

27 July 2023

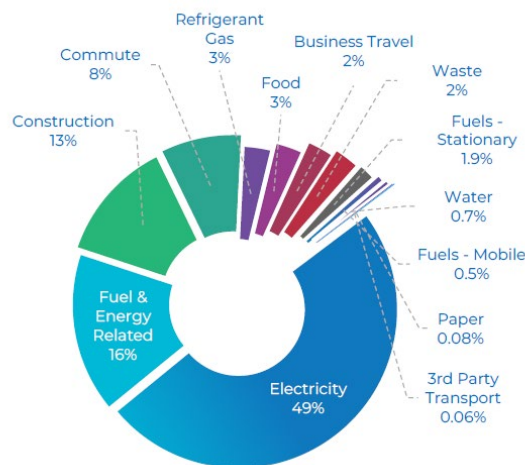
THE NWU IS RAMPING UP ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Dear NWU staff and students

The NWU has over the last 15 years made major improvements in terms of renewing and upgrading its facilities. Attention was given to numerous key environmental focus areas, specifically water and electricity metering and the renewal of our water reticulation lines to ensure water wastage is minimised.

Our efforts were, however, not measured and assessed on a continuous basis in relation to our carbon footprint – not showing progress we made over the years. We are very excited to share that we have conducted our first in-depth carbon footprint for the year of 2022. Please note the full report will be shared with the broader NWU community in due course. In terms of carbon footprint calculation, purchased electricity contributes 49% of the NWU carbon footprint.

NWU CARBON FOOTPRINT FY22:
 134,751 tCO₂e



Where from here?

The NWU Environmental Sustainability Policy and Guidelines were developed in 2022 under the guidance and coordination of Prof. Sonia Swanepoel and approved by the NWU Council in November 2022. The policy and guidelines set the foundation for the NWU to plan, design, implement, and manage various environmental sustainability projects and initiatives. The NWU Facilities team is working on an energy management and water conservation strategy and plan that will be finalised in July 2023. The strategy and plan will ensure that we reduce our dependence on purchased electricity, provide our own water purification and saving systems, design and build according to green building principles, conduct waste recycling to reduce and recycle, and reuse waste. Lastly but very important, we need you as staff and students to play your part. Our collective and individual behavioural changes in terms of using electricity and water sparingly will make a huge difference.

The NWU Facilities Department will initiate various interventions, including metering and environmental competitions, aimed at rewarding staff and students for their endeavours to #Reduce-the-Use.

What can you expect to see over the next 12 to 36 months at the NWU:

- Solar photovoltaic (PV) installations on building rooftops and parking areas:
 - Installing solar plant at Mahikeng Campus (1000kWp).
 - Installing solar plant at Potchefstroom Campus (1000kWp).
 - Installing solar plant at Vanderbijlpark Campus (385kWp).
 - Strategic small grid tie solar systems (3 x 100kWp).

- Upgrade our NWU residences in terms of energy efficient lighting, heating, ventilation, and accessibility of systems:
 - Install emergency lights.
 - Wi-Fi in residences to be up during internal load-shedding.
 - Controlled switching of heaters in residences.
 - Installing dimmable lights in hall ways and kitchens.
 - Installing occupancy sensors in the bathrooms.

- Upgrades at NWU academic and research buildings:
 - Installing occupancy sensors in the bathrooms.
 - Installing occupancy lights in store rooms and unoccupied spaces.
 - Ensuring subways areas have emergency lights.
 - Critical IT hubs to receive inverter systems.
 - Installation of additional diesel tanks for emergency generators.
 - Provision of UPS's for research projects.

- Water management and saving:
 - Water usage and quality assessments will be conducted.
 - Water reservoirs with dedicated purification systems will be installed..
 - Polystyrene versus carboard assessments for NWU commercial kitchens will be conducted.

- Waste recycling:
 - Full off-campus waste recycling collection, sorting and recycling.
 - #BeatPlasticPollution – no more plastics bottles on the NWU will be phased in via various initiatives.

Indeed, our pursuit of excellence is a formidable challenge, particularly considering the vast scale of NWU, encompassing approximately 900 buildings and spanning over 1000 hectares.

Remember together we can and will make a difference. #Reduce-the-Use!

Yours faithfully

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Elmarie de Beer
Executive Director Finance and Facilities