.

In April 2022 the University launched the Shaping a Sustainable Northern Metropolis portal to showcase the University's projects related to the Northern Metropolis plan, such as the restructuring of government to meet the challenge of achieving sustainable development and carbon neutrality.

HKUST Energy Institute

The HKUST Energy Institute engages in transformative energy research, developing high-impact solutions, organizing educational programs, and influencing energy strategies and policies in Hong Kong. The institute hosted the Energy Institute Technology Showcase 2022 to bring together scholars, investors, entrepreneurs, and government leaders to demonstrate commercializable new technologies and promote affordable and clean energy practices.



SDG 7 : AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Net-Zero Carbon Investment Strategy

HKUST is the first University in Hong Kong to implement an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Investment Policy to prioritize integrating ESG considerations into investment decisions. The University believe in the importance of aligning its investment philosophy with sustainable development goals, which means gradually removing fossil fuel investments and allocating 5% of HKUST's investment to climate solutions.

Hong Kong's Largest-Scale Solar Power System

In 2020, HKUST demonstrated its commitment to sustainability by launching the largest-scale solar power system in Hong Kong. The installation of up to 8,000 solar panels at over 50 locations on campus can generate up to 3 million units of electricity annually, reducing 1.5 million kg of carbon emissions per year over 25 years.

Sustainable Smart Campus as a Living Lab

The Smart Building Integrated Photovoltaic Systems Toward Zero Energy HKUST Campuses project explores solar energy harvesting on opaque facade areas and implements advanced clean energy systems like tailored colored facade integrated photovoltaic (FIPV) on campus buildings. Passive cooling techniques, such as radiative cooling and self-cleaning coatings, are also incorporated to enhance energy efficiency.

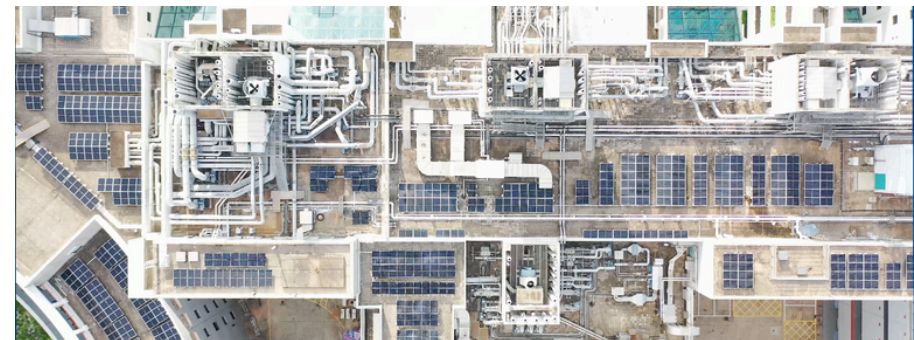
A Smart Cooling Strategy for Photovoltaic Solar Cells via A Sustainable Coating project aims to improve the efficiency of commercial PV panels by 2-5% and reduce their operating temperature by 10-15°C using a sustainable coating.

2028 Sustainability Challenge

As part of the HKUST 2028 Sustainability Challenge, the University has developed strategies and tactics to reduce the campus's GHG emissions by 40% by 2028 against the 2014 baseline.

The High Performance Building Standards and Guidelines highlighted the priority on sustainability and energy efficiency for major upgrades of existing buildings and new buildings, while the Sustainable Office Standards and Guidelines encourage energy-efficient practices, waste reduction, sustainable sourcing of materials, and eco-friendly communications for renovations.

To align with the energy reduction goal, the University continuously implements energy conservation measures for its existing buildings and facilities, such as extensively installing wireless energy meters, building heat maps for monitoring indoor temperature and humidity, and recommissioning the virtual stack fans.



SDG 8 : DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Key Stat

20

related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

194

related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Anti-discrimination

HKUST actively promotes a working environment free of discrimination and harassment. The university has implemented Anti-discrimination and Sexual harassment policies and committees dedicated to addressing gender discrimination and sexual harassment. Through these measures, HKUST strives to create equal opportunities for all employees, with workshops and seminars offered to raise awareness and educate staff members and students about these important issues.

The Code of Conduct for Outsourced Service Providers at HKUST ensures that contractors providing services to the university adhere to certain standards. These include being equal opportunity employers, maintaining safe and healthy working conditions, committing to environmentally friendly practices, upholding high ethical standards, and treating employees with respect. The code also holds subcontractors accountable to the same standards and encourages the employment of workers from outgoing contractors with comparable terms and conditions.



