



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2025



RIGA TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY





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The Report presents stories about the actions of RTU staff and students in 2024 that support the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Arrow next to the activity title – clickable link to additional information.



Abbreviations of RTU structural units

ADI – Institute of Architecture and Design
 BMF – Faculty of Civil and Mechanical Engineering
 DITEF – Faculty of Computer Science, Information Technology and Energy
 DTF – Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology
 IEVF – Faculty of Engineering Economics and Management
 KVRPD – Department of Quality and Risk Management

LJA – Latvian Maritime Academy
 RBS – Riga Business School
 ZIC – Science and Innovation Centre
 RTU Liepāja – RTU Liepāja Academy
 RTU Rēzekne – RTU Rēzekne Academy



GENERAL INFORMATION



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1. About the Report

Riga Technical University (RTU) is the only multi-sectoral technical university in Latvia. The RTU Sustainability Report provides information on the university's performance in material sustainability areas¹ and the activities of the RTU community in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The basis for preparing the Report is Sections 2.6 and 4.2 of the RTU [Sustainable Development Policy](#), which was approved by the RTU Council in 2025. The scope of the Report is all RTU structural units, agencies, and companies in which RTU owns more than 50 % of capital shares.² The period covered by this Report is the calendar year 2024, except where data from 2025 is used for the purpose of providing up-to-date information, and this is stated.

¹ Section 11.1. "About the double materiality assessment"

² Annex 1. "RTU consolidation scope and governance structure"

2. General indicators in 2024

Number of students

13,760

Number of employees

2370

Internal area of buildings (m²)

361,626 m²

More information is available in the [Annual Report](#) and [Financial statements](#).

3. Material sustainability topics



Climate change

RTU supports the transition to climate neutrality and is committed to achieving it in its operations by 2050

Circular economy

RTU advocates responsible consumption and a future without waste.



Contribution of research and knowledge transfer to sustainable development

RTU develops solutions to the challenges of a changing planet and society.



Staff and students

The RTU community's well-being, engagement and equal opportunities are prerequisites for sustainable development.



Sustainability literacy and employment

RTU prepares specialists for the green economy and members of a sustainable society.



Governance

RTU operates in accordance with the principles of ethics and good corporate governance.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Photo:
Rector Tālis Juhna
at the tree planting campaign
in Ķīpsala.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



UNCOVERING WATER POLLUTION

DITEF Institute of Information Technology improved an algorithm for water quality detection to more accurately detect anomalies related to pollution.

4. Climate change

4.1. Policies and related documents

RTU supports limiting global warming in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the European Union’s climate neutrality target. Since 2021, RTU has been a participant in the UN’s Race to Zero campaign. The [Sustainable Development Policy](#) sets RTU’s target to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, with an interim target of reducing Scope 1, Scope 2 and certain categories of Scope 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 55 % by 2030.

In 2025, the RTU Climate Neutrality Plan will be updated and published with actions to ensure the target is met, specifying the results to be achieved, the expected impact on GHG emissions, the resources required, responsible parties and due dates.

4.1.1. Overview of documents

Document	Sustainable Development Policy	Climate Neutrality Plan
Last updated	2025	2023
Scope	Consolidation scope according to the operational control approach	
Approved by	RTU Council	Director of Administration
Applied methods, standards, recommendations	See Report Section 11.1. "About the double materiality assessment"	Race to Zero and Greenhouse Gas Protocol
Access	Publicly on the RTU website	

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



PROMOTING GREEN HYDROGEN ACCESSIBILITY

DTF scientists created an innovative three-electrode system for separate water electrolysis in an acidic environment, which would reduce the cost of hydrogen production by 40 % compared to other systems.

4.2. Actions

Since 2021, actions implemented to improve energy efficiency and control GHG emissions included workspace optimisation, insulation, replacing gas cookers with induction or electric ones, automating ventilation, supporting green mobility by installing electric car chargers and bicycle stands, and developing a solution for lower emission heating of the Ķīpsala campus from 2026.

4.3. Targets

RTU’s target to reduce GHG emissions by 55 % by 2030 applies to Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scopes 1 and 2, and Scope 3 categories 5, 6 and 13. The base year is 2022.

In accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol methodology, baseline values are updated in the event of significant changes in the consolidation scope and assumptions. Baseline values have so far been changed once in the calculation for 2024, taking into account the consolidation with RTU Liepāja and refining the calculation of electricity consumption.

4.3.1. Baseline values or RTU GHG emissions in 2022, tCO₂e

Scope	1	2*	3	Total
Initially calculated value	3255	1067	18,179	22,501
Changes in calculation for 2024	3255	886	18,179	22,320
Current value	3255	886	18,179	22,320

*Location method



REDUCING POLLUTION FROM BIOENERGY

DITEF Institute of Photonics, Electronics and Electronic Communications developed a prototype for burning fuel without residues and eliminating the formation of harmful gases in the combustion process.

4.4. Data. Energy consumption, MWh

Year	2022	2023	2024
Fossil fuel consumption for heating	15,971	8748	10,316
Electricity consumption	6103	4521	4679
– Electricity generated from solar panels on site	0	0	0.07
Heat consumption	8901	7189	7518
Total consumption (rows 2, 3, and 4)	30,975	20,458	22,513

Latvian Council of Science project "Bridge to Carbon Neutrality in Energy Communities: Social and Human Sciences Meet Energy Research (project No. lzp-2020/1-0256)



INVOLVING RESIDENTS IN THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF BUILDINGS

DTF Institute of Energy Systems and Environment developed a free game and simulation tool to promote understanding of energy communities and overcome the carbon neutrality gap in the buildings sector.



FOUNDING THE LIEPĀJA SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY HUB

RTU and partners signed a statement on creating the Liepāja Sustainable Industry Hub, which brings together several private investment projects based on green energy, smart manufacturing and innovation.

4.5. Data. GHG emissions

The GHG emission calculation methodology is available in the [RTU Climate Neutrality Report 2024](#), dated April 2025.

		Retrospectively				Target	
		2022, tCO ₂ e	2023, tCO ₂ e	2024, tCO ₂ e	Change 2022–2024, %	2030, %	2030, tCO ₂ e
1	Scope 1	3255	1920	2090	-35.8 %	-55 %	1465
1.1	Stationary sources	3226	1864	2086	-35.3 %	–	–
1.2	Mobile sources	29	55	4	-86.3 %	–	–
2	Scope 2*	886	696	723	-18.5 %	-55 %	399
2.1	Electricity	294	204	211	-28.1 %	–	–
2.2	Heating	593	492	512	-13.7 %	–	–
3	Scope 3	18,179	15,920	14,719	-19 %	–	–
3.1	Purchased goods and services	1471	3579	3357	+128.2 %	–	–
3.2	Capital goods	8851	3554	1968	-77.8 %	–	–
3.5	Waste generated in operations	162	233	221	+37.0 %	-55 %	73
3.6	Business travel	793	800	1237	+56.0 %	-55 %	357
3.7	Employee and student commuting between RTU and home	6567	7306	7467	+13.7 %	–	–
3.13	Downstream leased assets (tenant energy consumption)	336	418	420	+25.2 %	-55 %	151
3.15	Investments	No data	30	48	+61.0 %**	–	–
4	Total (all scopes)*	22,320	18,535	17,532	-21.5 %	–	–

*Location method

**2023 data taken as a baseline value due to missing data for 2022

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



PROMOTING COLLABORATION BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND BUSINESSES

In collaboration with the Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LDDK), RTU piloted a "Knowledge Transfer Barometer" to promote research and innovation in business.

