

جامعة عجمان
AJMAN UNIVERSITY

2025

SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION

13.3 Environmental education measures

13.3.1 Local education programmes on climate

THE GLOBAL GOALS

Table of Contents

Introduction 06

Message from the Chancellor 07

13.3.1 Local education programs on climate 08

Empowering the Community for a Sustainable Future: Climate Change Training Courses 08

Access to Learning Resources for free 09

Campaigns and Events on Climate Change at Ajman University 09

Ajman University Hosts New Student Orientation Week Under the Theme Succeeding at AU 09

The Office of International Academic Affairs and Office of Sustainability Organize Ajman University Winter Study Tour 2025 11

Ajman University Resumes the Mangrove Planting Initiative in Collaboration with Al Zorah Golf Club and Quest for Adventure 12

Ajman University's Green Entrepreneurship Program Cultivates Sustainable Ventures. 14

Ajman University Leads the Launch of the UCN Decarbonization Academy in Collaboration with Leading Universities in the UAE 15

Ajman University Vice Chancellor Delivers Speaking Session on Energy Efficiency at UCN Decarbonization Academ Event 16

Ajman University Vice Chancellor Rabi Alkhofash Highlights the Role of Academia in Advancing Real-World Sustainability at PMI MENA Webinar 21

Ajman University Participates in “Ghars” Initiative on World Environment Day 2025 24

Ajman University Students Participate in Dubai Municipality Sustainability Forum 25

Ajman University’s Office of Sustainability Strengthens Global Engagement at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi 26

Ajman University Celebrates the 54th Eid Al Etihad....28
Ajman University's Mangrove Restoration Effort Wins MAJRA Sustainable Impact Award 2025....29
Ajman University Earns Sustainability Seal for Transformative Impact....30
Ajman University Strengthens Youth Sustainability Leadership Through Judging Role in Ajman Sewerage NextGen Innovators Competition....32
Ajman University Students Attend World Green Economy Summit 2025....33
Ajman University Students Explore Digital Innovation and Sustainable Trade at GITEX 2025....35
Ajman University Students Showcase Sustainable Innovation at DATE and CARE MENA Event....38
Ajman University Participates in Universities Challenge 2025 with "Ni'matak" Project..41
CBA Students Join Sustainability Heroes Innovation Competition....42
Ajman University Champions Sustainable Fashion Innovation....43
The College of Business Administration Hosts a Workshop on Sustainability and Green Entrepreneurship....44
Dr. Muna Salameh Participates in the 11th International Talk on Green Business, Sustainability, and Climate Action....45
Office of Sustainability at Ajman University Participates in SEE Institute's Climate....46
The College of Mass Communication Hosts a Guest Speaker on Sustainability and Digital Innovation....47
Ajman University Resumes the Mangrove Planting Initiative in Collaboration with Al Zorah Golf Club and Quest for Adventure....48
Ajman University Students Participate in the Environmental Students Forum on Circular Economy....50
Young Innovators Take on Climate Change: Ajman University's Maya Haddad Leads Judging at Girls in ICT Hackathon....52
Ajman University Participates as a Knowledge Partner at HSE Expo 2025....53
Greenpeace MENA, Ajman University, and UAE Universities Climate Network Celebrate 'Wellbeing Economy Award' Winners....55

Ajman University Students Attend 13th Cycle of Arabia CSR & Sustainability Forum 57
The College of Business Administration Hosts a Workshop on Sustainability and Green Entrepreneurship 60
Celebrating Architecture Student's Success as a panelist in the "Girls Today, Leaders Tomorrow: Women Driving Change in the Built Environment" event, in Sustainable Architecture. 61
Dr. Muna Salameh Participates in the 11th International Talk on Green Business, Sustainability, and Climate Action 62
The College of Mass Communication Hosts a Guest Speaker on Sustainability and Digital Innovation 63
Ajman University Students Participate in the 25th Inter-College Environmental Public Speaking Competition 64
Ajman University Participate in the "Clean UAE 2025" Campaign to Promote Environmental Sustainability 66
Dr. Mona Delivers Lecture on Research Methodologies to Master's Students at UAE University 68
Sustainable Architecture Students Excel in "Best Sustainable Research" Competition 69
Heritage and Identity Workshop Explores "Modeling the History" Through Tactile Learning 70
Guest Speakers Enrich Sustainable Architecture Course with Industry Expertise 71
Ajman University Hosts Sustainable Day 2025: "Shaping Green Cities: Global Insights & Local Applications" 72
Dr. Muna Salameh Speaks at Health & Safety Hub During WETEX 2025 74
Imperial College London Sustainability Leadership Programme 75
Ajman University Participates in Dubai Holding's Climate Conversations Event on Ocean Conservation 77
Ajman University's Office of Sustainability Completes Advanced Training on GHG Emissions: From Reporting to Impact 78

Introduction

As the global climate crisis intensifies, universities are increasingly recognized as pivotal institutions in driving sustainable development. By educating future generations and engaging with local communities, universities can play a crucial role in mitigating climate change impacts, promoting adaptation strategies, and fostering a culture of environmental stewardship.

This report delves into the University's commitment to environmental education and its alignment with UN Targets 13.1, 13.3, and 13.B. By examining the University's local education programs and collaborations on climate change, we aim to assess its impact on the following key areas:

- Climate change awareness: Raising public awareness about the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to climate change.
- Climate change mitigation: Promoting strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming.
- Climate change adaptation: Developing strategies to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change.
- Disaster preparedness: Enhancing community resilience to climate-related disasters.

To evaluate the University's performance, we will focus on the following key indicator:

Local education programs on climate (13.3.1): This indicator assesses the University's efforts to raise awareness about climate change risks, impacts, mitigation, adaptation, and early warning systems through local education programs and campaigns.

By analyzing this indicator, we can gain valuable insights into the University's impact on local communities and its commitment to fostering environmental literacy.



Message from the Chancellor

Universities from various parts of the world have shown their willingness to become carbon neutral

Ajman University successfully accomplished important milestones in recent years, and I firmly believe in the University dream team that can achieve carbon neutral by 2030 and net zero by 2050. That will be an exponential achievement in our contribution to the national and global efforts to tackle climate change. Climate action is a collective action that involves all members of Ajman University. You have a chance to be part of the driving force that will reshape our future, ensure sustainability and resilience, and preserve our environment and earth for future generations.



Climate action is a collective action that involves all members of Ajman University

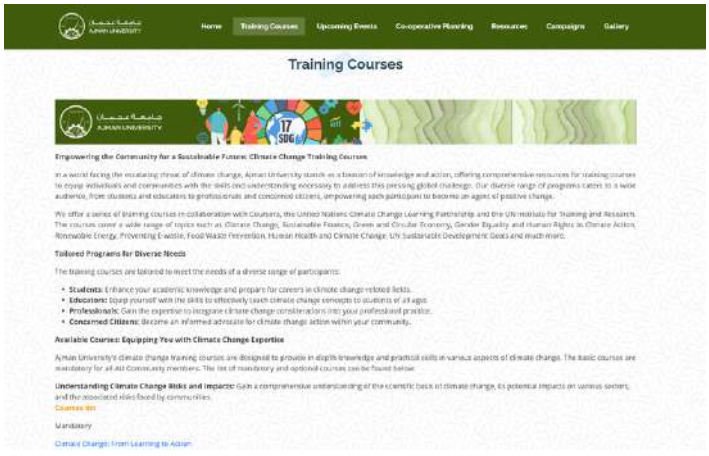
KARIM SEGHIR,PHD
CHANCELLOR

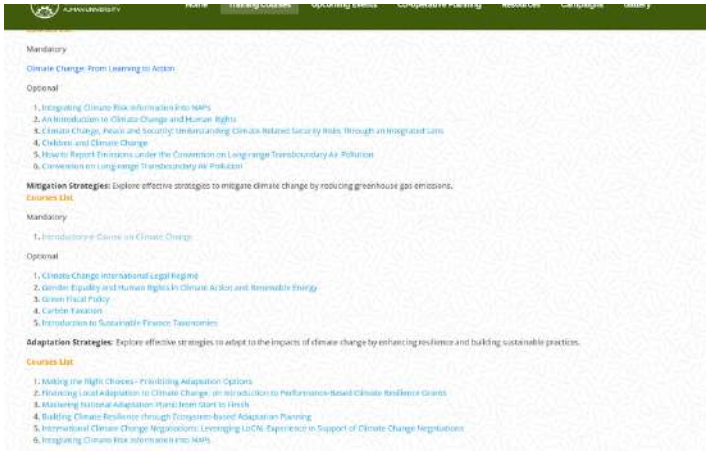
13.3.1 Indicator:
Local education programs on climate

Ajman University is committed to serving the internal and external community student body within the UAE region and beyond. Several school sessions are organized throughout the year to give students an understanding of Environmental Health, Safety, and Sustainability concepts.
Weekly and monthly sessions are organized either at the University premises or schools to provide thorough knowledge on the topic and to make the student body aware of 21st-century skills. As knowledge-sharing, the learning resources are shared on the sustainability page, and students can freely access them for future learning or knowledge enhancement.

Empowering the Community for a Sustainable Future: Climate Change Training Courses

In a world facing the escalating threat of climate change, Ajman University stands as a beacon of knowledge and action, offering comprehensive resources for training courses to equip individuals and communities with the skills and understanding necessary to address this pressing global challenge. Our diverse range of programs caters to a broad audience, from students and educators to professionals and concerned citizens, empowering each participant to become an agent of positive change.
The Office of Sustainability offers training courses in collaboration with Coursera, the United Nations Climate Change Learning Partnership, and the UN Institute for Training and Research. The courses cover Climate Change, Sustainable Finance, Green and Circular Economy, Gender Equality and Human Rights in Climate Action, Renewable Energy, Preventing E-waste, Food Waste Prevention, Human Health and Climate Change, UN Sustainable Development Goals, and much more. The list of offered training programs and courses can be found under "***Training Courses***" at the below webpage:
https://ehs.ajman.ac.ae/en/pages/au-climate-action-learning-program
The Summary of Campaigns that run throughout the year is available on the university webpage under the section "***Campaign***":
https://ehs.ajman.ac.ae/en/pages/au-climate-action-learning-program





Access to Learning Resources for free

Other than conducting and running the training programs and campaigns on scheduled dates, students can access the study material anytime from the University webpage. These lectures are available for free to any students throughout the year. The community can openly access these campaigns at:

- Under "Training Programs" at the AU Climate Action Learning Program page: https://ehs.ajman.ac.ae/en/pages/au-climate-action-learning-program
- Under "Student Development Sessions and Events" at the Office of Sustainability page: https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/community/development-sessions-and-events

Campaigns and Events on Climate Change at Ajman University:

Ajman University Hosts New Student Orientation Week Under the Theme ' Succeeding at AU '

The Office of Student Life at the Deanship of Student Services at Ajman University organized a series of events for the New Student Orientation Week for the Fall 2025-26 semester, under the theme " Succeeding at AU."

The week began with a special reception for new students and their parents, followed the next day by presentations from various departments, including the Deanship of Student Services, Registration, Finance, Information Technology, the Library, Facilities and Transportation, Masar Career Excellence, Medical Services, Scholarships and Financial Aid, as well as the Office of International Academic Affairs and the Office of Community Engagement.

The program also featured a variety of workshops, sessions, and interactive activities. The Counseling Unit organized a workshop titled “From School to University: Start Your Academic Journey with Confidence and Excellence,” and, in collaboration with the Center for Inclusive Learning, delivered a lecture titled “Because You Deserve Support: Learn When and Where to Ask for It.” Together with the center, the unit also held a student gathering titled “Inclusion Begins with Small Steps: Together We Achieve Our Goals and Succeed.” Additional workshops included “Adapting to Continuous Challenges and Changes” and a lecture titled “Your Mental Health Is the Key to Overcoming Challenges in Your Academic Journey,” delivered in collaboration with the Center for Inclusive Learning.

The Office of Medical Services conducted an introductory session on the health services available to students, faculty, and staff, aimed at raising awareness of available resources and promoting a healthy and safe campus environment. The Office of International Academic Affairs also organized an orientation session for international students to introduce them to academic regulations and university services.

The Office of Student Life hosted a Student Life Open House that featured a rich entertainment program including cultural, artistic, and sports activities, along with a variety of competitions. The office also organized fine arts introductory sessions for female students titled “The Importance of Fine Arts in Our Lives,” showcasing their work, as well as a separate session for male students. Additionally, sports activities were introduced to both male and female students, giving them the opportunity to meet coaches and register for university teams. The program further included a cultural presentation titled “Discover the UAE – The UAE: Icon of Heritage and Modernity,” which offered insights into the culture, society, and key landmarks of the country, alongside a field trip to Ajman Museum.

The Office of Sustainability organized a session titled “Emergency Preparedness, Sustainability, and Climate Action” to raise awareness among new students about safety procedures, strengthen their readiness to respond to emergencies, and reinforce the principles of sustainability and climate action.

The Orientation Week for new students reflects Ajman University's commitment to providing a comprehensive and integrated educational experience. Through a diverse range of events and workshops covering various aspects of academic and professional life, the university aims to enhance the student experience, facilitate their adaptation to university life, and equip them with the tools needed for success in their academic and professional journey.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/the-office-of-international-academic-affairs-and-office-of-sustainability-organize-ajman-university-winter-study-tour-2025









The Office of International Academic Affairs and Office of Sustainability Organize Ajman University Winter Study Tour 2025

The Office of International Academic Affairs, in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability at Ajman University, organized the Winter Study Tour 2025 to enhance students' awareness of sustainability and climate change, and to link academic knowledge with field-based and practical experiences.

The tour included the Climate Fresk Workshop, an interactive session that used a visual mapping approach to explain climate change, connect its scientific causes with environmental and human impacts, and explore practical solutions through participatory discussions.

Students also visited the Emirates Revised Derived Fuel (RDF), where they learned about waste-to-fuel conversion processes and the role of this technology in reducing landfill dependency and supporting the circular economy, while highlighting innovation in sustainable energy and waste management.

As part of the tour, students attended an orientation session on the solar-powered hydroponic net house project in collaboration with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). The session included a project presentation, a guided tour of the greenhouse, and an open discussion with experts on sustainable agriculture and food security.

The tour concluded with a visit to the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), where students explored advanced research projects on crops, soil, and water management in arid and saline environments. They also engaged with experts to learn about the role of biosaline agriculture in enhancing food security and addressing water scarcity challenges.

This tour reflects the commitment of the Office of International Academic Affairs and the Office of Sustainability at Ajman University to providing high-quality learning experiences, raising students' awareness of sustainability issues, and equipping them with practical skills to actively contribute to building a more sustainable future.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/the-office-of-international-academic-affairs-and-office-of-sustainability-organize-ajman-university-winter-study-tour-2025





Ajman University Resumes the Mangrove Planting Initiative in Collaboration with Al Zorah Golf Club and Quest for Adventure

Ajman University's Office of Sustainability, in collaboration with Al Zorah Golf Club – a subsidiary of Al Zorah Development Private Company– and Quest for Adventure, has resumed the Mangrove Planting and Golf Tour initiative, building on the first phase launched last year.

The five-week program brought together students from private schools, students of determination, and members of the Ajman University community, offering them a unique opportunity to become environmental champions by directly engaging in hands-on activities that instill values of environmental responsibility and raise awareness about the importance of preserving coastal ecosystems.

The initiative also witnessed the participation of students from Almaarifa School and National Charity School, alongside members of the external community. It provided school students with an educational and hands-on experience, allowing them to learn about the role of mangroves in protecting coastal ecosystems, supporting biodiversity, and promoting climate action.

The initiative seeks to support the UAE's goal of planting 100 million mangrove trees by 2030, contributing to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, restoring ecosystems, protecting biodiversity, and building a sustainable future for generations to come. It also aligns with Ajman's commitment to doubling the size of the mangrove forests in the Al Zorah Nature Reserve to reach 2.4 million trees, while complementing Ajman University's climate and sustainability strategy.

Furthermore, the initiative aims to support the University's commitment to the Nature Positive Universities Alliance, in collaboration with the University of Oxford and the United Nations Environment Programme. It provides participants with opportunities to connect with nature, appreciate the beauty of marine landscapes, and strengthen their sense of environmental responsibility. The program also serves as a platform to expand networks through teamwork and community engagement activities.

This initiative reflects Ajman University's ongoing efforts to launch and implement innovative projects that support sustainability and climate action, while reinforcing its role as a leading institution contributing to national goals and enhancing the UAE's position on the global sustainability map.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-resumes-the-mangrove-planting-initiative-in-collaboration-with-al-zorah-golf-club-and-quest-for-adventure













Ajman University's Green Entrepreneurship Program Cultivates Sustainable Ventures

Ambitious students across the UAE recently presented innovative solutions to local sustainability challenges at Ajman University's Green Entrepreneurship Program, a collaboration between Ajman University and AIR. The program empowers students from universities nationwide to develop environmentally and socially conscious businesses addressing the region's unique environmental concerns.

