

# QUEZON CITY UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2024



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**Quezon City University**  
**Research, Extension, Planning, and Linkages**

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# About QCU

The Quezon City University, formerly known as the Quezon City Polytechnic University, came into existence on March 1, 1994, by virtue of the City Council Ordinance No. SP-171. The institution was created to undertake skilled workers' training in response to the manpower requirement by industry and business establishments within the city. The organization of the Polytechnic as a local government educational institution included the old Skills and Training Center. The QCP established its reputation among local government units as a show window and model technology-based institution, paving the way for its recognition by the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) and developing a strong alliance with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



On August 20, 1997, the Polytechnic was enhanced into a University through City Council Ordinance No. SP-544, S-97. The leadership of former Quezon City Mayor Feliciano “Sonny” Belmonte saw meaningful access to higher education.

Starting 2005-2006, the University has started offering degree programs. Initially, the courses are BS in Entrepreneurial Management, BS in Information Technology, and BS in Industrial Engineering. SP-1945, s. 2009, otherwise known as “An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. SP1030, s. 2001 (or the QCPU Charter)”, passed by the Quezon City Council, grants the Quezon City Polytechnic University semi-autonomy as to its fiscal management and control over its operations, budgeting and reporting requirements. Under the Ordinance SP-2308 s. 2014, the QC Council authorizes the University to offer the Senior High School Program as mandated by the Department of Education. In July 2019, the SP-2812 s.2019 or the “Ordinance converting the Quezon City Polytechnic University to Quezon City University and enhancing its charter” was fully implemented, with Dr. Victor B. Endriga being named as the OIC President of the University.

On October 8, 2020, after the search committee for president recommended three (3) qualified applicants and nominees, the University Board of Regents appointed Dr. Theresita V. Atienza as its first elected University President with a fixed six-year term. Dr. Atienza envisions QCU to be recognized as the # 1 local university of employable graduates. For 27 years since its establishment, QCU has evolved significantly.

QCU now offers degree programs in accountancy and entrepreneurship, information technology, and engineering from being a technical education provider. And soon, QCU will cater to more talented and deserving students by providing relevant undergraduate and graduate programs that meet domestic and global markets’ demands.



**1 NO POVERTY**



**10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**



**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**



**13 CLIMATE ACTION**



**5 GENDER EQUALITY**



**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**



**2 ZERO HUNGER**



**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**



**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**



**7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**



**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**



**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**



**14 LIFE BELOW WATER**



**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**



**15 LIFE ON LAND**



**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**



**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**







## MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT



Quezon City University reaffirms its commitment to sustainability as a cornerstone of its mission to deliver quality, inclusive, and transformative education. In 2024, we advanced initiatives in environmental stewardship, responsible consumption, sustainable urban agriculture, and community engagement—efforts that are fully aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

These milestones reflect not only compliance with global benchmarks but also QCU's deep responsibility to the people of Quezon City. By embedding sustainability into teaching, research, extension, and campus operations, we are shaping future-ready graduates who are also conscious stewards of society and the environment.

As we move forward, QCU will continue to strengthen its role as a local university with a global mindset—pioneering practices that build resilient communities and ensuring that sustainability remains at the heart of our journey.

**Dr. Theresita V. Atienza**  
University President



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# LIFE ON LAND

Quezon City University (QCU) reaffirmed its dedication to sustainability through initiatives aligned with SDG 15: Life on Land. The inauguration of the QCU Urban Farming Innovation and Learning Center under the QCU-CUAI highlights QCU's efforts to promote biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, and environmental stewardship. By integrating education with ecological action, QCU continues to empower communities and contribute to the preservation and rehabilitation of terrestrial ecosystems.





## C40 Regional Academy Visit: A Global Showcase

On September 5, 2024, QCU hosted delegates from the C40 Regional Academy, highlighting the university's leadership in urban food sustainability. The event featured an exhibit of innovative practices such as composting, hydroponics, and vertical gardening—solutions that offer sustainable food sources despite urban limitations.

University President Dr. Theresita V. Atienza underscored the role of research and community extension in ensuring these efforts go beyond the classroom and reach the wider community. These urban farming initiatives contribute to food resilience, reduce dependence on imported produce, and inspire other cities to adopt similar models.



## Policy on Plastic Waste Reduction

### MEMORANDUM

TO : ALL CONCERNED  
DATE : September 14, 2023  
SUBJECT : ITERATION OF THE NO PLASTIC POLICY AS MANDATED BY THE CITY GOVERNMENT

In compliance with the City Government's ongoing No Plastic Policy, this memorandum is issued to reiterate and emphasize the strict observance of the plastic ban within the Quezon City University (QCU) premises, as part of our continued commitment to environmental sustainability and city ordinances.

As a reminder, the following guidelines are to be strictly followed:

- No Single-Use Plastic:** The use of plastic bags, disposable plastic utensils, plastic straws, plastic bottles, and other single-use plastics is strictly prohibited within the campus.
- Use of Environmentally Friendly Alternatives:** All members of the university are encouraged to use reusable or eco-friendly alternatives such as cloth bags, reusable containers, metal straws, and tumblers for all food, beverage, and merchandise purchases.











