

GOAL

13 CLIMATE ACTION

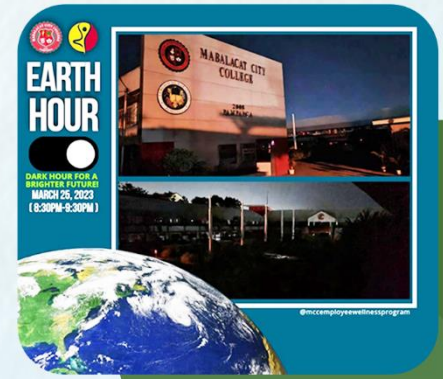




GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION

LOW CARBON EMISSION

Each year, the College joins the global community in reducing carbon emissions by actively participating in Earth Hour. During this event, campus lights are turned off to reduce electricity consumption, helping to minimize carbon emissions. Last 2023, the Faculty and students participated from their homes, showing solidarity with the worldwide effort to address the overuse of carbon-based energy.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION MEASURE

As a community college, MCC is committed to contributing to the development of a better, more sustainable community. The college offers a variety of educational programs and activities focused on climate change, not only for the academic community but also for the local community. In 2023, the Coalition of Young Biologists, a student organization, developed brochures and other informational materials to raise awareness within the community. These materials focused on issues such as pollution, ecosystem restoration, and preservation.

Several students also presented their research on climate change resilience at international conferences. One notable research project, titled *The Resilience of Aeta Mag-antsi Healing Practices in the Aftermath of Mt. Pinatubo Eruption and Climate Change*, was presented at the SULO Research Conference and NCCA Workshop held at St. Louis University in Baguio City on July 13-14, 2023. Another research project, *Food Security and Food Culture: Resilience and Adaptability of Porac Residents in the Face of Natural Disasters*, was presented at the 10th Malikhaling Guro International Conference Caravan on Culture-Based Education in September 2023.



These research presentations highlighted key Filipino qualities that have helped communities endure climate change challenges and are vital in addressing future environmental crises. By sharing these findings, MCC actively contributes to the local community's understanding of climate resilience.

Several students have also undertaken projects focused on environmental protection last 2023. The League of Social Studies Catalyst launched their BaSIX project, which provided training and workshops on recycling. Supported by the City Environment Office, the students repurposed large amounts of waste as fertilizers for farming. This initiative addresses six Sustainable Development Goals, with the overarching aim of promoting environmental sustainability.



Another significant breakthrough in environmental education is the restoration and preservation of Sapang Balen, the city's major historical stream. Once described by early Spanish historians as one of the clearest streams in the Philippines, Sapang Balen now faces critical environmental challenges. Like many other rivers and waterways in the country, it has become a dumping ground for waste.

In 2023, several initiatives were launched to restore and protect the stream, with the hope of reclaiming its natural beauty and preserving the diverse ecosystems vital to the local community. MCC, through the Institute of Arts and Sciences, led a variety of activities aimed at safeguarding Sapang Balen. These included water quality assessments, waste testing, regular clean-up drives, and educational campaigns for the communities surrounding the stream.



To ensure the sustainability of the program, MCC formed a partnership with the City Environment Office. This collaboration provided essential logistical support, enabling the successful implementation of the restoration efforts.





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MCC remains committed to educating its students on environmental issues. In partnership with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), a lecture was held for MCC students. The goal of the lecture was to provide an honest overview of the current environmental situation in the Philippines. Titled *Kabataan para sa Kalikasan* (Youth for the Environment), the seminar challenged students to take action and contribute to saving the environment.



MCC fosters strong partnerships with local industries. On May 19, 2023, the College's official Community Extension Office, Kayantabe, collaborated with Yokohama Tire Philippines Inc. (YTPI) on a project focused on the reutilization of sludge waste generated by the company. YTPI has a robust sustainability program that aims to repurpose sludge waste as a fertilizer for trees and consumable crops, further supporting environmental conservation efforts.



RESEARCH ON CLIMATE CHANGE

In its efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, Mabalacat City College (MCC) has developed research aimed at strengthening the resiliency of the local community in response to this global challenge. One notable research project that gained recognition for publication focuses on the evaluation of a major historical stream in the city. The study, titled *Preliminary Assessment of the Pollution Status of Sapang Balen River, Mabalacat City, Philippines*, was published online in the *SPC Journal of Environmental Science*.

The research aimed to assess the water quality of the Sapang Balen river, uncovering various forms of pollution. Conducted by the Institute of Arts and Sciences, particularly the Biology Department, the study revealed significant environmental concerns. Despite the pollution, the presence of fish in the river suggests the potential for restoration. Based on the study's findings, targeted programs and activities can now be implemented to address these environmental issues and improve the health of the stream.