Following an intensive two-day bootcamp on February 17 and 18, 2025, participating teams spent two months refining their concepts with guidance from seasoned business professionals and academics. Mentors included Dr Zakiya Abdul Samad, Program Director at Heriot-Watt University; Qasim Javaid, Co-founder and CEO of Rizq; and Dr. Bilal Pandow, Assistant Professor at Bahrain Polytechnic.

The program culminated on April 25, 2025, with teams pitching their business projects to a panel of judges including Dr. Maher Itani, Ajman University; Dr. Samer Zyoud, Ajman University; Rawad Barazanji, Sharjah National Oil Corporation; and Urooj Khan, KPMG Lower Gulf.

The first-place winners, selected for their exceptional concept and potential impact, received AED 5,000 in seed funding from AIR.

Winners

- First Place: LoopBite

LoopBite is creating a waste collection service connecting households, businesses, farms, and biogas energy reserves. The startup collects organic waste and used cooking oil (UCO) from households and businesses in Ajman, transforming these materials into valuable compost and biodiesel. Team members include Mohamed Nihmathullah, Mohammed Abushaban, Nazmi Nazer, Syed Ahmed Faiz, and Syrin Alabrach.

- Second Place: Planet Pioneers

Planet Pioneers is transforming desalination brine into sustainable construction materials. Solvita converts brine waste into eco-friendly concrete bricks designed to meet the UAE's growing infrastructure demands. Team members include Leen Ghaddar and Ahlam Abdulla.

- Third Place: Green Visionaries

The Green Visionaries team aims to establish Ajman's first waste management and logistics company employing state-of-the-art sustainability and zero-waste solutions, including an AI-powered centralized waste recycling facility, a mobile application, and a fleet of e-mobility trucks. Team members include Doaa Al-Alimi, Meera Abdulkarim, Mhikevin Jade Jimenez, Rawan Ismail, Wesam Adel Alsatli and Zahra Abdul Ahmad.

This program highlights the UAE's dedication to sustainability and entrepreneurship, providing a platform for young innovators to develop impactful solutions for a greener future.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-universitys-green-entrepreneurship-program-cultivates-sustainable-ventures





Ajman University Leads the Launch of the UCN Decarbonization Academy in Collaboration with Leading Universities in the UAE

In line with its commitment to sustainability and climate action, Ajman University announced the launch of the University Climate Network (UCN) Decarbonization Academy, in collaboration with the American University of Sharjah and New York University Abu Dhabi. This initiative is part of the UCN's carbon neutrality pillar and aligns with the UAE's 2025 Community Year, which aims to make a meaningful contribution to society.

The UCN Decarbonization Academy seeks to promote environmental sustainability and enhance climate awareness through a series of interactive workshops led by a distinguished group of academic experts in the field of sustainability. The academy aims to empower participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop effective decarbonization strategies, helping institutions reduce their emissions and strengthen their sustainable practices.

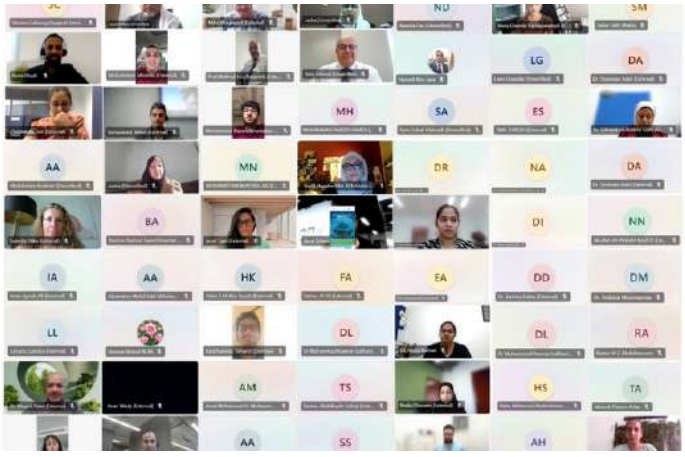
The academy focused on several key areas to deepen participants' understanding of decarbonization mechanisms. The sessions began with foundational concepts on climate and carbon awareness, helping participants grasp the importance of reducing carbon emissions and their environmental impact. The academy also covered topics such as how to develop a climate action plan, where participants were trained on practical steps to create effective strategies for achieving carbon neutrality in their institutions.

The session also focused on data collection and emission calculation methods, helping participants measure environmental impact and make informed decisions. Best practices for improving energy efficiency through innovative solutions were discussed, contributing to reduced carbon footprints and long-term sustainability.

Ajman University continues its efforts to promote sustainability and protect the environment. This initiative is part of the University's drive to be a leader in climate action by providing an educational platform that supports environmental transformation and contributes to spreading the culture of carbon neutrality.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-leads-the-launch-of-the-ucn-decarbonization-academy-in-collaboration-with-leading-universities-in-the-uae





Ajman University Vice Chancellor Delivers Speaking Session on Energy Efficiency at UCN Decarbonization Academy Event

Ajman University's Vice Chancellor for Financial and Administrative Affairs, Mr. Rabi Al Khofash, recently participated as a speaker at an event by the UAE Universities Climate Network (UCN) and delivered an online speaking session titled "Considerations for Improving Energy Efficiency." The event was part of the UCN Decarbonization Academy, an initiative launched by the UAE Universities Climate Network focused on advancing carbon neutrality efforts at universities.

During his session, Mr. Al Khofash emphasized the vital role universities in the UAE play in supporting the country's ambitious environmental goals, including the UAE Energy Strategy 2050 and the Net Zero 2050 vision. He outlined practical steps institutions can take to boost energy efficiency, such as upgrading HVAC systems, adopting smart building technologies, and incorporating renewable energy sources.

These measures, he explained, are not only environmentally responsible but also financially wise. Energy retrofit projects, for example, can lead to significant efficiency improvements that align sustainability with sound fiscal management. Mr. Al Khofash highlighted how embedding energy efficiency into campus operations helps universities meet regulatory requirements while fostering a culture of innovation among students, faculty, and staff members.

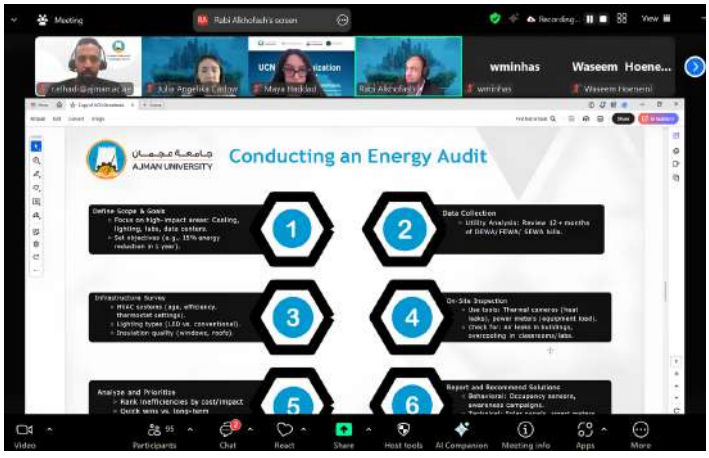
Beyond mere compliance, he described energy efficiency as a long-term commitment to future-proofing educational institutions. By doing so, universities empower the next generation of leaders to carry forward sustainability efforts, creating a lasting impact on both their campuses and the broader community.

Ajman University is the co-founder of the UCN Decarbonization Academy along with the American University of Sharjah (AUS) and New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD). That reflects its ongoing dedication to raising awareness and championing best practices in energy management and carbon neutrality. The university continues to position itself at the forefront of sustainability initiatives, demonstrating how education and environmental responsibility can advance hand in hand.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-vice-chancellor-delivers-speaking-session-on-energy-efficiency-at-ucn-decarbonization-academy-event







Ajman University Vice Chancellor Rabi Alkhofash Highlights the Role of Academia in Advancing Real-World Sustainability at PMI MENA Webinar

Mr. Rabi Alkhofash, Vice Chancellor for Financial and Administrative Affairs at Ajman University, was recently invited to speak at a regional webinar hosted by the Project Management Institute – MENA Chapter, titled “Beyond the Buzzwords: Real Sustainability, Real Impact.” In his remarks, Mr. Alkhofash offered a thoughtful perspective on how universities can meaningfully contribute to national and global sustainability goals through action-oriented strategies.

Drawing on Ajman University’s own journey, Mr. Alkhofash emphasized the importance of moving beyond rhetoric to implement tangible, scalable initiatives. He noted that institutions of higher education are uniquely positioned to nurture the next generation of sustainability leaders—by integrating sustainability into academic programs, institutional operations, and community partnerships.

Mr. Alkhofash advocated for stronger collaboration between academia and industry, underscoring the need to transform theoretical knowledge into real-world solutions. He highlighted the value of strategic partnerships in delivering social and environmental impact, and in preparing students to tackle complex sustainability challenges across sectors.

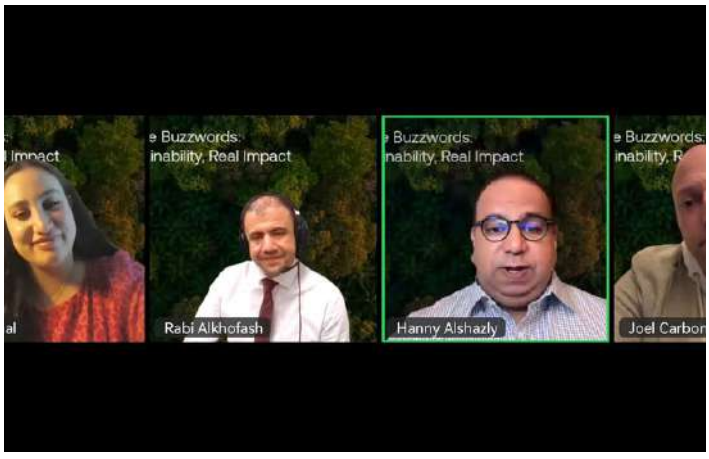
In his address, Mr. Alkhofash also stressed that meaningful sustainability requires community engagement at its core. He pointed to transparency, volunteerism, and data-informed planning as foundational elements of long-term success.

Importantly, he called for a broader set of success metrics, beyond the traditional focus on carbon reduction, to include indicators such as stakeholder engagement and cross-sector collaboration. These, he explained, are critical to measuring institutional sustainability maturity.

While acknowledging the challenges of translating vision into outcomes, Mr. Alkhofash reinforced the idea that sustainability, when approached strategically, can be both transformative and cost-effective. His message was clear: universities must lead by example, embedding sustainability across their culture, policies, and partnerships to create lasting impact.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-vice-chancellor-rabi-alkhofash-highlights-the-role-of-academia-in-advancing-real-world-sustainability-at-pmi-mena-webinar





UCN Decarbonization Academy Navigates the Path to Climate Action Plan for Higher Education Institutions Workshop

The UAE Universities Climate Network (UCN) Decarbonization Academy continued its first cycle with an essential session, "Drafting a Climate Action Plan for Higher Education Institutions," The workshop equipped participants with the strategic framework, guiding principles, and practical roadmap needed to guide their institutions toward carbon neutrality and net-zero emissions—transforming climate ambition into measurable, long-term action.

Hosted in line with the UAE's Year of Community 2025, the Academy is a collaborative initiative between Ajman University (AU), the American University of Sharjah (AUS), and New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD). The session was led by Mr. Antonious Vouloudis, Senior Director of Sustainability and Stewardship at NYUAD, who walked attendees through the core elements of a credible, living Climate Action Plan—from key assumptions and stakeholder management to behavioral demand-side strategies and the careful use of carbon offsetting.

Why a Climate Action Plan Matters

Mr. Vouloudis opened the session by framing the Climate Action Plan as a dynamic framework—not a static document—designed to guide institutions toward carbon neutrality by 2050, in full alignment with the UAE's Net Zero 2050 target. He emphasized that annual progress checks are essential to validate underlying assumptions, adapt to evolving technologies, and ensure the plan remains relevant across environmental, economic, and social dimensions. The session underscored that science-based targets require a structured roadmap to align with global carbon budgets, respect climate tipping points, and respond to the urgency of the climate emergency.

Prioritizing Action: A Clear Hierarchy

A core focus of the workshop was establishing a clear and actionable hierarchy of climate action. Mr. Vouloudis stressed that carbon offsets and credits are the "least preferred and last resort," to be implemented only by mutual agreement with Tamkeen and after exhausting all internal reduction measures. Instead, institutions must prioritize:

- Energy Efficiency Measures and Demand-Side Behavioral Management as the first and most impactful steps.
- Renewable Energy system options (including solar, wind, and future technologies such as green hydrogen and geothermal) to be reevaluated at a later stage.
- Carbon Offsetting only as a final bridging measure, without assuming future cost reductions for solar or carbon credits.

Attendees learned that a successful Climate Action Plan must maintain continuous engagement with government regulators and key stakeholders—an essential component of climate diplomacy and climate mainstreaming—to seek clarity on regulations, energy diversification, and priority sectors.

Key Assumptions Underpinning the Framework

Mr. Vouloudis detailed the critical assumptions that shape NYUAD's Climate Action Plan, offering participants a practical checklist for developing their own institutional roadmaps:

- Regular annual reviews to monitor progress, validate underlying principles, and adapt the framework during implementation.

- Government-led regulatory development and deployment of suitable clean, affordable energy sources to enable the transition to Net Zero by 2050.
- Industry evolution and technological innovation (including new renewable sources, carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS), and direct air capture (DAC) in the future) to present sustainable transition opportunities.
- Campus expansion reviews triggered by any significant change in use or footprint.
- Nominal energy demand increase from the 2019 baseline year moving forward.
- Emission factor improvements from EWEC and TABREED assumed until 2035, with no further improvement post-2035 under the current scenario.
- Offset measures based on current costs, without assuming lower future prices for solar or carbon credits.

Behavioral Demand-Side Management: Action on the Ground

One of the most valuable segments of the session was a detailed breakdown of practical, community-focused initiatives that require no capital investment yet deliver significant emissions reductions. Mr. Vouloudis shared NYUAD's approach to behavioral change, demonstrating that climate literacy and community engagement are powerful tools for decarbonization.

Examples included:

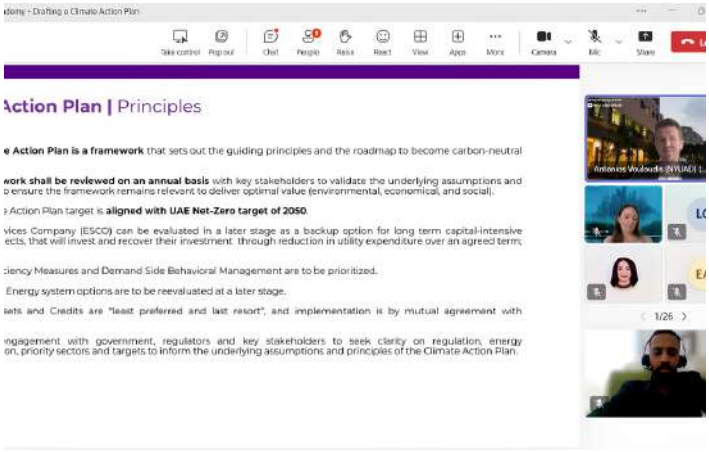
- Residential Apartments Electrical Usage: Monthly monitoring to identify high and low energy users, development of a Tenant Guide, strategic partnership with the Department of Energy, setpoint restrictions, and end-of-life appliance replacement with efficient options.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: Charging users for access, enabling rotation of maximum users per station, reinvesting ROI into future sustainability initiatives, and encouraging community members to switch to electric cars—directly supporting sustainable mobility / low-carbon transport and reducing Scope 3 emissions from transportation.
- Water Strategy: Maximizing water refill stations across campus, minimizing single-use plastic water bottles, and launching awareness campaigns to inform the community of available potable water sources—contributing to circular economy and zero waste principles.
- Future Initiatives: Strategic partnerships with External Relations and student government to ensure clear, non-overlapping messaging. Upcoming topics include water potability (myth-breaking around microplastics in bottled water), food waste reduction (front-of-house minimization and nutritionist-led sessions on vegetarian/vegan diets), waste recycling (myth-breaking to maximize recycling rates), and student energy use (nudging in dorms in collaboration with student interest groups).

Real-World Relevance: Beyond the Campus

Mr. Vouloudis also situated the Climate Action Plan within broader climate finance and accountability frameworks. He noted that while offset measures are based on today's costs, future decreases in solar pricing and carbon credits could improve affordability. The session touched on the potential role of Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) as a backup option for long-term capital-intensive energy projects, where external partners invest and recover their investment through reduced utility expenditure over an agreed term.