ONLINE TALK

Introduction to the Anti-Discrimination Laws of Hong Kong



SDG 8 : DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Staff Grievance Procedures

HKUST has established Staff Grievances Procedures to address employment-related concerns in an impartial and timely manner. Supervisors are responsible for actively listening to staff members' concerns and resolving them informally whenever possible. Face-to-face communication is encouraged, and if an informal resolution is reached, a written record should be kept. If an issue cannot be resolved informally, staff members can raise the matter formally following the prescribed procedures.

Living Wage Across the Campus

HKUST is committed to ensuring that all employees and contractors serving on the campus receive at least a Living Wage, which is higher than the statutory minimum wage and ensures all living expenses can be covered without relying on external assistance.



Sustainable Smart Campus as a Living Lab

To enhance the healthy working environment on the campus, the Self-cleaning Multipurpose Nano-coatings Living Lab project uses advanced nanocoating technology to keep surfaces clean while also reducing labor-intensive cleaning processes and associated expenses. The implementation of this technology on campus structures also extends the lifespan of building materials, reducing maintenance costs, and minimizing the need for manual intervention.



SDG 9 : INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Key Stat

35

related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

476

related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Research

The University recognizes that collaboration between academia and the industry is crucial for knowledge transfer as well as cultivating talent. In November 2022, the School of Engineering signed a licensing agreement with Guangdong Bright Dream Robotics for the commercialization of five technologies focused on energy-efficient buildings, advanced manufacturing processes, data compression, sustainable materials, and integrated building information modeling.



Research

In June 2022, the Big Data Institute (BDI) established the HKUST-HKPC Joint Research Lab for Industrial AI and Robotics with the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC), aiming to develop innovative industrial technologies using artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics. Through collaboration on research projects in industrial AI, big data, data science, and robotics, the Joint Lab aims to address real-world challenges and explore frontier applications in AI, while internship and fellowship programs provide practical experience and cultivate young talent.



The HKUST partnered with MTR Corporation to establish the HKUST-MTR Joint Research Laboratory in June 2022 for smart community and mobility research. These collaborations provide platforms for knowledge exchange and implementation of innovative solutions, contributing to Hong Kong's research capacity and addressing societal challenges.

SDG 9 : INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Industry Engagement Day 2022

On 11 November 2022, the Office of Knowledge Transfer hosted the HKUST Industry Engagement Day in 2022 to showcase flagship innovations to foster collaboration between HKUST researchers and industry partners, promoting technology development, cross-sector collaboration and knowledge sharing in Hong Kong.

Sustainable Smart Campus as a Living Lab

Under the Sustainable Smart Campus as a Living Lab (SSC) initiative, researchers collaborated with HKUST's library to experiment with optional facial recognition technology as an alternative to a campus ID card, simplifying access to library services and streamlining counter interactions for users.

Additionally, the Living Lab supported the USthing Extension project, a mobile application aimed at enhancing the campus experience for students, faculty, and staff. The app serves as a centralized platform for accessing important information (e.g. class schedules, grades and library resources), navigating the campus, staying updated on events, and utilizing various services, ultimately enhancing the overall experience for the university community.

HKUST Dream Builder Program

The HKUST Entrepreneurship Center holds various incubation programs for start-ups, including the Dream Builder Program which offers funding, coaching, training, mentorship, and in-kind support to aspiring entrepreneurs in developing innovative startups.

In collaboration with Sino Group, HKUST organized the HKUST-Sino One Million Dollar Entrepreneurship Competition where health and environmental safety were a focus for the winning teams. The teams developed an array of innovative proposals including an artificial intelligence-based system to enhance construction site safety, an affordable rapid infectious disease test kit for pets, and a novel automated cocktail machine for wellbeing rejuvenation.



SDG 10 : REDUCED INEQUALITY

Key Stat

22 related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

103 related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Governance

HKUST is dedicated to promoting equal opportunities and eradicating discrimination through its Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discrimination Policy. Aligned with the HKUST 2021-28 Strategic Plan, the University strives to create an inclusive and open environment where all members of the community are treated fairly and provided with equal opportunities. Procedures for Handling Discrimination and Harassment Complaints has been implemented, replacing the Policy on Sexual Harassment, offering a more comprehensive, transparent, and accountable approach for handling discrimination and harassment matters at the University. Reporting to the University Administrative Committee, the Diversity and Equal Opportunities Committee (DEOC) has been established to oversee equal opportunity, diversity, and inclusion matters, and to spearhead flagship engagement programs such as Global Diversity Awareness Month.

