جامعة عجمان
AJMAN UNIVERSITY

2025

SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION



13.3 Environmental education measures

13.3.5 Environmental education collaborate with NGO

THE GLOBAL GOALS

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Introduction

As the global climate crisis intensifies, the need for collaborative action has never been more urgent. Universities, as centers of knowledge and innovation, can play a crucial role in driving sustainable solutions. By partnering with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities can amplify their impact and accelerate progress towards a more sustainable future.

This report delves into the University's commitment to climate adaptation and its collaborations with NGOs. By examining the University's partnerships with NGOs, we aim to assess its contribution to:

- **Capacity Building:** Enhancing the capacity of NGOs to address climate change challenges.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise between the University and NGOs.
- **Joint Projects and Initiatives:** Implementing collaborative projects to address specific climate adaptation needs.
- **Advocacy and Policy Influence:** Advocating for climate-friendly policies and practices.

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

- **Environmental education collaborate with NGO (13.3.5):** This indicator assesses the University's partnerships with NGOs to address climate change adaptation challenges.

By analyzing this indicator, we can gain valuable insights into the University's role in building a more resilient and sustainable future.

Message from the Chancellor

The escalating climate crisis demands urgent action and innovative solutions in collaboration with NGOs.

Ajman University is committed to playing a pivotal role in addressing the global challenge of climate change. By partnering with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), we are leveraging our collective expertise and resources to drive positive change. These collaborations enable us to extend our reach beyond our campus, fostering innovation and empowering communities. Through joint research projects, capacity-building initiatives, and advocacy efforts, we are working together to address pressing environmental issues and promote sustainable practices. By sharing knowledge, resources, and expertise, we are creating a powerful force for positive change.



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

KARIM SEGHIR,PHD
CHANCELLOR

13.3.5 Indicator:
Environmental education collaborate with NGO

Ajman University, recognizing the critical importance of environmental sustainability, has embarked on a collaborative initiative with various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). This partnership aims to foster a culture of environmental consciousness and empower individuals to take action. By combining the University's academic expertise with the practical experience of NGOs, the initiative seeks to:

- Promote Environmental Education: Develop and implement innovative educational programs and workshops to raise awareness about environmental issues, such as climate change, pollution, and resource conservation.
- Conduct Research and Innovation: Collaborate on research projects to identify sustainable solutions to environmental challenges and promote the adoption of eco-friendly technologies.
- Engage the Community: Organize community outreach programs, volunteer activities, and public awareness campaigns to involve the broader community in environmental initiatives.
- Foster Partnerships: Build strong relationships with local and international organizations to share knowledge, resources, and best practices.

Through these collaborative efforts, Ajman University strives to create a positive impact on the environment and inspire future generations to become responsible environmental stewards. This report will discuss the various NGOs that Ajman University is affiliated with in the following sections.



Emirates Environmental Group

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 including 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.
The university has partnered with EEG on various projects, including implementing environmental education and awareness programs, supporting community-based adaptation projects such as tree planting initiatives, clean-up campaigns, environmental education sessions, and awareness programs, capacity building and ecological public speaking skills for students, judging climate change student artwork and presentations and more. In addition to these specific projects, Ajman University and EEG have collaborated on several other initiatives, such as organizing conferences, workshops, and public events on climate change.

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

Below some of the events AU partnered with EEG during the year 2025:

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

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

Emirates Environmental Group








MORE THAN




Sustainability Champion
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Sustainability Champion








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Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC)

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://emiratesgbc.org/individual-members/

Below are some of the events AU partnered with EGBC :

Ajman University Hosts Awareness Sessions on Indoor Environmental Quality

Green Campus Initiative by Ajman University Students Holds Promise for a Sustainable Future

AU Students Recognized for Best ‘Green Economy Project’

M

Mahkameh Fattahi	MARIAM ALMAZROUE
Marina Georgieva MRICS	Mary Kamille Carlos
Maya Haddad	Mohamed Rabah Ali Abdellatif Ali
Mohammed Saeed	Mohammed Shamroukh

N

Nadeemur Rehman	Neha Yoosuf
Noura Al Hammadi	



EmiratesGBC
مجلس الامارات للابنية الخضراء
Emirates Green Building Council

This is to certify that

Maya Haddad

Supports the promotion and development of Sustainable Buildings in the United Arab Emirates, and is a

Individual Member

of the

مجلس الامارات للابنية الخضراء
Emirates Green Building Council

January 2025 to December 2025

Khaled Bushnaq
Chairman

Habiba Al Marashi
Co-Founder, Vice-Chair & Treasurer

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AJMAN UNIVERSITY

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Between

Ajman University (AU)

And

Emirates Green Building Council

2024

UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI)

The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) was founded at the Rio+20 Conference in 2012 as a joint initiative combining several United Nations institutions and the higher education community. The effort is now led by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the Sulitest Association, an NGO and an online platform devoted to increasing global sustainability literacy. UNESCO, UN Environment Programme, UN Global Compact's Principles for Responsible Management Education project, UN University, UN-HABITAT, UNCTAD, UNITAR, UN Office for Partnerships, and UN Academic Impact are among HESI's recognized partners. With strong UN linkages, HESI aspires to bridge the gap between higher education, science, and policy-making by advocating for higher education's critical role in sustainable development, facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues and action, and disseminating outstanding sustainable practices. Ajman University joined this worldwide movement in 2022, bolstering the joint effort to integrate sustainability ideas into higher education curricula and practices for a more sustainable future.

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

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/ajman-university-joins-the-renowned-united-nations-higher-education-sustainability-initiative

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:

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.

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

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.

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

https://international-sustainable-campus-network.org/membership/ajman-university/

Nature Positive Universities" with the University of Oxford and the UN Environment Program (UNEP)

The fight for a healthy planet just got a major boost with the launch of the Nature Positive Universities Alliance. This groundbreaking initiative, spearheaded by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the University of Oxford, and a powerful network of 577 universities from 115 countries, is rewriting the narrative on how universities can tackle environmental challenges.

Beyond Awareness, Towards Action:

The alliance goes beyond mere awareness-raising campaigns. It has secured high-level pledges from 136 universities to actively address and restore the environmental footprint of their operations. This translates to concrete actions on various fronts:

- Campus Sustainability Audits: Universities are conducting comprehensive assessments to identify areas with the most significant environmental impact. This could include energy consumption, waste generation, water usage, and landscaping practices.
- Shifting Practices: Based on the audits, universities are implementing sustainable practices like reducing energy consumption through energy-efficient buildings and appliances, minimizing waste through composting and recycling programs, promoting water conservation through efficient irrigation systems and low-flow fixtures, and transitioning to native and pollinator-friendly landscaping.
- Habitat Restoration: Many universities are actively involved in restoring ecosystems on their campuses. This could involve planting native trees and shrubs, creating pollinator gardens, and renaturalizing waterways.

Empowering Student Leaders: The Nature Positive Student Ambassadors

The Nature Positive Student Ambassadors program is another powerful facet of the alliance. With 364 passionate students from 46 countries, it fosters a global network of young changemakers. These student ambassadors play a crucial role in several ways:

- Campus Advocacy: They advocate for sustainability initiatives within their universities, working with administration and faculty to implement environmental best practices.
- Peer Education: They organize workshops, campaigns, and events to raise awareness about environmental issues and engage their fellow students in sustainability efforts.
- Knowledge Sharing: The program facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experiences between student ambassadors through online platforms and international conferences. This allows them to learn from each other's successes and challenges, fostering a sense of global community and collaboration.

A Holistic Approach: Addressing Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss

The alliance recognizes the interconnectedness of environmental issues. It emphasizes that universities can be powerful catalysts, guiding their communities towards a "Nature Positive" future. This means tackling climate change and biodiversity loss simultaneously. Here's how:

- Climate Action: Universities are exploring ways to reduce their carbon footprint and transition towards renewable energy sources. This can involve investing in solar panels, wind turbines, and energy-efficient infrastructure.
- Biodiversity Conservation: Many universities are actively involved in research and conservation efforts to protect endangered species and ecosystems. This can involve collaborating with local communities and government agencies on conservation initiatives.
- Promoting Resilient Ecosystems: The alliance understands the importance of building robust ecosystems that can withstand environmental pressures. Universities are working to restore degraded land, promote sustainable land management practices, and create buffer zones around protected areas.

Ajman University Joins the Movement: A Local Commitment with Global Impact

During COP15, Ajman University proudly joined this global movement, solidifying its unwavering commitment to environmental restoration and sustainability. This significant step demonstrates the university's dedication to fostering a culture of environmental responsibility within its campus and the wider community. By participating in the alliance, Ajman University contributes to a global movement pushing for a future where universities are not just centers of learning but also leaders in environmental stewardship.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/Partnerships/nature-positive-alliance-with-the-university-of-oxford-and-the-un-environment-program-unep










In Support of
Ajman University in collaboration with the University of Oxford
is pleased to invite you to COP28 session titled:
Nature Positive Student Ambassadors:
A Global Showcase of Student-led
Campus Action for Nature
NATURE POSITIVE
UNIVERSITIES
DATE
December 1, 2023
TIME
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
LOCATION
Al Maktaba Room, Mobility Pavilion, Greening Education Hub,
COP28 Green Zone
Speakers


In Support of
Ajman University in collaboration with the University of Oxford
is pleased to invite you to COP28 session titled:
Institutional Pledges For Nature:
A Community Of Institutions Setting Ambitious
Biodiversity Targets, Actions, And Reporting
NATURE POSITIVE
UNIVERSITIES
DATE
December 1, 2023
TIME
12:45 PM - 1:15 PM
LOCATION
Al Ferjan Room, Mobility Pavilion, Greening Education Hub, COP28 Green Zone
Speakers


Nature Positive
Universities



Greening Education Partnership (GEP)

Greening education isn't just about planting trees, it's about planting the seeds of a sustainable future. This comprehensive approach aims to weave sustainability concepts and environmental awareness throughout every thread of education, from kindergarten to graduate school and beyond. Ajman University, a leading institution committed to environmental stewardship, is a proud member of this global movement, spearheaded by UNESCO and the Ministry of Education UAE.

Empowering Changemakers:

The core objective? Equipping students with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes to tackle critical global challenges like climate change and environmental degradation. This translates into building environmental literacy, fostering responsible citizens, and promoting a lifestyle rooted in sustainability.

Beyond Textbooks: A World of Learning

Greening education goes beyond memorizing facts. It delves into critical themes like environmental conservation, renewable energy, resource management, and ethical decision-making. This hands-on approach allows students to connect with the environment, understand its complexities, and explore solutions through practical activities.

Education: The Key to Unlocking a Sustainable Future

The UN Secretary-General echoes this sentiment. At the Transforming Education Summit, he emphasized that education empowers individuals with the skills needed to address climate change and environmental issues. This comprehensive skillset includes knowledge, social awareness, critical thinking, and teamwork – all essential for navigating real-world challenges.

