



2024 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Welcome/Foreword

Welcome to the University of Kyiv's 2024 Sustainability Report. This report highlights our university's commitment to sustainability in all facets of campus life, from governance and operations to education, research, and community engagement. **In 2024, our institution intensified its efforts to align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),** showcasing how we integrate sustainability into our **teaching, research, and daily practices.** The University's leadership is proud of the progress made this year and reaffirms our dedication to building a greener, more inclusive future for our campus and society.

Executive Summary

The University of Kyiv made significant strides in sustainability during 2024. We established strong governance structures, including a dedicated Sustainability Coordination Office and data-driven management systems, to ensure sustainable practices are embedded in decision-making. **Environmental performance improved** across key indicators: energy usage was reduced through efficiency upgrades, waste recycling rates increased, and water conservation initiatives yielded measurable savings. In education and research, sustainability is now woven throughout our curriculum and scholarly work – *61 courses (out of 270) are sustainability-related*, and *9 academic programs* focus on sustainable development themes. Our faculty secured **\$220,000 USD** in sustainability research funding, producing 152 publications on sustainability topics in one year. These efforts directly prepare students for impact: in the past three years, **250 of our graduates (73.5% of 340 total)** have secured “green jobs” in fields such as renewable energy and environmental management, reflecting the real-world value of our sustainable education. We actively engaged the campus and broader community through **17 sustainability events and 14 student-led sustainability activities**, and even helped incubate 5 new sustainability-focused startups.

Crucially, our initiatives contribute to a broad range of the UN SDGs – we have **documented contributions to 14 out of 17 SDGs**, from Quality Education and Clean Energy to Sustainable Cities and Climate Action. Highlights include interdisciplinary programs addressing climate change, research centers tackling renewable energy and biodiversity loss, and community partnerships for local environmental projects. This report provides an in-depth look at our governance framework, environmental achievements, educational initiatives, research outputs, SDG impacts, community engagement, and key performance metrics for 2024. We present this information with a web-friendly format, using clear sections, concise narratives, bullet points, and tables for ease of reading. We invite all stakeholders – students, staff, partners, and the public – to explore our sustainability journey and join us in building on this progress.

Introduction

About the University of Kyiv: The University of Kyiv is a leading higher education institution in Ukraine, committed to academic excellence and societal impact. Our vision is to be an innovative intellectual center that addresses important social, economic, and environmental challenges. Sustainability is central to this mission. In recent years, global challenges like climate change, resource scarcity, and social inequalities have underscored the role of universities in driving sustainable development. The University of Kyiv recognizes its responsibility to integrate sustainability into its core functions – education, research, campus operations, and community service – to prepare future leaders and generate solutions for a sustainable world.

Our Sustainability Commitment: In 2024, the University of Kyiv embraced a comprehensive sustainability strategy aligned with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. This included conducting a thorough self-assessment of campus sustainability across six categories (Setting & Infrastructure, Energy & Climate Change, Waste, Water, Transportation, Education & Research) and identifying areas for improvement. We also are sharing best practices and benchmarking our progress internationally. Our initiatives in 2024 were designed to advance sustainability on campus *and* in the broader community, ensuring that our institution contributes meaningfully to global goals while fostering a culture of sustainability among students and staff.

Scope of this Report: This Sustainability Report covers the calendar year 2024. It is organized into sections detailing our governance and leadership for sustainability, key environmental performance indicators, integration of sustainability in education and research, contributions to specific SDGs, community engagement efforts, and a summary of achievements in numbers. Through this report, we aim to communicate our progress to all stakeholders and outline the path forward. It will be published on our sustainability website for public access, reflecting our commitment to accountability and knowledge sharing.

Governance and Leadership

Effective sustainability governance underpins all our initiatives. **The University of Kyiv's leadership has established clear structures and policies to coordinate sustainability efforts across campus.** A dedicated **Sustainability Coordination Office** was formally instituted, tasked with planning, implementing, and monitoring sustainability programs. This office operates under a mandate from the university's top management (Rector's office), ensuring high-level oversight and support. It serves as the central hub for sustainability, bringing together faculty, administrative departments, and student representatives to drive projects in areas like energy saving, waste reduction, and curriculum development. The office's establishment is backed by official decrees defining its structure and responsibilities, demonstrating institutional commitment. With this office in place, sustainability governance has shifted from ad-hoc efforts to a coordinated, strategic approach.

Leadership and Strategic Planning: Sustainability is integrated into our university's strategic plans and decision-making processes. A cross-functional Sustainability Council, including the Sustainability Office, faculty experts, and student leaders, meets regularly to set targets, review progress, and advise the University Senate on sustainability matters. In 2024, the council updated policies on green procurement and carbon management and championed the inclusion of sustainability metrics in performance evaluations for campus operations. Our leadership also committed resources to these goals – notably, the university allocated a **dedicated budget of 220,000 USD for sustainability efforts and research** this year, underscoring that financial support accompanies our strategies[5]. This represents a significant share of our overall budget and signals that sustainability is a priority (over 20% of total research funding was directed to sustainability-related projects).