- The workshop reinforced that robust Climate Action Plans help institutions prepare for emerging mechanisms such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and align with corporate climate accountability and environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria. By integrating nature-based solutions (NbS)—such as afforestation/reforestation, blue carbon (mangroves, seagrasses, salt marshes), and ecosystem restoration—as complementary long-term strategies, universities can build climate resilience, reduce climate vulnerability, and contribute to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and early warning systems at the institutional level.
- Building a Just and Resilient Future
- The session concluded with a powerful reminder that decarbonization must be pursued as a just transition—ensuring that climate action benefits all communities equitably and addresses loss and damage where it occurs. By embedding climate justice principles into their Climate Action Plans, higher education institutions can model climate-resilient development and inspire broader societal change. Discussions also touched on the importance of methane reduction (from agriculture, waste, and oil/gas), black carbon mitigation, and the role of carbon sinks (forests, oceans, soil) in achieving negative emissions over the long term.
- Looking ahead, the UCN Decarbonization Academy encourages universities to integrate their Climate Action Plans into long-term low-emission development strategies (LT-LEDS) and nationally determined contributions (NDCs), aligning with the UAE's fossil fuel phase-out ambitions. Climate finance mechanisms, including green bonds and carbon pricing (such as emissions trading schemes (ETS) or a carbon tax), were discussed as enablers for scaling up these efforts.
- Looking Ahead
- The UCN Decarbonization Academy continues to empower sustainability professionals across the UAE with the tools, frameworks, and collaborative spirit needed to turn ambition into measurable impact. Future sessions will build on this strategic foundation to explore targeted reduction pathways, data collection methodologies, and implementation strategies—all while keeping climate feedback loops, climate activism / grassroots movements, and corporate climate accountability firmly in view.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ucn-decarbonization-academy-navigates-the-path-to-climate-action-plan-for-higher-education-institutions-workshop





UCN Decarbonization Academy Navigates the Path to Measurable Climate Action with Data & Emissions Workshop

The UAE Universities Climate Network (UCN) Decarbonization Academy continued its first cycle with an essential third session, “Navigating Data Collection & Emissions Calculation in HEIs,” The workshop equipped participants with the technical know-how to measure, track, and manage institutional carbon footprints—a critical step toward carbon neutrality and net-zero emissions.

Hosted in line with the UAE’s Year of Community 2025, the Academy is a collaborative initiative between Ajman University (AU), the American University of Sharjah (AUS), and New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD). The session was led by Mrs. Julia Carlow, Associate Head of Sustainability at the American University of Sharjah, who walked attendees through the complex but vital process of transforming raw data into actionable decarbonization strategies.

Why Measurement Matters

Mrs. Carlow opened the session by framing emissions accounting within a broader context, including international rankings and the upcoming UAE Climate Law (Federal Decree on the Reduction of Climate Change Effects), set to take effect in May 2025. She introduced the GHG Protocol Standard as the global gold standard for creating a true and fair account of an institution’s emissions, emphasizing its role in reducing costs, ensuring transparency, and enabling participation in both voluntary and mandatory climate programs. The session underscored that science-based targets require reliable data to align with global carbon budgets and avoid climate tipping points.

Understanding the Three Scopes

A core focus of the workshop was demystifying the three scopes of emissions under the GHG Protocol:

- Scope 1 (Direct Emissions): Stationary combustion (boilers, generators), mobile combustion (institution-owned vehicles), process emissions (agriculture), and fugitive emissions (refrigerant leaks from HVAC equipment). Discussions highlighted the importance of methane reduction and addressing black carbon where applicable.
- Scope 2 (Indirect Emissions): Emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heat, or cooling. Participants noted that shifting to renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal) and electrification of heating and transport are key levers for reducing Scope 2.
- Scope 3 (Other Indirect Emissions): A comprehensive category including purchased goods and services, capital goods, water consumption, employee commute, sustainable mobility / low-carbon transport, air travel, freight, waste disposal, downstream leased assets, franchises, investments, and fuel- and energy-related activities. This scope directly connects to circular economy principles and zero waste goals.

Who Collects What? A Practical Roadmap

One of the most valuable segments of the session was a detailed breakdown of responsible parties for data collection. Mrs. Carlow shared AUS’s internal model, demonstrating that successful GHG accounting requires cross-departmental collaboration. For example:

- Facilities Departments manage stationary combustion and refrigerants.
- Supply Chain & Finance oversee purchased goods, capital goods, and water consumption, aligning with corporate climate accountability and ESG criteria.

- Transportation & Security provide data on employee commute and fleet emissions, informing low-carbon transport policies.
- Third-party travel agencies and contractors contribute data on air travel and freight.

Real-World Results & Key Challenges

Participants were presented with AUS's 2024 emissions data, which revealed a total footprint of 57,387 tCO2e (Scope 1: 2,300 tCO2e; Scope 2: 22,024 tCO2e; Scope 3: 33,063 tCO2e). Notably, Scope 2 emissions continued to decline due to ongoing energy efficiency initiatives and the adoption of the DEWA emissions factor. Meanwhile, Scope 3 emissions increased—not necessarily due to worsened performance, but due to better quality data from food outlets, IT purchases, and advertising costs—highlighting how improved measurement supports climate mainstreaming and informed climate adaptation plans.

Mrs. Carlow also candidly addressed key challenges facing higher education institutions:

- Fragmented Data scattered across departments and systems.
- Inconsistent Data Quality leading to compromised reporting integrity.
- Manual Processes in spreadsheets, resulting in errors and administrative burden.
- Limited Employee Engagement without proper training, underscoring the need for climate literacy and behavioural change.

Building a Data-Driven Decarbonization Strategy

The session reinforced that robust data collection is not an end in itself, but the foundation for effective decarbonization. By understanding their emissions baseline and where data gaps exist, institutions can prioritize interventions—from energy efficiency retrofits to sustainable procurement and circular economy practices. The workshop also touched on the role of carbon offsetting only after deep reductions, and the importance of negative emissions technologies such as direct air capture (DAC) and nature-based solutions (e.g., afforestation, blue carbon in mangroves and seagrasses) as complementary tools.

Looking ahead, the Academy encourages universities to integrate their GHG inventories into long-term low-emission development strategies (LT-LEDS) and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) , aligning with the UAE's fossil fuel phase-out ambitions and climate-resilient development goals. Climate finance mechanisms, including green bonds and carbon pricing (such as emissions trading systems or a carbon tax), were discussed as enablers for scaling up these efforts.

The UCN Decarbonization Academy continues to empower sustainability professionals across the UAE with the tools, frameworks, and collaborative spirit needed to turn ambition into measurable impact. Future sessions will build on these foundational data skills to explore targeted reduction strategies and implementation pathways, with an emphasis on climate justice and a just transition that leaves no community behind.

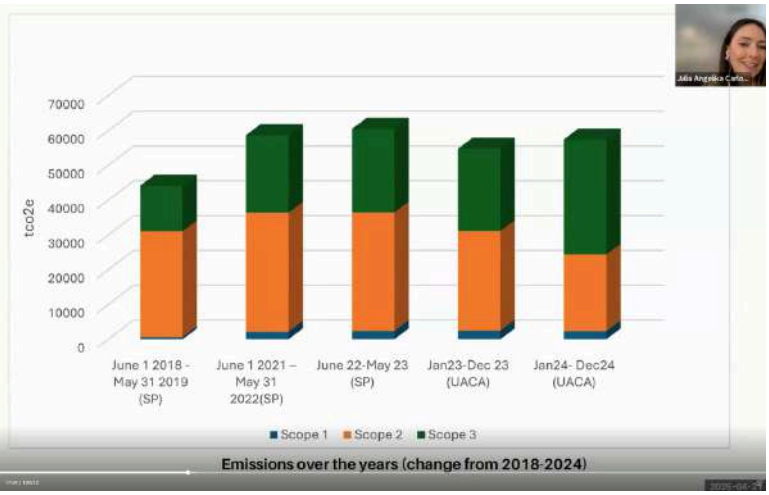
About the UCN Decarbonization Academy

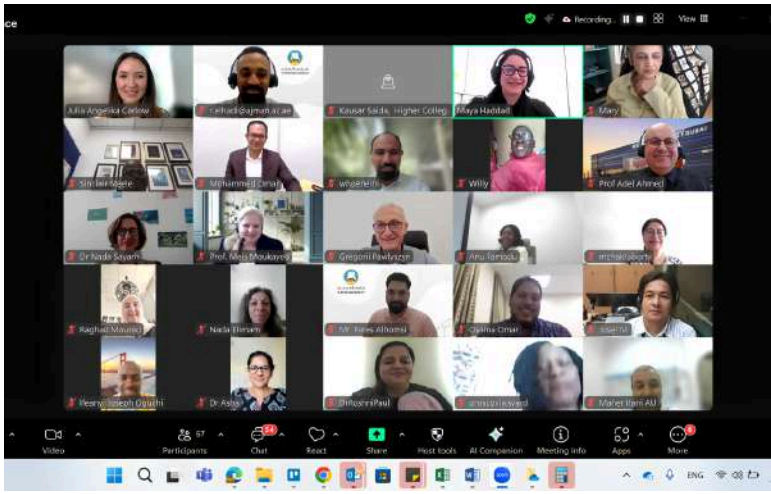
Launched in mid-2024, the Academy is a flagship initiative under the University Climate Network's carbon neutrality pillar. The first cycle features expert-led workshops by AU, AUS, and NYUAD, covering climate action planning, carbon literacy, emissions calculation, and energy efficiency.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ucn-decarbonization-academy-navigates-the-path-to-measurable-climate-action-with-data-emissions-workshop









Ajman University Participates in “Ghars” Initiative on World Environment Day 2025

Ajman University’s Office of Sustainability participated in the “Ghars” initiative, launched by the Ajman Youth Council in collaboration with the UAE Council for Entrepreneurship, the UAE Agriculture Council, Ajman Tourism Development Department, Ajman University, University of Sharjah, Zayed University, and Greenpeace MENA, on the occasion of World Environment Day 2025.

The initiative’s agenda featured a series of intellectual and interactive activities, including two panel discussions with experts and specialists in the fields of environment, agriculture, and sustainable digital content. These sessions also provided university students with the opportunity to present innovative initiatives aimed at developing local environmental solutions, alongside hands-on activities focused on community farming.

Ajman University students showcased innovative sustainability-focused research projects, including:

- Toward Sustainable Wastewater Treatment Using Laser-Enhanced Photocatalysis, a project aimed at developing advanced, eco-friendly solutions for wastewater treatment. The project was presented by students Bayan M. Alradi, Asaad D. Hasan, Rashed Hasson Alabid, and Nagham Elsayed.
- Smart Simulations for Sustainable Solar: Eco-Friendly Buffers, Maximum Performance, a project focused on improving solar energy efficiency using innovative simulation tools. The project was presented by students Bayan M. Alradi and Asaad D. Hasan.

The projects were supervised by Prof. Fares Howari, Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences, and Dr. Samer Zyoud, Senior Lecturer in the College. In addition, Ms. Asma Al Shamsi, Manager of Athletics at the Office of Student Life, led the Sustainable Art Workshop, which highlighted the connection between creative expression and environmental responsibility.

Ajman University’s participation reflects its strong commitment to promoting environmental awareness and advancing sustainability practices, by empowering its students to put forward innovative ideas and practical solutions that support national efforts toward building a sustainable and prosperous future.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-participates-in-ghars-initiative-on-world-environment-day-2025-091025-124147





Ajman University Students Participate in Dubai Municipality Sustainability Forum

Ajman University students participated in the Sustainability Forum organized by Dubai Municipality, which brought together specialists, academics, and professionals interested in sustainability. Their participation came as part of the University's engagement, in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability and students from various disciplines, reflecting the role of youth in supporting environmental efforts and promoting a culture of sustainability.

During the forum, students attended dialogue sessions and specialized discussions on the future of sustainability in the UAE. They gained valuable experience and explored new perspectives on environmental and developmental issues.

The forum also featured an interactive debate that discussed the relationship between clean energy, sustainable transportation, and air quality improvement. This session allowed students to interact, share ideas, and propose solutions for building healthier and more sustainable cities.

Ajman University students also actively participated in the Innovation Lab, where they were divided into two groups to work on challenges related to the circular economy and Dubai Municipality's sustainability agenda. Through brainstorming sessions, students developed practical and innovative solutions and presented them to the audience, demonstrating their creative thinking and teamwork skills.

This participation reflects Ajman University's commitment to supporting sustainability initiatives and encouraging students to engage in national events that promote environmental awareness and social responsibility. The University continues to empower students to gain practical experience and develop their leadership skills, helping prepare a conscious generation capable of actively contributing to sustainable development goals.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-students-participate-in-dubai-municipality-sustainability-forum





Ajman University's Office of Sustainability Strengthens Global Engagement at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi

Ajman University's Office of Sustainability participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, held in Abu Dhabi, reaffirming the University's growing role in advancing sustainability dialogue and environmental action through international collaboration. The Congress is among the world's most prominent gatherings dedicated to nature conservation, bringing together global experts and decision-makers from governments, civil society, the private sector, and academic institutions to address pressing environmental challenges and shape global sustainability priorities.

The participation reflects Ajman University's strategic commitment to embedding sustainability across its academic, research, and community initiatives while contributing to global platforms that foster innovative environmental solutions and policy dialogue. This engagement was further strengthened by the University's partnership with the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, which hosted the University's official sessions at its pavilion during the Congress.

As part of the program, Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, developed and moderated a session titled "Digital Conservation: How Emirati Voices Are Leading the Sustainability Conversation." The session featured Dr. Rashid Karkain, Environmental and Sustainable Development Expert; Eng. Fatma Alhantoubi, Director of Environmental Research and Legislation at Fujairah Environment Authority and an Ajman University alumna; and Khaled Alblooshi, a student from Ajman University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

The discussion explored the growing role of digital platforms in shaping environmental awareness and highlighted how Emirati experts, youth, and institutions are contributing to a more informed and action-oriented sustainability dialogue. Participants examined how social media and digital communication can mobilize communities, inspire behavioral change, and translate environmental awareness into practical solutions.

Haddad also contributed as a speaker in a session titled "Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation: The Imperatives of Social Inclusion in Fostering Resilience." During the session, she emphasized the critical role biodiversity plays in strengthening communities' ability to adapt to climate change. She also underscored the importance of engaging diverse segments of society in environmental planning and implementation, noting that inclusive approaches strengthen policy outcomes and support the development of resilient and sustainable communities.

The Congress addressed five central themes: scaling up sustainable and resilient environmental action, mitigating the risks of climate change, advancing environmental justice and equity, transitioning toward nature-positive economies and societies, and fostering innovation and leadership in nature conservation. Together, these discussions contribute to shaping the global environmental agenda for the coming years.

Through its participation, Ajman University continues to expand the impact of its Office of Sustainability, strengthening partnerships with local and international stakeholders while supporting initiatives that advance environmental awareness, research, and community engagement.

This engagement reinforces Ajman University's commitment to contributing to international efforts that protect natural ecosystems and promote a sustainable future for both people and the planet.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-universitys-office-of-sustainability-strengthens-global-engagement-at-the-iucn-world-conservation-congress-2025-in-abu-dhabi









Ajman University Celebrates the 54th Eid Al Etihad

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Crown Prince of Ajman, Chairman of the Executive Council, and Chairman of Ajman University's Board of Trustees, Ajman University celebrated the 54th UAE National Day (Eid Al Etihad) at Sheikh Zayed Center on campus. The event was organized by the Deanship of Student Services and attended by Dr. Karim Seghir, Chancellor of AU, Cabinet members, faculty, staff, and students.

The celebration included the participation of all colleges, the Office of Sustainability, and several external organizations, including Ajman Police, the Emirates Astronomy Society, the Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, the Sharjah Academy for Astronomy, Space Sciences and Technology, the Sharjah Museums Authority, Al Mahatta Museum, Alsaraya Foodstuff Trading L.L.C., the Holy Quran Academy in Sharjah, the Emirates Philatelic Association, and the Pepsi Hobby Club. These contributions enriched the event through diverse activities and traditional displays that highlighted the cultural and national identity of the UAE.

Highlights of the celebration included a traditional Al Aazi dance performance by Al Wishahat Al Harbia, a patriotic performance by Abdullah Salem Al Shamsi, who presented a poetic excerpt about the UAE, and a spirited singing performance, creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere. The event also featured the creation of a National Day mosaic artwork, produced by talented students from the Fine Arts Center.