Greening education allows students to grasp the interconnectedness of global sustainability concerns and recognize how their everyday actions can contribute to solutions.

A Global Movement for Greener Tomorrows: The Greening Education Partnership

The Greening Education Partnership, spearheaded by UNESCO and the Ministry of Education UAE, champions this holistic approach. This international collaboration focuses on four key pillars:

Greening Schools: Creating sustainable and healthy learning environments that prioritize resource efficiency and promote environmental responsibility.

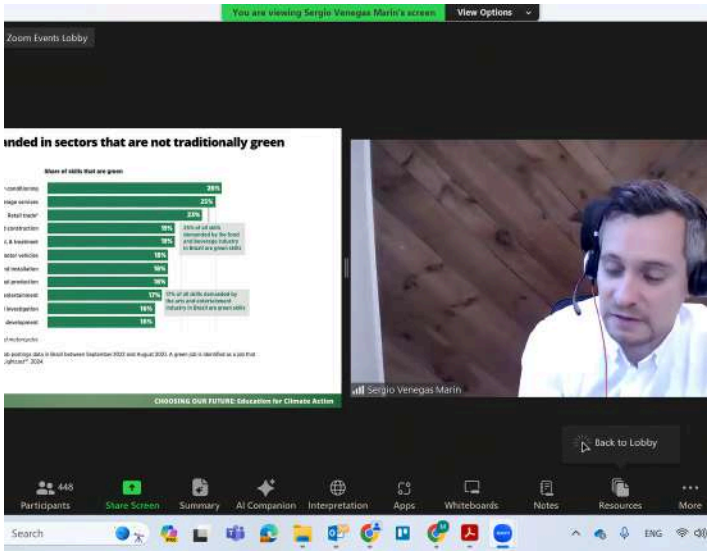
Greening Curriculums: Integrating sustainability concepts and environmental issues across different subjects, equipping students with a well-rounded understanding of the challenges and solutions.

Greening Communities: Fostering partnerships between educational institutions and local communities to promote environmental stewardship and collaborative action. Ajman University is a leading contributor to this pillar, actively engaging with the community to promote sustainable practices.

Greening Teacher Education: Equipping educators with the knowledge, skills, and pedagogical approaches necessary to effectively deliver greening education programs. By working together on these pillars, the Greening Education Partnership, led by UNESCO and the Ministry of Education UAE, strives to empower future generations to build a more sustainable world.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/partnerships/greening-education-partnership





The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education (EAUC)

eauc
The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education
Educational Member

The EAUC is a prestigious global network, representing over 285 universities worldwide, including top institutions like the University of Oxford and Imperial College London. With a combined student body exceeding 4.5 million and a half-million strong faculty and staff, the EAUC is a powerful force for sustainability education. EAUC is the leading body for sustainability in the post-16 education sector in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. They have been promoting sustainability in post-16 education for over 20 years. Primarily a membership body, they serve 300 organisations whilst also working to change systems that enable sustainability action.

EAUC is both a charity and a company limited by guarantee and is always not-for-profit. This alliance promotes holistic whole organisation approaches where leadership and governance, estates and operations, teaching and learning and collaborations are all actively driving sustainability so that they're equipping learners for their lives, being responsible organisations and shaping society for the better. EAUC does this by supporting members to create meaningful sustainability change, convening the network to generate solutions to shared challenges and creating systems change to establish a more enabling environment for sustainability action.

Notably, Ajman University is the sole UAE member and the second in the MENA region, solidifying its position as a sustainability leader.

This membership unlocks a multitude of benefits for the Ajman University community:

- Sustainability Education Leadership: Collaborate with leading institutions to develop innovative, sustainability-focused curricula across disciplines.
- Sharing Best Practices: Learn from and share best practices with global experts on implementing sustainable practices within our campus operations.
- Reduced Environmental Footprint: Gain access to resources and expertise to reduce our university's environmental impact significantly.
- Global Recognition: Enhance Ajman University's global recognition for its dedication to sustainability, attracting eco-conscious students and faculty.

The Office of Sustainability is excited to offer free membership in the EAUC to all Ajman University students, faculty, and staff! This is an exceptional opportunity to:

- Deepen your knowledge of sustainability through exclusive resources and events.
- Connect with a global network of sustainability leaders and collaborate on innovative projects.
- Play a part in building a more sustainable future for our university and the world.
- Interested AU students, faculty, and staff can register for free EAUC membership.

This membership aligns perfectly with Ajman University's unwavering commitment to sustainability and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Together, we can create a sustainable future for our campus community and empower our graduates to be responsible global citizens.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/Partnerships/the-alliance-for-sustainability-leadership-in-education-eauc

https://www.eauc.org.uk/educational_membership

United Nations' Environment Program Race to Net Zero for Universities

Climate change is the defining challenge of our generation. The Race to Zero campaign is a beacon of hope, a global movement igniting fierce competition for a pollution-free future. This ambitious initiative unites a diverse coalition – from industry titans and innovative startups to bustling metropolises and forward-thinking universities. Ajman University in the UAE is a prime example, actively contributing to this crucial effort.

Together, this coalition pushes for a resilient future built on three pillars:

- Clean Energy: Transitioning away from fossil fuels and embracing renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and geothermal power.
- Sustainable Jobs: Creating new opportunities in green technologies, energy efficiency, and circular economies.
- Inclusive Economic Growth: Ensuring a just transition that benefits everyone, not just the privileged few.

This unprecedented alliance is the largest of its kind, with over 11,309 non-state actors committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. This powerful group includes 8,307 businesses across various sectors, 595 financial organizations shifting investments towards sustainable projects, 1,136 cities leading the charge in urban sustainability, 52 governments and regions stepping up national and regional commitments, 1,125 educational institutions preparing future generations for the climate challenge, and 65 healthcare institutions promoting a healthy planet for healthy people.

Led by respected High-Level Champions, the Race to Zero operates independently of national governments. However, it reinforces the ambitious goals set by the Climate Ambition Alliance, established at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit. This collaboration strengthens the fight against climate change by creating a powerful synergy between international agreements, national policies, and the actions of non-state actors.

Ajman University exemplifies this global commitment. They've pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, with a specific target for 2030. Their actions contribute significantly to the worldwide transition towards a decarbonized economy, a future powered by clean energy and sustainable practices. This is just one example of the countless organizations and institutions driving change through the Race to Zero campaign.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/Partnerships/united-nations-environment-program-race-to-net-zero-for-universities

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

International Society of Sustainability Professionals

The International Society of Sustainability Professionals (ISSP) is the global hub for sustainability leaders. This dynamic network connects professionals from diverse industries across the world, fostering collaboration and empowering them to drive positive change.

Empowering Professionals, Amplifying Impact

ISSP's mission is clear: to equip and inspire sustainability professionals at every stage of their careers. They achieve this through three key pillars:

- Building a Thriving Community: ISSP fosters a vibrant global network where professionals can connect, share knowledge, and break down silos.
- Delivering In-Depth Training: ISSP offers a comprehensive suite of programs like the Sustainability Short Course and Sustainability Foundations. These programs equip learners with the latest insights and tools to excel in the sustainability field.
- Elevating the Profession: ISSP spearheads the Sustainability Excellence credentials, including the SEA (Sustainability Excellence Associate) and SEP (Sustainability Excellence Professional). Their recent partnership with Prometric has streamlined the registration process and offers flexible exam options (in-person or online).

A Global Network in Action: Our Sustainability Journey

The diverse range of professionals benefitting from ISSP's resources is exemplified by the membership of our sustainability team at Ajman University. Their membership in ISSP allows them to connect with colleagues around the world, access valuable training programs, and stay current on the latest advancements in sustainability practices. Through their participation in ISSP, they are empowered to make a significant contribution to Ajman University's sustainability initiatives and inspire others to do the same.

A Global Force for Sustainable Change

ISSP's ultimate goal is to create a ripple effect of positive change. By building a strong global network and empowering sustainability professionals, they strive for a sustainable transformation across industries and ultimately, the planet itself.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/Partnerships/international-society-of-sustainability-professionals

Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment

Ajman University, a leading institution of higher learning committed to environmental stewardship, recognizes the importance of fostering future sustainability leaders. Having Ms. Maya Haddad, Sustainability Manager at AU as an Affiliate Member in a prominent environmental organization such as IEMA provides a valuable platform for community members to cultivate their knowledge and engagement in this critical field.

A Gateway to Global Connections and Resources

This membership unlocks a treasure trove of resources that empowers Ajman University's community to become active participants in the global sustainability movement. Through access to a global network of sustainability professionals, faculty can connect with colleagues, share best practices, and stay current on the latest advancements. Students benefit from exposure to diverse perspectives and gain valuable insights into potential career paths in the ever-evolving sustainability sector.

A Springboard for Sustainability Action

The Affiliate Membership program offers a wealth of practical tools and resources. Ajman University community members can leverage these resources to develop an engaging sustainability-focused curriculum, while students gain access to toolkits and guides that equip them to implement sustainable practices in their everyday lives and future careers.

Investing in a Sustainable Future

Ajman University's commitment to Affiliate Membership underscores its dedication to building a generation of sustainability leaders. By empowering faculty and students with knowledge, connections, and practical tools, Ajman University paves the way for a more sustainable future for all.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/Partnerships/institute-of-environmental-management-and-assessment-iema

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.

- Bridging the Gap, Fostering Collaboration

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.

- Knowledge is Power: Empowering Change Through Information Sharing

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.

- Investing in the Future: The Green Ambassador Programme

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 Higher Education Safety Professionals Network (EHSPN)

Ajman University plays a vital role in fostering a safe learning environment for its students and staff. As a member of the Emirates Higher-Education Safety Professional Network (EHSPN), established in 2016 (formerly known as USHeR), the university leverages a collaborative platform dedicated to health, safety, and environment (HSE) best practices.

The EHSPN network connects HSE professionals across UAE's higher education institutions. This membership offers Ajman University's HSE department several advantages:
Collaboration: Connect with peers from other universities to share knowledge and develop effective safety protocols.
Resource Sharing: Gain access to best practices and strategic tools implemented by other institutions.
Challenge Resolution: Discuss and find solutions to common HSE concerns specific to the higher education sector.
By actively participating in the EHSPN network, Ajman University strengthens its commitment to safety and contributes to a culture of well-being for the entire university community.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/Partnerships/emirates-higher-education-safety-professionals-network-ehspn





COY 18 UAE Knowledge Partner

Ajman University (AU) joined the United Nations Youth Climate Change Conference (COY18 UAE) as a knowledge partner, forging a powerful collaboration that empowers young people to lead the charge on climate action. This partnership underscores the UAE's unwavering commitment to nurturing a generation of passionate environmental stewards.

