QUEZON CITY UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

From Commitment to Impact: QCU's Sustainability Journey 2025



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SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

Quezon City University
Research, Extension, Planning, and Linkages

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Quezon City University's sustainability journey in 2025 reflects a clear institutional direction: a local university advancing access, innovation, inclusion, and measurable social impact in service of Quezon City and the global Sustainable Development Goals.

At the center of QCU's sustainability story is its mandate to provide accessible and transformative higher education. In Academic Year 2024–2025, the University served 10,915 students in the first semester and 10,691 in the second. Demand for QCU education remained strong, with 16,699 applicants for QCUCAT 2025 and 2,305 passers qualifying for admission under the free tuition program. These figures underscore QCU's continuing role as a pathway of opportunity for students and families, particularly those who rely on public higher education as a means of upward mobility.

QCU strengthened its sustainability-driven curriculum, research agenda, urban agriculture initiatives, and local-to-global partnerships. Sustainability was not treated as a separate institutional concern, but as a unifying framework across teaching, research, extension, student development, governance, and community engagement.

The University's 2025 sustainability performance may be understood through four defining strengths.

First, **access and inclusion** remained QCU's most direct contribution to poverty reduction and social equity. Through free tuition, scholarship support, inclusive admissions, and sustained enrolment, QCU continued to make quality education reachable for thousands of learners.

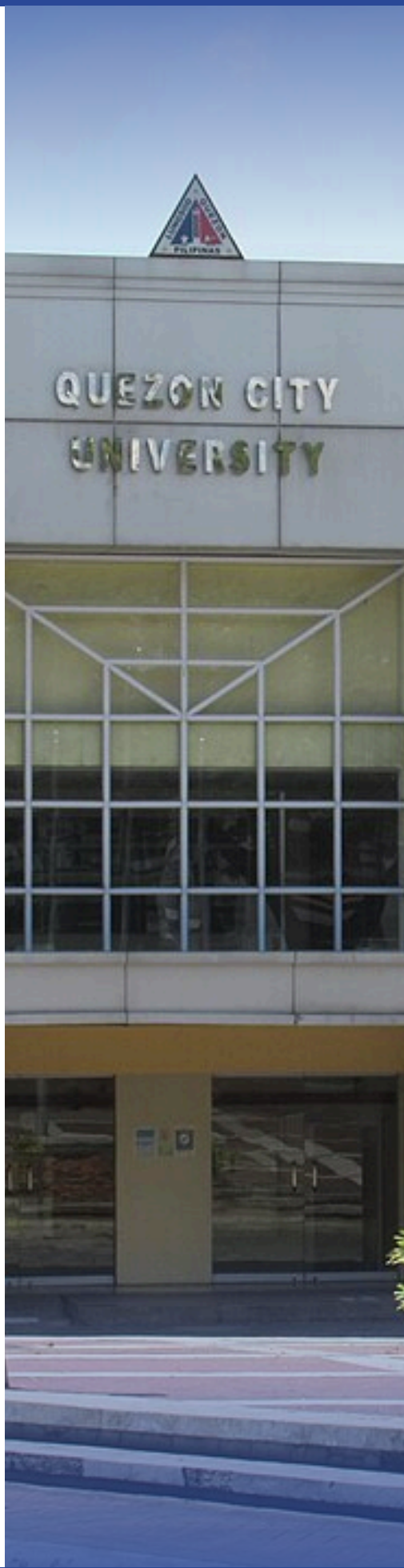
Second, **urban agriculture and community extension** emerged as one of QCU's strongest flagship narratives. Through the Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation and initiatives such as Joy is a Farm, QCU connected food security, climate resilience, entrepreneurship, student learning, and city partnership in a visible and practical way.

Third, **innovation and partnership** capacity continued to expand. Intellectual property training, patent-search workshops, student innovation showcases, out-of-school youth development programs, international memoranda of understanding, and participation in global sustainability forums demonstrated QCU's growing role as a knowledge partner and innovation platform.

Fourth, **external recognition** reinforced the credibility of QCU's sustainability work. In 2025, the University received the Water Warrior Award for Water Education, student organizations earned recognition at the QC Green Awards, and QCU was recognized in the Sustainability Category for Local Universities and Colleges at CHED ICONS 2025. These recognitions show that QCU's initiatives are gaining visibility beyond the campus and are increasingly valued by external stakeholders.

