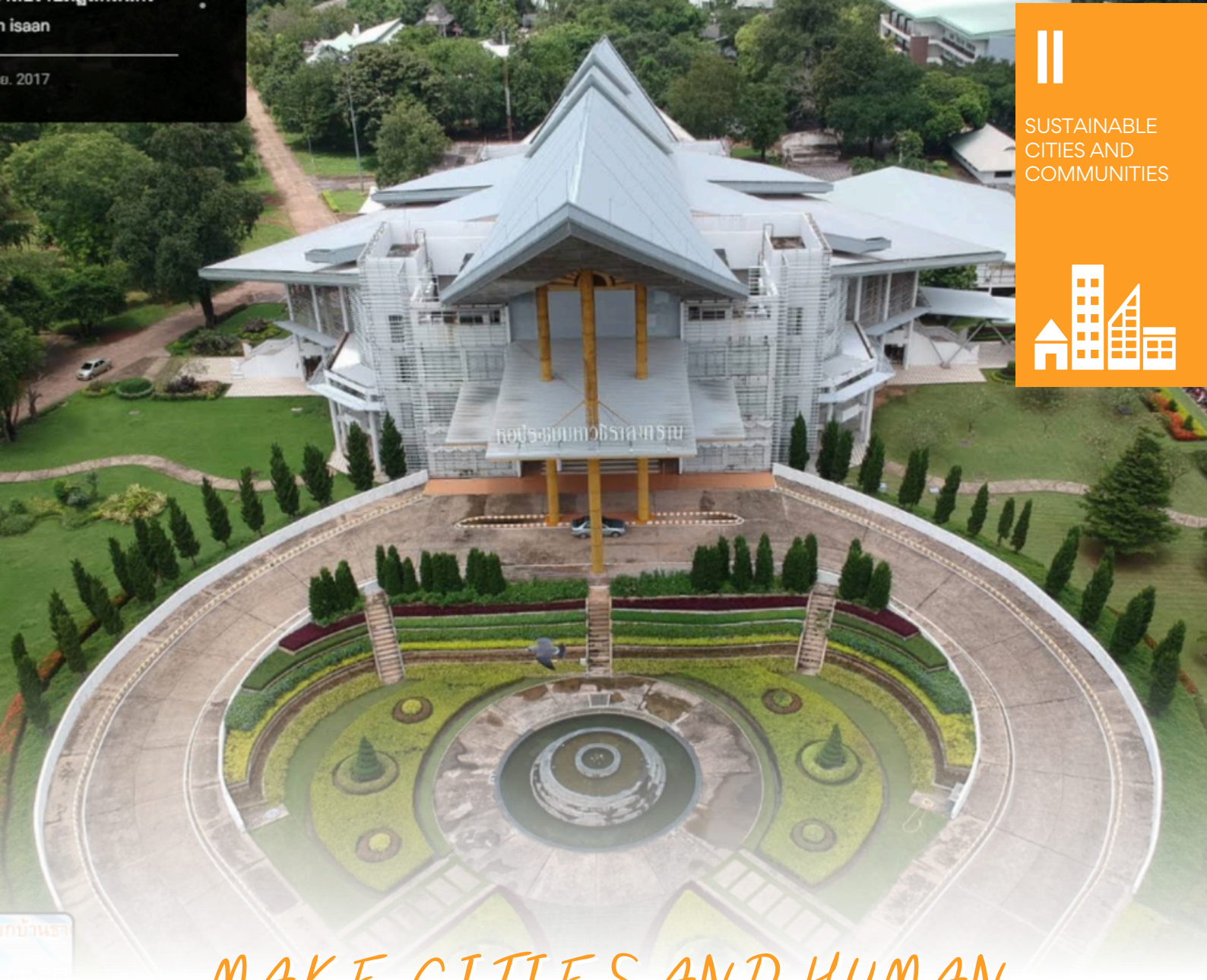

11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Sustainable Cities and Communities to make Sakon Nakhon City safe, with immunity and sustainability