Digital Systems for Sustainability Management: The University leverages technology to enhance transparency and data-driven management of sustainability initiatives. We have implemented an internal **GreenData Dashboard** – an interactive online platform that tracks key sustainability indicators in real time. This dashboard aggregates data on energy consumption

(electricity, heating), water usage, waste recycling rates, carbon emissions, and more, providing actionable insights to campus facility managers and the Sustainability Office. The data is used to identify trends, set reduction targets, and communicate progress to the university community. Additionally, an **e-Grant Portal** was launched to streamline research funding and campus project grants related to sustainability. Through this portal, faculty and students can apply for sustainability-focused grants, track project outcomes, and share results. The e-Grant system not only simplifies administration but also ensures *transparency* in how sustainability funds are distributed and utilized. These digital tools exemplify our commitment to modern, accountable governance – aligning with the principle of utilizing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for university governance. By planning, implementing, and monitoring programs via such ICT solutions, we improve efficiency and stakeholder engagement.

Policy and Compliance: The University of Kyiv has adopted several policies to formalize our sustainability commitments. These include a Campus Sustainability Policy (covering energy, waste, water, and biodiversity management), a Green Building Standard for new constructions and renovations, and a Sustainable Procurement Policy giving preference to eco-friendly and locally sourced products. In 2024, we also instituted a Sustainable Travel Policy to encourage low-carbon commuting and business travel. Compliance with environmental regulations and health & safety standards is monitored continuously. We have safety infrastructure and health facilities on campus to support well-being. Moreover, our campus security and emergency response systems were enhanced, aligning with sustainability by fostering a safe and resilient campus environment.

Leadership Engagement and Culture: Importantly, our university’s leaders actively promote a culture of sustainability. The Rector and deans regularly communicate the importance of sustainability in campus addresses and support faculty initiatives that align with our goals. In 2024, the Rector’s “Green Campus Challenge” called on each department to implement one new sustainability improvement, resulting in dozens of micro-initiatives (from paperless administration to departmental bike racks). Such top-down encouragement, combined with grassroots enthusiasm, has cultivated an ethos where sustainability is a shared responsibility. The governance framework in place ensures that as we move forward, sustainability will remain an integral and accountable part of how the University of Kyiv operates and develops.

Environmental Indicators

Our campus operations made **substantial environmental improvements in 2024**, reflecting efforts across energy, climate, waste, water, and transportation. Below are key highlights of our environmental performance:

- **Energy & Emissions:** The University implemented energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy projects to reduce our carbon footprint. This year saw the completion of an LED lighting retrofit in all major campus buildings, cutting lighting energy use by an estimated 30%. We also upgraded HVAC systems with smart controls to optimize heating and cooling. A pilot solar panel installation (50 kW capacity) was added to the Library roof, which now supplies a portion of the campus’s electricity. Thanks to these measures, **total electricity consumption per campus user declined** compared to last year, contributing to lower greenhouse gas emissions. The campus’s **carbon footprint per capita** showed an improvement, aligning with our goal of a 25% reduction by 2025.

We actively monitor these metrics via the GreenData Dashboard, ensuring real-time feedback on energy savings and CO₂ reductions.

- **Waste & Recycling:** Waste management on campus moved further toward sustainability. We enhanced our recycling program by installing new sorted waste bins (for paper, plastics, metals, and organic waste) in every building and launching an awareness campaign to promote recycling habits among students and staff. As a result, the **waste recycling rate** improved significantly – an estimated of solid waste is now being recycled or composted, up from about 45% the previous year. Notably, food waste from cafeterias is collected for composting or biofuel conversion in partnership with a local startup. Our hazardous and toxic waste (such as laboratory chemicals) are handled with strict procedures, ensuring safe disposal in compliance with environmental regulations. By reducing landfill waste and increasing recycling, the University is minimizing pollution and supporting a circular economy (advancing SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production).
- **Water Conservation:** Water usage on campus has been curtailed through efficiency upgrades and conservation initiatives. In 2024, we installed low-flow water fixtures in restrooms and motion-sensor faucets to eliminate wastage. We also introduced a rainwater harvesting system at the Engineering faculty building – captured rainwater is now used for campus irrigation, reducing the demand for treated municipal water. These efforts have led to an **estimated 15% reduction in total campus water consumption** year-over-year. Our campus landscaping emphasizes drought-tolerant native plants, further cutting irrigation needs. By improving water efficiency and reuse, the University contributes to **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)** and demonstrates responsible stewardship of this vital resource.
- **Transportation & Air Quality:** The University of Kyiv encourages sustainable mobility to reduce traffic congestion and emissions. We restrict private vehicle access to campus core areas and instead provide **free electric shuttle buses** connecting major facilities – in 2024, the shuttle fleet was expanded from 2 to 4 vehicles, all electric, carrying thousands of passengers monthly. We also improved campus bicycle infrastructure by adding bike lanes and secure bike parking; the usage of bicycles by students and staff has visibly increased. Our surveys indicate that a growing percentage of the campus community (~40%) uses public transit, cycling, or walking for their commute. Additionally, the University introduced two charging stations for electric cars, anticipating a rise in electric vehicle use. Together, these steps help cut Scope 3 transportation emissions and promote healthier, low-carbon lifestyles (supporting SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities). The improved pedestrian and cycling environment also enhances safety and air quality on campus.
- **Biodiversity & Green Spaces:** Even in an urban setting, the University strives to protect green spaces and biodiversity on campus. We maintain gardens and tree-lined avenues that not only provide aesthetic and recreational value but also serve as *living labs* for ecology students. In 2024, we planted 50 new trees (including fruit trees and native species) as part of a “Green Campus Week” event, increasing carbon sequestration and shading. The campus now has a small community garden where students grow vegetables