- AU Takes Center Stage: Empowering Youth Voices

Ms. Maya Haddad, AU's Sustainability Manager, and Mohammed Balila, a Senior Lecturer, led a captivating session titled "Climate Changers: Youth-led Solutions for a Greener Future." Joined by a team of students – Hurairah Muzammil, Dana Binmahmood, Mesk Alhammadi, Itemat Sauria, and Aya Ochi – they showcased the breadth of innovative solutions young minds are developing to combat climate change.

- Sparkling Innovation: A Focus on Solutions

The session delved into the critical role youth play in tackling environmental, economic, and social challenges associated with climate change. The focus was firmly on solutions, with participants exploring innovative approaches for the future. AU representatives encouraged creativity and active problem-solving, highlighting the power of young minds to shape a more sustainable future through technological advancements and a commitment to sustainability practices.

- Building a Sustainable Future: The Power of Youth

AU representatives consistently emphasized the vital role of youth as agents of positive change. Their ability to raise awareness, inspire action within their communities, and champion sustainable behaviors positions them as catalysts for innovation and progress. Through their engagement in environmental initiatives, young people have the power to significantly contribute to building a more sustainable and balanced world.



Ms. Maya Haddad, Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, echoed this sentiment: "The role of youth in achieving climate change solutions cannot be ignored. They are a driving force for innovative solutions and implementing environmental initiatives through modern technology. Their unique ability to embrace challenges and turn them into opportunities is crucial for shaping international climate policy."

- Investing in the Future: AU's Commitment to Youth Empowerment

Ajman University actively empowers its students by supporting their participation in conferences like COY18 UAE. This involvement allows students to broaden their horizons, gain a deeper understanding of climate change impacts, and become active participants in climate action. By nurturing their leadership skills and commitment to environmental responsibility, AU is shaping the next generation of climate leaders.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/Partnerships/coy-18-uae-knowledge-partner

BEEAH Group

A Landmark Collaboration:

Ajman University and BEEAH Education, a leader in environmental solutions and education, have signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to equip students and stakeholders with the skills and knowledge to become future sustainability leaders. This partnership marks a new chapter in promoting environmental consciousness within the UAE's educational landscape.

Focus on Qualifications and Education:

The Institute of Environmental Management and Sustainability Middle East (IEMS Academy), BEEAH Education's professional certification arm, will offer Ajman University students and faculty a comprehensive range of programs. These include:

Industry-standard qualifications in environmental management

Certifications in various sustainability areas like UN Sustainable Development Goals, circular economy, and net zero transition

Specialized courses addressing climate change, plastic pollution, and air quality

Shared Vision for a Sustainable Future:

Both institutions emphasized the importance of this collaboration for the UAE's future.

Khaled Al Huraimel, Group CEO of BEEAH: Stressed the role of education in achieving the UAE's sustainability goals and fostering innovation in this critical field.

Dr. Karim Seghir, Chancellor of Ajman University: Highlighted the university's commitment to sustainability and expressed confidence that this partnership will develop skilled professionals who will champion environmental initiatives in the UAE and globally.

Hind Al Huwaidi, Managing Director of BEEAH Education: Emphasized their commitment to offering industry-relevant training and supporting Ajman University students in building successful careers in sustainability.

Building on Strengths:

Ajman University, with its legacy of inclusivity and innovation, and BEEAH Education, with its expertise in environmental solutions and learning, are well-positioned to create a powerful learning environment. This partnership leverages the strengths of both entities to empower future generations to create a more sustainable future.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/Partnerships/beeah-group



Ajman University Partners with BEEAH Education's IEMS Academy to Offer Industry Leading Sustainability Qualifications

The Institute of Environmental Management and Sustainability Middle East (IEMS Academy), the Professional Certifications and Conformity Assessments arm of BEEAH Education, has signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding with Ajman University. The landmark MoU marks the beginning of an important collaboration between both entities; and will see IEMS offer the students and stakeholders of the leading UAE institution with the unprecedented opportunity to gain professional qualifications and certifications in the field of sustainability and environmental management.

The agreement was signed by Khaled Al Huraimel, Group CEO of BEEAH, and Dr. Karim Seghir, Chancellor of Ajman University, in the presence of senior management representatives from both parties, at BEEAH Group's new, state-of-the-art headquarters. During the event, both entities discussed areas of strategic importance within ESGs, explored focus areas in sustainability and environmental education, and emphasized the importance of future-forward education methods that result in the adoption of best-in-class industry practices.

Commenting on the occasion, Khaled Al Huraimel, Group CEO of BEEAH, said, "We are pleased to enter into this MOU with Ajman University, one of the UAE's most notable, diverse and inclusive educational institutions. As a key area of focus for the UAE, sustainability constitutes an important part of our national agenda and strategy for future development. Through this collaboration, we will introduce the educational community to new possibilities within the spectrum of environmental management and sustainability, while enhancing their skills and contributions to these fields. By encouraging discourse, innovation, and collaboration in these sectors, we will work collectively towards consolidating the UAE's position as a pioneer in sustainability development and leader in net zero targets."

As part of the agreement, IEMS will offer a range of industry-centric foundational courses and specialized educational programs; which include integrated waste management qualifications and certification programs in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the circular economy, climate change, plastic pollution, net zero transition and air pollution.

Commenting on the partnership, AU Chancellor Dr. Karim Seghir, said, "As a socially responsible higher education institution, Ajman University places great emphasis on sustainability and environmental consciousness among its faculty, staff, students, and alumni. This partnership with BEEAH, renowned for its expertise in environmental management solutions and learning, will help both entities in enhancing the knowledge and expertise of students in environment management, helping them gain meaningful careers in this emerging field and evolve as champions of sustainability and environment in the UAE as well as globally."



Sharing her thoughts on the partnership, Hind Al Huwaidi, Managing Director of BEEAH Education, said, “BEEAH Education is proud to work with Ajman University, one of the leading institutions in the UAE, to offer training and qualifications across a range of sustainability specializations. Our team of highly qualified industry professionals and international experts has developed a comprehensive range of industry-specific courses, programs and workshops for the students and stakeholders of the university. Through this collaboration, we aim to support their skill development, enhance their career opportunities, inspire awareness about these critical industries, and support them in becoming valuable resources in the UAE’s journey towards building a sustainable and secure future.”

Established in 2017, the Institute of Environmental Management and Sustainability (IEMS) Academy provides blended training and development programmes which enhance people’s knowledge and the skills required for current and future jobs in rapidly evolving, future-ready industries. IEMS’ accomplished team of multinational industry experts enable skill development through a range of quality-focused, industry-specific training courses, programmes, and workshops, which are affiliated with numerous internationally accredited institutions.

Known as the first private university in the GCC, and the first UAE university to admit expatriate students, Ajman University was established in 1988 as a pioneer for inclusion, innovation, and social impact. In 2020, Ajman University became one of the first six higher education institutions in the world to receive global accreditation from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), UK’s independent body and a global leader in quality assurance for higher education.

Ajman University Partners with BEEAH Education’s IEMS Academy to Offer Industry Leading Sustainability Qualifications

Universities Climate Network

The United Arab Emirates buzzes with anticipation as Dubai gears up to host the 28th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP28) from November 30th to December 12th, 2023. This crucial global event tackles climate change, a pressing challenge of our time. While world leaders hold immense sway over the outcome, a powerful force is emerging – engaged youth and academia.

- **Ajman University: Championing Youth Leadership in Climate Action**

Ajman University, a leading institution of higher learning, has taken a significant step by joining the COP28 Universities Climate Network (UCN). This network unites UAE universities, fostering collaboration to mobilize youth and academia leading up to COP28. Ajman University's participation reflects its commitment to inclusivity and empowering young people to spearhead the fight against climate change. In an era where climate issues dominate global discourse, the UCN's structure and purpose are commendable – empowering young minds to become agents of change.

- **Mobilizing Young Minds, Shaping Climate Action**

As a UCN member, Ajman University will actively participate in joint initiatives that mobilize young people through impactful discussions and projects. This includes providing a platform for young voices to be heard and actively shape climate policy conversations.

- **Leading the Green Charge: Ajman University's SDG Focus**

The UCN operates thematic working groups on various climate disciplines. Ajman University takes pride in leading the Green Job Skills Working Group under the guidance of Ms. Maya Haddad, their Sustainability Manager. This aligns perfectly with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 13 on Climate Action and SDG 17 on Partnerships for the Goals. Ajman University's commitment to these SDGs underscores its proactive role in influencing climate legislation and fostering international collaboration in tackling climate change.

- **UAE Youths Take Center Stage: Ajman University Joins COP28 Universities Climate Network**

The United Arab Emirates buzzes with anticipation as Dubai gears up to host the 28th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP28) from November 30th to December 12th, 2023. This crucial global event tackles climate change, a pressing challenge of our time. While world leaders hold immense sway over the outcome, a powerful force is emerging – engaged youth and academia.

- **Building Momentum Towards COP28: A Collaborative Spirit**

As COP28 nears, the unwavering dedication and collaborative efforts of institutions like Ajman University, alongside the broader UCN, are paving the way for a transformative event. Over 70,000 participants – heads of state, government officials, industry leaders, private sector representatives, academics, specialists, and most importantly, young people – will convene at Dubai's Expo City. Fueled by the UCN's collaborative spirit and innovative thinking, they will collectively chart a course towards effective climate action and policy creation.

AU co-leads the UAE Universities Climate Network

The UAE's Universities Climate Network (UCN), a 36-member group, has announced the appointment of Khalifa University's Dr. Samuel Mao and Dr. Rasha Bayoumi of the University of Birmingham Dubai as Co-Chairs and Ajman University's Maya Haddad as Head of Operations, taking the UCN to the next stage of advancing climate action regionally and internationally, and promoting sustainability across the UAE's academic sector.

An official handover ceremony organized at New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) was attended by His Excellency Edward Hobart, the UK Ambassador to the UAE, His Excellency Ambassador Majid Al-Suwaidi, Director-General, COP28 UAE Presidency, Professor Sir John O'Reilly, President, Khalifa University, and other key stakeholders.

Her Excellency Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28, said: "Universities play an integral role in supporting climate action. They provide the research, education and expertise to respond to the climate challenge, developing the solutions and capacity to reduce emissions and address the adaptation gap. With the appointments of Dr Samuel Mao, Dr Rasha Bayoumi and Ms Maya Haddad in the UAE, I am delighted that UCN are building on their success at COP28 to take forward this agenda across the MENA region."

The UAE Universities Climate Network (UCN) is a powerful alliance of 35 universities across the Emirates. We stand united in the fight against climate change, empowering young minds to become the next generation of environmental leaders.

This network was formed to unify the voices of UAE universities, showcasing the crucial role of higher education in tackling climate change. Its lasting impact extends beyond COP28. The network's strategy rests on four pillars for thought leadership and action.

