The Walailak University Academic Service Center plays a pivotal role in driving the university's efforts to become a green university. Its key mission is fostering social responsibility, with a strong emphasis on environmental conservation. Walailak University actively participates in the UI GreenMetric World University Ranking, which evaluates global green universities based on six criteria: 1) Infrastructure, 2) Energy and climate change management, 3) Waste management, 4) Water management, 5) Sustainable transportation, and 6) Education and research on environmental issues. The 2023 theme for the UI GreenMetric World University Ranking is "Innovation, Impact, and Future Directions for Sustainable Universities." This ranking highlights universities' efforts in advancing sustainability initiatives, innovation, and their future trajectory in alignment with both UI GreenMetric standards and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Beyond promoting green initiatives within the campus, providing academic services to surrounding communities is a core mission of the university, aimed at helping these communities evolve into sustainable, green communities.

The current social landscape has undergone substantial changes, particularly with the rise in population, community expansion, climate change, disaster prevention efforts, and spatial limitations. These factors have led to a decline in both the quantity and quality of green spaces. In response, many countries have shifted their focus from solely advancing commercial technology to prioritizing green space development alongside it, ensuring timely responses to these challenges while aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Thailand is among the nations that prioritize environmental concerns, as reflected in government policies, the national strategy, and the national reform plan, all of which emphasize increasing green spaces. Green space is defined as natural or human-made areas within cities or communities, primarily covered with vegetation, offering benefits to the environment, ecosystems, and the quality of life for community residents.

A sustainable green space refers to an area with a diverse range of plants in both species and quantity, with large trees as the main component. These areas are maintained and preserved to ensure long-term sustainability. The objective is to create ecological balance, enhance the environment, and provide a pleasant, beautiful, and serene living space. Additionally, sustainable green spaces improve the direct and indirect use of land, elevate the quality of life for community residents and visitors, and contribute to strengthening the local economy.

Ban Laem Homestay is a small community located in Tha Sala Subdistrict, Tha Sala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. What makes this community particularly interesting is the way of life of its residents, which is reflected in the everyday occupations visitors can

observe. This has evolved into community-based tourism, where the locals manage everything themselves, providing additional income and improving the quality of life in the community. From field surveys and listening to the community's needs, it was found that Ban Laem lacks accessible public green spaces within the community, as the natural forest areas are located far away. Increasing green space by creating a community-based reforestation project is therefore crucial for developing local tourism and aligning with the direction of sustainable community development. This involves enhancing the community's infrastructure by adding green areas, making human settlements safer, more inclusive, and resilient to change. Additionally, these green spaces help absorb greenhouse gases, reducing emissions into the atmosphere.

The Academic Service Center, in collaboration with the School of Management and relevant government and private sector networks, has developed the "Setting & Infrastructure (SI)" project to link UI GreenMetric with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13. This project focuses on increasing mangrove forest areas within the community by educating the local fishing communities on community mapping and collectively expanding green spaces through mangrove planting. This initiative also raises awareness among all sectors about the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and educates the community on the risks, impacts, solutions, and warnings related to climate change. The goal is to help the community adapt and plan for potential disasters, aligning with SDG 13.3.1. Additionally, the project follows SDG 17.2.1 by fostering cooperation with relevant networks and agencies. The project’s process is as follows:

1. Coordinating with community leaders to discuss the way of life and the community's needs for green space in Ban Laem Homestay.
2. Developing a project proposal, consulting with both professors and community leaders on feasibility, and setting the project plan and framework.
3. Organizing activities to introduce the project and provide education on climate change and expanding green spaces to absorb greenhouse gas emissions in the community.
4. Conducting green space expansion activities in Ban Laem Homestay.
5. Presenting project outcomes and disseminating information to the community.

The outcomes of the project include raising awareness and understanding among the residents of Ban Laem, Village No. 7, and Village No. 15, Na Thap Subdistrict, Tha Sala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat, have gained knowledge and understanding about creating ecological balance, leading to a good, beautiful, peaceful, and livable environment. This has

also enhanced both the direct and indirect utilization of land, improved the quality of life for community members and visitors, and strengthened the local economy. Furthermore, the project promoted knowledge and raised awareness in Ban Laem Homestay about climate change, particularly regarding increasing green spaces within the community. Students also participated in mangrove planting activities alongside the community. The key performance indicator and project target is that Ban Laem Homestay community members gained knowledge about climate change and green space expansion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 90%. The satisfaction survey showed a satisfaction rate of 96.06%.