



Palacký University
Olomouc



Sustainable
University

Palacký University Olomouc Sustainability Report 2023

Opening remarks by vice-rector

Palacký University's strategic decisions take into account sustainability as an integrating aspect. The mission of the University reflects this orientation. It emphasises the social responsibility of all employees and researchers, gender equality, and the promotion of social diversity in all areas of our activities. In its strategies, Palacký University Olomouc works with a concept of sustainability that is oriented towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and our activities include their three basic pillars of sustainable development, i.e. not only a positive approach to the environment. The three pillars of sustainability define what the broader concept of sustainability is based on and what it comprises: ecology, economy and society. These three components are equal and mutually reinforcing.

The environmental pillar requires that we conserve the Earth's resources, such as water and raw materials, and ensure that these resources are available or replaced by renewable raw materials. The economic pillar focuses on economic sustainability. Companies should pursue long-term sustainability strategies that not only maximise profits but also do not have a negative impact on the environment. A balance should be maintained to avoid national debt. The social pillar focuses on social sustainability. It states that human dignity is inviolable and that exploitation contradicts the principle of sustainability. This pillar is to be fulfilled through fair remuneration and respect for fundamental rights.

The Sustainable Development Strategy of Palacký University Olomouc encompasses both the establishment of institutional processes and the advancement of research and teaching activities. The University's sustainability initiatives extend beyond the mere mitigation of adverse environmental impacts, encompassing a commitment to actively influ-

encing societal transformation and innovation. It is, therefore, crucial not only to advocate for sustainability but also to ensure its fundamental integration from the outset.

Nevertheless, the coordination and further development of Palacký University's sustainable development would not be feasible without the assistance of all members of our academic community. I would therefore like to express my gratitude to the representatives of all faculties, the scientific community, the administrative staff and all the students, as well as to all those who share our conviction that our joint endeavour is sustainable.

JUDr. Mag. iur. Michal MALACKA, Ph.D., MBA
Vice-Rector of Palacký University Olomouc



Source: 123RF.com

Sustainability as part of the university strategy

Palacký University Olomouc (hereinafter referred to as "UP") has completed the first two-year long **Action plan for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy of Palacký University Olomouc*** (hereinafter referred to as "action plan"), which is the implementation component of the **Sustainable Development Strategy of Palacký University Olomouc** (hereinafter referred to as "SDS UP"). This report is therefore a follow-up to the **report for 2022** and, in addition to 2023, also evaluates the implementation of the action plan for the two years.

SDS UP articulates the vision and mission of UP with respect to sustainable development, defining three strategic pillars of sustainability in the University environment. Within these, it sets out the main objectives and key steps to achieve this strategy. SDS UP and the action plan build primarily on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter referred to as "SDGs"), the Green Deal for Europe, the Czech Republic 2030 and the Strategic Plan for UP Teaching, Publishing and Creative Activities for the period 2021+.

The action plan set out 65 measures in three areas and 15 objectives to be implemented in the two-year period, of which 50 were achieved (almost 77%). For example, an energy audit was conducted, a physical waste analysis was performed, a new inter-faculty course on Sustainable Development in Theory and Practice was developed, new benefits for students and staff focused on sustainability and healthy lifestyles were introduced. On the other hand, it was not possible to implement a water audit, the Rector's Award for Sustainability or to create a range of opportunities for counselling and psychological care.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



UN Sustainable Development Goals

*Links marked with asterisk are only available in Czech.

Sustainability at UP in 2023

- 
- Finalisation and evaluation of the first action plan for the implementation of SDS UP
- 
- New interfaculty course Sustainable Development in Theory and Practice
- 
- CZK 1,323,095 from the UP budget for sustainability activities
- 
- 301–400th place in THE Impact Ranking
- 
- 427th place in the UI Green Metric World University ranking
- 
- 422nd place in the QS Sustainability Ranking
- 
- Completed energy audit
- 
- Established cooperation with Autonapұл
- 
- 5 lectures on sustainability and climate crisis
- 
- Participation in the European Sustainable Development Week
- 
- Creation of 3 methodologies - for new buildings, sustainable actions and green management

Evaluation of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy of Palacký University Olomouc for 2022–2023

The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy of Palacký University Olomouc for 2022–2023* represents a pioneering initiative in the history of UP, marking the inaugural instance of a strategic action plan being implemented at the university. In addition to the Sustainable Development Office (or **Sustainable University**), which falls under the Strategy and Quality Office, numerous units across the Rector's Office (RUP) and the entire university, including all of its constituent parts, were involved in the implementation of the plan.

The action plan delineated 46 actions, comprising 65 deliverables, to be achieved across 15 goals and 3 areas. The action plan was deemed a success, with 35 actions and 50 outputs achieved, representing a success rate of almost 77%. Significant initiatives were undertaken, including an energy audit of UP, an analysis of mixed waste, the development of a methodological guide for new buildings at UP, green surfaces on UP land were mapped, and a traffic survey was conducted at UP. Additionally, a series of lectures and campaigns were delivered, a new inter-faculty course, Sustainable Development in Theory and Practice, was established, the Sustainability Community was formed, and several new sustainability benefits for students and staff were successfully negotiated. Furthermore, UP became a member of the Social Responsibility Association.

On the other hand, the implementation of the water audit, the preparation of the university-wide monitoring of energy consumption (energy management) or BIM has failed. It has not yet been possible to establish a Rector's Award for Sustainability, to establish systematic support for research in sustainable development, or to create a range of advisory and psychological services. The measures, results and their implementation are shown in Appendix 1.

