



UNIVERSITY OF OUM EL BOUAGHI

*Report on the United Nations
Sustainable Development Goal 11:
Sustainable Cities and Communities*

ABSTRACT

This report illuminates the University of Oum El Bouaghi in Algeria's efforts to work towards the realization of SDG 11, which focuses on creating Sustainable Cities and Communities.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Introduction:

In line with Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11), which aims to make cities and communities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, the University of Oum El Bouaghi integrates cultural preservation, community engagement, and environmental sustainability into its policies and practices. The university plays an active role in enhancing the quality of life for both its academic community and local residents.

1. Support of Arts and Heritage

The University of Oum El Bouaghi is committed to preserving Algeria's cultural and historical heritage. In cooperation with the **Provincial Museum**, it organizes exhibitions that display historical photos and documents related to the national liberation revolution. The university also maintains a **private museum** that houses valuable revolutionary artifacts and welcomes visitors from inside and outside the province.

At the center of the campus stands a **memorial monument** dedicated to the martyr Mohamed Larbi Ben M'Hidi, symbolizing the university's respect for national memory.

Moreover, the university supports artistic expression by organizing **training workshops in theater arts** in coordination with the Regional Theater, hosting performances, and encouraging student participation in local cultural events. In partnership with the **Directorate of Tourism and Traditional Industries**, the university also contributes to preserving **intangible cultural heritage**, including local folklore, traditions, and language, to protect the identity of the region.

2. Public Access and Community Engagement

The university ensures **public access** to several of its facilities.

- The **central library** is open to external users who can access books, journals, and digital resources through an external user card.

- The **university museum and exhibition halls** are open during scheduled times for guided tours, awareness programs, and cultural exhibitions.
- The **campus green spaces and gardens** are freely accessible to the community, offering visitors a safe and clean environment for leisure and study. Through these initiatives, the university strengthens its connection with the local population and promotes a culture of openness and learning.

3. Sustainable Practices and Environmental Policy

The University of Oum El Bouaghi adopts several measures to promote sustainable and eco-friendly practices:

- **Sustainable mobility:** Vehicle access is restricted within the campus, with parking lots located at the main entrance. Pedestrian pathways and covered walkways connect different university facilities to ensure safety and reduce pollution.
- **Green buildings:** Newly constructed facilities – including the Faculties of Economics, Arts and Languages, Sports, and the Institute of Applied Sciences – comply with environmental standards by using natural lighting, water-based heating systems, and energy-efficient bulbs.
- **Reforestation campaigns:** The university organizes tree-planting campaigns to expand green areas and enhance environmental awareness among students.

4. Government and University Support Systems

The Algerian government plays a vital role in supporting sustainable urban life for university communities.

- **Transportation:** Free buses are provided to transport students and staff between the university and the city's neighborhoods.
- **Student housing:** All legally enrolled students in public universities benefit from free or highly subsidized accommodation.

- **Staff housing:** Teachers and their families are offered affordable housing close to the university campus, and rental alternatives are available for those not covered by government housing.
- **Distance education:** To facilitate access for those living in remote areas, the university has launched an **e-learning platform** through which all programs include at least one online course. Another digital platform manages administrative and academic tasks, reducing paperwork and travel needs.

5. Collaboration with Local Authorities

The University of Oum El Bouaghi collaborates closely with local authorities through the Rector's participation in the **Provincial Council**. This cooperation allows the university to contribute research and expert recommendations in urban planning, housing, and sustainable development. The university also maintains partnerships with the **Directorate of Housing** to improve local urban infrastructure and promote community well-being.

Conclusion

Through its initiatives in cultural preservation, public access, environmental protection, and collaboration with local and national authorities, the University of Oum El Bouaghi demonstrates a strong commitment to **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**. Its actions contribute to creating an inclusive, sustainable, and environmentally responsible academic and social environment that benefits both the university community and the wider region.