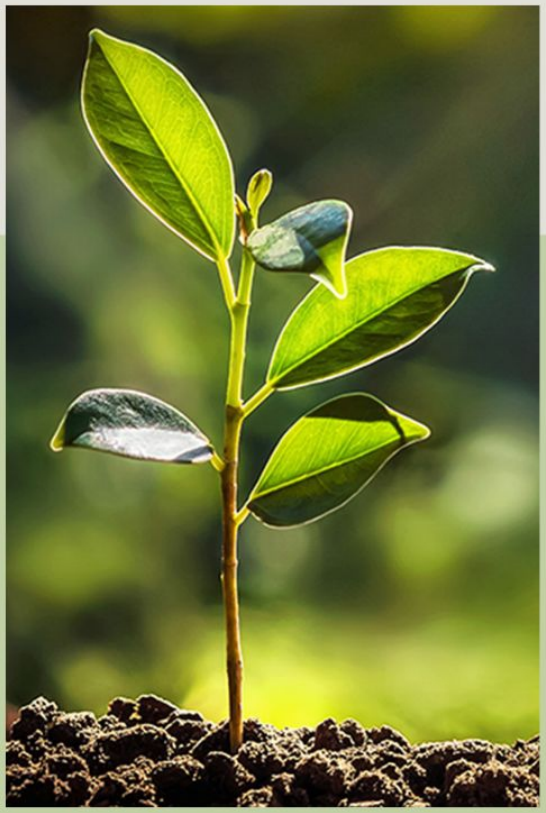
SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025



University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

A Green University committed to sustainable development and global environmental responsibility.

University of Peradeniya

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

Advancing Sustainable Development through Education, Research, Environmental Stewardship, and Community Engagement

University of Peradeniya | Sri Lanka

A Green University Committed to Sustainable Development and Global Environmental Responsibility.

Statistics & Information Division
University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
www.pdn.ac.lk |statoffice@gs.pdn.ac.lk
ISSN No : 3051-5955

SUSTAINABILITY SNAPSHOT 2025

University of Peradeniya at a Glance

40% Solar Energy	**#186** Global GreenMetric
#1 Sri Lanka GreenMetric	**1,888 ac** Green Campus
LKR 63M/yr Electricity Saved	**1.67M m³** Water Use 2025
1,280 Research Pubs	**260+** UESL Leaders Trained
31,572 Total Students	**571,000+** Healthcare Served
LKR 522M Scholarships	**60,000+** Community Outreach

In 2025, the University of Peradeniya demonstrated outstanding sustainability leadership - ranked #1 in Sri Lanka and #186 globally in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, while generating 40% of campus electricity through a 1.755 MW Solar PV system (4 sites).

TOP SUSTAINABILITY ACHIEVEMENTS 2025

University of Peradeniya · Environmental · Social · Research · Governance

#1 Green University - Sri Lanka

UI GreenMetric 2025 · 3rd consecutive year as national leader
→ Rankings trend: see p.50 (Section 7.1)

#9 in South Asia

UI GreenMetric Regional Ranking
Up from #145 in 2023 - a 136-position leap in 2 years
→ Rankings trend: see p.50 (Section 7.1)

40% Solar Energy

1.755 MW Solar PV across 4 campus sites
Faculty of Engineering, Arts, Medicine: 100% renewable
→ Full energy data and charts: see p.19 (Section 3.1)

28% Electricity Cost Reduction

Unit rate: LKR 46.1 → LKR 33.3/kWh
Despite 13% more consumption from double-batch admissions
→ Full energy data and charts: see p.19 (Section 3.1)

95,637 m³ Water Saved

Annual reduction of 5.4% in campus water use
LKR 600M rehabilitation project with NWSDB commenced June 2025
→ Full water data: see p.22 (Section 3.2)

Regreen Hantana Project

Enrichment planting on Hantana mountain range
115+ volunteers · Knuckles reforestation · Mahaweli Riverbank conservation

260+ Sustainability Leaders

Students trained under UESL programme (CES)
Across 16 universities nationwide · ISO 14001 · GIS certification

1,280 Research Publications

Including 301 foreign refereed indexed journals
External grants grew 188%: LKR 84.5M → LKR 243.1M · 4 patents filed
→ Research KPIs: see p.51 (Section 7.3)

4,450 Graduates - Record High

Highest ever degrees conferred in a single year
First university to admit 2024 A/L batch · 62% employed within 6 months

Zero Student Suicides

2nd consecutive year - campus mental health success
1,358 students counselled · 571,000+ healthcare beneficiaries · 0 casualties in Cyclone Ditwah

LKR 12.67B Revenue

16.3% income growth vs. 2024
Capital expenditure: LKR 1,154M (+45.7%) · Operating surplus: LKR 2.02B
→ Financial governance: see p.41 (Section 5.1)

BARA Bronze Award 2025

Best Annual Report - public sector excellence
First unqualified (true & fair) audit opinion in recent history
Recognised among 260 public sector institutions

" The University of Peradeniya's sustainability journey in 2025 demonstrates that academic excellence and environmental responsibility are not competing priorities - but are complementary to each other. "

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Vice-Chancellor 9
Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor 10
1. About the University of Peradeniya 11
1.1 Institutional Profile 11
1.2 Vision and Mission 12
1.3 Sustainability Commitment 12
2. Sustainability Governance and Strategy 13
2.1 Institutional Commitment 13
2.2 Sustainability Governance Structure 13
2.3 Key 2025 Council Decisions on Sustainability 13
2.4 Strategic Alignment 14
3. Environmental Sustainability 15
3.1 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 15
3.2 Water Management 18
3.3 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation 22
3.4 Waste Management and Circular Economy 23
3.5 Sustainable Transportati 28
4. Social Sustainability 33
4.1 Education and Access 33
4.2 Financial Support and Equity 34
4.3 Healthcare and Community Wellbeing 34
4.4 Mental Health and Student Wellbeing 35
4.5 Gender Equity and Inclusion 36
4.6 Disaster Response: Cyclone Ditwah (November 2025) 36
5. Governance Sustainability (ESG) 37
5.1 Financial Governance 37
5.2 Transparency and Awards 38
5.3 Research Integrity and Innovation Governance 38
6. Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 40
7. Key Sustainability Performance Indicators 43
7.1 Environmental KPIs 46
7.2 Social KPIs 47
7.3 Research and Innovation KPIs 47
8. Sustainability in Education and Research 48
8.1 Sustainability in Teaching 48

8.2 Academic Research Strength 50
8.3 Sustainability Research Publications 50
8.4 Sustainability Research Highlights 51
8.5 Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES) 52
8.6 International Sustainability Collaborations 53
8.7 Student Community Service and Outreach 54
8.8 Cultural Life and Student Engagement 56
8.9 Sustainability-Related Start-ups 57
8.10 Graduate Employability and Green Jobs 57
8.11 ICT-Enabled Education and Research Management 58
8.12 Education, Research and the Sustainable Development Goals 59
9. Looking Ahead: Sustainability Priorities 2026-2030 60
9.1 Strategic Sustainability Framework 60
9.2 Priority Actions for 2026 60

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



Prof. Terrence Madhujith

Phone:
+94 81 239 2300

Email:
vcuop@gs.pdn.ac.lk

The University of Peradeniya remains firmly committed to advancing sustainable development through education, research, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. Our sustainability journey is deeply embedded in the institution's core values and finds expression across governance, academic programmes, campus operations, and outreach. Notably, the University received a true and fair audit opinion on its 2024 financial statements - the first in recent history - a landmark in our governance journey.

In 2025, despite the significant challenge posed by Cyclone Ditwah - which caused LKR 2,470 million in campus losses - the University demonstrated extraordinary resilience while continuing to strengthen its national leadership in sustainability.

I am proud to highlight the remarkable milestones achieved during this year:

- Maintained #1 ranking in Sri Lanka in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings

  (9th in South Asia, 186th globally)
- Achieved 40% renewable electricity generation through the 1.755 MW Solar PV system (Faculty of Engineering 820 kW, Arts 380 kW, Medicine 550 kW), generating LKR 63 million in annual savings
- Advanced biodiversity conservation across our 1,888-acre green campus including Mahaweli riverbank protection and Knuckles reforestation
- Trained 260+ students as Undergraduate Environmental Sustainability Leaders (UESL) across 16 universities
- Served over 571,000+ healthcare beneficiaries through our teaching hospitals and health centres
- Disbursed LKR 522 million in Mahapola and bursary scholarships, ensuring equitable access to education

The University will continue to strengthen its sustainability through the Green University initiative, expanding renewable energy capacity, circular economy practices, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

As we move forward with our Strategic Plan 2026-2030, sustainability remains a core pillar. We enter 2026 with a disciplined focus on post-disaster recovery, climate adaptation, and long-term environmental leadership - ensuring that the University of Peradeniya remains a model of sustainable academic excellence for Sri Lanka and the region.

Professor Terrence Madhujith
Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya
May 2026

Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor



Prof. Ranjith Pallegama

Phone:
+94 81 238 9140
+94 81 239 2304

Email:
dvc@pdn.ac.lk

The University of Peradeniya's sustainability achievements in 2025 are not the result of isolated programmes or single-year commitments - they reflect a deeply embedded institutional culture that views responsible stewardship of people, planet, and resources as central to our academic mission.

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I am privileged to oversee the operational and academic dimensions of this University, and I have witnessed first-hand how sustainability has been woven into the fabric of our daily work - from the solar panels generating clean energy on our faculty rooftops, to the student volunteers replanting forests on the Hantana Range, to the doctoral researchers whose work on climate adaptation and sustainable agriculture reaches communities far beyond our campus.

Several achievements of 2025 stand out as particularly significant:

- **Academic Integration:** Sustainability is now a graduation requirement for engineering undergraduates through the MA1010 Ethics and Sustainability course. The Faculty of Science delivers dedicated SDG-aligned courses in biodiversity conservation and microbial sustainability. The Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture has launched new MSc programmes in Climate Change and Landscape Management and Green Tourism - preparing a new generation of sustainability professionals for Sri Lanka.

- **Research Excellence:** External research grant income grew by an extraordinary 188%, from LKR 84.5 million to LKR 243.1 million. Four patents were filed. Thirteen international conferences were hosted. These are not merely numbers - they represent the growing national and international recognition of our research community's contribution to sustainability science.

- **Faculty-Level Action:** The sustainability achievements in this report are not top-down directives. They are the result of faculty committees, student societies, departmental teams, and individual staff members taking ownership. From the “Leafly Legacy” tree-planting campaign by the Psychology Society, to the Botany Department's community reforestation at Knuckles, to the IT Centre's responsible e-waste programme - sustainability is practised across every corner of this institution.

- **Governance Milestone:** The receipt of an unqualified (true and fair) audit opinion on the 2024 financial statements - the first in recent history - marks a landmark in institutional accountability. Sound financial governance is itself a sustainability imperative: it ensures that the resources entrusted to us by the state and society are managed with integrity and transparency.

Looking ahead, our priorities are clear. We will expand renewable energy coverage towards 45% of campus demand. We will complete the LKR 600 million Water Supply Rehabilitation Project. We will establish the Multidisciplinary Environmental and Health Research Centre (MEHRC) to address the pressing environmental and public health challenges facing Sri Lanka's dry zone and coastal communities. And we will continue to embed sustainability across every academic programme, research project, and campus operation.

I invite all stakeholders - students, staff, alumni, partners, and the broader community - to engage with this report not merely as a record of past achievement, but as a declaration of ongoing commitment. The University of Peradeniya will continue to lead by example: as Sri Lanka's #1 ranked green university, and as an institution that understands that the pursuit of knowledge and the stewardship of our world are one and the same endeavour.

Professor Ranjith Pallegama
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya
May 2026

1. About the University of Peradeniya

1.1 Institutional Profile

The University of Peradeniya, established in 1942 as the University of Ceylon at Peradeniya and reconstituted as an institution in 1972, is Sri Lanka's premier comprehensive university. Nestled on a magnificent 1,888-acre campus along the Mahaweli River in Kandy, it uniquely combines academic excellence with an extraordinary natural environment.

The University hosts nine faculties, four postgraduate institutes, and an extensive network of research centres and specialized units, housed across 752 buildings with a total floor area of 619,839 m² serving 31,572 students across undergraduate, postgraduate, and distance education programmes.

Category	2025 Data
Established	1942 (reconstituted 1972)
Campus Area	1,888 acres (764.5 ha / 7,644,512 m²) - Main campus: 665 ha
Number of Faculties	9 Faculties + 4 Postgraduate Institutes
Total Students	31,572 (Undergrad: 15,100 | PG: 9,441 | External: 7,851)
New Intake (2025)	3,522 students
Total Graduates (2025)	4,450 (highest in history)
Total Workforce	3,389 permanent & temporary staff
Healthcare Beneficiaries	571,000+
Campus Setting	Suburban - valley between Hantana Mountain Range and Mahaweli River

The University operates three campus sites: the Main Campus (665 ha, Kandy), Mahailuppallama Sub-Campus (20 ha, 128 km away, dry zone agriculture research, est. 1968), and Dodamgolla Field Experimental Station (80 ha, Kundasale, established 1968).

1.2 Vision and Mission

Vision: To provide a uniquely transformative experience for students, staff and partners, whilst serving the public through producing and implementing innovative research and outreach programmes anchored in founding values and principles.

Mission: To contribute to national, regional and global society through the pursuit of education, learning and research, and the dissemination of knowledge at the highest international levels of excellence.

1.3 Sustainability Commitment

Sustainability at the University of Peradeniya is not an add-on - it is embedded across governance, operations, curriculum, and community engagement. The University adopts an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework to guide performance and reporting, and participates in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings as a structured annual benchmarking mechanism.



