



University of the
Sunshine Coast
Australia

Sustainability Impact Report 2021

SDG 1: No poverty

- ✓ **1,200+ Equity bursaries** to undergraduate students
- ✓ **10+ regional** dedicated scholarships
- ✓ **20 years** of supporting the community with local startup assistance – Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast:
 - Assisted **200+ resident members**
 - Created over **\$60M** in economic value
 - **200+ jobs** created



SDG 2: Zero hunger

- ✓ **Free meals and food relief**
 - **80,000+** food items funded by SSAF
 - USC Student Guild provides **free food bank** every day
- ✓ **Food waste**
 - **32 tonnes** organic waste composted
- ✓ **Student and staff kitchens** across campus



SDG 3: Good health and well-being

- ✓ **Health institutes**
 - UniSC Healthy Brain Ageing Clinic (local)
 - UniSC Thompson Institute (local)
 - Sunshine Coast Health Institute (national)
 - Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research (international)
 - Pilot member of Carnegie Community Engagement Classification (international)
- ✓ **Mental health**
 - **Alliance for Suicide Prevention** wins **top award** for Community Engagement at 2021 Engagement Australia Excellence Awards
 - **UniSC Psychology Clinic** provides mental health services to the community
 - **Employee Assistance Program** gives UniSC staff and their immediate family and household members access to free and completely confidential counselling services
- ✓ **Health outreach**
 - **“Students as Partners”** program (volunteer program)
 - **Nutrition and Dietetics Clinic** is delivered by students supervised by an accredited professional
 - **Counselling and Wellbeing Clinic** provides a supportive therapeutic service for community members
- Development of **reflexive tools** that will improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous people for social work practitioners
- **UniSC Indigenous and Transcultural Research Centre** launched to foster a sharing of ideas across scientific disciplines and cultures, including First Nations peoples, migrants, refugees and culturally diverse communities.
- ✓ **Shared sports facilities**
 - Multi-functional sports stadium that seats **3,000 spectators**
 - **Four outdoor fields** for community use and university sporting teams
 - **Olympic-standard swimming pool**, home to the USC Spartans
 - **2021 Olympic Games success**
 - > **6 medal placings** in the Olympics
 - > **14 medal placings** in the Paralympics
 - Home to the national **Para Sports Hub**
 - Student Guild runs **free** yoga classes
- ✓ **Smoke free campus**



SDG 4: Quality education

- ✓ Over **3,100 graduates** in 2021
- ✓ **3.4% students** enrolled at UniSC are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- ✓ **43.6% students** enrolled at UniSC are first in family to attend university
- ✓ **9.1% students** enrolled at UniSC have a disability
- ✓ UniSC provides scholarships across a range of areas including:
 - Asylum seeker scholarship
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarships
- ✓ UniSC provides **Indigenous Services learning spaces**
- ✓ UniSC hosts **Lounge Bar Lectures** for the community



SDG 5: Gender equality

- ✓ UniSC is committed to creating a **safe and inclusive environment** for everyone and has a governing policy on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- ✓ **Athena SWAN Bronze Award** – SAGE initiative
- ✓ **68% students** enrolled are **female**
- ✓ **15+ female** scholarship opportunities
- ✓ **65% female staff** (FTE)
- ✓ UniSC **Gender Principles** for achieving gender equity at events
- ✓ UniSC **Gender Affirmation** Guidelines
- ✓ Supporter of **Respect.Now.Always** and **White Ribbon** campaigns



SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation

- ✓ **50.2% water** from recycled sources
- ✓ All UniSC campuses are **Water Refill Campuses**. The University does not sell any single use plastic water bottles either directly or through its vendors
- ✓ UniSC became the **first university in Australia to supplement 'make-up' water** for the 50-metre Olympic swimming pool with treated onsite lake water
- ✓ **Environmentally-friendly and non-toxic e-water cleaning solutions** are used in the cleaning regime at UniSC to replace the use of commercial cleaning chemicals
- ✓ **Drought tolerant native plants** used at UniSC



SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy

- ✓ UniSC has approximately **6,500** solar panels that power a "water battery" that cuts our energy use by **33%**
- ✓ **3,173,828 kWh renewable energy** used at UniSC Sippy Downs
- ✓ **2,952 tonnes CO₂-e (emissions) avoided** which translates to a 33% energy saving at UniSC Sippy Downs



SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

- ✓ UniSC has an **Anti-Discrimination and Freedom from Bullying and Harassment** governing policy
- ✓ UniSC has an **Enterprise Agreement** pursuant to section 172 of the *Fair Work Act 2009*. The agreement is negotiated between the National Tertiary Education Industry Union (NTEU) and the ASU Together branch.
- ✓ UniSC has a **flexible working arrangement** and **working from home guidelines**
- ✓ UniSC degrees have the opportunity for **Work Integrated Learning** (internship, placement, practicum and field experience etc)



SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

- ✓ Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast spin-offs:
 - Assisted **200+ resident members**
 - Created over **\$60M** in economic value
 - **200+ jobs** created
- ✓ **\$24.5M** in research income



SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

- ✓ **43.6% students enrolled** at UniSC are **first in family** to attend university
- ✓ **9.1% students enrolled** at UniSC have a **disability**
- ✓ UniSC has a **student admissions policy** which is **non-discriminatory**
- ✓ UniSC has an **Anti-Discrimination and Freedom from Bullying and Harassment** governing policy
- ✓ UniSC has a governing policy on **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** and developed a **Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2021-2023**. The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee promote the principles of the governing policy and plan.

- ✓ UniSC is proud of its **Reconciliation Charter** and the Vice-Chancellor's Indigenous Advisory Committee. It has created the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Career Development Strategy 2021-2024**.
- ✓ The **Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2021-2024** demonstrates our ongoing commitment to creating an equitable, accessible, and inclusive environment for all students, staff and the wider university community
- ✓ UniSC's **AccessAbility Services** ensures equal access to all aspects of university life



SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities

- ✓ **5 Library locations** open to the community
- ✓ Art Gallery boasting the **largest collection** in the Sunshine Coast Region
- ✓ **4 EV charges** across campus
- ✓ **20+ bike storage areas** across all campuses
- ✓ **Free UniSC Express Shuttle service** for staff and students
- ✓ Bus stops in **walking distance** of every campus
- ✓ **Train station and cycleway** across the street at USC Moreton Bay
- ✓ UniSC has adopted a new policy to purchase **hybrid fleet vehicles**



SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production

- ✓ **54% waste** diverted from landfill
- ✓ **32 tonnes** organic waste composted
- ✓ UniSC participates in **Containers for Change** for community recycling
- ✓ UniSC has a policy on **ethical sourcing** of food and supplies
- ✓ The University's on-site composting apparatus (**OSCA**) composting machine transforms organic waste into **nutrient-rich compost** for the campus gardens
- ✓ UniSC Print Services are committed to use sustainable paper and processes
- ✓ UniSC has adopted a new policy to purchase **hybrid fleet vehicles**



SDG 15: Life on land

- ✓ **60 nest boxes** in use
- ✓ **300+** trees planted
- ✓ UniSC has a policy to ensure that food on campus is **sustainably farmed**
- ✓ Developed an **open-access GIS-based interface** to generate spatial representation of 19 ecosystem functions for the Sunshine Coast
- ✓ UniSC has a policy on **plastic waste** and **hazardous waste**



SDG 13: Climate action

- ✓ **2,952 tonnes CO2-e** (emissions) avoided which translates to a **33% energy saving** at UniSC
- ✓ UniSC's **Carbon Management Plan (CMP)** is the roadmap to becoming zero net carbon
- ✓ **Active member** of Noosa Biosphere, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve



SDG 14: Life below water

- ✓ Over **1,100 people** enrolled in the UniSC Life Below Water conservation short course
- ✓ Host of the **Pumicestone Catchment Convergence**, 3-day conference on local water and land conservation issues for the Sunshine Coast
- ✓ **Community outreach** for fresh-water ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and overfishing



SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

- ✓ **Representation on the Council** from students, academic and professional staff
- ✓ UniSC has an **independent** student union
- ✓ UniSC has a **Freedom of Speech** and **Academic Freedom** governing policy
- ✓ UniSC publishes an annual report with **financial data**

