

URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY STRENGTHENS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP THROUGH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PRACTICES

Demonstrating its continued commitment to sustainability and environmental protection, Urdaneta City University (UCU) has implemented a comprehensive wastewater treatment process to ensure that all wastewater generated within the campus is properly managed before being released into the environment. This initiative supports the principles of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6): Clean Water and Sanitation, particularly in improving water quality and promoting responsible waste management.

Commitment to Sustainable Water Management

Recognizing the importance of maintaining clean and safe water systems, UCU established a structured process for collecting, treating, and monitoring wastewater generated from campus facilities such as laboratories, restrooms, canteens, and maintenance areas. The treatment system ensures that contaminants are removed, allowing the university to minimize environmental pollution and comply with local environmental regulations.

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Wastewater Treatment Process

The university's wastewater management follows a step-by-step process designed to maintain efficiency and environmental safety:

1. Collection and Pre-Treatment – Wastewater from buildings and facilities is collected through a drainage network and directed to a pre-treatment unit that separates solids and grease.
2. Biological Treatment – The water then undergoes biological treatment, where natural processes and microorganisms help break down organic materials.
3. Filtration and Sedimentation – The treated water passes through filtration and sedimentation tanks to remove finer particles and suspended solids.
4. Disinfection – The final stage involves disinfecting the water using safe chemical or natural processes to eliminate harmful bacteria before discharge.

This multi-stage treatment ensures that the water leaving the university meets environmental standards set by local and national authorities, safeguarding both community health and local ecosystems.

Recycling and Reuse Initiatives

To further promote sustainability, UCU maximizes the reuse of treated wastewater for non-potable purposes such as:

- Landscape irrigation and maintenance of the university's green spaces.
- Cleaning and flushing systems, reducing reliance on potable water.
- Cooling and maintenance operations, where appropriate.

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These initiatives not only help conserve water but also reduce the operational costs associated with water procurement and disposal.

Monitoring and Compliance

The Facilities and Maintenance Office, in collaboration with the Environmental Management Unit, regularly monitors the performance of the wastewater treatment system. Routine water quality testing and inspections ensure compliance with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) standards and local environmental ordinances. Results from these tests are recorded and analyzed to identify opportunities for system improvement.

Alignment with SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Urdaneta City University's wastewater treatment practices directly contribute to SDG 6.3, which calls for improving water quality by reducing pollution, minimizing the release of hazardous materials, and substantially increasing water recycling and safe reuse. This initiative also supports SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) through its focus on sustainable resource management.

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