2. Sustainability Governance and Strategy

2.1 Institutional Commitment

The University integrates sustainability principles comprehensively across four pillars:

- Teaching and Learning - embedding sustainability concepts across faculty curricula
- Research and Innovation - directing interdisciplinary research toward environmental and social challenges
- Campus Operations - reducing energy, water, and waste footprints
- Community Engagement - extending sustainability impact to the wider public

2.2 Sustainability Governance Structure

Sustainability activities are coordinated through a multi-layered governance structure:

Governing Body	Key Sustainability Role
University Council	Strategic decisions on sustainability investments, disaster response, energy policy
Vice-Chancellor & Management	Executive oversight and championing of sustainability initiatives
Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES)	GreenMetric reporting, UESL programme, professional training, outreach
Faculties & Departments	Curriculum integration, sustainability research, lab management
SGBV Prevention Committee	Gender equity, social sustainability, safe campus environment
Internal Audit Division	Environmental compliance, internal control oversight
Student Environmental Groups	Regreening drives, biodiversity outreach, awareness campaigns

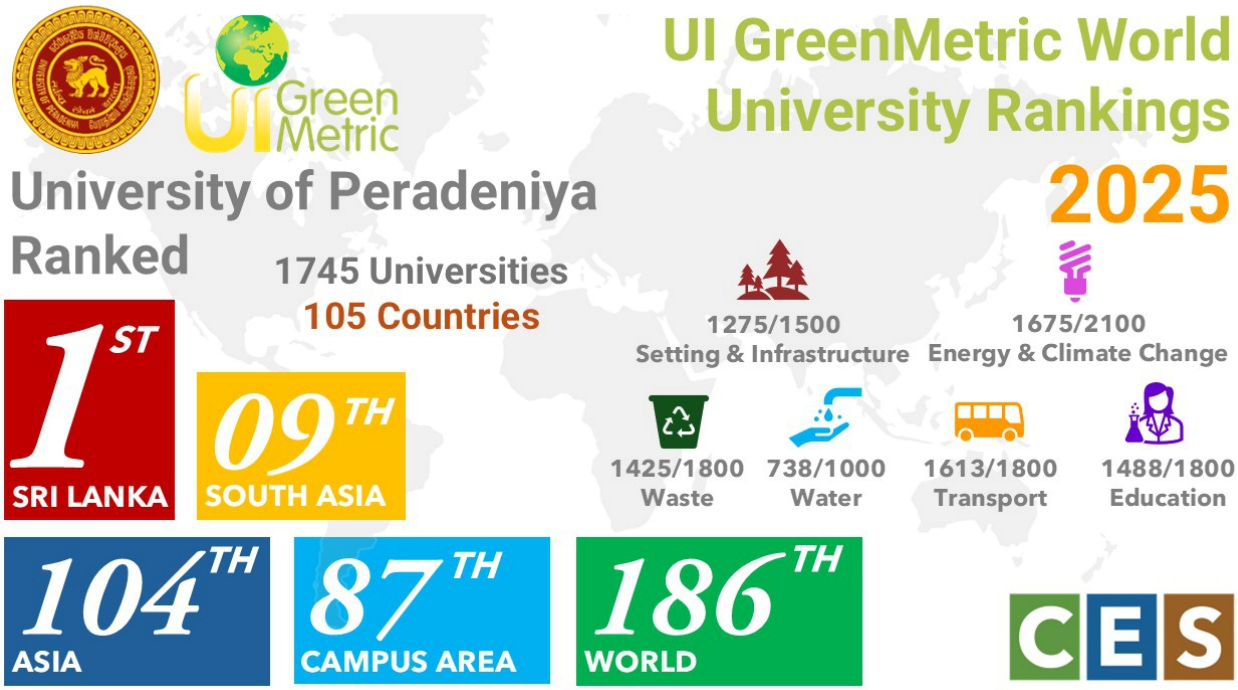
2.3 Key 2025 Council Decisions on Sustainability

- Endorsed 1.755 MW Solar PV system across Faculty of Engineering (820 kW), Faculty of Arts (380 kW), Faculty of Medicine (550 kW), and Vice-Chancellor's Lodge (5 kW) - all operational
- Approved Solar PV expansion targets: achieve 45% campus energy coverage through system optimisation and battery storage
- Approved measures to reduce paper usage in Council meetings - digital document-first approach
- Endorsed climate-resilient reconstruction framework post-Cyclone Ditwah
- Approved recommencement of University Water Supply Rehabilitation Project (LKR 600M, 2025-2027)
- Received true and fair (unqualified) audit opinion on 2024 financial statements - first in recent history - signalling a new era of financial governance and accountability.
- Approved establishment of the Digital Transformation Unit (DTU) (Council Minute C/25/09/560.17.6) to coordinate and monitor all digital transformation activities across the University

2.4 Strategic Alignment

The University's sustainability strategy aligns with:

- National Environmental Policies and Sri Lanka's Net Zero Carbon 2050 commitment
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1-17)
- Climate Change commitments under the Paris Agreement (2016)
- University Strategic Plan 2026-2030
- UI GreenMetric World University Rankings framework
- Kandy Municipal Council Development Plan 2019-2030 (Urban Development Authority)



3. Environmental Sustainability

3.1 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

2025 marked a transformational milestone in the University's energy transition with the commissioning of a 1.755 MW Grid-tied Solar PV system (four sites: 820 kW + 380 kW + 550 kW + 5 kW), the largest renewable energy installation in a Sri Lankan university.

Solar PV Performance Indicator	2025 Value
Total Installed Capacity	1.755 MW
Faculty of Engineering (820 kW) + Faculty of Arts (380 kW) + Faculty of Medicine (550 kW)	4 Sites
Daily Generation (Optimal)	7,000+ kWh
Electricity Demand Coverage	40% (Faculty of Engineering: 100% renewable)
Monthly Cost Savings	LKR 5.3 million
Annual Cost Savings	LKR 63 million
Annual Solar Generation	2,500 MWh (2,500,000 kWh)

Beyond solar electricity, the University utilises several supplementary clean energy sources: Biogas - generated at the University Animal Farm on a small scale, supplying cooking gas to several staff housing units and reducing LP gas dependence; Coconut charcoal water heaters (clean biomass) - installed at several halls of residence; and Firewood (clean biomass) - used for cooking at halls of residence, sourced primarily from Landscape Division tree cuttings and nearby sawmill off-cuts.

The University has systematically transitioned to energy-efficient appliances across campus. Approximately 95% of all lighting is now LED (remaining CFL/fluorescent lamps replaced as they burn out); ~100% of displays are LED monitors/TVs; ~95% of computers and laptops are energy-efficient models; ~80% of refrigerators are energy-efficient and CFC-free; and approximately 30% of air conditioning units are inverter-type. The average energy efficiency of campus appliances is approximately 80%. Energy-efficient smartboards are used instead of projectors in teaching. As a standard practice, lights, fans, and computers are switched off when not in use

Smart and Green Buildings: 33% of total campus building area (204,500 m^2 of 619,839 m^2) meets smart building standards. Campus buildings - many built 60-75 years ago - are inherently energy-efficient through design: high ceilings eliminating heating/cooling needs, courtyards enabling cross-ventilation, and large windows maximising natural daylight. Newly constructed buildings incorporate at least five smart building features: LED lighting (L1), natural lighting with reflectors (L4), passive cooling (I4), fire-fighting systems (S2), and CCTV surveillance (S3). Green building policy elements include: no heating or cooling required in most buildings (71°F–84°F ambient range); cement floors preferred over tiles; CFC-free refrigerants in all AC units; timber from sustainable sources; and water-efficient fittings. More than 95% of light fixtures are LED.

Campus Carbon Footprint - 3,760 MT CO_2

Calculated using the UI GreenMetric methodology:

- Electricity (grid consumption: 3,824 MWh net of solar): 3,212 MT CO_2
- Shuttle buses (2 buses, 6 trips/day, 6 km each): 1.7 MT CO_2
- Private cars (652 vehicles, 4 km avg campus travel): 250 MT CO_2
- Motorcycles and three-wheelers (1,542 vehicles): 296 MT CO_2

  Total: 3,760 MT CO_2 (Scope 1 and 2)

Note: Total grid electricity was 5,984 MWh; solar generation of 2,160 MWh was deducted, giving net grid consumption of 3,824 MWh for the calculation. Over 40% of campus population uses public transport and over 20% walk to campus."

Electricity Consumption Trend

Indicator	2024	2025	Change
Total Annual Consumption (kWh)	5,761,628	6,512,420	+750,792
Total Expenditure (LKR Mn)	265.47	216.97	-48.50 (savings)
Average Monthly Consumption (kWh)	480,136	542,702	+62,566
Cost Efficiency (LKR/kWh)	46.1	33.3	-28%
Solar Contribution	—	40%	New

Despite a 13% increase in electricity consumption driven by campus expansion and double-batch admissions, total electricity expenditure DECREASED by LKR 48.5 million thanks to solar energy generation - a remarkable achievement.



Electricity Consumption Trend (2023-2025)

Annual kWh consumption across University of Peradeniya campus

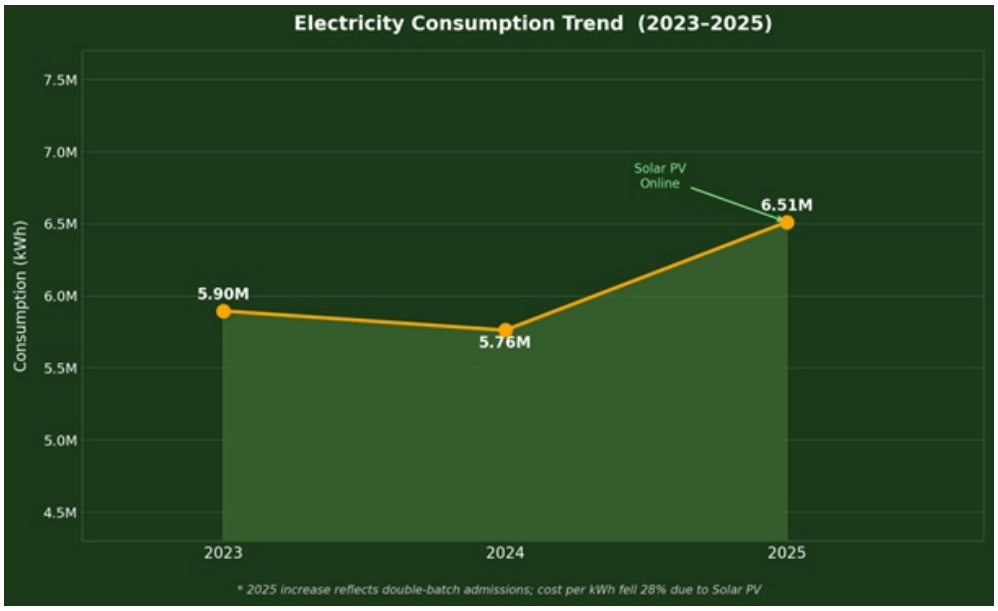


Figure 1: Electricity consumption rose in 2025 but cost per kWh fell 28% owing to solar energy (LKR 46.1 → 33.3/kWh).

Data: 2023 - 5,895,333 kWh · 2024 - 5,761,628 kWh · 2025 - 6,512,420 kWh | Cost savings 2025: LKR 63 million annually through 1.755 MW Solar PV system (4 sites).

Renewable Energy Mix (2025)

Solar PV vs Grid power share · Installed capacity by faculty site

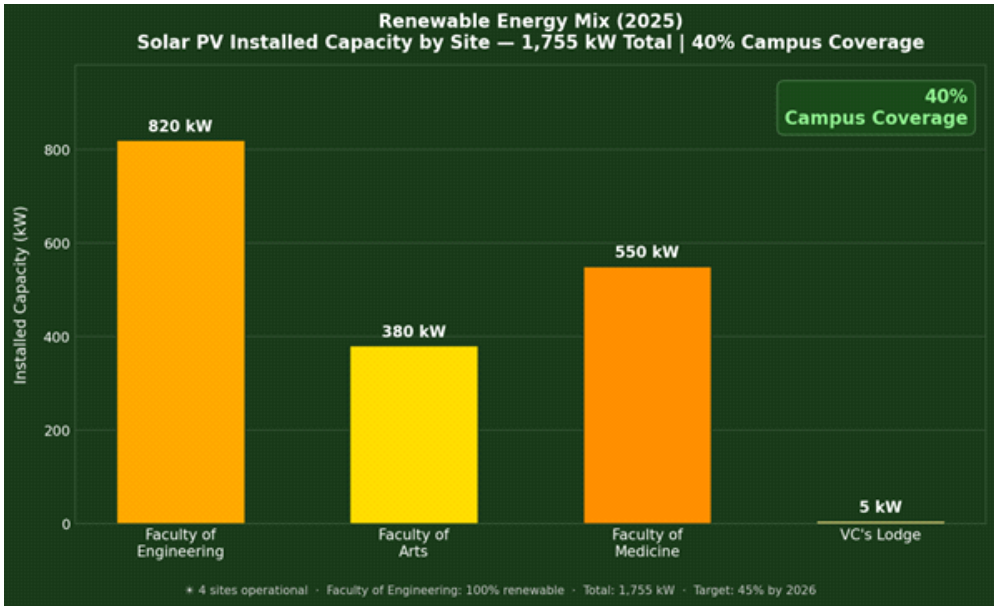


Figure 2: 40% of campus electricity met by Solar PV in 2025. Faculty of Engineering operates on 100% renewable energy. Faculty of Medicine (550 kW) and Vice-Chancellor's Lodge (5 kW) are now operational, bringing total to 1.755 MW. Target: 45% coverage by 2026.

☀ Solar sites: Faculty of Engineering - 820 kW · Faculty of Arts - 380 kW · Faculty of Medicine - 550 kW (Operational) | Daily generation: 7,000+ kWh on optimal days.

The University has committed to: reducing total GHG emissions by 30% by 2030 (Scope 1 and 2 by 14.5% against the 2021 baseline); 100% renewable energy production by 2042; and a 25% reduction in electricity usage by 2030. Tree planting programmes (over 2,800 trees planted between 2021 and 2025) contribute to carbon sequestration alongside the Regreen Hantana and Knuckles reforestation initiatives.

Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Programme

The University manages emissions across all three GHG scopes under its Environmental Policy (adopted 2021) and the Environmental Sustainability Pledge (launched 2023, annual renewal 2024), through which staff and students voluntarily commit to reducing their personal carbon footprints.

