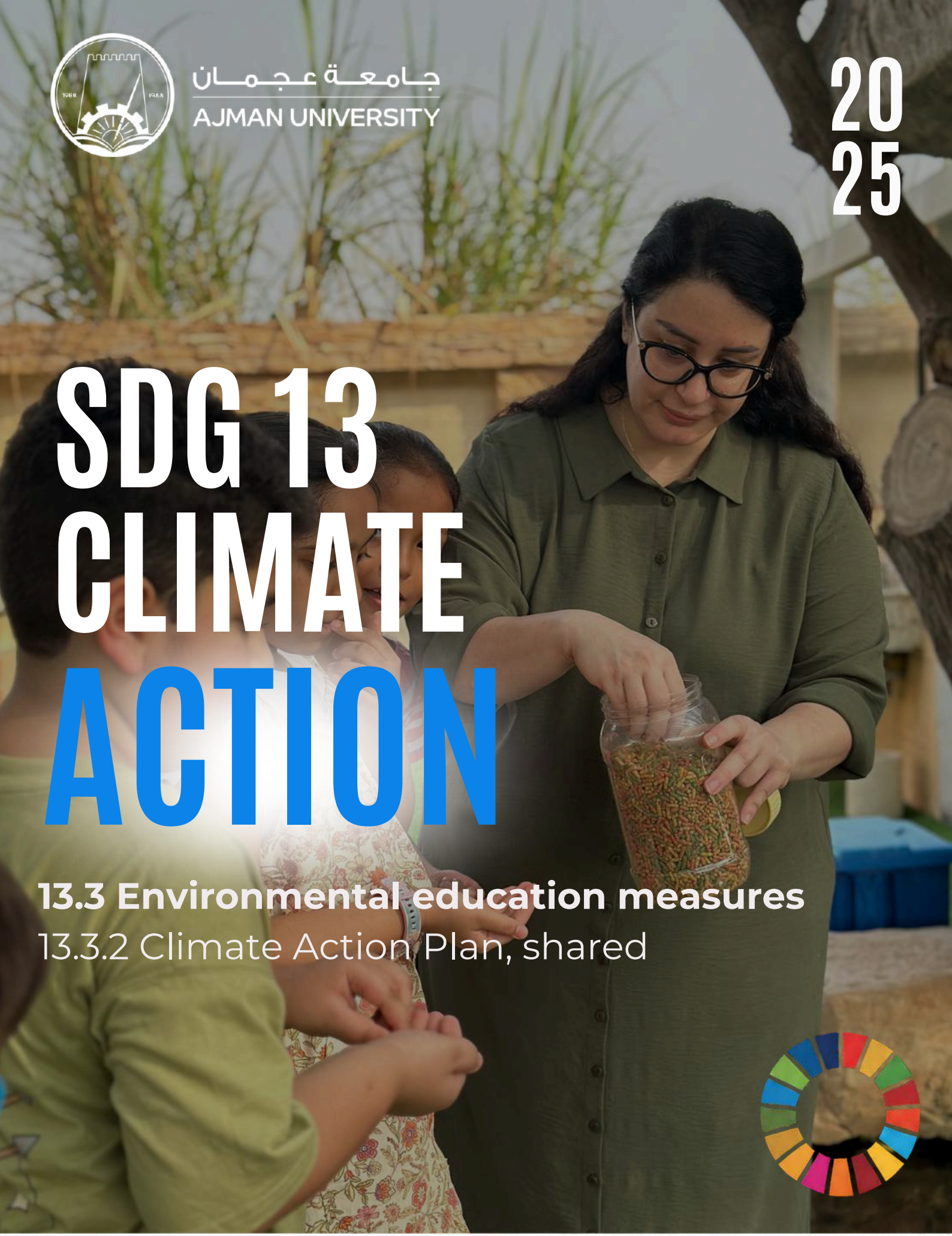
جامعة عجمان
AJMAN UNIVERSITY

2025

SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION



13.3 Environmental education measures

13.3.2 Climate Action Plan, shared

THE GLOBAL GOALS

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13 CLIMATE ACTION

Introduction

Ajman University (AU) recognizes that climate action cannot be achieved in isolation. As a leading higher education institution in the UAE, AU has not only developed a robust, science-aligned Climate Action Plan but has embedded a culture of transparency, community collaboration, and knowledge-sharing into its institutional DNA. This report outlines how AU is actively sharing its strategies, progress, and infrastructure innovations to build collective climate resilience in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative.

By examining Ajman University's Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2022-2030 , we aim to assess its:

- Comprehensiveness: The extent to which the plan addresses key climate change issues, such as greenhouse gas emissions reduction, energy efficiency, and adaptation strategies.
- Ambition: The level of ambition and target-setting within the plan.
- Implementation: The effectiveness of the plan's implementation strategies and progress towards achieving its goals.
- Community Engagement: The extent to which the plan involves local government and community groups in its development and implementation.

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

Existence of a shared Climate Action Plan (13.3.2): This indicator assesses whether the University has developed a comprehensive Climate Action Plan and shared it with local government and community groups.

This report will provide valuable insights into the University's leadership in addressing climate change and its contribution to a more sustainable future.



Message from the Senior Sustainability Manager

Climate change is a global challenge that requires collective action. Our University recognizes its role in mitigating climate change and fostering a sustainable future

By developing and sharing our Climate Action Plan with local government and community groups, we aim to inspire and collaborate towards a more resilient and environmentally friendly community.

We are dedicated to leading by example by implementing sustainable practices across our campus, from energy-efficient buildings to waste reduction initiatives.

This plan outlines our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable practices, and building a greener campus. We believe that by working together, we can create a lasting positive impact on our planet and future generations.



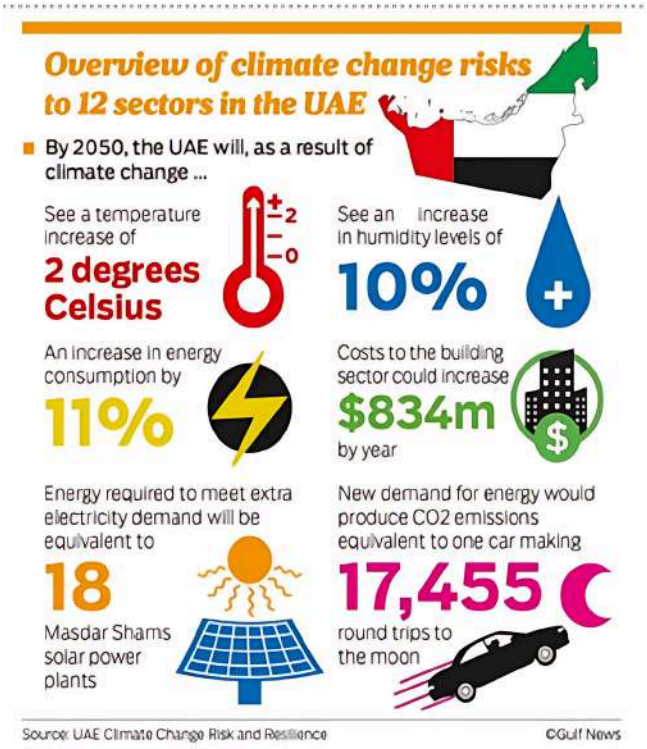
We are dedicated to leading by example in climate action

Maya Haddad
Senior Sustainability Manager

13.3.2 Indicator:
Climate Action Plan, Shared

Ajman University launched the AU Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2022-2030, which outlines the roadmap and actionable targets to address climate change. The plan was in line with the UAE Green Agenda 2015-2030, the National Climate Change Plan of the United Arab Emirates by the Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment (MOCCAE), as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations; mainly SDG 13 which aims to "take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts."

The AU Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2022-2030 is a practical guide on how the University will deliver key climate commitments, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, supporting a carbon-neutral campus, reducing energy consumption, investing in energy optimization solutions and renewable energy, exploring new ways to decrease direct and indirect CO2 emissions, minimizing the environmental impact rating of the University activities and processes, and creating awareness on taking action for climate change.



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The long-term objectives of the University are to achieve a neutral, zero-waste campus, a Gold Sustainability rating in the STARS® system by 2030, and zero carbon by 2050. To achieve these objectives, the University shall continue working towards achieving the following goals: 1- Adoption of sustainable practices to decrease GHG emissions, 2- Sourcing sustainable procurement contracts and products, 3- Promoting renewable energy solutions on-campus, 4- Developing sustainable investment plans necessary to support approved, viable strategies to attain climate neutrality, using environmental, social and governance criteria (ESG).

AU Timeline on Goals Achievement in the Climate Action Plan



Long Term Objectives of the Climate Action Strategy



Carbon Emissions Reduction

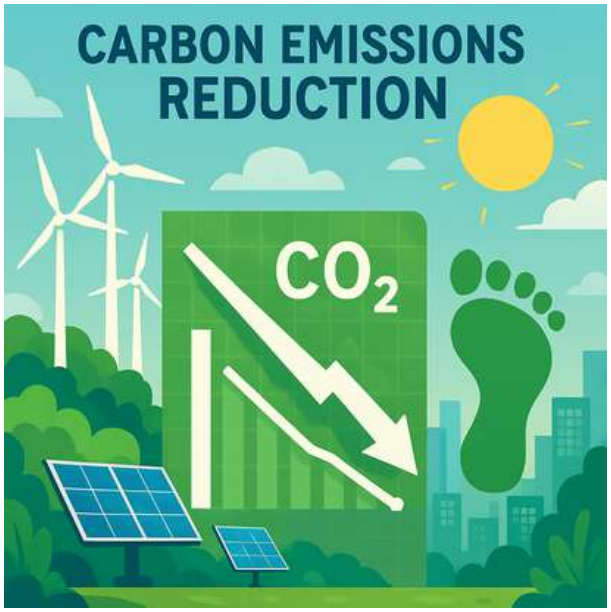
Ajman University's Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2022-2030 highlights its commitment to drive climate action goals in line with the UAE Green Agenda, Net Zero by 2050 Strategy, the National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017–2050, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Universities from various parts of the world have shown their willingness to become carbon-neutral in the future. Ajman University has accomplished important milestones in recent years, and we firmly believe in the University's dream team that can achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

While direct operations (Scope 1) and purchased energy (Scope 2) are foundational to our carbon mitigation strategy, Ajman University recognizes that our true environmental impact extends far beyond our campus walls. Our most significant carbon footprint lies within our value chain; these are our Scope 3 emissions.

Scope 3 encompasses all indirect greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, a complex web of activities from the extraction of raw materials to the end-of-life of the products we use. This includes:

- Upstream: Procurement of goods and services, capital equipment, fuel, and energy-related activities not covered in Scope 2, business travel, employee commuting, and waste generated in operations.
- Downstream: Transportation and distribution of our products, the use of sold products, end-of-life treatment of sold products, and investments.

Addressing Scope 3 is not just an add-on; it is a fundamental imperative for any institution serious about achieving net zero and building resilience against climate risks. The Greenhouse Gas Protocol categorizes these emissions to provide a complete picture of our contribution to global warming, driven by the rising atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide, methane, and other gases like chlorofluorocarbons.



Our Integrated Strategy for Scope 3 Mitigation

Our commitment to a profound decrease of greenhouse gas emissions across our value chain is embedded in our core climate policy. We are moving beyond mere measurement to active mitigation and adaptation through a multi-faceted approach:

- **Sustainable Procurement:** We are leveraging our purchasing power to prioritize suppliers committed to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and zero-emissions logistics, thereby reducing embedded carbon emissions in our supply chain.
- **Advancing a Circular Economy:** We are minimizing waste and promoting recycling and reuse across all operations, directly tackling emissions from landfill methane and resource extraction.
- **Investing in Natural Solutions:** We champion urban forestry and green infrastructure on campus and in our community, enhancing natural carbon sequestration while providing cooling effects to counter rising temperature.
- **Driving Innovation and Efficiency:** Our research and operations are focused on energy conservation, the potential of carbon capture technologies, and a transition away from fossil fuels.