Policy and Commitment to SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University, Fiscal Year 2025



Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) is a university for local development under the Rajabhat University Act B.E. 2547 (2004). Its first strategic priority is the Local Development Strategy, through which it helps make Sakon Nakhon and the surrounding area liveable, safe, resilient, and sustainable, in line with SDG 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities. In FY2025, SNRU ran 38 main projects under this strategy, broken down into 208 sub-projects funded from the state budget, university revenue, and external sources. They covered four development dimensions in 64 communities and villages:

- Economic: 32 projects in 37 areas
- Education: 34 projects in 22 areas
- Social: 9 projects in 4 areas
- Environmental: 1 project in 1 area

SNRU prioritizes protecting and building on the city's cultural and natural heritage, the foundation of its communities' sustainability. The Institute of Language, Arts and Culture runs the Sakon Nakhon City Museum, which displays important antiquities from the city and neighboring districts, including the revered Luang Pho Phra Saen Mueang Sakon Buddha image and a statue of Shiva. The museum is open to the public from Tuesday to Friday. The university also helps keep the city's major traditions alive. It co-hosted Sakon Nakhon's 2025 Wax Castle Festival on 2-6 October 2025, with local cultural performances, a parade of five contemporary wax castles telling cultural stories, and an "edible wax castle ice cream" activity that added economic value to the tradition. For natural heritage, SNRU's Center of Excellence on Nong Han looks after the large freshwater lake at the heart of the city. In March 2025, it published the Nong Han Sakon Nakhon Birdwatching Guide, covering about 90 migratory and resident species along with routes and birdwatching ethics, to promote responsible ecotourism. SNRU is also helping Sakon Nakhon become a "learning city" through the "Ja-Learn-Mueang" project led by Dr Thanawadee Lamom and team, which builds cross-sector partnerships to grow a creative economy from the city's historical and cultural assets. Working with the province, local governments, communities, and the private sector, SNRU aims to be a key force helping Sakon Nakhon grow in balance, keep its identity, and remain a good place to live for every generation.

Arts and heritage expenditure, FY2025

In FY2025, Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) allocated 3,980,000 baht under its strategy to integrate and enhance work on language, religion, arts, culture, and local wisdom. The Institute of Language, Arts, and Culture manages this budget through two main projects.

Arts and Culture Preservation for Community Value project: 980,000 baht

- Developed 5 prototypes for arts and culture preservation
- Produced 28 bodies of knowledge on Thai arts and culture

Community Soft Power Enhancement Based on Local Cultural Identity Project: 3,000,000 baht

- Supported 2 communities, including a SWOT analysis for Ban Na Khi Nak, Kok Pla Sio Subdistrict, Phu Phan District
- Staged 2 living exhibitions and the "Sakon Nakhon Textiles" fashion show
- Produced 3 bilingual community identity media and trained villagers in hand-spun, naturally dyed cotton production

Key Activities & Projects :

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Public access to buildings, monuments or natural heritage landscapes with cultural significance: Paid access

The Sakon Nakhon Museum is run by the Institute of Language, Art and Culture, Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University. It occupies Building 1, a two-story, applied Thai-style building constructed in 1963 that has historical and architectural value in its own right. The

The museum displays important artifacts from Sakon Nakhon Province, including revered Buddha images, a Shiva linga, boundary stones (sema), Ban Chiang pottery and bronzes, and cabinets of scriptures. Sections trace the region's story from prehistory through the Dvaravati, Lopburi, and Lan Xang periods to the cultures of six ethnic groups in Sakon Nakhon.