Scope 1 (direct): University fleet is managed through a vehicle reservation MIS, with trip-pooling in the same direction; only ozone-friendly coolants purchased for refrigerators and AC units.

Scope 2 (electricity): 1.755 MW Solar PV reduces grid dependence; LED retrofitting campus-wide; green building design promotes natural lighting and passive cooling; energy-saving awareness campaigns.

Scope 3 (indirect): Air travel funding strictly regulated - international travel approved only after confirming no university funding alternative; campus composting programme; Zero Mileage Vegetable Garden reducing food transport emissions; permit-only vehicle access discourages private car use."

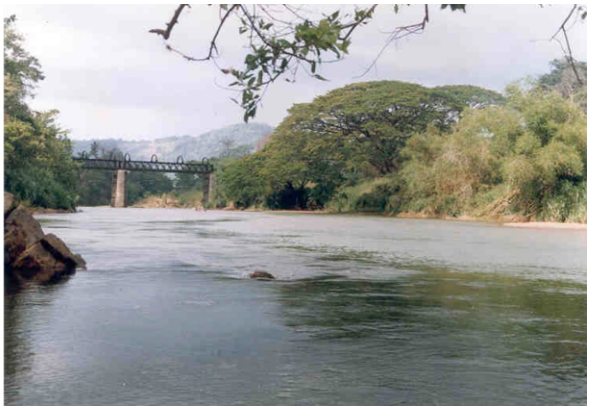
3.2 Water Management

The University of Peradeniya operates a comprehensive water management system guided by its Environmental Policy (adopted 2021), encompassing conservation, efficient use, quality monitoring, pollution control, and ICT-enabled management. The University's unique geographic setting - receiving annual rainfall of approximately 2,500-4,000 mm, bordered by the Mahaweli River, and situated beneath the Hantana mountain range - provides a naturally advantageous water environment that the University actively conserves and responsibly manages.

The University has set a target of a 40% reduction in water usage by 2030 against baseline consumption levels, tracked through annual graphical monitoring published on the University's sustainability website.

Water Indicator	2024	2025	Change
Total Annual Consumption (m^3)	1,769,892	1,674,255	-95,637
Total Expenditure (LKR Mn)	60.65	60.22	-0.43
Average Monthly Consumption (m^3)	147,491	139,521	-7,970





Water Consumption Trend (2024–2025)

Total annual water consumption across 1,888-acre campus (m^3)

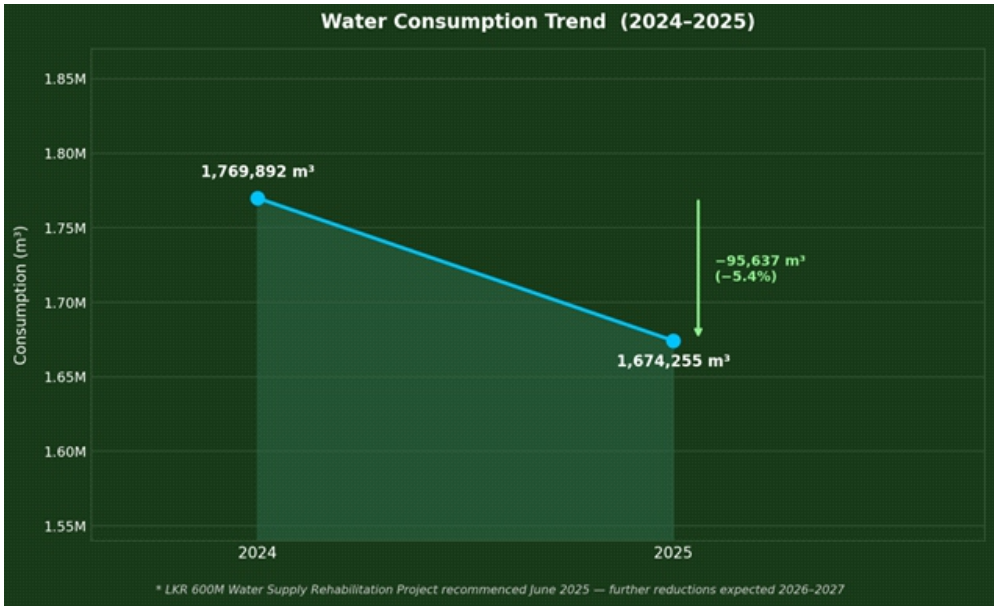


Figure 3: Water consumption reduced by 95,637 m^3 (5.4%) despite growing student numbers, reflecting effective conservation measures and infrastructure improvements.

Data: 2024 - 1,769,892 m^3 · 2025 - 1,674,255 m^3 | Reduction: -95,637 m^3 (-5.4%) · LKR 600M Water Supply Rehabilitation Project commenced June 2025 with National Water Supply & Drainage Board (NWSDB).

Water Supply

The University fulfils over 95% of its total water requirement from treated water supplied by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board of Sri Lanka through the nearby Kandy South Water Treatment Plant. The remaining 5% is sourced from a second treatment plant located within the campus, which draws water from a stream flowing through the University grounds. All water distributed across campus meets drinking water quality standards, ensuring safe and reliable access for students, staff, and the wider campus community. Treated drinking water is available at all locations across campus, eliminating the need for single-use plastic water bottles.

Water Conservation Programme

The University has implemented a comprehensive water conservation plan coordinated by the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES). Key conservation measures include:

- Rainwater harvesting - several man-made reservoirs on campus are designed to collect rainwater flowing from the Hantana mountain range, promoting groundwater recharge. Rainwater collected from certain buildings is directed to holding ponds to further facilitate recharge of the campus water table.

- Zero-irrigation landscaping - as standard practice, all planted areas including lawns, tree avenues, and vegetation are irrigated exclusively by natural rainfall. No sprinkler or manual irrigation systems are used across the campus landscape, enabling management of an extensive green area with minimal reliance on treated water.

- Leak detection and repair - faulty water lines and faucets are repaired immediately upon identification to prevent wastage. An ongoing pipe inspection programme is maintained across the 665-hectare campus.

- Metering - metering projects at faculties, hostels, and key facilities monitor consumption patterns and identify inefficiencies.

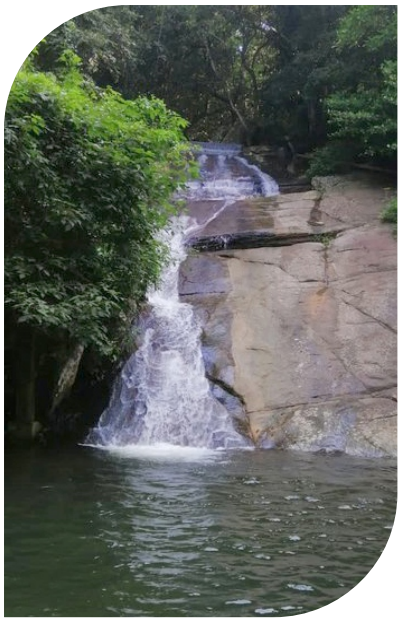
- Awareness programmes - regular campaigns for students and staff promote responsible water use across residential halls, academic buildings, and administrative offices.

- Hantana Environmental Protection Area (HEPA) conservation - the University's conservation efforts in HEPA (38.56 km², gazetted 17 February 2010) are directly linked to the protection of water catchment areas for several Mahaweli tributaries. Over 50% of campus water resources are conserved through natural catchment management.

Beyond forests and planted areas, an additional 16.50% of campus area (approximately 1,261,733 m²) provides natural groundwater recharge through grass lawns, man-made reservoirs, ponds, and natural grasslands - directly supporting long-term water security for academic, residential, and healthcare facilities campus-wide.

Water-Efficient Appliances

The University systematically installs water-efficient fittings across campus. All new buildings and toilet renovations incorporate efficient fixtures as standard:







Appliance Type	Technology Installed	Campus Coverage
Toilets	Dual flush system	80%
Urinals	Infrared (IR) sensor flush	2%
Urinals	Push-button flush	80%
Shower heads	Low-flow fittings	15%

All new toilet installations use dual flush systems as standard. Whenever existing toilets are renovated, push-button flush systems replace older mechanisms. Urinals with infrared sensors have been installed in selected high-use facilities. The University is progressively expanding water-efficient fixture coverage across older buildings.

Water Recycling

The University benefits from high natural rainfall and a relatively high water table due to the Mahaweli River corridor. In this context, broad-scale water recycling has not been pursued as a cost-effective priority. However, the Faculty of Dental Sciences has initiated water treatment for down-cycling before releasing used water into the river system. Steps are being taken to measure wastewater and rainwater volumes in each faculty, and plans are in place to extend the water recycling programme progressively across the entire campus.

Water Pollution Control

The University actively protects the quality of its water bodies and waterways through multiple measures:

- Grey water management - in each building, grey water is treated through grey water pits before percolation. Sewage from buildings across the broader campus is managed through septic tanks and soakage pits, designed in accordance with the National Water Supply and Drainage Board of Sri Lanka guidelines.

- Municipal sewage connection - approximately 40% of campus sewage is connected to the Kandy Municipal Council Sewage Treatment Plant, where waste water undergoes full tertiary treatment including aeration, coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Connected facilities include the Faculty of Dental Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Medicine, and residential halls.

- Chemical waste prevention - the University has a signed agreement with INSEE Ecocycle Lanka (Pvt) Ltd for the safe collection and disposal of laboratory chemical waste. Emergency chemical spill kits are maintained across all laboratory buildings. This prevents contamination of campus waterways.

- Water quality monitoring - researchers affiliated with the University and the Joint Research and Demonstration Centre (JRDC) routinely measure biological, physical, and chemical water quality parameters in campus lakes, rivers, and streams, contributing to the protection of freshwater ecosystems.

- Mahaweli Riverbank Conservation - in partnership with the Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority, the University has implemented a Bamboo Tree Planting Programme along the Mahaweli Riverbank. Bamboo provides effective soil erosion control, stabilises the Riverbank, and reduces sediment runoff into the river - directly protecting water quality and freshwater biodiversity.

ICT-Enabled Water Management

The University applies information and communication technology across all four stages of its water management cycle, coordinated by CES with the Department of Statistics and Computer Science:

Stage	Activity	ICT Tool
Planning	Map water distribution system; develop online conservation awareness programmes	GIS and mapping software
Implementation	Complete GIS-based interactive map of campus water distribution network prepared for infrastructure maintenance and future renovation	GIS mapping
Monitoring	Community attitudes on water conservation monitored through the online Environmental Sustain ability Pledge	Online pledge platform
Evaluation	Water usage graphically analysed annually and published on sustainability website for decision -making and public awareness	SigmaPlot and Excel

The campus water distribution system had previously lacked an updated digital map. A complete GIS-based interactive map of the water distribution network has been prepared, serving as a foundational tool for leak detection, maintenance planning, and the LKR 600 million Water Supply Rehabilitation Project currently underway with the National Water Supply and Drainage Board.

Water Management and the SDGs

The University's water management programmes contribute directly to seven United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

Programme	Target SDGs
95%+ supply from treated water (NWSDB); 5% from campus treatment plant	SDGs 3, 4, 6, 11, 12
Man-made reservoirs and rainwater holding ponds for groundwater recharge	SDGs 13, 14, 15
Rainwater collected from buildings directed to holding ponds	SDGs 13, 14, 15
Water-efficient appliances - IR sensors, push-button flush, dual-flush toilets	SDGs 11, 12
Environmental Policy (2021) - reducing water pollution and protecting waterways	SDGs 13, 14, 15
Zero-irrigation landscaping - eliminating artificial watering campus-wide	SDGs 12, 13, 14, 15
Awareness programmes and Environmental Sustainability Pledge for water conservation	SDGs 3, 4, 13, 14

Note: A full listing of all sustainability programmes mapped to each SDG is available at: sites.google.com/sci.pdn.ac.lk/sustainabilityatuop/sdgs

3.3 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation

The University campus functions as a vital ecological zone in the Kandy region. The 1,888-acre (764.5 ha) estate - classified as a suburban campus - supports diverse flora and fauna across dedicated biodiversity zones, with 95.75% of the total campus area remaining as open, green, or natural space. Forest vegetation alone covers 53.39% of the campus (4,082,076 m^2), comprising natural forests (1,879,881 m^2), Pinus forests (1,620,707 m^2), and mixed forests (581,488 m^2). A further 25.81% (1,973,577 m^2) is maintained planted vegetation - lawns, tree avenues, hedges, and ornamental gardens managed by the Landscape Division.

Conservation initiatives in 2025:

- **Bamboo planting and soil erosion control along the riverbank** Mahaweli Riverbank Conservation
- **Enrichment planting programme with 115+ volunteers** Regreen Hantana Project
- **'Save the Next Generation' reforestation programme** Knuckles Conservation Forest Reforestation
- **Supporting pollinator populations and biodiversity** Campus Beekeeping Zones
- **Maintenance of specimen trees, medicinal plant gardens, and natural green corridors** Botanical Diversity

The University ranked #9 in South Asia and #186 globally in UI GreenMetric 2025 - up from #192 in 2024 and #279 in 2023 - reflecting consistent, measurable progress in environmental performance.

The Hantana Environmental Protection Area (HEPA), covering 38.56 km^2, was formally gazetted by the Government of Sri Lanka on 17 February 2010 (Gazette No. 1641/28). The University maintains and actively conserves its section of HEPA through habitat protection, student engagement, and reforestation.

Faculty and Society-Led Biodiversity Initiatives

Faculty departments, student societies, and academic units made direct contributions to biodiversity and campus greening in 2025:

- **Faculty of Science - Dept. of Botany:** The Department of Botany led enrichment planting activities at the Regreen Hantana site, engaging over 115 volunteers. Prof. A.M.T.A. Gunaratne organised the 'Save the Next Generation' programme at the Knuckles Conservation Forest, contributing to reforestation and biodiversity conservation.

- **Faculty of Agriculture:** The Faculty established designated beekeeping areas within its premises, supporting pollinator health and campus biodiversity. Green spaces were maintained and enhanced throughout the year.