The Sustainable Development Office has also calculated the carbon footprint for Scope 1 and 2. The calculation was done according to the GHG protocols. The emission factors for energy were taken from the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the rest were taken from the GHG protocols for the UK, as they are not available for the Czech Republic. Scope 1 includes consumption from natural gas or coal-fired boilers, generators, all heating, fuel for UP-owned vehicles and fugitive emissions (air conditioning refrigerants), which are not included in Scope 1 for UP as relevant data is not yet available. Scope 2 includes all purchased energy (electricity, heat, steam and cooling).

The carbon footprint from these two scopes was a total of 14,926 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2022 and 14,934 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2023. Table 1 shows the amount of carbon dioxide equivalent produced in 2022 and 2023 in each scopes.

Table 1: Carbon footprint by scopes for 2022 and 2023 in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

Scope/year	2022	2023
Scope 1	2,421.46	2,155.74
Scope 2	12,504.53	12,777.79
In total	14,925.99	14,933.53

1. Energy

SDGs 3, 7, 9 and 11

An energy audit of the entire university was conducted over the period between September 2022 to April 2023. Its outputs will form the basis for the implementation of appropriate measures to reduce the energy consumption of buildings using sensors, SMART tools, etc. The audit also provided building energy performance certificates. The energy audit will also be respected in the case of projects, construction of new buildings and purchase of new equipment.

In the buildings and units of Palacký University Olomouc, the lighting is being replaced with more economical alternatives. For example, in 2023, all the lighting in the building of the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology (Univerzitní 22) was replaced with more economical LED lighting.

In 2023, Palacký University Olomouc consumed 149,314 m³ of water; 50,220 GJ of heat energy; 992,822 m³ of gas and 20,573,415 kWh of electricity. Table 2 shows that the consumption of heat and gas fluctuated over the last eight years, being somewhat surprisingly highest in 2021, when UP was affected by the covid-19 pandemic. Water consumption has been gradually decreasing since 2016. The consumption of electricity has exhibited a consistent pattern over the past eight years, with a notable increase observed in 2023, reaching levels comparable to those seen in previous years. This follows a decline observed in 2022.

Table 2: Water and energy consumption between 2016–2023

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
water m ³	181,191	174,815	165,747	163,791	114,900	122,544	147,303	149,314
heating GJ	58,001	56,811	51,953	53,064	53,647	58,136	51,979	50,220
gas m ³	1,229,284	1,321,107	1,224,186	1,143,842	1,092,863	1,318,316	1,117,156	992,822
electricity kWh	20,208,016	20,400,364	20,644,308	21,492,401	20,265,950	20,771,961	18,364,707	20,573,415

Source: records of UP, 2023

2. Waste and the circular economy

SDGs 9, 11 and 12

In 2023, Palacký University Olomouc generated a total of 732 tonnes of waste, with 67 tonnes of paper (9 %), 37 tonnes of plastic (5 %), 27 tonnes of glass (4 %), 12 tonnes of bio-waste and 12 tonnes of hazardous waste (1.6 %). The remainder (538 tonnes, 74 %) was mixed municipal waste. The objective of SDS UP is to reduce the total quantity of waste generated. This goal was not achieved in 2023, with the total amount of waste increasing by 14 tonnes from 2022. Concurrently, the objective is to increase the proportion of separated waste, which has been achieved for certain components (paper and glass).

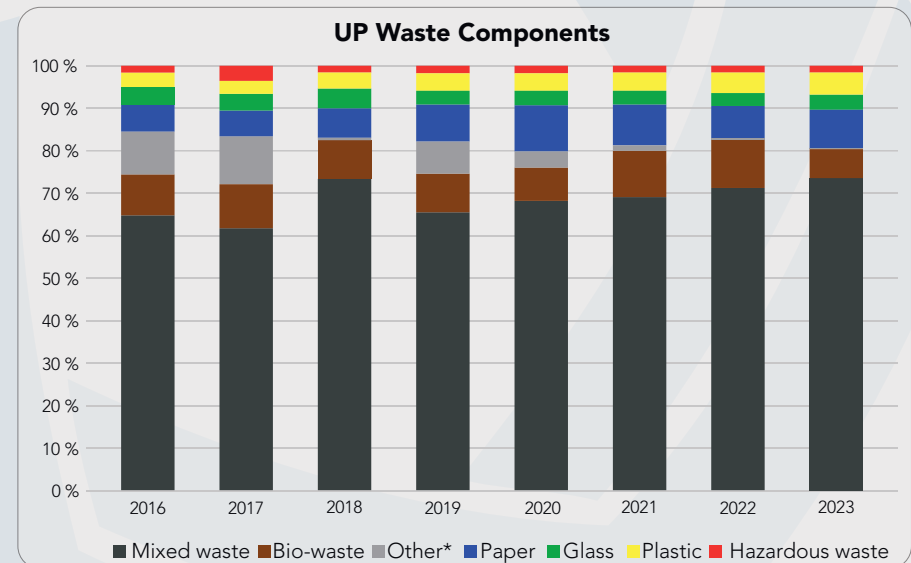
The total quantity of waste has demonstrated a gradual decline over the past eight years, with the exception of the years 2020 and 2021, which were affected by the global pandemic. Conversely, the proportion of mixed municipal waste has exhibited a gradual increase over the same period. Figure 1 illustrates the volume of UP waste components over the period 2016–2023.

Physical waste analysis of the mixed municipal waste (29 November 2022)



In 2023, infrastructure for the sorting of waste was being installed at a number of units. One of the locations that received such infrastructure was the university dormitories. Some of these facilities introduced the use of segregated bins for the disposal of paper, plastic and glass waste in their kitchens. Prior to this, students were only able to engage in sorting within their own rooms, utilising bags that they could borrow free of charge in collaboration with the student association Sustainable Palacký.

