

Arab Open University

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Policy Title:	Arab Open University Environmental Sustainability Policy
Version Number:	1
Executive Owner:	University Council
Approving Authority	University Council # 78
Policy Review:	QAAIS Committee
Policy Implementation:	AOU HQ and Branches
Policy Monitoring	Quality Assurance and Accreditation Departments at HQ and AOU Branches
Next Review Date	2025

The Arab Open University (AOU) is committed to safeguarding the environment and promoting the sustainability of its practices at both strategic and operational level. It recognizes its responsibility towards nurturing and protecting the environment by exercising proper control over all its activities to ensure sustainable use of its resources and preventing damaging practices leading to negative environmental impacts.

Policy statement:

The Arab Open University will manage its operations in ways that are environmentally sustainable, economically feasible and socially responsible. Therefore, this policy represents an important component of fulfilling the University's mission, vision and strategy. The policy aims to achieve the following:

- To promote sound environmental management policies and practices throughout the University campuses.
- To ensure full compliance with the local requirements and the relevant environmental legislations.
- To have in place action plans for improving on campus environmental performance.
- To implement a carbon management strategy, including the efficient use of energy.

- To adopt sound practices for eliminating or reducing environmental issues including waste, pollution and climate change.

Scope:

The policy applies to all members of the university community including students, staff and others who work with the university on part-time bases or through a contractual agreement with a third party. The policy also applies on all universities operations and activities.

Responsibility:

The main responsibility for implementation of this policy lies with the University Council and the University President. The Vice presidents and Assistant President are responsible for ensuring compliance with University Environmental Sustainability Policy within their sectors. The University will actively monitor the performance of the different sectors and departments in the implementation of the aims and objectives of this Policy in their activities and functions. All members of the University community are accountable to safeguard the environment and are expected to fully comply with the environmental sustainability policy.

Environmental Sustainability Commitment**Our commitment is to:**

- Embed sustainability principles in all university functions and practices that aim to eliminate negative impacts on the environment.

- Promote a culture that foster sustainable innovation through education, training and research.
- Implement an environmental management system that is consistent with international standards and benchmarks.
- Establish environmental sustainability plans and identify opportunities to improve environmental sustainability.
- Comply with the relevant environmental legislation, environmental agencies' guidelines and regulatory frameworks.
- Adopt responsible on campus work practices and conservation strategies to reduce adverse environmental risks and to protect the ecosystem.
- Joining efforts with local and regional environmental organisations and agencies to reaffirm our strong commitment to sustainability.
- Provide the necessary resources and support for full implementation of the Environmental policy and other relevant policies and codes of practice.

Specific details for implementation of the policy:

- To implement strategies that will contribute to lowering the carbon footprint including the efficient use of energy, eliminating air pollution on campus including a non-smoking policy.
- To make efficient and environmentally responsible use of water and electricity, including identifying opportunities for water reuse and, lowering electricity consumption.

- To implement sustainable resource management practices, based on reduce, reuse and recycle principles.
- To promote sound approaches in the procurement of goods and services and to work with suppliers who promote sustainable resource management practices.
- To develop and implement a sustainable construction strategy for the university Buildings and infrastructures projects based on sound ecological designs, low carbon technologies and environmental sustainability principles.
- To promote the relevant volunteering programmes among the university students and staff including green campus and environmentally friendly initiatives.
- To raise awareness of staff and students of the University's environmental impact, activities and performance and good practice.
- To provide appropriate environmental educational programmes for staff, students and local community members.

Acknowledgements

In developing this policy, the relevant literature was consulted. The policy is informed by the following sources:

- Policies for a Better Environment-Progress in Eastern Europe-OCED-2020.
- International Standards For Environmental management systems ,ISO 14001:2015
- Sustainable Development and Environmental Policy at Duke. www.dk.org
- Environmental Policy : University of Kent, 2020- www.knu.ac.uk
- Sustainability Policy-University of Derby-UK 2019- www.uwe.ac.uk
- Environmental management policy-middlesex University-
<https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk>
- Sustainability policy-University of Hull-<https://www.hull.ac.uk>
- Advancing Environmental policy development and practice. Bristol University. <http://www.bristol.ac.uk>