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Our Future  
Reimagined



Stakeholder  
Report

2023



# UJ at a GLANCE



## Environmental Sustainability

UJ remains dedicated to environmental sustainability, focusing on reducing its carbon footprint. In 2023, the carbon footprint increased by 10.14% due to expanded campus usage, travel, and built areas, but it remains 9.32% lower than in 2019.

Key initiatives include a 29.4% reduction in electrical energy consumption from the 2015 baseline, achieved through solar PV plants, energy-saving LEDs, occupancy sensors, heat

pumps, and increased gas use for water heating. Solar PV capacity continues to expand, with new projects underway. Increased diesel use for backup generators due to Eskom load shedding has led to higher CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, indicating a need for improved energy management.

UJ aims for net zero carbon generation by 2050, continually enhancing energy efficiency and sustainable practices.



### Water management

In 2023, UJ's water consumption increased by 35.9%, mainly due to new buildings and higher campus occupancy. To address water shortages caused by load shedding and infrastructure issues, UJ purchased over 7 million litres of water and saved R15 million by transferring 14.2 million litres between campuses. Despite this rise, water use has decreased by 37.65% compared to 2015, with borehole water now used extensively.



### Waste recycling

In 2023, UJ's recycling rate remained similar to 2022, with a recycling level of 39.3%. Although waste generation increased from the pandemic lows of 2020 and 2021, it has not yet reached pre-pandemic levels. The 2023 recycling rate slightly decreased from 40.25% in 2022.