Figure 1: The volume of UP waste components over the period 2016–2023



Source: records of UP

*Non-chlorinated mineral motor, transmission and lubricating oils, oils and fats, cables, sharp objects, metals, construction and demolition waste, composite packaging, discarded electrical and electronic equipment.

3. Water and greenery

SDGs 6, 11, 13 and 15

During the autumn of 2022 and the spring of 2023, green surfaces on UP land were mapped on the campuses of Palacký University Olomouc. In consequence of this mapping, a document entitled **Mapping and management of green maintenance of Palacký University Olomouc*** is producing, which assesses the current state of green areas belonging to the University and also the maintenance management of individual campuses. In accordance with the aforementioned document, a second document was created, namely the Methodology for the Care and Development of Greenery on the Campuses of Palacký University Olomouc. This methodology reflects the findings of the green surfaces mapping and, in addition to general recommendations in terms of sustainable green care, also proposes specific measures for individual UP campuses. The document proposes a series of measures, including the establishment of a central coordination body for the maintenance of greenery on selected campuses, an expansion of existing maintenance operations through the recruitment of qualified horticulturists, and the development of local biodiversity through the introduction of herbaceous plants, trees, and perennials. In order to promote biodiversity enhancement and public education, the installation of insect houses and information boards at selected locations was recommended.

Furthermore, green roofs at the Faculty of Physical Culture and the Faculty of Science or green walls (Faculty of Science, Faculty of Physical Culture and Faculty of Law) were implemented on select buildings, and artificial nesting boxes for swifts and bats were installed with the objective of repopulating and increasing the existing population of these species in the area.

Green wall in the building of the Faculty of Physical Culture



3. Water and greenery

SDGs 6, 11, 13 and 15

Retention tanks for rainwater harvesting are gradually being introduced at UP. The first retention tank was installed in the building of the Faculty of Arts on Křížkovského Street in 2017. The Faculty of Science has a retention tank in the Botanical Garden building and other tanks are going to be installed on the Envelopa campus on 17. Listopadu Street in 2024. The new Science and Technology Park Envelopa Hub building also has a retention tank that accumulates all rainwater from the surface of the building and the adjacent parking lot. This water is then used to irrigate the green facade of the building. The Faculty of Law also has one retention tank. Another retention tank is being built as part of the construction of the new UP Archive on tř. Míru Street, where drainage is planned through a single rain sewer. Rainwater from the roof of the building and the car park will be discharged into a retention tank with a regulated outflow, which is also connected to a collecting shaft, to which sewage from the building will also be discharged. Last but not least, there are also plans to build parking spaces from grass block pavers, which thanks to their permeability, reduce water run-off.

Science and Technology Park Envelopa Hub – green facade



4. Buildings and infrastructure

SDGs 6, 7, 9 and 11

In accordance with SDS UP, measures that meet environmentally and socially appropriate recommendations are now being considered for all projects which are going to be launched in the near future. In this regard, discussions are ongoing with experts in the field of environmental protection in the vicinity of the buildings in question. An example is the consultation with internal and external ornithologists, where potential risks to birds are assessed and possible measures are proposed that can be implemented on the buildings in question, thus preventing unwanted bird conflicts with the buildings.

In 2023, the UP Methodological Guide for New Buildings was developed with the objective of enhancing the standards of sustainable construction for new building projects at UP. This represents an intermediate step towards official building certification. The objective of UP is to reduce the energy consumption of buildings, minimise their negative impact on the environment and provide appropriate solutions for their users. Concurrently, the construction of on-site energy generation facilities is being considered for all new buildings and renovations.

In 2023, for instance, the first floor of the NC building in Neředín campus underwent renovation. By installing of external blinds, the temperature conditions of the entire building were enhanced.

The Faculty of Law has introduced the provision of free, eco-friendly pads and tampons in recyclable boxes in selected toilets for female students and staff.

Science and Technology Park: Envelopa Hub – protective covers against birds hitting the glass



5. Information technologies and digitalisation

SDGs 4, 9, 11 and 16

With the aim of reducing time, streamlining the process and, most importantly, promoting sustainability, the electronic travel orders system has been improved and updated. Since 2023, attendance records can be entered and approved electronically as well as applications for a holiday.

In 2023, video cameras were installed in some classrooms of the Faculty of Physical Culture with the objective of enabling online meetings and hybrid forms of teaching, meetings, etc. At the same time, IT training for all staff is ongoing. The use of "white boards" in classrooms and paper flipcharts was significantly reduced. At the same time, new electronic templates, forms and manuals (**IT control***) are gradually being added to the faculty website.

Palacký University Olomouc also runs a nationally certified **E-safety*** project focusing on prevention, education, research, inter-vention and awareness raising in relation to risky behaviour on the internet and related phenomena. In recent years, the project has also focused on the positive use of IT in education and everyday life. The E-safety project is implemented by the Centre for Prevention of Risky Virtual Communication of the Faculty of Education of UP in cooperation with other organisations.



Source: 123RF.com

6. Catering

SDGs 2, 3, 6 and 12

During December 2022 and in spring of 2023, a campaign against unnecessary food waste in the UP dining halls was conducted. Information leaflets were placed in the areas where diners queue, motivating them not to waste food and providing guidance on how to do so. Indeed, the quantity of food waste discarded in canteens on an annual basis is estimated to be approximately 50 tonnes. The objective of the campaign was to highlight this figure and encourage diners to reduce their food waste. This could be achieved, for instance, by requesting smaller portions or taking home any surplus. In the autumn of 2023, UP canteen staff received training on modern plant-based cuisine from ProVEG International. Canteen staff were informed of the advantages of a plant-based diet and instructed in the use of vegan products in cooking. In the context of the European Week for Sustainable Development, the canteen menu was predominantly vegan and vegetarian for a single day. A comparison of the number of diners on the aforementioned day with the number of diners on other days when meat dishes are the predominant menu items revealed no significant change in the number of diners. Despite ongoing efforts to enhance the proportion of meat-free options on the UP canteen menu, the current focus is on incremental improvements and the promotion of plant-based diets, particularly in the context of special events related to sustainability at UP.