UCN's Four Pillars: Driving Climate Action and Sustainability in UAE Universities

The Universities Climate Network (UCN), comprising 36 UAE-based universities and higher education institutions, is a united front for driving youth and academic engagement in addressing climate change. This network was established to consolidate the voices of UAE universities, highlighting the critical role that higher education plays in climate action. With a vision that extends beyond COP28, UCN's long-term impact is structured around four key pillars, each fostering leadership, innovation, and action in different aspects of climate responsibility.

Empowering Youth Climate Leaders through Student Engagement

In a strategic move to elevate youth involvement, UCN introduced the Student Youth Engagement Pillar to ignite a global movement led by young climate advocates. This pillar focuses on empowering students from the UAE and beyond to take leadership roles in tackling climate change. By providing platforms for youth to engage in meaningful climate discussions, UCN ensures that young voices are heard at both local and global levels.

This initiative is designed to nurture the next generation of climate leaders, who are poised to drive sustainable practices across various sectors. Through workshops, leadership programs, and hands-on projects, UCN is inspiring students to be at the forefront of climate action, showcasing the UAE's commitment to developing future climate ambassadors.

Fueling Innovation and Solutions through Research

UCN's Research & Innovation Pillar underscores the critical role of academic research in accelerating climate solutions. The initiative encourages UAE universities to contribute cutting-edge research and analysis that directly influences climate policies. By bridging the gap between scientific inquiry and policy implementation, this pillar equips policymakers with data-driven insights to advance climate solutions in alignment with national and global goals.

UCN's member institutions are actively conducting research that explores sustainable technologies, green finance, and climate resilience. These research efforts aim to catalyze practical solutions that can be rapidly adopted, ensuring that academic findings translate into actionable climate strategies. This pillar reflects UCN's commitment to making research a central driver of environmental innovation in the UAE.

Activating Communities through Evidence-Based Initiatives

UCN's Communal Activations Pillar highlights the importance of community engagement in the fight against climate change. By activating university campuses and collaborating with key stakeholders, UCN is expanding public participation through evidence-based initiatives. These initiatives are designed to increase climate literacy, promote sustainability, and encourage a broader sense of environmental stewardship.

UCN is committed to turning universities into hubs for climate action, where students, faculty, and the wider community work together on projects that raise awareness and drive tangible environmental outcomes. The communal activations led by UCN demonstrate the power of collective action and the vital role of educational institutions in inspiring broader societal involvement in climate efforts.

Leading by Example: Campus Carbon Neutrality

In alignment with the UAE's ambitious 2050 Net Zero strategy, UCN's Campus Carbon Neutrality Pillar is setting a powerful example by driving decarbonization across university campuses. This pillar encourages member institutions to develop and implement comprehensive strategies that aim for carbon neutrality, making UAE universities leaders in sustainability.

From energy-efficient infrastructure to innovative waste management solutions, UCN is working to ensure that campuses become models of sustainability. This commitment not only aligns with national climate goals but also reinforces the idea that educational institutions can lead by example in the global effort to mitigate climate change.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2023/ucns-four-pillars-driving-climate-action-and-sustainability-in-uae-universities

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/highlights/au-co-leads-the-uae-universities-climate-network

https://www.linkedin.com/company/uae-universities-climate-network/?viewAsMember=true

https://cop28.ajman.ac.ae/en/%C2%A0https:/sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/Partnerships/cop28-universities-climate-network



Dubai Supreme Council of Energy

Ajman University Partners with Dubai Supreme Council of Energy to Drive UAE's Net-Zero Transition Through Energy Efficiency

In a landmark initiative, Ajman University collaborated with Dubai's Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE) to explore the pivotal role of energy efficiency in the UAE's transition to a net-zero energy system. The research aligns with the UAE's Vision 2050, focusing on key strategies to reduce carbon emissions while maintaining sustainable economic growth.

One standout research project, "Role of Energy Efficiency in Achieving Net Zero," highlighted energy efficiency's critical role, as it contributes over 40% of the emissions abatement required by 2040. The project explored existing cost-effective technologies that can double global energy efficiency by 2040, with a strong focus on sectors like buildings, transport, and industry. By 2030, the goal is for all new buildings to be net-zero carbon-ready, while reducing fuel demand and enhancing industrial energy management practices can lead to significant emissions reductions in the short term.

A significant recommendation from the study was for Dubai to enhance its Green Mobility Strategy, which encourages the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles, particularly in government fleets. The study advocated for the continued expansion of Dubai's green vehicle program, showcasing Dubai as a global model for energy security and efficiency.

Ajman University's contribution to this research exemplifies its commitment to sustainability and academic excellence. This partnership with the DSCE not only highlights Ajman University's role in driving the UAE's environmental goals but also emphasizes the importance of collaboration between academia and government bodies in shaping the future of sustainable development in the region.

Ajman University Partners with Dubai Supreme Council of Energy to Drive UAE's Net-Zero Transition Through Energy Efficiency

Greenpeace MENA

Ajman University and Greenpeace Join Forces for a Sustainable Future

We're thrilled to announce an exciting new partnership with Greenpeace for the #MENA Awards. Together, we're launching the #UAE Wellbeing Economy Award to recognize and promote sustainable development practices that foster a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient #UAE.

This groundbreaking project will focus on four key pillars:

- Well-being: Prioritizing human health and happiness
- Social Inclusivity: Ensuring equitable opportunities for all
- Environmental Sustainability: Protecting our planet for future generations
- Equitable Resource Distribution: Promoting fair and just resource allocation

By collaborating with Greenpeace, we aim to inspire innovation, drive positive change, and build a future where well-being and sustainability are at the forefront of our society.

Greenpeace is an independent global NGO and campaigning network founded in 1971. Its mission is to ensure the ability of the Earth to nurture life in all its diversity. Greenpeace focuses on environmental issues such as climate change, deforestation, overfishing, commercial whaling, genetic engineering, and other issues.

Key characteristics of Greenpeace:

- Global reach: Greenpeace comprises 27 independent national/regional organizations in over 55 countries across Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, as well as a coordinating body, Greenpeace International.
- Scientific research: Greenpeace conducts research to support its campaigns and provide evidence-based arguments.
- Advocacy: The organization works with governments, corporations, and the public to promote environmental policies and solutions.

Greenpeace has been involved in numerous high-profile campaigns over the years, such as protecting forests and advocating for renewable energy. Its work has influenced public opinion and policy on environmental issues around the world.

Greenpeace MENA (Middle East and North Africa) is a regional branch of the global environmental organization.

It operates in several countries in the region, including Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia. It advocates for Climate Change matters since the MENA region is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including rising temperatures, water scarcity, and desertification. Greenpeace MENA works to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable agriculture to address these challenges. Recent campaigns in the MENA region include:No Plastic Challenge: A campaign to encourage individuals and businesses to reduce their use of single-use plastics.
Clean Energy Future: A campaign promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency in the region.
Save the Mediterranean: A campaign to protect the Mediterranean Sea from pollution and overfishing.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/partnerships/greenpeace-mena









Ajman University Signs MoU with Greenpeace MENA to Launch the "UAE Wellbeing Economy Award"

Ajman University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Greenpeace Middle East and North Africa (Greenpeace MENA) to launch the "UAE Wellbeing Economy Award" in the United Arab Emirates. The MoU aims to promote sustainable development practices by encouraging stakeholders to actively participate in shaping a forward-looking vision for the UAE, one that is characterized by prosperity, inclusivity, and resilience, with a strong emphasis on environmental and social sustainability to ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

The "UAE Wellbeing Economy Award" will open for applications on December 11, 2024, and is specifically targeted at students and independent researchers working in institutions based in the UAE. The award invites participants to submit innovative ideas and proposals that reimagine the concept of wellbeing and challenge traditional economic systems in the country.

The award also focuses on several key areas concerning the future of the UAE's economy, addressing critical issues such as: the future of alternative economies, societal perceptions that consider luxury as an indicator of wellbeing, the search for alternative indicators to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and exploring the future of energy and sustainable energy transitions in the country. The goal of the award is to highlight the importance of critical thinking and offer innovative economic solutions that meet the environmental and social challenges of the 21st century.

This award provides a unique opportunity for participants to present ideas that contribute to developing innovative economic solutions that align with the UAE's vision for sustainable development and the enhancement of community wellbeing beyond traditional metrics. Interested participants can apply for the award through the dedicated link, which will open in December 2024.

The MoU between Ajman University and Greenpeace MENA is in line with the University’s commitment to corporate social responsibility, raising awareness about environmental and economic sustainability, and supporting research and initiatives aimed at improving quality of life and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders in both the academic and local communities.

Ajman University Signs MoU with Greenpeace MENA to Launch the "UAE Wellbeing Economy Award" | Sustainability at Ajman University





International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Ajman University's Partnership with ICARDA: The Desert Bloom Project

The partnership between Ajman University and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) represents a direct translation of strategic climate dialogue into tangible, on-the-ground action. ICARDA is a global, non-profit research-for-development organization supported by the CGIAR. Established in 1977, its mission is to reduce poverty, enhance food, water, and nutritional security, and improve environmental health in the world's dry areas. It holds a global mandate for improving crops like barley, lentil, and faba bean, and focuses on critical areas such as on-farm water-use efficiency and climate change adaptation.

The collaboration was forged during a strategic national moment. In May 2023, Ajman University representatives participated in a consultation workshop for the UAE National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (NAP), convened by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE) in collaboration with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). It was at this event that they connected with ICARDA, which was already conducting extensive research on climate-resilient agricultural models in partnership with MOCCAE. Recognizing the alignment between ICARDA's expertise and Ajman University's commitment to sustainability, the two entities conceived a bold vision: to pilot a solar-powered hydroponic net house at the university, creating a living laboratory for sustainable agriculture, experiential education, and community engagement.

This vision materialized as the "Desert Bloom: The Foodprint Project": a Solar Hydroponic Net House designed as an Arid-Climate Model for Food Security, Experiential Learning, and Community Impact. The project began with a pilot phase in 2024 to test and refine hydroponic and solar technologies in the UAE's extreme desert climate. Building on its success, the initiative transitioned to a full-scale, fully operational net house in 2025, becoming the UAE's first university-based facility of its kind.

The facility integrates several of ICARDA's key innovations for desert farming, including insect-proof net houses, closed hydroponic systems, root-zone cooling, ultra-low-energy drip irrigation, and low-cost solar energy. These technologies enable year-round cultivation despite the UAE's punishing summer heat while using a fraction of the water and land required by traditional farming. ICARDA's research has demonstrated that such integrated systems can achieve yields surpassing regional open-field benchmarks while using significantly less water.