4.5.1. GHG emission intensity

Year	2022	2023	2024
Income*, tCO ₂ e/1000 EUR	0.26	0.17	0.15
Expenditure*, tCO ₂ e/1000 EUR	0.26	0.18	0.16
Internal area of buidings, tCO ₂ e/m ²	0.07	0.06	0.05
Number of students and staff, tCO ₂ e/capita	1.45	1.21	1.09

*Cash flow statements

European Commission Recovery and Resilience Facility funded project No. 5.2.1.1.i.0/1/23/l/CFLA/001, "Strengthening knowledge and research capacity in the areas of preventing money laundering, financial technology and sector analysis"

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



SHARING SOLUTIONS TO PRESERVE HISTORIC BUILDINGS

BMF organised a free seminar on an innovative technology used at Rundāle Palace and other historic buildings to reduce wall moisture without mechanical intervention, chemical injections or electrical connection.



REIMAGINING DEGRADED TERRITORIES

ADI Bachelor of Architecture students developed proposals for the development of a "Rīgas meži" Ltd territory in Mangaļsala to preserve nature and improve accessibility.



CREATING A VISION FOR THE MORTGAGE MARKET

RBS Baltic Finance Centre scientists conducted a study on the Latvian housing loan market and offered a vision for its development to make it more open, dynamic, diverse and borrower-friendly.

European Commission Recovery and Resilience Facility funded project No. 5.2.1.1.i.0/1/23/I/CFLA/001, "Strengthening knowledge and research capacity in the areas of preventing money laundering, financial technology and sector analysis"

5. Circular economy

5.1. Policies and related documents

According to the [Sustainable Development Policy](#), RTU stands for responsible consumption and a future without waste and carries out monitoring activities to optimise its material flows. In 2026, RTU's Circularity Plan will be published, specifying targets and activities in this area.

In 2020, internal regulations No. 01000-6-e/9, "Procedure for the organisation of the reuse and sale of used capital goods and inventory at no cost", were published. In 2023, Order No. 0A000-2-e/3, "On the availability of drinking water at RTU", was published, requiring the use of drinking water fountains or taps for drinking water at the university and not to serve it in plastic bottles at university events.

5.1.1. Overview of documents

Document	Sustainable Development Policy	Circularity Plan (to be approved and published in 2026)	Order on drinking water	Internal regulations on the reuse of capital goods and inventory
Last updated	2025	–	2023	2020
Scope	Consolidation scope according to the operational control approach		RTU structural units	
Approved by	RTU Council	–	Director of Administration	Rector
Applied methods, standards, recommendations	See Report Section 11.1. "About the double materiality assessment"	–	–	–
Access	Publicly on the RTU website	–	Staff only, RTU intranet	



TURNING WASTE INTO RESOURCES FOR CONSTRUCTION

BMF scientists developed new thermal insulation materials from recycled materials. A second life was given to construction gypsum board waste and wood material production waste, and by-products.

Latvian Council of Science Project LZP-2020/1-0010 and M.era. Net project "Composite materials containing wood waste for the manufacture of high-performance panels for nearly zero-energy buildings"

5.2. Actions

To promote responsible consumption and waste reduction, RTU maintains a platform for the exchange of used goods within the university, free drinking water fountains and a waste sorting system.

Employees can **donate and claim used goods** in the RTU intranet section "For Employees" subsection "Used Capital Goods". Computers, furniture, and other assets are available for use free of charge or for a nominal fee.

At the beginning of 2025, **55 drinking water fountains** were maintained, of which 54 were located in university buildings in Riga and one in RTU Liepāja. The RTU Water Systems and Biotechnology Institute has been participating for many years in the public initiative "*Ū vitamīns*" to promote the consumption and accessibility of tap water in Latvia.

Containers for sorting plastic, paper and municipal waste are available inside all Ķīpsala campus buildings. Outdoor areas are equipped with containers for the separate collection of glass, paper, plastic, metal, municipal waste, and textiles. The dormitory on Olaines iela 4 in Riga is equipped with a container for sorting organic waste. Students and staff are encouraged to use battery recycling containers placed in all dormitories: Ķīpsalas iela 6 and 6a, P. Valdena iela 3, Āzenes iela 12-k1 and Kalnciema iela 6. RTU implements responsible collection and disposal practices for these and other hazardous waste generated at the university.

5.3. Targets

RTU's targets in the area of circular economy will be set out in the Circularity Plan to be published in 2026.



CREATING IDEAS FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Participants of the annual "Climathon" developed creative ideas for the use of fallen tree leaves and shredded banknotes.

EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community "EIT Climate-KIC" and "EIT Urban Mobility" in collaboration with Latvijas Banka, Riga City Municipality, Riga Energy Agency, Swedbank and "Rīgas meži"



EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community "EIT Climate-KIC" and "EIT Urban Mobility" in collaboration with Latvijas Banka, Riga City Municipality, Riga Energy Agency, Swedbank and "Rigas meži"

CREATING IDEAS FOR GREENER MOBILITY

Participants of "Climathon" developed ideas such as a vehicle noise radar, an app for easier electric car charging and a method to convert any bicycle into an electric one.

5.4. Data. Material flows

The share of green procurement at RTU in 2024 was 17.5 %.

Data on the physical composition and overall life cycle of incoming material flows have not been systematically collected to date. Future data collection will be determined by the Circularity Plan to be published in 2026.

5.4.1. Outgoing material flows

Type	Unit	Amount
Wastewater	m ³	123,409
Unsorted municipal waste	m ³	5092
Mixed sorted waste	m ³	909
Glass	m ³	11
Textiles	m ³	68
Biological waste	m ³	204
Large-size waste	m ³	374
Hazardous waste	kg	4185
– Electrical and electronic equipment	kg	3350



HELPING POLICY MAKERS ACHIEVE CLIMATE NEUTRALITY

RTU and partners are developing a modelling tool to help policy makers make data-driven decisions about more effective climate policies.