This celebration reflects the commitment of Ajman University's Deanship of Student Services to marking national occasions, reinforcing national identity, and fostering values of belonging and pride among students through events that blend cultural, heritage, and creative elements, highlighting the history and achievements of the United Arab Emirates.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-celebrates-the-54th-eid-al-etihad









Ajman University's Mangrove Restoration Effort Wins MAJRA Sustainable Impact Award 2025

Ajman University is proud to announce that its community-driven initiative, "Greening Communities: Mangrove Planting Project," has been named Best University-Led Project at the MAJRA Sustainable Impact Challenge 2025. The project was also recognized as one of the Top 20 national sustainability initiatives from more than 228 entries across the UAE.

Held under the patronage and presence of H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, UAE Minister of Economy and Chairman of Majra's Board of Trustees, the award ceremony took place at the SEE Institute in Dubai Sustainable City. The event also saw the participation of H.E. Hessa bint Essa Buhumaid, Director General of Dubai's Community Development Authority.

Representing Ajman University at the ceremony were Mr. Rabi Al Khofash, Vice-Chancellor for Financial and Administrative Affairs, and Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager, alongside colleagues Jawaher Al Shehhi, Head of Community Service, Rami Elhadi, Sustainability Administrative Coordinator, and Fatima Al Ali, Sustainability Officer.

The Challenge aimed to spotlight innovative, high-impact sustainability efforts across industries, businesses, and academia. From the initial pool of entries, 100 were shortlisted, with the final 20 selected for their potential to scale and deliver measurable environmental, social, and economic outcomes. As Sarah Shaw, CEO of Majra, noted, "These 20 projects are more capable at scaling and creating a bigger impact... We want to give visibility to projects that are really impactful... We're limiting social washing and greenwashing in the nation to really support private sectors' contributions."

Ajman University's mangrove restoration project stood out for its blend of ecological impact, community engagement, and student involvement. The initiative not only restores coastal ecosystems but also raises environmental awareness through active participation and education.

Commenting on the recognition, Dr. Karim Seghir, Chancellor of Ajman University, stated: "We are deeply honored by this recognition from Majra and the UAE leadership. This award reflects our strategic vision of integrating sustainability into education, research, and community engagement. At Ajman University, we believe in empowering students and faculty to become catalysts for positive change. Through this mangrove project, we are not just restoring nature, we are building resilience, inspiring stewardship, and contributing to the UAE's long-term climate goals."

The project also received the Verified Impact Stamp from Majra, which underscores the credibility and effectiveness of AU's approach. It affirms that ecological restoration, when paired with education and civic participation, can create a lasting, scalable impact.

As a UAE federal entity, Majra supports institutions in amplifying their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices. Ajman University is proud to lead with a nature-based solutio that champions environmental integrity while engaging the next generation in climate action.

This achievement is more than an award; it is a testament to AU's steadfast commitment to sustainability, innovation, and community-centered progress.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-universitys-mangrove-restoration-effort-wins-majra-sustainable-impact-award-2025





Ajman University Earns Sustainability Seal for Transformative Impact

Ajman University has been awarded the Plan to Action: Year of Sustainability's Seal in recognition of its impactful sustainability initiatives and contributions to the UAE's broader sustainability objectives.

The Year of Sustainability initiative was launched in 2024 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, reinforcing the country's commitment to promoting sustainable practices and collaborative action for a greener future.

AU has made remarkable strides in sustainability, driving meaningful change through innovative programs that span energy conservation, waste reduction, recycling and community engagement. By fostering research, innovation, and strategic stakeholder collaboration, AU has not only achieved significant sustainability milestones but also cultivated a culture of environmental, social and economic stewardship across campus and beyond.

Commenting on the recognition, Dr. Karim Seghir, Chancellor of Ajman University, said, "At Ajman University, sustainability is deeply embedded in our strategic and operational focus and aligns with our commitment to contribute meaningfully towards the UAE's vision of a sustainable, knowledge-driven society. The award reflects our outstanding efforts and innovation in support of this vision."

AU has made notable efforts in supporting programs, research and innovation in sustainable technologies and practices, with faculty, staff and students collaborating on projects addressing climate change, renewable energy, green skills and sustainable urban development.

Sustainable Innovation

One of the many sustainable initiatives by Ajman University that stands out is a Solar-Powered Hydroponic Net House in collaboration with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). The project supports the UAE's vision for transforming its agricultural sector through the use of solar energy and hydroponic irrigation techniques to promote sustainable farming and food security.

Collaborating Globally

Collaborating globally for sustainability, Ajman University is a member of organizations dedicated to sustainability and environmental protection, including the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN), UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), United Nations' Environment Program Race to Net Zero for Universities, Nature Positive Universities, Greening Education Partnership (GEP), Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), International Society of Sustainability Professionals, and Emirates Green Building Council.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-earns-sustainability-seal-for-transformative-impact













Ajman University Strengthens Youth Sustainability Leadership Through Judging Role in Ajman Sewerage NextGen Innovators Competition

Ajman University contributed to the Ajman Sewerage NextGen Innovators Competition 2025, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability-focused education and youth engagement. The University's involvement reflects its ongoing efforts to support initiatives that encourage innovation, environmental responsibility, and real-world problem solving.

Organized by Ajman Sewerage, the competition brought together school students to develop creative, technology-driven solutions addressing key challenges related to water management, environmental protection, and community wellbeing. The initiative aligned with national sustainability priorities and provided students with a platform to translate ideas into practical applications.

The competition concluded with final presentations and an awards ceremony held at the Ajman Saray Ballroom on 21 November 2025, bringing together student innovators, judges, and key stakeholders. Outstanding teams were recognized with cash prizes, medals, and certificates, including awards for the top three teams and the best presenter, in recognition of their creativity and solution feasibility.

Ajman University was represented on the judging panel by Ms. Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager, contributing the University's sustainability expertise to the evaluation of student proposals and reinforcing its role in supporting applied learning and community collaboration.

Ajman University's participation in the competition reflects its broader sustainability mission, which emphasizes experiential learning, leadership development, and engagement with national initiatives. Through such involvement, the University continues to extend sustainability impact beyond campus boundaries while supporting the development of future-ready leaders aligned with the UAE's sustainability vision.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-strengthens-youth-sustainability-leadership-through-judging-role-in-ajman-sewerage-nextgen-innovators-competition





Ajman University Students Attend World Green Economy Summit 2025

A Focus on Sustainable Climate Finance and Public-Private Partnerships

During the summit, students attended a series of panel discussions and sessions focusing on sustainable climate finance, public-private partnerships, NDCs, and regional climate initiatives across Africa and the Middle East. The event also explored strategies for developing bankable green economy projects and expanding access to climate finance.

Students learned about the critical role of green bonds, carbon pricing mechanisms (including carbon tax and emissions trading schemes (ETS)), and the emerging Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in mobilizing private sector investment for decarbonization. Discussions highlighted how climate finance can support a just transition, ensuring that developing economies receive the necessary resources to build climate resilience infrastructure without sacrificing economic growth.

Regional Climate Initiatives and Climate Diplomacy

The summit placed particular emphasis on regional climate initiatives across Africa and the Middle East, showcasing how climate diplomacy is fostering cross-border collaboration on renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency, and sustainable mobility / low-carbon transport. Students gained insights into how countries are working together to expand renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, tidal) and invest in green hydrogen as a cornerstone of the future low-carbon economy.

Discussions also addressed the importance of electrification of transport, heating, and industry as key pathways for reducing the carbon footprint of high-emitting sectors. Students learned about successful models of public-private partnerships that have accelerated the deployment of climate resilience infrastructure while reducing climate vulnerability in vulnerable regions.

Addressing the Climate Emergency Through Science-Based Targets

Against the backdrop of a global climate emergency, the summit addressed the urgent need for science-based targets aligned with the remaining global carbon budget. Speakers warned of approaching climate tipping points and accelerating climate feedback loops, emphasizing that fossil fuel phase out and methane reduction (from agriculture, waste, and oil/gas sectors) must proceed without delay. Students also learned about the role of black carbon mitigation as a near-term climate solution.

The summit explored the potential of carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) and direct air capture (DAC) as negative emissions technologies, while emphasizing that these should complement—not replace—direct emission reductions. Students heard about the importance of protecting natural carbon sinks (forests, oceans, soil) and investing in nature-based solutions (NbS) such as afforestation, reforestation, ecosystem restoration, and blue carbon conservation (mangroves, seagrasses, salt marshes).

Climate Adaptation, Resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction

The summit also dedicated significant attention to climate adaptation plans, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and early warning systems as essential components of climate resilient development. Students learned how climate risk and climate vulnerability assessments inform the design of climate resilience infrastructure, and how loss and damage considerations are increasingly shaping international climate negotiations.

Discussions highlighted the role of climate modelling and scenario analysis (SSPs, RCPs) in predicting future climate impacts and guiding investment decisions. Students gained exposure to the climate action tracker as a tool for monitoring national and corporate progress, and to the growing field of climate litigation as a mechanism for enforcing climate commitments.

Circular Economy, Food Systems, and Sustainable Agriculture

Beyond energy and finance, the summit explored the transformative potential of circular economy and zero waste principles in reducing emissions across supply chains. Sessions on food systems transformation addressed sustainable agriculture, agroecology, and the need to reduce methane emissions from livestock while building climate resilience in farming communities.

Students learned how electrification and green hydrogen can decarbonize industrial processes, and how sustainable mobility and low-carbon transport solutions are reshaping urban planning across the region. The integration of nature-based solutions into infrastructure design was highlighted as a cost-effective strategy for enhancing climate resilience while delivering biodiversity co-benefits.

Valuable Exposure to Global Sustainability Practices

The summit provided students with valuable exposure to global sustainability practices and emerging environmental policies, while offering opportunities to engage with experts and gain deeper insight into climate action, green investment, and sustainable development initiatives shaping the future of the region and beyond.

Students networked with policymakers, industry leaders, and academics, returning to campus with concrete ideas for capstone projects, research initiatives, and student-led climate activism. The experience reinforced the importance of climate literacy and behavioural change as foundations for effective climate action, and highlighted the role of grassroots movements and corporate climate accountability in driving the transition to a green economy.

Looking Ahead: From Knowledge to Action

The World Green Economy Summit 2025 served as a powerful reminder that accelerating the green transition requires collective action across governments, businesses, civil society, and academia. Ajman University remains committed to translating the insights gained from such summits into concrete action, whether through curriculum enhancement, research initiatives, operational decarbonization, or community outreach.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-students-attend-world-green-economy-summit-2025





Ajman University Students Explore Digital Innovation and Sustainable Trade at GITEX 2025

Students from Ajman University (AU) attended an educational visit to GITEX Global 2025 , where they explored the latest advancements in digital innovation, smart technologies, and sustainable trade solutions. The visit was hosted through a special invitation and sponsorship from Dubai Customs under the theme "Enabling Economies and Facilitating Trade."

The experience provided students with a unique opportunity to witness firsthand how digital transformation can contribute to building more sustainable, efficient, and climate-resilient economic systems—aligning directly with the UAE's broader decarbonization goals, carbon neutrality target, and net-zero emissions ambition by 2050.

Exclusive Tour of Dubai Customs Booth

During the visit, students were given an exclusive tour of the Dubai Customs booth, where representatives introduced them to a range of innovative technologies and smart customs solutions that are transforming global trade and logistics. The session highlighted how digital innovation can reduce the carbon footprint of cross-border trade while enhancing operational efficiency, transparency, and traceability.

Students learned about:

- Advanced paperless trade initiatives that minimize physical documentation, contributing to circular economy and zero waste principles by reducing paper consumption and associated emissions from printing, shipping, and storage.
- Smart tracking systems powered by emerging technologies, enabling real-time visibility of goods across supply chains and supporting sustainable mobility / low-carbon transport through optimized logistics routing and reduced fuel consumption.
- Digital platforms designed to streamline customs operations, reduce paperwork, and optimize supply chain efficiency—directly contributing to energy efficiency gains across the trade ecosystem.

Linking Digital Transformation to Climate Action and Climate Diplomacy

The session also emphasized how these technologies support transparency, traceability, and responsible consumption practices while helping reduce environmental impacts across international trade networks. Students learned that efficient, digitized trade systems can play a meaningful role in climate adaptation plans by reducing delays, waste, and unnecessary energy consumption. This alignment between trade digitalization and environmental goals represents a form of climate diplomacy, demonstrating how non-climate sectors can contribute to the UAE's nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term low-emission development strategies (LT-LEDS).

Discussions touched upon how digital trade solutions can complement broader climate resilience infrastructure by enabling faster response times for essential goods during climate-related disruptions. The integration of smart systems also supports disaster risk reduction (DRR) by improving supply chain visibility and early warning capabilities for potential logistical bottlenecks caused by extreme weather events.

Climate Finance, ESG, and Corporate Accountability

While the primary focus was on digital innovation, students drew connections to the role of climate finance mechanisms—such as green bonds—in scaling up sustainable trade technologies. They also considered how corporate climate accountability and environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria are increasingly shaping procurement and logistics decisions across both public and private sectors. The visit sparked discussions on how carbon pricing mechanisms (including emissions trading schemes or a carbon tax) could influence future trade policies, and how the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is already reshaping global trade dynamics by linking market access to carbon performance.

Inspiring Future Research and Academic Initiatives

In addition to expanding their knowledge of emerging technologies, the visit provided students with inspiration for future research, capstone projects, and academic initiatives focused on sustainability and innovation. The experience allowed students to engage directly with industry professionals and witness first-hand how organizations such as Dubai Customs are leading digital transformation efforts in the region.

By observing real-world applications of climate mainstreaming in trade policy, students gained valuable insights into how NDCs and LT-LEDS can be implemented at the operational level. The visit also reinforced the importance of climate literacy and behavioural change among future business and technology leaders, who will be responsible for embedding sustainability into global supply chains. Students recognized that achieving net zero emissions requires not only technological solutions but also a shift in organizational culture and individual decision-making.

Building Climate Resilience Through Trade Innovation

The technologies showcased at the Dubai Customs booth demonstrated how digitalization can reduce climate vulnerability in trade-dependent economies. By enabling more efficient tracking, verification, and documentation, smart customs solutions help minimize the risk of delays, spoilage, and resource waste—all of which contribute to a higher carbon footprint. These innovations also support a just transition by ensuring that trade remains accessible and efficient for developing economies, without imposing undue burdens that could exacerbate existing inequalities.

Students reflected on how sustainable trade practices can complement nature-based solutions (NbS) and ecosystem restoration efforts by reducing demand for raw material extraction and promoting responsible consumption. While the visit did not directly cover carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) or direct air capture (DAC), students noted that efficient trade systems reduce the overall energy demand across supply chains, indirectly supporting carbon removal efforts by lowering baseline emissions. They also discussed the role of carbon sinks (forests, oceans, soil) in absorbing residual emissions, and how trade policies could incentivize the protection of blue carbon ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes.

Addressing Climate Risk and the Climate Emergency

The visit took place against the backdrop of a global climate emergency, characterized by accelerating climate feedback loops and the approach of irreversible climate tipping points. Students learned that sustainable trade systems are an essential component of climate resilient development, helping economies adapt to climate risks while maintaining essential flows of goods and services.

By reducing methane and black carbon emissions associated with inefficient logistics and waste, digital trade solutions contribute to near-term climate mitigation alongside long-term decarbonization efforts.

The experience also encouraged students to think critically about the role of climate activism and grassroots movements in holding corporations and governments accountable for their emissions. They discussed how tools like the climate action tracker can monitor progress toward science-based targets, and how climate litigation may increasingly be used to enforce commitments to fossil fuel phase out and emissions reduction.

As the world confronts the escalating climate emergency, Ajman University remains committed to equipping its students with the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to drive positive change. Visits such as this to GITEX Global 2025 exemplify how experiential learning can inspire the next generation of innovators to integrate sustainability into every sector—from trade and logistics to design, healthcare, and beyond.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-students-explore-digital-innovation-and-sustainable-trade-at-gitex-2025









Ajman University Students Showcase Sustainable Innovation at DATE and CARE MENA Event

Ajman University (AU) students participated in the DATE (Digital Acceleration & Technology Expo) and CARE (Climate Action & Regenerative Environment) MENA event, organized by Trescon. Students showcased a range of innovative projects focused on sustainability, design, and emerging technologies, reinforcing the University's commitment to environmental stewardship, decarbonization, and technological advancement.

The event brought together a distinguished cross-section of industry leaders, innovators, policymakers, and young talent to explore cutting-edge advancements in sustainability and future technologies. Through this dynamic platform, Ajman University students had the opportunity to present their creative ideas and engage directly with professionals from various sectors, gaining invaluable real-world exposure and mentorship.