- **Faculty of Arts - Psychology Society:** The Psychology Society, in collaboration with the Sobha Society, implemented the "Leafly Legacy" tree-planting campaign on 25 October 2025 around the new Psychology Department building, initiating a planned green space corridor.

- **Faculty of Medicine:** The Department of Forensic Medicine coordinated with the Landscape Division to source plants and develop flower beds, while the Department of Paediatrics maintains a dedicated garden — both contributing to a greener faculty environment.

- **CES - World Rainforest Day Campaign:** In celebration of World Rainforest Day 2025, CES rolled out an eco-conscious awareness campaign aboard the scenic Podimenike train from Sarasavi Uyana to Nanu Oya, in collaboration with Amaya Resorts and Spas and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, Central Provincial Council.





- **Career Guidance Unit (CGU):** Staff engaged in clean-up projects at Akbar Bridge as part of Environmental Day celebrations, coordinated by the Career Guidance Unit through the Rover Scouting programme.

These grassroots biodiversity actions - spanning student societies, academic departments, and university units - demonstrate that environmental stewardship at the University of Peradeniya extends far beyond formal programmes into everyday campus culture.

3.4 Waste Management and Circular Economy

The University of Peradeniya operates a comprehensive, institution-wide waste management system guided by the principles of the circular economy and the 3R framework - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. The programme has been operational since 2022 and is coordinated by the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES) in collaboration with the Health Centre, the General Service Division, the Landscape Division, and faculty environmental committees. The most recent waste audit recorded a total campus waste generation of approximately 680 metric tons across all categories, with an overall waste diversion rate exceeding 97% - meaning less than 3% of campus waste reaches a landfill.

Note: Waste volume data in this section reflects the most recently completed annual audit. Campus waste data is collected annually by the Health Centre and General Service Division.

Waste Generation and Treatment - Overview

The University generates waste across three broad categories: organic waste (food waste and garden waste), inorganic non-toxic waste (paper, plastic, glass), and toxic/hazardous waste (laboratory chemicals and WEEE). The table below summarises the most recently audited figures alongside treatment methods:

Waste Category	Recent Volume	Treatment Method	Diversion Rate
Organic - food waste	168 tons/year	95% animal feed; 5% composting	100%
Organic - grass cuttings	345 tons/year	Cattle feed + green manure + composting	100%
Inorganic - paper & cardboard	58 tons/year	98% recycled (Valachchenai Paper Mill)	98%
Inorganic - hard plastic (PET)	33 tons/year	Recycled via authorised recyclers	100%
Inorganic - soft plastic	15 tons/year	On-campus incinerator (CEA-compliant)	100%
Inorganic - glass	48 tons/year	Sold to authorised glass recyclers	100%
Toxic - chemical waste	10 tons/year	INSEE Ecocycle Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	100%
Toxic - WEEE	4–5 tons/year	CEA-registered WEEE recyclers	100%
Total	680 tons/year		>97%

Source: Health Centre and General Service Division, University of Peradeniya

3R Programme - Reducing Paper and Plastic

The University operates fourteen active programmes to reduce paper and plastic consumption, overseen by CES and faculty environmental committees:

- **Information Management System (IMS) -** all administrative documents managed electronically, significantly reducing printing across the University
- **Google Classroom and Learning Management System (LMS) -** all course materials delivered digitally; no printed materials issued to students
- **Eco Guidelines for Events -** framework requiring organisers of all University functions to minimise plastic and paper usage
- **LMS assignment submission -** all student assignments submitted electronically, eliminating printed submissions across all faculties
- **Duplex printing policy -** standard practice for all administrative printing across the University
- **Single-sided paper reuse -** used single-sided papers reused for draft printing before disposal
- **Envelope reuse programme -** internal mail uses repurposed envelopes, reducing single-use consumption
- **Ban on single-use plastic utensils -** University-wide ban aligned with Gazette Extraordinary No. 2341/30 (effective October 2023)
- **Porcelain plates and glass tumblers in canteens -** all campus dining facilities use reusable crockery

- **Eco-friendly floral arrangements -** Landscape Division uses campus-grown plants and wild flowers; no purchased plastics

- **Green procurement awareness sessions -** regular sessions for staff promoting sustainable product choices.

- **3R awareness sessions -** faculty environmental committees conduct regular awareness programmes for staff and students

- **Environmental Sustainability Pledge -** an annual pledge through which staff and students commit to reducing their personal waste footprint. Monitoring of responses shows that over 90% of pledge participants commit to segregating waste, refusing single-use plastics, and reducing their waste footprint through 3R practices

- **Treated drinking water campus-wide -** piped treated water available at all locations, eliminating the need for single-use plastic water bottles

Organic Waste - Zero to Landfill

All organic waste generated at the University of Peradeniya is treated through a circular economy approach - none goes to landfill:

- **Food waste -** Food waste is collected daily. Approximately 95% is transported to the University's Animal Farm or provided free of charge to Sahan Farm, Weerapokuna, as animal feed. The remaining 5% (~7.6 tons) is used in composting.

- **Garden waste -** Grass cuttings and garden waste from the 665-hectare campus are managed through three channels: a portion is collected free of charge by a local cattle owner for use as cattle feed; a portion is distributed as green manure directly under campus vegetation; and the remainder is used in the University's composting programme operated by the Farm and Landscape Division.

- **Composting -** The University Farm and Landscape Division operate composting units using food waste, garden waste, and cow dung. The resulting compost is used in the University's organic vegetable gardens. Surplus compost is made available to the public, supporting organic home gardening in the wider Kandy community.

Inorganic Waste Treatment

The University achieves an inorganic waste diversion rate exceeding 95% through a systematic sorting, recycling, and treatment system:

- **Paper -** Confidential documents sent to the Valachchenai Paper Mill for up-cycling; general paper waste sold to authorised recyclers. Two tons of paper reused annually through the duplex printing and draft paper reuse programmes.

- **Hard plastic (PET bottles and containers) -** Collected through 10 dedicated PET collection bins across campus, in partnership with Ceylon Cold Stores/John Keells Holdings. Student environmental societies monitor the collection and receive bi-monthly cash incentives for their contribution.

- **Soft plastic -** Incinerated in the University's on-campus incinerator, installed in May 2023 and compliant with all Sri Lanka emission standards set by the Central Environment Authority.

- **Glass -** Sold to authorised glass recyclers (primarily laboratory glass bottles).

All recyclable solid waste is temporarily stored at a designated sorting facility before collection by recyclers registered with the Central Environment Authority of Sri Lanka.

Toxic and Hazardous Waste

The University's Safety Committee and General Service Division jointly manage all toxic and hazardous waste:

- **Chemical waste -** Laboratory chemical waste is stored in temporary containers in designated storage areas. It is collected and disposed of by INSEE Ecocycle Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, one of Sri Lanka's leading toxic waste management organisations. Chemical usage is actively reduced through low-chemical laboratory protocols under the 3R system.

- **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) -** WEEE - condemned computers, monitors, fans, bulbs, batteries, and electronic components - is collected every six months from all faculties and units. It is temporarily stored in a dedicated warehouse and auctioned to CEA-registered local recyclers specialised in WEEE recycling.

Sewage Management

Approximately 40% of campus sewage is treated through full tertiary treatment - aeration, coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection - via the Kandy Municipal Council Sewage Treatment Plant, to which the Faculty of Dental Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Medicine, and residential halls are connected.

The remaining sewage, from buildings across the wider campus, is managed through septic tanks and soakage pits designed in accordance with guidelines issued by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board of Sri Lanka. The large land area of the 665-hectare campus provides adequate natural treatment through soakage, consistent with the University's Environmental Policy (adopted 2021).

ICT-Enabled Waste Management

The University applies information and communication technology across all four stages of its waste management cycle, coordinated by CES with the Department of Statistics and Computer Science:

Stage	Activity	ICT Tool
Planning	Develop 3R strategy and set measurable targets; publish strategies online for the University community to access	Online sustainability website; GIS software
Implementation	Mapping of temporary waste holding locations across campus to support efficient collection, segregation, and disposal	GIS mapping software
Monitoring	Attitudes of the University community toward waste management monitored through the online Environmental Sustainability Pledge (172+ responses recorded)	Online pledge platform
Evaluation	Waste generation and diversion data analysed annually and published graphically on the sustainability website to support decision-making and raise awareness	SigmaPlot and Excel

Key monitoring results from the Environmental Sustainability Pledge: over 95% of participants commit to segregating waste; over 90% commit to bringing reusable containers; over 90% commit to reducing their waste footprint through 3R practices; and 93% commit to educating others on waste management.

Digitalisation Supporting Waste Reduction

Digital Initiative	Environmental Benefit
Research Grant Management System (RGMS)	Paperless grant processing
Strategic Plan Tracking System	Digital monitoring - reduced printed reports
SignEase Digital Authentication	Eliminated paper-based signatures
Agri eHub Platform	Digital extension services - reduced field print materials
Faculty of Arts Network Upgrade	Fully digital academic infrastructure
Online Vehicle Reservation System	Reduces unnecessary fuel use and vehicle trips across campus

Faculty and Unit-Level Waste Reduction Initiatives

Multiple faculties and units have implemented targeted waste reduction measures, reinforcing the University's commitment to a circular economy:

- **IT Centre -** Developed over 30 in-house digital systems (leave applications, asset tracking, action plan reporting), replacing paper-based processes across campus. Responsible e-waste disposal of obsolete computers and peripherals was coordinated with the University's Environment Committee. Server virtualisation and non-peak power management in labs further reduced energy consumption.

- **Faculty of Agriculture -** The Agri eHub system enabled electronic distribution of reading materials and online submission of assignments and theses - significantly reducing paper waste. Food waste from faculty operations is systematically reutilised in farm operations, promoting circular resource use.

- **Faculty of Dental Sciences -** Implemented a waste bin installation programme with an accompanying staff awareness campaign on proper waste disposal across faculty premises.

- **Faculty of Management -** Student societies actively engaged in waste reduction, energy conservation, and clean-up campaigns. SDG concepts including responsible consumption integrated into Operations Management and Business Ethics curricula.

- **Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA) -** Reduced canteen waste generation, reused paper, envelopes, and stationery, and replaced conventional lighting with energy-efficient LED systems across PGIA facilities.

- **University Library -** Prohibited food waste on premises, enforced daily paper segregation and recycling, and actively encouraged staff to use reusable containers and minimise polythene usage.

- **Centre for Quality Assurance (CQA) -** Developed digital repositories and virtual monitoring systems (including the Institutional Review Progress Monitoring System) to reduce paper usage and carbon footprint across quality assurance operations.

- **Staff Development Centre (SDC) -** Centralised training programmes minimised duplication of resources across faculties. The CN ePortfolio platform served five faculties at an optimised cost of USD 0.97 per user per year.

Waste Management and the SDGs

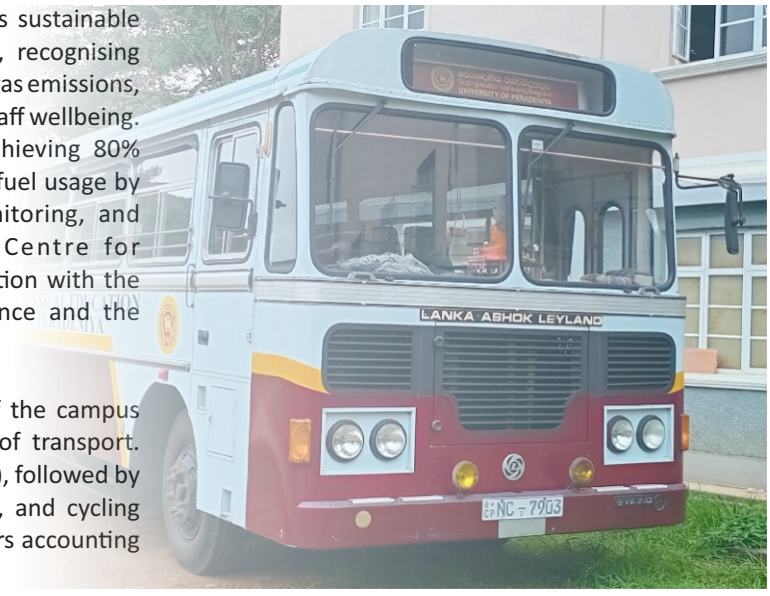
The University's waste management programmes contribute directly to eleven of the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

Programme	Target SDGs
Comprehensive 3R waste reduction and recycling programme	SDGs 3, 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Strategically placed segregated recycling bins across campus	SDGs 3, 12, 13, 14, 15
Recycling of plastic, WEEE, and chemical waste via CEA-registered companies	SDGs 6, 12, 13, 14, 15
Digitalisation of administration - IMS, paperless systems	SDGs 4, 13, 14, 15
Online teaching platforms - Google Classroom, LMS	SDGs 4, 13, 14, 15
3R awareness sessions for staff and students	SDGs 4, 13, 14, 15
PET recycling with cash incentives to student societies	SDG 1
Academic research incorporating waste management themes	SDGs 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14
Ban on single-use plastic utensils	SDGs 6, 12, 13, 14, 15
Collaboration with CPC, Seed for Peace, Ceylon Cold Stores, CEA	SDG 17
On-campus composting programme	SDGs 3, 11, 12, 13

A full listing of all sustainability programmes mapped to each SDG is available at:
sites.google.com/sci.pdn.ac.lk/sustainabilityatuop/sdgs

3.5 Sustainable Transportation

The University of Peradeniya actively promotes sustainable transportation across its 665-hectare campus, recognising that mobility choices directly affect greenhouse gas emissions, air quality, campus liveability, and student and staff wellbeing. The University has set ambitious targets: achieving 80% sustainable transportation usage and reducing fuel usage by 50% by 2030. Transportation planning, monitoring, and infrastructure are coordinated by the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES) in collaboration with the Department of Statistics and Computer Science and the University's Security Division.