National Research Program "Decision Support System for Achieving Climate Neutrality Targets" project "Climate Neutrality Decision Models in Action"

13 CLIMATE ACTION



INVOLVING SCHOOLS AND PUPILS IN CLIMATE ACTION

RTU and partners organised "Climate Days in Schools", in which 26 Riga schools participated. Pupils improved transversal skills, and schools achieved energy savings. The competition concluded with the first Climate Festival for Pupils at RTU.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



SOLVING THE GHOST NET PROBLEM

"Neste Coopetition" participants created ideas for finding, retrieving and recycling abandoned fishing nets in the sea. This was Latvia's first coopetition, a new type of hackathon where teams not only have to compete but also collaborate.



CREATING TECHNOLOGIES FOR MARINE CONSERVATION

DITEF have created and are constantly upgrading the autonomous underwater vehicle "Ronis 2" with a wide range of applications, including monitoring of aquatic biotopes and combating pollution in the Baltic Sea.

15 LIFE ON LAND



PROTECTING BEE HIVES

ZIC developed a sensor system for remote monitoring of bee colonies, which warns the beekeeper of impending threats, allowing for reduced resource consumption and increased bee colony survival and productivity.

LIAA program "PROTOTECH"



SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY ON CAMPUS

RTU and Kipsala Swimming Pool allocated land for the creation of an urban meadow in cooperation with the Latvian Fund for Nature. Urban meadows introduce and support native wild plants, helping pollinators and improving environmental quality and urban landscapes.

Latvian Fund for Nature project "urbanLIFEcircles"



SOCIAL IMPACT



Photo:
Innovative product created by pupils
at the RTU Climate Festival
for Pupils.



6. Staff and students

6.1. Policies and related documents

The RTU community’s well-being, engagement and equal opportunities are prerequisites for the university’s sustainable development. General principles in this area are set out in the [Code of Ethics](#), [Internal Code of Student Conduct](#), [Personnel Policy](#), [Personnel Remuneration Policy](#) and the Collective Agreement with

the RTU Trade Union and LIZDA Liepāja University Trade Union. The Internationalisation Policy sets a priority to create an inclusive working environment for local and international students and staff. Principles of diversity, equality and inclusion are elaborated in the [Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Policy](#) and the [Gender Equality Plan](#).

6.1.1. Overview of documents

Document	Last updated	Scope	Approved by	Access
Sustainable Development Policy	2025	RTU structural units	RTU Council	Publicly on the RTU website
Code of Ethics	2025		RTU Senate	
Internationalisation Policy	2024		RTU Council	Staff only, RTU intranet
Personnel Remuneration Policy	2024		RTU Council	Publicly on the RTU website
Personnel Policy	2023		RTU Council	
Collective Agreement	2022		RTU staff, Rector and the Trade Union	Staff only, RTU intranet
Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Policy	2021		RTU Council	Publicly on the RTU website
Gender Equality Plan	2021		RTU Senate	
Rules of Procedure	2019		RTU Senate	
Personal Data Protection Policy	2018		RTU Council	
Internal Code of Student Conduct	2007		RTU Senate	

6.2. Actions

Issues related to engagement, well-being and equal opportunities are constantly addressed by the [Human Resources Department](#), the [Ethics Commission](#), the [Well-being and Career Support Centre](#) and the [Student Parliament and Councils](#). Various activities are organised by the [Culture Centre](#) and the [Sports Centre](#) to support health, inclusion and work-life balance.

6.3. Targets

Targets for promoting the well-being, diversity, equality and inclusion of the RTU community will be set out in a strategy to be approved in 2026. RTU plans to improve the conditions for staff and students, which are reflected in the indicators in [Section 6.5](#).

6.4. Data. Staff and student diversity

6.4.1. Academic staff gender balance and average age ^A

Position	Count	Women, %	Avg. age, women	Avg. age, men	Avg. age, total
Assistant	20	50 %	36	40	38
Docent	274	45 %	48	50	49
Lecturer	145	45 %	47	39	43
Researcher	160	41 %	44	39	41
Senior Researcher	115	36 %	47	50	49
Associate Professor	123	46 %	50	49	49
Professor	115	37 %	57	62	60
Tenure Professor	8	25 %	53	43	45
Total academic and scientific positions	960	42 %	48	48	48

^A Staff and student data as of 1 October 2024

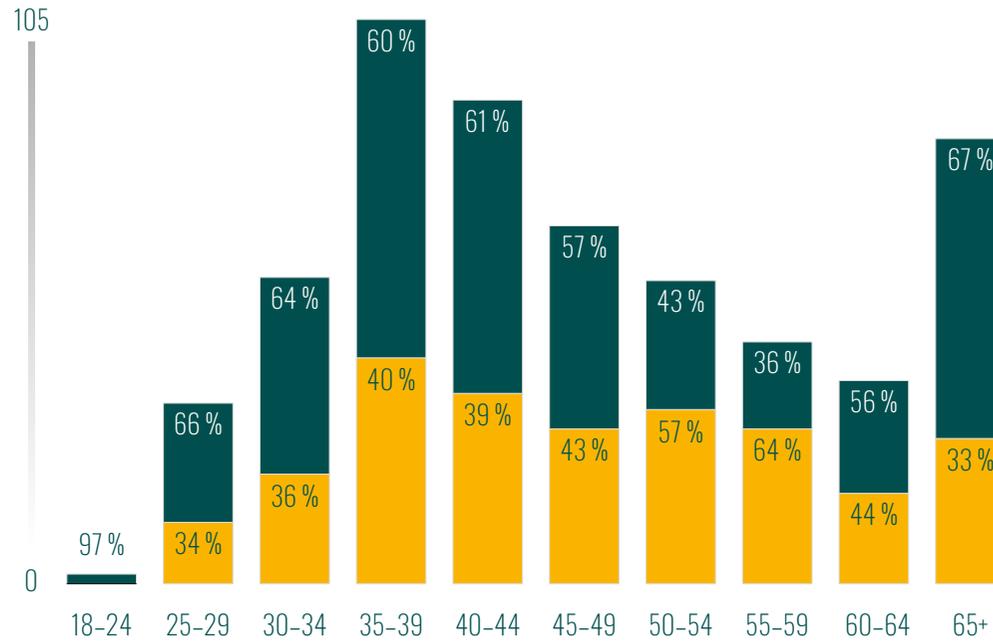
2 ZERO HUNGER



GROWING FOOD USING LED

Given the shortcomings of greenhouse HPS sodium lamps, DITEF scientists developed an LED luminaire that lasts longer, loses less energy, and is adjustable to the needs of each crop.

6.4.2. Academic staff age groups^A



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Road Traffic Safety Directorate (CSDD) in collaboration with "Creative Tuesdays", Central Statistical Bureau and RTU

CREATING IDEAS FOR REDUCING TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS



The winners of the first "24h Road Safety Hackathon" proposed how to use drones to reduce the number of fatal traffic accidents and improve road safety.