and learn about sustainable agriculture practices. We also inventory campus flora and fauna annually; this year a biodiversity audit recorded over 30 bird species inhabiting our green areas. These efforts connect to SDG 15 (Life on Land), fostering an appreciation for nature and ensuring that development does not come at the expense of the environment.

Overall, our environmental indicators for 2024 demonstrate a positive trend. The University's policies and programs have led to **lower energy and water use per capita, higher use of renewables, better waste diversion, and reduced emissions**. We have established a baseline for our carbon footprint and will be setting new targets in line with international best practices (for example, exploring a carbon neutrality pledge for 2030). By tracking progress through the GreenData Dashboard and annual reports, we ensure continuous improvement. The University of Kyiv is committed to further greening our campus operations, recognizing that operational sustainability is fundamental to our role as an educator and community leader in sustainable development.

Sustainability in Education and Research

Education and research are at the heart of our sustainability agenda. In 2024, the University of Kyiv made significant advances in integrating sustainability into curricula, creating new learning opportunities, and expanding research in sustainability fields. These efforts equip our students with the knowledge and skills to become sustainability champions and ensure that our scholarly contributions help solve environmental and societal challenges.

Curriculum Integration and Academic Programs: Sustainability principles have been embedded across a wide range of courses and programs. This year, the University offered **61 courses related to sustainability, out of a total of 270 courses** in the catalog, meaning roughly *23% of all courses* included sustainability content. These courses span multiple faculties – from Environmental Science and Engineering to Economics, Public Health, and Social Sciences – reflecting our interdisciplinary approach. Students in various majors now encounter topics such as climate change, renewable energy, sustainable finance, environmental policy, and ethics of sustainability as part of their learning. In addition, we have developed specialized academic programs dedicated to sustainability. **Nine degree programs** (undergraduate and graduate) are explicitly sustainability-focused. Examples include a B.Sc. in Environmental Engineering, an M.Sc. in Sustainable Energy Systems, and an MBA track in Sustainable Business Management. New interdisciplinary programs launched in 2024, such as a master's in *Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience*, allow students from different backgrounds to collaborate on sustainability solutions[10]. Our commitment to *Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)* aligns with **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, ensuring that all graduates, regardless of discipline, possess literacy in sustainability challenges and solutions.

Innovative Teaching and Learning: To enrich sustainability education, faculty employed innovative pedagogies and resources. Several courses adopted project-based learning where students tackled real sustainability problems on campus or in the local community (for instance, conducting energy audits for campus buildings or developing recycling awareness campaigns as class projects). We also hosted sustainability case competitions and hackathons – in 2024, a Climate Innovation Hackathon engaged students in devising solutions for urban air pollution, with mentorship from industry and government partners. The University enhanced its use of

online and ICT tools for sustainability education, consistent with modern trends and particularly useful during any hybrid learning periods. Through our **university-run sustainability website**, we share educational content, project updates, and resources on sustainability with both the campus community and the public. This website is regularly updated and serves as a knowledge hub. The site features articles by faculty and students, interactive data from the GreenData Dashboard, and links to this Sustainability Report and past reports, thereby increasing transparency and learning opportunities.

Faculty and Research Capacity: The University of Kyiv's faculty are key drivers of sustainability through their research and mentorship. We are proud to report that in the last academic year, **60 lecturers and researchers** were actively involved in sustainability-related teaching or research projects. This number includes professors across different departments who dedicate a portion of their work to sustainability topics, as well as researchers in our specialized centers. To support and incentivize faculty engagement, the university provides internal grants (via the e-Grant Portal) for curriculum greening and seed funding for new sustainability research ideas. Faculty development workshops were also held in 2024, focusing on how to integrate SDGs into course curricula and how to approach interdisciplinary research proposals. The broad participation of 60 faculty members creates a rich environment for students and signals institutional commitment.

Research Funding and Outputs: Research on sustainability challenges has been a standout area of achievement in 2024. The University dedicated **\$220,000 USD in research funds specifically for sustainability-related research projects**. These funds supported a range of projects, from technical research on renewable energy and water purification to social science studies on sustainable development policies. Our researchers collaborated across disciplines and with external partners to maximize impact. This investment paid off in terms of scholarly output: **152 scholarly publications on sustainability** were produced by our faculty and research staff in 2024 alone. These include articles in peer-reviewed journals, conference papers, and book chapters covering topics such as climate-smart agriculture, energy-efficient building design, urban sustainability planning, and environmental economics. For example, one research team published results on improving solar panel efficiency for cold climates, while another published a policy brief on sustainable urban transport in Kyiv. The ratio of sustainability publications to research staff is approximately 2.5 publications per researcher, which is a strong productivity indicator. Many publications appeared in high-impact journals and were presented at international conferences, enhancing the university's reputation in sustainability research. We also saw intellectual property outputs – a few innovation patents were filed for green technologies developed on campus (such as a patent-pending design for an affordable air quality sensor network).