Community Education & Awareness

The HKUST community programs raise awareness about marginalized communities, fostering understanding and empathy, and empowering individuals to contribute to reducing inequalities. In collaboration with the Crossroads Foundation, HKUST students participated in the Struggle for Survival Poverty Simulation & Service Program, allowing them to experience the challenges faced by the visually impaired and those affected by HIV/AIDs. Following the simulation, participants took proactive steps to assist those in need through logistical support, sorting various donation materials, and helping with repair and maintenance work.



HKUST fosters empathy and understanding beyond the boundaries of the campus. Together with the Hong Kong Yacht & Start-Up Association, the University organised the Sailing & Sharing Experiential Learning Activity that shed light on the journeys and challenges faced by rehabilitated ex-offenders. The University also promotes a more inclusive and equitable community by organising workshops and talks such as the inclusive session with hearing-impaired individuals and dialogue on gender diversity.

SDG 11 : SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Key Stat

50

related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

646

related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Policy

The HKUST High Performance Building Standards & Guidelines aims to guide the campus growth with smart and sustainable principals and policies that serve as a model for others. The policy emphasizes flexibility in spaces, anticipation of future energy needs, maximum potential for metering and monitoring, integration of surroundings, design for social interaction, and opportunities for student experimentation and research.

The Staff Mobile Computing Guidelines facilitates remote working by equipping staff to transition from desktop PCs to laptops. The guidelines highlight the benefits in employee well-being through flexible office design and work-life balance, strengthening HKUST's employer value proposition and competitiveness, enhancing staff productivity, transparency and efficiency through digitalization, and improving university agility and resilience.

Preserving heritage

The Division of Humanities at HKUST actively engages in community conservation initiatives to preserve and promote Hong Kong's cultural heritage. Led by Prof. LIU Tik-Sang, the South China Research Center records and publishes events and rituals undergoing rapid changes due to modernization. They also focus on the preservation of traditional sewing techniques of cheongsam, applying for its recognition as Intangible Cultural Heritage.



SDG 11 : SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Preserving heritage

The Division also engages in various Community Conservation Initiatives including field trips to Tai O introduce students to local traditions, academic collaborations with Pearl River Delta universities preserve the region's rich heritage, and heritage preservation projects such as the restoration of disused salt pans and the territory-wide survey for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Hong Kong since 2009.



Service-Learning initiatives include salvaging heritage in Yim Tin Tsai Village since 2007, participating in the Tai O Dragon Boat Parade since 2008, and promoting Tai Po's cultural heritage since 2009. Study trips to Northern Guangdong and Eastern Jiangxi provide opportunities to explore local history, social conditions, and culture while engaging in volunteer service and reflecting on personal practices in the eco-social environment of the communities.

Sustainable Smart Campus as a Living Lab

Smart Mobility: Indoor Navigation and Bus Queue Analytics project supported by the Sustainable Smart Campus as a Living Lab initiative enhances campus transportation and navigation experience by harnessing WiFi sensing and machine learning analytics technology to provide real-time queue waits times at bus stops, optimizing bus services and convenience. Additionally, the project includes the development of Path Advisor 2.0, which utilizes indoor signal changes to determine one's precise location within campus buildings.

Blockcerts for ARO and DSTO leverages blockchain technology to provide secure and verifiable student confirmations, certification verification, and student CVs. By registering these documents on the blockchain server, they are cryptographically signed, ensuring tamper-proof integrity and enabling easy sharing. This alternative "opt-in" service complements the existing certification and verification process, offering an additional layer of transparency and trust in the academic and professional records of HKUST students.

SDG 11 : SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Clean Air Challenge 2021

HKUST has partnered with the Clean Air Network (CAN) and The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong to launch the Clean Air Challenge in October 2021. The initiative aims to raise awareness about air quality and foster innovative solutions to combat air pollution through workshops and knowledge-sharing events. On 20 August 2022, the Clean Air Challenge Awards Ceremony recognizes secondary school winners and provides a platform for students to showcase their research findings.



Supporting Arts

HKUST Library regularly organizes exhibition at the Ping Yuan and Kinmay W Tang Gallery, which is accessible to all campus visitors. With exhibitions like The Power of Diversity - Artistic Visionaries from HKUST, featuring four alumni artists who have pursued their artistic dreams, showcasing the beauty in diversity and the collective strength of the HKUST community.