Sustainable Furniture and the Circular Economy

Among the showcased projects were several sustainable furniture and design concepts developed using reclaimed and environmentally friendly materials. Students presented innovative pieces that actively promoted circular economy and zero waste principles, demonstrating how waste materials can be transformed into functional, aesthetically compelling, and creative products. These projects directly address the need for climate resilience infrastructure by reducing demand for virgin materials and lowering the overall carbon footprint of the design and construction sectors.

- "ReForma": This featured project explored a sustainable stool design inspired by architectural structures. Created entirely using reclaimed materials, ReForma exemplifies how structural aesthetics and ecological responsibility can converge in everyday objects. The project supports climate adaptation plans by demonstrating low-impact design solutions that can be deployed across vulnerable communities.
- "Reclaimed Reflections": Another standout project demonstrated the innovative use of reused plastic pipes, recycled cardboard, mirrors, and eco-friendly cement to create durable and stylish sustainable furniture solutions. This project highlights the potential of multi-material upcycling in reducing construction and design waste while contributing to ecosystem restoration through reduced landfill pressure and resource extraction.

Healthcare Innovation: Sleep Apnea Detection Device

In addition to their design-focused projects, students also presented a healthcare-oriented innovation featuring a device designed to assist in the early detection of sleep apnea. This project underscored the intersection of technology, health, and social impact, illustrating how emerging technologies can be harnessed to address pressing medical challenges while improving quality of life. Such innovations contribute to climate justice by ensuring that healthcare solutions remain accessible to climate-vulnerable populations who may face increased health risks due to rising temperatures and worsening air quality.

Advancing Climate Literacy and Behavioural Change

The students' participation in the event also served as a powerful exercise in climate literacy and behavioural change.

By engaging directly with industry professionals and policymakers, students demonstrated how grassroots movements and climate activism within academic settings can drive corporate climate accountability and embed environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles into product design and innovation. The event provided a platform for young innovators to advocate for science based targets and long term low emission development strategies (LT-LEDS) aligned with the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 ambition.

A Platform for Global Green Transition and Climate Finance

The CARE event serves as a global platform dedicated to sustainable innovation and the worldwide green transition, while DATE with Tech focuses on emerging technologies shaping the future across industries including artificial intelligence, sustainability, healthcare, and smart infrastructure. Together, these parallel tracks provided Ajman University students with a comprehensive stage to demonstrate their technical skills, creative thinking, and commitment to solving real-world problems.

Discussions at the event also touched upon the role of climate finance mechanisms, including green bonds and carbon pricing (such as emissions trading schemes or a carbon tax), in scaling up student-led innovations. Participants explored how carbon offsetting and carbon removal technologies (including direct air capture (DAC) and nature-based solutions (NbS)) could complement deep emissions reductions, while acknowledging that carbon offsets remain a "last resort" behind direct action. The potential role of green hydrogen, electrification of transport and heating, and sustainable mobility / low carbon transport in future iterations of student projects was also highlighted.

Building Climate Resilience and a Just Transition

The projects showcased by Ajman University students align with broader efforts to build climate resilience, reduce climate vulnerability, and support a just transition that leaves no community behind. By integrating principles of sustainable agriculture, agroecology, and food systems transformation into their design thinking, students demonstrated awareness of the interconnectedness of environmental and social systems. Their work also implicitly addresses the need for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and early warning systems by promoting material efficiency and waste reduction as forms of climate risk mitigation.

Commitment to Innovation and Experiential Learning

Ajman University's participation in the DATE and CARE MENA event reflects its deep-rooted commitment to fostering innovation, sustainability, and experiential learning. By empowering students to develop impactful solutions that address real-world environmental and societal challenges, the University continues to position its graduates as future-ready leaders capable of contributing meaningfully to the UAE's green economy, fossil fuel phase out, and net-zero emissions ambitions. The University also recognizes the importance of climate mainstreaming across all disciplines, ensuring that climate adaptation and mitigation are embedded in curricula and co-curricular activities alike.

As the world confronts climate tipping points, climate feedback loops, and the escalating climate emergency, Ajman University remains steadfast in its mission to prepare students not only to understand these challenges but to act upon them. Through initiatives like the UCN Decarbonization Academy and participation in global platforms thet helps cultivating a generation of innovators equipped to drive climate resilient development and track progress using tools like the climate action tracker.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-students-showcase-sustainable-innovation-at-date-and-care-mena-event









Ajman University Participates in Universities Challenge 2025 with “Ni‘matak” Project

Ajman University participated in the Universities Challenge 2025, held at Expo Centre Sharjah as part of the International Government Communication Forum 2025 (IGCF 2025). The challenge was organized by United Arab Emirates University in collaboration with the Sharjah Government Communication Award, bringing together innovative students from universities across the UAE.

This year’s challenge focused on food security as one of the key pillars of building sustainable communities, aligning with the UAE’s sustainability agenda.

Ajman University highlighted the project “Ni‘matak” through an innovative student presentation developed by students Doaa Rafeq Mohammed Al-Alimi, Sara Walhan Abduljalil, and Muneera Kamil Yahya Ahmed under the supervision of the university’s Office of Sustainability.

“Ni‘matak” is an intelligent digital platform designed to rescue surplus food, reduce food waste, and enhance food security by connecting restaurants, cafés, and stores with individuals through affordable options. The platform supports sustainable consumption, promotes charitable giving, and helps relevant entities track and reduce food waste.

The participation reflects Ajman University’s commitment to supporting student innovation and empowering youth to develop initiatives that contribute to community service, in line with the UAE Food Security Strategy and the university’s mission to advance sustainable development.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-participates-in-universities-challenge-2025-with-nimatak-project









CBA Students Join Sustainability Heroes Innovation Competition

he Management Department at the College of Business Administration participated in the launch of the National Innovation Competition, Sustainability Heroes, organized by Nestlé and Injaz. This event offered students a unique opportunity to engage with industry leaders and explore key topics in business, marketing, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Students attended insightful talks by Nestlé executives, gaining valuable knowledge and fresh perspectives on business excellence. After the presentations, student teams showcased their projects and received feedback. Notably, three teams from Ajman University are participating in Injaz's Company Program, receiving mentorship from Nestlé-Injaz experts to refine their ideas for the final national competition in May 2025.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/cba-students-join-sustainability-heroes-innovation-competition



Ajman University Champions Sustainable Fashion Innovation

On January 31, 2025, Ajman University's Office of Student Life, in collaboration with the Fashion Club and the Entrepreneurship Club, hosted an inspiring event titled "Sustainable Fashion" at the AU Innovation Center. The event aimed to educate students on the principles of sustainability, encouraging them to transform old fabrics and recyclable materials into fashionable, wearable art. This initiative not only highlighted the students' creativity but also underscored the university's commitment to promoting eco-friendly practices within the fashion industry.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-champions-sustainable-fashion-innovation









The College of Business Administration Hosts a Workshop on Sustainability and Green Entrepreneurship

The Department of Management at the College of Business Administration invited Ms. Jenny Valdez – District Manager at Starbucks – in collaboration with Injaz Al Arab Institute, to deliver a workshop on “Empowering the Future Generation: Promoting Sustainability and SDGs” for students enrolled in the Materials Management and Purchasing course. Ms. Valdez facilitated an engaging discussion with students, focusing on how to develop innovative products made from recycled materials, as well as implementing energy-efficient processes in operations. Students gained insights into the latest sustainability strategies Starbucks is adopting to help create a healthier and more vibrant future for generations to come.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/cba/news/2025/the-college-of-business-administration-hosts-a-workshop-on-sustainability-and-green-entrepreneurship



Celebrating Architecture Student's Success as a panelist in the "Girls Today, Leaders Tomorrow: Women Driving Change in the Built Environment" event, in Sustainable Architecture

Ajman University proudly celebrates the achievement of Sima Ahmad Zakzak, a senior architecture student, who recently represented the University as a panelist in the "Girls Today, Leaders Tomorrow: Women Driving Change in the Built Environment" event, organized by the Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) Women's Network.

Sima was invited to share her insights on sustainable architecture during the event, an integral part of Ajman University's commitment to sustainability. Under the supervision of Dr. Muna Salameh, a prominent faculty member in the field, Sima delivered a powerful discussion on the role of innovation in shaping sustainable architecture. She emphasized the importance of designing solutions that harmonize nature, human well-being, and environmental health.

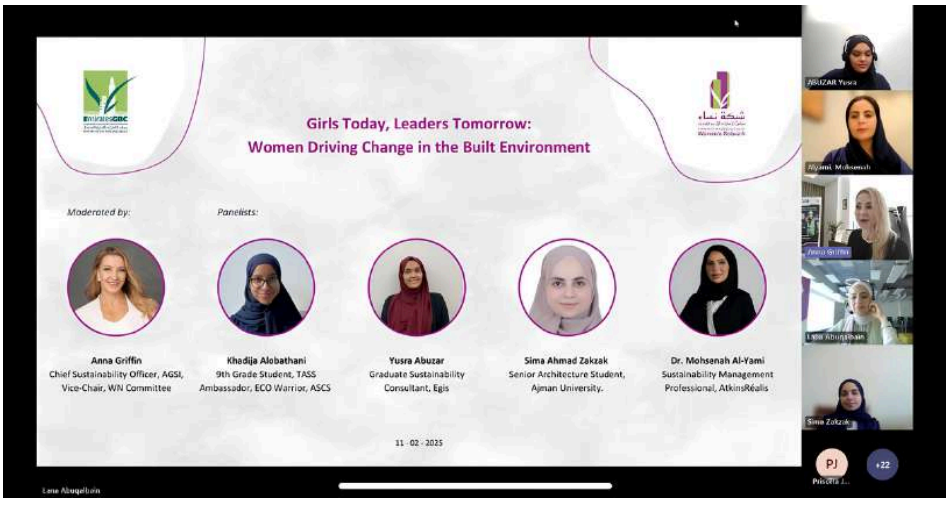
"I strongly believe that sustainability in architecture should go beyond aesthetics and functionality," Sima explained during the panel. "Future solutions must be forward-thinking and responsible, ensuring a balance between innovation and environmental preservation."

Sima also highlighted the significance of mentorship within the industry. "Mentorship is a two-way process—both giving and receiving knowledge. It's crucial that we elevate each other and work together to drive meaningful change in the built environment," she said.

Dr. Muna Salameh expressed her pride in Sima's accomplishment, stating, "It is inspiring to see students embrace sustainability and carry forward the knowledge and values instilled in them. My goal has always been to direct students toward sustainable design, and witnessing Sima shine in this arena is truly rewarding."

Ajman University's ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EGBC further strengthens the University's commitment to sustainability and provides students like Sima with invaluable opportunities to engage in forward-thinking discussions and initiatives. Through this collaboration, Ajman University continues to prepare its students to lead the future of sustainable architecture.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/cad/news/2025/celebrating-architecture-students-success-as-a-panelist-in-the-girls-today-leaders-tomorrow-women-driving-change-in-the-built-environment-event-in-sustainable-architecture



Dr. Muna Salameh Participates in the 11th International Talk on Green Business, Sustainability, and Climate Action

Dr. Muna Salameh, Global Ambassador of Sustainability and Ph.D. in Architectural and Sustainable Built Environment at Ajman University, proudly participated as a distinguished speaker in the 11th International Talk on Green Business, Sustainability, and Climate Action. The event was successfully organized in collaboration between the Global Ambassadors of Sustainability (GAoS) and the Global Green Chamber of Commerce.

The international forum brought together renowned experts and sustainability advocates to discuss pressing environmental challenges, innovative green business solutions, and sustainable development strategies.

Dr. Muna Salameh, along with an esteemed panel of speakers, contributed valuable insights on sustainability in architecture and the built environment. Other distinguished speakers included:

- Ms. Michelle Thatcher – CEO, Global Green Chamber of Commerce, USA
- Mr. Maks Udov – Inventor, HERBAFERTIL®, Croatia
- Dr. Samia Kouki – Assistant Professor, Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE

With the attendance of Dr. Wesam Al Madhoun, Founder of Global Ambassadors of Sustainability,

The event emphasized the importance of sustainable practices, green business models, and collaborative efforts in addressing global environmental challenges. Dr. Muna remains committed to advancing sustainability through education, research, and active participation in global initiatives.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/cad/news/2025/dr-muna-salameh-participates-in-the-11th-international-talk-on-green-business-sustainability-and-climate-action



The College of Mass Communication Hosts a Guest Speaker on Sustainability and Digital Innovation

Seeking to fulfill the goals of international collaboration and increase sustainability awareness, the College of Mass Communication recently organized an international guest lecture titled "Driving Sustainable Development with Digital Innovation.". The event featured distinguished speaker Dr Sadia Jamil, PhD, FHEA, Director of Research at the School of International Communications, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China. Dr. Alyaa Anter, the associate professor, organized and coordinated this event. This collaborative event was jointly organized by collaborating with the College of Mass Communication, the University of Nottingham Ningbo, and the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC). Faculty members and students actively participated in the lecture, engaging in discussions on the role of digital innovation in promoting sustainable development.

Dr. Jamil, a renowned expert in media and communication studies, emphasized the importance of leveraging digital transformation to address global sustainability challenges. She presented case studies and real-world examples showcasing technology's impact on achieving sustainable development goals.

Dr. Hosam Salama concluded by reaffirming the importance of raising awareness about sustainability and its integration into academic and professional practice. Hee also thanked Dr. Jamil for her insightful presentation and gave her an appreciation certificate, acknowledging her valuable contributions.



https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/masscom/news/2025/the-college-of-mass-communication-hosts-a-guest-speaker-on-sustainability-and-digital-innovation

Ajman University Resumes the Mangrove Planting Initiative in Collaboration with Al Zorah Golf Club and Quest for Adventure

Ajman University's Office of Sustainability, in collaboration with Al Zorah Golf Club – a subsidiary of Al Zorah Development Private Company– and Quest for Adventure, has resumed the Mangrove Planting and Golf Tour initiative, building on the first phase launched last year.

The five-week program brought together students from private schools, students of determination, and members of the Ajman University community, offering them a unique opportunity to become environmental champions by directly engaging in hands-on activities that instill values of environmental responsibility and raise awareness about the importance of preserving coastal ecosystems.

The initiative also witnessed the participation of students from Almaarifa School and National Charity School, alongside members of the external community. It provided school students with an educational and hands-on experience, allowing them to learn about the role of mangroves in protecting coastal ecosystems, supporting biodiversity, and promoting climate action.

The initiative seeks to support the UAE's goal of planting 100 million mangrove trees by 2030, contributing to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, restoring ecosystems, protecting biodiversity, and building a sustainable future for generations to come. It also aligns with Ajman's commitment to doubling the size of the mangrove forests in the Al Zorah Nature Reserve to reach 2.4 million trees, while complementing Ajman University's climate and sustainability strategy.

Furthermore, the initiative aims to support the University's commitment to the Nature Positive Universities Alliance, in collaboration with the University of Oxford and the United Nations Environment Programme. It provides participants with opportunities to connect with nature, appreciate the beauty of marine landscapes, and strengthen their sense of environmental responsibility. The program also serves as a platform to expand networks through teamwork and community engagement activities.

This initiative reflects Ajman University's ongoing efforts to launch and implement innovative projects that support sustainability and climate action, while reinforcing its role as a leading institution contributing to national goals and enhancing the UAE's position on the global sustainability map.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-resumes-the-mangrove-planting-initiative-in-collaboration-with-al-zorah-golf-club-and-quest-for-adventure













Ajman University Students Participate in the Environmental Students Forum on Circular Economy

Ajman University students participated in the Environmental Students Forum on Circular Economy, organized by Hutchison Ports. The forum aimed to enhance students' awareness of sustainability issues, provide them with an opportunity to exchange experiences and innovative ideas, and showcase practical solutions that contribute to supporting the circular economy and advancing sustainable development at both regional and global levels.

The forum brought together students from various universities, who were given the option to select from a range of topics covering different aspects of sustainability. These included projects managed on sustainability, community activities, technologies and practices for sustainable growth, sustainability trends in the Middle East, sustainable mobility, and creative strategies for effective waste management and recycling.