^A Staff and student data as of 1 October 2024

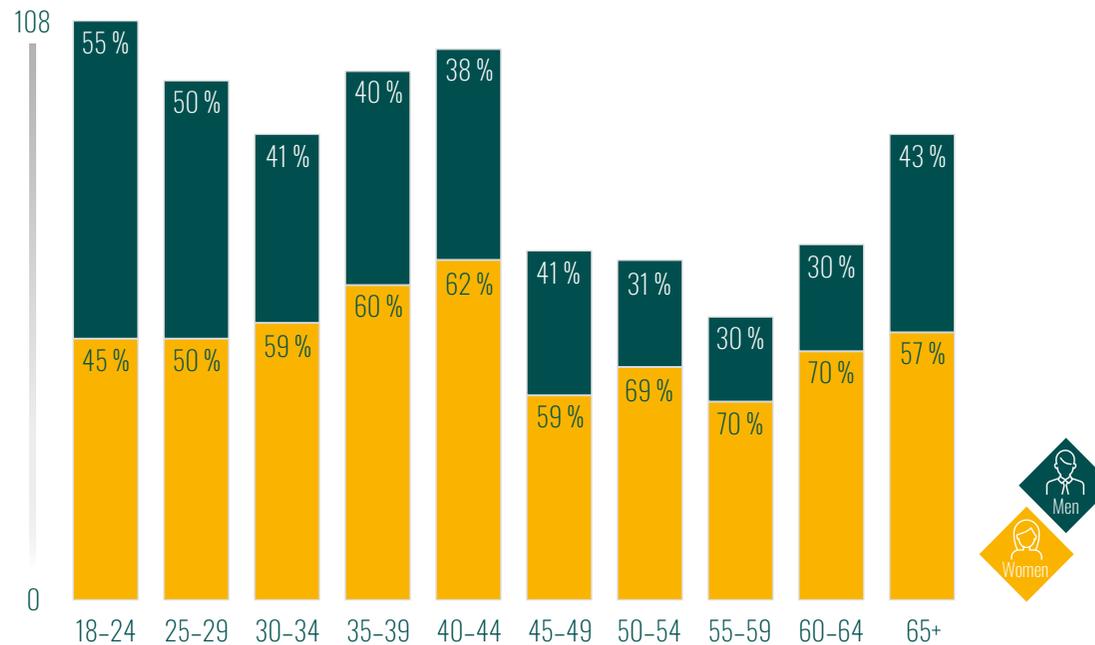
6.4.3. Administrative staff gender balance and average age ^A

Position	Count	Women, %	Avg. age, women	Avg. age, men	Avg. age, total
Senior Management*	10	30 %	45	47	47
Middle Management**	16	44 %	48	48	48
Other administrative staff	1384	59 %	44	41	43
Total	1410	59 %	44	41	43

*Rector, Vice-Rectors, Director of Administration, and Deans

**Heads of Departments, Director of the Scientific Library, Directors of independent institutes and faculty institutes

6.4.4. Administrative staff age groups ^A



^A Staff and student data as of 1 October 2024

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

COLLABORATING TO FIGHT SKIN CANCER

A start-up launched a portable skin cancer diagnostic device based on technology developed by scientists from LU and RTU.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



ACCELERATING DRUG TESTING

ZIC helped develop and validate an "organ-on-a-chip" technology to test new drugs faster and more efficiently.

6.4.5. Foreign nationals (01.10.2023–01.10.2024) ^A

	Foreign nationals, %
Academic staff	4.0 %
Administrative staff	5.0 %
Total staff	4.6 %
Total students	29.3 %

6.4.6. Staff and students with children ^{A, B}

Family status	Staff, % ^A	Students, % ^B
1 or 2 children	29 %	6.8 %
3 or more children	4 %	
1 or more pre-school children	14 %	No data
Returned from parental leave in 2024	2 %	

6.4.7. Student diversity

RTU student gender: 37 % female, 63 % male (01.10.2024).^A

In the 2024 student needs survey by the Well-being and Career Support Centre (*n* = 703), **1 %** of respondents stated that they identify with another gender. **9.4 %** identified with a minority group (e.g. national, language or sexual). **22 %** experienced difficulties in the learning process related to special needs. **1.9 %** had a disability or were in the process of acquiring it.^B

^A Staff and student data as of 1 October 2024

^B Well-being and Career Support Centre student needs survey (2024), *n* = 703

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



European Social Fund project No. 8.3.6.2/17/1/001 "Development and implementation of a quality education monitoring system"

TACKLING SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS

RTU developed a modelling tool to help policy makers forecast and balance teacher supply and demand in Latvia.



SUPPORTING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

ZIC organised a six-month program "Empowering Women in Agrifood" where ten women entrepreneurs developed sustainable and innovative food product and technology business ideas.

6.5. Data. Conditions for staff and students

RTU regularly collects feedback in satisfaction surveys for staff ($n_{2024} = 404$) and students ($n_{2024} = 962$). A separate survey is conducted every year about the enrollment and beginning of studies experience of international students ($n_{2024} = 103$). In 2024, the Well-being and Career Support Centre conducted an additional survey on ethics for all students ($n = 1415$) and staff ($n = 301$).

6.5.1. Secure employment ^A

	Staff, %
Employment contract for an indefinite period or for more than 24 months	73.7 %
The fixed remuneration for one full-time position corresponds to or exceeds the living wage level in Riga *	60.0 %
The fixed remuneration for one full-time position corresponds to or exceeds the living wage level in regions outside Riga *	54.0 %

* The Figure Baltic Advisory data for 2024 were used to determine the living wage level.

6.5.2. Workplace safety

In 2024, **0** workplace accidents were reported to or discovered by the RTU Occupational Safety Unit.

6.5.3. Experiences of unethical conduct ^F

Statement	Respond affirmatively	
	Students, %	Staff, %
In the past year, I have experienced unethical and/or offensive conduct by an RTU employee towards me	11.4 %	24.9 %
In the past year, I have experienced unethical and/or offensive conduct by an RTU student towards me	4.4 %	12.6 %
I informed another RTU employee of what happened*	2.3 %	13.0 %

* The indicator is included with the assumption that it covers cases when the RTU Ethics Committee has been informed.

^A Staff and student data as of 1 October 2024

^F Well-being and Career Support Centre survey on ethics of employees and students (2024), $n_{employees} = 301$, $n_{students} = 1415$



INSPIRING GIRLS TO PURSUE SCIENCE

A new initiative, “Girls in STEM”, has been launched within the RTU Children’s and Youth University with the aim of encouraging girls and young women to study exact and natural sciences in the future.

6.5.4. Employee well-being, engagement and equal opportunities ^c

Statement	
In the area of well-being	Agree, %
My working environment is ergonomic	64 %
There is a positive atmosphere at work	59 %
I have a good work-life balance	55 %
In the area of engagement	Agree, %
I have the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect me	37 %
I use the professional development opportunities offered by RTU	64 %
I feel that I belong to RTU	66 %
In the area of equal opportunities	Agree, %
I have the materials and equipment I need to do my job well	76 %
My manager treats me fairly	74 %
I am satisfied with my career growth opportunities at RTU	46 %
In my workplace, I receive support for new ideas and initiatives	65 %

^c Employee satisfaction survey (2024), n = 404



REDUCING THE UNEMPLOYMENT RISK

RTU offers free lifelong learning courses to people at risk of unemployment to improve their digital skills and position in the labour market.