Research Centers and Collaboration: The University hosts dedicated research centers and labs focused on sustainability challenges. Notably, our **Center for Sustainable Development Research** coordinates many interdisciplinary projects and partnerships. We also have specialized labs such as the Renewable Energy Lab, Water Quality Analysis Lab, and an Urban Resilience Think Tank. In 2024, these entities were very active: for instance, the Renewable Energy Lab conducted community workshops on solar panel installation and provided consultancy to a local solar farm project. Our researchers frequently collaborate with international partners. Under Erasmus+ and other programs, we have ongoing research collaborations with universities in Germany, Poland, and Canada on topics like sustainable materials and climate adaptation. The

University participated in at least **2 international sustainability research programs** this year (e.g., an EU-funded project on circular economy in education, and a regional network on sustainable cities).

Student Involvement in Education & Research: Students are not just recipients of sustainability education – they are active contributors. Many courses included student-led research projects and fieldwork addressing local sustainability issues. Additionally, through the university’s support, students undertook at least a dozen extracurricular research or innovation projects in 2024 with sustainability themes (some supported by the e-Grant Portal funding). For example, a group of engineering students developed a prototype solar charging bench for campus courtyards as a capstone project, and a team of biology students researched biodiversity in the city’s river wetlands, contributing data to a national conservation effort. The University encourages such initiatives by showcasing student research in an annual “Green Innovations Expo” held on campus, where the best projects receive awards and potential mentorship to commercialization or implementation. This experiential learning deepens understanding and often leads to tangible sustainability improvements on campus and beyond.

In summary, 2024 was a year of deepening sustainability in our academic core. **By offering more sustainability courses and programs, empowering faculty, funding research, and involving students in hands-on projects, we ensure that sustainability is both taught and practiced.** Our approach produces graduates who are environmentally and socially conscious problem-solvers, ready for green jobs and civic leadership. It also generates research knowledge that can drive progress towards sustainable technologies, policies, and practices in Ukraine and globally. The University of Kyiv will continue to expand these efforts, with plans to introduce even more interdisciplinary courses, establish new partnerships for research, and integrate sustainability learning outcomes across all programs in the coming years.

Contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The University of Kyiv’s sustainability initiatives in 2024 have made an impact across a broad spectrum of the **United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. We strive to support these global goals not only through operational improvements on campus, but also via education, research, and community outreach that drive progress in society. Our contributions span at least **14 out of the 17 SDGs**, reflecting a *very high impact* in terms of SDG alignment. Below we highlight how our activities connect to each relevant SDG, along with examples of specific programs or outcomes:

- **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being:** Our initiatives promote health on multiple fronts. For example, university research in public health and environmental medicine is helping enhance community health and well-being. In 2024, a research project from our Public Health department focused on air quality and respiratory health in Kyiv, providing recommendations to city officials to improve urban air quality (thus benefiting public health). On campus, we improved health infrastructure and wellness programs: our health center expanded mental health support and first aid training, and we organized fitness and sports events encouraging active lifestyles. Through these efforts, we contribute to healthier lives for our students, staff, and the surrounding community.

- **SDG 4 – Quality Education:** As an educational institution, we directly advance SDG 4 by integrating sustainability into quality education. We updated curricula to include sustainability concepts, ensuring students across all disciplines gain knowledge to act for sustainable development. The 61 sustainability-related courses and new programs (like the climate adaptation master’s) exemplify this commitment. We also extend quality education beyond our campus: our faculty and students conducted workshops at local schools on topics like recycling and energy saving, thus spreading knowledge in the community. By empowering learners with sustainability competencies, we are helping shape informed, responsible citizens.
- **SDG 5 – Gender Equality:** The University of Kyiv is committed to inclusive education and equal opportunities. We strive for gender balance in our programs, especially in STEM fields traditionally underrepresented by women. In 2024, Fifty-five percent of students in our environmental science and sustainable development programs were female, indicating progress in gender inclusion. We also held events like the “Women in Sustainability Leadership” panel to highlight and encourage women’s contributions in sustainability careers. Our policies ensure equal access to scholarships and research grants – for instance, the sustainability-focused scholarships we offer are awarded based on merit without bias. Through these inclusive academic opportunities and a supportive campus environment, we **promote gender equality** (SDG 5) in line with our sustainability values.
- **SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation:** Our water conservation initiatives and water-related research address SDG 6. On campus, as noted, we reduced water waste and implemented rainwater harvesting, directly contributing to more sustainable water management. In academics, our engineering faculty runs projects on water purification and efficient irrigation technology. One research team in 2024 developed a low-cost water filter prototype aimed at rural communities, which can help provide clean drinking water. We also collaborate with the local water utility for student internships and joint research on improving the city’s wastewater treatment processes. These activities help advance targets on water quality, efficiency, and access to safe water and sanitation.
- **SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy:** Energy is a major focus in our sustainability agenda, aligning with SDG 7. Our campus projects like installing solar panels and improving energy efficiency demonstrate a commitment to clean and affordable energy use locally. Moreover, the University’s research output includes work on renewable energy technologies – for example, our Renewable Energy Lab’s research on solar PV performance and a mechanical engineering project on biofuel from agricultural waste. Students in the Sustainable Energy Systems program often partner with companies on energy audits and innovation. We also educate future professionals in the energy sector; our graduates (with their green skills) join renewable energy firms or start their own energy ventures, thereby increasing the penetration of clean energy solutions in the broader economy.
- **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth:** By equipping students with green skills and fostering sustainable entrepreneurship, the University contributes to inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG 8). Our emphasis on “green jobs” is notable – with

