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.

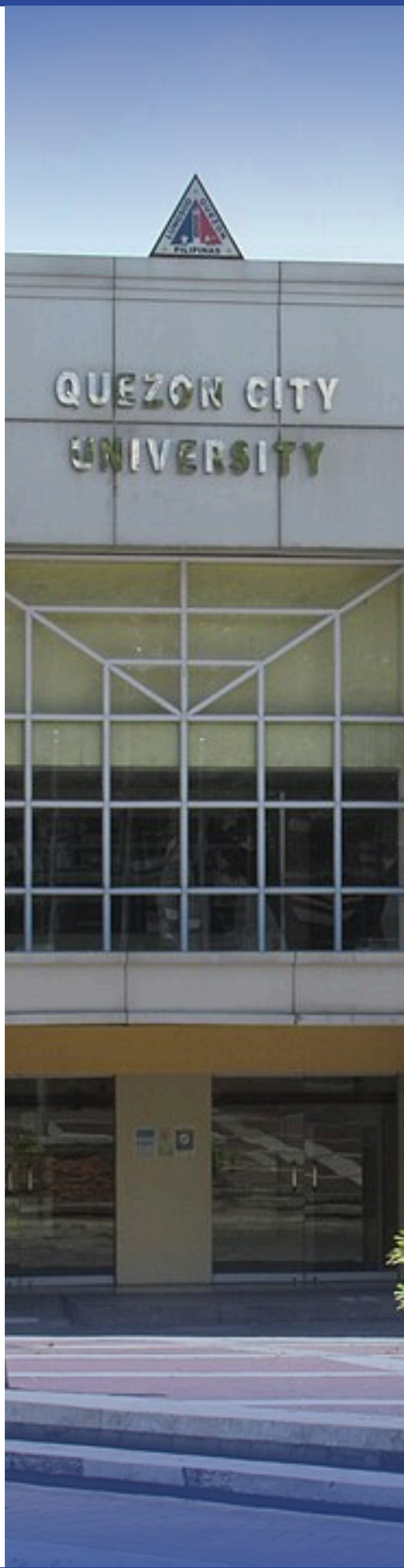
Second, **urban agriculture and community extension** emerged as one of QCU's strongest flagship narratives. Through the Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation and initiatives such as Joy is a Farm, QCU connected food security, climate resilience, entrepreneurship, student learning, and city partnership 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
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
10 REDUCED
11
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION
15 LIFE ON LAND
ZERO HUNGER

URBAN AGRICULTURE AS A LIVING LABORATORY FOR FOOD SECURITY






Pistang Ani 2025 at QCU

Pistang Ani 2025 officially opened on June 28–30, 2025 at the QCU Triangle, bringing together **advocates of urban agriculture, agri-innovation, and sustainable food systems**. The three-day event was a collaborative initiative of the Department of Agriculture–Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) and Quezon City University (QCU), featuring the ATI Urban Marketplace and Urban Agritech Expo with participation from community farms, urban agriculture organizations, and QCU's Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation (CUAI).

The ceremonial opening was led by QCU President Dr. Theresita V. Atienza, together with DA-ATI officials Dir. Antonieta J. Arceo and Ms. Sherrie C. Dreje. In her message, Dr. Atienza highlighted the **importance of Occupational Health and Safety in urban agriculture**, emphasizing that while urban farming promotes sustainability and community empowerment, practitioners must also be protected from physical hazards, diseases, and other occupational risks. As she reminded participants,

> ***"Hindi lang ang tanim ang kailangang alagaan—pati ang katawan ng magsasaka."***
>
> *— University President Theresita V. Atienza*

Her message underscored the need for safe practices, proper protective equipment, and continuous awareness to ensure that urban agriculture remains both productive and safe for all.

2 ZERO HUNGER

QCU's Growing Impact on Sustainable Food Systems and Community Resilience

Quezon City University (QCU) strengthened its commitment to sustainable food systems through the introduction of the **School + Home Garden cum Biodiversity Enhancement Enterprise (SHGBEE) Model** during Balik Scientist lectures led by Dr. Manuel "Manny" R. Reyes, Adjunct Professor of Kansas State University, under the DOST–PCAARRD Balik Scientist Program. Held on December 1, 2025, the lecture engaged students, Alternative Learning System (ALS) learners, and barangay youth in nutrition education, gardening, composting, biodiversity conservation, and food-based micro-enterprises, promoting community participation and food self-sufficiency.



Further advancing its sustainability efforts, QCU-Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation (CUAI) was recognized by the Department of Agriculture–Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) as a **Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA)**. This recognition reinforced the University's role as a center for urban farming, sustainable agriculture, and food security education, providing practical learning opportunities for students and community stakeholders.



The University's initiatives were further showcased on May 7, 2025, during **Ateneo de Manila University's "Digging for Purple Gold" UBE Festival**, where QCU presented agricultural produce, food innovation projects, student research, and entrepreneurship outputs. The event highlighted the connection between sustainable food systems, innovation, and enterprise development, demonstrating how education and research can contribute to community resilience and sustainability.



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