6.5.5. Student equal growth opportunities ^{D, E}

Statement	Average score on a scale of 1–5 ^D	
	Latvian students	International students
I am satisfied with the support provided to students with special needs	3.9	3.7
There is sufficient information in English at RTU	–	4.2
Statement	International students who agree, % ^E	
Seminars organised by RTU on immigration processes and living in Latvia were useful	39 %	
The information on immigration procedures was easy to understand	55 %	
I feel accepted and respected among university students and faculty	59 %	
I have not had unpleasant incidents related to my nationality or race	66 %	

^D Student satisfaction survey (2024), n = 962

^E Survey of international students on the admission process and the start of studies at RTU (2024), n = 103.



CONSULTING ON CAREER CHOICES

RTU Further Education Department offers career support consultations and self-assessment tests for career planning.

7. Sustainability literacy and employability

7.1. Policies and related documents

According to the [Sustainable Development Policy](#), RTU strives to prepare specialists for the green economy and members of a sustainable society. The Senate decision of 27 November 2023 “On the Approval of the [Uniform Requirements for Study Programs](#) of Riga Technical University in a new version” stipulates that all first-cycle higher education (Bachelor’s) programs shall include an environmental education course of at least 2 ECTS. This course must also be taken by Master’s degree students if they have not done so in earlier cycles.

7.1.1. Overview of documents

Document	Sustainable Development Policy	Uniform Requirements for Study Programs
Last updated	2025	2025
Scope	Consolidation scope according to the operational control approach	RTU structural units
Approved by	RTU Council	RTU Senate
Applied methods, standards, recommendations	See Report Section 11.1. "About the double materiality assessment"	Environmental Protection Law of Latvia and others
Access	Publicly on the RTU website	

7.2. Actions

7.2.1. RTU study programs in the areas of environmental and social sustainability

Title	Structural unit	Cycle
Environmental Engineering	DTF	1, 2, 3
Heat, Gas and Water Technology	BMF	1, 2, 3
Environmental Innovation Technologies	RTU Liepāja	1
Ecotechnologies		2
Social Worker		1
Social Work Management		2
Social Work and Social Rehabilitation	RTU Rēzekne	1

All RTU first-cycle programs include **mandatory courses** that cover several of the knowledge, skills and competences needed to achieve the UN SDGs:

- **the course on the Basics of Ethics** teaches about social justice and democratic values (SDG 4: Quality Education);
- **the course on Occupational Safety** provides knowledge that helps protect workers’ rights and promote a safe working environment (SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth);
- **the module on Entrepreneurship, Technology Transfer and Product Development** promotes innovation and modernisation of various industries (SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure);

- **the Civil Defence course** teaches how to act in the event of a disaster and develop civil defence plans for various facilities (SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities);
- **the Environment and Climate Roadmap** develops an understanding of climate change and the ability to mitigate it, paying particular attention to the impact of students’ future professions (SDG 13: Climate Action).

DTF Institute of Energy Systems and Environment additionally organises a free public course “Environmental Engineering” every year, which focuses on renewable energy, pollution prevention and climate technologies. In 2024, **216** people completed the course.

7.3. Targets

RTU's strategic goals in the area of sustainability literacy are to implement training for staff on the SDGs and sustainability competences, with 30 % of staff participating in 2026 and 60 % in 2027, and to map the contribution of all RTU study programs to the achievement of SDGs and sustainability competences by 2027.

It is planned to systematically collect data in the future on staff participation in such trainings and on the coverage of sustainability issues in study programs.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



PROMOTING FINANCIAL LITERACY IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

IEVF Associate Professor Guna Ciemleja published a book in plain language on personal budget management.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT WOMEN IN THE LABOUR MARKET

RTU and partners launched a project that promotes an inclusive environment for immigrant women and provides skills relevant to the labour market.

Interreg Central Baltic Program project "Central Baltic mentoring migrants seeking work" (CeWeMe)

8. Contribution of research and knowledge transfer to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

8.1. Policies and related documents

According to the [Sustainable Development Policy](#), RTU links research activities to the SDGs and promotes the creation and transfer of knowledge to solve the challenges of a changing planet and society.

Sustainability topics are integrated into RTU’s [research platforms](#), which function as coordination mechanisms for inter-faculty scientific collaboration. In 2025, the research platforms are Energy and Environment, Cities and Development, Information and Communication, Transport, Materials, Processes, and Technologies, and Security and Defence.

8.1.1. Overview of documents

Document	Sustainable Development Policy	Decision on the approval of the regulations on the Coordination Council of RTU research platforms
Last updated	2025	2016
Scope	Consolidation scope according to the operational control approach	RTU structural units
Approved by	RTU Council	RTU Senate
Applied methods, standards, recommendations	See Report Section 11.1. "About the double materiality assessment"	–
Access	Publicly on the RTU website	Staff only, RTU intranet

8.2. Actions

The Office of the Vice-Rector for Research promotes the linking of RTU scientific publications to the SDGs in the School of Publication Writing – a regular free online training for all RTU researchers.

The contribution of RTU staff and students’ research and knowledge transfer activities to the SDGs is included in all sections of this Report in the form of short stories.

8.3. Targets

One of RTU’s strategic objectives is to gradually increase the share of high-quality publications in the SDG areas: in 2025 – 39 %, in 2026 – 42 %, in 2027 – 45 %.

The Office of the Vice-Rector for Innovation has set a target to increase the number of female participants in ZIC thematic events to support women’s employment and entrepreneurship by 5 % each year (base value 2024 – 50 participants), and to increase the number of social enterprises supported by ZIC to 3 in 2025, 5 in 2026, and 10 in 2027.

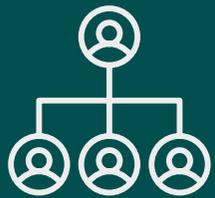
8.4. Data: RTU scientific publications in the UN SDG areas

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Unique publications in the UN SDG areas from Q1–Q2 publications*	30 %	36 %	35 %	34 %	39 %	36 %

*Data extracted in July 2025

RTU’s relative activity in each of the SDG areas is shown in [Annex 2](#).

The doctoral theses published in 2024 in the SDG areas are shown in [Annex 3](#).



GOVERNANCE



Photo:
3D figures of the Rector and
Vice-Rectors at the
RTU micromuseum
by ADI students.





HELPING TO REDUCE ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

RTU, the Latvian Ministry of Finance and the State Revenue Service developed a data-driven model to detect undeclared turnover and tax gaps in the Latvian construction sector.