In order to provide guidance for event organisers at UP with regard to the organisation of events, including catering, [the Sustainable Events Methodology*](#) at UP was created. The methodology provides guidance on the organisation of events in a manner that ensures the elimination of waste, the efficient use of resources and the promotion of local partnerships and suppliers.

Training of canteen chefs on modern plant-based cuisine by ProVEG International, autumn 2023



7. Mobility and transport

SDGs 3, 9, 11 and 13

During 2022 and 2023, two questionnaire surveys on mobility issues were carried out in cooperation with the Sustainable University, prepared by the Department of Psychology under the leadership of Associate Professor Matúš Šucha. The first survey demonstrated that the means of transport that UP students and employees use the least, but at the same time has the greatest potential for development, is the bicycle. The infrastructure in the city and on the premises of the University needs, however, to be improved. Therefore, an analysis of the number of bicycle racks across UP has already taken place and the number will be gradually increased. Bike racks have been extended or added in several buildings in UP. Similarly, showers for students and staff are available in some buildings (Faculty of Physical Culture, Rector's Office) and their expansion should also be considered for new buildings or renovations.

The second survey was designed to estimate the carbon footprint of employee and student commuting. The survey comprised three straightforward questions: whether the respondent was a commuter, the distance they travelled each day and the means of transport used. Based on the aforementioned data, the Sustainability Office estimated the approximate carbon footprint from commuting to school and work to be 7,673 tonnes of CO₂.

UP has also established cooperation with Nextbike and Eagle companies, and discounted subscriptions have been arranged for UP students and employees.

In 2023, UP took part in the Bike to Work challenge, providing free entry fees to hundreds of staff. Throughout the University, a total of

136 employees formed teams and travelled to UP by bike or on foot throughout the month of May, competing against each other in terms of regularity and mileage. In total, they cycled or walked 30,941 km and saved 3.853 kg of CO₂. The best faculty was the Faculty of Medicine, which won the travelling cup.

In collaboration with other academic institutions in the Czech Republic, UP participated in the European Week of Sustainable Mobility as part of the Unilead project. During this initiative, the university organised various activities, including the second Car Free Day, which encouraged employees and students to utilise alternative modes of transportation to their place of work.

Car Free Day on the Náměstí Republiky square in Olomouc (22nd September 2023)



8. Responsible purchasing

SDGs 8, 10, 12 and 16

An analysis of the current state of responsible purchasing at UP was carried out, leading to the creation of **Recommended Rules for Responsible Public Procurement***. Social and environmental rules for responsible public procurement are therefore observed, such as, for example, decent working conditions, respect for social and labour rights, equal opportunities, consideration of sustainable development criteria including environmental impact issues, ecological footprint of the supplier/product, business ethics, etc. Where relevant, all procurements are consulted with the Sustainable University. At the same time, a checklist is completed for all public contracts, where the contracting authority justifies what sustainable materials or practices it can use or why it cannot. All procurements where this is relevant are consulted with the Sustainability Office.



Source: 123RF.com

9. Education for Sustainability

SDGs 4, 13, 16 and 17

In the 2023/2024 academic year, a new interfaculty course, entitled **Sustainable Development in Theory and Practice***, was established at the Faculty of Science. Each lecture focuses on a discrete area of sustainable development and is delivered by an expert in the field. The lecturers are drawn not only from UP, but also from other universities and from practice.

At the same time, the Sustainable University is building on the educational activities of 2022 and launched a series of educational lectures on sustainability, both in the summer semester 2022/2023 and in the winter semester 2023/2024. The first lecture was **Zpátky na zem: východiska klimatické krize bez růžových brýlí*** [Back to Earth: solutions to the climate crisis without rose-tinted glasses] by Tomáš Jungwirth Březovský from the Association for International Affairs. The next was **Udržitelnost ve financích: Hnací síla pro transformaci*** [Sustainability in Finance: Drivers for Transformation] and was delivered by Julian Toth, Chief Operating Officer of the International Sustainable Finance Centre (ISFSC). The third talk, **Klimatická změna není tabu: Jak o ní mluvit a najít společnou řeč*** [Climate Change is Not a Taboo: How to talk about it and find common ground] was delivered by Milan Vítek of the Climate Facts [Fakta o klimatu] project, where he focuses on social media, climate change communication and weather extremes. The autumn saw a lecture **Klimatická změna a cesty k jejímu řešení*** [Climate Change and Ways to Solve it] by Ondráš Příbyl from Facts on Climate [O Faktech o klimatu] and a lecture on the **UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*** (IPCC) and climate diplomacy by Radim Tolasz, the Czech representative in the IPCC.

At the same time, the Faculty of Law hosted a discussion **Klimatická žaloba – a co dál?*** [Climate Change: What Next?]. The speakers, JUDr. Martin Abel, M.Jur., Ph.D., JUDr. Eva Balounová, Ph.D., LL.M., and JUDr. Vojtěch Vomáčka, Ph.D., LL.M., presented and discussed the case of the Municipal Court in Prague, which initially upheld climate action in 2022 but subsequently dismissed it on 25 October 2023. What is the likely outcome of the proceedings in the first Czech climate lawsuit?