The impact of the project is tangible and community-centered. Across the pilot and first full-scale planting cycle, the facility has harvested over half a ton of organic cucumbers and cherry tomatoes. Every kilogram has been distributed free of charge to the entire Ajman University communitystudents, faculty, staff, external visitors, schoolchildren, and families. This is not a demonstration plot; it is a working farm producing real food for real people. Beyond food production, the net house serves as a resource for students and visitors, unlocking opportunities for research and exploration in drought-resilient crops and sustainable agriculture practices.

The Desert Bloom project exemplifies how academic institutions and international research centers can collaborate to advance national climate adaptation goals. It embodies Ajman University's commitment to technological innovation and its crucial role in advancing a new era of agriculture in the UAE, while also contributing to ICARDA's mission of developing practical, low-cost technologies that increase productivity in drylands while protecting fragile ecosystems. As the project continues to grow, it holds the potential to evolve into a regional research hub, offering a scalable blueprint for sustainable food production in hyper-arid environments.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/partnerships/icarda









UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Ajman University Joins Prestigious UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Bolstering Its Commitment to Global Goals

AJMAN, UAE – In a significant move that underscores its deep commitment to addressing the world's most pressing challenges, Ajman University (AU) has announced its official membership with the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a global initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General to mobilize expertise for sustainable development.

This strategic membership aligns AU with a prestigious network of universities, research centers, and knowledge institutions worldwide, all dedicated to implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

As a member of the SDSN, Ajman University will actively contribute to and benefit from a collaborative platform focused on practical problem-solving for sustainable development. This includes:

- Promoting Integrated Education: Developing and sharing educational programs and curricula that equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to achieve the SDGs.
- Driving Applied Research: Conducting and leveraging interdisciplinary research to identify and scale innovative solutions for environmental, social, and economic challenges.
- Strengthening Public Engagement: Collaborating with government, business, and civil society to facilitate the adoption of sustainable pathways and policies, both locally and regionally.

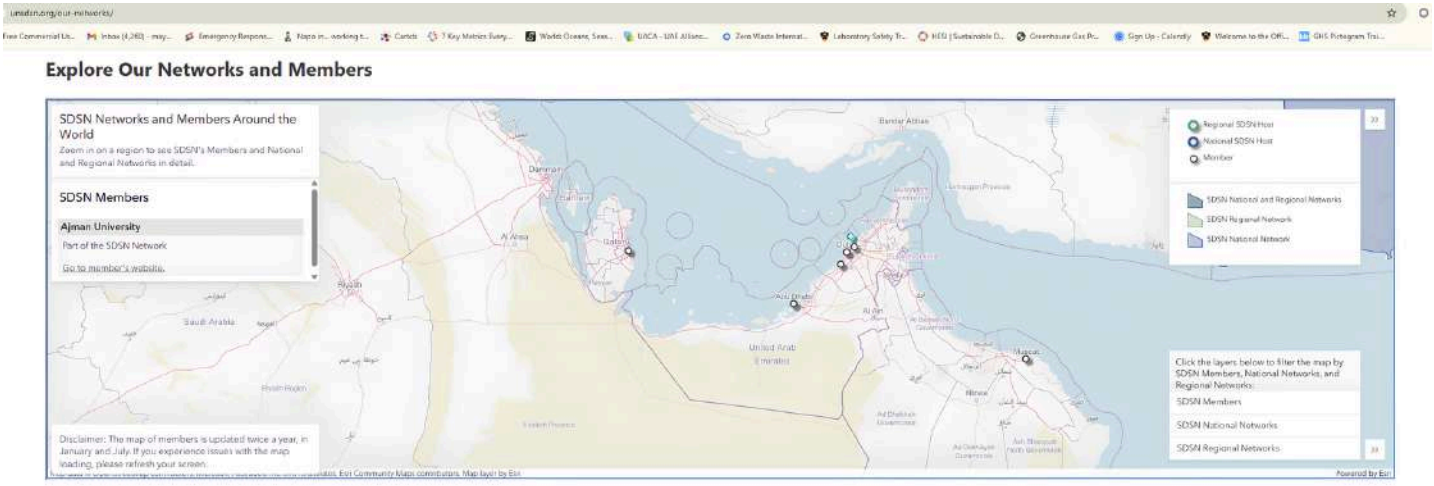
"We are immensely proud to join the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network," said Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University. "This membership is a testament to our institutional commitment to being a catalyst for positive change. It provides an unparalleled opportunity for our faculty and students to engage in global dialogues, contribute meaningful research, and help translate the Sustainable Development Goals into tangible action within our community and beyond."

The SDSN, launched in 2012, works under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General to accelerate learning and promote integrated approaches that address the interconnected economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Its global network is structured around both national and regional chapters.

AU's membership will enable it to connect with leading experts, participate in specialized working groups, and access cutting-edge resources to further integrate the SDGs into its academic and operational fabric. This initiative directly supports the university's strategic pillars of academic excellence, research innovation, and social responsibility.

About the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN):

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement. The SDSN works closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions, the private sector, and civil society. For more information, visit www.unsdsn.org.



https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/partnerships/un-sustainable-development-solutions-network-sdsn



Digital Education Council



Ajman University's Partnership with the Digital Education Council

In a strategic move that reflects its strong commitment to adopting the latest innovations in digital education, Ajman University officially joined the Digital Education Council (DEC) in November 2025. The University is now among the first institutions in the region to become part of this global network, which brings together more than 130 leading educational institutions worldwide. The membership agreement was signed between Prof. Khaled Assaleh, Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Ajman University, and Dr. Alessandro Di Lullo, CEO of the Digital Education Council.

This milestone reflects AU's dedication to advancing technology-driven education and adopting global best practices in digital transformation, ensuring the continuous development of a modern learning ecosystem that enhances the quality of teaching and learning. Through this membership, Ajman University benefits from a wide range of exclusive resources and opportunities offered by the Council, including participation in international workshops and joint educational initiatives that support faculty development and empower students with modern digital learning tools and methodologies.

This membership represents a significant step toward knowledge exchange with leading educational institutions globally, and more importantly, the transformation of this knowledge into practical applications that enhance the educational experience in classrooms and academic programs, preparing AU students for a future rich with digital opportunities. This partnership aligns with Ajman University's ongoing efforts to strengthen its academic innovation and digital transformation strategy, by adopting flexible and integrated learning systems that promote smart education and leverage modern technologies such as artificial intelligence and data analytics to improve the teaching and learning experience.

Through its membership in the Council, AU also aims to establish a sustainable model of international collaboration that connects digital knowledge with real-world application, reinforcing its position as a pioneer in shaping the future of higher education regionally and globally.

Key Achievements & Student Engagement

1. Student Representation on International Panel

In January 2026, Sana Abouelnour, a student at Ajman University, represented the University on an international panel hosted by the Digital Education Council. The panel, titled "Student Voices on AI: An Open Discussion on AI Use in Higher Education," featured students from leading institutions across Asia, Australia, and the Middle East, including Singapore Management University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, UNSW, Ateneo de Manila University, and



The University of Nottingham Ningbo China. This global conversation provided institutions with unfiltered insight into how students are actually using AI, what they expect from their universities, and how to design AI strategies with students rather than about them.

2. Expert Delegate on the ESG & Sustainability Working Group

Demonstrating Ajman University's leadership in sustainability on the global stage, Ms. Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, was selected as an Expert Delegate for the Digital Education Council's ESG & Sustainability Working Group for 2026/27, chaired by Paula Bak. Ms. Haddad was nominated for this prestigious role by her colleague Dr. Mahinour Ezzat, SFHEA.

Upon her selection, Ms. Haddad shared her vision for the role, stating: "Sustainability and ESG are no longer peripheral conversations in higher education; they are central to how institutions design curricula, govern operations, prepare future leaders, and demonstrate accountability to the societies they serve. Embedding ESG thinking into the DNA of higher education is one of the most consequential levers we have for shaping resilient, future-ready institutions".

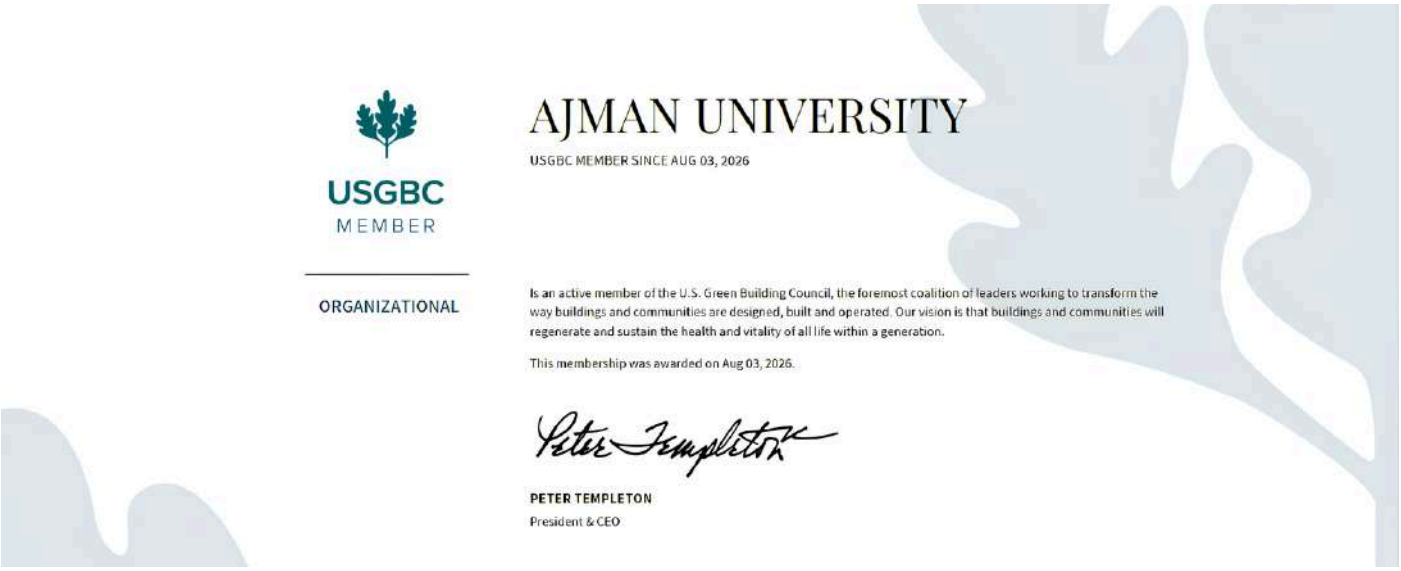


As part of this international working group, she is contributing to shaping the higher education sustainability agenda beyond the current SDG framework. The working group launched the landmark report "Re-Defining Sustainability: A Higher Education Perspective for Post-2030," developed with the support of 44 institutions across 25 countries and regions. The report highlights emerging sustainability priorities for the post-2030 agenda, current institutional commitments and progress, innovative sustainability initiatives shaping the sector, and key sustainability performance drivers. Ms. Haddad's selection as an Expert Delegate underscores AU's growing influence in global sustainability discourse and its commitment to advancing ESG principles in higher education.