The museum is open to the public Tuesday to Friday, 09.00-16.00. Admission is 10 baht for Thai visitors and 20 baht for foreign visitors. The museum also provides academic services:

- guided lectures for students, monks, novices, tourists, and the general public
- special exhibitions for festivals
- training on the conservation of archaeological sites and artifacts
- a bilingual museum guidebook that shares local history and archaeology with visitors

Public access to libraries

The Office of Academic Resources and Information Technology at Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) runs the library in the Bannarajanagarindra Building, open Monday to Saturday, 08.30-16.30. The library is open to students, staff, and the general public free of charge. Members of the public can use the online catalog (Web OPAC) straight away, without registering. They can also book seminar and meeting rooms through the online system at reserve.snru.ac.th after creating a free account. The library has an air-conditioned co-working space with computers, Wi-Fi, and wired LAN for study, work, and group meetings. The fourth floor has seven individual study rooms and two group study rooms for students, lecturers, and staff. Digital resources include e-books, the E-Thesis database, and the E-Journal SNRU platform. Together, these make the library an open learning resource for communities in Sakon Nakhon and neighboring areas.









Key Activities & Projects : Sustainable practices



SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Sustainable commuting programs and targets

Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) recognizes travel as a significant source of the university's greenhouse gas emissions. Its approach to reducing private car use on campus covers four areas:

- **connected pedestrian pathways across campus**

Accessible Routes and Building Entrance Ramps for Persons with Disabilities. Total covered walkway distance: 3,243.5 m (or 9,046.35 sq.m.)



- **electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure**

Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University actively provides and maintains various types of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) as part of its central fleet to support eco-friendly transportation on campus.

According to the university's asset records, the following zero-emission electric vehicles are provided for campus operations and community transit:

- Electric Trams (SNRU E-BUS): A 22-seat electric tram fleet used to transport students and personnel along designated routes across campus.
- Electric Golf Carts: Includes multiple electric golf units (such as 5-seat and 3-seat configurations) explicitly marked for short-distance internal campus transit.
- Electric Tricycles & Electric Bicycles: The university manages smaller electric mobility options, including an electric tricycle for utility purposes and "UDA"-branded electric bicycles for energy-saving, eco-friendly travel.

Because these vehicles are part of the university's central service infrastructure managed by institutional funds, they are provided to the campus community free of charge to promote environmental sustainability.

- **Shuttle services**

Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) runs a university tram service as its internal transport system, helping staff, students, and Demonstration School pupils move easily between key points on campus. The tram runs a loop that starts at the Integrated Learning Building and passes the university swimming pool, the Central Library, and the student dormitories before returning to the Integrated Learning Building. The route links teaching, residential, and sports areas. Service runs Monday to Friday, except on government and public holidays, and the daily timetable is adjusted to demand. Rides are free of charge, provided as a central university welfare service. The trams belong to the university's central fleet, which it owns and operates. The fleet has 22 vehicles, used for both official duties and internal transport. Of these, the university designates 2 trams, 2 golf carts, and 1 electric bicycle for environmentally friendly short trips around campus. The service reduces the use of private cars and motorcycles on campus, eases traffic and parking demand, and supports sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11).





Key Activities & Projects :

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

1. Public use of university buildings and venues

Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) makes its buildings and venues available to both internal units and external users, including government agencies, private organizations, schools, community groups, and members of the public. Available facilities include auditoriums, meeting rooms, classrooms, sports grounds and the sports center, multipurpose buildings, and outdoor event spaces. They host meetings, seminars, training, examinations, sports competitions, cultural and traditional festivals, and community activities. Bookings follow the university's regulations and published service rates, and both internal and external users can apply through the unit responsible for each venue. Sports grounds and outdoor exercise areas are open to the public every day. Opening its facilities in this way makes the university a public space for the city of Sakon Nakhon and puts its resources to good use for the wider community.