HKUST Center for the Arts (CFA) promotes the appreciation and participation in artistic and cultural activities through a range of programs, including exhibitions, concerts, film shows, seminars, workshops, and off-site visits. The CFA's mission is to integrate art and culture into the university, which is primarily focused on business and science, aiming to nurture students' artistic awareness and appreciation of the arts. In 2022, the CFA organized 14 performances and exhibitions and 7 workshops and talks, providing students and the broader community with opportunities to engage with and explore various artistic and cultural expressions.

SDG 11 : SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Sustainable Communities

HKUST's Institute for the Environment (IENV) and the HKSAR Environmental Protection Department have announced a collaboration with other universities and international experts to study and develop science-based strategies for controlling regional ozone and photochemical smog. This partnership aims to improve understanding of emission sources, transport pathways, and transformation processes in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area.

PRAISE-HK, developed by HKUST, is an app that provides real-time air quality monitoring, forecasts, and health risk information. The app aims to raise public awareness and engagement in air pollution issues while contributing to the development of innovative environmental education programs for younger generations.

HKUST has partnered with the Clean Air Network (CAN) and The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong to launch the Clean Air Challenge in October 2021. The initiative aims to raise awareness about air quality and foster innovative solutions to combat air pollution through workshops and knowledge-sharing events. On 20 August 2022, the Clean Air Challenge Awards Ceremony recognizes secondary school winners and provides a platform for students to showcase their research findings.

To encourage staff members to choose more environmentally friendly commuting options, HKUST also operates commuter buses and emphasizes the use of public transport. The University's goal is for over 90% of staff to utilize sustainable transportation alternatives, which not only reduce energy consumption but also minimize greenhouse gas emissions and alleviate road congestion.



SDG 12 : RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Key Stat

77 related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

217 related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Research

To support researchers, industry practitioners, and students, the University launched the Life Cycle Lab platform to deliver Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) training materials, tools, and workshops to strengthen the understanding of the environmental, economic, and social impact of consumption. The Life Cycle Lab aims to demonstrate the importance of LCA in the development of more sustainable products and circular system design, product labelling, behavioural research and consumer education as well as policy making.



Policy

HKUST is committed to creating a sustainable campus setting where resources are utilized responsibly and all members of the community have the capacity to thrive within a healthy environment. Under the Operational Guidelines on Sustainable Purchasing policy, the University provides Green Purchasing Principles as well as expectations for the suppliers to support HKUST's commitment to creating a sustainable campus.

Ban on Single-Use Bottled Water On Campus

The ban on single-use bottled water on campus since 2018 aims to eliminate the use of disposable plastic water bottles under 1L on campus. Initiatives include distributing reusable UST-branded water bottles to new students, installing water fountains with bottle-filling capabilities, and raising awareness about the environmental impact of plastic bottles. Offices and departments are encouraged to eliminate disposable bottles at meetings and events, opting for reusable alternatives. The campaign has garnered support from various units, and students are encouraged to bring their own bottles and refill them at water fountains. By promoting sustainable options, HKUST seeks to reduce plastic waste and promote a culture of environmental responsibility.

SDG 12 : RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Minimising Plastic Use

HKUST aims to create an environment where its community also works closely with PARKnSHOP to eliminate disposable plastic packaging for fruits and vegetables.



Additionally, the university aims to reduce landfill waste by 50% through campaigns like the Bottled Water-free Campus Campaign and installing the AI Reusable Meal Container Lending System resulting in over 700 tons of waste reduction since 2014, showcasing the younger generation's environmental consciousness.



Green Campus Challenge: SDG #12 GAMithon

With the support of the Jockey Club Sustainable Campus Consumer Programme, SDG#12 GAMithon equipped students to brainstorm sustainable consumption solutions by creatively applying gamification. This two-day hackathon brought together participants from all eight major universities in Hong Kong to form teams to develop a solution and win HKD25,000 funding for game development and mentorship.

Reducing Waste

The University monitors and manages its waste generation, disposal, and recycling practices and shares data with its community. This information allows HKUST to identify areas of excessive waste production and implement measures to reduce waste at the source. While the University constantly strives to increase recycling rates, it recognizes the vital role of reducing its resource consumption and reusing what it already has. To support this, HKUST held "repair party" workshops that taught participants how to fix their electronic devices, thereby reducing waste and extending the life of their existing goods.