In collaboration with other academic institutions in the Czech Republic, UP took part in the **European Week for Sustainable Development** as part of the Unilead project. This involved the organisation of the UP Bazaar, Car Free Day and Day for the Planet. The UP Bazaar was designed with the objective of promoting the principles of the circular economy. It offered a wide range of items, including household items, utensils, clothing, and books, with a voluntary contribution requested for their acquisition. On Car Free Day, for the second consecutive year, employees and students were encouraged to utilise alternative modes of transportation to their place of work. Additionally, on the Day for the Planet, the university canteens offered a significant proportion of meals in accordance with vegetarian or vegan dietary preferences, with only one meat-based meal available.

9. Education for Sustainability

SDGs 4, 13, 16 and 17

UP also has a **University of the Third Age*** (U3A), which provides senior citizens with access to university-level education, distinguishing it from other forms of outreach and education. The educational programme offered by the U3V is designed to facilitate personal development, rather than professional training. It should be noted that this programme does not confer the right to a university degree.

In addition to the above, UP also cooperates with ARPOK, a local NGO founded by UP itself, which provides educational programs for schools and the public in the field of global development education and teaching about current issues in the world today, including the climate crisis and the SDGs.

UP is also proud to have a unique centre for the popularisation of science and research in Central Moravia, called Pevnost poznání (**Fort Science**). Permanent exhibitions, which were created in cooperation with university staff, introduce visitors to the adventure of science as well as new directions for research and study at the Faculty of Science. There is no doubt that topics on sustainable development have to be included.

Small steps towards sustainability Doubraváček Forest Club 2023



10. Creative activities in the field of sustainable development

SDGs 4, 9, 13 and 16

UP also encourages students to address topics related to sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their theses. Plans for the future include financial support for research on these topics or the announcement of a Rector's Award for the best thesis. Topics such as eco-friendly cleaning products, water consumption at UP and others are already being examined or have been examined. Similarly, topics such as the calculation of the environmental footprint of UP or the material recycling of waste of the Olomouc Region are currently offered, the latter being developed in cooperation with the Olomouc Region. Many students cooperate with the Sustainable University on research - for example, mapping the land and the state of green areas on the University's land, mapping the bins and bins for sorted waste, the number of bicycle racks, etc. Scientists are also increasingly encouraged to incorporate the SDGs into their projects, and the Sustainable University is helping them do so by providing advice.

The Sustainable University also cooperates significantly with the student organization **Sustainable Palacký***. In addition to their own projects, such as the **Freeshop***, **Freefood** or the **Václavka** community garden, active students help Sustainable University with other activities. They jointly organized, for example, a **campaign against food waste in the UP dining halls*** at the end of 2022, jointly organize clothing, book or flower swaps or participate in the Community for Sustainability.



Source: 123RF.com

10. Creative activities in the field of sustainable development

SDGs 4, 9, 13 and 16

In 2022 and 2023, there were also many significant scientific achievements from UP laboratories, departments and institutes in the field of sustainability. Scientists from the Laboratory of Growth Regulators, a joint department of the Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Palacký University Olomouc, prepared a new, highly effective plant growth stimulator called MTU. The biostimulant **MTU** significantly increases the resistance and yield of agricultural crops while not polluting the environment.

UP is also the organiser of **Academia Film Olomouc**, a popular science film festival. Among the films screened were disciplines ranging from astronomy to ethology and art history. UP also cooperates with festivals such as **One World**, organised by **People in Need**, which focuses on documentary, scientific and human rights films.

Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology started producing pod-casts on a variety of scientific topics in 2023. Ten episodes published in 2023 are available in a comprehensive list [here*](#) or on the Spotify and Apple platforms. Faculty scientists were behind the microphone, and some podcasts were authored by their students.

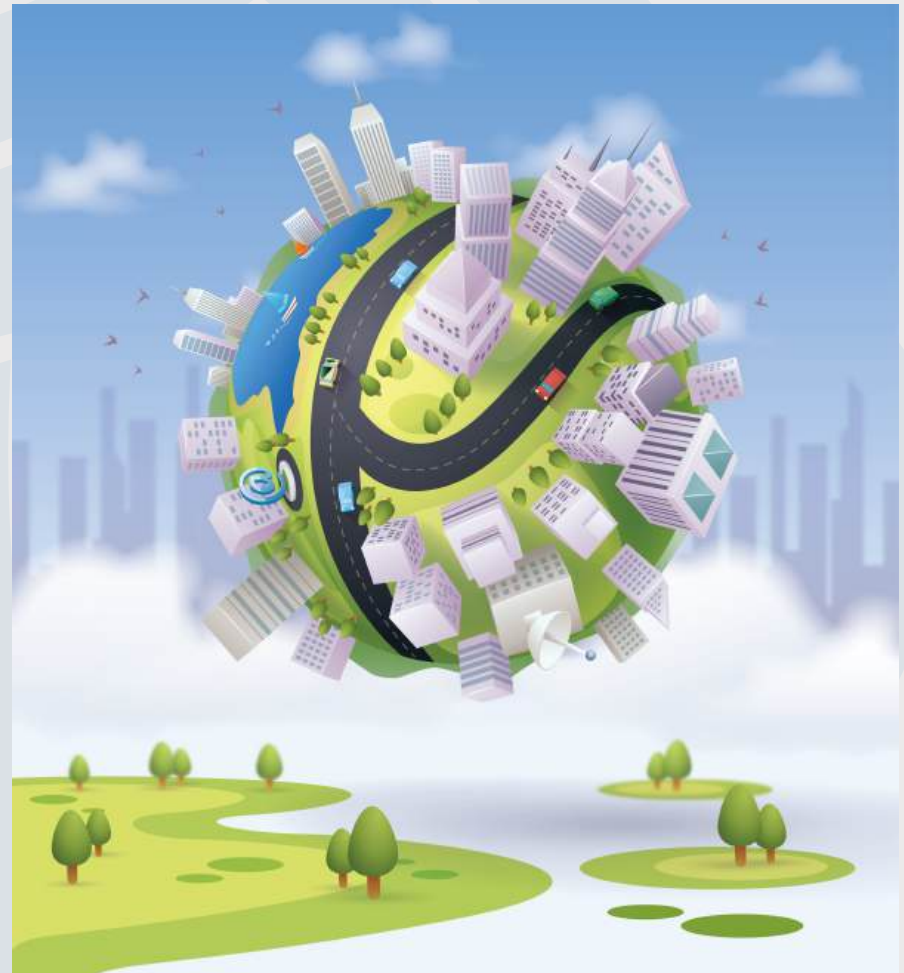
Kidney bag made by a local designer from old university canvases