Transportation surveys show that over 72% of the campus population currently uses sustainable modes of transport. Public transport is the most popular mode (40%), followed by walking (20%), shuttle and staff services (7%), and cycling (5%), with motorcycles, three-wheelers, and cars accounting for the remainder.

Campus Vehicle Profile

The University maintains a permit-based vehicle access system to manage private vehicle entry. The total vehicle-to-population ratio on campus stands at approximately 0.078, indicating a low vehicle density relative to the campus population - a direct result of active demand management policies.

Indicator	Value
University-owned vehicles actively managed	167
Cars entering campus daily (approx.)	485
Motorcycles entering campus daily (approx.)	1,542
Total vehicles on campus daily (approx.)	2,194
Total campus population	31,572+3389
Vehicle-to-population ratio	0.078
Campus population using sustainable transport	>72%

Over 50% of students are accommodated in 23 residential halls located within the campus, meaning the majority walk to classes. Student-owned cars are very limited; most student vehicle use involves motorcycles. The majority of staff and day scholars use public transport to commute from their residences.

Shuttle Services

The University operates a free shuttle bus service to minimise the entry of private vehicles onto campus. Two shuttle buses run daily, transporting students and staff between faculties and teaching hospitals. Several additional hired staff transport services are also available for dedicated routes.

A transportation survey found that 7% of campus commuters use shuttle and staff services as their primary mode of transport. The shuttle service is provided free of charge, removing financial barriers to sustainable commuting. Bus stops with shelters have been constructed at convenient locations across the campus by the University to encourage the use of public transportation.

Public Transport Integration

The University benefits from direct access to Sri Lanka's national public transport network:

- A railway station is located adjacent to the campus, providing direct train services to Kandy and Colombo. The train is the single most-used transport mode for long-distance commuters.
- Multiple bus stops are located within and around the campus perimeter, with University-constructed shelters at key locations to encourage public bus use regardless of weather.
- Public transportation operates regularly in and around the Peradeniya area, making it a practical and reliable option for the majority of staff and students.



Zero-Emission and Low-Emission Vehicles

The University actively promotes zero-emission and low-emission transport options:

- Over 300 bicycles have been provided free of charge to students - particularly those engaged in fieldwork at University farms and those affiliated with environmental clubs - enabling them to cycle to classes and field locations. Cyclist-friendly pathways are available throughout the campus.
- Private electric vehicles (EVs) and electric bicycles (e-bikes) are used by some members of the University community. The campus accommodates privately-owned EVs and encourages their adoption as a sustainable transport choice.
- The University's bicycle programme, vehicle-free zones, and pedestrian priority infrastructure collectively support a transition toward zero-emission campus mobility.

Parking Management and Reduction

The University maintains a deliberately minimal parking footprint to discourage private vehicle use and promote sustainable alternatives:

Parking Indicator	Value
Total campus area	7,644,512 m²
Total designated parking area	15,855 m²
Parking-to-campus area ratio	0.207%
Maximum vehicle capacity (parking)	<1,600 vehicles
New parking areas added (past 3 years)	None

No new parking areas have been developed in recent years, actively discouraging private vehicle parking within the University. This constraint, combined with other demand management measures, has contributed to a sustained reduction in campus vehicle density.

Active programmes to limit and reduce parking demand include:

- **Parking freeze -** No expansion of parking areas - parking capacity has not been increased, maintaining pressure on private vehicle users to seek alternatives.
- **Security checkpoints -** Security checkpoints are placed at campus entry points to limit the entry of outside vehicles to authorised personnel and permit holders only.
- **Vehicle-free zones -** Multiple areas of the campus are designated as car-free zones, prioritising pedestrian and cyclist safety and comfort.
- **Ride-hailing promotion -** Students and staff are encouraged to use ride-hailing applications (Uber, PickMe, etc.) to fulfil occasional transport needs without maintaining a personal vehicle on campus.
- **Free shuttle service -** Free shuttle bus service is provided as a direct alternative to driving, reducing demand for parking.
- **Permit system -** Vehicle parking is restricted to holders of a University vehicle permit, regulated by on-campus security. Vehicle permits are not issued to students, effectively removing the option of student car parking.
- **No-parking signage -** No-parking signs are posted at key locations to prevent unauthorised parking and to reinforce the message that vehicle use on campus is actively managed.
- **Public transport access -** A train station and bus stops are located within and adjacent to campus, providing convenient alternatives to private vehicle commuting.

Pedestrian Infrastructure

The University has invested in a comprehensive, well-maintained pedestrian pathway network that makes walking a safe, convenient, and attractive primary mode of transport across the campus:

- User-friendly pedestrian paths are available throughout the campus, with sign boards providing clear directional and location information.
- Street lamps and ground-level lighting illuminate all pedestrian paths and roads during night-time hours, ensuring safety for all campus users.
- Pedestrian paths are separated from vehicle roads using physical barriers and separators, preventing motorbike and vehicle intrusion onto walking areas.
- Selected sections of the pedestrian network are equipped with disabled-friendly features including ramps, handrails, and tactile surfaces, ensuring accessibility for all members of the campus community.

Walking accounts for approximately 20% of all campus transport journeys, making it the second most popular mode of transport after public bus and rail.

ICT-Enabled Transportation Management

The University applies ICT across all four stages of its transportation management cycle, coordinated by CES with the Department of Statistics and Computer Science:



Stage	Activity	ICT Tool
Planning	Mapping transportation routes; development of online vehicle reservation system	GIS and mapping software
Implementation	Online vehicle reservation system for University-owned fleet; GIS interactive map for bus routes and shuttle service	G-Suite based online system; GIS mapping
Monitoring	Fleet usage tracked through online reservation system; community attitudes on sustainable transport monitored through the Environmental Sustainability Pledge	G-Suite system; online pledge platform
Evaluation	Fuel usage, transport survey data, and sustainable transportation target progress graphically analysed and published on sustainability website	SigmaPlot and Excel; sustainability website

ICT-based mapping tools developed for campus infrastructure have been extended to transportation. A GIS-based interactive map of campus bus routes and shuttle service locations has been prepared, supporting route optimisation and public communication. The online vehicle reservation system manages all University-owned vehicles, reducing unnecessary vehicle trips and enabling trip-pooling where journeys share the same direction.

Transportation and the SDGs

The University's sustainable transportation programmes contribute directly to multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

Programme	Target SDGs
Walking paths - well-lit, user-friendly pedestrian network campus-wide	SDGs 3, 11, 13
Car-free zones - designated areas prioritising pedestrian and cyclist safety	SDGs 3, 11, 13
Free bicycles - 300+ bicycles provided to students	SDGs 3, 4, 11, 13
Free shuttle bus service - reduces single-occupancy vehicle entry	SDGs 1, 4, 11, 12, 13
Public transport access - train station and bus stops within campus	SDGs 1, 11, 12, 13
Security checkpoints - limit entry of outside vehicles	SDGs 11, 12, 13
Permit system - no student vehicle permits; restricted access	SDGs 11, 12, 13

A full listing of all sustainability programmes mapped to each SDG is available at:
sites.google.com/sci.pdn.ac.lk/sustainabilityatuop/sdgs



4. Social Sustainability

4.1 Education and Access

The University served 31,572 students in 2025, delivering high-quality, equitable higher education as a core social sustainability commitment:

Education Category	2025 Data
Undergraduates	15,100
Postgraduate Students	9,441
External/Distance Students (CDCE)	7,031
New Intake	3,522
Degrees Conferred	4,450 (highest in university history)
First Degrees (Undergraduate)	3,305
Graduate Employment Rate (6 months)	62%
Employment Relevance to Field	65% very related; 24% somewhat related

The University became the first state university in Sri Lanka to admit qualified candidates from the 2024 A/L batch to Engineering, Medicine, and Dental Sciences within the same calendar year - significantly reducing systemic admission delays.

Sustainability Integration in Faculty Curricula
In 2025, sustainability principles and SDG-aligned content were formally integrated into curricula across multiple faculties:

Faculty of Engineering: Introduced MA1010 Ethics and Sustainability as a mandatory core course in the revised BScEngHons programme - making sustainability a graduation requirement for all engineering undergraduates.

Faculty of Science - Dept. of Botany: BOT2082 (Biodiversity Conservation and Management) and MIC3162 (Microbes for Sustainability) are flagship courses designed around SDG 4 and SDG 15. Biodiversity awareness programmes and field-based teacher training were conducted, extending sustainability education beyond the campus.

Faculty of Management: SDG-aligned content integrated into Strategic Management, Operations Management, Business Ethics, Green Human Resource Management, and Sustainability Marketing courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA): New MSc programmes in Climate Change and Landscape Management and Green Tourism were initiated, making PGIA a national leader in postgraduate sustainability education.

Faculty of Allied Health Sciences: Environmental sustainability and SDG-related concepts embedded across Allied Health Sciences teaching and research activities, supported by the Safety Committee and student societies.

Faculty of Medicine: Faculty operations and teaching aligned with SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) and SDG 4 (Quality Education) across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

IT Centre - Community Education: IT training workshops for school teachers and youth in the Central Province. A one-week coding camp for high school students expanded digital sustainability education to the wider community.

4.2 Financial Support and Equity

LKR 522 million was disbursed in scholarships during 2025, ensuring that financial hardship does not prevent qualified students from accessing higher education:

- Mahapola Scholarship: 6,903 students supported with monthly stipends
- University Bursary: 756 students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds
- Other Scholarships: 158 students from alumni and donor contributions
- Working Student Assistantship Programme (WSAP): Part-time campus traineeships building skills and income - 100 students
- Subsidised Accommodation: More than 58%+ of students in 23 halls of residence at affordable rates

4.3 Healthcare and Community Wellbeing

The University served as a major public healthcare provider for the Central Province, collectively serving over 571,000 beneficiaries across its teaching hospitals, health centres, and allied health facilities in 2025.

The University Health Centre (UHC), established in 1952, provides free 24-hour services for students, staff, and family members of staf - including outpatient consultations, pharmacy, inpatient beds, laboratory testing, and emergency ambulance transfer to Teaching Hospital Peradeniya.





University Health Centre



Healthcare Service	2025 Achievement
University Health Centre (UHC)	
Outpatient Visits	26,812
Inpatient Admissions	178
UHC Total Beneficiaries	26,990
Faculty of Dental Sciences - Dental Teaching Hospital	
Total Patients Treated	163,837
Faculty of Medicine - Teaching Hospital Peradeniya	
Total Patients Served	367,254
Faculty of Allied Health Sciences	
Total Beneficiaries	4,844
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science - Veterinary Teaching Hospital	
Total Animals Treated	7,153
Counselling and Psychological Support Unit (CaPSU)	
Counselling Sessions	1,358 students supported
Student Suicide Cases	0 (zero - second consecutive year)
TOTAL HEALTHCARE AND VETERINARY BENEFICIARIES - 2025	
Grand Total (All Services)	571,436

These community engagement activities demonstrate that the University's social sustainability mission extends beyond the campus - fostering cultural identity, social cohesion, and community wellbeing in the Kandy region.

4.4 Mental Health and Student Wellbeing

The Counselling and Psychological Support Unit (CaPSU) strengthened its integrated mental health services in 2025. Zero student suicide cases were recorded for the second consecutive year - a significant indicator of effective, campus-wide wellbeing systems.

Year	Suicide Cases
2022	4
2023	2
2024	0
2025	0

4.5 Gender Equity and Inclusion

The University maintains robust frameworks for gender equity, with the SGBV Prevention Committee overseeing institutional compliance with national and international gender equality standards.

- Gender Equity and Equality Policy: Faculty-level policies and Gender Champions in each faculty
- SGBV Prevention Committee: Active investigation, prevention, and support mechanisms
- Disability Support: Special Needs Resource Centre, ramp installations, accessible sanitation facilities
- Braille initiatives and physical accessibility upgrades in selected buildings
- Policy on Gender Equity (Sinhala and Tamil translations completed - pending approval)

4.6 Disaster Response: Cyclone Ditwah (November 2025)

The University demonstrated exemplary public service during Cyclone Ditwah by safely evacuating over 12,000 students with zero casualties. This emergency response highlights the University's institutional resilience and social responsibility:

- 12,000+ students safely evacuated with zero casualties or injuries
- Campus facilities utilized as emergency relief support base
- Immediate, short-term, and long-term disaster recovery plans approved by Council
- LKR 2,470 million estimated losses - climate-resilient reconstruction plan initiated
- The University's standing emergency infrastructure - 62 security outpost locations, 24-hour CCTV, and emergency









5. Governance Sustainability (ESG)

5.1 Financial Governance

The University achieved strong financial performance in 2025, demonstrating fiscal sustainability despite external pressures:

Financial Indicator	2024	2025	Change
Total Revenue (LKR Bn)	10.90	12.67	+16.2%
Government Recurrent Grants (LKR Bn)	8.45	9.44	+11.7%
Internally Generated Income (LKR Bn)	1.21	1.42	+14.2%
Capital Revenue (LKR Mn)	721.6	1,250	+73%
Research Grant Income (External) (LKR Mn)	84.47	243.07	+188%
Operating Surplus (after non-cash items)	-	LKR 2.02 Bn	Positive
Net Accounting Deficit (LKR Mn)	532.53	500.25	Improved
Property, Plant & Equipment (LKR Bn)	25.33	26.70	+5.4%

The University generated a positive operating surplus of LKR 2.02 billion after adjusting for non-cash items (depreciation and provisions), demonstrating strong underlying financial sustainability.

Sustainability Budget Commitment

Over the past three years, the University has consistently directed a significant share of its total budget toward sustainability efforts:

Year	Sustainability Spend (USD)	% of Total Budget
2022	4,456,836	15.19%
2023	6,647,509	22.44%
2024	6,877,735	18.54%
3-Year Average	5,994,027	18.72%

Sustainability expenditure includes maintenance of lands and buildings, welfare services, landscape and maintenance personnel, faculty maintenance, teaching resource programmes, ICT, health centre personnel, and contractual sanitary/security services.

5.2 Transparency and Awards





True and Fair Audit Opinion (2024 Accounts) - The University received an unqualified (true and fair) audit opinion on its 2024 financial statements - the first time in recent history. This milestone reflects a significant improvement in financial governance, accounting standards compliance, and institutional transparency.