73.5% of recent graduates in green jobs, we are preparing a workforce that supports the green economy. These jobs, such as *Waste Management Engineers, Sustainable Agriculture Consultants, and Renewable Energy Specialists*, are decent, future-oriented roles. We also encourage entrepreneurial ventures; the 5 sustainability-related startups incubated in 2024 are creating new business opportunities and jobs in areas like recycling, clean energy, and environmental consulting. On campus, we ensure fair and safe working conditions for all staff, and through our procurement and partnerships, we advocate for fair labor practices. Overall, by merging sustainability with skills development and innovation, we help drive economic growth that is both robust and environmentally responsible.

- **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure:** Our university’s research and innovation efforts support sustainable industry and infrastructure (SDG 9). We invest in scientific research that leads to sustainable technological advances – for instance, developing energy-efficient materials and smart city solutions. In 2024, we partnered with local industry on a project to design greener infrastructure (a collaboration with an architecture firm to integrate green roofs and solar panels into new building designs). Through conferences and publications, we disseminate these innovations, influencing industry practices. The University’s own infrastructure upgrades (like smart building systems and EV charging) serve as a model of innovation in practice. Additionally, by participating in industry-academia networks and standard-setting (one of our professors sits on a national committee for sustainable construction standards), we contribute expertise that shapes sustainable industry policies and infrastructure development.
- **SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities:** As a university in a major city, we directly engage with urban sustainability, advancing SDG 11. Many of our initiatives target sustainable urban development: from research on urban resilience (e.g., studying how Kyiv can adapt to climate impacts such as heatwaves) to community projects like neighborhood clean-up drives and tree planting in the city. Our planners and environmental science faculty advise on local urban planning efforts, such as developing green public spaces and improving public transport systems. In coursework, students often work on real-world city challenges – for example, an urban planning class collaborated with the city council to propose designs for safer pedestrian zones near campus. The University also hosts public forums on urban sustainability, bringing together city officials, residents, and experts to discuss issues like waste management and traffic congestion. Through these contributions, we help make our city more inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- **SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production:** We foster a culture of responsible consumption on campus, aligning with SDG 12. Our waste reduction and recycling programs encourage the university community to minimize waste and recycle materials, thus promoting responsible consumer behavior (e.g., using refillable water bottles, printing double-sided, etc.). Environmentally friendly practices are integrated into operations – such as the use of recycled paper, phasing out single-use plastics in cafeterias, and responsibly disposing e-waste. Academically, topics like circular economy and sustainable business practices feature in our management and economics courses. In 2024, a student-led “Green Office” initiative launched a campaign on sustainable lifestyle

tips and organized a swap market for used books and clothes to promote reusing items. By educating about and demonstrating responsible consumption and production, we contribute to more sustainable use of resources and reduction of pollution in line with SDG 12.

- **SDG 13 – Climate Action:** Climate action is a thread running through our operations, academics, and outreach, directly addressing SDG 13. The University of Kyiv has taken steps to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and adopting renewables, which is our practical climate action on campus. We also integrate climate change education across disciplines, ensuring students understand climate science and solutions. Our researchers contribute to climate science and policy – for instance, climate modeling studies from our Environmental Science department feed into regional climate assessments, and our economists analyze climate policy impacts for Ukraine. In 2024, the University participated in the global Climate Action Day by hosting public lectures on climate change and a youth climate innovation contest. Additionally, we have developed a Climate Adaptation Plan for the campus to prepare for climate risks (like extreme weather events), which can serve as a micro-model for other institutions. By cutting emissions, fostering climate literacy, and planning adaptation, we actively support global climate action efforts.
- **SDG 14 – Life Below Water:** Although Kyiv is not coastal, we still engage with SDG 14 through our work on aquatic ecosystems and water health. Our university sits near the Dnieper River basin, and our scientists are involved in monitoring water quality and biodiversity in local rivers and wetlands. In 2024, a biology research team studied the impact of pollution on aquatic life in the Dnieper, contributing data to a national database on water ecosystems. We also run community education programs about protecting water bodies – for example, our students organized a “Clean River Campaign” where volunteers cleaned litter from the riverbanks and raised awareness about plastic pollution affecting waterways. Within curriculum, marine science and freshwater ecology topics are covered under environmental science courses, emphasizing conservation of aquatic resources. These activities further the objectives of SDG 14 by working to preserve water ecosystems and reduce pollution, even in an inland context.
- **SDG 15 – Life On Land:** Our contributions to preserving terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity align with SDG 15. On campus, as mentioned, we maintain green areas that serve as habitats and have undertaken tree-planting and gardening projects to enrich local biodiversity. The University’s researchers also focus on life on land: in 2024, an agricultural science team conducted research on organic farming techniques to improve soil health and reduce chemical use, and a collaborative project with a local national park helped in monitoring forest health using drone technology. We have partnerships with environmental NGOs for conservation projects, such as biodiversity surveys and environmental education in rural communities around Kyiv. Students often volunteer in these conservation efforts (e.g., joining reforestation drives in areas affected by wildfires). Through research, education, and hands-on projects, the university actively supports the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, contributing to halting biodiversity loss.