11. Community for Sustainability

SDGs 4, 13, 16 and 17

The community has been active since late 2022, when some staff were involved in the creation of a new course, Sustainable Development in Theory and Practice. In late 2023, a grant application was being prepared under the National Recovery Plan 7.4 Promoting Green Skills in Higher Education, and active members of the community were involved. In particular, the creation of a Sustainability Ambassador programme was discussed, which will be established in early 2024. Each faculty will have its own Sustainability Ambassador(s) to support the implementation of the action plans in the UP units. Regular meetings will be held approximately every three months to actively involve members of the Sustainability Community in the implementation of the UP SUR goals and action plans. A new action plan will be developed for 2024–2025 and members will be able to participate in its development.



Source: 123RF.com

12. Healthy lifestyle and care for the UP community

SDGs 4, 13, 16 and 17

UP prides itself on several facilities that are accessible to both UP staff and students and the public as part of a healthy lifestyle. These include the BALUO Application Centre and Akademik Sport Centre UP. BALUO is a unique science and technology park aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle, preventing civilisation diseases and optimising physical activity. It is part of the Faculty of Physical Culture, which also promotes responsible behaviour, nutrition and appropriate exercise, as well as efforts to introduce physical education in all study programmes at UP. At the same time, the UP Academic Sports Centre offers a range of sports courses, the possibility of using the archery range or sauna at discounted prices for UP students and staff.

Every year, the University organises a **Health Day for UP staff**, who have the opportunity to take advantage of various free examinations. In 2023, for example, there was a podiatric examination, an eye check and a physiotherapy consultation. Employees could have their blood type checked and register in the University Hospital Olomouc's blood donor database.

The first ever **Volunteer Day for employees*** of the University and the Olomouc Region was also held. The pilot year of the event focused on sustainability and improving the climate in the region, i.e. planting trees, cleaning or maintaining public green spaces. On Arbor Day, 3,000 trees were planted and the František Palacký Groves were established near Mírov and Mutkov.

Health Day at UP (14 September 2023)



12. Healthy lifestyle and care for the UP community

SDGs 4, 13, 16 and 17

Mental health, which is excessively burdened in the current accelerated age of technology and the Internet, is also an important aspect of a healthy lifestyle. This is why the University provides a free visit to the Psychological Counselling Centre for students and employees of UP. In addition to personal, family or study problems, the counselling centre also provides assistance to students and employees of UP affected by the war conflict in Ukraine. In the winter semester of 2023, regular mindfulness classes started at UP, which both students and employees of UP can sign up for free. The aim of these lessons is certain prevention and maintenance of mental health. Studies show that mindfulness positively affects both our physical and mental health.

The Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology also runs the **Institute of Social Health (OUSHI)**, which offers a range of therapies for UP employees and students. Consultations are conducted by certified experts. OUSHI scientists also research the issue of stress and burnout syndrome - one of the biggest pitfalls of modern times, which places high demands on performance. Students, UP employees and the general public can take advantage of a stress analysis conducted and evaluated by the professionals of OUSHI. Find more information [here*](#). As part of a collaboration between OUSHI and the Health Experiences Research Group (HERG) at the University of Oxford, the experience of people with health problems (ADHD in children, epilepsy in children, palliative care, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis) can be tracked through the **Health Talks***

[Hovory o zdraví] project. Health Talks provide reliable and validated information about health problems shared with researchers by people suffering from a particular health problem.

The Faculty of Health Sciences, in collaboration with the Olomouc City Council, has initiated the **Active Ageing* [Aktivní stárnutí]** project, which is designed to enhance the quality of life for older individuals. The project's objective is to facilitate the active ageing of the elderly, whether through physical activity, circadian rhythm monitoring or education in the field of active ageing.

Mindfulness class (winter semester 2023)



13. Equal opportunities for everyone

SDGs 1, 3, 5 and 10

In 2022, the University was awarded the Olomouc Region Governor's Award for Social Responsibility. It confirms the fact that UP has successfully fulfilled the so-called third role of the University in the long term, which means working for the benefit of society. The University has been organizing lectures, discussions and educational activities for the public for some time now. Last but not least, the voluntary activities of students and staff and the active UP Volunteer Centre, whose indispensability was demonstrated, for example, in coordinating aid in the first months of the war in Ukraine are also worth mentioning here.

At the end of 2023, the Equal Opportunities Plan was updated and is proposed for the period 2024–2026. The UP Kindergarten is available to employees and students with a range of above-standard educational, sporting and cultural activities, a children's corner is available in several UP buildings, namely at the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology, Faculty of Science and Faculty of Arts. A nursing room for parents with small children is available (at the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Physical Culture, Faculty of Health Sciences and also at CATRIN institute). Children of employees can spend their free time at the Children's University or at science clubs organised by the Fortress of Knowledge. Summer camps, including suburban camps, organised by the Akademik Sport Centre UP and the Faculty of Physical Culture are also open to children.