The University was awarded the Bronze Award in the University Category at the Best Annual Reports and Accounts (BARA) Awards 2025, recognizing excellence in financial transparency, governance reporting, and accountability among 260 public sector institutions.

- Financial statements prepared in compliance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards (SLPSAS)
- Bond recovery exceeded LKR 100 million - highest in university history
- Audit & Management Committee oversight maintained with 3 formal meetings
- Strategic Plan Tracking System launched - real-time progress monitoring



5.3 Research Integrity and Innovation Governance

Research Indicator	2023	2024	2025
Total Publications	1,295	1,440	1,280
International Publications	297	256	301
Research Grants Awarded	26	50	43
External Research Grant Income (LKR Mn)	47.42	84.47	243.07
International Conferences Hosted	12	4	13
MoUs Signed	27	6	10
International Staff Visits	145	150	201
Patents Filed	10	7	4

Research Publications (2023–2025)

Total publications by type - local & foreign refereed indexed journals and other outputs

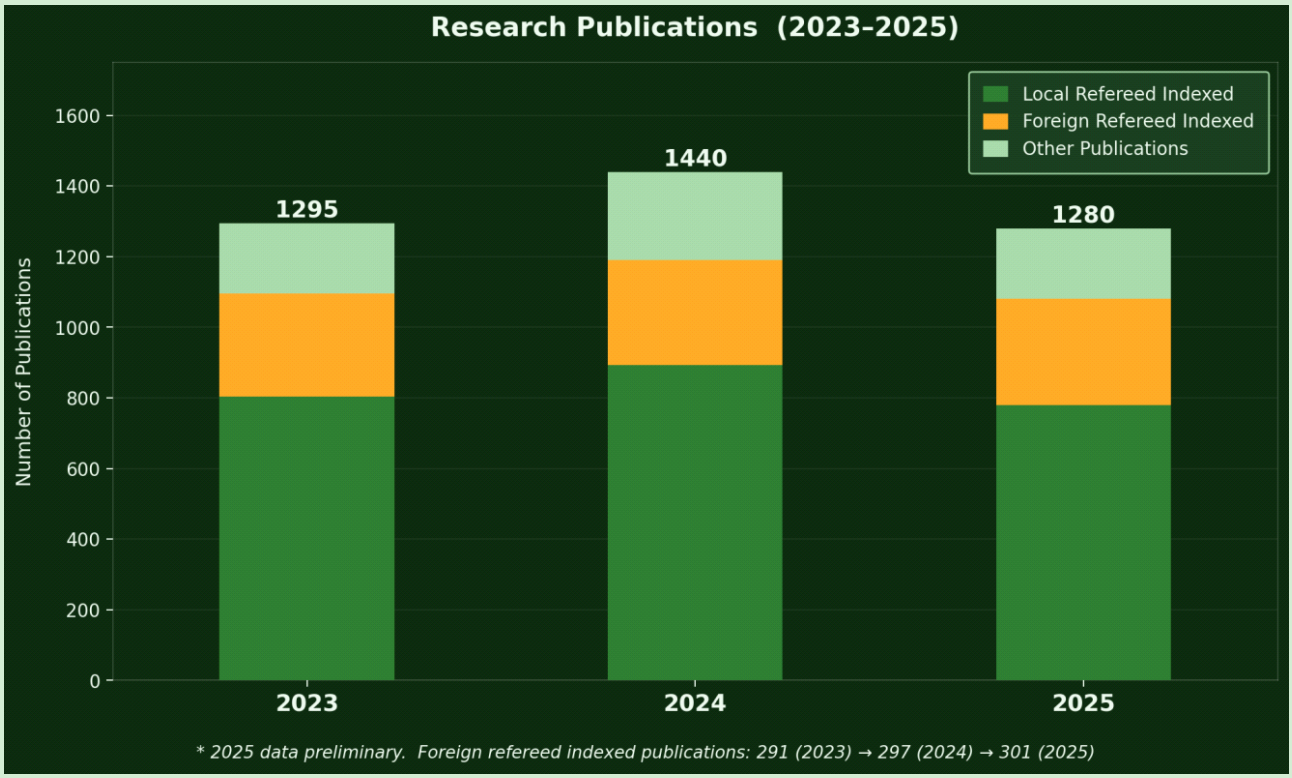


Figure 4: Foreign refereed indexed publications increased by 17.6% in 2025 (264 → 301). Total 2025 figures are preliminary and subject to final verification.

Data: 2023 - 1,295 publications · 2024 - 1,440 publications · 2025 - 1,280 publications (preliminary)



6. Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The University of Peradeniya actively contributes to all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its education, research, healthcare, campus operations, and community engagement. The table below maps key university activities and 2025 achievements to each SDG.

SDG	Goal	University of Peradeniya Activity	2025 Key Achievement
1	SDG 1 No Poverty	Financial support, scholarships, employability programmes	LKR 522M in Mahapola & bursaries; 7,817 students aided; 62% graduate employment
2	SDG 2 Zero Hunger	Food security research, affordable meals, agricultural outreach	National Food Flow Mapping (FAO/IWMI); subsidised meals; sustainable agricultural research and development
3	SDG 3 Good Health & Wellbeing	Teaching hospitals, UHC, mental health & counselling services	571,000+ healthcare beneficiaries; 0 student suicides (2nd consecutive year)
4	SDG 4 Quality Education	9 faculties, 4 PG institutes, online learning, quality assurance	4,450 graduates (record high); 'A' grade accreditations; first to admit 2024 A/L batch
5	SDG 5 Gender Equality	SGBV prevention, gender champions, inclusive campus policies	Faculty Gender Committees; SGBV Prevention Committee; Gender Equity Policy (bilingual)
6	SDG 6 Clean Water & Sanitation	Water conservation, metering, infrastructure rehabilitation	Water use reduced by 95,637 m^3 (5.4%); LKR 600M rehab project with NWSDB commenced
7	SDG 7 Affordable & Clean Energy	1.755 MW Solar PV (4 sites), energy efficiency, clean energy curricula	40% campus electricity from solar; LKR 63M annual savings; Eng. Faculty: 100% renewable
8	SDG 8 Decent Work & Economic Growth	Fair employment, skill training, WSAP, research grants, SDC	3,389 staff employed; WSAP (100+ students); external research grants LKR 243M
9	SDG 9 Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	BLII-TTO, MARC, patents, 1,280 publications, digital systems	4 patents filed; 20 multidisciplinary grants; RGMS & Strategic Plan Tracker launched

10	SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities	Merit admissions, disability support, CSHR, inclusive access Disability-friendly infrastructure	National representation; braille services; Special Needs Resource Centre; WSAP Ramps, elevators, adapted examination arrangements, accessible sanitation, and Braille initiatives across campus
11	SDG 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities	Green campus planning, accessible infrastructure, GreenMetric	#1 Sri Lanka GreenMetric; #186 globally; 1,888-acre campus; ramp & accessibility upgrades
12	SDG 12 Responsible Consumption & Production	Waste segregation, PET recycling, digital transition, ISO 14001	ISO 14001 training (186 participants); PET recycling (Ceylon Cold Stores); paperless meetings
13	SDG 13 Climate Action	Solar energy, climate research, disaster response & resilience Rainwater harvesting reservoirs	Climate-resilient reconstruction plan (LKR 3–4Bn); solar transition; flood mitigation strategy 1,261,733 m² of campus provides groundwater recharge through reservoirs, ponds, and natural grasslands
14	SDG 14 Life Below Water	Mahaweli riverbank conservation, aquatic ecosystem research	Bamboo planting; erosion control; freshwater biodiversity protection along Mahaweli corridor
15	SDG 15 Life on Land	Biodiversity zones, reforestation, beekeeping, campus greening	Hantana regreening (115+ volunteers); Knuckles reforestation; campus biodiversity zones
16	SDG 16 Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	Council/Senate governance, anti-ragging, transparency & RTI	BARA Bronze Award 2025; Strategic Plan monitoring system; bond recovery LKR 100M+
17	SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals	10 new MoUs, international conferences, industry & govt links	10 MoUs signed; 13 international conferences hosted; 201 international visits; CAS collaboration

Faculty Research on Sustainability Themes

Academic staff across faculties conducted and published sustainability-focused research in 2025, contributing to the University's growing research portfolio on environmental and social challenges:

- **Faculty of Medicine - Dept. of Pharmacology:** The Department of Pharmacology conducted research on the influence of environmental education on sustainable behaviour and carbon footprint reduction among university students in Sri Lanka. This research was presented and published in the Proceedings of the Peradeniya University International Research Symposium and Exposition (iPURSE) 2025.

- **Faculty of Management:** Academic staff engaged in research spanning gender equality, decent work, sustainable business models, social entrepreneurship, green innovation, and environmental governance - covering SDGs 5, 8, 9, and 16.

- **Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA):** Sustainability themes including natural resource management, integrated water resource management, agroecology, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and circular economy approaches were embedded across postgraduate research at PGIA.

- **University Research Council (URC) - MEHRC 2026:** The URC is establishing the Multidisciplinary Environmental and Health Research Centre (MEHRC) in 2026, focusing on climate change, environmental degradation, and public health in Sri Lanka's dry zone and coastal regions - integrating hydrology, geology, epidemiology, and social science.

The breadth of sustainability research across faculties - from carbon footprint studies to climate change adaptation and green business models - positions the University of Peradeniya as a national hub for applied sustainability science.



7. Key Sustainability Performance Indicators

The following table presents the University of Peradeniya's key sustainability performance indicators across Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) dimensions for the period 2023–2025. Trend indicators show year-on-year progress against sustainability targets and are used by auditors, ranking bodies (including UI GreenMetric), and BARA award assessors.

Trend guide: ↑ Positive improvement ↓ Positive reduction (target met) ★ New / first-time achievement
Neutral / preliminary data

Category	Indicator	2023	2024	2025	Trend
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY					
ENERGY	**Electricity Consumption** Annual campus-wide usage (kWh)	5,895,333	5,761,628	**6,512,420**	↑ +750,792 kWh
	Electricity Expenditure *Total cost (LKR Million)*	327.48	265.47	**216.97**	↓ *–LKR 48.5M saved*
ENERGY	**Cost per kWh** Electricity unit rate (LKR/kWh)	55.5	46.1	**33.3**	↓ –28% efficiency
SOLAR	**Renewable Energy Share** Solar PV % of total demand	-	-	**40%**	★ New in 2025
	Solar Installed Capacity Total Solar PV capacity (kW)	-	-	**1,755 MW**	★ 4 sites *active*
	Annual Solar Cost Savings vs. grid-only baseline (LKR)	-	-	**LKR 63M**	★ LKR 4.5M/month
WATER	**Water Consumption** Total annual campus usage (m^3)	1,795,041	1,769,892	**1,674,255**	↓ *–95,637 m^3 (–5.4%)*
	Water Expenditure *Total cost (LKR Million)*	52.04	60.65	**60.22**	↓ *–LKR 0.43M*

Category	Indicator	2023	2024	2025	Trend
RANK	**GreenMetric - Global Rank** UI GreenMetric World Ranking	#279	#192	**#186**	↑ +93 positions
	GreenMetric - South Asia Regional ranking (South Asia)	#145	#101	**#9**	↑ +136 positions
	GreenMetric - Sri Lanka National ranking	#3	#1	**#1**	★ *2nd consecutive year*
SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY					
STUDENTS	**Total Student Enrolment** UG + PG + External degree	28,000	30,000	**32,392**	↑ +2,392 students
	Degrees Conferred Annual graduation	3,800	4,100	**4,450**	↑ Record high
SCHOLARSHIPS	**Scholarships Awarded** Mahapola + bursaries (LKR)	LKR 450M	LKR 490M	**LKR 522M**	↑ +LKR 32M
	Students Financially Aided Recipients of scholarships	7,500	8,200	**7,817+**	↑ More students aided
HEALTH	**Healthcare Beneficiaries** UHC + dental + AHS Medicine+Vet+CaPSU+specialist	502,662	821,587	**571,000+**	★
WELLBEING	**Student Suicides** Campus mental health indicator	2	0	0	★ Zero - 2 years running
	Students Counselled Mental health support	257	959	**1,358**	★
SAFETY	**Emergency Evacuations** Cyclone Ditwah - Nov 2025	-	-	**12,000+**	★ *Zero casualties*
GENDER	**Gender Policy** Campus gender equity framework	-	Partial	**Full Policy**	↑ Bilingual; SGBV committee

Category	Indicator	2023	2024	2025	Trend
RESEARCH, INNOVATION & GOVERNANCE					
RESEARCH	**Research Publications** Total publications (all types)	1,295	1,440	**1,280***	*Preliminary 2025
	Foreign Indexed Publications in intl. journals	264	297	**301**	↑ +1.3% increase (297→301)" year-on-year
	External Research Grants Income from external sources	LKR 47.4M	LKR 84.5M	**LKR 243.1M**	↑ +188% growth
PATENTS	**Patents Filed** Intellectual property	10	7	**4**	★ New in 2025
FINANCEFINANCE	**Total Revenue** Annual income (LKR Billion)	LKR 9.5B	LKR 10.90B	**LKR 12.67B**	↑ +16.3%
	Capital Expenditure Infrastructure investment (LKR M)	LKR 773M	LKR 792M	**LKR 1,154M**	↑ +45.7% increase
AWARDS	**BARA Award 2024** Public sector best practice	-	-	**Bronze Award in 2024**	★ Among 260 institutions
OUTREACH	**International MoUs Signed** New partnerships 2025	25	14	**10**	↑ New collaboration
	UESL Students Trained Environmental leadership (CES)	150	200	**260+**	↑ Across 16
					universities

* 2025 research publications are preliminary figures subject to final verification.
* 2023 social data (students, scholarships, healthcare) are approximate estimates based on institutional records.
* '-' indicates data not available or not reported for that year.
* Trend arrows: ↑ Improvement ↓ Improvement (reduction target) ★ New achievement ~ Neutral / preliminary