9. University governance structure

In accordance with the [Constitution of RTU](#), the governing structures of the university are the Council, the Senate, the Constitutional Assembly, the Rector and the Academic Court of Arbitration (Annex 1). RTU has an independent Student Parliament and Councils. The [RTU strategy](#) is approved by the Council.

The RTU internal control system comprises the [Risk Management Policy](#), the [Conflict of Interest Prevention Policy](#), the [Procedure for Submission and Examination of Proposals and Complaints](#) and the [whistleblowing system](#). The effectiveness of the internal control system is assessed by the Internal Audit Unit, which reports to the Council. The [annual Report](#) of RTU includes the Council’s self-assessment Report.

9.1. Composition of governance structures as of May 2025

Governance structure	Number of members	Number of members with management responsibilities	Number of staff representatives	Women, %	Number of Independent members
Council	10	0	5	20 %	5
Senate	35	1 (Rector)	27 academic staff, 7 students	43 %	–
Constitutional Assembly	200	1 (Rector)	120 academic staff, 40 administrative staff, 40 students	55 %	–
Rector and other senior management	7	7	–	57 %	–
Academic Court of Arbitration	5	0	4 academic staff, 1 student	80 %	–

9.2. Overview of documents defining governance and internal control systems

Document	Last updated	Scope	Approved by	Access
Constitution of RTU	2022	Consolidation scope according to the operational control approach	Constitutional Assembly	Publicly on the RTU website
Code of Ethics	2025	RTU structural units	RTU Senate	
Rules of Procedure of the RTU Council	2024	RTU Council	RTU Council	
Rules of the Senate	2024	RTU Senate	Constitutional Assembly	
Risk Management Policy	2023	RTU structural units	RTU Council	
Conflict of Interest Prevention Policy	2023		RTU Council	
Rules on whistleblowing at RTU	2022		Rector	Staff and students only, RTU intranet
Order on the contact person designation in whistleblowing cases	2022		Rector	
Procedure for Submission and Examination of Proposals and Complaints by Staff	2020		Rector	
Procedure for Submission and Examination of Proposals and Complaints by Students	2019		Rector	Publicly on the RTU website
Security Policy	2019		RTU Council	
Quality Policy	2017		RTU Council	

HELPING TO DIGITISE GOVERNANCE

IEVF provided government executives with new micro-qualification courses on leading digital transformation in the public sector.

10. Strategy, value chain and stakeholders

RTU is a university of science whose strategic specialisation area covers engineering and technology, including maritime sciences, natural sciences, with special focus on computer science, social sciences, humanities and arts.

Since 2017, RTU has been a member of the UN Global Compact, affirming its commitment to corporate social responsibility principles in the areas of human rights, environment and anti-corruption. Sustainable development is an aspect of the goal

Institutional Excellence in the [RTU strategy](#). The documents set out in the Sustainable Development Policy define the targets and deliverables in the material sustainability areas.

The university value chain, in which sustainability-related impacts, risks and opportunities are managed, is complex – a simplified diagram is shown in [Section 10.1](#). RTU has established a [stakeholder map \(10.2\)](#) and obtains their feedback through regular and ad hoc events [\(10.3\)](#).

10.1. RTU value chain (highlighted core processes and the value they generate)



10.2. RTU stakeholder map



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW WITH INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED STUDY PROGRAMS

The European Commission awarded a prestigious Certificate of Recognition to the Bachelor's and Master's program "Customs and Tax Administration" at IEVF.

10.3. Forms of stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder	Forms of engagement
Local and international students	<p>Student surveys</p> <p>Open discussions (e.g. RTU brand workshops)</p> <p>Student representation in RTU governance structures</p> <p>Proposals, complaints and whistleblowing systems</p>
Staff (academic, administrative and international)	<p>Employee surveys</p> <p>Open discussions (e.g. collective bargaining)</p> <p>Employee representation in RTU governance structures</p> <p>Regular senior management meetings with employees</p> <p>Proposals, complaints and whistleblowing systems</p>
Decision-making and advisory institutions	<p>Regular meetings and working groups</p> <p>Strategy Development Workshop</p>
Alumni	<p>RTU Alumni Association</p> <p>Platform "RTUconnect"</p>
Schools	<p>Cooperation projects</p>
Partners	<p>RTU membership in organisations</p> <p>Cooperation projects</p>
Public administration, supervisory institutions	<p>Ongoing cooperation (RTU is subordinated to the Ministry of Education and Science)</p> <p>RTU Convent of Advisors Cooperation projects</p> <p>Compliance audits</p>
Industry	<p>RTU Convent of Advisors Strategy Development Workshop</p> <p>RTU organises meetings to inform companies about cooperation opportunities with the university</p> <p>RTU membership in organisations</p> <p>Cooperation projects</p>
Society, NGOs	<p>RTU membership in organisations</p> <p>Cooperation projects</p>

11. Monitoring of sustainability-related impacts, risks and opportunities

Monitoring of sustainability-related impacts, risks and opportunities (IROs) is part of the University's [quality management system](#). The [Quality Policy](#) states that governance of RTU must take into account the risks and opportunities arising from external and internal circumstances. The [Sustainable Development Policy](#), in turn, sets out the University's responsibility for its impact on the environment and society.

11.1. About the double materiality assessment

In 2024, KVRPD carried out RTU's first IRO analysis and DMA, based on EFRAG recommendations¹ and RTU's Risk Management methodology. The Senate approved KVRPD's proposal on RTU's essential sustainability topics, and the Council approved the final version.

IROs were identified in the topics defined by the European Sustainability Reporting Standards and topics specific to the higher education sector. The analysis is based on stakeholder views ([Section 11.1.1](#)).

¹ EFRAG, 2024. Implementation Guidance: EFRAG IG1 Materiality Assessment. EFRAG, May 2024 [viewed 09.05.2025]:https://www.efrag.org/sites/default/files/sites/webpublishing/SiteAssets/IG%201%20Materiality%20Assessment_final.pdf

The monitoring of RTU sustainability indicators is part of the functions of the [Department of Quality and Risk Management \(KVRPD\)](#). In 2024, a general RTU IRO and double materiality analysis (DMA) was carried out, on the basis of which the sustainability topics essential to the University were defined in the [Sustainable Development Policy](#). Their objectives are included in strategic documents and management targets. Progress towards these objectives is monitored by the RTU Council.

In the DMA, impacts were rated on a 4-point scale of 4 criteria – *intensity, scale, reversibility* and *likelihood*. A materiality threshold was set at $27 <$ the product of *intensity, scale* and *likelihood*. *Irreversibility* was not included because it was not possible to assess it consistently in all cases. Risks and opportunities were rated on a 3-point scale of 2 criteria according to RTU's Risk Management methodology (*impact, likelihood*). A materiality threshold was set at $5 <$ the product of both criteria, i.e. a high-risk category in the RTU methodology. KVRPD assigned the values based on the IRO analysis and professional opinion.