By analyzing a wide range of data and modeling various sustainability scenarios, we can make informed predictions and strategically allocate resources for maximum impact. This comprehensive effort is our proactive response to the threat of climate change disaster, ensuring we are part of the global solution.

Ajman University committed to setting ambitious carbon reduction targets covering Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions in alignment with the urgency to combat climate change. These targets vary in terms of their specific emission reduction goals, timelines, and strategies, but they all share a common aim of transitioning to a low-carbon economy and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Transparency and Collaboration: Sharing Our Climate Action Plan

For Ajman University, mastering Scope 3 is the ultimate expression of our sustainability mission. This commitment is formalized and detailed in our comprehensive Climate Action Plan. We are sharing this plan publicly to demonstrate unwavering transparency, invite accountability, and foster collaboration. We believe that tackling the complex challenge of Scope 3 emissions cannot be done in isolation. By openly sharing our strategy, data, and progress, we aim to:

- **Inspire Action:** Encourage our partners, suppliers, and peers to embark on their own decarbonization journeys.
- **Spark Innovation:** Create opportunities for research partnerships and collaborative projects that accelerate carbon mitigation solutions.
- **Build a Community of Practice:** Lead by example in the higher education sector, contributing to a collective response to climate change.

Our Climate Action Plan is more than a document; it is a blueprint for our journey toward a sustainable, low-carbon future and a call to action for our entire community to join us in this critical endeavor.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/community/carbon-emissions-reduction

Engaging Communities: Sharing Our Climate Action Journey

Ajman University embraces its role as a leader in sustainability by proactively sharing our comprehensive Climate Action Plan with a wide array of stakeholders. We believe that transparency and collaboration are essential drivers for systemic change. Our engagement strategy is designed to disseminate knowledge, foster partnerships, and amplify our impact beyond campus borders. We leverage multiple, strategic channels to ensure our findings and strategies reach both specialized and public audiences:

Formal Digital Publications: We collaborate with leading government, environmental, and academic consortia to publish our progress reports, emission data, and case studies on their official web platforms. This method ensures our work is archived within credible ecosystems, contributing to a collective pool of knowledge and establishing AU as a key data point in regional and global sustainability efforts.

Active Participation in Events: Our experts regularly serve as keynote speakers, panelists, and presenters at high-level symposia, industry conferences, and public community forums. These engagements provide a dynamic platform to articulate our strategy, showcase the tangible initiatives underway on our campus, and engage in real-time dialogue with peers, policymakers, and the public. This dual-pronged approach ensures that our climate strategy is not only a internal roadmap but also a living document that influences and inspires broader action. Some examples of events and conferences are mentioned below:

1. Interschool Environmental Public Speaking Competition (Jury member)
2. National Climate Adaptation Plan of the UAE by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (Workshop facilitator)
3. HSE Expo 2025 (Knowledge partner)
4. ESG Framework in the UAE by Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, May 2024 (Workshop facilitator)
5. Introduction to Climate and Carbon Literacy (Presenter)
6. Strategies for Carbon Footprint Reduction (Speaker)
7. UCN Decarbonization Academy -ongoing (Co-founder and speaker)
8. Green Entrepreneurship Program July 2024-ongoing (Co-founder)
9. Greenpeace UAE Wellbeing Economy Awards (Organizer and Speaker)
10. 2nd Girls in ICT Hackathon for Climate Change (Hackathon Judge)
11. “Sustainability Synergy: Integrating Resource Management and Renewable Innovation for a Circular Economy” HSE Expo April 2025 (Session Moderator)
12. Integrating Sustainability in Higher-Ed Curriculums Feb 2025 (Presenter)
13. Strategies for Carbon Footprint Reduction, March 2025 (Speaker)
14. Reduction of Climate Change Effects: Understanding the Law and Future Trends, May 2025 (Speaker)
15. Workshop on Biodiversity, water, land and food systems, Ajman May 2025 (Presenter)
16. IUCN World Conservation Congress October 2025 (Speaker)

Strategic Knowledge Partnerships: We actively collaborate with key national and international bodies, including the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Emirates Green Building Council, Greenpeace MENA, Emirates Environmental Group, “Nature Positive Alliance” with the University of Oxford and the UN Environment Program (UNEP), International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN), UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), Greening Education Partnership, The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education (EAUC), United Nations’ Environment Program Race to Net Zero for Universities and others. Through these alliances, we engage in a continuous exchange of research, best practices, and policy insights. This ensures our climate action is consistently informed by the latest global standards and directly contributes to overarching national and regional sustainability objectives.

The following list highlights some of the prominent national and international groups with which we have shared our Climate Action Plan, reflecting the scope and credibility of our partnerships.

"Race to Zero" Universities and Colleges

Ajman University's commitment is amplified through our official partnership with the "Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges" campaign, a high-level global initiative dedicated to mobilizing leadership and action from the education sector. This campaign is not an isolated effort but a powerful coalition of leading international organizations, including our key partners: The EAUC (The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education), which acts as the official secretariat; Second Nature; and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

By formally joining this campaign, Ajman University is automatically accepted as a participant in the broader UNFCCC Race to Zero global campaign. This partnership provides the primary framework and global platform for sharing our Climate Action Plan. As a core requirement of our commitment, our plan is published and promoted through the campaign's channels, ensuring it reaches a worldwide audience of policymakers, educational leaders, and sustainability practitioners. This public dissemination is a key mechanism for transparency, holding us accountable to our pledges and showcasing our strategy to a global network of peers.

It is important to note that this campaign represents the evolution of climate leadership in education. The "Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges" officially replaces and builds upon the previous "Global Climate Letter for Universities and Colleges," signaling a shift from making pledges to implementing rigorous, immediate, and accountable action plans. Our published Climate Action Plan is the tangible manifestation of this shift.

For a complete list of the global institutions that are part of this endeavor, and to view our plan among them, you can visit the official signatories here:

https://www.educationracetozero.org/current-signatories

Mbarara University of Science and Technology	Uganda	2030	Coming Soon	Pending	
Ndejje University	Uganda	2030	Coming Soon	Plan	Publish
Shimoni Core PTC	Uganda	2040	Coming Soon	Pending	
Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics	Ukraine	2035	2030	Pending	
West Ukrainian National University	Ukraine	2050	Coming Soon	Pending	
Abu Dhabi Polytechnic	United Arab Emirates	2050	Coming Soon	Pending	
Ajman University	United Arab Emirates	2050	2030	Plan	Publish
Al Ain University	United Arab Emirates	2030	Coming Soon	Pending	
Capital College	United Arab Emirates	2030	Coming Soon	Plan	Publish
Capital University College	United Arab Emirates	2030	Coming Soon	Pending	
Higher Colleges of Technology	United Arab Emirates	2030	Coming Soon	Pending	
Manipal Academy of Higher	United Arab	2040	Coming Soon	Pending	

Environment Center for Arab Towns (ECAT)

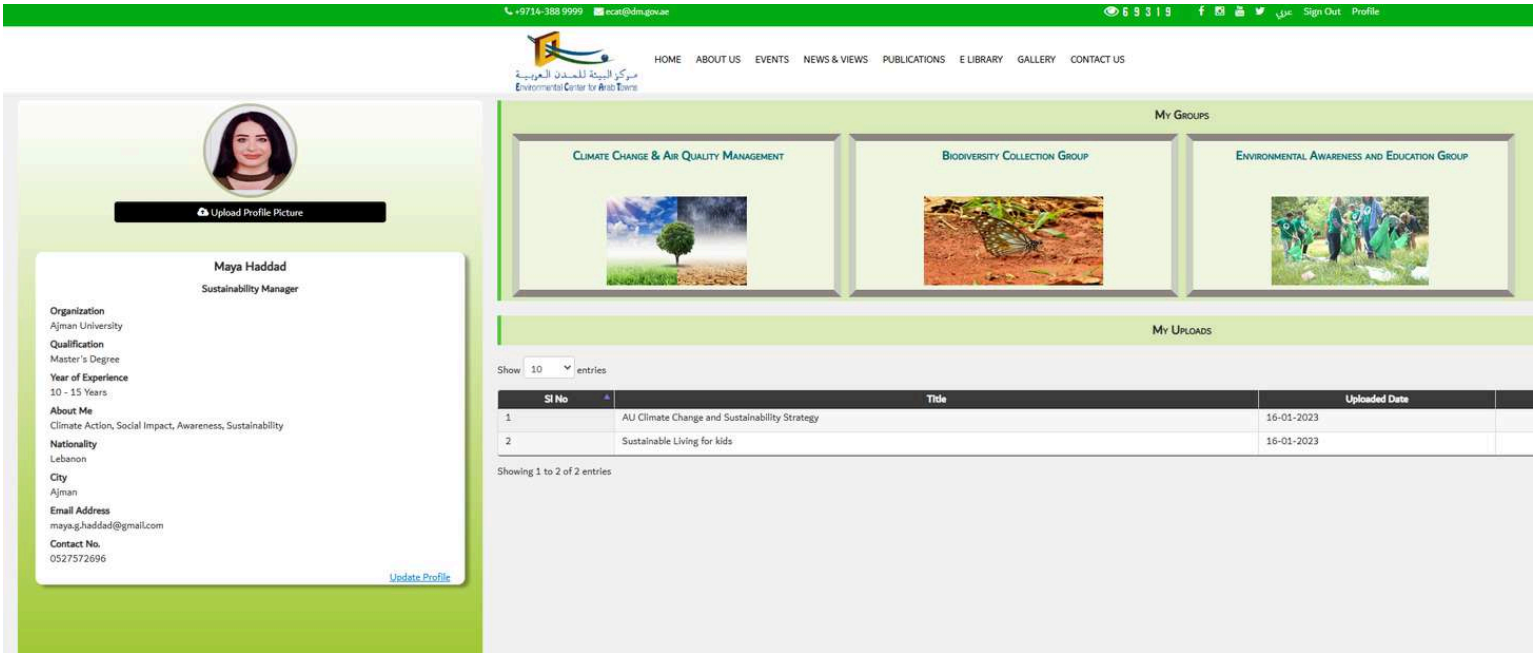
Founded in 2005 by the Arab Town Organization (ATO), the Environmental Center for Arab Towns (ECAT) serves as a vital hub for environmental collaboration in the Arab world. Led by H.E. Dawood Al Hajri, ECAT tackles critical environmental challenges and promotes sustainable development across Arab cities and towns.

ECAT boasts a robust network of 50 Arab cities and 138 Arab experts, including Ms. Maya Haddad, Sustainability Manager at Ajman University. This diverse network fosters communication and collaboration, breaking down barriers and allowing urban centers to learn from each other's experiences.

Recognizing the importance of knowledge in achieving sustainability, ECAT facilitates the exchange of critical environmental expertise through conferences and discussion forums. They are also developing a comprehensive knowledge-sharing platform – a valuable resource for researchers, decision-makers, and the general public. This platform will ensure widespread access to vital information, empowering positive environmental action.

ECAT understands the importance of cultivating environmental awareness from a young age. Their Green Ambassador Programme, open to students from Grades 6 to 12, equips young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to become environmental stewards. By fostering a generation of eco-conscious individuals, ECAT paves the way for a greener future for Arab cities.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/partnerships/environment-center-for-arab-towns-ecat





Emirates Environmental Group (EEG)

For over three decades, the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) has been a beacon of sustainability in the UAE and beyond. Founded in 1991, this dynamic organization boasts a diverse membership – students, individuals, families, businesses, government agencies, universities, and even international organizations. This inclusive approach fosters a powerful coalition dedicated to protecting the environment and promoting long-term development.

EEG stands out for its unwavering commitment to environmental quality. They were the first environmental NGO in the world to achieve ISO 14001 certification, demonstrating their dedication to rigorous environmental management practices. Furthermore, their accreditations by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) solidify their global recognition and impact.

Their active participation in the UN Global Compact (UNGC) and membership in the prestigious International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) further highlight EEG's international standing and reputation as a leader in environmental conservation.

EEG focuses on three key pillars to achieve its impactful goals: education, community engagement, and sustainable waste management. By empowering individuals and communities through education, fostering collaboration, and implementing innovative waste management solutions, EEG plays a vital role in driving positive environmental change.