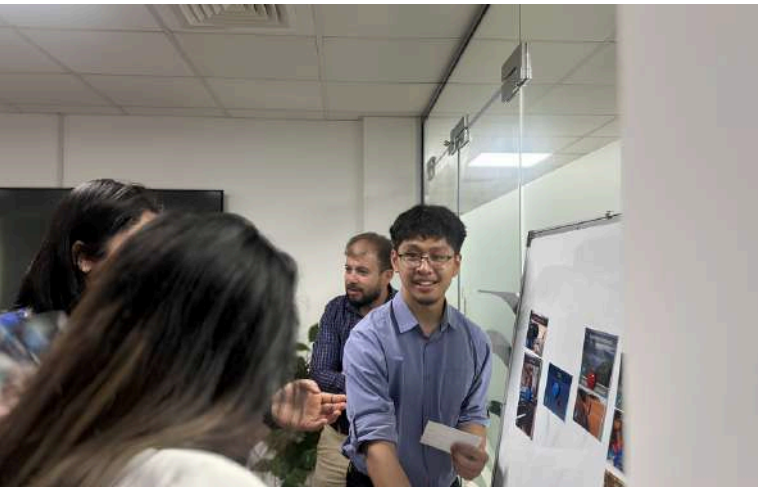
Ajman University students — Hurairah Faatimah Muzammil, Khadeeja Hashim, and Jon Zaccary — presented a prototype project on effective waste management and recycling segregation using artificial intelligence, where they demonstrated how the integration of new technologies could positively impact economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Their efforts were highly commended by the organizers, who extended a special invitation for them to attend the Global Dock School Environmental Students Forum: Green Smart Port – Circular Economy. The program included a panel discussion titled "Building a Sustainable Future: Circular Economy, Supply Chains, and Cross-Sector Collaboration" and participation in the Our Smart Port activity.

In addition, the students joined a Circular Economy Breakout Group Discussion, where participants were divided randomly into groups led by facilitators. Students stepped into the facilitators' roles to propose improvement suggestions for Hutchison Ports in areas related to the circular economy, climate change, and sustainable supply chains. Each group concluded with a three-minute presentation based on a framework exploring the connection between circular economy principles and port operations, challenges and opportunities for circularity in ports, and innovation and future vision.

The forum also featured a Climate Fresk activity, an interactive and collaborative workshop designed to make complex climate science accessible in an engaging way. The workshop raised awareness about the urgency of the climate crisis, encouraged collective discussions and solutions, and fostered collaboration across communities, schools, companies, and organizations.

This participation reflects Ajman University's commitment to providing students with enriching academic experiences that combine theory with practice, while preparing future leaders capable of tackling environmental challenges and offering practical solutions that advance sustainable development.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-students-participate-in-the-environmental-students-forum-on-circular-economy

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Young Innovators Take on Climate Change: Ajman University's Maya Haddad Leads Judging at Girls in ICT Hackathon

Ms. Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, was invited to serve as a judge for the 2nd Girls in ICT Hackathon for Climate Change, at the American Academy for Girls (AAG) in Dubai. The event brought together talented young girls from schools across the United Arab Emirates, challenging them to develop innovative technological solutions to pressing environmental challenges within the context of a global climate emergency.

The hackathon was designed to inspire and empower students in Grades 5 to 7, fostering climate literacy and behavioural change from an early age. Participants worked in teams, applying a design-thinking approach to prototype solutions using the BBC Microbit (a P3 coding kit) and other materials. The event aligned with the UAE's broader commitment to decarbonization, carbon neutrality, climate resilience, and the empowerment of young women in science, technology, and sustainability—all essential components of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and meeting the nation's nationally determined contributions (NDCs)

A Day of Innovation and Climate Action

The hackathon began with the arrival and registration of teams, followed by a welcome address from the AAG School Principal and an opening address. After an ice-breaker session and familiarization with the kits and materials, the hackathon officially commenced. Teams worked diligently to conceptualize, design, and build their prototypes before presenting their solutions to a panel of judges, including Ms. Haddad. The day concluded with an awards and closing ceremony celebrating the creativity, ingenuity, and climate commitment of all participating students.

What Made a Project Special

Among the many impressive submissions, several projects stood out for their originality, practical applicability, and deep understanding of environmental challenges. One team developed a smart irrigation prototype using the BBC Microbit to monitor soil moisture and optimize water usage—directly addressing climate risk and climate vulnerability in agriculture while promoting energy efficiency and sustainable agriculture practices. Another team created a classroom energy monitor that alerted students when lights or fans were left on, encouraging behavioural change and reducing the carbon footprint of their school. A particularly innovative project involved a wearable device designed to detect poor air quality and issue early warnings, contributing to early warning systems and disaster risk reduction (DRR) for individuals with respiratory conditions. These projects demonstrated not only technical skill but also a genuine commitment to climate justice and community well-being.

Judging Criteria: Fostering Innovation, Impact, and Collaboration

The Judges evaluated student projects across five key categories, reflecting the hallmarks of meaningful climate action. Teams were assessed on the originality and novelty of their solutions, with particular attention given to whether their ideas brought a fresh perspective to environmental challenges. The potential real-world impact of each project was carefully considered, including how well the solution addressed specific climate issues, what positive environmental or social change it could achieve, and whether it could be scaled up for broader implementation—key factors in achieving climate resilient development.

Creativity formed a central pillar of the evaluation, with judges examining how intuitive and user-friendly each prototype was, whether it had been designed with end-users in mind, how accessible it would be to diverse groups of people, and how sustainably the provided materials had been utilized—directly reflecting circular economy and zero waste principles. Collaboration was also key, as judges observed how well team members worked together, communicated, and coordinated their efforts throughout the hackathon. Finally, bonus points were awarded for exceptional achievements, innovative ideas, or additional efforts that went beyond the basic requirements.

Empowering Young Changemakers Through Climate Literacy

The hackathon served as a powerful platform for nurturing climate activism and grassroots movements among the next generation. By challenging young girls to develop technology-driven solutions for environmental problems, the event contributed to climate mainstreaming in education and reinforced the importance of climate adaptation plans from an early age.

Students explored solutions that could reduce the carbon footprint of everyday activities, promote renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, tidal), and support sustainable mobility / low-carbon transport. Many projects implicitly addressed climate resilience infrastructure by focusing on community-level adaptation, while others incorporated principles of nature-based solutions (NbS) such as ecosystem restoration and the protection of blue carbon ecosystems (mangroves, seagrasses, salt marshes).

Some teams drew inspiration from the role of carbon sinks (forests, oceans, soil) in absorbing emissions, while others considered how afforestation and reforestation could complement technological solutions. A few projects touched upon the potential of green hydrogen and electrification of transport and heating as long-term pathways for decarbonizing energy-intensive sectors.

Addressing Climate Tipping Points and Feedback Loops

Through guided discussions with judges, students learned about the urgency of staying within the global carbon budget and avoiding irreversible climate tipping points that could trigger dangerous climate feedback loops. Ms. Haddad emphasized that while carbon offsetting and carbon credits have a role to play, they remain a "last resort" behind deep emissions reductions, energy efficiency, and the transition to renewable energy.

Students were introduced to the concept of negative emissions through carbon removal technologies such as direct air capture (DAC) and carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS), as well as through nature-based solutions like ecosystem restoration and sustainable agriculture. The importance of methane reduction (from agriculture, waste, and oil/gas sectors) and black carbon mitigation was also discussed as near-term climate strategies aligned with fossil fuel phase out.

A Just Transition Through Girls in ICT

The 2nd Girls in ICT Hackathon for Climate Change exemplified the principles of a just transition and climate justice by ensuring that young women—often underrepresented in technology and sustainability fields—have equal opportunities to lead, innovate, and shape the future. By equipping students with climate literacy and hands-on coding skills, the event prepared them to contribute meaningfully to the UAE's net-zero emissions target and long-term low-emission development strategies (LT-LEDS).

he hackathon also highlighted the role of climate finance mechanisms, including green bonds and carbon pricing (such as emissions trading schemes (ETS) or a carbon tax), in scaling up youth-led innovations. Students gained awareness of emerging policy tools such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and how corporate climate accountability and environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria are shaping investment decisions worldwide. Discussions also touched upon loss and damage, and how early interventions can reduce the need for costly adaptation measures later.

Building Climate Resilient Development

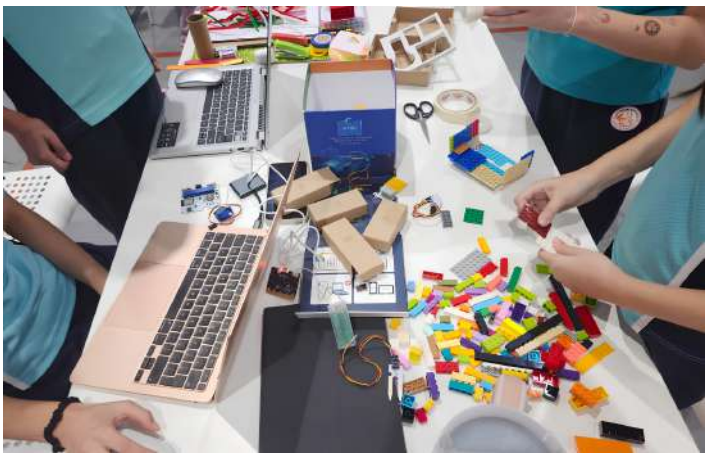
Ms. Haddad's participation as a judge reflected Ajman University's deep commitment to community engagement, climate diplomacy, and climate resilient development. Her feedback and encouragement provided invaluable guidance to young innovators, helping them understand how their ideas could evolve into scalable climate solutions that address loss and damage, enhance early warning systems, and reduce climate vulnerability in their own communities. The hackathon also demonstrated how climate modelling and scenario analysis (SSPs, RCPs) can inform the design of resilient solutions, and how climate litigation may increasingly be used to hold polluters accountable.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/young-innovators-take-on-climate-change-ajman-universitys-maya-haddad-leads-judging-at-girls-in-ict-hackathon









Ajman University Participates as a Knowledge Partner at HSE Expo 2025

Ajman University participated as a Knowledge Partner in the Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Expo 2025, organized by the Sharjah National Oil Corporation at Al Jawaher Reception and Convention Centre on April 16–17, 2025.

Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, moderated a session titled “Sustainability Synergy: Integrating Resource Management and Renewable Innovation for a Circular Economy”, where she discussed with experts how innovation and modern technologies can be leveraged to enhance resource efficiency and accelerate the transition toward a more sustainable economy.

Ajman University student volunteers played a pivotal role in supporting the event, as the Office of Sustainability assigns them annually to key tasks, including assisting with coordination, managing registration, and providing logistical support throughout the exhibition. This reflects the University’s commitment to empowering its students with practical experiences that enhance their skills and foster a strong sense of community responsibility.

The expo served as a dedicated platform for raising HSE standards and aligning stakeholders around a shared commitment to creating safer and more sustainable workplaces across all sectors. It aimed to drive collective progress by fostering collaboration, exchanging knowledge, and applying innovative solutions that benefit not only individual organizations but the wider industry and society as a whole.

The event brought together decision-makers, HSE professionals, and sustainability advocates to shape the future agenda of workplace safety and environmental responsibility, supported by a distinguished group of sponsors and partners.

Ajman University’s participation in this event reaffirms its strong commitment to supporting national and regional efforts to promote a culture of health, safety, and sustainability. It also reflects the University’s role as an academic institution that fosters impactful partnerships, develops innovative solutions, and contributes to advancing the UAE’s vision for a more sustainable future.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-participates-as-a-knowledge-partner-at-hse-expo-2025





Greenpeace MENA, Ajman University, and UAE Universities Climate Network Celebrate 'Wellbeing Economy Award' Winners

Greenpeace MENA, in collaboration with Ajman University, and the UAE Universities Climate Network, unveiled the winners of the 'Wellbeing Economy Award,' a pioneering initiative that honours transformative contributions of young researchers and innovators toward sustainability and innovation in the UAE and Gulf region. Under the theme 'The Future is Sustainable,' the Wellbeing Economy Award ceremony showcased the exceptional work of emerging researchers, academics, and visionaries. Their efforts not only resonate with UAE's ambitious sustainability goals, but also offer actionable solutions poised to shape global policy dialogues.

Ghiwa Nakat, Executive Director of Greenpeace MENA, stated: "The UAE Wellbeing Economy Award Ceremony is not just a recognition of outstanding research, but a bold call to action. It highlights the UAE's leadership in creating an environment that prioritizes sustainability and wellbeing of its citizens and residents. Traditional economic models, focused solely on growth, have led to inequality, environmental damage, and social challenges. A wellbeing economy offers a powerful alternative—redefining prosperity to prioritize the quality of life, social equity, and the sustainability of the planet. The UAE is now leading the way!"

Nakat added: "By collaborating with academic institutions, researchers, and multi-stakeholder partners, we aim to build an economy that values both human and environmental health, shaping a future where sustainability and wellbeing are inseparable."

Dr. Karim Seghir, Chancellor of Ajman University, commented: "As a non-profit institution, Ajman University continues to emphasise its commitment to sustainability and innovation. Through this initiative, the University aims to create equitable communities where resources are used efficiently and the fundamental needs of all individuals are met, further reinforcing the symbiotic relationship between economic development, social progress, and environmental stewardship. The Wellbeing Economy Award has empowered our future leaders to take decisive actions toward creating meaningful change while highlighting the critical importance of sustainability."

Engineer Nawal Alhanaee, Director of Future Energy Department at the Ministry of Energy & Infrastructure, was honored with the best government project award for her pioneering research titled "Building a Sustainable Wellbeing Economy: The UAE's Path to a Resilient Future through Energy Transition".

Moreover, three researchers were recognized for their groundbreaking contributions to sustainability and wellbeing. The First Place was awarded to Bayan Alradi and Dr. Samer H. Zyoud from Ajman University for their research titled "Empowering the UAE's Renewable Energy Future with High-Efficiency CZTS Solar Cells." The Second Place went to Dr. Mohammed Elseidi from Umm Al Quwain University for his research titled "Constructing and Forecasting a Hybrid Well-Being Index for the UAE: A Data-Driven vs. Equal-Weight Approach." The Third Place was awarded to Najla Almatrooshi and Nicole Weber from Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi for their research titled "Desert Bloom Economies: Reimagining Gulf Wellbeing through Biomimicry, Non-Anthropocentric Ethics, and Post-Rentier Narratives."

Maya Haddad, Head of Operations of UAE Universities Climate Network, stated: "The UAE Wellbeing Economy Award is a crucial step in strengthening the connection between academia and environmental stewardship. The research presented at the event showcases the steadfast dedication of young scholars and professionals who are deeply committed to building a sustainable future."

The UAE Wellbeing Economy Award further encourages collaboration and knowledge-sharing to address global sustainability challenges. It serves as an important step towards creating new economic models that foster prosperous, inclusive, and resilient future for the UAE, with an emphasis on the interconnection between environmental, social and economic goals.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/greenpeace-mena-ajman-university-and-uae-universities-climate-network-celebrate-wellbeing-economy-award-winners













Ajman University Students Attend 13th Cycle of Arabia CSR & Sustainability Forum

The 13th Cycle of the Arabia CSR & Sustainability Forum, held under the theme "Sustainable Growth: Orchestrating a Global Change," welcomed students from Ajman University (AU) to Dubai Chambers. Organized under the patronage of the Ministry of Economy and Tourism in strategic partnership with Dubai Chambers, the forum brought together sustainability experts, industry leaders, and high-level dignitaries from across the region alongside the university delegation.

The event provided students with an unparalleled opportunity to engage with the latest thinking on corporate climate accountability, environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles, and the pathways toward carbon neutrality and net-zero emissions—all of which are central to the UAE's long-term low-emission development strategies (LT-LEDS) and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

Extending the Invitation to National Charity School

As part of Ajman University's deep-rooted commitment to sustainability, community engagement, and climate justice, the Office of Sustainability extended the invitation to students from National Charity School to attend the forum alongside the university delegation. This initiative reflects AU's belief in a just transition—ensuring that climate literacy and professional development opportunities are accessible to all members of the community, regardless of background. By fostering climate literacy and behavioural change among young learners, the University is actively contributing to grassroots movements for climate action across the UAE.

A Comprehensive Agenda Across Sustainability Pillars

Throughout the event, students attended keynote speeches, plenary sessions, and interactive discussions focused on a wide range of critical topics, including:

- Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Students learned how organizations are integrating climate mainstreaming into their core strategies, moving beyond philanthropy to embed sustainability into operations, supply chains, and governance structures.
- Circular Economy and Zero Waste: Sessions explored how circular economy principles can reduce the carbon footprint of industries, minimize waste, and create economic value from materials that would otherwise be discarded.
- Energy and Decarbonization: Discussions covered the transition to renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, tidal), the role of energy efficiency in reducing emissions, and emerging technologies such as green hydrogen and electrification of transport, heating, and industry.
- Water and Climate Resilience: Students gained insights into water conservation strategies, climate resilience infrastructure, and the importance of protecting blue carbon ecosystems (mangroves, seagrasses, salt marshes) as natural carbon sinks.
- Food Systems Transformation: Sessions addressed sustainable agriculture, agroecology, and the urgent need for food systems transformation to reduce methane emissions from livestock and waste, while building resilience against climate vulnerability.
- Construction and Sustainable Materials: The forum highlighted innovations in low-carbon construction materials, green building design, and the integration of nature-based solutions (NbS) into urban planning.
- Sustainable Finance: Students learned about climate finance mechanisms, including green bonds, carbon pricing, emissions trading schemes (ETS), and the emerging Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) as tools to drive private sector investment in decarbonization.