Through its partnership with the Digital Education Council, Ajman University continues to demonstrate its leadership in digital transformation, academic innovation, and student empowerment, preparing its graduates to thrive in an increasingly digital and AI-driven world.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/partnerships/digital-education-council

U.S. Green Building Council



Ajman University is proud to announce its recent membership with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). As the leading authority on sustainable building practices worldwide, the USGBC is renowned for developing the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building certification program, the most widely used green building rating system in the world.

This membership marks a significant milestone in Ajman University's sustainability journey, reinforcing its commitment to embedding environmental stewardship across its campuses, curricula, and community. It builds on the University's strong foundation of sustainability leadership, including being the first in the UAE to join the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) alongside Harvard and MIT, and its active role in the Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC).

Benefits to the Ajman University Community

The USGBC membership unlocks a wealth of opportunities for the entire AU community, empowering students, faculty, and staff to lead the way in sustainable development:

- Access to World-Class Knowledge & Resources: The AU community gains access to a vast repository of cutting-edge research, case studies, and best practices in green building, sustainable design, and environmental performance. This knowledge can be directly integrated into academic programs and campus operations.
- Professional Development & Credentialing: Members benefit from exclusive training opportunities, workshops, and pathways to pursue globally recognized credentials such as the LEED Green Associate and LEED AP certifications. These credentials significantly enhance the career prospects of students and professionals in architecture, engineering, urban planning, and sustainability fields.

- Networking & Collaboration: Membership opens doors to a global network of sustainability leaders, industry experts, and like-minded institutions. This facilitates collaboration on research, knowledge exchange, and participation in international sustainability initiatives.
- Campus Innovation & Living Labs: The membership supports AU's vision of treating its campuses as "living labs" for sustainability. By leveraging USGBC's frameworks, the University can pilot innovative green technologies, improve building efficiency, and reduce its environmental footprint, creating a healthier, more sustainable learning environment for all.
- Enhanced Employability: For students, being part of a USGBC-member institution signals a strong commitment to sustainability a quality increasingly sought after by top employers. Graduates with exposure to USGBC standards and LEED principles are well-positioned to thrive in the green economy.

Join the Movement

Ajman University invites all students, faculty, and staff to be part of this exciting journey. Whether you are interested in pursuing a LEED certification, participating in sustainability projects, or simply learning more about green building practices, we encourage you to get involved.

For more information on how to benefit from this membership and to stay updated on upcoming training sessions and initiatives, please contact the Office of Sustainability:
sustainability@ajman.ac.ae

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



International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



Ajman University's Engagement with the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025

Ajman University demonstrated its growing global leadership in sustainability through its active participation in the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, held in Abu Dhabi from October 9–15, 2025. As one of the world's most prominent gatherings for nature conservation, the Congress brought together over 10,000 global experts, leaders, and decision-makers from governments, civil society, the private sector, and academic institutions to address pressing environmental challenges and shape global sustainability priorities.

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

Ajman University Delegation: Faculty, Staff & Student Participation

A distinguished delegation from Ajman University actively participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, representing the University across multiple sessions, panels, and networking events. The delegation included faculty members, staff, and students who showcased the University's commitment to sustainability research, education, and community engagement on the global stage. The delegation actively engaged in high-level discussions, contributed to sessions on biodiversity, climate adaptation, and digital conservation, and participated in networking opportunities with global experts and policymakers. Their presence underscored Ajman University's dedication to nurturing a new generation of sustainability leaders equipped to address the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

Key Contributions & Highlights

1. Session Moderation & Development

Ms. Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, developed and moderated a session titled "Digital Conservation: How Emirati Voices Are Leading the Sustainability Conversation". The session featured an impressive panel of experts:

- Dr. Rashid Karkain – Environmental and Sustainable Development Expert
- Eng. Fatma Alhantoubi – Director of Environmental Research and Legislation at Fujairah Environment Authority and an Ajman University alumna
- Khaled Alblooshi – A student from Ajman University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

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

2. Speaker Session on Biodiversity & Climate Adaptation

Ms. Haddad also contributed as a speaker in a session titled "Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation: The Imperatives of Social Inclusion in Fostering Resilience" with GGGI. 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.

3. Shaping the Global Environmental Agenda

The Congress addressed five central themes that together contribute to shaping the global environmental agenda for the coming years:

- Scaling up sustainable and resilient environmental action
- Mitigating the risks of climate change
- Advancing environmental justice and equity
- Transitioning toward nature-positive economies and societies
- Fostering innovation and leadership in nature conservation

A Commitment to Global Sustainability Leadership

Through its participation in the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, Ajman University continues to expand the impact of its Office of Sustainability, strengthening partnerships with local and international stakeholders while supporting initiatives that advance environmental awareness, research, and community engagement. This engagement reinforces Ajman University's commitment to contributing to international efforts that protect natural ecosystems and promote a sustainable future for both people and the planet.


DIGITAL CONSERVATION




جناح الإمارات
UAE PAVILION


جناح الإمارات
UAE PAVILION





CANIE Accord

Ajman University has proudly joined the Climate Action Network for International Educators (CANIE) as a Signatory to the CANIE Accord, becoming the first university in the United Arab Emirates to take this bold step toward advancing climate action in the international education sector.

The CANIE Accord, established in alignment with the Paris Agreement's objective to limit global warming to 1.5°C, represents the international education community's collective commitment to reducing emissions, fostering climate literacy, and embedding sustainability into all levels of educational practice.

By signing the Accord, Ajman University reaffirms its dedication to sustainable transformation, climate-conscious operations, and education that empowers future generations to lead with responsibility and purpose. The University's participation underscores its strategic alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action, while advancing the UAE's national agenda for net-zero emissions and environmental stewardship.

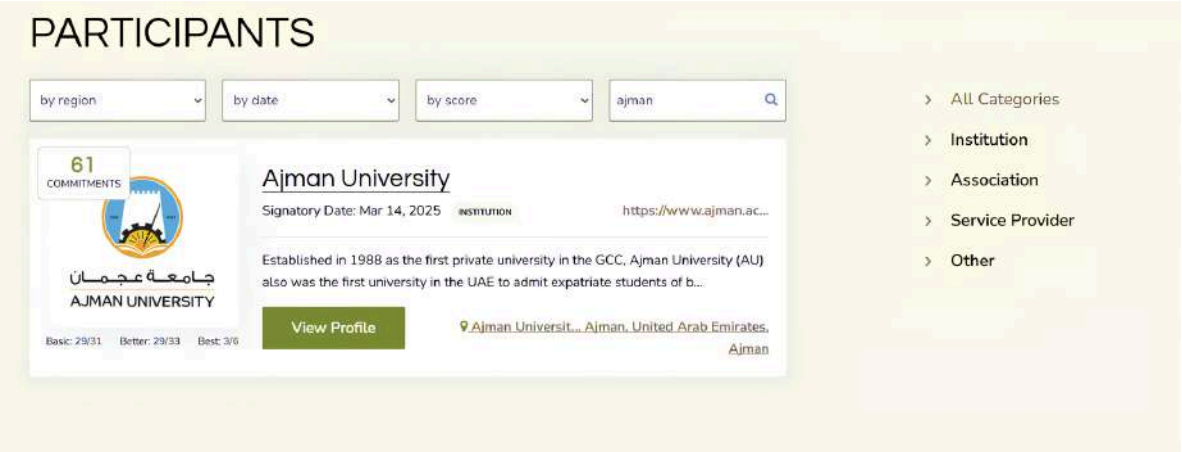
This achievement marks a significant milestone in Ajman University's sustainability journey, highlighting its continued efforts to integrate environmental awareness across teaching, research, and community engagement. Becoming a CANIE Accord Signatory strengthens Ajman University's global collaboration and reinforces its responsibility to prepare students as climate-conscious leaders shaping a sustainable future.

According to the official CANIE signatory listing, Ajman University has committed to 61 actions across five thematic areas, demonstrating comprehensive engagement with the Accord's framework. The University achieved full completion under Leadership and Influencing and Climate Education, while advancing measurable progress in Emissions Accounting, Travel, and Sustainable Operations.

Through this membership, Ajman University joins an international network of institutions and professionals working collaboratively to design policies, share resources, and drive measurable progress in reducing emissions, promoting climate education, and advancing equity within global learning communities.

This milestone further amplifies Ajman University's ongoing sustainability initiatives, which include participation in major international platforms, the integration of environmental awareness across curricula, and campus-wide efforts to promote green practices through the Office of Sustainability.

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



Strategic Partnership with Emirates Green Building Council Advances Ajman University's Sustainability Leadership and Institutional Impact



Ajman University (AU) has further solidified its commitment to global sustainability leadership through a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC). This strategic alliance, endorsed by Chancellor Prof. Dr. Karim Seghir and EmiratesGBC Chairman Mr. Khaled Bushnaq, establishes a comprehensive framework to integrate sustainability across the University’s core functions: curriculum enhancement, research innovation, and community engagement.

This partnership directly supports AU's strategic pillar of fostering sustainable development and amplifying its societal impact. A key objective is the enrichment of academic offerings within the College of Architecture, Art, and Design (CAAD), providing students with direct pathways to applied research, professional certification guidance, and policy development in green building practices.

The collaboration has yielded significant, high-impact activities that demonstrate AU's active role in shaping regional sustainability discourse:

1. Recognition of Academic Expertise at Regional Forum

The University’s academic expertise was prominently featured at the MENA Green Building Awards 2024, where an AU representative served on the official judging panel. This role underscores the institution's influence in evaluating and advancing best practices in sustainable design and construction across the Middle East and North Africa, aligning its academic standards with regional industry excellence.



2. Pioneering Research in Sustainable Built Environments

AU is a key implementing partner in the "Healthy UAE Universities Campaign," an initiative led by EmiratesGBC and Saint-Gobain. The University recently hosted a critical "Measurement Week" project, facilitating advanced research into Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) and Energy Monitoring on campus. This partnership with international industry leaders exemplifies AU’s capacity to conduct translational research that directly contributes to healthier, more energy-efficient educational infrastructures.

The University extends its gratitude to Dr. Riad, Dean of CAAD, for his academic leadership, and to its research partners from Saint-Gobain and EmiratesGBC for their collaborative engagement.

Through this multi-faceted partnership with EmiratesGBC, Ajman University demonstrates a sustained institutional commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). This initiative is a testament to AU's dedication to producing graduates who are equipped to drive the green economy and to conducting research that delivers tangible, sustainable impact.

