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.

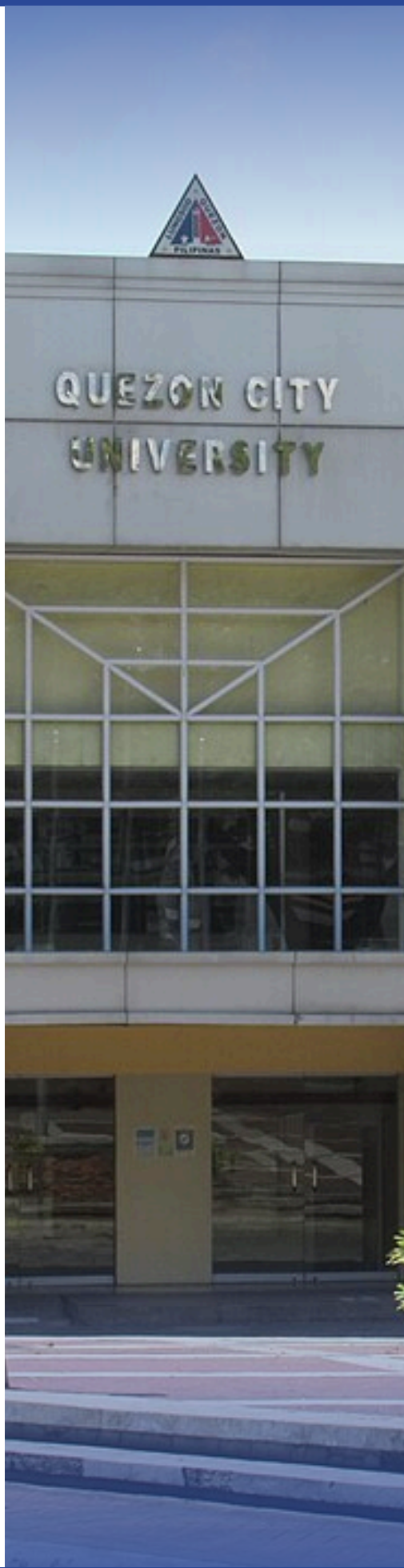
Second, **urban agriculture and community extension** emerged as one of QCU's strongest flagship narratives. Through the Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation and initiatives such as Joy is a Farm, QCU connected food security, climate resilience, entrepreneurship, student learning, and city partnership 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
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13
15 LIFE ON LAND
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
QUALITY EDUCATION
4

FUTURE-READY, INCLUSIVE, AND COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION



Beyond the Campus Gate: QCU's Year of Reaching Further

Quezon City University has long understood that education does not end at the campus gate. It lives in the communities it serves, in the programs it builds, and in the people it chooses to reach, including those who might otherwise be left behind. In 2025, QCU made that belief visible through initiatives that stretched the boundaries of what a university can do: hosting international research, bringing a classroom into a barangay, training local government workers on computers, and strengthening how faculty and students engage in service.

The University's commitment to **accessible higher education remained strong** throughout the year. Thousands of students continued to enroll across QCU's undergraduate programs, drawn by the promise of quality instruction under the city's free tuition program. Demand remained steady because QCU consistently worked to keep its academic offerings relevant to the lives and futures of Quezon City residents.

When learning reaches the community, it creates measurable change that lasts.

Early in the year, Barangay Sauyo launched **Karunungan on Wheels**, a mobile learning initiative that brings books, modules, and interactive materials directly to children facing barriers to education. QCU partnered through its Extension Management Office and College of Education, with students, faculty, and staff serving as volunteer teachers. For more than 20 days, children participated in learning activities under two tracks, **BINHI for ages 4 to 5 and PUNLA for ages 6 to 7.** The program culminated in a graduation ceremony on June 14. On July 11, a post-assessment at the 135 Covered Court in Barangay Sauyo showed measurable gains in literacy, cognition, and socio-emotional development using the same baseline tools from the start of the program.





As the year moved into its final quarter, QCU turned its attention to the barangay halls and local government offices that form the backbone of community administration. On October 24 and 28, the University conducted the first cohort of **Project CLiP** for barangay administrative personnel from San Bartolome, Bagbag, Gulod, Sta. Lucia, and Talipapa, held at the Computer Laboratory of QCU Main Campus. Through the two-day training, participants built practical skills in computer operations, data management, and digital security, equipping them for more efficient and technology-driven public service at the community level. For many of the participants, it was their first structured introduction to the digital tools their offices increasingly depend on, and QCU was the one that showed up to teach them.

The year closed on the research front, with QCU bringing the world to San Bartolome. On November 28, the University hosted the **International Research and Innovation for Sustainable Education (I-RISE) Hybrid Conference 2025** at the QCU San Bartolome Campus and online via Zoom, in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Consortium of Researchers and Educators (APCoRE). Anchored on the theme **"Reimagining Local Innovation and Global Futures through Sustainable Education Practices,"** the conference united researchers and educators from across the globe for a full day of scholarly exchange on education, digital learning, sustainability, and student-led innovation. I-RISE 2025 was a reminder that the conversations shaping the future of education are ones QCU intends to lead.

Taken together, these programs tell a story about a university that refuses to stay in one place. From international conference halls to barangay covered courts, from seminar rooms to computer laboratories, **QCU in 2025 was everywhere its community needed it to be**.



80+ Research presentations shared across physical and virtual rooms

17 Parallel research sessions

International Collaborators

• Thailand • Indonesia • Brazil

QCU's Street Learning Program Reaches 1,000 + Children in North Fairview



Street Learning Program Year 2



From **March** to **June 2025**, the Street Learning Program Year 2, a partnership between **Barangay North Fairview** and **Quezon City University (QCU)** through the Extension Management Office, reached **over 1,000 children** while providing QCU student-volunteers with service-learning opportunities as Street Learning Teachers. The initiative was supported by **Kagawad Mark Anthony Pader**, a QCU alumnus and completer of the QCU Executive Course for Barangay Leaders on Systems Delivery Support for the OSY, whose commitment to inclusive learning helped make the program possible.

> *Together, we made learning more accessible—right on the streets, where it matters most.*

QUEZON CITY UNIVERSITY

SAN BARTOLOME | BATASAN | SAN FRANCISCO