SDG 13 : CLIMATE ACTION

Key Stat

93 related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

250 related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Energy and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan

The HKUST 2028 Sustainability Challenge sets out the Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction goals aiming to exceed the Hong Kong government energy target by reaching a 15% reduction and reduce GHG emissions by 40% by 2028, and net-zero emissions by 2050. The University achieves these goals through incremental energy conservation measures as well as cultivating innovations in climate technologies through the Smart Sustainable Campus as a Living Lab Initiative and the Bridge Gap Fund.

Industry Engagement on Climate Action

HKUST's Institute for the Environment (IENV) is an interdisciplinary research institute that addresses environmental challenges by engaging academic, industry, and non-governmental stakeholders on climate action. Together with the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the IENV organized a webinar to address the TCFD-based reporting of capacity to transition to net-zero carbon emissions.

Climate Adaptation & Resilience Conference 2022

The Climate Adaptation & Resilience Conference (CARE2022) brought together officials, business executives, financiers, investors, technologists, and climate action practitioners to discuss Hong Kong's adaptation and resilience planning in the face of climate change. The conference emphasized the importance of integrating climate mitigation and adaptation efforts and called for government involvement, policy alignment, and financial support.

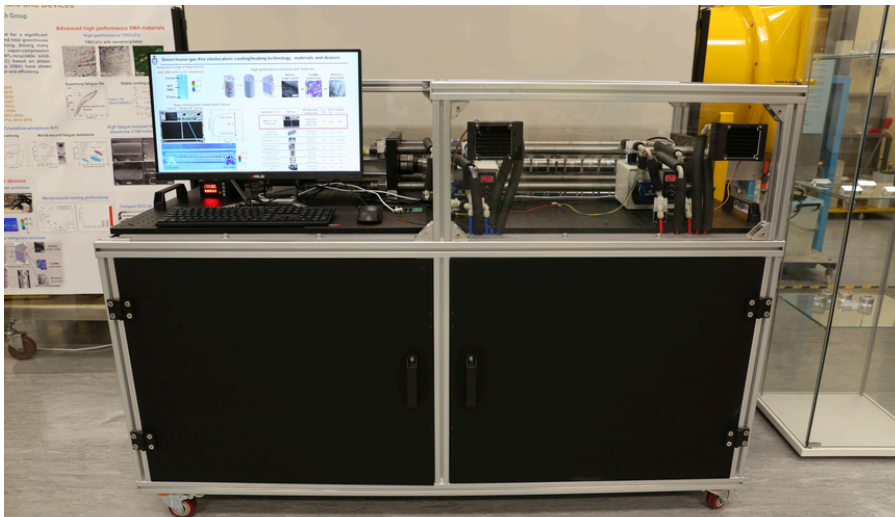


SDG 13 : CLIMATE ACTION

Sustainable Smart Campus as a Living Lab

The Jockey Club Global Graduate Tower (GGT) Smart Campus installed smart meters that provide real-time energy data to residents, raising awareness of how their daily usage patterns can impact their energy consumption.

The Low-Carbon Elastocaloric Fridges and Air Conditioners for Sustainable and Smart HKUST project introduces the solid-state elastocaloric refrigeration technology to harness the potential of phase-transition shape memory alloys, offering a zero-GHG-refrigerant alternative that is fully recyclable. By eliminating the use of greenhouse gas refrigerants, this technology significantly reduces carbon emissions while maintaining exceptional cooling power and efficiency.



SDG 14 : LIFE BELOW WATER



Key Stat

47 related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

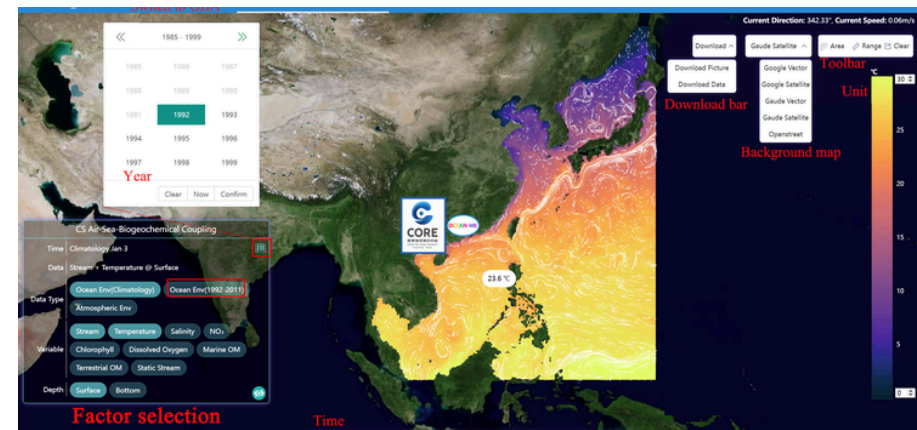
220 related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Dual Master Program in Global Marine Resources Management