Key Activities & Projects :





Affordable housing for employees: Provides housing and financial assistance

Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) treats housing as a key benefit that supports staff well-being and job security. It provides on-campus housing under the "Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University Regulation on Criteria and Procedures for Allocating University Housing to Staff, B.E. 2567 (2024)," which sets fair and transparent allocation criteria. In FY2025, the university offered 378 staff housing units of several types to meet different needs. The 98 staff houses had 91 occupants, and the 24-unit Ratchaphruek Family Apartments had 23. The Chamchuri Men's Residence and the Fueang Fa Women's Residence each have 24 rooms, with 18 occupants each. The Kan Kraw Staff Residence has 72 men's rooms, 72 women's rooms, and 64 family rooms, with 27, 52, and 61 occupants, respectively. Rent is set below market rates: 500 baht a month for a staff house, 1,300 baht for a single room, and 2,600 baht for a family room, excluding water and electricity. Newly appointed staff, staff relocating from other provinces, and staff with families can therefore live safely near their workplace at an affordable cost. This lowers their living costs, cuts commuting time, and reduces private car use for the journey to work. Beyond on-campus housing, the university helps staff who want to own a home. Together with the Government Savings Bank, it runs the "SNRU Staff Welfare Housing Loan Program," under which the university keeps deposits with the bank so that staff can borrow on special terms to buy, build, or renovate a home. Civil servants, permanent employees, government employees, and university employees are all eligible. The Finance Office also regularly promotes housing loans from the Government Housing Bank and the Government Savings Bank to staff.









Key Activities & Projects :



Affordable housing for students

Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) runs three on-campus student dormitories, Kan Kraw, Ratchaphruek, and Erawan, so that students have safe, affordable housing close to their classes. The Dormitory Unit of the Student Development Division manages them under the Regulation on Student Dormitory Management, B.E. 2553 (2010). All three charge per-term fees and offer several room types to suit different budgets, from fan-cooled triple rooms to air-conditioned single rooms. **Kan Kraw Dormitory** has both air-conditioned and fan-cooled rooms. Air-conditioned single, double, and triple rooms cost 13,500, 6,750, and 4,500 baht per person per term. Fan-cooled single, double, and triple rooms cost 10,500, 5,250, and 3,500 baht per person per term. Water and electricity are charged at metered cost, and rooms have water heaters. **Ratchaphruek Dormitory** houses both male and female students in fan-cooled rooms. Single, double, and triple rooms cost 9,000, 4,500, and 3,000 baht per person per term. Water is a flat 200 baht per person per term, and electricity is charged at 4 baht per unit. **Erawan Dormitory** is a men's residence with two students per room. Rooms cost 3,000 baht per person per term, plus a flat 1,000 baht per person per term for water and electricity. All dormitories take a 1,000-baht damage deposit on entry, refunded when the student moves out. Rooms at Kan Kraw and Ratchaphruek come with a wardrobe, a study desk and chair, and a bed with a 3.5-foot mattress. The cheapest rooms cost 3,000 baht per term, about 600 baht a month. Students from low-income families can therefore live in good-quality housing on campus, save on travel, and have more time for study and activities.



Key Activities & Projects : Working with local government on urban planning and development

Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) works continuously with Sakon Nakhon Province, Sakon Nakhon City Municipality, and local partners to shape sustainable development for the city and its communities. Three initiatives stood out in 2025.



First, SNRU and the SDG Move research center at Thammasat University's Faculty of Economics co-hosted the "Area Need 3" consultation on 26 February 2025 at Phu Phan Place, SNRU. Supported by the Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI), it presented the provincial SDG Index for the Northeast. The university's president opened the event, and the vice president for planning and strategy presented SNRU's role in advancing sustainable development. Participants from many sectors identified the region's most pressing issues: education, youth drug use, and farmers' production costs. Their input feeds into future science, research, and innovation policy and budget allocation.

Second, SNRU worked with Sakon Nakhon Province and Sakon Nakhon City Municipality to stage the 2025 Wax Castle Festival and Royal Cup Long Boat Race, held from 1 to 7 October 2025. The university's president joined the governor of Sakon Nakhon at the press conference at the municipality's multipurpose hall on 10 September 2025. From 2 to 6 October 2025, SNRU ran activities at the King Rama V Monument plaza, including cultural performances, a light-and-sound stage, and a parade of five contemporary wax castles. The festival brought new life to public space in the city center, promoted cultural tourism, and spread income to local communities.