- **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:** The University’s emphasis on good governance, transparency, and partnerships reflects aspects of SDG 16. While SDG 16 is broad and nation-focused, at our institutional level we foster *strong, accountable institutions* by promoting ethical governance (for instance, through the Sustainability Coordination Office’s transparent reporting and inclusion of stakeholders in decision-making). Our adoption of ICT in governance (like the GreenData Dashboard for open data on sustainability, and the e-Grant Portal ensuring fair access to funding) demonstrates our commitment to accountable and effective institutions, which is a principle of SDG 16. Additionally, some of our academic programs in law and international relations engage with themes of peace, justice, and human rights. In 2024, the University hosted a seminar series on environmental justice, discussing how sustainable development intersects with social equity and governance – highlighting the role of strong institutions in achieving sustainability. By educating future leaders in values of good governance and by modeling those values internally, we indirectly contribute to SDG 16’s goals of peace, justice, and inclusive societies.
- **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals:** Collaboration is a cornerstone of our sustainability approach, directly supporting SDG 17. The University of Kyiv actively builds partnerships at local, national, and international levels to amplify our impact. Locally, we work with the City of Kyiv, businesses, and NGOs on initiatives like the city’s Green City Action Plan. Nationally, we participate in networks such as the Ukrainian Sustainable Universities Network and share best practices with peer institutions. In 2024, our faculty joined an international consortium on sustainable mobility in European cities, and we welcomed visiting lecturers from partner universities to speak on sustainability topics. We also engaged in student exchange programs focusing on sustainable development. These partnerships facilitate exchange of knowledge, technology, and resources, helping all parties progress toward the SDGs. Moreover, by openly publishing our sustainability report and data, we contribute to the global knowledge base for sustainable development. In essence, we recognize that the SDGs can only be achieved through collective effort, and we are committed to being an active partner in that global endeavor.

In conclusion, the University of Kyiv’s activities in 2024 demonstrate a comprehensive and interconnected contribution to sustainable development. By addressing at least 14 of the 17 SDGs in tangible ways, we showcase the power of higher education institutions to catalyze change. Our approach ensures that improvements on campus translate into benefits for society and the environment, reinforcing the message that universities are key players in achieving the SDGs. We will continue to track and expand our SDG contributions in future years, aiming to cover all goals and deepen our impact where we can make the most difference.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

Engaging with our students, local community, and external partners is a vital part of our sustainability mission. In 2024, the University of Kyiv put significant effort into outreach and collaborative projects that extend the impact of our campus initiatives and foster a culture of sustainability beyond our university gates.

Student Engagement and Organizations: Our students are enthusiastic drivers of sustainability, and the university provides ample support for student-led initiatives. In 2024, there were **14 major activities organized by student organizations related to sustainability**, reflecting a high level of student engagement. The student-run **EcoClub** remained very active, hosting workshops, film screenings, and campaigns throughout the year. Key student-led activities included a “Zero-Waste Week” challenge, where students ran peer-education sessions on reducing waste and set up repair cafés for mending clothes and electronics, and a **Campus Clean-Up Day** that mobilized over 200 volunteers to collect litter and recyclables around the campus and nearby neighborhoods. Another student group organized a tree-planting drive in partnership with the city’s forestry department, planting trees in a local park and on campus. Additionally, students launched a **Green Innovation Challenge** competition – interdisciplinary teams proposed solutions to campus sustainability problems, and the winning idea (a plan for a bike-sharing system on campus) is now being evaluated for implementation. The university encourages these activities by providing funding, space, and mentorship. We see that when students take ownership of sustainability, it not only educates them in leadership and project management, but also inspires their peers and creates a vibrant campus sustainability culture.

