

REPORT OF SDGs 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make Cities Inclusive, Safe, Resilient, And Sustainable



**UNIVERSITAS SYIAH KUALA
SUSTAINABILITY REPORT
2023**

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make Cities Inclusive, Safe, Resilient, And Sustainable



Universitas Syiah Kuala (USK) actively supports Sustainable Cities and Communities through multiple initiatives. The USK Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center contributes to disaster risk reduction via research and community education on mitigation strategies. USK also fosters sustainability by providing green spaces and open areas on campus. Its Arts Center promotes local cultural preservation through various events. Furthermore, USK offers specialized programs in Urban and Regional Planning, Architecture, and Civil Engineering, preparing graduates to contribute to the development of sustainable urban spaces.

1. USK's Research on Sustainable Cities and Communities

USK has made significant contributions to research on sustainable cities, with 10% of its publications featured in top-tier journals according to Citescore rankings. This high-impact research is further reflected in the university's field-weighted citation index, which stands at 10% above the global average, underscoring the relevance and influence of its work in sustainable urban development. Furthermore, USK's dedication to advancing this field is demonstrated through its consistent research output, with 7% of its publications focused on sustainable cities and communities.

2. USK's Support of Arts and Heritage

USK is committed to preserving cultural heritage and providing public access to culturally significant sites and resources. The campus features open access to historical landmarks such as **Lapangan Tugu**, an area with a monument symbolizing USK's deep-rooted connection with the community. This open space serves as a venue for important events, including the Independence Day ceremony and the Province Education Anniversary, fostering a strong sense of communal identity. The USK library, accessible to the general public, offers a vast collection of resources, including access to ScienceDirect, Springer Link, and IEEE, as well as a dedicated "STEM Corner for Kids." Public members with registered accounts can also use the VPN service for remote access, supporting the wider community's learning needs. Additionally, the Tsunami Disaster Mitigation and Research Center (TDMRC) Gallery offers disaster mitigation education, featuring advanced tools such as a Shaking Table for

building simulations and a Flume for tsunami modeling. The library hosts cultural spaces dedicated to the traditions of Korea, Czech Republic, and India, providing a platform for cross-cultural exchange.

In addition to these resources, USK's green spaces, such as **Lapangan Gelanggang** and **Taman Lapangan Tugu**, offer the community access to recreational facilities including a football field, jogging tracks, and shaded parks. These open areas promote environmental awareness and provide residents with spaces for physical activity and relaxation. USK further enriches the local arts scene through annual public performances by groups like the **Putroe Phang** dance ensemble, **Paduan Suara Akademia** choir, and **Teater Nol** theater group, which showcase a blend of traditional and contemporary art forms. Through its Research Center for Social and Cultural Studies (PRISB), USK also fosters cultural preservation by organizing events such as the Memory Talk on the 2004 Tsunami and history tours to local heritage sites, enabling students and the community to reconnect with Aceh's rich cultural legacy.

3. USK's Expenditure on Arts and Heritage

USK's dedication to arts and heritage is supported by a significant budget allocation. Out of its total expenditure of IDR 699,343,861,451 in 2023, a substantial portion—IDR 18,184,913,000—was dedicated specifically to arts, heritage, and research-related activities. This financial commitment enables USK to sustain cultural engagement, support heritage conservation efforts, and enhance community access to arts and cultural resources.

4. USK's Sustainable Practices

USK prioritizes sustainable commuting and transportation solutions on campus. In January 2023, it introduced the Trans Campus bus service as part of the **Trans Koetaraja** initiative, deploying low-emission Euro 4 buses designed to serve the **Kopelma Darussalam** area. This initiative reduces reliance on private vehicles and encourages eco-friendly travel. Additionally, USK's **Malemdiwa** team participated in the Shell Eco-Marathon Asia-Pacific, demonstrating innovation in fuel efficiency and sustainable transport, furthering the university's commitment to sustainable commuting.

USK has also implemented flexible work arrangements, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, when 50% of employees were allowed to work remotely as per Rektor's Circular Letter No. 1806/UN11/KP.11.00/2021. This policy remains adaptable for future needs, showcasing USK's responsiveness to evolving work environments. Affordable housing for both employees and students is another key area of focus. USK offers 574 housing units across several complexes, including **Sektor Timur** and **Sektor Selatan**, with rents as low as IDR 57,000 per month. For students, USK provides **ASKOPMA** dormitories, ensuring that economically disadvantaged students, especially those under the **Bidik Misi** scholarship, have access to affordable accommodation.

USK's campus is designed with sustainability in mind, prioritizing pedestrian access to encourage eco-friendly and healthy commuting. Designated walkways connect academic buildings, residential areas, and common spaces, with infrastructure improvements like expanded pathways, shaded areas, and restricted vehicle access aligning with USK's goals for a pedestrian-friendly campus. Furthermore, USK collaborates with local authorities, including **Bank Tabungan Nasional (BTN)**, on housing initiatives. Programs like the "**Pelatihan Developer Millennial**" empower students to enter the housing development sector, addressing community needs for affordable housing and fostering an entrepreneurial spirit.

Sustainable construction practices are integral to USK's development plans. The university adheres to Indonesian national standards for energy efficiency, water conservation, and sustainable materials. Initiatives such as the **Deklarasi Unsyiah Hijau** formalize these goals, advocating for waste reduction, minimal motor vehicle use, and eco-friendly campus infrastructure. Additionally, USK promotes responsible land use through brownfield redevelopment, transforming previously unused spaces into functional areas, such as the Agricultural Lab and spaces near the mini-stadium. The university's future redevelopment plans for Campus 2 emphasize the importance of balancing development with environmental preservation.