Support not only for students with special needs is dealt with by a specialized workplace, the **Support Centre for Students with**

Special Needs, whose main goal is to support students with special needs or from socially or ethnically disadvantaged backgrounds. It provides services to prospective students, female and male students, staff, as well as secondary schools teachers who are interested in the issue. It also offers courses with respect to the specific needs of individual users.

Another workplace that offers support for individuals with special needs is the **Applied Physical Activity Centre*** (APA). The APA's primary objective is to provide assistance to specific individuals with special needs in their endeavours to engage in an active lifestyle, with the aim of enhancing their quality of life. Moreover, the APA conference was also held at UP in 2023.

*Workshop for assistants for students with specific needs
(16 and 17 September 2023)*



13. Equal opportunities for everyone

SDGs 1, 3, 5 and 10

Sexual and gender-based violence is addressed in the [UP Code of Ethics](#), with violations of this code being evaluated by the UP Ethics Committee. The document is accessible to all students and employees on the UP website. Information regarding essential facts is disseminated to UP employees and students via the UP internet portal and by email. In order to fulfil this function, the Faculties of Arts, Science and Law have established an Ombudsman Institute, which is responsible for safeguarding the rights of staff and students. The Faculty of Education is currently in the process of establishing such an institute. Information about the institute is disseminated to students via the university's internal communication channels. A university-wide ombudsman position is concurrently being established. The individual occupying this role will serve and protect the rights of not only students from faculties where this institute does not exist, but also all persons employed at UP. A trust box (also available in an online format) has been established at the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology. The trust box is accessible to both students and faculty staff. Additionally, an anonymous mailbox is available at the Faculty of Law. In 2023, several methodologies and standards were adopted by the faculties in the area of sexual and gender-based violence. The Faculty of Law issued a [methodology for dealing with cases of socially inappropriate behaviour*](#), while the Faculty of Education issued an internal standard for doctoral studies at the Faculty of Education. Furthermore, the Faculty of Education has issued a standard pertaining to the ombudsman position. Additionally, the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Physical Culture have established a [website dedicated to the prevention of unethical conduct*](#), with the objective of curbing gender-based and sexual violence.

In 2023, the second conference on the topic of [Sport and Sexuality in Coaching Practice*](#) was held at the Faculty of Physical Culture. It was organised in cooperation with the Czech Association of University Sport and included the participation of a member of the Equal Opportunities in Sport Commission of the Czech Olympic Committee.

A process of adaptation for new employees was established at the Faculty of Law. Each new employee is provided with comprehensive orientation to the faculty environment and operations, including feedback and evaluation processes, as well as communication protocols that encompass sustainability-related matters.

Volunteer Day (20 October 2023)



14. Support for the region

SDGs 11, 13, 16 and 17

Within the Olomouc Region, the University has established cooperation with the Office for the Environment and is jointly addressing the possibilities of further use of gastro waste, which is generated mainly in the dining halls of the University.

The cooperation between UP and the Statutory City of Olomouc has flourished in recent years. UP is a member of Místní agenda 21 (Local Agenda 21) and Smart City, which is a program (strategic plan) for the development of the city, characterised by the effort to solve global problems locally - i.e. on the territory of the municipality or region, especially in the field of sustainable development. UP also established closer cooperation with Sluňákov - the centre of environmental activities of the city of Olomouc, with which they jointly organize educational events such as Sustainability in Practice event, Facts about Climate seminar or Olomouc Ecological Days. UP students and teachers also go to Sluňákov for internships and educational programs and help at various events.

UP has also established cooperation with the Technical Services of the City of Olomouc, more specifically with the Re-use Centre that they manage. As part of events promoting sustainability at UP, such as the UP Bazaar held as part of ETUR, they provided us with items that they offer in their own Re-use Centre. Items such as kitchen utensils and books were then offered for free to UP students and staff.

The University is also aware of the importance of the relationship with the general public, which is why the university project **Civic University - UniON*** was created, which is a university platform based on a partnership approach and mutual dialogue with the public. The aim of the project is to organize educational presentations and courses for the target groups.

The success of one of the university buildings was the award of the finalist title in the Rudolf Eitelberger Prize, which was awarded to the reconstruction of the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology building in Kateřinská Street in October 2023. The award, named after the famous Olomouc native, represents the best of architecture, urban planning and conservation in Olomouc and the Olomouc Region over the past two years. The Olomouc Ječmen studio is behind the successful redevelopment.

UP Bazaar on MEET UP (19 September 2023)



15. Strategic partnerships

SDGs 11, 13, 16 and 17

For the past three years, UP has been a member of the Aurora Alliance, which brings together nine European universities to address social responsibility, sustainability, digitalization and cultural diversity. In 2023, the alliance won the support of the European Commission for the next period, and within the framework of sustainable development, UP is a member of several working groups, even leading the Sustainable Campus Working Group together with the University of Innsbruck. In 2023, the Aurora board approved the Common Footprint Reduction Plan, which sets common goals for all Aurora universities to reduce emissions and become carbon neutral.

In 2023, UP was included in the international **UI Green Metric** World University ranking, which evaluates the environmental friendliness of universities. Out of 1,200 universities, UP was ranked 427th. In the **Times Higher Education Impact Rankings**, UP was ranked 301st–400th overall, which was third in the country. In the **QS World University Rankings: Sustainability**, UP ranked 422nd out of approximately 1,400 universities that were included in the ranking of the world's most sustainable universities.