In November 2022, HKUST and the University of Southampton jointly launched the Dual Master Program in Global Marine Resources Management. This cross-continental program provides students with a multicultural learning experience, combining expertise from both universities. By addressing the blue economy and sustainable use of ocean resources, the program aims to train professionals capable of tackling complex issues in marine resources management. Graduates will have qualifications from both institutions, paving the way for further studies and career opportunities in marine science and environmental conservation. The partnership strengthens academic alliances and establishes a platform for future collaborations in research and education.

Monitoring and Sharing Marine Data with WavyOcean

Prof. Gan Jianping and his team developed and launched the WavyOcean app, an interactive marine environment visualization platform, which provides extensive data on the ocean in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, the entire China Seas, and the Western Pacific Ocean. This platform, based on advanced oceanic numerical simulations, offers visualizations of oceanic processes and provides physical and biogeochemical data for studying marine hydrodynamics, hazards, pollution, ecosystems, and climate change. The platform aims to support marine research, inform policy-making on marine conservation and societal development, and increase public awareness of the significance of ocean protection.



SDG 14 : LIFE BELOW WATER

Blue Marine Economy Summit

The Department of Ocean Science, the operators of The Ocean Research Facility (OCRF), organized the Blue Marine Economy Summit, aiming to foster collaboration among academia, industry, and government to promote education, technology, and economic growth related to the blue economy. By bringing together stakeholders from different sectors, HKUST seeks to stimulate sustainable development and preserve the biodiversity and well-being of marine life.



HKUST x France The One Ocean Conference 2022

On 20 May 2022, HKUST and the Consulate General of France jointly organized the HKUST X France One Ocean Conference 2022 to address the pressing challenges related to oceans. The conference brought together experts from academia, business, and civil society to discuss tangible actions for ocean sustainability, focusing on the preservation of marine life and blue finance.



SDG 14 : LIFE BELOW WATER

Water-Saving Smart Showerheads

To promote responsible water usage among on-campus residents, the University installed water-saving smart showerheads equipped with water-powered LED lights that change color based on water usage.



Policy

HKUST's goal is to create food and dining facilities and services that provide clean, healthy, environmentally responsible food offerings that reflect our campus sustainability vision and mission. The Sustainable Catering Policy applies equally to HKUST-managed caterers and caterers who supply services for one-time events on campus and require campus caterers to utilize the WWF-Hong Kong Sustainable Seafood and not offer any species that are listed in the "Avoid" category.

Community impact

The Beach Cleanup @HKUST event held by HKUST Connect addressed the issue of marine pollution and promoted community involvement in protecting the marine environment. Through this service, volunteers gained awareness of the irreversible consequences of marine pollution and the importance of the general public working hand in hand to protect the marine environment.



SDG 15 : LIFE ON LAND



Key Stat

68

related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

52

related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Policy

The Sustainable Catering Policy extends the university's responsible land management practice to the catering partners, requiring them to develop and share a sustainable food practices plan that reduces their environmental impacts. The University's caterers are also encouraged to use environmentally preferable cleaning chemicals and comply with recognized green labelling organizations to minimize the impact of chemicals on plant and animal habitats.

Sustainable Smart Campus as a Living Lab

The Internet of Tree Things project incorporates sensors, an IoT network, and multiple servers, forming a comprehensive monitoring system. Leveraging the LoRaWAN IoT network, the collected data is transmitted and analyzed in real-time, ensuring continuous monitoring even in challenging weather conditions, enhancing the understanding of tree ecosystems, helping us identify potential threats to tree health, and facilitate timely interventions to preserve biodiversity and maintain the vitality of land ecosystems.