7.1 Environmental KPIs

Indicator	2023	2024	2025
UI GreenMetric Global Rank	279	192	186
UI GreenMetric South Asia Rank	145	101	9
UI GreenMetric Sri Lanka Rank	3	1	1
Solar Energy Contribution (%)	-	-	40%
Electricity Expenditure (LKR Mn)	327.48	265.47	216.97
Electricity Cost per kWh (LKR)	55.5	46.1	33.3
Water Consumption (m^3)	1,795,041	1,769,892	1,674,255
Capital Works Completed Value (LKR Mn)			177.1

UI GreenMetric World University Rankings (2023–2025)

Global, South Asia, and Sri Lanka rankings - lower rank number = better performance

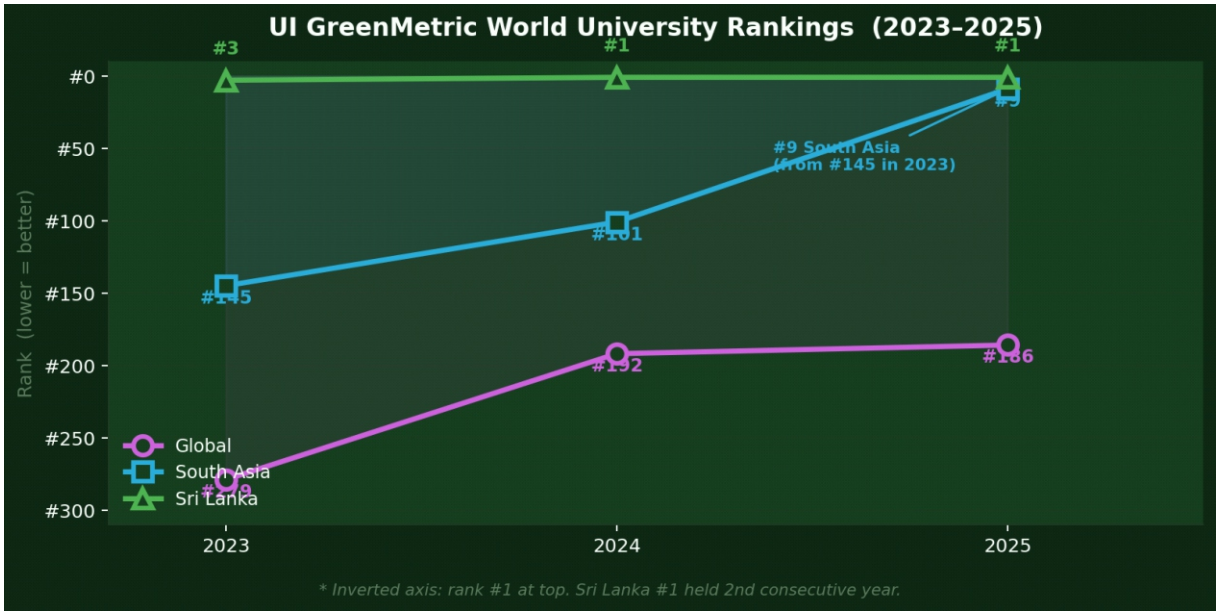


Figure 5: Consistent improvement across all three ranking scopes. South Asia rank improved dramatically from #145 (2023) to #9 (2025) - a 136-position leap in two years.

Rankings: Sri Lanka #3 → #1 → #1 · South Asia #145 → #101 → #9 · Global #279 → #192 → #186 | #1 in Sri Lanka held for 2nd consecutive year

7.2 Social KPIs

Indicator	2023	2024	2025
Total Students	31,967	32,393	31,572
Graduates Conferred	3,873	3,784	4,450
Employment Rate (6 months)	62%	71%	62%
Scholarships Disbursed (LKR Mn)	-	450	522
Healthcare Beneficiaries	202,662	821,587	571,000+
Students Counselled	257	959	1,358
Student Suicides	2	0	0
UESL Students Trained	150	200	260+

7.3 Research and Innovation KPIs

Indicator	2023	2024	2025
Total Publications	1,295	1,440	1,280
International Refereed Publications	264	297	301
External Research Grant Income (LKR Mn)	47.42	84.47	243.07
MoUs Signed	27	6	10
International Conferences Hosted	12	4	13
International Visits	145	150	201
Patents Filed	10	7	4






8. Sustainability in Education and Research



8.1 Sustainability in Teaching

The University of Peradeniya embeds sustainability comprehensively across its academic curriculum, offering the largest portfolio of sustainability-related courses and programmes among Sri Lankan universities. Across its nine faculties, Four postgraduate institutes, and the Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, sustainability is integrated not as an elective supplement but as a core dimension of academic programmes.

Sustainability-Related Courses and Programmes

Indicator	Figure
Total courses/modules offered by the University	2,837
Courses/modules related to environment and sustainability	634
Sustainability courses as % of total courses	22.4%
Undergraduate programmes related to sustainability	17
Postgraduate programmes related to sustainability	94
Total sustainability-related programmes	111

Source: Statistical Handbook, University of Peradeniya. Sustainability-related courses identified using environment, sustainability, ecology, climate, energy, and natural resource keywords across all faculty course catalogues.

The 634 sustainability-related courses span all nine faculties, with the highest concentrations in the Faculty of Science (Environmental Science programmes), Faculty of Agriculture (sustainable agriculture, agroecology, land and water resources), and Faculty of Arts (geography, environmental law, sustainable development). The 111 sustainability-related programmes include 17 undergraduate degrees and 94 postgraduate qualifications - the latter offered primarily through the Postgraduate Institute of Science, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Faculty of Engineering.

Sustainability Integration in Faculty Curricula

Faculty / Institute	Sustainability-Related Programmes / Courses
Faculty of Engineering	CP305 Energy Systems Design; EE404/EE572 Electric Power Systems; ME330 Energy Technology; CP551 Sustainable Development; PR516 Sustainable Manufacturing; MA1010 Ethics and Sustainability (mandatory)
Faculty of Agriculture	Sustainable Agriculture; Agroecology; Environmental Forestry; Food Systems; Climate-Smart Agriculture; Land & Water Resources Engineering; Soil Conservation; Wildlife & Ecosystems
Faculty of Science	Environmental Science (ENS) programme (20+ courses); BOT2082 Biodiversity Conservation; MIC3162 Microbes for Sustainability; ZOO4113 Wildlife Management; Conservation Biology
Faculty of Allied Health Sciences	Environmental Health; Public Health; Occupational Health; SDG-related teaching across all programmes
Faculty of Medicine / Dental Sciences	Community Medicine; Environmental Health; Epidemiology; SDG 3 and SDG 4 aligned programmes
Faculty of Management	MKT4203 Green Marketing; OPM4203 Sustainable Operations Management; MGS4102 Sustainability in Organisations; Green HRM; Business Ethics
Faculty of Arts	EDU3010 Education for Sustainable Development; GGY4068 Sustainable Development; LAW3003 Environmental Law; Coastal Zone Management; GIS Applications
CDCE Distance Education	Environmental management diplomas; new online sustainability programmes for working professionals
Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture	MSc Climate Change and Landscape Management; MSc Green Tourism; Agroecology; Integrated Water Resource Management
Postgraduate Institute of Science	MSc Environmental Science; MSc in Energy for Circular Economy (jointly with 3 universities, EU co-funded)

Notable 2025 curriculum development: the Faculty of Engineering introduced MA1010 Ethics and Sustainability as a mandatory core course for all BScEngHons undergraduates, making sustainability a graduation requirement. The Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture initiated new MSc programmes in Climate Change and Landscape Management and Green Tourism, creating new national pathways for sustainability professionals.

8.2 Academic Research Strength

The University of Peradeniya maintains a strong academic research community, with 829 permanent and 4 temporary academic research staff distributed across all nine faculties and specialised centres. All permanent academic staff are eligible to obtain research grants and undertake research projects on behalf of the University.

Faculty / Centre	Academic Lecturers and Researchers
Faculty of Arts	179
Faculty of Medicine	117
Faculty of Science	110
Faculty of Engineering	109
Faculty of Agriculture	106
Faculty of Allied Health Sciences	63
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science	46
Faculty of Management	45
Faculty of Dental Sciences	54
Agricultural Biotechnology Centre	1
Temporary Academic Staff	4
Total	835

The University's academic community includes researchers with internationally recognised citation records. The top-cited researcher holds an h-index of 92 with over 231,924 citations (Google Scholar), and the University's top 10 researchers collectively hold over 300,000 citations. This research strength underpins the University's ability to attract competitive external research funding and produce high-impact sustainability science.

8.3 Sustainability Research Publications

The University of Peradeniya produces a substantial volume of scholarly publications, with a significant proportion directly addressing sustainability themes. Sustainability-related publications are identified through keyword searches covering environment, sustainability, ecology, climate change, renewable energy, and natural resource management.

Research Publication Indicator	Figure
Total scholarly publications (most recently audited period)	1,280
Publications on environment and sustainability themes	429
Sustainability publications as % of total	30%
Academic research staff	834 (permanent)
Ratio of sustainability publications to academic staff	0.511

Note: Sustainability-related publications identified using Google Scholar keyword search: “University of Peradeniya” & green & environment & sustainability & renewable energy & climate change. Actual sustainability publication count is likely higher than the identified figure, as not all relevant publications contain these exact keywords.

A sustainability publication-to-researcher ratio of 0.511 indicates that on average, each academic staff member contributes to approximately half a sustainability-related publication per year - a strong output rate reflecting the depth of sustainability integration across the research community.

Sustainability Research Funding

The University directs a significant proportion of its internal research funding towards sustainability-related projects, spanning food security, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, environmental pollution, water quality, and human health:

Research Funding Indicator	Figure
Average annual sustainability research funding (3-year average)	US$ 119,018
Average total annual research funding (3-year average)	US$ 171,261
Sustainability research as % of total research funding	69.5%

Sustainability research funding covers projects linked to multiple SDGs. The major SDG focus areas of internally funded sustainability research include SDG 2 (Zero Hunger - food systems, crop science, agri-biotechnology), SDG 3 (Good Health - clinical, pharmaceutical, and public health research), SDG 6 (Clean Water - water quality, irrigation, wastewater treatment), SDG 9 (Industry and Innovation - engineering and materials science), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption - supply chain sustainability), and SDG 15 (Life on Land - biodiversity, ecology, and conservation).

In addition to internal University research grants, external research income has grown significantly, reaching LKR 243.1 million in 2025 - a 188% increase over the preceding period - further expanding the University’s sustainability research portfolio.

8.4 Sustainability Research Highlights

The University’s research ecosystem addresses key sustainability challenges through interdisciplinary programmes, international partnerships, and nationally significant projects:

- China-Sri Lanka Belt and Road Joint Laboratory on Green Plant Protection (30 MSc/PhD scholarships from Guizhou University).
- Joint Research Centre for Climate-Smart Agriculture (with Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences).
- Food Flow Mapping Project - national food security analysis across all 25 districts (with FAO and IWMI).
- Biodiversity and ecosystem research across the Mahaweli catchment.
- Renewable energy and geoscience research partnerships (IIT Dhanbad, India).
- Green industrial park development MoU (Chinese Academy of Sciences + Board of Investment Sri Lanka).
- Zero Mileage Vegetable Garden - fresh vegetables for campus community with minimal food-mile carbon footprint.
- Composting Programme - University Farm and Landscape Division compost food waste, garden waste, and cow dung for campus landscaping.
- Permit-only vehicle access - private vehicle access discouraged; only permit holders may park inside campus.

The University Research Council (URC) is establishing the Multidisciplinary Environmental and Health Research Centre (MEHRC) in 2026, focusing on climate change, environmental degradation, and public health in Sri Lanka’s dry zone and coastal regions - integrating hydrology, geology, environmental science, epidemiology, and social science.

8.5 Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES)

The CES serves as the institutional hub for sustainability education, training, GreenMetric reporting, and community outreach:

CES Service Area	Achievement
Undergraduate Environmental Sustainability Leaders (UESL)	260+ students trained from 16 universities across Sri Lanka
International Student Exposure	5 students at UCAS-ANSO-APRU Summer School, RCEES China
Professional Certification - ISO 14001:2015	186 participants trained and certified
Professional Certification - GIS for Environmental Management	9 participants certified
International Conference (ICCES 2025)	61 research abstracts presented
Government Consultancy	Ministry of Environment: Energy-efficient standards for RAC/MAC sectors
Public Engagement	World Rainforest Day 2025; biodiversity field excursions
UI GreenMetric Coordination	Sri Lanka #1 ranking achieved and maintained (2nd consecutive year)

CES Public Outreach-World Rainforest Day

In celebration of World Rainforest Day, the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES) launched a creative and eco-conscious public awareness campaign aboard the scenic Podimenike train from Sarasavi Uyana to Nanu Oya. The campaign was implemented in collaboration with Amaya Resorts and Spas and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, Central Provincial Council, bringing sustainability messaging to the travelling public in a highly visible and memorable format. This initiative reflects CES's commitment to extending environmental sustainability education beyond the University campus and into the broader Sri Lankan community.