Strategic Partnership with Emirates Green Building Council Advances Ajman University's Sustainability Leadership and Institutional Impact

Ajman University Students Earn Certificates in Sustainability & Green Entrepreneurship Through INJAZ Partnership

A group of Ajman University students has successfully completed the "Sustainability & Green Entrepreneurship" course, a free, self-paced online program offered by INJAZ UAE in collaboration with Dow. The achievement marks another milestone in Ajman University's ongoing efforts to advance sustainability education and empower students as future climate leaders.

Building Skills for the Green Economy

The course, which was promoted by Ajman University's Office of Sustainability, provided students with a dynamic learning journey into the core principles of sustainability. Participants gained insights into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), explored the "Five P's" of Sustainable Development People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership, and understood the history of international sustainability efforts.

Students also delved into critical topics such as the Circular Economy and Sustainable Innovation, equipping them with in-demand knowledge and skills that are increasingly attractive to employers in today's rapidly evolving green economy.

A Flexible Learning Opportunity

The program's self-paced format allowed students to balance their academic commitments while gaining valuable expertise. Upon completion, participants received an official Certificate of Completion from INJAZ UAE, recognizing their achievement and enhancing their professional credentials.

The Office of Sustainability encouraged students to submit their certificates for official recognition, further demonstrating Ajman University's commitment to tracking and celebrating student sustainability achievements.

Aligning with Ajman University's Sustainability Mission

The INJAZ course participation reflects Ajman University's broader institutional commitment to embedding sustainability across every facet of university life. The university has consistently ranked among the world's top universities for climate action and partnerships, achieving #1 in the UAE for SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026.

Through initiatives such as the QS Reimagine Education Award-winning "Greening Communities: Mangrove Planting Project" and its active co-leadership of the UAE Universities Climate Network (UCN), Ajman University continues to demonstrate that higher education institutions can be powerful catalysts for sustainable development.

Preparing Students for a Sustainable Future

The collaboration with INJAZ UAE and Dow reflects a shared vision of preparing the next generation of leaders to address the defining challenge of our time. By equipping students with sustainability competencies, systems thinking, futures thinking, values thinking, strategic thinking, and action-oriented problem solving the program helps learners develop the capacity to drive positive change in their careers and communities.

The Office of Sustainability congratulates all participating students on their achievement and encourages more students to take advantage of similar opportunities to build their knowledge and contribute to a sustainable future.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-students-earn-certificates-in-sustainability-green-entrepreneurship-through-injaz-partnership









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

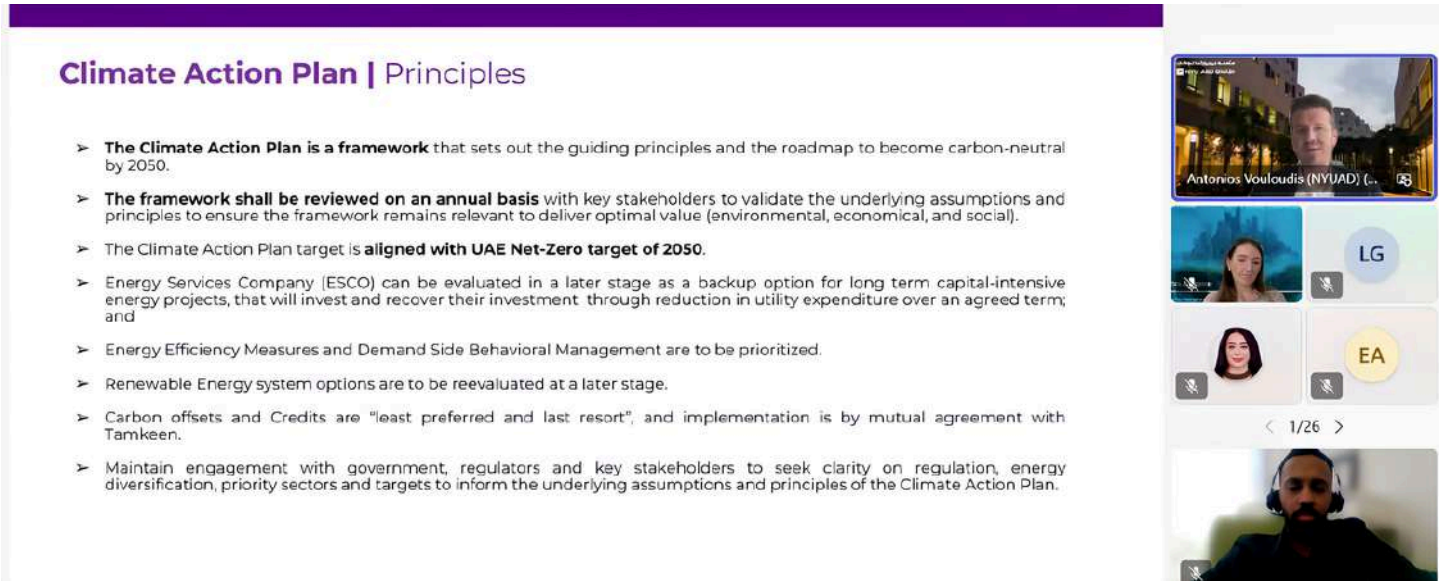


The UAE Universities Climate Network (UCN) Decarbonization Academy continued its first cycle with an essential session, "Drafting a Climate Action Plan for Higher Education Institutions," The workshop equipped participants with the strategic framework, guiding principles, and practical roadmap needed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

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

Why a Climate Action Plan Matters

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



Prioritizing Action: A Clear Hierarchy

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

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

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

Key Assumptions Underpinning the Framework

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

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

Behavioral Demand-Side Management: Action on the Ground

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

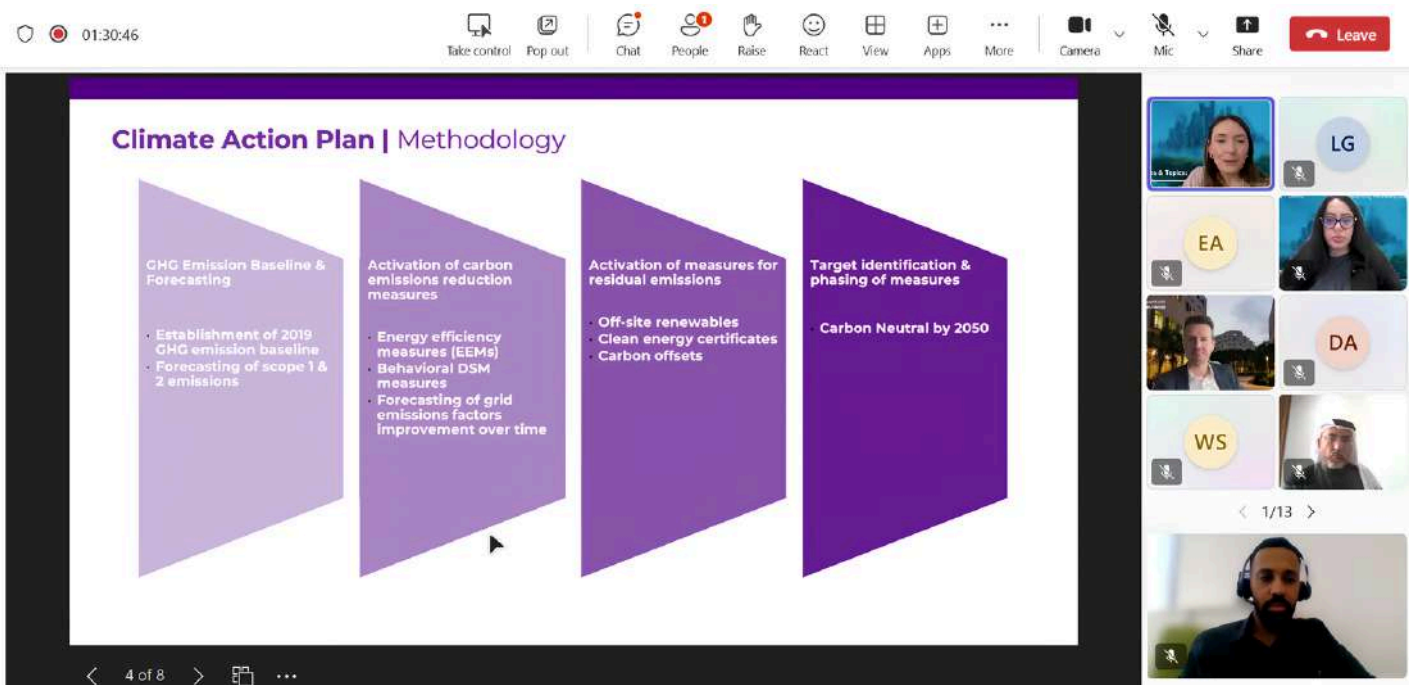
Examples included:

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

Real-World Relevance: Beyond the Campus

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

The workshop reinforced that robust Climate Action Plans help institutions prepare for emerging mechanisms such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and align with corporate climate accountability and environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria. By integrating nature-based solutions $(NbS)_9$ such as afforestation/reforestation, blue carbon (mangroves, seagrasses, salt marshes), and ecosystem restoration, as complementary long-term strategies, universities can build climate resilience, reduce climate vulnerability, and contribute to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and early warning systems at the institutional level.



Building a Just and Resilient Future

The session concluded with a powerful reminder that decarbonization must be pursued as a just transition ensuring that climate action benefits all communities equitably and addresses loss and damage where it occurs. By embedding climate justice principles into their Climate Action Plans, higher education institutions can model climate-resilient development and inspire broader societal change. Discussions also touched on the importance of methane reduction (from agriculture, waste, and oil/gas), black carbon mitigation, and the role of carbon sinks (forests, oceans, soil) in achieving negative emissions over the long term.

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

Looking Ahead

The UCN Decarbonization Academy continues to empower sustainability professionals across the UAE with the tools, frameworks, and collaborative spirit needed to turn ambition into measurable impact. Future sessions will build on this strategic foundation to explore targeted reduction pathways, data collection methodologies, and implementation strategies all while keeping climate feedback loops, climate activism / grassroots movements, and corporate climate accountability firmly in view.

