

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Committee on Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development








Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Policy

The Policy



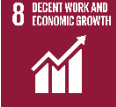

University social responsibility (USR) is the promotion by higher education institutions of a set of values and principles that will help resolve and overcome the world’s grand challenges. As a socially responsible institution, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) stands ready to initiate and realize sustainable development and is committed to contributing to the well-being of the global community, through the integration of teaching, research and engagement, and by translating social responsibility into action. CUHK is resolved to establish itself at the forefront of social responsibility and strives to achieve its USR goals that actively respond to the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations.

Vision, Values, Goals and Strategies

1. In its Strategic Plan 2021–2025 (‘CUHK 2025’), CUHK has a vision to establish itself as a 21st-century civic university striving for excellence with a purpose and embracing social responsibility for sustainable development. The CUHK community espouses the values of people, social, and environmental and economic harmonies in the pursuit of sustainable development.
2. CUHK has set for itself concrete sustainable development targets in alignment with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which apply to all areas of the University’s endeavours. The University has built into its curriculum contents that cultivate the spirit of USR and help the students fulfil their duties as global citizens. Our professors and researchers are actively generating impactful knowledge oriented to the public good and contributing to the resolution of global grand challenges.

Values	University Social Responsibility Goals	Sustainable Development Goals to be Addressed ¹
People harmony	1. To improve public health through preventive healthcare research and outreach	  
	2. To increase equal access to and the impact of quality education through creativity and technology	 
Social harmony	3. To promote diversity, inclusion and partnerships through understanding and respect	 

¹ Adopted by the United Nations in 2015, ‘The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.’ (See ‘Take Action for the Sustainable Development Goals’, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>)

Values	University Social Responsibility Goals	Sustainable Development Goals to be Addressed ¹
Environmental and economic harmony	4. To pursue climate action and commit to the ambition of carbon neutrality by 2038	 
	5. To advocate responsible processes by setting standards and creating scalable solutions	 

Source: CUHK Strategic Plan 2021–2025: Excellence with Purpose and Responsibility

3. The advancement of CUHK’s USR goals is guided by three overarching strategies:
 - Promoting research impact for sustainable development;
 - Nurturing socially responsible future leaders; and
 - Partnering communities in action.

4. CUHK 2025 also sets out a USR portfolio that outlines the initiatives and action plans to achieve the five USR goals. To execute, evaluate and enhance these USR action initiatives, the University established the Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Office in January 2021.

Implementation

5. Scope and Application

- 5.1 CUHK takes a holistic approach to social responsibility, connecting and articulating its vision, goals and priorities to guide planning and management practices. It has striven to ensure that every member of the University appreciates what it is doing, and why it is doing it.
- 5.2 The Policy applies to all members of the University, including students, faculty and staff who may contribute ideas for incorporating sustainability into their work and daily lives. The Policy also applies to those who participate in activities conducted under the name of CUHK.

6. Management Responsibilities

- 6.1 The CUHK Administrative and Planning Committee through the Vice-Chancellor has the ultimate responsibility for the interpretation and implementation of the Policy.
- 6.2 The Committee on Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development is responsible for steering the implementation and monitoring the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Policy.
- 6.3 The Committee on Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development delegates responsibility to the Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Office to:
 - Communicate and implement the Policy;
 - Develop and promulgate relevant guidelines or procedures;
 - Coordinate activities with relevant academic, research, and professional and administrative service units to ensure the successful implementation of the Policy; and
 - Review the Policy, assess its impact and recommend improvement as appropriate.

(December 2022)