## QCU advances SDGs with the inauguration of the Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation

As part of its 30th founding anniversary in March 2024, Quezon City University (QCU) inaugurated the Urban Farming and Innovation Learning site of the QCU-Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation (CUAI), a flagship facility that promotes sustainable food production and urban farming aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This initiative was made possible through the support and funding of the Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI), strengthening the partnership between government and academe to advance food security and climate-resilient practices.

### **A Living Laboratory for Urban Food Sustainability**

The CUAI features commercial greenhouses and integrated fishponds, cultivating high-value crops such as arugula, kale, strawberries, dragon fruit, and oregano, along with vegetables like eggplant and onions. It also supports aquaculture for hito (catfish) and tilapia, creating a synergistic aquaponics model that minimizes waste and maximizes nutrient cycling.

Beyond production, the CUAI serves as a living laboratory for QCU's students, faculty, and partner communities. It supports hands-on learning in urban agriculture, hydroponics, and aquaponics, while opening opportunities for community partnerships and livelihood development, strengthening the university's extension programs.

The center contributes to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), reinforcing QCU's mission to integrate sustainability, research excellence, and community engagement into its development agenda.

The CUAI operates under the leadership of Mr. Romel Sevilla, with the support of its dedicated staff and agriculturists, and the strong backing of University President Dr. Theresita V. Atienza and Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte.



### **Community Outreach**

Ran marine awareness drives in urban communities.



### **Curriculum Integration**

Infused SDG 14 themes into courses and forums.







## QCU Environmental Science Students' Pocket Garden for biodiversity and well-being

As part of Quezon City University's (QCU) commitment to sustainability and ecological stewardship, the Environmental Science students have developed and sustained a pocket garden designed to enhance biodiversity and provide ecological benefits within the campus. Pocket gardens, though modest in size, play a vital role in restoring ecological balance in urban settings. They create habitats for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and birds, contributing to urban biodiversity and supporting the natural life cycle of various species.

Beyond habitat creation, the garden, which was inaugurated during QCU's 30th Founding Anniversary in March 2024, contributes to improving air quality, mitigating urban heat, and promoting mental well-being for students and staff. Studies have shown that green spaces help reduce stress and foster a sense of connection with nature, making them essential in creating a more livable and sustainable environment.

**A Student-Led Initiative for a Greener QCU** The pocket garden was conceptualized, designed, and maintained by Environmental Science classes led by Prof. Analita Bello, as part of their applied learning initiatives. It serves not only as a green space but also as a living laboratory for environmental education and research on urban ecosystem services.

The pocket garden stands as a symbol of QCU's growing environmental stewardship, showing how small but intentional actions can contribute significantly to a greener, healthier, and more sustainable university environment, strengthening its commitment to Sustainable Development Goal.



**Aligned with SDGs**  
Biodiversity & Sustainability



**Pocket Garden Project**  
March 2024 – Inaugurated during  
30th Founding Anniversary





## Visitors to QCU–CUAI in 2024: Building Urban Agriculture Partnerships

In 2024, Quezon City University’s Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation (CUAI) hosted several important visits that reinforced its role as a hub for sustainable farming, ecological stewardship, and community engagement.

**C40 Regional Academy Visit (September 5, 2024)** Delegates from the global C40 network visited CUAI to learn from QCU’s innovative urban farming practices. The event also featured a Tausug cultural dance, underscoring the integration of sustainability and inclusivity in QCU’s programs.

**Pasig City Delegation Benchmarking (March 19, 2024)** Officials from Pasig City, together with QCU President Dr. Theresita V. Atienza, toured CUAI’s facilities to exchange insights on climate-smart agriculture. The benchmarking visit highlighted CUAI’s contribution to shaping local sustainability policies and practices.

**Barangay Talipapa Delegates’ Farm Tour** Barangay Talipapa representatives toured CUAI’s demo farm following a partnership signing. This grassroots engagement deepened CUAI’s local collaborations and emphasized the role of urban agriculture in strengthening community resilience.

These visits directly support:

**SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** – by promoting resilient, inclusive, and sustainable urban food systems through knowledge exchange and partnerships.

**SDG 15: Life on Land** – by advancing educational programs on ecosystem restoration, sustainable land management for urban agriculture, and outreach initiatives for community-based conservation.

Through these engagements, QCU-CUAI demonstrated its role as a model for urban sustainability, connecting global networks, local governments, and grassroots communities in advancing shared goals.



### CUAI Visitors

Pasig City delegation benchmarking



### 1 Grassroots visit

Barangay Talipapa farm tour





## QCU Launches Reusable Lunchbox Initiative

Quezon City University, through its Multi-Purpose Cooperative, has implemented the Reusable Lunchbox Initiative starting January 1, 2024 in compliance with Quezon City ordinances banning single-use plastics. The policy prohibits the distribution and sale of plastic bags, cups, bottled water, and disposable utensils on campus, aligning QCU with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Students, employees, and concessionaires are now required to adopt sustainable practices by bringing their own reusable lunchboxes and beverage containers for take-out meals. This simple shift helps reduce plastic waste, promotes healthier consumption, and ensures that meals are packed in safe, leak-proof, and eco-friendly containers.

Through this initiative, QCU demonstrates that sustainability is not limited to academic programs but is integrated into everyday campus life. By embracing reusable practices, the university community contributes to a cleaner, healthier environment and shapes future-ready graduates who are also responsible stewards of the planet.



**100% ban**  
On single-use plastics  
on campus



**4 items prohibited**  
Plastic bags, cups, bottled water,  
disposable utensils