
 جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة United Arab Emirates University 	UAEU Sustainability Policy		
	Subject Sustainability Policy	Effective Date	00-00-2025
		Date for Next Review	00-00-2028
	Responsible Office: Vice Chancellor Office	Page Number	1 of 5

TABLE OF CONTENTS



UAEU Sustainability Policy	1
Overview.....	1
Scope.....	2
Objectives....	2
Areas of Interest	2
Article (1): Campus Operations	2
Article (2): Preserving Greenspaces and Promoting Sustainable Landscaping.....	4
Article (3): Academic Integration.....	4
Article (4): Community Outreach.....	5
Article (5): Governance and Transparency.....	5

UAEU Sustainability Policy

Overview

The United Arab Emirates University, in line with its vision of achieving leadership in sustainability among universities in the region, is committed to balancing development with environmental preservation and social justice. The university strives to enhance environmental assessment, improve resource efficiency, and integrate sustainability into education, research, and community engagement. It prioritizes these principles and is also committed to diversity and equal opportunities, ensuring that its sustainability initiatives foster and reflect a more inclusive and sustainable environment. This policy aligns with the UAE Vision 2030, the Green Agenda 2030, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, reaffirming the vital role of the United Arab Emirates University in achieving a sustainable and just future.

The United Arab Emirates University has established a Sustainability Committee, chaired by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, to oversee the implementation of sustainability initiatives. This committee is responsible for developing policies, coordinating sustainability efforts across the university, ensuring alignment with national and global sustainability goals, and working closely with the university's facilities management and other key stakeholders/active partners to implement effective sustainability strategies.

 جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة United Arab Emirates University 	UAEU Sustainability Policy		
	Subject Sustainability Policy	Effective Date	00-00-2025
		Date for Next Review	00-00-2028
	Responsible Office: Vice Chancellor Office	Page Number	2 of 5

Scope

This policy applies to all activities of the United Arab Emirates University, including operational practices, academic programs, research activities, and collaborations with partners. It emphasizes inclusivity and environmental integration to ensure fair access to sustainability opportunities for all.

Objectives

The sustainability goals of the United Arab Emirates University focus on reducing environmental impact and achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 through innovative practices. The university aims to enhance resource efficiency by reducing water and energy consumption while minimizing waste. It integrates sustainability principles into its curricula and all activities, ensuring that these values are embedded in every aspect of learning.

This commitment is further strengthened by advancing research that addresses global sustainability challenges and prioritizes solutions with a positive impact on diverse communities. The university also works to raise community awareness through collaboration with stakeholders, ensuring inclusive representation in its initiatives. It is dedicated to implementing safeguards that promote environmental assessment, conservation, innovation, and comprehensive cooperation.

The university's approach to sustainability reflects its belief that sustainable development must be fair, inclusive, balanced, accessible, and responsive to the diverse needs of the communities it serves.



The university's activities are governed by the following principles:

1. **Intergenerational Justice:** The right to development must be exercised in a manner that equitably meets the developmental and environmental needs of both present and future generations through various university activities and practices.
2. **Inclusion:** A more sustainable university community must be achieved, with environmental protection integrated into all university activities and practices rather than considered in isolation.
3. **Integration:** The university must ensure that its activities and practices take into account three key elements: overall development, environmental protection, and social progress.

Areas of Interest

Article (1): Campus Operations

1. **Transition to Renewable Energy:** Shifting from traditional energy sources to sustainable alternatives, such as solar and wind energy, to significantly reduce the university's environmental impact, lower operational costs, and contribute to global climate change mitigation efforts.
2. **Implementation of Green Building Standards:** Adopting frameworks such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) to optimize energy and water use, reduce operational costs, enhance indoor environmental quality, and support national sustainability goals by promoting recycling and minimizing water consumption.
3. **Prioritizing Accessibility and Inclusion:** Designing a sustainable campus infrastructure based on universal design principles, ensuring access to buildings, green spaces, and waste management systems for all individuals. This approach fosters an inclusive environment that supports diverse needs.

 جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة United Arab Emirates University 	UAEU Sustainability Policy		
	Subject Sustainability Policy	Effective Date	00-00-2025
		Date for Next Review	00-00-2028
	Responsible Office: Vice Chancellor Office	Page Number	3 of 5

4. Enhancing Recycling Programs: Developing recycling initiatives specifically designed to meet the unique needs of the university campus. Offering targeted awareness programs, workshops, and incentives to encourage participation and promote environmental awareness across the university community.

Implementing Food Waste Reduction Programs: The university is committed to reducing food waste as part of its sustainability agenda. A comprehensive strategy will be developed to minimize food waste by:

- Auditing and monitoring sources of food waste across campus activities.
- Implementing waste prevention programs, such as smart menu planning, portion control, and community awareness campaigns.
- Redistributing surplus food through partnerships with local organizations and institutions.
- Establishing on-campus composting systems to recycle unavoidable food waste into organic compost for landscaping.
- Tracking progress through regular reporting and environmental assessments to identify the most effective strategies based on outcomes.

These initiatives aim to reduce the volume of food waste, support environmental sustainability, and enhance community engagement, aligning with the United Arab Emirates University's vision for resource efficiency and environmental responsibility.

5. Establish Carbon Reduction Targets: UAE University is dedicated to achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 and will adopt clear, measurable goals to reduce Scope 1 (direct emissions) and Scope 2 (energy-related emissions). To this end, the University will:



- Transition to renewable energy sources, such as solar power, to replace fossil fuels.
- Optimize energy efficiency in campus operations, including upgrading to advanced Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems and LED lighting.
- Enhance emissions tracking and reporting to monitor progress against reduction targets.
- Prioritize the integration of low-carbon technologies and practices into campus infrastructure and operations.