Ajman University proudly stands alongside EEG as a member for over two years. Their active participation in competitions, jury duty for EEG programs, workshops, panel discussions, and recycling initiatives exemplify their dedication to environmental stewardship. This strong partnership between EEG and Ajman University highlights the power of collaboration in tackling environmental challenges and creating a more sustainable future.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/emirates-environmental-group-eeg



Emirates Green Building Council

The Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC) stands as a non-profit powerhouse at the forefront of sustainability within the UAE's built environment. As the UAE's official Green Building Council, endorsed by the World Green Building Council, EmiratesGBC plays a pivotal role in driving green building practices and fostering a sustainable future.

Established in 2006, EmiratesGBC has witnessed a remarkable transformation in the sector. They have been instrumental in this progress by advocating for green building policies, implementing rating systems, and facilitating knowledge sharing. Their vision is nothing short of ambitious: to propel the UAE to the forefront of sustainable built environments globally.

EmiratesGBC fosters a collaborative environment through its diverse membership of over 150 individuals and organizations, including notable sustainability advocates Ms. Maya Haddad, Sustainability Manager at Ajman University and Dr. Muna Salameh- Senior Lecturer at the College of Architecture, Art and Design. Members benefit from a multitude of advantages, including reduced costs for educational programs, training sessions, and green building events.

Their strategic goals reflect a comprehensive approach:

- Communication and advocacy: Raising awareness and influencing policies for a greener future.
- Collaboration: Building partnerships to accelerate progress.
- Education: Equipping stakeholders with the knowledge to build sustainably.
- Innovation: Encouraging and supporting the development of cutting-edge sustainable solutions.
- Acceleration: Prompting swift and impactful action towards a sustainable built environment.

Ultimately, EmiratesGBC's mission is to ensure a decarbonized and healthy environment, while securing the organization's long-term growth and stability.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/emirates-green-building-council



International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN)

In a landmark achievement for the United Arab Emirates, Ajman University has secured a membership in the highly selective International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN), becoming the first university in the UAE and the second in the entire MENA region to receive this honor. This prestigious recognition signifies Ajman University's unwavering dedication to integrating sustainability into its core functions. Traditionally known for including world-renowned institutions like Harvard and MIT, the ISCN membership places Ajman University among the frontrunners of global sustainability efforts within the higher education sector.

This acceptance unlocks a plethora of benefits for Ajman University. They will now have the privilege of collaborating with leading universities and sustainability experts around the world, fostering a dynamic exchange of knowledge and best practices. Imagine AU researchers working alongside counterparts at MIT on a cutting-edge clean energy project, or AU students participating in international sustainability conferences alongside their peers from Harvard.

AU will have the opportunity to demonstrate commitment to sustainability, collaborate with global experts within member institutions, connect with fellow members during ISCN events, and share best practices with peers via the ISCN website, newsletter and social media accounts; as follows:

- Demonstrating Commitment: Being part of an elite group like the ISCN signifies AU's dedication to sustainability on a global stage. This can enhance their reputation and attract eco-conscious students, faculty, and partners.
- Collaboration with Global Experts: The ISCN network provides a platform to connect with leading universities and sustainability professionals. This fosters knowledge sharing, joint research projects, and the exchange of best practices that can significantly accelerate AU's sustainability initiatives.
- ISCN Events: Membership grants access to exclusive ISCN conferences, workshops, and events. These gatherings provide invaluable opportunities to network with peers, learn about cutting-edge advancements, and stay updated on global sustainability trends.
- Sharing Best Practices: The ISCN website, newsletter, and social media channels offer AU a platform to showcase its sustainability achievements and initiatives to a global audience. This not only inspires others but also allows AU to learn from the shared experiences of fellow members.

Overall, Ajman University's membership in the ISCN is a significant accomplishment that positions us as a leader in sustainability within the UAE and the MENA region. It opens doors to a world of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and opportunities to contribute to a more sustainable future.

Ajman University's membership in the ISCN is a testament to its pioneering role in sustainability within the MENA region. This achievement paves the way for groundbreaking collaborations, knowledge exchange, and the collective pursuit of a more sustainable future. With the support of the ISCN network, Ajman University is poised to become a true leader in sustainability for the entire region.

Check out Ajman University's profile on the ISCN website here.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/partnerships/international-sustainable-campus-network-iscn

UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI)

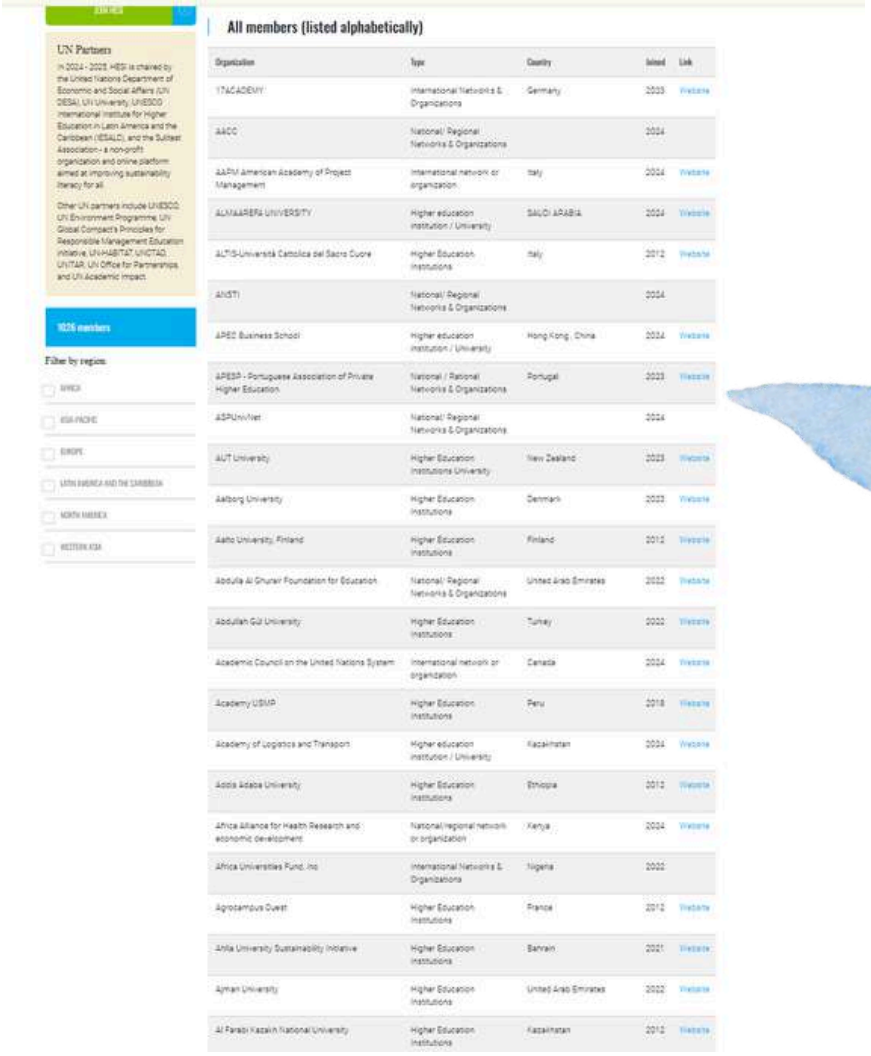
In the lead-up to the Rio+20 Conference in 2012, a groundbreaking collaboration emerged – the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI). This initiative united the power of the United Nations with the expertise of the higher education community. Today, HESI is spearheaded by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the Sulitest Association, a non-profit championing global sustainability literacy.

HESI boasts a prestigious roster of partners, including UNESCO, UNEP, UN Global Compact's PRME initiative, UNU, UN-Habitat, UNCTAD, UNITAR, the UN Office for Partnerships, and UN Academic Impact. This robust network allows HESI to bridge the gap between academia, scientific research, and policy-making.

HESI's mission is clear: to elevate the crucial role of higher education in achieving sustainable development. They accomplish this by fostering multi-stakeholder dialogues, promoting collaborative action, and disseminating best practices in sustainability across the globe. In 2022, Ajman University proudly joined this global movement, further solidifying the collective effort to integrate sustainability principles into educational curriculums and practices. Through HESI's leadership, we are building a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

To view the affiliation of Ajman University with HESI, click here.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/partnerships/un-higher-education-sustainability-initiative-hesi



The SDG Accord

Ajman University, a leading institution committed to sustainability, is a proud signatory to the SDG Accord. This international agreement serves a dual purpose:

The SDG Accord serves a dual purpose:

1. Elevating Education's Role in Sustainability: It aims to inspire, celebrate, and champion the crucial role education plays in achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This includes highlighting the value these interconnected goals bring to governments, businesses, and society as a whole.
2. A Commitment to Action: The Accord functions as a commitment between universities and colleges. Signatories, like Ajman University, pledge to step up their efforts to deliver the SDGs. This involves annual reporting on their individual progress and sharing these learnings collaboratively, both nationally and internationally. Ultimately, the goal is to present updated SDG metrics from the Accord at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development each year.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/partnerships/the-sdg-accord

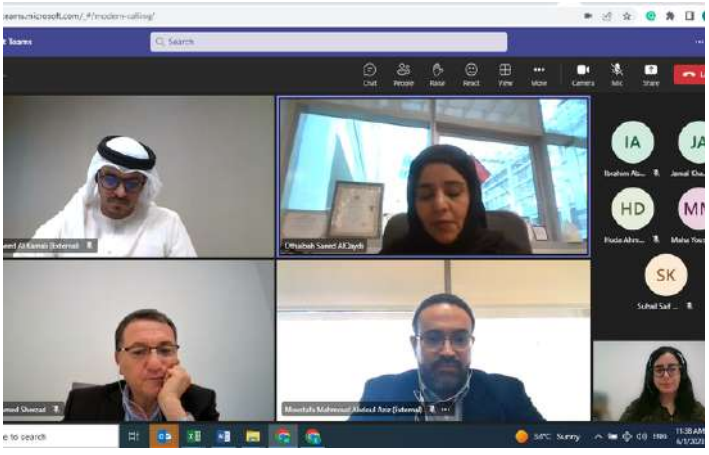


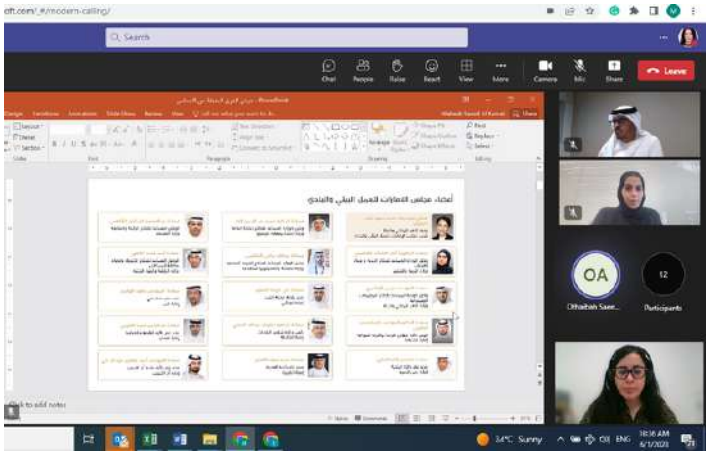
Emirates Municipal Environmental Council

Ajman University plays a vital role in sharing their climate action plans by contributing to several teams that report to the Emirates Municipal Environmental Council. This council, established by the Ministry of Climate Change, coordinates environmental initiatives across municipalities in the United Arab Emirates. Here's a closer look at the specific teams where Ajman University's expertise contributes:

- Environmental and Municipal Studies and Research Team: This team focuses on conducting research and studies related to environmental issues and challenges faced by municipalities. They might analyze data on pollution levels, sustainable practices, or waste management. Their research would inform policy decisions and guide municipalities towards a more sustainable future. Ajman University's faculty and students contribute valuable research skills and knowledge in areas like environmental science, engineering, and urban planning.
- Education and Awareness Team: This team aims to educate the public and raise awareness about environmental issues and sustainable practices. They might develop educational materials, organize workshops, or run social media campaigns. Ajman University provides expertise in curriculum development, public outreach strategies, and communication to empower individuals to make environmentally conscious choices.
- Policies and Legislation Team: This team develops and advocates for policies and legislation that promote environmental protection and sustainable development within municipalities. They might conduct legal research, draft policy proposals, and lobby for their adoption by local governments. Ajman University's legal scholars and social science experts can provide valuable insights on environmental law and policy development.
- Transformational Projects Team: This team focuses on identifying, developing, and implementing innovative projects that address major environmental challenges or promote significant improvements in municipal services. Their projects could involve renewable energy initiatives, green infrastructure development, or waste-to-resource programs. Ajman University's researchers and engineers can play a crucial role in developing and implementing these transformative projects.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/partnerships/emirates-municipal-environmental-council





UAE Universities Climate Network

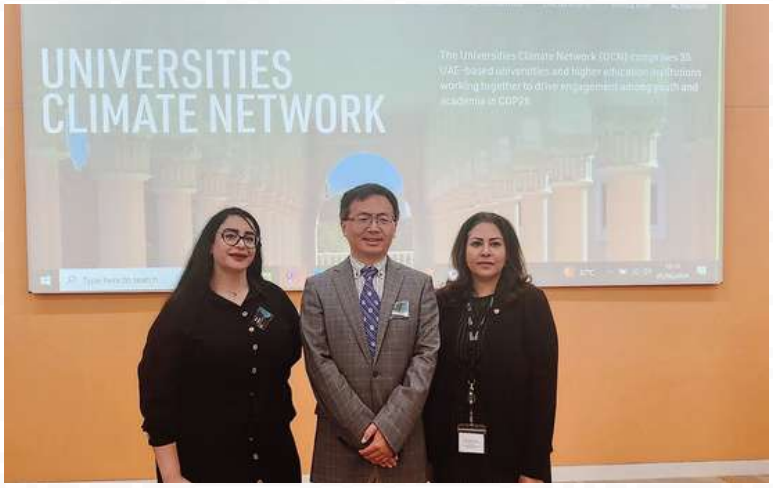
The UAE's Universities Climate Network (UCN), a powerful alliance of 38 universities across the Emirates, has announced new leadership to guide its next phase of advancing climate action regionally and internationally. Khalifa University's Dr. Samuel Mao and Dr. Rasha Bayoumi of the University of Birmingham Dubai have been appointed as Co-Chairs, while Ajman University's Maya Haddad has been named Head of Operations, a development that reflects Ajman University's: continuing co-leadership of the network.

Ajman University remains a co-leading institution within the UCN, and the appointment of Maya Haddad as Head of Operations ensures that the university continues to play a central role in shaping the network's strategy, operations, and regional impact. In her new capacity, Haddad will oversee operational coordination, support cross-institutional initiatives, and help drive the implementation of the

With the new leadership team in place, and with Ajman University continuing to co-lead the network, the UCN is poised to expand its impact across the MENA region and beyond. The network's 38 member universities stand united in the fight against climate change, empowering young minds to become the next generation of environmental leaders.

As Ajman University continues its co-leadership of this vital network, it reaffirms its belief that higher education institutions have a responsibility to drive climate action not only through research and teaching but through operational excellence, community engagement, and regional collaboration.
To learn more about the UCN, visit their LinkedIn page.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-continues-to-co-lead-uae-universities-climate-network-as-new-leadership-appointed





Campus as a Living Lab Community of Practice

Ajman University (AU) has cemented its position as a regional leader in sustainability and innovation by joining the Campus as a Living Lab Community of Practice, a prestigious initiative under the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN). This global community brings together higher education institutions committed to transforming their campuses into dynamic living laboratories where sustainability research meets real-world application.

AU's inclusion in this exclusive community places it alongside some of the world's most distinguished universities, including Harvard University, Yale University, the University of Toronto, the University of Melbourne, ETH Zurich, and the National University of Singapore. As the only institution from the United Arab Emirates represented in this community, Ajman University demonstrates its commitment to advancing sustainability on both a regional and global scale.

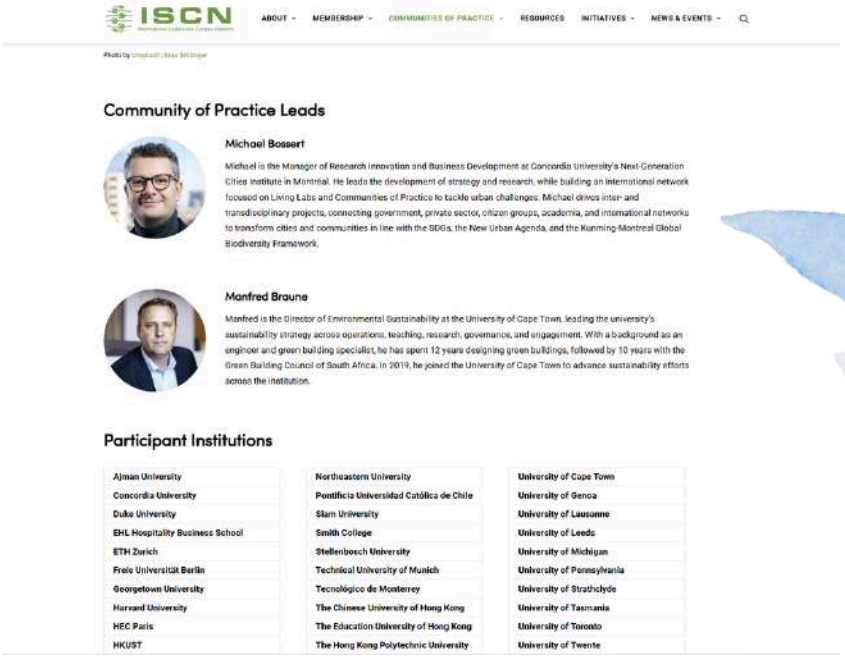
What is the Campus as a Living Lab Community of Practice?

The Campus as a Living Lab Community of Practice fosters collaboration among higher education institutions to transform campuses into living laboratories for sustainability innovation and research. This initiative promotes the integration of academic research with campus operations, using real-world challenges to test and implement sustainable solutions.

By sharing knowledge, experiences, and best practices, member institutions aim to accelerate the transition to sustainable campus models, empowering students, faculty, and staff to contribute actively to sustainability goals while enhancing institutional impact.

The community is led by two distinguished sustainability experts: Michael Bossert, Manager of Research Innovation and Business Development at Concordia University's Next-Generation Cities Institute in Montréal, and Manfred Braune, Director of Environmental Sustainability at the University of Cape Town. Both leaders bring extensive experience in driving interdisciplinary projects and connecting government, private sector, citizen groups, and academia to address urban challenges aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-joins-global-network-to-transform-campus-into-a-living-laboratory-for-sustainability



Biodiversity Community of Practice

Ajman University (AU) has further solidified its standing as a champion of environmental sustainability by joining the Biodiversity Community of Practice, a distinguished initiative under the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN). This global community unites higher education institutions dedicated to advancing biodiversity conservation and restoration through collaboration, research, and knowledge exchange.

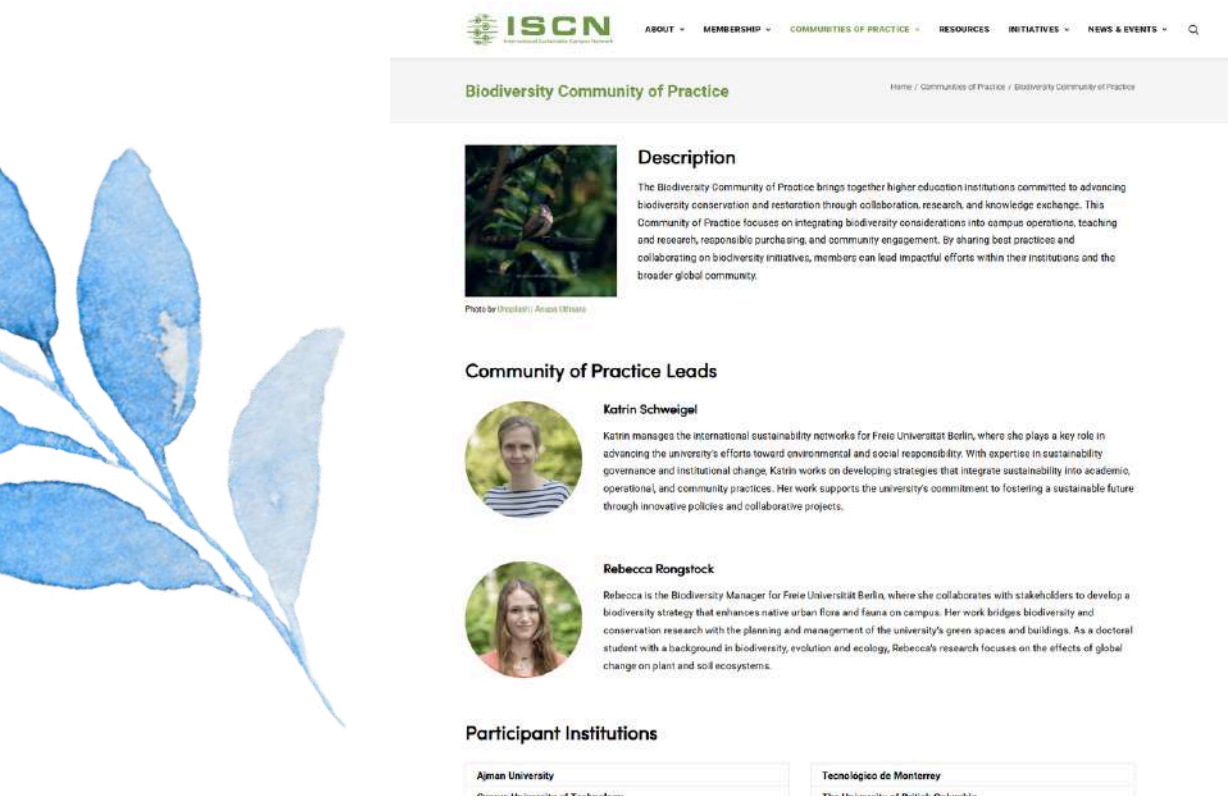
AU's membership places it among an elite group of world-renowned universities, including Harvard University, Princeton University, Yale University, the University of Toronto, McGill University, ETH Zurich, and the University of Edinburgh. As a participant in this community, Ajman University demonstrates its commitment to protecting and restoring biodiversity both on its campus and within the broader UAE and global context.

What is the Biodiversity Community of Practice?

The Biodiversity Community of Practice brings together higher education institutions committed to advancing biodiversity conservation and restoration through collaboration, research, and knowledge exchange. This community focuses on integrating biodiversity considerations into:

- Campus operations: Embedding biodiversity-friendly practices into the management of green spaces, buildings, and infrastructure.
- Teaching and research: Advancing academic inquiry and educational programs focused on biodiversity and conservation.
- Responsible purchasing: Ensuring procurement practices support biodiversity and sustainability goals.
- Community engagement: Involving students, faculty, staff, and local communities in biodiversity initiatives

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-joins-global-biodiversity-community-of-practice-to-advance-conservation-and-restoration



Scope 3 Emissions Community of Practice

Ajman University has partnered with leading global institutions to tackle indirect emissions across supply chains, travel, commuting, and waste; one of the most complex challenges in higher education sustainability.

Ajman University has officially joined the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) Scope 3 Emissions Community of Practice, featured on the ISCN COP Hub. The university now collaborates with institutions including Harvard University, MIT, ETH Zurich, Princeton University, the University of Toronto, the National University of Singapore, and KAUST. The community is led by Manfred Braune, Director of Environmental Sustainability at the University of Cape Town.

The Scope 3 Emissions Community of Practice supports universities in measuring, reporting, and reducing indirect greenhouse gas emissions — sources that often represent the largest share of an institution's carbon footprint. These include purchased goods and services, business air travel, employee and student commuting, and waste generation.