SDG 15 : LIFE ON LAND

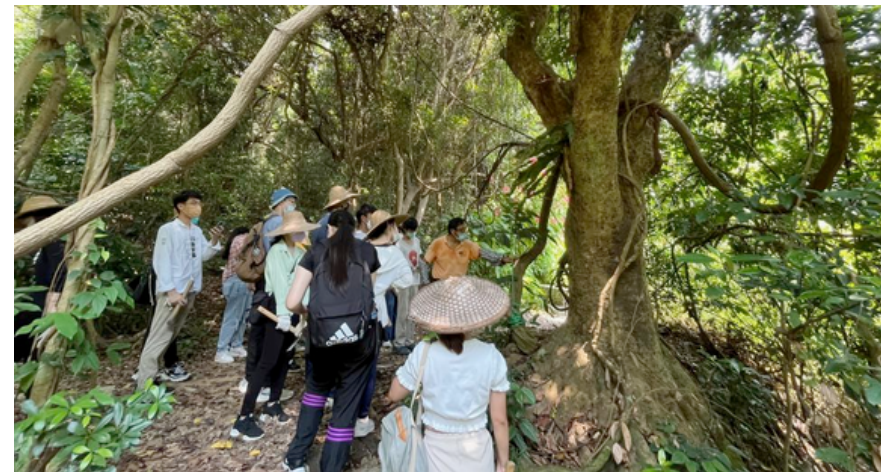
Community Outreach

The HKUST Biodiversity Map project aims to strengthen knowledge and awareness of local biodiversity and conservation among students and the HKUST community. It promotes active learning and engagement through field trips, designing biodiversity routes, and creating educational materials. The project provides a flexible learning atmosphere outside the classroom, fostering a sense of belonging and appreciation for nature among HKUST members.



HKUST also regularly organizes events to promote sustainable practices. The Sustainable Smart Campus Bird-watching Tour allows participants to learn about campus bird species, fostering appreciation for nature and supporting the sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems. Recognizing the vital role birds play, You Will See a Hoopoe, uses Green AI cameras deployed at certain locations on campus can capture bird images and analyze the data, before sharing it with the public. Along with bird watching campus tours, this Living Lab project allows staff and students to get to know the richness of the biodiversity of the HKUST campus and encourages the public to send in photos of birds that they take on campus and use them to train the AI model for bird identification.

The EcoFish Series showcased sustainable aquaculture practices in local fishponds, reducing pressure on wild fish populations and conserving marine and coastal ecosystems. Farming with Grow Something_HK event also introduced organic gardening methods and offers a hands-on experience with transplanting lettuce seedlings, promoting sustainable agriculture and environmental awareness.



HKUST Connect organized a range of volunteer events that not only provided opportunities for students to actively engage in community service but also promoted the conservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems, the protection of endangered species, and the responsible management of natural resources. With events like Exploration in Butterfly Reserve, Cat Shelter "Purr-fecting" Action, Hike without Trace, Beach Cleanup @ HKUST and Rock Cleaning Angels, volunteers gained awareness of environmental issues and contributed to the conservation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, the protection of endangered species, and the promotion of responsible nature stewardship.

SDG 16 : PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Key Stat

27 related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

72 related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

International Diversity

HKUST ranked the third-most international university in the world, Times Higher Education (THE). The 2022 world's most international universities ranking was compiled based on universities' proportions of international staff, students, co-authored publications as well as their international reputation. HKUST has a very high percentage of non-local students and faculty and around 80 per cent of the faculty come from outside of Hong Kong. In addition, HKUST maintains a network of more than 310 global institutional academic and research partners, and provides its students with abundant exchange, research, and internship opportunities both at home and overseas, helping them broaden their international horizons. More than 45 per cent of students undertake a worldwide exchange program, while some 70 per cent of students participate in regional and global internships.

Research

Through Nexus, a research hub on the topic of Belonging, HKUST brings together researchers, students, support NGOs, creative practitioners and others interested in key issues concerning social integration and identity of "belonging" in Hong Kong today. The University does this through a series of events and seminars, such as "Navigating Belonging: Exploring Settlement for South Asians in Hong Kong through Narrative and Participatory Photography" which explores the theme of settlement and belonging for minorities in Hong Kong.



SDG 16 : PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Working with Government and Industry

The Hong Kong Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases, with support from the InnoHK initiative, brings together HKUST researchers from different parts of the world to conduct cutting-edge research in early detection and therapeutic treatment of Alzheimer’s disease.

HKUST also established a collaboration with Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited (ASTRI) in February 2022 to further enhance knowledge and technology transfer in advanced 5G applications, third-generation semiconductors, and the use of sensors for sorting waste.

Another collaboration is The Data for Policy Conference hosted by the HKUST Division of Public Policy (PPOL) in December 2022 discussed the implications of data science and digital technology for public policy and governance. The conference brings together researchers, experts, and practitioners from around the world to explore opportunities and challenges in data-driven innovation and its governance.