SLJSC -International Sustainability Partnerships

The Sri Lanka-Japan Study Centre (SLJSC) sustained and strengthened international sustainability partnerships, including renewal of the MoU with Saga University, Japan, continuation of the JICA Chair Programme, and maintenance of collaborative ties with the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka - reinforcing SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



8.6 International Sustainability Collaborations

The University of Peradeniya actively engages with international institutions and organisations in sustainability-related education, research, staff exchange, and curriculum development. These collaborations extend the University's sustainability impact beyond Sri Lanka and reinforce SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Programme / Collaboration	International Partner(s)	Sustainability Focus
Short Course in Tropical Biodiversity and Conservation (funded by Australia's New Colombo Plan)	Federation University, Australia	Biodiversity, ecosystem conservation, SDG 15
nEUROcare Capacity Building in Higher Education	Kristianstad University (Sweden); universities in Norway, Slovenia, Estonia, Cyprus	Health and social sustainability, SDG 3
Regional Workshop on Building Capacity to Improve Air Quality in South Asia	Duke University, USA (US Dept. of State funded)	Air quality, climate action, SDGs 3, 13
CCA-DRR Research Training - Building Resilience to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction	University of Huddersfield, UK (ERASMUS+ co-funded)	Climate adaptation, disaster resilience, SDG 13
Novel Nano-structures for Low-Cost Solar Cell Performance	Research professors from Sweden, India, Nigeria	Renewable energy, SDG 7
RMIT-UoP Joint PhD Programme - Civil Engineering	RMIT University, Australia	Engineering for sustainability, SDG 9
Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) MPhil Scholarships in Aquatic Animal Health	Association of Commonwealth Universities (UK Blue Planet Fund)	Marine biodiversity, SDGs 14, 15
ENACT - Enhancing Governance in Sri Lankan Universities	Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon, Portugal (ERASMUS+ CBHE)	Institutional sustainability and governance, SDG 16
Double Degree Programme in Science	Niigata University, Japan	Science and sustainability education, SDG 4
IncEdu - Inclusive Education for Students with Disabilities	Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania (ERASMUS+)	Inclusive education, SDG 4, SDG 10
Eco-City Construction for Developing Countries Seminar	National Academy of Forestry and Grassland Administration, China	Green urban development, SDGs 11, 13
JICA Chair Programme and Saga University MoU (SLJSC)	Saga University, Japan; Embassy of Japan	Sustainability education and research, SDG 17

The University hosts 200+ international research visits annually and has signed 10+ new MoUs in the most recent reporting period. A full listing of international sustainability collaborations is available at: sites.google.com/sci.pdn.ac.lk/sustainabilityatuop/sdgs

8.7 Student Community Service and Outreach

Student associations, clubs, and societies at the University of Peradeniya engage in more than 30 sustainability-oriented community service projects annually, extending the University's sustainability mission into the broader Kandy region and across Sri Lanka. These initiatives collectively engage hundreds of students as active agents of sustainable development.

Community service projects cover four main sustainability areas: Education and research (ED), Waste management (WS), Water resource management (WR), and Setting and infrastructure (SI).

Water Management (WR)







Education (ED) + Infrastructure (SI)







Waste Management (WS)





Project / Initiative	Organising Group	Sustainability Area	Reach
Reach for Water - clean drinking water provision for underserved rural communities	Rotaract Club, University of Peradeniya	Water management (WR)	120+ participants
Yuthukama - garbage clean-up and waste awareness during Kandy Esala Perahera	Zero Plastic Society, University of Peradeniya	Waste management (WS)	300+ participants over 7 days
Siripa Karuna - clean-up of the Sri Pada pilgrimage route	Rotaract Club	Waste management (WS)	15 participants
Kandy City Cleaning Day - city-wide clean-up with Kandy Municipal Council	Geographical Society; Botanical Society	Waste management (WS)	40+ participants
Zero Plastic awareness programme for pre-school children	Zero Plastic Society	Waste management (WS)	50+ children
Prathibana - educational support for remote schools (stationery and seminars)	Rotaract Club	Education (ED)	50 participants, 7 months
NutriCare - nutrition support for pregnant women in Nuwara Eliya	Rotaract Club	Health and education (ED)	60 participants
ARUNELLA - seminar series for school children + drinking water infrastructure project	Faculty of Engineering Students' Union	Education (ED) + Infrastructure (SI)	100+ participants over 10 weeks
Community awareness on waste management for Kandy city businesses	Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES)	Waste management (WS)	30 business owners
Clean Up Sri Lanka - collaborative national clean-up with Rotaract, Rotary, and Interact clubs	Rotaract Club (collaborative)	Waste management (WS)	55 participants, 4 days

These grassroots sustainability actions - spanning student societies, academic departments, and volunteer groups - demonstrate that environmental and social responsibility at the University of Peradeniya extends far beyond formal programmes into everyday campus and community culture.

8.8 Cultural Life and Student Engagement

The University of Peradeniya maintains a vibrant cultural life, with more than 35 cultural and arts events organised annually by faculty student unions, literary societies, and cultural groups. Cultural engagement supports student wellbeing, fosters social cohesion, and promotes the diverse cultural heritage of Sri Lanka - all dimensions of social sustainability aligned with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Cultural activities are organised by all nine faculties and multiple student bodies, including the PSU (Peradeniya Students' Union) Literary Subcommittee, faculty student unions, the Tamil Society, the Vibhawa Literary Society, the Arts Council, and departmental societies. Events include musical concerts, stage dramas, talent shows, art camps, educational exhibitions, debate competitions, cultural festivals, and magazine launches.

Type of Activity	Organising Bodies	Examples
Musical concerts and performances	All nine faculty student unions; Arts Council; departmental societies	Geethanjalee (Faculty of Science); Indeewari (Faculty of Agriculture); Pahan Tharuwa (Faculty of Medicine); Sathsara Anurawa (Faculty of Dental Sciences)
Stage dramas and theatrical performances	PSU Literary Subcommittee; Faculty of Management Students' Union; Dept. of Fine Arts	Wala Sathiya; Tharawo Igilethi; Alimankada; Maname (Faculty of Agriculture)
Art festivals and exhibitions	PSU Literary Subcommittee	Student Art Festival; Educational and Art Exhibition; Two-Day Art Camp
Debates and oratory	PSU Literary Subcommittee; Tamil Society	Shantha Bandara Memorial Debate; Tamil Society Debate Competition
Cultural and heritage festivals	PSU; Tamil Society	New Year Festival; Pongal Festival; Kadapatha
Talent shows and aesthetic programmes	PSU; Human Resource Development Unit; Science Students' Union	Talent Show; Whispering Mountains (Aesthetic Programme)



8.9 Sustainability-Related Startups

The University of Peradeniya supports entrepreneurship and innovation through the BLII Technology Transfer Office and faculty-based enterprise initiatives. A cohort of 13 sustainability-related startups has been initiated by members of the University community, covering areas including circular economy (EC), waste management (WS), transport (TR), water resources (WR), and setting and infrastructure (SI).

Selected sustainability-related startups from the University of Peradeniya community:

Startup	Sustainability Areas	Description
KIIDAD	EC, WS, TR	Fashion business prioritising sustainable materials, waste minimisation, and ethical manufacturing. Committed to eco-friendly supply chain practices.
KIOSK	SI, EC, WS	Student-managed café at University of Peradeniya, using locally sourced ingredients, eco-friendly operations, and waste reduction practices. 8 employees.
Lovely Loops	EC, WS, TR	Handcrafted crochet business using eco-friendly materials and minimal waste production. Est. 2020.
SKT Pure Comfort Wear	EC, WS, TR	Sustainable fashion venture with focus on eco-conscious materials and production.
9 further startups	Various (EC, WS, TR, SI, WR)	Additional startups across energy, agriculture, digital services, and green consumer products initiated through University enterprise programmes.

All startups are categorised using UI GreenMetric area codes: SI (Setting and Infrastructure), EC (Energy and Climate Change), WS (Waste), WR (Water), TR (Transportation), ED (Education and Research).

8.10 Graduate Employability and Green Jobs

The University of Peradeniya conducts graduate employability surveys to track outcomes for its graduates. Employment in sectors indicative of green jobs - Agriculture and Dairy, Power and Energy, Tourism, Plantation, Scientific Research, and Telecommunications - is tracked as a proxy for green employment, with plans to refine the methodology to directly capture green job classifications in future surveys.

Indicator	Value
Total graduates (3-year period)	8,723
Total graduates in green employment (3-year, adjusted)	1,216
Green employment as % of graduates	14%
Annual green jobs trend (adjusted)	Approx. 400 per year
Faculty with highest green graduate rate	Faculty of Engineering (IT, power and energy) and Faculty of Science (research, agriculture, environment)



Green employment is defined to include Agriculture and Dairy, Power and Energy, IT and Telecommunications, Tourism, Plantation, and Scientific Research sectors. The Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science together account for the majority of green-sector graduates, with the Faculties of Agriculture and Management also contributing significantly.

Graduate employability surveys are conducted annually by the Statistics and Information Division. Green job classifications will be further refined in future survey instruments to more accurately capture the full breadth of sustainability-related employment.

8.11 ICT-Enabled Education and Research Management

The University applies ICT across all four stages of its education and research management cycle, coordinated by the University Research Council, the Information Technology Centre, and the Network and Communication Service Unit (NCSU):

Stage	Activity	ICT Tool
Planning	Identify key areas in education and research for ICT-based solutions; develop digital strategy	IMS and LMS platforms; institutional planning systems
Implementation	Research Grant and Award Management System; Digitised Action Plan Tracking System; Learning Management System (LMS); Information Management System (IMS); Online Laboratory and Classroom Reservation System	Integrated digital platforms; G-Suite; NCSU network infrastructure
Monitoring	Track ICT utilisation in education and research; audit LMS and IMS usage; monitor network performance	ICT usage data; NCSU network monitoring dashboard
Evaluation	Assess ICT impact on teaching and learning outcomes through user feedback, surveys, and academic performance data	Survey and feedback platforms; data analysis tools; Faculty of Science and Engineering assessment systems

Key operational ICT systems supporting sustainable education and research management include the Learning Management System (LMS) for digital course delivery, the Information Management System (IMS) for paperless administration, the Research Grant Management System (RGMS) for tracking sustainability and other research grants, the Digitised Action Plan Tracking System for monitoring institutional commitments, and the Online Laboratory Reservation System for efficient resource utilisation.

8.12 Education, Research and the Sustainable Development Goals

The University of Peradeniya's education and research programmes contribute to all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The institution provides free university education to all qualified students irrespective of gender, ethnic background, or social status, follows the Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF), and integrates sustainability across 634 courses spanning 111 programmes.

Programme / Initiative	Target SDGs
Free university education for all qualified students regardless of gender, ethnicity, or social status	SDGs 1, 5, 10
Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF) - standardised recognition of qualifications at all levels	SDG 4
Financial assistance - Mahapola, Bursaries, WSAP, scholarships, low-cost accommodation, subsidised meals	SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 10
634 sustainability-related courses across 111 programmes — covering all academic disciplines	SDGs 1–16 (all)
Community outreach activities on environmental sustainability	SDGs 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Training programmes on environmental sustainability for staff, students, and the general public	SDGs 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Annual research conferences and symposia on SDG-related themes	SDGs 2, 3, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Collaborations with global academic networks for sustainability education and research	SDG 17
Sustainability Governance - Committee on Sustainability (chaired by DVC) and Centre for Environmental Sustainability (est. 1992)	SDGs 16, 17

A full listing of all sustainability programmes mapped to each SDG is available at:
sites.google.com/sci.pdn.ac.lk/sustainabilityatuop/sdgs



9. Looking Ahead: Sustainability Priorities 2026–2030

9.1 Strategic Sustainability Framework

The University's Strategic Plan 2026-2030 positions sustainability as a core pillar, with phased implementation across three years:

Year	Strategic Theme	Key Sustainability Actions
2026	Recovery & Resilience	Post-Cyclone climate-resilient reconstruction (LKR 3–4Bn); Solar expansion to 45% coverage; Water Rehab Project (Stage I)
2027	Growth & Innovation	Smart Campus Initiative; Paperless administration; expand self-financing sustainability programmes
2028	Excellence & Leadership	SDG integration across all operations and curriculum; Green University 2.0 initiative

9.2 Priority Actions for 2026

- Solar PV: Optimise 1.755 MW system and target 45% campus energy coverage through battery storage and efficiency improvements
- Water Supply Rehabilitation: Complete Stage I and II of LKR 600M project with NWSDB
- AI Policy: Adopt responsible AI in education, research, and administration policy
- Green Campus 2.0: Expand biodiversity zones, reforestation, and climate-adaptive landscaping
- Circular Economy: Scale up PET recycling, composting, and food waste reduction programmes
- SDG Reporting: Publish comprehensive SDG progress report aligned with international standards
- Gender Equity Policy: Final approval and implementation of bilingual Gender Equity Policy
- Climate Risk: Implement flood protection systems and slope stabilization at high-risk zones

The University of Peradeniya enters 2026 as Sri Lanka's undisputed sustainability leader in higher education - ranked #1 nationally, with a clear pathway to expanding renewable energy to 45%, completing critical water infrastructure, and building a climate-resilient campus for future generations.

Emerging Research Centres and Programmes

- **MEHRC (2026):** The University Research Council will establish the Multidisciplinary Environmental and Health Research Centre (MEHRC), dedicated to addressing climate change, environmental degradation, and public health in Sri Lanka’s dry zone and coastal regions. MEHRC will integrate hydrology, geology, environmental science, epidemiology, and social science to deliver community-driven, equitable solutions.

- **PGIA New MSc Programmes:** New postgraduate programmes in Climate Change and Landscape Management and Green Tourism, initiated by PGIA in 2025, will be fully operational in 2026 - creating new pathways for sustainability professionals in Sri Lanka.

- **Digital Examination Infrastructure:** The IT Centre’s Online Examination Centre will provide a self-sustaining digital proctoring service, contributing to both financial sustainability and reduced examination-related travel and paper use.

These forward-looking initiatives - spanning research, education, and digital infrastructure - reflect the University of Peradeniya’s commitment to embedding sustainability as a permanent institutional priority beyond 2025.

About This Report

The University of Peradeniya Sustainability Report 2025 presents the University's environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance for the year ended 31 December 2025. The report has been prepared by the Statistics & Information Division in collaboration with the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES) and relevant faculties and administrative divisions.

Reporting Attribute	Details
Reporting Period	1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025
Primary Data Sources	Annual Report 2025, CES Records, Faculty Returns, UI GreenMetric Data
Reporting Framework	Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG); UI GreenMetric; SDG Framework
Boundaries	University of Peradeniya main campus and associated teaching facilities
Publication	Statistics & Information Division, University of Peradeniya

For inquiries regarding this Sustainability Report, please contact:
Statistics & Information Division, University of Peradeniya
Email: statoffice@gs.pdn.ac.lk | Tel: +94 81 2085408 / +94 81 2392433
Website: https://www.pdn.ac.lk



University of Peradeniya



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025