The University is also a partner with the Czech Development Agency, which is a modern donor agency that cooperates with public administration, the non-profit sector, universities and research institutions, and the private sector. The Czech Forum for Development Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "FoRS") is also among the partners of the Czech Development Agency. This is a platform of Czech non-governmental non-profit organizations and other non-profit entities involved in development cooperation, global development

education and humanitarian aid, of which UP is also an active partner. These partnerships of UP with the regional and global community contribute to the development of the intellectual wealth of society, to its sustainable scientific, technical, cultural and social development.

UP is also a partner of other initiatives, platforms and non-governmental non-profit organizations working on development and the SDGs. An example is the largest initiative for corporate social responsibility and support for achieving the SDGs in the Czech Republic, the Association of Social Responsibility, which, like the Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development, organizes conferences on this topic. UP is also one of the partners of this association, which aims to promote changes towards sustainability in formal and non-formal education using a step-by-step approach.

Aurora Biannual Meeting in Olomouc in October 2023



Appendix

Table 3: Fulfillment of measures of the action plan

Measures	Output	Number of outputs	Fulfilled
1.1	Energy audit. Energy performance certificates for buildings.	2	2
1.2	Document defining the organization, processes, responsibilities and information flow between the individual units of UP for the preparation of a system for monitoring and evaluation of energy consumption based on an agreement between UP units.	1	0
1.4	Number of buildings for which appropriate energy reduction measures were consulted during their design.	1	1
2.1	Waste analysis including proposed measures to improve waste management at UP.	1	1
2.2	Improvement of waste management infrastructure at UP. Reducing the amount of waste generated year on year. Reducing the proportion of mixed municipal waste in the total waste stream and increasing the proportion of segregated waste. Significant reduction in the use of disposable packaging at UP.	4	2
2.3	At least one training session for the cleaning staff. Design training for the entire UP community.	2	2
2.4	Concept of the possible use of gastro-waste.	1	1
2.5	IT platform for sharing assets.	1	1
3.1	Water audit.	1	0
3.4	Document mapping the greenery at UP. Methodology of how to work with greenery, how to develop biodiversity and how to take care of them.	2	2
4.1	Number of buildings for which appropriate measures to apply sustainable solutions were consulted during their design.	1	1

4.3	Methodology for implementing sustainable elements in new building and renovation projects.	1	1
4.4	Recommended rules for the Procurement Office. Cooperation with the Sustainable Office on the purchase of the above items.	2	2
4.5	Methodology for the building information model implementation at UP. Allocation of one employee for this agenda.	2	0
5.1	Electronic approval workflow. Efficiency improvement of electronic travel orders. At least one course for staff.	3	3
5.2	Amendment of the R-B-17/08-ÚZ internal standard: Assignment of the topic, submission and registration of data on bachelor's, master's, dissertation and rigorous theses and their publication and its effectiveness from 1 September 2022.	1	1
5.4	Reducing the total number of business and study trips from the 2019 base year (excluding 2020 and 2021).	1	0
6.3	At least one food waste reduction campaign.	1	1
6.4	Elimination of drinks in plastic bottles and disposable tableware at meetings of UP bodies.	1	1
7.1	Final report of the questionnaire survey on sustainable mobility including proposed solutions.	1	1
7.2	At least one campaign per year to promote sustainable mobility. Proposal for the upgrade of sustainable mobility infrastructure based on measure 7.1, or the implementation of such measures into planned reconstructions.	2	2
7.3	Negotiations with the Association of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic and the Transport Company of Olomouc on the possibilities of optimising public transport.	1	1
8.1	Analysis of the current state of implementation of the Public Procurement Office. Participation of the Sustainability Office in the preparation of documents for public tenders.	2	2
8.2	Recommended rules for the Public Procurement Office.	1	1
8.3	Methodology for the purchase of advertising and promotional items at UP.	1	0
9.1	Draft of a syllabus for Sustainable Development course in category C. Involvement of students in activities related to sustainability in at least one course.	2	2
9.2	Implementation of at least one lecture on sustainability per academic year. Existence of an online database with topics of sustainable development.	2	2

9.3	Organization of at least one sustainability campaign per academic year.	1	1
9.4	Publishing of at least one sustainability-related article per semester.	1	1
10.1	Analysis of the potential in education and creativity in sustainable development.	1	0
10.3	Rector's Award for Sustainability. Financial support for sustainability-related research.	2	0
10.5	Analysis of the quantitative representation of sustainable products in UPoint in 2021.	1	0
11.1	The establishment of sustainable community and holding of the first meeting of its members.	2	2
11.2	Involvement of members of sustainable community in the implementation of the Action Plan. Suggestions for further activities from members.	2	2
12.1	At least one new sustainability benefit.	1	1
12.3	Expanding sport options and the number of hours in the UP curriculum design.	1	0
12.4	Expanding and promoting the offer of counselling and psychological care.	1	0
13.1	Membership in the Equal Opportunities Working Group.	1	1
13.4	Proposal for joint activities for the period.	1	1
14.1	Debate and seeking a solution with the Statutory City of Olomouc and the Olomouc Region concerning all of the above-mentioned themes.	1	1
14.2	Organization of at least one activity or event with the above-mentioned bodies each year.	1	1
15.1	Inter-University courses focused on sustainability. Sustainable campus action plan. Footprint reduction plan.	3	3
15.3	Membership in the Corporate Social Responsibility Association.	1	1
15.4	Commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility model.	1	0
15.5	Participation in the UI Green Metric World University Ranking.	1	1
15.6	Membership in the Socially Responsible Public Procurement platform.	1	1
	Overall	65	50
	Overall %		76,95