

The four necessities for human survival in the world are food, health care, housing, and clothes, all of which depend on the earth's resources for production. Natural resources cannot be properly produced for future generations if the resources in our world are squandered and unchecked. Since sustainable development is defined as meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations in all dimensions, including the environment, society, and economy, sustainability is established as a shared blueprint for nations around the world.

Through research, higher education reform, outreach, and stewardship, Walailak University has been mobilizing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Walailak University SDG Report, which highlights the university's stewardship of local stakeholders in the community, regional society, national society, and worldwide society, outlines the main activities implemented from 2022 to 2023.

In order to show the potential of the university in supporting sustainability, WU through the Center for Academic Services formed the “Happy Tree” model encompassing five significant branches, including Career Opportunity, Happiness in Health, Education, Resource and Environment, and Social and Cultural Background.

The University's contributions to the UN's SDGs and the Happy Tree Model in all areas, including stewardship, outreach, research, and teaching, are described in the WU SDG Report 2022–2023. As it satisfies indicator 17. 3: Publication of SDG reports per SDG of the THE Impact Ranking Methodology 2024, the report is also utilized in submitting data for THE impact ranking. The Center for Academic Services and the School of Liberal Arts at Walailak University collaborated to effectively publish the report. To encourage the institution to be known globally as a conscientious steward of the world, all of the text was written in English.

The contents of the report were written by the CAS. The School of Liberal Arts lecturers would then proofread the articles of the nine SDGs, including SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 10: Reduce Inequalities, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 15: Life on Land and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Here are 5 achievements of Walailak University contributing to SDGs and the Happy Tree Model:

1. Walailak University Lifelong Learning Policy

The Lifelong Learning Policy was created to support lifelong learning by providing free access to the university's facilities, including computers, books, training courses, online learning courses, library services, and so on. Moreover, the university through the Center for Academic Services is responsible for providing outreach programs to local, regional, national, and international communities. This policy is consistent with SDG 4: Quality Education and the Happy Tree Model in the dimension of Education.

2. Policy on Food Preparation and Sustainable Consumption

Every food outlet at Walailak University must abide by the policy on food preparation and sustainable consumption in order to ensure food safety and sustainability. All the operators at WU are from communities surrounding the university. They not only have opportunities to build solid careers as food operators but also gain access to outreach programs to improve their careers in food service quality at every step. The policy contributes to SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 14: Life below Water, and SDG 15: Life on Land. It is additionally consistent with the Happy Tree model in the dimension of Career Opportunity.

3. Policy to protect Nonsmokers' health and Designate Specific Smoking Areas

Nonsmokers should be protected from second-hand smoke which causes serious cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Walailak University designates specific smoking areas across the campus for those who smoke cigarettes. Thus, WU issued the policy to protect non-smokers' health and Designate Specific Smoking Areas, B.E. 2565 (2022) to support SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being and the Happy Tree model in the dimension of Happiness in Health.

4. Free Access to Cultural Heritage and Green Space and Sustainable Commuting on Campus

Walailak University always places importance on providing free access to public spaces on campus. Regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, immigration status, or gender. The most outstanding cultural heritage at Walailak University is the Toompung Archeological Site, a space for studying the history of Nakhon Si Thammarat in the ear of Indian influence. Speaking of green space, Walailak Garden has been one of the momentous public spaces among the people in Nakhon Si Thammarat to do physical activities. In addition, these places can be accessible to disadvantaged people because the commuting on campus is also designed for people with disabilities. The free access and sustainable commuting contribute to SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and the Happy Tree model in the dimension of Social and Cultural Background.

5. Water Reuse Guidelines

Walailak University extracts water from sources within the university with sustainable technologies. However, water consumption should not affect any biodiversity and the quality of life of stakeholders around the university. In order to be a leading green university in Thailand, Walailak University issued guidelines on water reuse to ensure beneficial purposes such as agriculture and irrigation and sustain the natural resources for our future. This policy supports SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and SDG 14: Life below Water. It also supports the Happy Tree model in the dimension of Resource and Environment.

To show how Walailak University contributes to the SDGs as a responsible steward at local, national, and worldwide levels, the university will continue to participate in THE Impact Ranking in the future. Additionally, WU is dedicated to disseminating the sustainability report in accordance with the Happy Tree Model and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.