Insights into Global Sustainability Practices

The forum provided attendees with valuable insights into global sustainability practices and emerging solutions that support climate resilient development. Students heard from industry leaders about the importance of setting science-based targets, measuring and reducing carbon footprints, and avoiding reliance on carbon offsetting until deep emissions reductions have been achieved.

Discussions also touched upon the role of carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) and direct air capture (DAC) as negative emissions technologies, while emphasizing that these should complement—not replace—direct emission reductions. Students learned about the importance of protecting natural carbon sinks (forests, oceans, soil) and restoring ecosystems through afforestation, reforestation, and ecosystem restoration initiatives.

Addressing Climate Risk and the Climate Emergency

Against the backdrop of a global climate emergency, the forum addressed the growing need for disaster risk reduction (DRR), early warning systems, and climate adaptation plans. Students gained an understanding of climate risk and climate vulnerability assessments, and how organizations are integrating these into their long-term strategies. The potential for climate tipping points and accelerating climate feedback loops was discussed as a critical driver for urgent action, including fossil fuel phase out and methane reduction across agriculture, waste, and oil and gas sectors. Discussions also touched upon the role of black carbon mitigation as a near-term climate solution.

The forum also touched upon the role of climate modelling and scenario analysis (SSPs, RCPs) in informing corporate and government strategies, as well as the growing field of climate litigation as a tool for enforcing climate commitments. Students learned how the climate action tracker monitors progress toward national and corporate goals, and how loss and damage considerations are increasingly shaping climate finance discussions.

A Unique Opportunity for Engagement and Professional Growth

The visit offered students a unique opportunity to engage with sustainability experts, expand their professional knowledge, and gain practical exposure to sustainability initiatives and CSR practices shaping the future of the region and beyond. Students networked with industry leaders, participated in interactive Q&A sessions, and returned to campus with concrete ideas for capstone projects, research initiatives, and student-led climate activism.

For the students from National Charity School, the experience was particularly transformative—offering early exposure to climate diplomacy, corporate climate accountability, and the principles of a just transition. By participating alongside university students, younger learners gained mentorship opportunities and a clearer understanding of potential career pathways in the green economy, including roles in sustainable mobility, low-carbon transport, and climate resilience infrastructure.

Commitment to Community Engagement and Climate Justice

Ajman University's decision to extend invitations to National Charity School students reflects its unwavering commitment to climate justice and community engagement. The University recognizes that addressing the climate emergency requires collective action across all segments of society, and that climate literacy must begin at an early age. By opening doors to young learners, AU is helping to build a pipeline of future sustainability leaders who are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to drive climate resilient development.

The forum also reinforced the importance of staying within the global carbon budget, achieving gross zero or true zero where feasible, and recognizing that negative emissions through carbon removal technologies and nature-based solutions are essential for addressing residual emissions. Students reflected on how sustainable agriculture and agroecology can contribute to food systems transformation while reducing agriculture's. contribution to the carbon footprint.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-students-attend-13th-cycle-of-arabia-csr-sustainability-forum









The College of Business Administration Hosts a Workshop on Sustainability and Green Entrepreneurship

The Department of Management at the College of Business Administration invited Ms. Jenny Valdez – District Manager at Starbucks – in collaboration with Injaz Al Arab Institute, to deliver a workshop on “Empowering the Future Generation: Promoting Sustainability and SDGs” for students enrolled in the Materials Management and Purchasing course. Ms. Valdez facilitated an engaging discussion with students, focusing on how to develop innovative products made from recycled materials, as well as implementing energy-efficient processes in operations. Students gained insights into the latest sustainability strategies Starbucks is adopting to help create a healthier and more vibrant future for generations to come.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/cba/news/2025/the-college-of-business-administration-hosts-a-workshop-on-sustainability-and-green-entrepreneurship



Celebrating Architecture Student's Success as a panelist in the "Girls Today, Leaders Tomorrow: Women Driving Change in the Built Environment" event, in Sustainable Architecture.

Ajman University proudly celebrates the achievement of Sima Ahmad Zakzak, a senior architecture student, who recently represented the University as a panelist in the "Girls Today, Leaders Tomorrow: Women Driving Change in the Built Environment" event, organized by the Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) Women's Network.

Sima was invited to share her insights on sustainable architecture during the event, an integral part of Ajman University's commitment to sustainability. Under the supervision of Dr. Muna Salameh, a prominent faculty member in the field, Sima delivered a powerful discussion on the role of innovation in shaping sustainable architecture. She emphasized the importance of designing solutions that harmonize nature, human well-being, and environmental health.

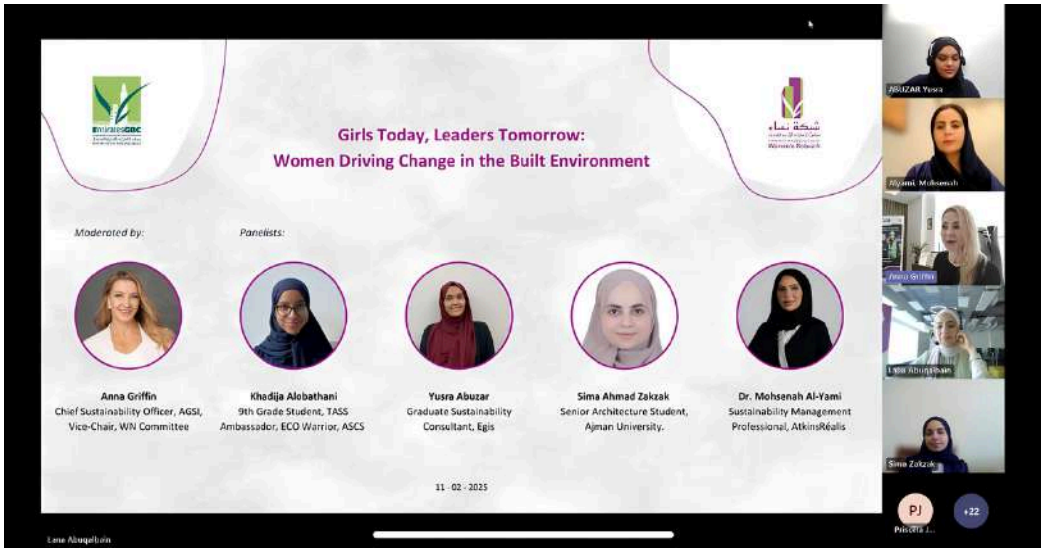
"I strongly believe that sustainability in architecture should go beyond aesthetics and functionality," Sima explained during the panel. "Future solutions must be forward-thinking and responsible, ensuring a balance between innovation and environmental preservation."

Sima also highlighted the significance of mentorship within the industry. "Mentorship is a two-way process—both giving and receiving knowledge. It's crucial that we elevate each other and work together to drive meaningful change in the built environment," she said.

Dr. Muna Salameh expressed her pride in Sima's accomplishment, stating, "It is inspiring to see students embrace sustainability and carry forward the knowledge and values instilled in them. My goal has always been to direct students toward sustainable design, and witnessing Sima shine in this arena is truly rewarding."

Ajman University's ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EGBC further strengthens the University's commitment to sustainability and provides students like Sima with invaluable opportunities to engage in forward-thinking discussions and initiatives. Through this collaboration, Ajman University continues to prepare its students to lead the future of sustainable architecture.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/cad/news/2025/celebrating-architecture-students-success-as-a-panelist-in-the-girls-today-leaders-tomorrow-women-driving-change-in-the-built-environment-event-in-sustainable-architecture



Dr. Muna Salameh Participates in the 11th International Talk on Green Business, Sustainability, and Climate Action

Dr. Muna Salameh, Global Ambassador of Sustainability and Ph.D. in Architectural and Sustainable Built Environment at Ajman University, proudly participated as a distinguished speaker in the 11th International Talk on Green Business, Sustainability, and Climate Action. The event was successfully organized in collaboration between the Global Ambassadors of Sustainability (GAoS) and the Global Green Chamber of Commerce.

The international forum brought together renowned experts and sustainability advocates to discuss pressing environmental challenges, innovative green business solutions, and sustainable development strategies.

Dr. Muna Salameh, along with an esteemed panel of speakers, contributed valuable insights on sustainability in architecture and the built environment. Other distinguished speakers included:

- Ms. Michelle Thatcher – CEO, Global Green Chamber of Commerce, USA
- Mr. Maks Udov – Inventor, HERBAFERTIL®, Croatia
- Dr. Samia Kouki – Assistant Professor, Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE

With the attendance of Dr. Wesam Al Madhoun, Founder of Global Ambassadors of Sustainability,

The event emphasized the importance of sustainable practices, green business models, and collaborative efforts in addressing global environmental challenges. Dr. Muna remains committed to advancing sustainability through education, research, and active participation in global initiatives.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/cad/news/2025/dr-muna-salameh-participates-in-the-11th-international-talk-on-green-business-sustainability-and-climate-action



The College of Mass Communication Hosts a Guest Speaker on Sustainability and Digital Innovation

Seeking to fulfill the goals of international collaboration and increase sustainability awareness, the College of Mass Communication recently organized an international guest lecture titled "Driving Sustainable Development with Digital Innovation.". The event featured distinguished speaker Dr Sadia Jamil, PhD, FHEA, Director of Research at the School of International Communications, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China. Dr. Alyaa Anter, the associate professor, organized and coordinated this event.

This collaborative event was jointly organized by collaborating with the College of Mass Communication, the University of Nottingham Ningbo, and the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC). Faculty members and students actively participated in the lecture, engaging in discussions on the role of digital innovation in promoting sustainable development.

Dr. Jamil, a renowned expert in media and communication studies, emphasized the importance of leveraging digital transformation to address global sustainability challenges. She presented case studies and real-world examples showcasing technology's impact on achieving sustainable development goals.

Dr. Hosam Salama concluded by reaffirming the importance of raising awareness about sustainability and its integration into academic and professional practice. Hee also thanked Dr. Jamil for her insightful presentation and gave her an appreciation certificate, acknowledging her valuable contributions.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/masscom/news/2025/the-college-of-mass-communication-hosts-a-guest-speaker-on-sustainability-and-digital-innovation





Ajman University Students Participate in the 25th Inter-College Environmental Public Speaking Competition

Ajman University students took part in the 25th edition of the Inter-College Environmental Public Speaking Competition, organized by the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG). This competition serves as a leading educational platform aimed at enhancing youth awareness of environmental sustainability issues, as well as developing their critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills to address environmental challenges.

Three teams from the College of Dentistry, the College of Engineering and IT, and the College of Pharmacy represented Ajman University in the competition. A team from the College of Dentistry presented a project under the theme "Cosmetics and Clothes: The Environmental and Socio-Economic Footprint," examining the hidden environmental and human costs of the fashion and cosmetics industries, including deforestation linked to palm oil production, water pollution from textile dyeing and microplastics, and the projected rise in fashion-related emissions through 2030. Their presentation also addressed worker health and safety, child labour, animal testing, and the pressure created by unrealistic beauty standards, while proposing fair labour practices, sustainable and biodegradable textiles, circular materials, and greater consumer awareness.

A team from the College of Engineering and IT presented an innovative and sustainable solution under the theme "Rethinking Green: How AI is Redefining Environmental Solutions," introducing OasisGreen, an AI-driven greenhouse model designed for extreme climates. The project combines AI forecasting, precision irrigation, and renewable energy to reduce water consumption by up to 30% and energy waste by 20%, while supporting food security and biodiversity protection in desert regions. The team also outlined a "Circular AI" framework covering green energy, model efficiency, hardware reuse, and lifecycle accountability, alongside a pilot concept for an AI-monitored smart agriculture hub with potential for wider adoption across the GCC. Their work acknowledged that while AI can support climate modelling, renewable energy optimisation, and biodiversity tracking, it also consumes around 1% of global electricity, making sustainable computing practices essential.

Additionally, a team from the College of Pharmacy participated by presenting a project under the theme "Urbanization vs. Wellbeing: The Role of Sustainable Cities in Public Health," which highlighted that more than half of the world's population now lives in urban areas, a figure expected to reach 70% by 2050, and that air pollution alone contributes to more than 6.7 million premature deaths each year. The team emphasised that sustainable urban development, green infrastructure, clean energy solutions, smart urban planning, and equitable access to healthcare and basic services are essential to improving quality of life for city residents.

The participating students highlighted that the competition offered a valuable opportunity to enhance their analytical skills, present ideas on a prestigious platform, and engage with environmental experts. They also appreciated the event's role in promoting environmental innovation and encouraging practical, sustainable solutions for a better future.

For the 2025 edition, EEG established key themes that address pressing environmental issues, including:

♻ Interlinked Times: Climate Change and Biodiversity and How to Address Them

♻ Rethinking Sustainability: How Does AI Impact Environmental Solutions?

♻️ Urbanization vs. Wellbeing: The Role of Sustainable Cities in Public Health
♻️ Two Crises, One Solution: Fighting Climate Change to Save Biodiversity

The themes reflect a broader understanding that climate change and biodiversity loss are deeply interconnected crises, with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) estimating that around one million species are threatened with extinction due to human activity. Forests, wetlands, and oceans currently absorb approximately 56% of greenhouse gas emissions annually a vital function that is now under threat while the World Economic Forum estimates that nature-based solutions could deliver up to 37% of the emission reductions needed to keep global temperature rise below two degrees Celsius by 2030.

Ajman University is dedicated to fostering an educational environment that nurtures innovation and sustainability. It actively involves students in competitive platforms where they can analyze environmental issues and propose research-driven, creative solutions. The University also emphasizes the importance of environmental responsibility, creating opportunities for collaboration with sustainability experts and institutions, and empowering students as future leaders in environmental protection and sustainable development.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-students-participate-in-the-25th-inter-college-environmental-public-speaking-competition









Ajman University Participate in the "Clean UAE 2025" Campaign to Promote Environmental Sustainability

As part of its commitment to promoting environmental sustainability and fostering community engagement, Ajman University community members and students, along with their families, participated in the 24th edition of the "Clean UAE" campaign. Organized by the Emirates Environmental Group under the patronage of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, this initiative reflects the University's dedication to raising environmental awareness among students and the broader community while encouraging the adoption of eco-friendly practices that contribute to preserving natural resources and achieving sustainable development.

Ajman University's participation in this campaign underscores its sustainable approach and commitment to educating students on the importance of environmental conservation and active involvement in meaningful community initiatives. Through this event, students and their families had the opportunity to interact with experts and volunteers from various organizations, gain insights into waste-related challenges, and understand their impact on ecosystems. Additionally, the campaign instilled values of teamwork, volunteerism, and social responsibility among participants, reinforcing their role in building a more sustainable future.

The "Clean UAE" campaign is one of the UAE's leading environmental initiatives. Held from December 6 to 16, 2025, the campaign aimed to enhance environmental awareness and reinforce the concept of social responsibility. It brought together diverse community members to help clean natural areas and responsibly dispose of waste, contributing to environmental preservation and sustainability. The Ajman stop of the campaign took place on December 11, in collaboration with the Ajman Municipality and Planning Department and Ajman Police, and covered a distance of 10 kilometres.

This year's campaign saw participation from various sectors, with 84,000 volunteers from educational institutions, government entities, businesses, and families. Their collective efforts led to the collection of 45,000 kilograms of waste and the cleaning of 98 kilometres of land nationwide. At the Ajman site alone, 1,025 volunteers collected 2,763 kilograms of general waste, along with 35 kilograms of paper, 60 kilograms of plastic, 15 kilograms of aluminium cans, 50 kilograms of glass, and 20 kilograms of scrap metal, all carefully separated for delivery to local recycling facilities, showcasing their dedication to sustainable environmental practices.

Participants from the University described the campaign as an inspiring experience that increased their awareness of the environmental impact of waste and motivated them to adopt sustainable habits, such as reducing plastic consumption, recycling, and participating in other environmental initiatives. They also expressed gratitude for the organizational efforts that ensured the campaign's success, commending the Ajman University Office of Sustainability for offering valuable opportunities for active involvement in environmental activities and boosting their ecological awareness.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-participate-in-the-clean-uae-2025-campaign-to-promote-environmental-sustainability













Dr. Mona Delivers Lecture on Research Methodologies to Master's Students at UAE University

Dr. Mona presented a lecture to Master's students in the Department of Architectural Engineering at United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) focusing on Research Methodologies in architecture.
The session introduced students to key research approaches in the field, illustrated with practical examples drawn from Dr. Mona's own published research. By connecting methodological frameworks to real-world applications, the lecture offered students a grounded understanding of how rigorous research is conducted and communicated in architecture.
The exchange proved inspiring for both speaker and audience, with Dr. Mona noting she was truly impressed by the students' curiosity and engagement throughout the session. The visit reflects Ajman University's commitment to academic collaboration and knowledge sharing across the UAE's higher education community, strengthening ties between institutions dedicated to advancing architectural education and research.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/dr-mona-delivers-lecture-on-research-methodologies-to-masters-students-at-uae-university



Sustainable Architecture Students Excel in "Best Sustainable Research" Competition

Architecture students enrolled in the Sustainable Architecture course at Ajman University demonstrated strong engagement in a research-based competition titled "Best Sustainable Research," which focused on identifying and evaluating the most effective passive design strategies for application in building design.

