



UNIVERSIDAD
DE CELAYA

The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals

Integration of SDGs in

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

SDG Accord Reporting 2022 Case Study

Sustainable transition – University of Celaya

The University of Celaya, as part of the actions currently being taken to stimulate the change and generate the fulfilment of the objectives of sustainable development, has been updating and modifying its educational physical infrastructure in order to have a lesser impact on the environment.

Water scarcity is an existing problem in the geographical area where the university is located, therefore, actions and changes have been generated focused on the better management of this resource. One of the main actions implemented has been the complete modification of the professional size football pitch, where the grass has been replaced by synthetic grass, thus eliminating water consumption. In the same way, the university has been changing the men's toilets by replacing the urinals that use water with new ones that save 100% of the water consumption due to the fact that they are dry urinals.

Regarding waste, the university has an internal plan for the collection of obsolete batteries and computer equipment, where through proper management, such waste is delivered to the municipality of the city of Celaya, Guanajuato, Mexico, who are in charge of treating it properly. Besides, the university separates organic and inorganic waste and, through a local company, separates and treats the waste in order to reuse or recycle it. Plastic and glass waste is recycled and organic and grass waste is used again as organic compost. Also the university has a paper-free policy, all the use of paper has been replaced by electronic documents. There is also a waste paper collection program led by the library of the University where paper for recycling is exchanged for books with a local bookshop.

In terms of energy, the university has opted to replace all the lights in the classrooms with LED lamps, has installed outdoor solar-powered LED lamps and has integrated solar water heaters in the residence infrastructure.

BENEFITS

- Significant reduction in water consumption. On average, the university eliminated the expenditure of water with the modification of the soccer field. And it is estimated that more than 60.000 L of water has been saved annually per urinal with the replacement of the conventional toilet facilities.
- The program for the collection of batteries and obsolete computer equipment, together with the collaborative work in the proper use of rubbish, has eliminated the negative impact that had on pollution years ago, now the rubbish is properly managed and the organic and pruning waste is used as organic compost.
- Another benefit of these changes to the university's infrastructure has been in energy consumption. Due to the installation of indoor and outdoor LED lamps and solar water heaters, the university has seen a noticeable decrease in electricity consumption.

SDG Accord Reporting 2022 Case Study

CHALLENGES

- The main challenge has been to allocate resources for changes in infrastructure with high costs in the medium term, e.g. solar panels, due to the availability of resources.
- The other challenge has been to generate a sense of care and proper management of resources and waste throughout the university community, from their proper separation to their reuse.

CONCLUSIONS

As a conclusion of this work, it is important to note that a series of small changes and modifications add up to a big change and benefit the environment. The university has as a long-term continuous improvement project, given the challenges previously mentioned, to gradually generate changes that represent a positive impact on the environment until we reach the point of having a sustainable infrastructure.



Image description: Photograph of the soccer field with new synthetic grass.

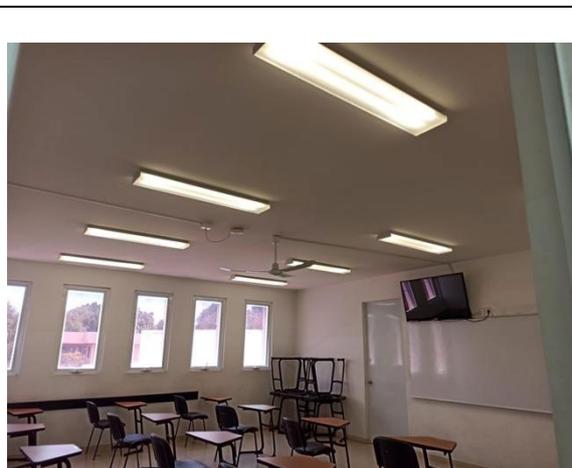


Image description: Photograph of the LED lamps installed in the university's classrooms.