SUPPORTING UKRAINE



Because of Russia's unjustified and unprovoked war against Ukraine, RTU has refused to cooperate with Russian universities and research institutions. We provide various forms of support to Ukrainian students, academics and scientists in Latvia, as well as collaborate with higher education and research institutions in Ukraine.

11.1.1. Stakeholder engagement in the first RTU DMA in 2024

Stakeholder	Information source
Local and international students	Student satisfaction survey results
Staff (academic, administrative and international)	Employee satisfaction survey results Interview with the Director of the Human Resources Department
Decision-making and advisory institutions	RTU senior management interviews
Partners (including industry)	RTU senior management interviews
Public administration, supervisory institutions	International, European Union, Latvian and municipal strategic planning documents
External assessments (Annex 4)	Assessment methodologies
Employees in the RTU value chain	Transaction data International reports on sector impact on social impacts in value chains
Ecosystems in the RTU value chain	Transaction data International reports on sector impact on environmental impacts in value chains

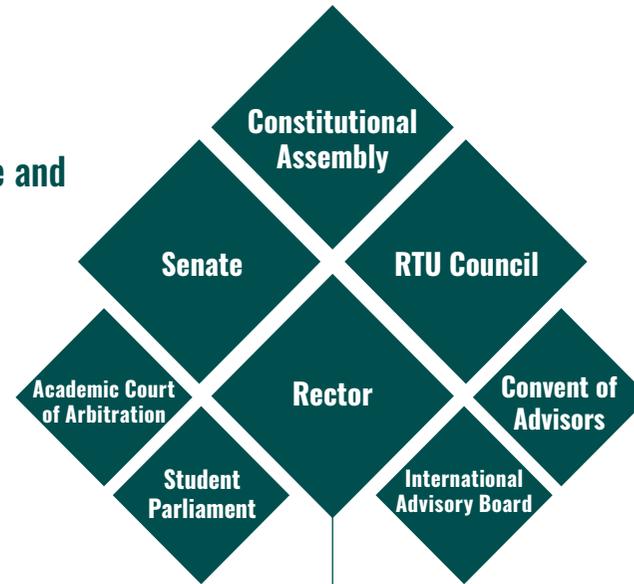
ANNEXES

Giant gear wheel
on the Kıpsala
student campus



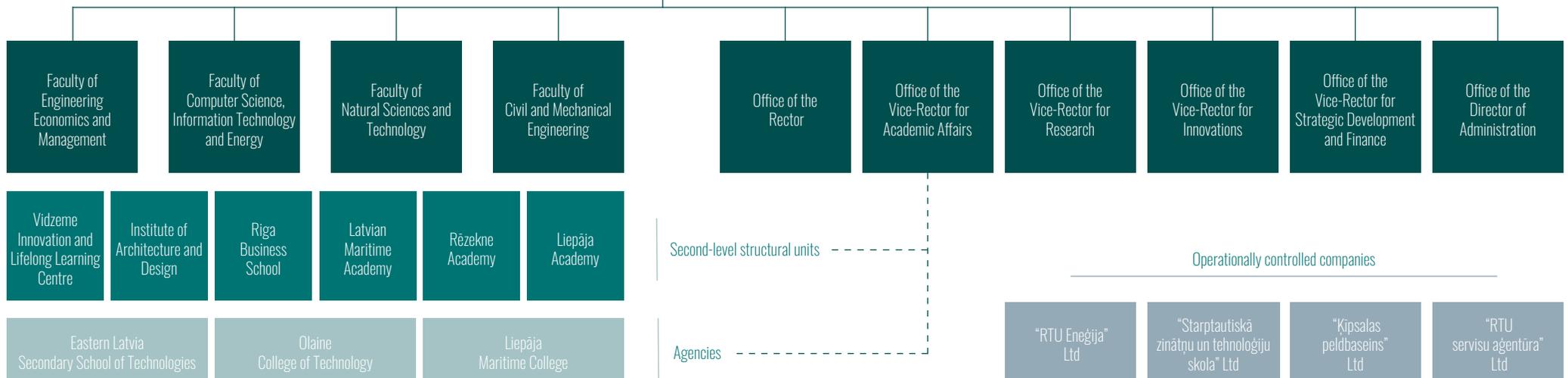
Annex 1

RTU consolidation scope and organisation structure (08.09.2025)



Academic structural units

Administrative structural units

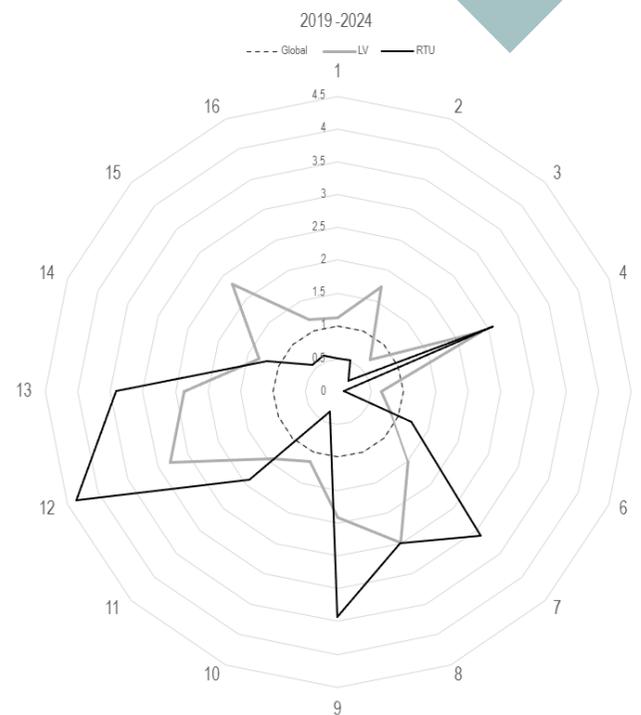


From November 2025, an Office of the Operating Director will be added to the administrative structural units.

Annex 2

Proportion of RTU scientific publications in the UN Sustainable Development Goal areas

Radar chart showing the proportion of RTU, Latvian, and global scientific publications in the areas of SDGs 1–16 in 2019–2024 according to the Relative Activity Index* methodology.



*The Relative Activity Index (RAI) is a measure of the proportion of the country's research output in the subject, relative to the proportion seen globally. A value of 1 indicates that the share of publications in a field corresponds exactly to the global share; a value >1 indicates greater emphasis; a value <1 indicates less emphasis.