Why Scope 3 Matters

For universities, Scope 3 emissions are both the most significant and the most difficult to manage. They sit outside direct operational control but are tied directly to institutional choices, procurement systems, travel policies, and campus culture.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-joins-iscn-scope-3-emissions-community-of-practice-to-advance-campus-carbon-accountability

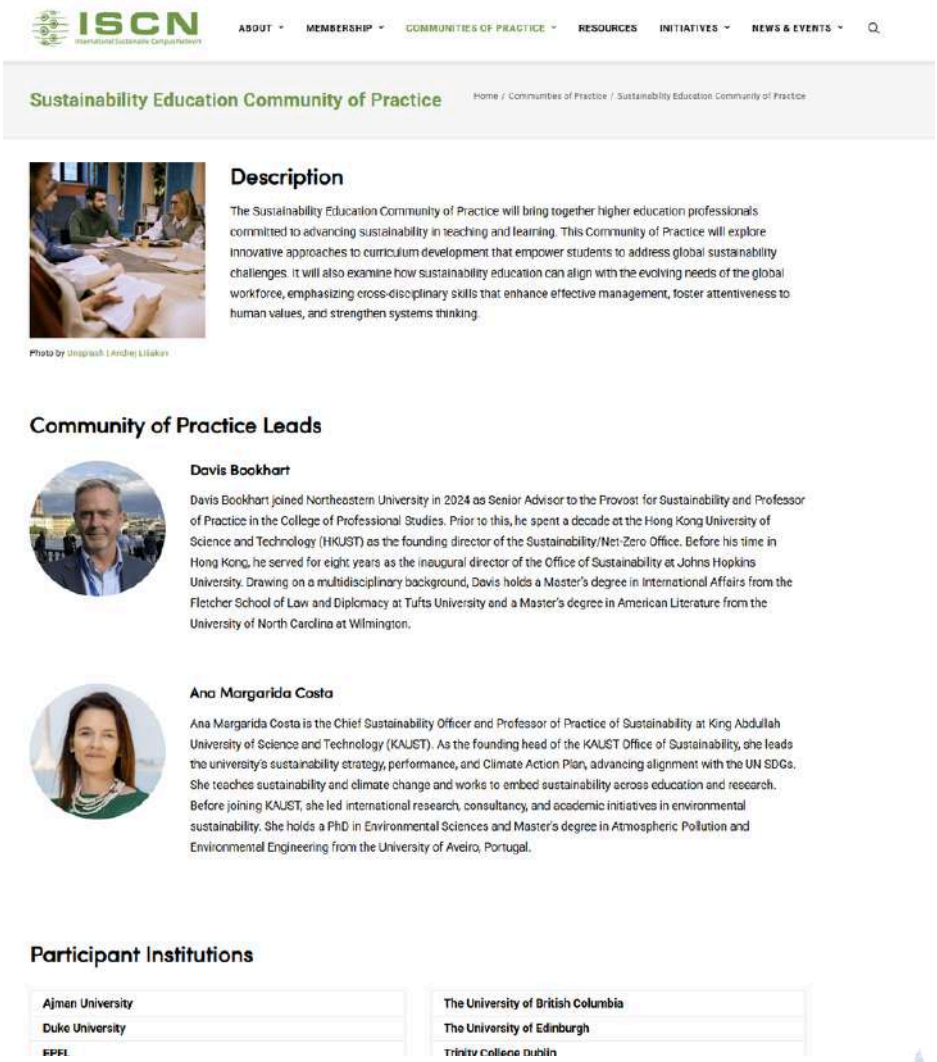


Sustainability Education Community of Practice

Ajman University has partnered with leading global institutions to share and learn from best practices regarding embedding sustainability into education and learning.

The Sustainability Education Community of Practice will bring together higher education professionals committed to advancing sustainability in teaching and learning. This Community of Practice will explore innovative approaches to curriculum development that empower students to address global sustainability challenges. It will also examine how sustainability education can align with the evolving needs of the global workforce, emphasizing cross-disciplinary skills that enhance effective management, foster attentiveness to human values, and strengthen systems thinking.

https://international-sustainable-campus-network.org/communities-of-practice/sustainability-education-community-of-practice/



World Green Economy Summit 2025

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.

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.

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





Green Entrepreneurship Program 2025

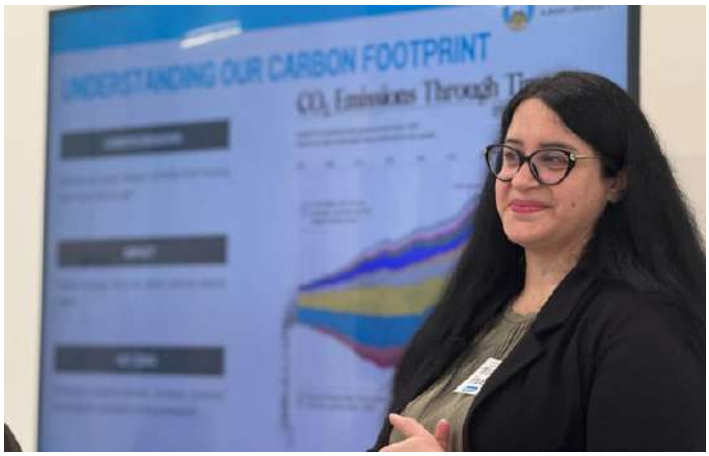
The Office of Sustainability at Ajman University has launched the "Green Entrepreneurship Program 2025" in collaboration with "Advanced Inhalation Rituals" and "Blugreen Consulting," aimed at equipping participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and launch environmentally and socially sustainable business projects.

This program, supervised by Maya Haddad - Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, is part of the University's corporate social responsibility projects aimed at supporting sustainable development and enhancing environmental and social awareness within the academic community. Additionally, this program is one of the outcomes of the sustainability program organized by the Ajman Chamber and contributes significantly to achieving the sustainability goals of the Emirate of Ajman and the UAE.
Participants in the two-day intensive training program will learn the principles of sustainable business through interactive lectures, workshops, and group projects. They will work on developing their entrepreneurial skills and transforming their business ideas into feasible models. Participants will also be given one month to create a sustainable business plan, after which they will present their ideas to a panel of judges to compete for financial rewards sponsored by "Advanced Inhalation Rituals." Additionally, students will be required to prepare a short video and a presentation for the final pitch. Feasible business ideas will be supported through business incubators or potential investors, with representatives from various incubators invited to attend the final pitch day, where a bidding mechanism will be applied to select the best project.

This program is a significant step toward promoting a culture of sustainability in entrepreneurship, offering students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and transform their ideas into executable projects. The collaboration between the Office of Sustainability, "Advanced Inhalation Rituals," and "Bluegreen Consultancy" reflects Ajman University's commitment to supporting innovation and sustainability in the field of entrepreneurship.

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





UCN Decarbonization Academy

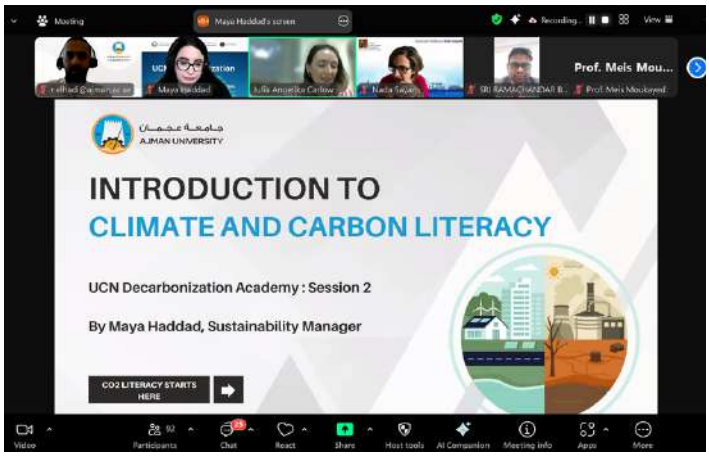
The UAE Universities Climate Network (UCN) Decarbonization Academy continued its first cycle with an essential second session, "Introduction to Climate and Carbon Literacy," The workshop equipped participants with the foundational knowledge needed to understand Earth's climate system, distinguish between urgent facts and misinformation, and begin measuring their own carbon footprint—a critical first step toward meaningful climate action 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 Ms. Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, who walked attendees through the essential principles of climate science, the urgent drivers of the climate emergency, and the practical vocabulary required to engage confidently in decarbonization efforts.

Ms. Haddad opened the session by confronting participants with the stark reality of record-breaking temperatures, melting ice caps, extreme weather patterns, droughts, ocean acidification, and cascading ecosystem failures. She emphasized that climate change is not a distant future threat but a present-day crisis with profound impacts on human health including increased heat-related illnesses, worsened air quality, the spread of infectious diseases, food and waterborne illnesses, and escalating mental health challenges.

The session also explored the deep social impacts of climate change, including increased inequalities, disruption of communities, strain on healthcare systems, and rising food insecurity, hunger, and poverty. On the economic front, participants learned about agricultural impacts, job losses, resource scarcity, and disruptions to businesses and supply chains. This comprehensive framing reinforced that climate vulnerability touches every dimension of human well-being.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/introduction-to-carbon-literacy-ucn-decarbonization-academy-equips-participants-with-essential-climate-knowledge-workshop





UCN Decarbonization Academy

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.

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.

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





EcoVadis Event on Sustainable Procurement

A delegation from Ajman University, comprising the Senior Sustainability Manager and the Senior Procurement Manager, participated in the "Sustainability in Procurement: Unlocking Value & Scaling Impact" event organized by EcoVadis. The session brought together procurement and sustainability leaders to explore how organizations can integrate ESG principles into their supply chains while driving measurable value.

The event focused on the growing role of sustainable procurement in advancing corporate sustainability goals. Discussions centered on practical strategies for embedding environmental, social and governance criteria into purchasing decisions, measuring supply chain impact, and scaling sustainability initiatives across organizations.

Ajman University's participation reflects its commitment to aligning its operations with global sustainability standards. By bringing together its sustainability and procurement functions, the university is advancing an integrated approach to responsible sourcing that supports its broader ESG objectives.

The delegation's engagement with EcoVadis, a global leader in business sustainability ratings, underscores the university's efforts to adopt best practices in sustainable procurement and extend its climate action beyond campus operations to its supply chain partners.

The event provided a platform for knowledge exchange on how institutions can unlock value through sustainable procurement while contributing to national and global climate goals, including the UAE's Net Zero targets.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-delegation-joins-ecovadis-event-on-sustainable-procurement





Dr. Muna Salameh Joins Expert Panel to Shape Ajman's Carbon Neutrality Strategy

Ajman University's College of Architecture, Art, and Design (CAAD) continues to play a pivotal role in regional climate action. In a significant demonstration of academic expertise informing public policy, Dr. Muna Salameh was recently invited to serve as an expert panelist at an exclusive closed-door session dedicated to developing Ajman's Strategy for Carbon Neutrality.

Held on May 7, 2025, at the Ajman X Center, the high-level session was organized by the Municipality & Planning Department's Environment & Development team as a key component of the Ajman Sustainable Development International Forum (ASDIF 2025).

Informing Municipal Policy and Climate Action

The closed-door roundtable brought together a select group of policymakers, industry leaders, and academic experts to deliberate on actionable pathways for the emirate to achieve carbon neutrality. As an expert in sustainable architecture and urban design, Dr. Salameh contributed critical insights on decarbonizing the built environment; a sector that accounts for a significant portion of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Her contributions focused on integrating climate-resilient design, energy-efficient building practices, and sustainable urban planning into Ajman's broader environmental strategy. By bringing academia to the policymaking table, Dr. Salameh helped bridge the gap between theoretical research and on-the-ground municipal implementation.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-universitys-dr-muna-salameh-joins-expert-panel-to-shape-ajmans-carbon-neutrality-strategy





”Higher Education as a Catalyst for the SDGs” at UN HESI Forum

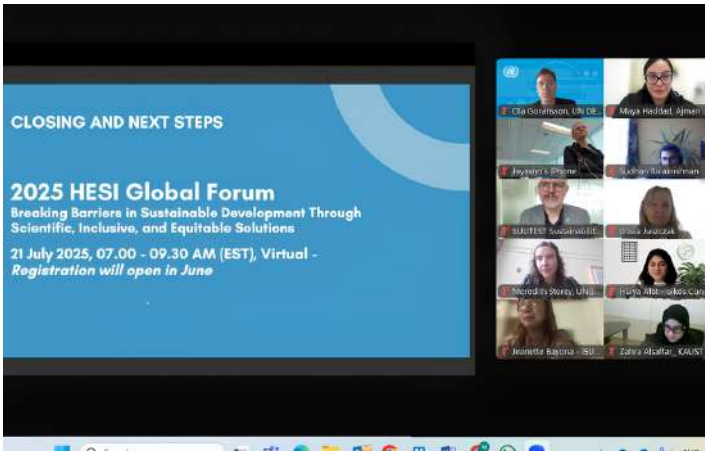
Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, participated as a speaker at the annual United Nations Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) Forum, held virtually on Wednesday, 21 May 2025. Haddad delivered a session titled “Higher Education as a Catalyst for the SDGs: Ajman University in Action,” highlighting the university’s efforts to advance the Sustainable Development Goals through academic leadership, campus operations, and community partnerships.