Community Engagement

The University actively seeks to promote understanding and support for all community members with diverse backgrounds or limitations. Through a range of interactive workshops, The Diversity Infinity Festival gives students and staff a chance to go on a journey of self-exploration that strengthens their hands-on experience of how to show support to all members of the society.



HKUST Connect organized a workshop to discuss the importance of responsible journalism and the challenges faced by journalists in navigating the digital age and distinguishing between facts and misinformation. Featuring Denise Tsang, SCMP News Editor, Stories Behind a Story - News Production at SCMP explored the value of accurate and reliable news production, which is crucial for informed decision-making and maintaining trust in institutions.

HKUST also organized the Warzone 90 event to raise awareness about the impacts of war, including the destruction of cities, long-lasting economic effects, and the loss of human lives. The event provides participants with an opportunity to develop a humanitarian perspective and understand the importance of protecting human lives, caring for the vulnerable, and respecting human dignity.

SDG 17 : PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Key Stat

22 related courses were offered in the 2021-22 academic year

4798 related research paper were published in the 2021-22 academic year

Green Finance Research

Amid the rising global demand for green finance talent, HKUST published a first-ever in-depth research study to help Hong Kong chart the way forward in green and sustainable finance talent building. The study maps out the key stakeholders, desired skill areas and knowledge progression path of the current Green and Sustainable Finance market, helping to guide the city's strategic talent development into a green finance hub. The University also welcomed its first cohort of students admitted to the city's first GSF undergraduate program BSc in Sustainable and Green Finance in September 2022.

Empowering Sustainable Solutions Through Education and Technology

In November 2022, HKUST agreed to collaborate with The Institute of Sustainability and Technology to co-create a series of global executive training programs to inspire purpose-driven business management. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) builds the partnership on ESG initiatives through education and technology.

Global Sustainability Collaboration with Higher Education Institutes

HKUST is an active member of the International Sustainable Campus Network, an international forum to support higher education institutions in the exchange of information, ideas, and best practices for achieving sustainable campus operations and integrating sustainability in research and teaching. ISCN recognized HKUST with a 2022 Excellence in Sustainability Award for the unique HKUST campus as a living lab approach, where the University combine "Sustainable" with "Smart" elements for the funded project.



SDG 17 : PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Jockey Club Sustainable Campus Consumer Programme

In January 2022, the eight UGC-funded universities in Hong Kong, with the project management office housed at HKUST, launched the Jockey Club Sustainable Campus Consumer Programme (JCSCCP). This strategic three-year program aims to leverage cross-campus impact and facilitate information sharing and best practices among member universities. Under this program, the Lunchbox Lending Program was launched, focusing on upstream solutions by eliminating disposable meal containers at the source.



HKUST Connect

HKUST Connect is one of the main initiatives to raise civic awareness and develop sustainable partnerships with the wider community to deepen student learning and promote a benevolent world. Over the past decade, HKUST Connect has partnered with United Nations Volunteers (UNV) to contribute to global volunteerism, providing students with valuable opportunities to work in United Nations Agencies across Asia and support various SDG-related initiatives.

As part of the Changemaker Gear Up Training Series to equip students to lead and inspire change, HKUST Connect organized the Possible World - the simulation game for our shared future event that allowed students to explore complex global sustainable development challenges and encouraged them to take action.



SDG 17 : PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Embedding Sustainability Education

HKUST was the first university in Asia to be designated as a "Center for Teaching Sustainability Across the Curriculum" by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). By providing sustainability education opportunities, such as a Minor Program in Sustainability, HKUST aims to foster a cross-disciplinary sustainability mindset among students.

The Sustainability Education Community (SEC) at HKUST promotes sustainability education and supports faculty and staff engaged in this area. The emphasizes interdisciplinary, inclusive, and multigenerational approaches to sustainability education. To identify opportunities and gaps in sustainability education, the Sustainable Education Advisory Group (SEAG) also conducts a Sustainability Course Evaluation Report annually.

Cross-Sectoral Collaboration

The Climate Adaptation & Resilience Conference (CARE2022) was held on 10-12 December 2022 as an effort to convene stakeholders from various sectors to address Hong Kong's adaptation and resilience planning in response to climate change. The conference emphasized the importance of incorporating climate considerations across sectors, enhancing energy efficiency through building regulations, raising public awareness, and engaging youth. By highlighting Hong Kong's potential as a climate leader, the conference aimed to foster collaboration and concrete actions towards achieving carbon neutrality and building resilience.





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