Sustainability Events and Awareness Campaigns: The University itself organized **17 sustainability-related events** over the year, aimed at raising awareness and building knowledge among both the university community and the public. These events covered a range of formats: - **Conferences and Seminars:** We hosted academic conferences such as the “Kyiv Sustainable Development Forum 2024,” which attracted scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss national progress on the SDGs. Regular seminar series were open to students and citizens, featuring expert talks on topics like renewable energy trends, climate policy, and sustainable agriculture. - **Workshops and Training:** Practical training sessions were organized for staff and students – for instance, a workshop on installing and maintaining solar panels (in collaboration with an energy company), and a training on urban gardening techniques held in our community garden. - **Campaigns and Exhibitions:** To engage the wider campus, we ran campaigns coinciding with international observances like Earth Day and World Environment Day. On Earth Day, an exhibition booth fair was set up, where student projects and local green businesses showcased sustainable products and ideas; we also held an electric vehicle showcase and test-drive event in partnership with an EV dealer. During Climate Week, we launched a social media campaign #GreenKyivChallenge, encouraging individuals to share their daily eco-friendly actions. - **Cultural and Advocacy Events:** Emphasizing that sustainability intersects with culture and society, we included events such as a “Sustainable Fashion Show” (displaying clothing made from upcycled materials) and an environmental art exhibit. We also participated in global youth climate strikes by facilitating safe participation for students and holding a follow-up campus dialogue about climate advocacy.

These events not only disseminated knowledge but also strengthened community bonds and visibility of our sustainability efforts. We estimate that collectively, several thousand participants (students, staff, and public attendees) were reached through the year’s sustainability events. By maintaining a consistent calendar of activities, we keep sustainability in the conversation year-round, reinforcing learning through experience and participation.

Community Service and Outreach: In line with our mission as a socially responsible university, we engage in community service projects that link our academic expertise with local needs. The University organized and/or took part in multiple **community service projects**

related to sustainability, fulfilling the role of a civic partner. For example: - Students and faculty from our Environmental Science program worked with a local NGO on a river clean-up and water quality testing project, as mentioned. This not only helped improve the local environment but also provided real-world learning for students. - Our Agriculture department collaborated with a peri-urban farming community to provide training on sustainable farming practices and crop diversification, contributing to local food security (touching on SDG 2 Zero Hunger indirectly). - We continued our involvement in an ongoing community recycling initiative: the university serves as a collection point for e-waste and batteries, inviting residents to drop off items, which we then ensure are recycled properly. In 2024, we collected over 500 kg of e-waste through this drive. - The University's business school students offered pro-bono consulting to small social enterprises focused on sustainability (for instance, advising a community composting startup on business planning).

Through these service projects, our students apply their knowledge to benefit society, and the university strengthens its relationship with the community. Importantly, students gain empathy and understanding of local sustainability challenges, turning them into well-rounded graduates.

Partnerships and Collaboration: The scale of sustainability challenges requires collaboration across sectors. The University of Kyiv has actively forged partnerships to amplify our impact: - **Local Government:** We have an ongoing partnership with the Kyiv City Administration on sustainability and resilience. Our experts contribute to city task forces on issues like waste management and climate adaptation. In 2024, the city and university co-hosted a public workshop series on the city's Green City Action Plan, ensuring academic input and community feedback were incorporated. This partnership ensures our research informs policy and that our campus can serve as a living lab for city pilots (such as testing a new bike lane design through our campus). - **Industry and Business:** We engage with industries that share sustainability goals. For example, an MoU was signed with a local renewable energy company to collaborate on internships, joint research, and advising on the company's projects (some of our engineering students interned on their wind farm project). We also work with companies on campus sustainability sponsorships – a tech company sponsored new solar-powered benches with charging ports for student use. Through our career services, we connect students with green job opportunities, holding a “Green Career Fair” that saw participation from environmental consultancies, clean tech firms, and NGOs looking to hire sustainability-skilled graduates. - **Non-Governmental Organizations:** NGOs are crucial partners for outreach and advocacy. We partnered with environmental NGOs such as WWF Ukraine and Greencity Ukraine for events and campaigns, providing them with venue and volunteer support, while they provided expertise and resources. For instance, WWF experts gave guest lectures on biodiversity, and in return our students helped with their tree-planting drives. These collaborations amplify the reach and credibility of our initiatives. - **Academic and International Networks:** As noted under SDG 17, we collaborate with other universities and international bodies. In addition to research collaborations, in 2024 we joined the **Global University Climate Forum**, where our students proposed a project and shared experiences with peers worldwide. We also hosted delegations from two European universities looking to learn from our GreenMetric experience, and we learned from their best practices (such as improved bicycle sharing systems and campus biodiversity programs, which we aim to adapt here).

Communication and Reporting: Effective engagement requires communication. The University's Communications Office, in coordination with the Sustainability Office, ensures

regular updates on sustainability are shared via newsletters, social media, and the website. Success stories (like the green startups or student projects) are highlighted, which not only celebrates achievements but also motivates continued involvement. We also gather feedback from the community – for example, via annual surveys of students and staff on sustainability awareness and suggestions, and through public Q&A sessions after events. This feedback is invaluable for refining our programs and addressing any gaps in engagement.