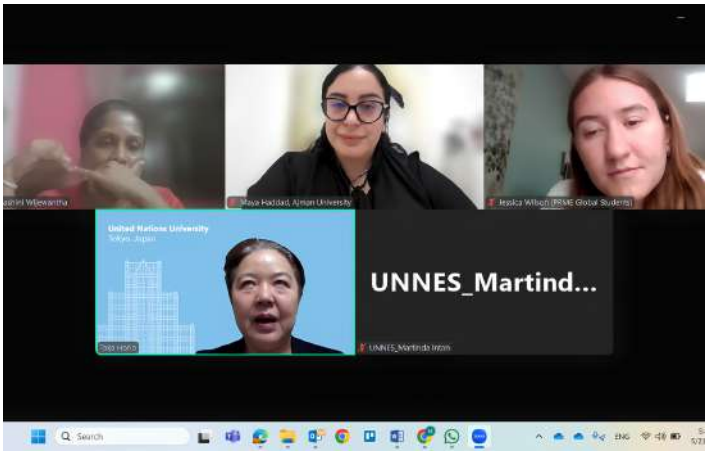
The HESI Networking Forum brought together the higher education and sustainable development community to foster collaboration and showcase innovative member-led initiatives. The programme featured opening remarks by HESI Co-Chairs, interactive networking sessions, introductions to HESI’s UN partners and thematic Action Groups, an exhibition hall of member contributions, and the presentation of the new HESI Partnership Framework.

In her session, Haddad shared Ajman University’s experience in embedding sustainability across its operations and academic mission, demonstrating how higher education institutions can serve as drivers of climate action and partnerships for the goals. Her participation underscored the university’s growing role in global sustainability dialogues and its commitment to translating academic leadership into practical impact.

The event concluded with next steps and a preview of the 2025 HESI Global Forum. Ajman University’s participation reflects its continued commitment to international collaboration on sustainable development and to supporting the UAE’s Net Zero targets through higher education leadership.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-universitys-maya-haddad-speaks-on-higher-education-as-a-catalyst-for-the-sdgs-at-un-hesi-forum





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





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.

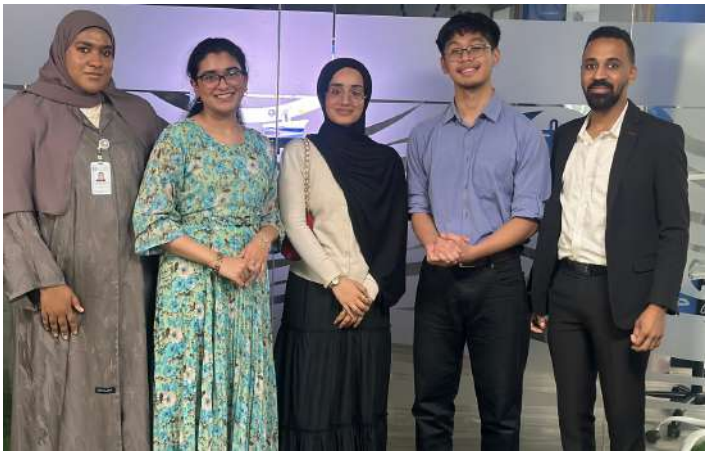
The forum brought together students from various universities, who were given the option to select from a range of topics covering different aspects of sustainability. These included projects managed on sustainability, community activities, technologies and practices for sustainable growth, sustainability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

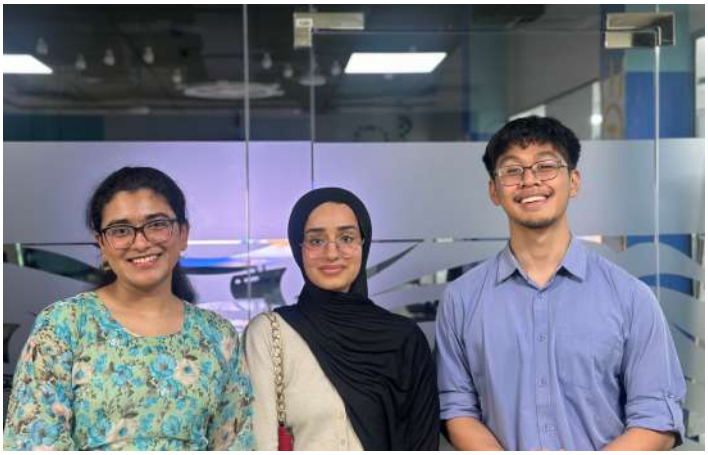
Ajman University students Hurairah Faatimah Muzammil, Khadeeja Hashim, and Jon Zaccary presented a prototype project on effective waste management and recycling segregation using artificial intelligence, where they demonstrated how the integration of new technologies could positively impact economic, 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 workshop raised awareness about the urgency of the climate crisis, encouraged collective discussions and solutions, and fostered collaboration across communities, schools, companies, and organizations.

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





EGBC's 14th Annual Congress to Champion Bold Climate Action

Ajman University continues to be at the forefront of sustainable design and environmental leadership, with Dr. Muna from the College of Architecture, Art, and Design (CAAD) recently attending the Emirates Green Building Council's (EGBC) 14th Annual Congress. The landmark event was held under the impactful theme: "Mission to 1.5°C: Be Bold on Buildings."

The annual congress brought together leading industry experts, policymakers, and academic pioneers to address the critical role the built environment plays in the global fight against climate change.
"Be Bold on Buildings": The Race to 1.5°C

With the global community striving to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C in line with the Paris Agreement, the building and construction sector; which accounts for nearly 40% of global energy-related carbon emissions; is under immense pressure to transform. The theme, "Mission to 1.5°C: Be Bold on Buildings," served as a powerful call to action for the region to accelerate decarbonization, adopt regenerative design, and push the boundaries of green building innovation.

Attending the congress allowed Dr. Muna to engage in high-level dialogues on emerging trends in sustainable architecture, net-zero building strategies, and climate-resilient urban planning. Bringing these insights back to Ajman University is vital for ensuring that the next generation of architects and designers are equipped with the most cutting-edge, environmentally responsible practices.
Bridging Academia and Industry Innovation

As a representative of the College of Architecture, Art, and Design, Dr. Muna's participation highlights Ajman University's commitment to bridging the gap between academic theory and real-world industry application. By actively participating in the EGBC's premier annual event, the university ensures that its curriculum and research remain aligned with the UAE's ambitious Net Zero 2050 strategy and the evolving demands of the green building sector.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-universitys-dr-muna-joins-global-leaders-at-egbcs-14th-annual-congress-to-champion-bold-climate-action





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.

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.

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





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.

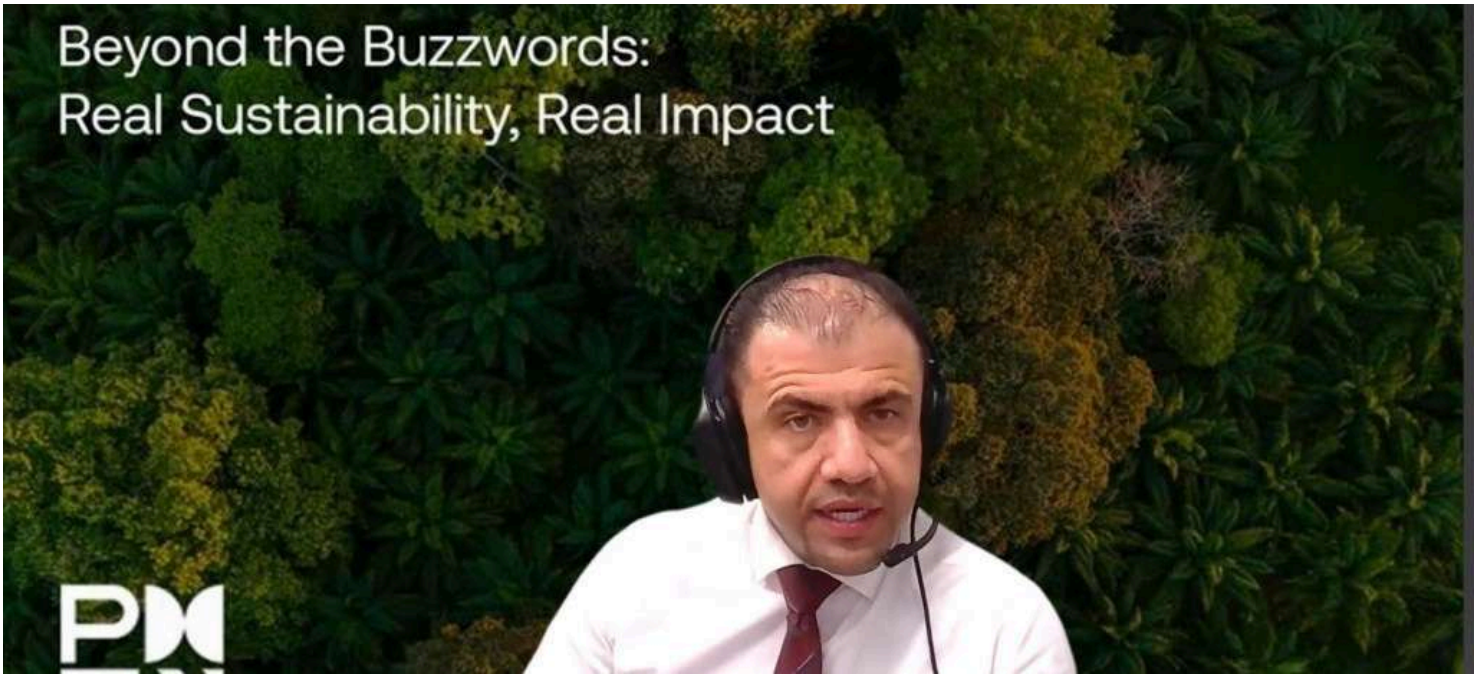
Drawing on Ajman University’s own journey, Mr. Alkhofash emphasized the importance of moving beyond rhetoric to implement tangible, scalable initiatives. He noted that institutions of higher education are uniquely positioned to nurture the next generation of sustainability leaders—by integrating sustainability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

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://sustainablecampus.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



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.

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



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



Annual Women in Climate Community Dinner Hosted by Dubai Holding and Fin-Erth

Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, participated in the 2025 Annual Women in Climate Community Dinner, hosted by Dubai Holding in partnership with Fin-Erth. The event brought together leading women in sustainability from across the UAE to celebrate achievements, share insights, and strengthen collaboration on climate action.

The dinner served as a platform to recognize the growing role of women in driving environmental progress and to foster connections among professionals working across government, academia, and the private sector. Discussions centered on advancing climate goals, building resilience, and scaling impactful sustainability initiatives across the region.

Haddad's participation reflected Ajman University's commitment to engaging with the broader sustainability community and to supporting platforms that amplify women's leadership in climate action. Her presence at the event underscored the university's efforts to bridge academia and industry in advancing the UAE's Net Zero targets.

"It was an inspiring evening spent with passionate women who are driving real change in the climate space," said Haddad. "Collaboration and shared purpose are essential to accelerating progress, and I am proud to represent Ajman University in these important conversations."

