

## URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY: APPLYING BUILDING STANDARDS TO MINIMIZE WATER USE

Urdaneta City University (UCU) continues to demonstrate its strong commitment to environmental sustainability and responsible resource management by integrating water-efficient building standards in its campus infrastructure. Recognizing that sustainable development begins within the physical spaces where learning takes place, UCU ensures that its facilities are designed and maintained to minimize water consumption, reduce waste, and protect natural resources.

### **Sustainable Building Practices and Water Efficiency**

UCU adopts water-saving principles in the construction, maintenance, and operation of its buildings. The university's Facilities and Environmental Management Office (FEMO) ensures that all new buildings and renovations follow practices aligned with the Philippine Green Building Code (NBCDO PD 1096 Referral Code, 2015), which promotes environmental efficiency and sustainability in building design and operation.



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### Key water efficiency practices in UCU include:

- **Installation of Low-Flow Fixtures:** All restrooms and wash areas on campus are equipped with low-flow faucets, dual-flush toilets, and sensor-activated taps that significantly reduce water usage without compromising sanitation.
- **Rainwater Collection and Reuse Systems:** Selected campus buildings are fitted with rainwater catchment systems, which collect and store rainwater for non-potable uses such as cleaning, gardening, and landscape irrigation.
- **Leak Prevention and Maintenance Programs:** Regular inspections are conducted to detect leaks early, ensuring that water wastage from pipes, valves, and faucets is minimized.
- **Use of Efficient Landscaping:** The university practices xeriscaping and maintains green open spaces with drought-tolerant native plants that require less watering, in line with sustainable landscape management principles.

**6** CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



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### Compliance with Relevant Standards

UCU's approach to minimizing water use adheres to the following national and international standards:

- **Philippine Green Building Code (2015):** Promotes resource efficiency and environmental sustainability in the design, construction, and operation of buildings.
- **National Building Code of the Philippines (PD 1096):** Sets minimum standards for building safety and infrastructure efficiency, including provisions for plumbing and water systems.
- **DENR Administrative Order No. 2015-06:** Encourages sustainable water use and the integration of resource-efficient technologies in establishments.
- **ISO 46001:2019 Water Efficiency Management Systems:** While not yet formally certified, UCU's water efficiency practices are consistent with the ISO framework, emphasizing water-use planning, monitoring, and continual improvement.



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### Monitoring and Awareness Programs

To ensure long-term efficiency, UCU monitors its total volume of water consumption through metering systems in each building. The data is regularly reviewed by FEMO to identify high-usage areas and implement corrective measures when necessary.

Additionally, the university promotes awareness campaigns that encourage students and staff to conserve water, such as turning off taps when not in use and reporting leaks promptly. These behavioral interventions complement the university's infrastructure improvements, fostering a campus culture of sustainability.

### Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals

By integrating sustainable building standards and efficient water-use systems, Urdaneta City University actively contributes to the realization of:

- SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation: Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water for all;
- SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities: Creating sustainable, resilient, and resource-efficient infrastructures; and
- SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production: Promoting efficient use of natural resources within institutional operations.



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