Key Activities & Projects : Working with local government on urban planning and development

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Third, SNRU ran the "Sakon Junction: Ja-Learn-Mueang" project with Sakon Nakhon Province and partners across all sectors. It builds collaboration to turn Sakon Nakhon into a learning city, grounded in its historical and cultural heritage and supported by a creative economy. Dr. Thanawadee Lamom and her team at the Research and Development Institute led the project with the Civil Engineering and Architecture program of the Faculty of Industrial Technology. They developed a knowledge base, learning activities, and designs for learning spaces about the city's history and culture, open to people of all ages, in the old town around Wat Phra That Choeng Chum Worawihan, Phu Kham Road, Khum Klang Thongchai, and Lan Khon Mueang. The project helps set the direction for developing Sakon Nakhon's old town as a public learning space.

SNRU also has a memorandum of understanding on academic cooperation with Sakon Nakhon City Municipality, signed on 2 June 2023, covering research and academic services to improve residents' quality of life. It provides a long-term framework for cooperation between the university and local government.



Key Activities & Projects : Sustainable standards for new builds and renovations

Building	Area (m^2)	Automation	Safety	Energy	Water	Indoor environment	Lighting	Total	Percent (%)
1. Faculty of Industrial Technology Building	12,750		12.65	7.70				20.35	0.16
2. Fine and Applied Arts and Music Building	1,600			7				7	0.44
3. Buildings and Grounds and Vehicle Services Building	3,308			6.40			50.40	56.80	1.72
4. Ratchaphruek Sports Complex Building	5,700			13.75				13.75	0.24
5. Indoor Sports Center Building	6,000			16.50				16.50	0.28
6. Central Academic Building	19,350			21				21	0.11
7. Faculty of Education Building (Building 22)	720		670					670	93.06
8. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Building (Building 24)	945		915					915	96.83
9. Management Information Center Building	435		435					435	100
10. Faculty of Nursing Building	968		600					600	61.98
11. Office of the President Building (Building 10)	9,495		30					30	0.32
12. Environmental Science Building	998.80	665.87						665.87	66.67
13. Information Technology Center Building	720	19.20	640					659.20	91.56
14. Multi-Purpose Building (Building 20)	18,030.16		14,424.13	7.70				14,431.83	80.04
15. Bannaratchanakarin Building	3,791.95		29.25					29.25	0.77
16. Multi-Purpose Laboratory Building (Building 13)	10,405	36						36	0.35
Total	95,216.91	721.07	17,756.03	80.05			50.40	18,607.54	19.54

Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) requires every new building and renovation project to meet energy-efficiency and sustainability standards under its "Policy on Energy Efficiency Standards in Renovations and New Constructions (2023-2026)". This works alongside the university's "Policy for Energy Conservation and Environment," announced on 25 July 2024. Because SNRU operates controlled buildings under the Royal Decree on Controlled Buildings B.E. 2538 (1995), it must comply with the Energy Conservation Promotion Act (No. 2) B.E. 2550 (2007) and run an energy and environmental management system. The system includes an oversight committee and annual energy-saving plans and targets, and its measures are built into the work of every unit. The university evaluates and monitors green building elements across 25 core buildings. All 25 use LED lighting throughout. Buildings 2, 13, 14, and 16 are designed for natural ventilation and passive cooling, 46% of the buildings assessed. Rooftop solar PV is installed on Buildings 14, 17, 18, 19, and 20, 13% of the total. SNRU also uses smart building systems, including safety and security, automation, energy management, and smart lighting, covering 18,687.54 m^2 (19.63% of the total building area of 95,216.91 m^2). Together these elements cut energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and create healthier indoor environments for building users.