The 2025 Annual Women in Climate Community Dinner highlighted the power of partnership in advancing sustainability and reinforced the importance of collective action in addressing global climate challenges. Ajman University's participation aligns with its broader strategy of promoting the UN Sustainable Development Goals and fostering a culture of sustainability both on campus and within the wider community.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-participates-in-2025-annual-women-in-climate-community-dinner-hosted-by-dubai-holding-and-fin-erth



Validation Roundtable for “Blooming Futures” Report on UAE’s Wellbeing

Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, participated as an expert in the validation roundtable for Blooming Futures: Supporting the UAE’s Journey Toward a Wellbeing Economy and Sustainable Prosperity, a report co-organized by Greenpeace MENA, SEE Institute, and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. The virtual roundtable was held on Wednesday, 24 September 2025. The report, authored by the winners of the 2024/2025 Greenpeace MENA UAE Wellbeing Economy Award, explores how biomimicry and commons practices can guide the UAE’s transition toward sustainable prosperity. Haddad’s input as an expert was sought to ensure the report’s rigor and impact, reflecting her recognized expertise in sustainability and climate action.

The 90-minute roundtable began with welcome and introductions outlining the project’s objectives, followed by a presentation of the report’s research framework, methodology, key findings, gaps, and recommendations. Haddad contributed to the validation discussion, offering expert reflections on the findings and identifying overlooked issues, before engaging in a deeper qualitative discussion on specific report recommendations. The session concluded with a summary and next steps ahead of the report’s upcoming launch.

Haddad’s participation underscores Ajman University’s growing role in shaping regional sustainability policy and discourse. By contributing academic and operational expertise to initiatives like the Wellbeing Economy project, the university continues to bridge research, policy, and practice in support of the UAE’s sustainable development ambitions.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-universitys-maya-haddad-serves-as-expert-in-validation-roundtable-for-blooming-futures-report-on-uaes-wellbeing



MOCCAE Validation Workshop on Adaptation Finance

Ajman University participated in the Validation Workshop on the Adaptation Finance Capacity Assessment under the UAE National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Development Project, organized by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE). The workshop was held on Thursday, 25 September 2025 at MOCCAE's Emirates Hall Theatre.

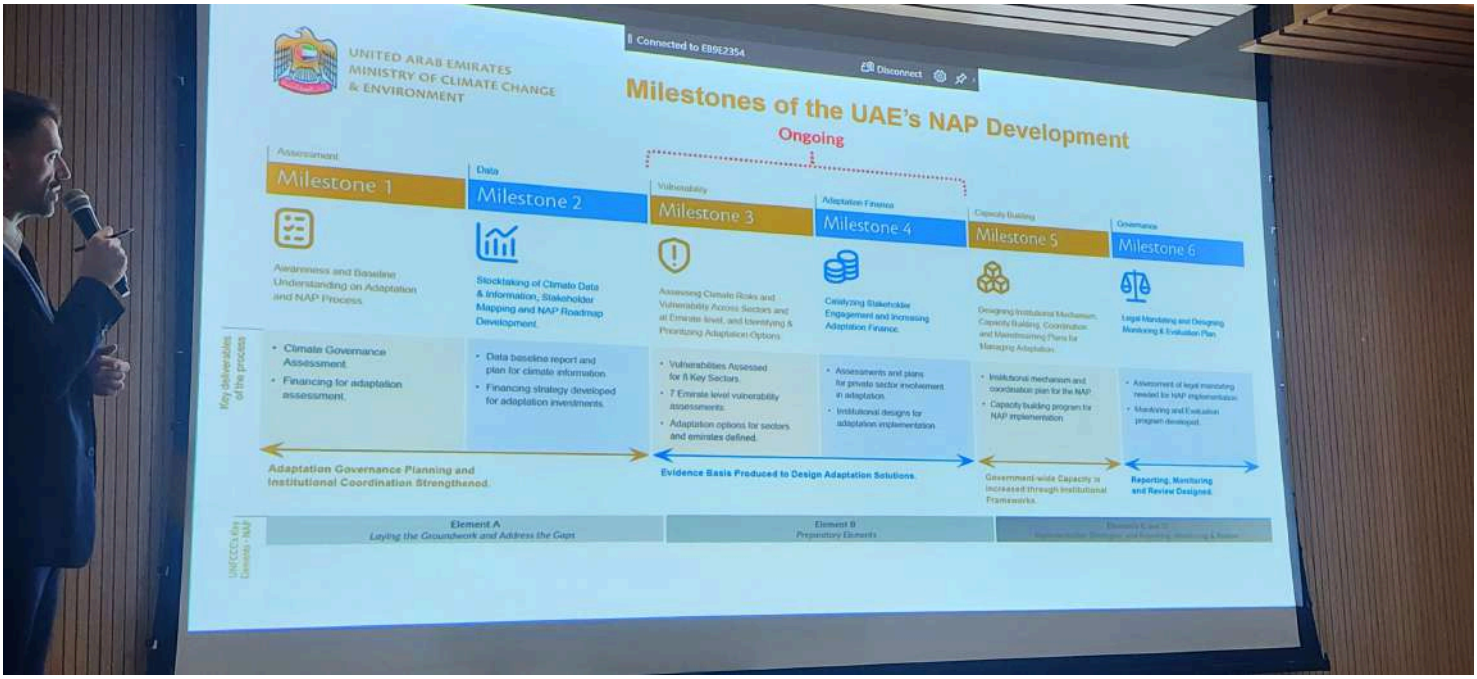
Representing Ajman University, Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager, joined the workshop, which presented the methodological approach adopted in assessing adaptation financing capacity in the UAE, shared preliminary key findings, and provided an opportunity for discussion among diverse stakeholders. The exercise was diagnostic rather than evaluative, encouraging exchange on the critical role of adaptation finance in supporting effective and forward-looking responses to the impacts of climate change.

The workshop's insights and constructive inputs will inform national strategies for enhancing climate resilience through the NAP process at both the development and implementation phases, specifically in the context of adaptation finance. As a key stakeholder in the country's efforts to reduce vulnerabilities and increase climate resilience, Ajman University's participation contributed to accelerating adaptation actions in the UAE.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment emphasized that stakeholder input is critical for enriching the assessment, and the workshop benefited from the insights of participating organizations. Ajman University's engagement reflects its continued commitment to supporting national climate resilience efforts and advancing the UAE's broader sustainability and adaptation goals.

Ajman University's participation in the NAP validation workshop underscores its role as an active partner in the UAE's climate action agenda, bridging academic expertise with national policy development to strengthen the country's response to climate change impacts.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-participates-in-moccae-validation-workshop-on-adaptation-finance-under-uae-national-adaptation-plan



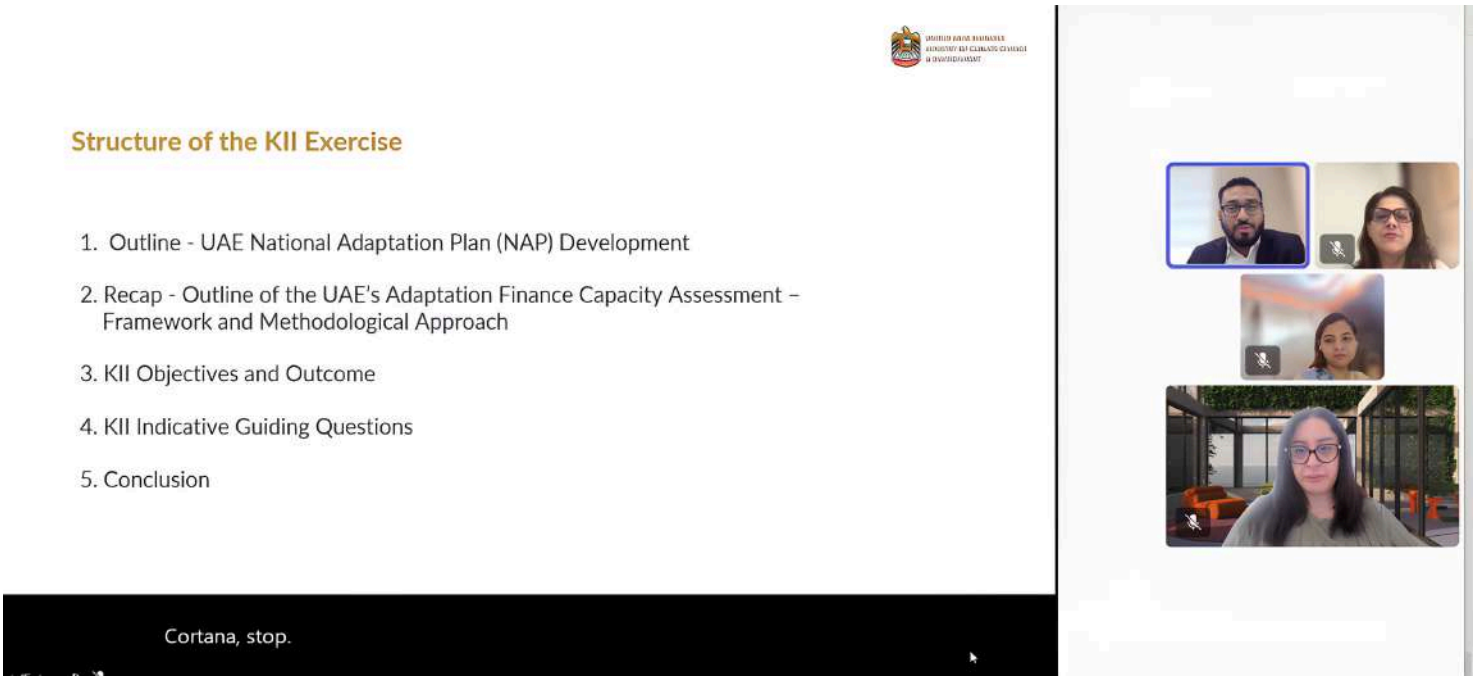
Key Informant Interview for UAE National Adaptation Plan Development

Ajman University participated in a Key Informant Interview (KII) on the Adaptation Finance Capacity Assessment for the UAE National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Development, held virtually on Wednesday, 8 October 2025. The interview was conducted by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) as a follow-up to the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment's (MOCCAE) Validation Workshop held on 25 September 2025.

Representing Ajman University, Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager, provided expert insights during the semi-structured interview, which serves as a primary qualitative evidence stream to contextualize and validate findings from the desk review and stakeholder survey. The KIIs are designed to verify the existence and implementation of relevant policies and financial instruments, uncover institutional practices and coordination pathways, clarify institutional mandates, map roles and responsibilities, and identify challenges and priority opportunities for strengthening adaptation financing under the UAE NAP.

During the interview, Ajman University was asked to share how it contributes to research, innovation, and policy inputs related to climate adaptation and resilience in the UAE. Discussions also explored the university's role in building human and institutional capacity for adaptation finance through specialized curricula, training, and partnerships with government and private entities. The interview further examined existing collaborations between Ajman University and government agencies, development partners, and the private sector to support climate adaptation research, data generation, and pilot projects, as well as the university's participation in data-driven initiatives such as vulnerability mapping, climate risk modeling, and adaptation impact monitoring that inform national and emirate-level policy decisions.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-participates-in-key-informant-interview-for-uae-national-adaptation-plan-development



World Green Building Week on MENA's Zero Carbon Future

Ajman University continues to demonstrate its thought leadership on the global sustainability stage, with a university expert invited as a distinguished speaker at the "One Region, Many Pathways: MENA Zero Carbon & Climate Resilience Readiness – 3.5 Lightning Talks."

Organized by the Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) in collaboration with the Iraq, Tunisia, and Morocco Green Building Councils, the event was held as a key part of World Green Building Week under the WorldGBC MENA Network. The session highlighted the critical need for cross-border collaboration to accelerate the region's transition to a resilient, net-zero future.

Highlighting Regional Pathways to Decarbonization

The "Lightning Talks" format brought together leading experts, policymakers, and industry pioneers from across the Middle East and North Africa to share rapid-fire, high-impact insights. The Ajman University speaker contributed vital perspectives on how the MENA region can navigate its unique environmental and economic challenges to achieve zero carbon and climate resilience.