These efforts will demonstrate UAEU's commitment to reducing its environmental impact while contributing to the UAE's national carbon neutrality goals.

6. Setting Carbon Reduction Goals: The university is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 and will adopt clear, measurable targets to reduce Scope 1 (direct emissions) and Scope 2 (energy-related emissions). To this end, the university will:

- Transition to renewable energy sources, such as solar power, to replace fossil fuels.
- Improve energy efficiency across campus operations, including upgrading to advanced HVAC systems and LED lighting.
- Enhance emissions tracking and reporting to monitor progress toward reduction goals.
- Prioritize the integration of low-carbon technologies and practices into campus infrastructure and activities.

These efforts reflect the university's goal to minimize its environmental impact while contributing to the UAE's national carbon neutrality objectives.

 جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة United Arab Emirates University 	UAEU Sustainability Policy		
	Subject Sustainability Policy	Effective Date	00-00-2025
		Date for Next Review	00-00-2028
	Responsible Office: Vice Chancellor Office	Page Number	4 of 5

7. Sustainable Procurement/Purchasing Practices: The university is committed to responsible purchasing practices that support environmental sustainability and social justice. The university will:

- Prioritize the procurement of environmentally friendly, energy-efficient, and ethically sourced products and services across all departments.
- Develop sustainable purchasing standards that include considerations for product lifecycle impacts, such as carbon footprint, material sourcing, and waste management.
- Ensure suppliers adhere to sustainability standards and ethical labor practices, fostering partnerships with vendors who share a commitment to sustainability.
- Encourage the use of locally sourced products to reduce transportation emissions and support regional economic growth.

These efforts aim to reduce the university's environmental footprint and promote ethical practices throughout the supply chain.

Article (2): Preserving Greenspaces and Promoting Sustainable Landscaping



The United Arab Emirates University seeks to maintain vibrant green spaces while reducing reliance on chemical and excessive irrigation. In alignment with the environmental goals of the UAE, and to achieve this, the university is undertaking the following:

- Planting native, drought-resistant plants to enhance ecological balance;
- Adopting organic practices, including natural pest control and the use of sustainable fertilizers, to maintain healthy and balanced ecosystems;
- Innovating with eco-friendly paving solutions that integrate vegetation, reduce heat, and support natural water management;
- Protecting and developing natural areas to support biodiversity, provide recreational opportunities, and advance environmental research.

Through these efforts, the United Arab Emirates University aims to embrace a model of environmental stewardship and impact assessment, contributing to a sustainable future.

Article (3): Academic Integration

- Developing Sustainability-Focused Programs and Courses: Establishing academic programs that focus on topics such as environmental science and renewable energy, ensuring accessibility for students from diverse segments of society. These programs should address global sustainability challenges while providing flexible learning options, including online courses and scholarships to support low-income groups.
- Reevaluating and Updating Curricula to Include Sustainability Topics: Incorporating materials on climate change, renewable energy, and sustainability at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Promoting Interdisciplinary Research on Sustainability: Encouraging collaboration across disciplines to integrate environmental science with social justice and equity, enabling the development of comprehensive solutions that address environmental and social challenges.

 جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة United Arab Emirates University 	UAEU Sustainability Policy		
	Subject Sustainability Policy	Effective Date	00-00-2025
		Date for Next Review	00-00-2028
	Responsible Office: Vice Chancellor Office	Page Number	5 of 5

This research should be guided by inclusive sustainability policies and drive impactful change.

Article (4): Community Outreach

1. Organizing Workshops and Campaigns on Sustainable Practices: Hosting inclusive workshops and awareness campaigns that are accessible to all, covering topics such as waste reduction, energy conservation, and eco-friendly lifestyles. These initiatives should cater to diverse learning needs by providing multilingual materials, sign language interpretation, and varied teaching methods to ensure accessibility for all participants.
2. Strengthening Partnerships to Promote Inclusive and Equitable Sustainability: Actively collaborating with government agencies, private entities, and community organizations to engage low-income groups in sustainability initiatives. These partnerships help address diverse environmental and social challenges, ensuring that sustainability efforts are inclusive and equitable.

Article (5): Governance and Transparency

1. Establishing a Sustainability Committee with Diverse Representation: Creating a committee comprising faculty, staff, students, and external partners to ensure that decisions reflect diverse perspectives, expertise, and experiences. This inclusive approach fosters collaboration and innovative solutions to sustainability challenges.
2. Publishing Annual Sustainability Reports: Sharing reports that track environmental progress and the involvement of diverse groups. These reports include metrics on the participation of underrepresented groups, program inclusivity, the effectiveness of awareness efforts, and ensuring transparency and accountability.
3. Sustainable Investment Policy: The university will align its investment practices with sustainability goals by ensuring investments support the transition to a low-carbon economy. The university will:
 - a) Develop an investment strategy that prioritizes funding for renewable energy projects, green technologies, and other initiatives contributing to carbon neutrality and sustainability.
 - b) Integrate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria into investment decisions to ensure financial growth aligns with broader social and environmental objectives.
 - c) Regularly assess the sustainability performance of its investment portfolio to ensure continued alignment with the university's sustainability goals.

This policy helps ensure that the university's financial resources contribute to long-term environmental and social sustainability.