Annex 3

RTU doctoral theses in the UN Sustainable Development Goal areas in 2024

3. Good Health and Well-Being



- Egle, Karina. [Development of Autologous Fibrin Matrices for Medical Application.](#)
- Kovrija, Ilijana. [Octacalcium Phosphate Biomaterials: Formation Process, Modification and Application.](#)
- Leškovskis, Kristaps. [Energetic Profile of Annulated Azidopyrimidines and Their Reactions with Nucleophiles.](#)
- Rajesh, Indurkar Abhishek. [Amorphous Calcium Phosphates and Their Nanocomposites.](#)
- Vejanand, Sanjay Rajni. [Optimisation of Properties of Ventilated Protective Clothing.](#)
- Vladinovskis, Vlads. [Research and Development of 3D Printing Equipment for the Production of Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Products.](#)

4. Quality Education



- Ivanova, Oksana. [Rhetoric as a Framework for Translation Competence Development: Specialised Translation Process Research.](#)
- Špehte, Elita. [Reflection – a Learning Strategy to Improve a Student’s Performance after Providing Feedback.](#)

6. Clean Water and Sanitation



- Zemīte, Marta. [Effect of Microbially Available Phosphorus Limitation on Microbiological Water Quality in Internal Drinking Water Supply.](#)

7. Affordable and Clean Energy



- Elmenshawy, Adham Ahmed Awad Elsayed. [Investigation of Performance Improvement of Gas Turbine Engine by Optimised Design of Blade Turbine Cooling Channels.](#)
- Gaile, Anastasija. [Modification of Quinone Derivatives for the Design of Redox-Active Materials.](#)
- Gičevskis, Kārlis. [Flexible Power Supply Solutions: Modelling Methods and Innovative Approaches towards Sustainable Energy Transformation.](#)
- Gorņevs, Ilgvars. [Human Energy Harvester as a Practical Source for Electronic Devices.](#)
- Ieviņa, Baiba. [Integration of Microalgae Cultivation Technology in Biogas Plants.](#)
- Kudurs, Edgars. [Electricity Storage towards Sustainability.](#)

- Lazdiņš, Roberts. [Development of Prosumer-Consumer Energy Community Planning Tool and Methodology.](#)
- Sarma, Uģis. [Method of District Heating Tariff Benchmarks.](#)
- Siliis, Aigars. [Power System Management under Market Conditions with High Dispersion of Renewable Energy Production.](#)
- Staņa, Ģirts. [Modelling of Electric Transport Overhead DC Lines for Mobile Energy Storage System Optimisation.](#)
- Valdmanis, Gunārs. [Decarbonisation of Transport through Electrification and Synthetic Fuels.](#)

9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure



- Barkāne, Anda. [Photo-Curable Vegetable Oil-Based Acrylate Resins with Lignocellulose Components.](#)
- Batdalov, Ruslan. [Development of an Object-Oriented Type System Using Design Pattern Methodology.](#)
- Gorbačovs, Dmitrijs. [Failure Study of Rubber-Cord Flexible Couplings and Their Mounting Bolts.](#)
- Kavosa, Maija. [Certification of Persons and Its Development Solutions in Latvia.](#)
- Kovrlija, Ilijana. [Octacalcium Phosphate Biomaterials: Formation Process, Modification and Application.](#)

- Krotov, Aleksandr. [Development of Optical Communication Systems with High-Reliability Optical Sensors.](#)
- Kuznetsov, Aleksei. [Hybrid Anapole States as a Platform for Novel Optical Devices.](#)
- Leškovskis, Kristaps. [Energetic Profile of Annulated Azidopyrimidines and Their Reactions with Nucleophiles.](#)
- Locovs, Jevgenijs. [Development of Corporate Agility of the Construction Company.](#)
- Normanda, Madara. [Space Weather Impact on GPS Positioning Results in Latvia.](#)
- Parfjonovs, Mareks. [Development of a Hybrid Broadband Amplifier for Fots Solutions.](#)
- Pikurs, Guntis. [Research of the Novel Additive Manufacturing Technology for Compact Radio Frequency Quadrupole Design and Production.](#)
- Pomilovskis, Ralfs. [Synthesis of the Michael Components from Tall Oil Fatty Acids and Their Valorisation for Polymer Materials Development.](#)
- Redka, Dmitrii. [Evaluation of Dynamics of Non-Scattering States in Nanophotonics.](#)
- Sanchaniya, Jaymin Vrajlal. [A Study on Fabrication Technique, Properties, and Applications of PAN Nanofibers.](#)
- Stakanovs, Georgijs. [Semisynthesis of Exotic Terpenoids from \(-\)-β-Caryophyllene.](#)

11. Sustainable Cities and Communities



- Kairišs, Andris. [Management of Development of National Cultural Heritage's Socio-Economic Potential.](#)
- Pagano, Andrea Jonathan. [The Mitigation of Socio-Natural Hazards through Smart Insurance Contracts.](#)
- Veckalne, Regina. [Evaluation of Urban Sustainability of Uzbekistan in the Context of Regional Development.](#)

12. Responsible Consumption and Production



- Beluns, Sergejs. [Bio-Inspired Wood Mimic Materials Created by Recombining Cellulose, Hemicellulose and Lignin.](#)
- Dzalbs, Arnis. [Sustainability Assessment of Bioresources. Latvian Cases.](#)
- Kušnere, Zane. [Biomethanation through the Application of Waste-Derived Filter Materials.](#)
- Patel, Nidhiben Arvindbhai. [Valorisation Solutions for Agricultural Waste.](#)
- Zvirgzdiņš, Jānis. [The Framework of Factors Influencing the Implementation of the Circular Economy in Latvia.](#)

13. Climate Action



- Brakovska, Vita. [Methods for the Development of a Climate-Responsible Future Society.](#)
- Bumbiere, Ketija. [Carbon Farming towards Climate Neutrality.](#)

Annex 4

External assessments of sustainability



[Times Higher Education \(THE\) Impact Ranking 2025](#)

The ranking assesses universities' scientific performance and other indicators in the UN SDG areas.

In the 2025 assessment, RTU ranks **401–600th** globally and is the leading university in Latvia in the areas of SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 13: Climate Action, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.



QUACQUARELLI
SYMONDS

[QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025](#)

The ranking assesses universities' scientific performance and other ESG (environmental, social, governance) indicators.

In the 2025 assessment, RTU ranks **805th** globally and is the leading university in Latvia in the areas of environmental sustainability and good governance.



UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2024

The ranking assesses universities' performance in infrastructure, energy and climate change mitigation, waste management, water consumption, transport and environmental education.

Since 2019, RTU has been ranked among the 100 greenest universities in the world and received the prestigious **40th** place in 2024.



Ilgtspējas indekss 2024

The leading corporate social responsibility assessment in Latvia, *ilgtspējas indekss* (The Sustainability Index), examines the organisation's strategy, working environment, market relations and impact on the environment and society.

Since 2018, RTU has fulfilled more than 90 % of the assessment requirements each year and holds the prestigious **Platinum** rating.

For inquiries
about the RTU Sustainability Report:

ilgtspeja@rtu.lv



Gimenei draudzīga darbavieta

The program of the Society Integration Foundation of Latvia for assessing the implementation of family-friendly principles in the workplace.

RTU has been awarded the status of a family-friendly workplace until 2027.