



AL-Ahliyya Amman University

Sustainability Policy

2019-2023

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AL-Ahliyya Amman University

AL-Ahliyya Amman University is a leading, internationally recognized higher education institution whose core business is the generation and spreading of knowledge. As a higher education institution, we are committed to making a positive impact through responsible sustainability performance. We transform our own university to be both prosperous and sustainable, and to produce new generations of graduates and staff that are ambassadors of positive social and environmental change. AAU Sustainability Policy supports the delivery of our Strategic Plan (2019-2023) and applies to all activities and services carried out by AL-Ahliyya Amman University, across our campus we will involve sustainability principles into our operations, wherever applicable and possible. Furthermore, AAU will work with its partners and other institutions to adopt a policy in accordance with the commitments laid out within this Sustainability Policy.

DEFINITIONS

- **(AAU)** refers to AL-Ahliyya Amman University and includes all subsidiaries
- **University Council** is the University's governing body, which comprises lay, staff and student members
- **Strategic Plan 2019-2023** refers to AL-Ahliyya Amman University Strategic Plan 2019-2023
- **Sustainability** is derived from the concept of ‘sustainable development’, which was first defined by the Brundtland Commission of the United Nations on March 20, 1987 as:

“development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Sustainability for our purposes is defined as “working together toward a shared vision for a flourishing future in a manner that integrates social, economic, and environmental dimensions”.

INTRODUCTION

By publishing this Sustainability Policy, AAU emphasizes its commitment to the incorporation of sustainability principles and practices in its teaching, research, community engagement and operations. The AAU Sustainability Policy emerged out of a need to coordinate and scale up the sustainability initiatives already underway at the university, and to provide a framework for future endeavours. The Sustainability Policy presents one enduring vision for sustainability at AAU, 6 long-term goals, and 30 priority actions for the period 2019-2023. The goals and actions are presented across Six categories: Student Experience, Education for Sustainability, Research for Sustainability, Partnership and Engagement, Operations for Sustainability, and Governance & Quality Assurance.

AAU SUSTAINABILITY VISION

AL-Ahliyya Amman University aspires to achieve the highest possible standards of sustainability on its campus and in its daily activities through its academic practices, operational activities, and by its outreach strategies.

POLICY PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to express AAU's commitment to advancing its sustainability ambitions as an organization that models institution-wide excellence by embedding sustainability principles and practices throughout learning and teaching, research and operational activities.

POLICY APPLICATION

This Policy applies to all staff, students, contractors, service providers, customers and visitors when they are engaged in University activities.

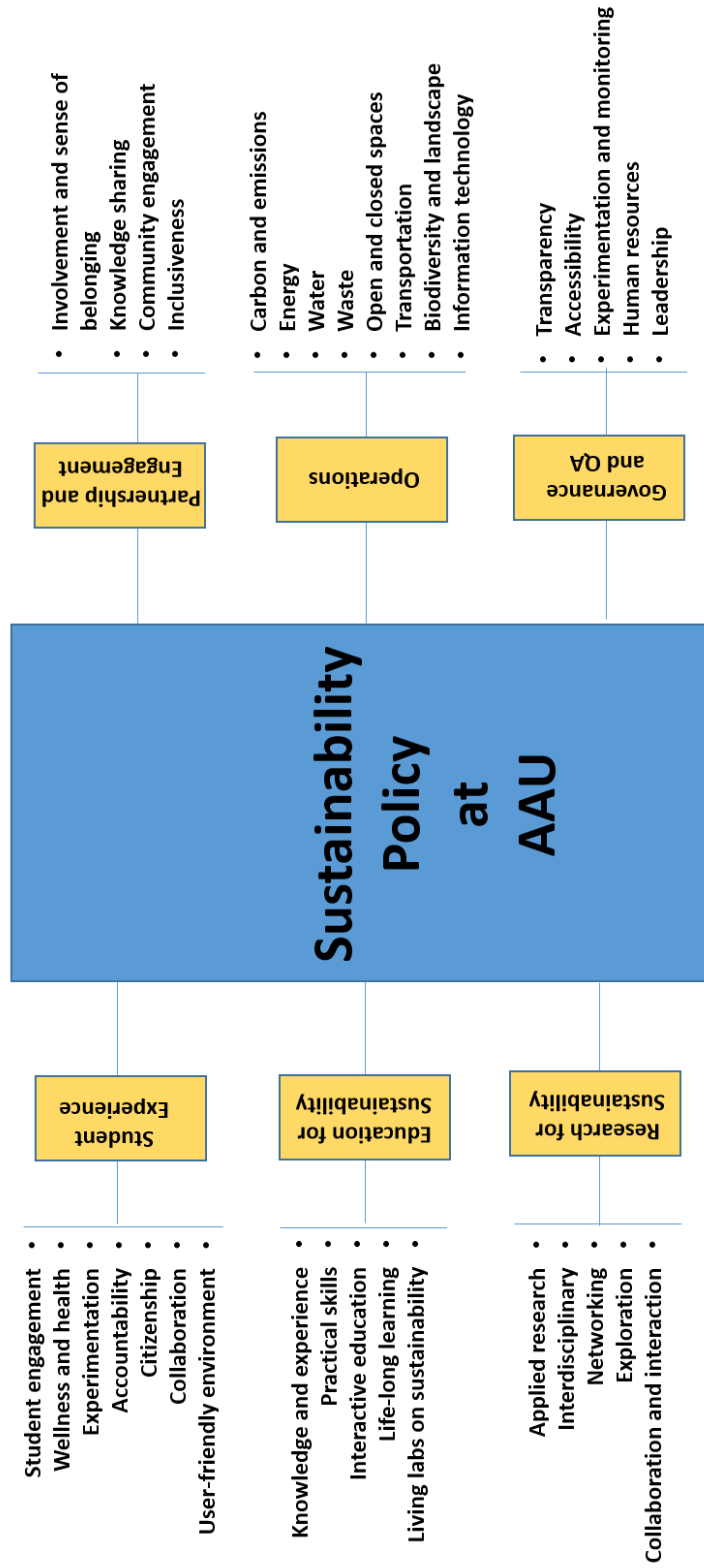
CORE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