Research Focus and Learning Outcomes

The initiative encouraged students to investigate climate-responsive solutions, analyze environmental performance, and translate research findings into practical architectural strategies. Through the competition, students enhanced their research skills, critical thinking, and understanding of sustainability principles, while reinforcing the application of passive design concepts in real architectural contexts.

Winning Groups Menotred by Dr Mona

The competition concluded with the announcement of winning groups, recognized for their outstanding research contributions:

First Group Winners: Sirajam Muneera, Glerica Clado, Ayesha Ziyad

Second Group Winners: Lana, Julia, Hajer

Third Group Winners: Halla Mohammed, Ola Sabbagh

Fourth Group: Leen, Mody, Alanod

Commitment to Research-Driven Education

The "Best Sustainable Research" competition reflects Ajman University's commitment to experiential learning and research-driven education in sustainable architecture. By engaging students in rigorous investigation of passive design strategies, the course prepares future architects to address environmental challenges through evidence-based design approaches that respond to the region's climate and sustainability priorities.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/sustainable-architecture-students-excel-in-best-sustainable-research-competition



Heritage and Identity Workshop Explores "Modeling the History" Through Tactile Learning

Dr. Muna Principal Lecturer at the College of Architecture organized and delivered a hands-on workshop titled "Modeling the History," exploring heritage and identity as the future of the past through experiential learning in architectural education.

Recreating Architectural Elements Through Clay Modeling

During the workshop, students used clay modeling to recreate architectural elements from different historical periods, with each student modeling a specific component to identify, understand, and sense architectural features through tactile learning. This hands-on approach allowed students to engage directly with the materiality and form of historical architecture, transforming abstract concepts into tangible experiences.

Enhanced Engagement and Spatial Understanding

The experiential approach significantly enhanced students' engagement, spatial understanding, and appreciation of architectural history. By working with clay to reproduce architectural components, students developed a deeper connection to the built heritage they studied, moving beyond theoretical knowledge to embodied understanding.

A Successful Learning Experience

The workshop was highly successful, as reflected in the quality of student work and the level of enthusiasm and creativity demonstrated throughout the activity. Students embraced the opportunity to explore architectural history through their hands-on creations, producing work that demonstrated both technical skill and thoughtful engagement with historical forms.

The "Modeling the History" workshop reflects Ajman University's commitment to innovative pedagogy in architectural education, preparing students to appreciate and preserve heritage while understanding its relevance to contemporary design practice.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/heritage-and-identity-workshop-explores-modeling-the-history-through-tactile-learning



Guest Speakers Enrich Sustainable Architecture Course with Industry Expertise

Students in the Sustainable Architecture course at Ajman University benefited from two distinguished guest lectures featuring leading industry experts in sustainability and HVAC-R technologies.

Ms. Rola Nasreddine: Sustainability and Climate Change

Ms. Rola Nasreddine, Executive Director at Springs Global Consultancy, delivered a lecture titled "Sustainability and Climate Change." She brings over 20 years of experience in sustainability, climate change, and strategic policy development, working with governments, international organizations, and major companies across the GCC and MENA region.

Ms. Nasreddine has held key roles with Bureau Veritas, OAPEC, and GE Energy, and has contributed to several major climate initiatives, including COP18. Her lecture provided students with valuable insights into the intersection of policy, sustainability, and climate action from a practitioner's perspective.

Mr. Nabil Shahin: Cooling for a Sustainable Future

Mr. Nabil Shahin, Managing Director of AHRI MENA, presented a lecture titled "Cooling for a Sustainable Future: Connecting Global Treaties with Smarter, Efficient Buildings." With more than 25 years of experience in the HVAC-R industry, Mr. Nabil has held multiple technical and commercial leadership roles across major global HVAC companies.

His expertise covers product research and development, design, testing, manufacturing, and strategic marketing. He is highly knowledgeable in international HVAC technologies, energy efficiency, and global standards, working closely with regulatory bodies and government agencies across the US, Europe, and the MENA region. Mr. Nabil holds a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Tennessee State University in the United States.

Dr. Ahmed Sukkar: Cultural Sustainability and Adaptive Reuse

Dr. Ahmed Sukkar, Assistant Professor at Sharjah University and a distinguished scholar in the fields of Islamic art, architecture, and urbanism, delivered a lecture titled "Cultural Sustainability and Adaptive Reuse," highlighting how architecture can preserve identity while meeting modern needs.

His research spans the history, theory, and criticism of both traditional and modern Islamic built environments, with a strong focus on architectural humanities, spirituality, philosophy, and cultural cosmology. Dr. Sukkar's work also engages deeply with critical issues such as contested cultural heritage, urban displacement, spatial justice, design ethics, and resilient urban development. In addition, he explores contemporary practices including parametric design and the emerging role of artificial intelligence in shaping future cities.

Bridging Academia and Industry

The guest lectures reflect Ajman University's commitment to connecting students with industry leaders and real-world expertise. By engaging with professionals at the forefront of sustainability and building technologies, students gained practical perspectives that complement their academic studies and prepare them for careers in sustainable architecture and engineering.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/guest-speakers-enrich-sustainable-architecture-course-with-industry-expertise



Ajman University Hosts Sustainable Day 2025: "Shaping Green Cities: Global Insights & Local Applications"

Ajman University's College of Architecture, Art and Design hosted Sustainable Day 2025, a full-day academic and professional event titled "Shaping Green Cities: Global Insights & Local Applications".The event was coordinated and organized by Dr. Muna, who led the planning and execution of the initiative.

A Platform for Knowledge Exchange

The event brought together industry professionals, academics, and students through keynote talks, panel discussions, and sustainability achievement awards, creating a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange on sustainable urban development and real-world applications. Participants engaged in meaningful dialogue on the challenges and opportunities facing cities as they transition toward more sustainable futures.

Strengthening Industry-Academia Engagement

Sustainable Day 2025 strengthened industry–academia engagement by connecting students and faculty with practicing professionals working at the forefront of sustainable urban development. The exchange of global insights and local applications provided attendees with practical perspectives on how sustainability principles are being implemented in real-world contexts.

Enhancing Student Awareness and University Commitment

The initiative enhanced students' awareness of global and local sustainability practices, exposing them to current trends, innovative approaches, and career pathways in the sustainability field. The event also reinforced Ajman University's commitment to sustainability education and environmental stewardship, positioning the university as a leader in advancing sustainable development dialogue within the UAE's academic and professional community.

Sustainable Day 2025 reflects Ajman University's ongoing efforts to foster collaboration between academia and industry while preparing students to become future leaders in sustainability and green urban development.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-hosts-sustainable-day-2025-shaping-green-cities-global-insights-local-applications



Dr. Muna Salameh Speaks at Health & Safety Hub During WETEX 2025

Dr. Muna Salameh was a featured speaker at the Health & Safety Hub during WETEX 2025, hosted by Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA) and Bureau Veritas.

Smart Technologies & AI for Health, Safety, and Well-being

Dr. Salameh's talk addressed "Smart Technologies & AI for Health, Safety, and Well-being in High-Risk Environments — Architecture Perspective." Her presentation focused on the architectural approach to "Creating a Culture of Safety: Best Practices and Innovations," offering practical, evidence-based tactics that leaders can apply immediately to strengthen governance, human factors, and tech-enabled HSE performance.

Bridging Architecture and Safety Culture

The session highlighted how architectural design and smart technologies can contribute to safer, healthier environments in high-risk settings. By connecting design thinking with health, safety, and well-being outcomes, Dr. Salameh demonstrated the growing role of architecture in shaping organizational safety culture and performance.

Contributing to Regional Dialogue

Dr. Salameh's participation at WETEX 2025 reflects Ajman University's commitment to contributing to regional dialogue on sustainability, health, and safety. Her presence at the Health & Safety Hub underscores the university's engagement with industry leaders and its role in advancing innovative approaches to safety and well-being in the built environment.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/dr-muna-salameh-speaks-at-health-safety-hub-during-wetex-2025

Ajman University's College of Media Hosts Campus Emergency Safety Workshop, Linking Preparedness to Climate Action

Ajman University's College of Media Hosts Campus Emergency Safety Workshop, Linking Preparedness to Climate Action

Ajman, UAE – The College of Media at Ajman University organized a workshop on the fundamentals of safety during emergency situations on campus, with a special contribution from Ms. Maya Haddad and Dr. Fetta Djessas. The session was held in support of students working on Integrated Marketing Communications graduation projects and their community initiatives, and it framed campus emergency preparedness as part of broader climate action and resilience efforts.

The workshop focused on how students should respond to emergency situations they may encounter within the university campus, including practical guidance on fire exits and correct evacuation routes. Ms. Haddad provided students with advice on handling emergencies properly and acting responsibly during critical incidents.

The College of Media linked the workshop to climate action by highlighting that climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather and other emergencies, making disaster preparedness and campus resilience essential components of adaptation. By equipping students with knowledge of evacuation procedures and safety protocols, the workshop supports a culture of readiness that complements Ajman University's commitment to sustainability and the UAE's climate goals, including the Net Zero Vision.

In its invitation to Ms. Haddad and Dr. Djessas, the College of Media expressed appreciation for her efforts in supporting students involved in Integrated Marketing Communications graduation projects and their community initiatives. The college noted that her participation would help raise students' awareness of campus safety protocols and emergency preparedness.

The workshop reflects Ajman University's commitment to student safety and to enriching learning through practical, community-oriented activities. By connecting emergency preparedness with climate resilience, the College of Media aims to prepare students to respond effectively to emergencies and to promote sustainability and safety within the university community.

An outstanding student project stood out, which is a prototype for a safety application called SANAD. SANAD links AU community members to key resources and alerts during safety, medical or climate related emergencies. To check out the application, click here.

Ajman University's College of Media Hosts Campus Emergency Safety Workshop, Linking Preparedness to Climate Action | Sustainability at Ajman University

Imperial College London Sustainability Leadership Programme

Ajman University's Senior Sustainability Manager completes Imperial College London Sustainability Leadership Programme

Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, has successfully completed the prestigious Sustainability Leadership Programme at Imperial College London, earning a perfect final score of 100/100. The achievement underscores her commitment to advancing global environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards and reinforces her position as a leading climate advocate in the UAE.

Delivered by Imperial College Business School Executive Education in partnership with global education provider Emeritus, the highly competitive programme equips senior leaders with the frameworks needed to move beyond basic regulatory compliance toward climate-positive innovation.

The curriculum covered systemic decarbonization, including the formulation of climate-positive strategies and the transition toward net-zero impact; data-driven impact metrics, using the Leonardo Centre's proprietary data tracking and the "GOLDEN dataset" to measure and monetize actual environmental impact beyond corporate activities; and organizational change management, integrating stakeholder needs directly into governance structures to foster sustainable cultural shifts.

A standout element of Haddad's experience was the practical application of advanced innovation methodologies such as TRIZ, the Theory of Inventive Problem Solving. Using these structured frameworks, she explored how institutions can systematically eliminate carbon creation at the strategy phase rather than merely mitigating existing emissions.

Haddad, completed the rigorous training to integrate these advanced methodologies into higher education frameworks. Under her sustainability leadership, Ajman University has already reached significant milestones, including ranking #1 in the UAE for UN Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action and #6 globally for SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

In addition to her responsibilities at the university, Haddad serves as Head of Operations for the UAE Universities Climate Network, which drives youth engagement and academic collaboration across the region's top institutions.

Her latest academic milestone at Imperial College London is expected to bring cutting-edge decarbonization methodologies and sustainable operational models directly to the UAE's academic ecosystem, supporting the nation's broader Net Zero targets.

Ajman University's College of Media Hosts Campus Emergency Safety Workshop, Linking Preparedness to Climate Action | Sustainability at Ajman University

Imperial College Business School | Executive Education

Imperial College Business School

Certificate of Completion

This is to certify that

Maya Haddad

has successfully completed the Executive Education Programme

Imperial Sustainability Leadership Programme

May 2025

Frank Brueck	Maurizio Zollo	David Brown
Programme Faculty	Programme Faculty	Director of Executive Education, Imperial College London

Imperial College London

Ajman University Participates in Dubai Holding's Climate Conversations Event on Ocean Conservation

Ajman University Participates in Dubai Holding's Climate Conversations Event on Ocean Conservation

Ajman, UAE – Ajman University participated in Dubai Holding's Climate Conversations series, a special fireside chat featuring Jo Ruxton MBE, founder of Ocean Generation and producer of the award-winning documentary A Plastic Ocean. The virtual event, held on 16 September 2025, explored the journey behind the film and the urgent need to protect marine ecosystems.

Representing Ajman University, Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager, joined the session, which was moderated by Stephanie Asgill, Head of Sustainability at Dubai Holding. The discussion highlighted Jo Ruxton's eight-year journey producing A Plastic Ocean, the realities she witnessed of marine plastic pollution, and how the film sparked behaviour change and influenced policy worldwide.

The conversation also addressed how Ocean Generation is empowering young people to face eco-anxiety with confidence, and how individuals can play a part in protecting the ocean — the ecosystem responsible for every second breath we take.

Participants gained practical insights into turning awareness into action, with the session underscoring the role of storytelling and education in driving environmental change. The event aligned with Ajman University's ongoing efforts to advance ocean-related sustainability goals, including SDG 14 on life below water, and to engage with regional leaders on pressing climate challenges.

Ajman University's participation reflects its continued commitment to international collaboration on sustainable development and to supporting the UAE's Net Zero targets through academic leadership and community engagement.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-participates-in-dubai-holdings-climate-conversations-event-on-ocean-conservation



Ajman University's Office of Sustainability Completes Advanced Training on GHG Emissions: From Reporting to Impact

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The Office of Sustainability at Ajman University has successfully completed a specialized capacity-building workshop titled "GHG Emissions: From Reporting to Impact." Delivered by Dr. Nabeel Murshed, Chief Researcher and Consultant at Axosomatic, the training was designed to equip higher education institutions with the advanced frameworks needed to transition from compliance-based sustainability reporting to impact-driven transformation.

The workshop addressed a critical challenge facing universities today: how to bridge the gap between sustainability data, institutional strategy, and measurable real-world impact. While many institutions have improved their data collection and emissions reporting under frameworks such as GHG, ISO 14064/67, GRI, and SBTi, they often continue to operate in data silos or treat sustainability as a side project.

Representing Ajman University's Office of Sustainability, Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager, and her team engaged in comprehensive modules covering the technical and strategic dimensions of climate action.

Key areas covered during the training included:

- Advanced GHG & Life Cycle Assessment (LCA): Understanding Scopes 1, 2, and 3 emissions, carbon offsetting, and the life-cycle impacts of university operations, from purchased goods to employee commuting.
- CSR, ESG & Materiality Matrix: Differentiating between corporate social responsibility and ESG frameworks, and learning how to construct a Materiality Matrix tailored to the priorities of students, faculty, regulators, and society.
- Net-Zero Roadmaps & Strategy: Developing science-based targets (SBTi) and multi-phase plans to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, including strategies for transitioning to renewable energy and green procurement.
- Turning Data into Impact: Translating emissions data into multi-dimensional institutional impact —encompassing educational, operational, reputational, community, and governance factors.

A central focus of the training was overcoming common implementation challenges in higher education, such as data fragmentation, funding constraints, and resistance to change. The workshop emphasized the importance of strategic enablers, including strong leadership, student engagement as co-creators of sustainability, and the integration of AI-enabled dashboards for accurate tracking.

"This training was instrumental in equipping our team with the frameworks needed to move beyond just reporting our carbon footprint," said Maya Haddad. "To truly lead in climate action, we must use our emissions data to inform strategic decisions, enhance our curriculum, and drive operational efficiency. We are now better positioned to turn our sustainability data into tangible, institution-wide impact."

The workshop aligns with Ajman University's broader commitment to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). By investing in the continuous development of its sustainability team, Ajman University is reinforcing its role as a regional leader in climate-conscious education and innovation, supporting the UAE's national Net Zero targets.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-universitys-office-of-sustainability-completes-advanced-training-on-ghg-emissions-from-reporting-to-impact

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GHG Emissions: From Reporting to Impact

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We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to the SDGs.



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