



URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY EXTENDS SUPPORT FOR WATER CONSERVATION BEYOND CAMPUS

Introduction

In its steadfast commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6): Clean Water and Sanitation, Urdaneta City University (UCU) continues to expand its environmental advocacy beyond the confines of the campus. Recognizing that sustainable water management is a shared responsibility, UCU actively supports off-campus water conservation initiatives that engage communities, schools, and local government units in building a more water-secure and environmentally conscious society.

UCU's Mission Beyond the Campus

UCU believes that education and sustainability must reach beyond classrooms and university gates. Through its community extension programs, environmental education drives, and partnership projects, the university helps local communities understand the importance of protecting and conserving water resources.

The university's off-campus involvement embodies the principle of "education for sustainable development", empowering citizens to become active stewards of the environment while promoting social responsibility and collective action.



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Community-Based Water Conservation Programs

UCU faculty and students collaborate with barangays, public schools, and civic organizations in implementing community projects that focus on:

- Rainwater harvesting and storage systems in local schools and households.
- Community workshops on water-saving habits and sanitation practices.
- Clean-up and rehabilitation drives along rivers, creeks, and drainage systems.
- Information campaigns on preventing water pollution and proper waste disposal.
- Demonstration projects for low-cost water reuse and recycling systems.

These projects not only promote water conservation but also foster local innovation and self-sufficiency in managing natural resources.

Educational Outreach and Capacity Building

UCU extends its expertise to surrounding communities by conducting training seminars and educational lectures on topics such as:

- Sustainable water use in agriculture and households.
- Climate change impacts on local water availability.
- Water quality monitoring and simple testing methods.
- Safe sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices.



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Partnerships and Collaboration

UCU's off-campus water conservation initiatives are carried out in partnership with:

- Local Government Units (LGUs) for joint implementation of community water and sanitation projects.
- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for environmental protection and watershed management activities.
- Public elementary and secondary schools for youth-oriented education on water conservation and cleanliness.
- Civic and faith-based organizations for coordinated water-saving and waste reduction drives.

These collaborations strengthen the university's connection with the community while aligning local action with national and global sustainability goals.

Impact and Achievements

UCU's off-campus initiatives have produced significant environmental and social outcomes:

- Increased awareness among residents about responsible water use and pollution prevention.
- Reduction in water wastage through rainwater harvesting projects in local barangays.
- Active participation of students and faculty in community clean-up drives and environmental education.
- Formation of partnerships that sustain long-term environmental protection programs.



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Alignment with SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

UCU's off-campus water conservation efforts directly contribute to achieving SDG 6, particularly:

- Target 6.3: Improving water quality by reducing pollution and increasing recycling and reuse.
- Target 6.4: Increasing water-use efficiency to address water scarcity.
- Target 6.b: Strengthening community participation in water and sanitation management.

By embedding these global targets in its programs, UCU ensures that its local actions generate real progress toward a sustainable future.

Future Directions

Building on its success, UCU aims to:

1. Establish community-based water sustainability hubs for training and demonstration.
2. Develop mobile educational modules on water conservation for rural and remote communities.
3. Promote research-based solutions on water recycling and resource management.
4. Expand partnerships with government agencies and international networks that advocate for clean water and sustainable living.

Through these initiatives, UCU continues to be a leader in environmental education and sustainable community development.



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