In addition to AAU sustainability vision, this Policy lays out the key principles that AAU will follow to achieve the obligations with regard to sustainability:

1. Engage the university in sustainability matters.
2. Sustain our commitment to effective learning and active research.
3. Maintain that the students and their well-being is a core value in our university.
4. Consider that staff members are crucial and it is important to support them to excel.
5. Consider our sustainability activities with an international and global perspective.
6. Focus on quality.
7. Value diversity and promote equality.

SIX CATEGORIES OF SUSTAINABILITY AT AAU

1. Student Experience
2. Education for Sustainability
3. Research for Sustainability
4. Partnership and Engagement
5. Operations for Sustainability
6. Governance and Quality Assurance



1. Student Experience

Goal

To enhance the student experience by providing an environment that fosters learning for sustainability.

Priority Actions:

- Support our students to be responsible citizens and an active part of the local community.
- Support the health and happiness of students and facilitate their integration into the AAU community.
- Empower students to incorporate sustainable practices into their work and life styles.
- Promote opportunities for the students to get involved with volunteering works.
- Provide opportunities for students to build understanding and develop skills on sustainability.
- Evolve towards a smart campus where we can integrate our campus, teaching and research to demonstrate that we practice what we teach.
- Work actively with the students' clubs and other bodies.
- Regenerate indoor and outdoor spaces on campus to transform them into user-friendly social spaces.
- Generate pedestrian-friendly corridors that showcase best practices in sustainable urban design.
- Develop an urban setting that can be easily and safely used by people with disabilities or those with special needs.

2. Education for Sustainability

Goal

To enable all staff and students access to learning that enhances their understanding of sustainability.

Priority Actions:

- Work with faculties to include education for sustainability in their curricula.
- Continue to provide staff and students with opportunities to develop skills for sustainability through a range of teaching and learning opportunities.
- Help students to acquire skills that prepare them to work across disciplinary, sectoral and cultural boundaries.
- Work with the students to translate classroom knowledge to complex real-world situations through an applied learning experience.
- Create opportunities for students to participate in sustainability activities.
- Actively encourage good practice through social media, website, conferences and seminars.

3. Research for Sustainability

Goal

To support and promote research related to sustainability and ensure that our operations are informed by this research.

Priority Actions:

- Identify and support opportunities that exist to conduct sustainability-related research across our campus.
- Support research that informs and advances solutions to sustainability challenges and sharing the findings with the public and decision makers.
- Develop a networking platform to facilitate collaborative research in sustainability both within disciplines and across disciplinary boundaries.
- Develop and implement a Sustainable Labs program aiming to foster sustainability in labs.
- Communicate research activities in sustainability and announce key activities on the university's web pages, social media and newsletter.
- Actively engage and support undergraduate and postgraduate research.

4. Partnership and Engagement

Goal

Maximize engagement of staff, students and all university members in sustainability issues.

Priority Actions:

- Build external collaboration with the students' clubs, student societies and other bodies.
- Develop our communications and engagement strategy to support this strategy.
- Communicate and promote current sustainability activities and achievements to staff, students and alumni.
- Create opportunities where staff and students can get involved in practical sustainability activities.
- Provide opportunities for community engagement in sustainability activities at the University.
- Work with local organizations, schools and businesses to develop partnerships and increase the amount of stakeholder engagement.

5. Operations for Sustainability

Goal

To promote responsible operational activities and make a positive contribution to the sustainability through effective operations.

Priority Actions:

- *Carbon management:* To optimize energy management to reduce net carbon emission.
- *Waste management:* To reduce waste production and maximize waste recycling.
- *Water management:* To reduce water use and consumption.
- *Built environment:* To maximize the quality of buildings and landscapes and ensure that new buildings and renewals take into account sustainable construction principles and address the range of environmental issues relevant to them.
- *Travel and Transport:* To support sustainable systems of transportation to and from the campus.
- *Biodiversity and Landscape:* To improve the campus's ecological and social value and develop a master plan that considers the well-being of students and workers.
- *Information technology:* To use information technology sustainably.

6. Governance and Quality Assurance

Goal

To ensure that the aims and objectives contained here are delivered to a high standard and in a transparent way.

Priority Actions:

- Continue to include our sustainability objectives into the wider policies and strategies of the University.
- Seek continual improvement in our environmental performance.
- Communicate effectively with staff, students, stakeholders and the wider community to ensure that they are all aware of our performance and their responsibilities.
- Ensure all new staff and students receive information about sustainability through the induction program and through an ongoing engagement program.
- Work with Human Resources to embed these objectives into job descriptions and staff responsibilities.

APPLICATION, MONITORING and REPORTING

The university will consider the following:

- Develop action plans and sub-strategies to be delivered alongside this Policy. These plans should contain specific, measurable, relevant, and time bound actions for implementing sustainability strategies.
- Prioritize the urgent categories over the next five years of this Policy to ensure application of the categories is taking place.
- Form sustainability engagement groups for each category to ensure its application.
- Monitor performance through university steering group using appropriate key performance indicators and external metrics such as the UI Green Metric.
- Report annually on the indicators and other relevant achievements and activities.