QCU's 2025 sustainability profile is strongest where public education, city development, innovation, and community partnership intersect. Its story is not only about institutional participation in the SDGs; it is about making sustainability concrete through students served, communities engaged, food systems strengthened, policies advanced, and partnerships formed.

As QCU moves forward, its sustainability agenda enters a new phase: from visibility to deeper measurement, from program documentation to stronger impact tracking, and from individual initiatives to an integrated sustainability culture. The 2025 Sustainability Report therefore captures a university that is already active, credible, and distinct in its sustainability work—one that continues to grow as a city-facing, socially responsive, and globally engaged local university.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At Quezon City University, sustainability is not separate from our mission. It is how we fulfill our responsibility as a local university in the service of Quezon City, its people, and the larger community.

Guided by our vision to be an internationally recognized local university committed to innovation and sustainability to achieve positive social impact, QCU continues to advance accessible, inclusive, and transformative education. In 2024 and 2025, this commitment was reflected in our support for economically disadvantaged learners, strengthened urban agriculture and food security initiatives, expanded research and innovation efforts, and growing local and international partnerships.

Our sustainability journey is rooted in people. It is seen in the opportunities we open for students, the communities we serve, the knowledge we create, and the partnerships we build for the public good. While we are encouraged by our growing presence in sustainability rankings and the recognitions received by our students, faculty, and programs, we believe our true measure of impact lies in the everyday relevance of our work.



This Sustainability Report presents QCU as a university steadily widening its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. It tells the story of an institution growing not only in visibility but in purpose, responsibility, and social impact.

As we move forward, we remain committed to strengthening our programs, improving our systems, and expanding our partnerships so that QCU may continue to serve as a university of access, innovation, sustainability, and meaningful service for Quezon City and beyond.

Dr. Theresita V. Atienza
University President
Quezon City University


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
15 LIFE ON LAND
16
15
LIFE ON LAND

Regenerating Land, Biodiversity, and Green Spaces



Tree-Planting Activity at QCU San Bartolome

Quezon City University (QCU) and the Quezon City Jail-Female Dormitory (QCJFD) joined forces in a tree-planting activity at the QCU San Bartolome Campus, reinforcing their shared commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement. Led by City Jail Warden JCINSP Lourvina L. Abrazado and QCU President Dr. Theresita V. Atienza, the initiative aimed to promote biodiversity, enhance green spaces, and encourage environmental stewardship.

More than an environmental activity, the event highlighted the value of collaboration in advancing social responsibility and sustainable development. Through efforts like this, QCU and QCJFD continue to contribute to building a greener, healthier, and more environmentally conscious community for future generations.



15 LIFE ON LAND

Every tree planted today is a promise of a greener tomorrow, where communities unite to protect, restore, and sustain life on land.

Continuing Success at Sharon Farm: Romaine Lettuce Harvested from Project COLDFRAME 2.0

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FARM FACT!!!

Much of the lettuce sold in supermarkets and restaurants across Metro Manila is sourced from farms in Benguet, the country's "Salad Bowl."











East West Center Alumni Association Philippines Honors Dr. Atienza for Support of Boera Women's Gardening Project

Quezon City University's dedication to sustainable terrestrial ecosystems took the global stage as President Dr. Theresita V. Atienza was honored by the East West Center Alumni Association Philippines (EWC AAP). This prestigious recognition celebrated Dr. Atienza's outstanding support during the EWC Ohana's visit to the QCU Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation. The visit championed the Boera Women's Ministry Entrepreneurial Community Gardening Pilot Project a transformative initiative led by Doreka Dai aimed at equipping rural women with the resources to succeed in sustainable agriculture and land management.

By leading an immersive tour of QCU's agricultural facilities, Dr. Atienza highlighted how education and innovation are the strongest tools for solving community challenges. Her inspiring leadership and orientation helped strengthen the project's core mission: empowering women to become independent entrepreneurs and active stewards of the land. This global collaboration reflects QCU and the EWC's shared values, proving that sustainable community gardening is a vital step toward protecting life on land while making a lasting socio-economic impact.

QUEZON CITY UNIVERSITY

SAN BARTOLOME | BATASAN | SAN FRANCISCO

