

UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 17 UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



2019–2020 HIGHLIGHTS

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted in 2015 by the member-states of the United Nations are a “*blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.*” The members of the university community, through their individual and collective engagement, take an active part in achieving them.

By joining this global initiative, the University fulfills its role as an academic leader in this initiative and commits to doing its part to transform our world. To generate positive and sustainable societal impacts, Université Laval also intends to do more to measure the impact of its institutional actions and those of the members of its community, on progress to attain the SDGs. Here are some good examples from 2019–2020:

1 NO POVERTY REDUCING POVERTY THROUGH EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Systems and measures must ensure that everyone has the same rights and access to economic resources, jobs, and services, regardless of origin or vulnerable state. [Université Laval's Institut EDI2](#) (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Intersectionality) is an interdisciplinary hub connecting members of the university community and researchers interested in questions equity, diversity, and inclusion).

2 ZERO HUNGER PUB UNIVERSITAIRE WORKS WITH LA TABLÉE DES CHEFS

With the COVID-19 pandemic raging, CADEUL joined the *La Tablee des chefs* “[solidarity kitchens](#)” initiative, which aimed to mobilize the food industry and Quebec chefs to produce more than 1.6 million meals for people in need. The result was 1,864 meals rustled up by members of Pub universitaire’s kitchen team to fight hunger in the greater Québec City area.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SYNERGIES IN SUSTAINABLE HEALTH

Driven more than ever by its desire to make health and well-being (SDG 3) central to its vision and action, the University has consolidated its flagship initiatives under the rubric of Sustainable Health. The following projects, rolled out jointly with partners in the Greater Québec City Area, exemplify the quest for synergies underlying this new approach area at Université Laval.

- A call for projects coordinated by Alliance santé Québec that activated 6 research projects in sustainable health
- The deployment of La Terrasse, a mobile ephemeral space for the promotion of healthy lifestyles on campus by Mon équilibre UL
- The launch of PULSAR, which led to the recruitment, in just a few months, of over 10,000 members and participants in sustainable health research projects

4 QUALITY EDUCATION 5 SUCCESSFUL YEARS FOR MOOCs

This winter, MOOCs (massive open online courses) started their [5th successful year](#). The new course on attention deficit disorders drew over 10,000 students in fall 2019, and over 14,000 in winter 2020. MOOCs are designed to make education more open, accessible, and affordable for everyone.

5 GENDER EQUALITY UL RESEARCH TEAM LOOKS AT WOMEN'S PLACE IN SPORTS

Guylaine Demers, a professor at Université Laval’s Department of Physical Education, was appointed co-director of the [National Gender Equity in Sport Research Hub](#). Dr. Demers is a world authority in women’s studies. She and her team will look at issues like girls’ and women’s participation in sports and the relative challenges of leadership positions in the world of sport.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION PROTECTING ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE GROUNDWATER

Université Laval professors Jean-Michel Lemieux and Christian Dupuis of the Geology and Geological Engineering Department, Faculty of Science and Engineering, are heading up [a study](#) to better document and assess Îles-de-la-Madeleine groundwater resources and ensure they're protected for the future. The project is being carried out jointly with Communauté maritime de l'archipel.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY HYBRID CARS FOR THE UNIVERSITY'S SECURITY AND PREVENTION DEPARTMENT (SSP)

The addition of [4 hybrids](#) to the SSP vehicle fleet will reduce CO₂ emissions by about 2 tonnes annually. Every detail helps reduce the University's GHG emissions and improve its overall carbon balance.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH UL AMONG CANADA'S BEST EMPLOYERS

Université Laval placed 26th on the Forbes Magazine list of Canada's [best employers](#), regardless of industry, and 1st in the Québec City area.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE MINI-BIOMETHANIZATION REACTORS ON CAMPUS

Céline Vaneeckhaute, a professor in the Faculty of Science and Engineering's Chemical Engineering Department, worked with the City of Québec to test processes that could be used for a future municipal biomethanization plant. In her laboratory, the only one of its kind in Canada, she can produce highly realistic simulations of the biomethanization process thanks to two 5-litre reactors. The goals include finding out how various materials behave during the biomethanization process and nailing down the composition of the biogas and digestate they produce.

10 REDUCING INEQUALITIES THE DIMENSIONS CHARTER

Université Laval has endorsed the [Dimensions Charter](#) on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) and is proud to be the sole Québec university participating in the Dimensions program pilot project. The project seeks to enhance diversity in the field of research and make it more inclusive for people belonging to underrepresented groups, such as women, Indigenous people, disabled people, visible minorities, racialized groups, and members of the LGBTQ2 community.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES AN URBAN INTELLIGENCE INITIATIVE FOR THE FUTURE

[Initiatives for the Future](#) are about getting students completing custom-built interdisciplinary masters to work on creative solutions to important societal issues. What's special about this type of master's degree is that it gives students the opportunity to work on real-world research and development projects built around a theme like smart cities and connected territories.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PARTNERSHIP WITH LE GRAND MARCHÉ

Université Laval's partnership with Québec City's Le Grand Marché through the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences, brings [science to the table](#) right at the market to help the public adopt healthy eating habits. Using technology showcases and presentations, the project informs the public and raises awareness about healthy living and responsible consumption.

13 CLIMATE ACTION THE UNIVERSITY'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY LETTER

Université Laval joined 10 Québec universities and hundreds of other universities around the world in signing the Climate Emergency Letter, an international declaration by the academic community calling attention to the ongoing climate emergency.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER NEW RESEARCH CHAIR ON COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS AND INDUSTRIAL AND MARITIME PORT ACTIVITIES

Université Laval, the Northern Institute for Research in Environment and Occupational Health and Safety, and the Port of Sept-Îles have launched [the new joint Research Chair on Coastal Ecosystems and Industrial and Maritime Port Activities](#), tasked with improving our knowledge of how coastal ecosystems function in industrial and port zones identifying practices to sustainably manage them.

15 LIFE ON LAND BIRDING AT HOME

The lockdown imposed to fight COVID-19 also gave Quebecers a chance to get to know some of [the birds that stop by or settle down right next door](#). From April 3 to May 15, people registered in the participatory science project could do just that, without even leaving home.

Québecoiseaux took advantage of the lockdown to encourage people to get to know, within the limitations of the lockdown, the birds that surround us—in all their abundance and diversity. Thanks to a grant from the Fonds de recherche du Québec and support from André Desrochers of the Department of Wood and Forest Sciences, 780 registered program participants submitted over 8,000 bird lists and spot a total of 180 species. The online database, to which birders around the world contribute, is used for research, conservation, and educational purposes.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS JUSTICE IN A SOCIETY TRANSFORMED BY THE PANDEMIC

Université Laval's Faculty of Law announced the foundation of a [think tank to look at the legal issues around pandemics \(OPMD, Observatoire sur les pandémies et les métamorphoses du droit\)](#). The measures governments are currently taking to fight the spread of the virus have upset several dimensions of the established legal order. Under the leadership of Louise Langevin, 15 members of the faculty are looking at how law and justice work in a social existence transformed by the pandemic.

17 PARTNERSHIPS A JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE HUMAN IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC

Ma vie et la pandémie au Québec ([MAVIPAN](#)) is a joint provincial research project involving some 100 of the University's researchers working at CIUSSS de la Capitale-Nationale's four main research centres. It seeks to document and understand the lived experience of, consequences for, and adaptations made by people, families, and communities as the pandemic evolves. The project, supported by Pulsar, looks at the collected data in search of possible actions to minimize the adverse effects of the pandemic and improve health and social services available to the public in the province.