By emphasizing that there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution, the discussions underscored the importance of localized pathways that account for the diverse climates, resources, and policy landscapes across the MENA region. The Ajman University expert highlighted how academic research, innovative green building practices, and cross-sector partnerships can combine to accelerate climate readiness.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-expert-speaks-at-world-green-building-week-on-menas-zero-carbon-future



Higher Education's Role in Achieving Net Zero 2050

Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, participated as a distinguished panelist in a high-level discussion titled "From Evidence to Impact: Orchestrating Higher-Education Policy, Research & Innovation toward Net Zero 2050, through National and International University Climate Networks", held as part of ICASF 2025 on 11 December, 2025.

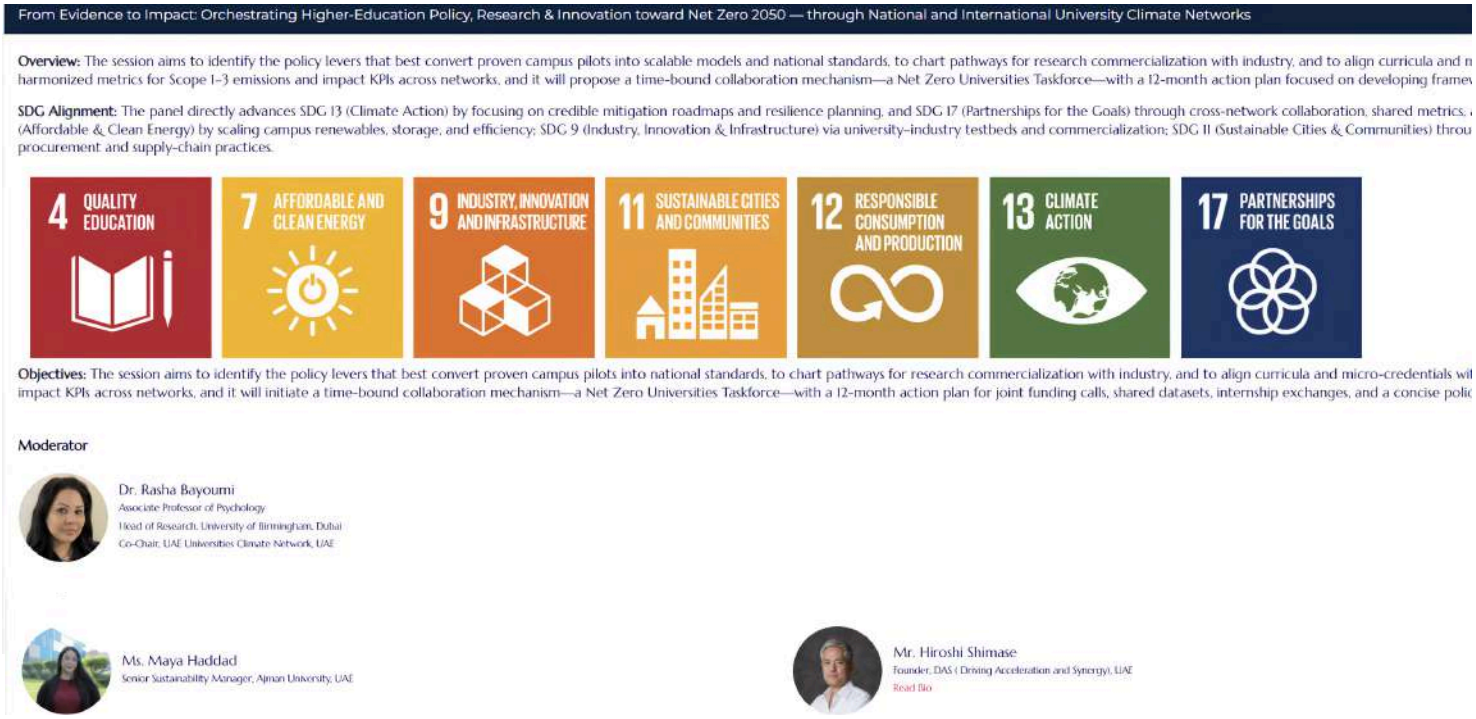
The panel brought together leading experts to identify the policy levers that best convert proven campus pilots into scalable models and national standards. Discussions also focused on charting pathways for research commercialization with industry and aligning curricula and micro-credentials with the skills demanded by the Net Zero transition.

During the session, Haddad shared Ajman University's insights on the critical need for harmonized metrics for Scope 1–3 emissions and shared impact KPIs across university networks. A major outcome of the discussion was the proposal for a time-bound collaboration mechanism—a Net Zero Universities Taskforce—complete with a 12-month action plan. This taskforce aims to deliver on shared goals through joint funding calls, shared datasets, internship exchanges, and a concise policy playbook capturing commitments, templates, and case studies.

"Higher education institutions are uniquely positioned to move beyond pilot projects and into systemic, scalable impact," said Haddad. "By harmonizing our data, aligning our curricula with green skills, and forming global networks like the proposed Net Zero Universities Taskforce, academia can serve as a powerful engine for the transition to a sustainable future."

Ajman University's active participation in this discussion underscores its commitment to international collaboration and its ongoing efforts to pioneer climate action in the higher education sector, aligning with the UAE's broader Net Zero targets and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-universitys-maya-haddad-joins-high-level-panel-on-higher-educations-role-in-achieving-net-zero-2050



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.

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 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.

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





Institutional Climate Action Planning Workshop at THE Arab World Summit 2025

Ajman University participated in a focused dialogue on institutional climate leadership through its contribution to the Institutional Climate Action Planning workshop held on 26 November 2025 at the Ahmad Hourani Auditorium during the Times Higher Education Arab World Summit 2025 in Amman, Jordan. The session formed part of the summit's broader effort to support universities in translating sustainability commitments into structured, campus-wide action.

Designed as a strategic session for senior university leaders, the workshop explored how higher education institutions can develop and scale comprehensive climate action plans that are both practical and accountable. Discussions focused on key areas including energy use, biodiversity, waste management, and stakeholder engagement, while examining how sustainability can be embedded across governance structures, academic activities, and institutional culture.

Ajman University contributed to the session through Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager, who shared insights drawn from the University's experience in institutionalizing climate action. Her contribution addressed the key elements of a robust university climate action plan, emphasizing science-aligned targets, inclusive governance, and clear performance indicators. The discussion also examined how universities can mobilize their entire communities to support sustainability goals and how partnerships and funding mechanisms can accelerate progress on decarbonisation and biodiversity initiatives.

Through its participation in this strategic session, Ajman University reinforced its commitment to advancing sustainability through structured planning, collaboration, and leadership. The University's engagement reflects the continued role of its Office of Sustainability in contributing to regional conversations on climate action and supporting higher education institutions in developing effective, scalable responses to environmental challenges aligned with the UAE's sustainability vision.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-contributes-to-institutional-climate-action-planning-workshop-at-the-arab-world-summit-2025





Advancing Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG): our Involvement in the EAUC Biodiversity Community of Practice

At the Office of Sustainability, we are proud to be actively involved in the EAUC (Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges) Biodiversity Community of Practice, with a particular focus on advancing Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). This participation allows us to engage in discussions on safeguarding biodiversity while incorporating cutting-edge research and strategies into our institutional processes.

Exploring the Research: Bridging the Gap between Policy and Practice

A key aspect of our involvement in the BNG community is staying informed on the latest research. Natalie Duffus from the University of Oxford, a fascinating study, highlights early findings comparing BNG on paper with actual biodiversity monitoring over two years. This pre-print paper, shared via LinkedIn, emphasizes the critical importance of pursuing a more objective approach to monitoring and maintaining biodiversity.

This summer, a significant publication compared metrics of bird, butterfly, and plant diversity with statutory biodiversity metrics, offering a more comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of BNG efforts. This work provides valuable data for defining biodiversity action plans, which can be more effective in addressing specific ecosystems and species.

In addition, the University of Oxford led an AGILE Sprint team to study planning applications to identify the promises and weaknesses of Biodiversity Net Gain. Their "Assessing Biodiversity Net Gain Plans: A Quick Guide for Planners and Developers" has proven a useful tool for us in operationalizing BNG in our own institutional processes, guiding developers and decision-makers in effective planning that meets biodiversity goals.

Tools & Resources: Empowering Institutions to Act

Through EAUC, we also gain access to essential resources for biodiversity planning. The Wildlife Assessment Check provides a crucial partnership tool to integrate biodiversity considerations in the planning process, while DEFRA's Biodiversity Net Gain Exemptions resource helps institutions navigate regulatory issues.

Our participation in the biodiversity community also provides a chance to contribute insights and learn from other institutions. Through our biodiversity strategy, we address critical questions such as:

- What are the essential elements of a strong biodiversity strategy? Our strategy encompasses a focus on habitat restoration, species monitoring, and the integration of biodiversity into institutional decisions.
- Key actions for a biodiversity action plan? Some of our top efforts include implementing green spaces, fostering community and student participation, and ensuring consistent biodiversity monitoring.

Funding and Resources: We use a mix of internal funding, external grants, and partnerships with local organizations to fund biodiversity initiatives. We have a dedicated team that is supported by external consultants whenever necessary.
Engagement and Approval: One of our key strategies for obtaining senior management approval has been to emphasize the alignment of biodiversity initiatives with the institution's long-term sustainability objectives and its positive impact on student recruitment and reputation.
Inspiration and Best Practice: Institutions such as the University of Oxford and citizen science initiatives such as iNaturalist and the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme inspire our biodiversity efforts. We also look up to organizations leading the way in integrating biodiversity into campus life.
Case Studies and Practical Tools: We are constantly learning from other institutions and are particularly influenced by the Nature Positive Universities initiative, which offers useful resources such as their animated video on Biodiversity Baselines. Additionally, tools such as iNaturalist, iRecord, and the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme help our institution collect data on local biodiversity, resulting in broader citizen science initiatives.

Looking Ahead: Collaborating for Impact

As we continue to engage in the EAUC biodiversity community, our focus is on sharing insights and learning from others. The best practice resource from EAUC Scotland will be a crucial step, offering a comprehensive guide to developing effective biodiversity strategies and action plans.
By working together, sharing our knowledge, and utilizing the latest research, we can collectively make meaningful progress in achieving Biodiversity Net Gain, ensuring that our institutions not only commit to protecting biodiversity but actively contribute to its flourishing.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2024/advancing-biodiversity-net-gain-bng-our-involvement-in-the-eauc-biodiversity-community-of-practice





Ajman University Joins the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) as the First UAE Institution

Ajman University has achieved a landmark by becoming the first institution in the UAE and the second in the MENA region to join the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN). This milestone underscores the University's steadfast commitment to sustainability and global collaboration.

Maya Haddad, Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, highlighted the pivotal role of sustainability in the UAE's journey towards climate neutrality by 2050. She stated, "Our membership in the ISCN is a testament to our alignment with the UAE's national sustainability and climate action goals and our commitment to fostering global partnerships and implementing innovative projects. We are dedicated to integrating sustainability into every aspect of our institution, thereby empowering our community to make a significant impact on the global environment."

Joining the ISCN enables Ajman University to integrate leading sustainability strategies seamlessly into operations, academia and research and positions it as a key advocate for local, regional, and global sustainability. Additionally, the ISCN network provides a platform for Ajman University to showcase its ongoing sustainability initiatives and achievements to a global audience. This increased visibility not only inspires others but also allows them to learn from the shared experiences of fellow ISCN members. The network comprises 109 prestigious universities worldwide, including Harvard, MIT, and Yale, further highlighting the significance of this achievement.

Ajman University is committed to raising awareness of environmental issues and embedding sustainability into campus life. The University adopts a holistic approach to environmental education, inspiring students, faculty, and staff to engage in meaningful actions that foster a positive environmental impact and promote sustainability within and beyond the campus. Through these concerted efforts, Ajman University is not just contributing to environmental preservation and sustainable development, but also shaping a generation that is deeply committed to these causes.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2024/ajman-university-joins-the-international-sustainable-campus-network-iscn-as-the-first-uae-institution

ISCN
International Sustainable Campus Network

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