Recognitions and Community Response: Our community engagement efforts have started to gain recognition. In 2024, the University of Kyiv’s sustainability outreach was featured in a local media article titled “Green Resilience: How Kyiv’s Universities are Shaping a Sustainable Future,” which commended our active climate workshops and student advocacy[37]. Additionally, the University received a thank-you certificate from the Kyiv City for contributions to the city’s environmental initiatives. Perhaps more telling is the response on campus – we’ve observed increasing volunteerism and a surge in membership of sustainability-related clubs. Sustainability has become a point of pride for the University of Kyiv community, uniting people towards common positive goals even during challenging times.

In summary, community engagement and partnerships greatly enhance the impact of our sustainability endeavors. By involving students as change-makers, working hand-in-hand with the community and experts, and forming strategic alliances, we extend the benefits of our sustainability work far beyond campus boundaries. These collaborations also enrich the educational experience, turning the city and region into an extension of our classroom and research lab. The University of Kyiv will continue to nurture these relationships and seek new ones, recognizing that only through collective action can we achieve a truly sustainable future.

Achievements in Numbers

To provide a clear and concise overview, the following table summarizes the University of Kyiv’s key sustainability achievements and indicators for the year 2024. These figures encapsulate our progress in education, research, campus operations, and broader impact:

These achievements in numbers are a source of pride, but we view them as milestones on a continuing journey. The University will aim to increase these figures where it counts – more courses and programs incorporating sustainability, more research output and funding, continuous improvement in operational sustainability metrics, and of course, maintaining or improving the high rate of graduate success in green careers. By tracking these indicators annually, we remain accountable and focused on tangible progress.

Conclusion

The University of Kyiv’s 2024 Sustainability Report demonstrates our unwavering commitment to integrating sustainability into every dimension of our institution. Over the past year, we have strengthened governance, improved environmental performance, enriched our academic offerings, expanded research, engaged our students and community, and forged impactful partnerships – all guided by the overarching framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. These efforts are not standalone endeavors, but interconnected actions that together propel us towards our vision of a greener, more equitable future.

Key Reflections: This year taught us that **sustainability is a journey of continuous improvement and collective effort**. We have learned from successes – such as the enthusiastic adoption of new courses and the strong outcomes in graduate employment – as well as from challenges (for example, the need for even more robust data tracking in some areas, or the realization that behavior change requires persistent awareness campaigns). The positive feedback from our community and the recognition from external stakeholders reaffirm that we are on the right path. At the same time, global and local developments remind us that there is much more to do. Issues like climate change, resource constraints, and social inequalities continue to evolve, and so must our responses as a university.

Future Goals and Commitments: Building on the 2024 achievements, the University of Kyiv is setting ambitious goals for the coming years. In operations, we aim to further cut our carbon emissions – exploring a target of carbon neutrality by 2035 through increased renewable energy and potential carbon offset projects. We plan to implement a comprehensive **Climate Action Plan** for campus, including interim targets for energy, waste, and transportation (such as transitioning our vehicle fleet entirely to electric or other zero-emission options). In academics, we will continue to infuse sustainability into the curriculum, with the target of 30% of courses covering sustainability by 2025 and introducing at least two new interdisciplinary programs (for instance, a proposed program in Sustainable Urban Development). We also intend to bolster experiential learning, possibly making a sustainability project or service learning component a graduation requirement for all students. On the research front, we seek to increase external research funding for sustainability projects by partnering with industries and international grant bodies, thereby exceeding our internal funding and driving innovation further. The formation of a new “Sustainability Innovation Hub” is under consideration – a space where students, faculty, and startup founders can collaborate to prototype solutions to sustainability problems, potentially growing the number of sustainability startups and social enterprises emerging from our university.

Community engagement will remain a cornerstone. We commit to maintaining, if not increasing, the number of outreach events and strengthening the impact measurement of those efforts. We will deepen our partnerships with the city and region – for example, playing a key role in helping Kyiv meet its climate commitments and green space expansion plans. Internationally, we will actively participate in networks, share our annual progress via platforms like UI GreenMetric, and learn from global best practices. Our approach will continue to be inclusive, ensuring that all voices on campus – students, faculty, staff – are heard in shaping our sustainability agenda.

Appreciation: The achievements of 2024 were made possible by the collective dedication of many. We extend our sincere gratitude to the University leadership for their strategic vision and support; to the Sustainability Coordination Office and all the administrative teams who turned plans into action; to the faculty members who championed sustainability in their teaching and research; to the students who brought energy, creativity, and passion to every project and event; and to our external partners and community members who collaborated with us in the spirit of shared responsibility. This report is a testament to what we can accomplish together.

In closing, the University of Kyiv reaffirms its pledge to be a leader in sustainability. We view this not only as an institutional responsibility but as part of our identity – to educate and inspire, to innovate and lead by example, and to contribute meaningfully to the sustainable development of our society. The challenges ahead are complex, but with the momentum gained in 2024 and

the strong foundation we have built, we are optimistic. We invite our readers and stakeholders to join us in this ongoing journey. Together, let us continue to transform our campus and our world for the better, ensuring that the story of our institution is one of positive impact and sustainable progress.