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

Ajman University's Green Entrepreneurship Program Cultivates Sustainable Ventures

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

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

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

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

Winners

First Place: LoopBite

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

Second Place: Planet Pioneers

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

- Third Place: Green Visionaries

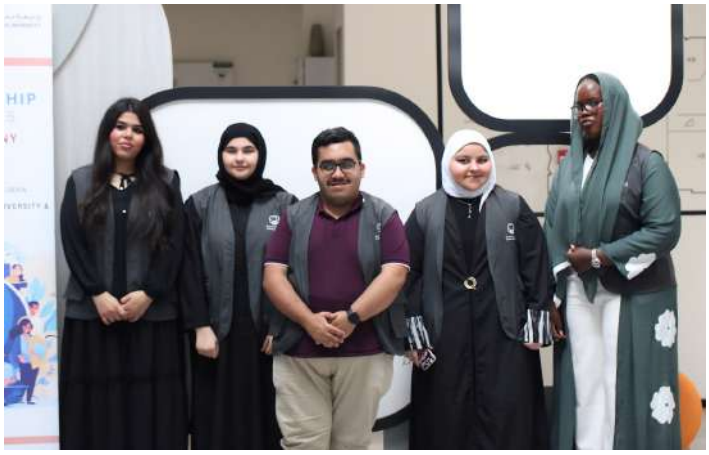
The Green Visionaries team aims to establish Ajman's first waste management and logistics company employing state-of-the-art sustainability and zero-waste solutions, including an AI-powered centralized waste recycling facility, a mobile application, and a fleet of e-mobility trucks. Team members include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

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

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








Ceremony





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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The award recognised research young visionaries that go beyond traditional economic metrics to highlight innovations contributing to sustainable development in the UAE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Day of Innovation and Climate Action

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

What Made a Project Special

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

Judging Criteria: Fostering Innovation, Impact, and Collaboration

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

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

Empowering Young Changemakers Through Climate Literacy

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

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

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

Addressing Climate Tipping Points and Feedback Loops

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

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

A Just Transition Through Girls in ICT

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

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

Building Climate Resilient Development

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

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

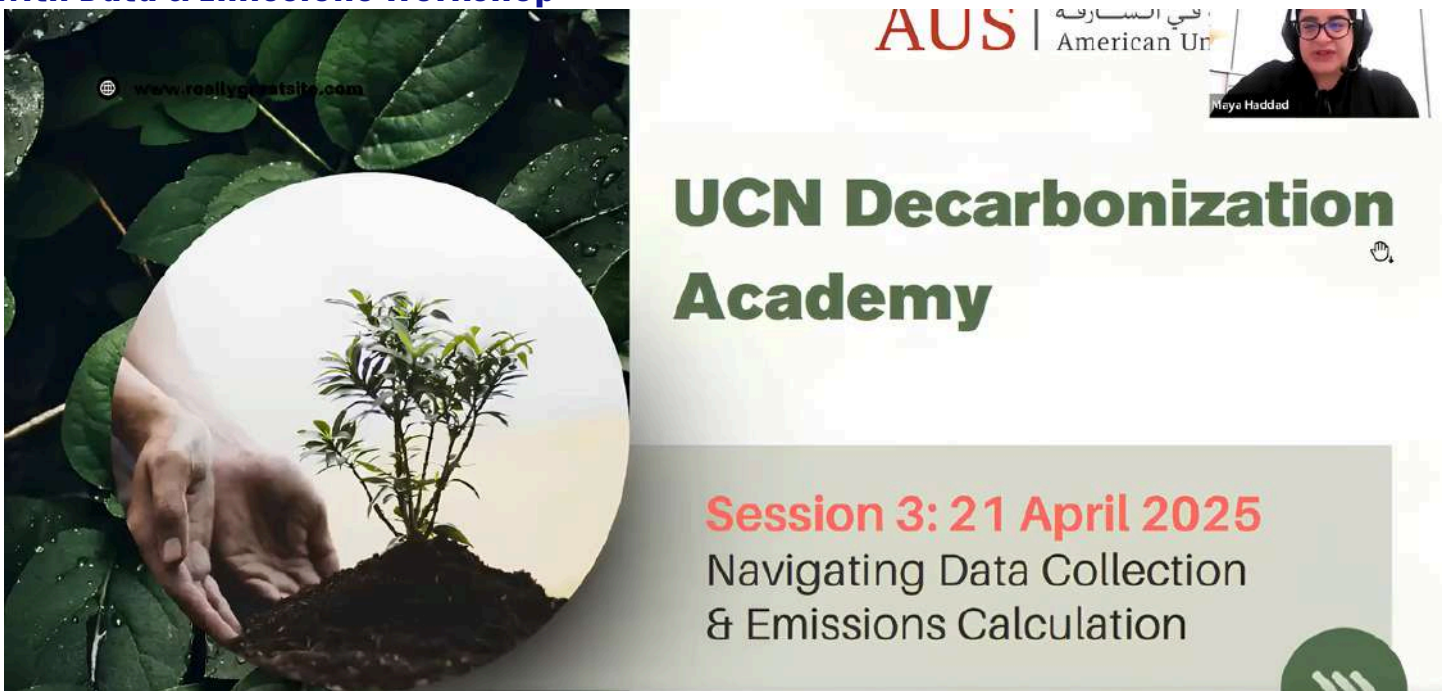








UCN Decarbonization Academy Navigates the Path to Measurable Climate Action with Data & Emissions Workshop



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

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

Why Measurement Matters

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

Understanding the Three Scopes

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

- Scope 1 (Direct Emissions): Stationary combustion (boilers, generators), mobile combustion (institution-owned vehicles), process emissions (agriculture), and fugitive emissions (refrigerant leaks from HVAC equipment). Discussions highlighted the importance of methane reduction and addressing black carbon where applicable.

- Scope 2 (Indirect Emissions): Emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heat, or cooling. Participants noted that shifting to renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal) and electrification of heating and transport are key levers for reducing Scope 2.
- Scope 3 (Other Indirect Emissions): A comprehensive category including purchased goods and services, capital goods, water consumption, employee commute, sustainable mobility / low-carbon transport, air travel, freight, waste disposal, downstream leased assets, franchises, investments, and fuel- and energy-related activities. This scope directly connects to circular economy principles and zero waste goals.

Who Collects What? A Practical Roadmap

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

- Facilities Departments manage stationary combustion and refrigerants.
- Supply Chain & Finance oversee purchased goods, capital goods, and water consumption, aligning with corporate climate accountability and ESG criteria.
- Transportation & Security provide data on employee commute and fleet emissions, informing low-carbon transport policies.
- Third-party travel agencies and contractors contribute data on air travel and freight.

Real-World Results & Key Challenges

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

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

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

Building a Data-Driven Decarbonization Strategy

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

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

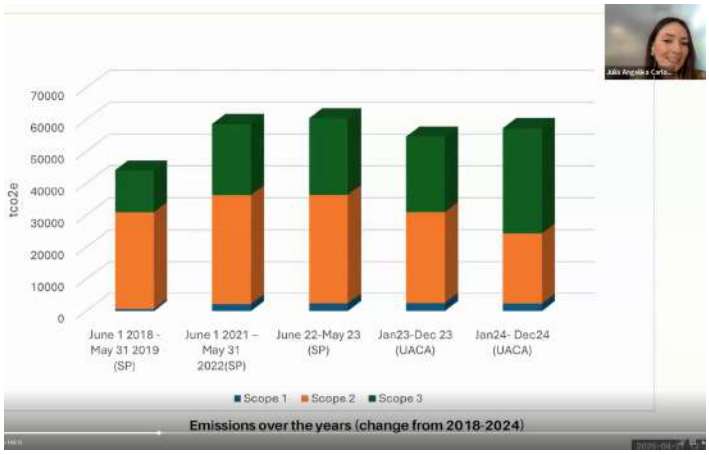
The UCN Decarbonization Academy continues to empower sustainability professionals across the UAE with the tools, frameworks, and collaborative spirit needed to turn ambition into measurable impact. Future sessions will build on these foundational data skills to explore targeted reduction strategies and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

About the UCN Decarbonization Academy

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

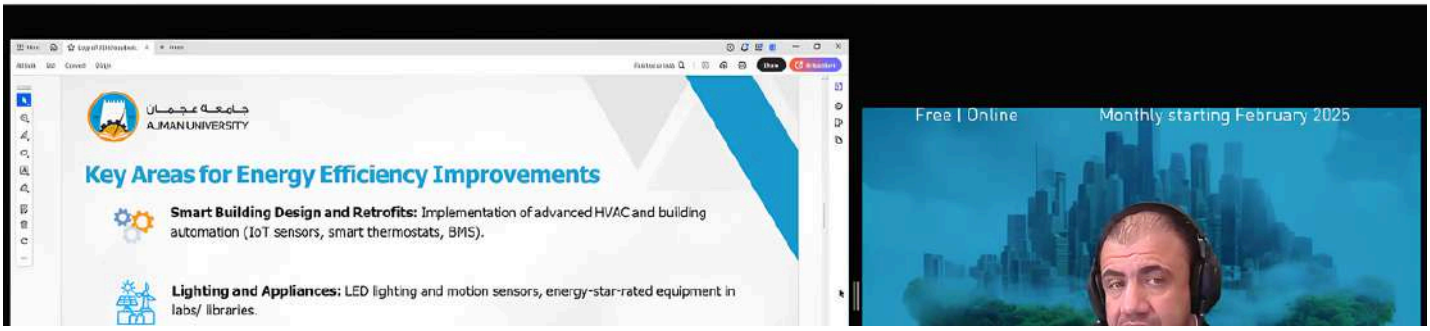
https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ucn-decarbonization-academy-navigates-the-path-to-measurable-climate-action-with-data-emissions-workshop





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





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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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






UAEU
جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
United Arab Emirates University
AUS
NYU ABU DHABI
UAQU



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

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

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

Extending the Invitation to National Charity School

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

A Comprehensive Agenda Across Sustainability Pillars

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

- Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Students learned how organizations are integrating climate mainstreaming into their core strategies, moving beyond philanthropy to embed sustainability into operations, supply chains, and governance structures.
- Circular Economy and Zero Waste: Sessions explored how circular economy principles can reduce the carbon footprint of industries, minimize waste, and create economic value from materials that would otherwise be discarded.
- Energy and Decarbonization: Discussions covered the transition to renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, tidal), the role of energy efficiency in reducing emissions, and emerging technologies such as green hydrogen and electrification of transport, heating, and industry.
- Water and Climate Resilience: Students gained insights into water conservation strategies, climate resilience infrastructure, and the importance of protecting blue carbon ecosystems (mangroves, seagrasses, salt marshes) as natural carbon sinks.
- Food Systems Transformation: Sessions addressed sustainable agriculture, agroecology, and the urgent need for food systems transformation to reduce methane emissions from livestock and waste, while building resilience against climate vulnerability.

- Construction and Sustainable Materials: The forum highlighted innovations in low-carbon construction materials, green building design, and the integration of nature-based solutions (NbS) into urban planning.
- Sustainable Finance: Students learned about climate finance mechanisms, including green bonds, carbon pricing, emissions trading schemes (ETS), and the emerging Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) as tools to drive private sector investment in decarbonization.

Insights into Global Sustainability Practices

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

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

Addressing Climate Risk and the Climate Emergency

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

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

A Unique Opportunity for Engagement and Professional Growth

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

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

Commitment to Community Engagement and Climate Justice

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

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

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









Ajman University Students Attend World Green Economy Summit 2025



A Focus on Sustainable Climate Finance and Public-Private Partnerships

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

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

Regional Climate Initiatives and Climate Diplomacy

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

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

Addressing the Climate Emergency Through Science-Based Targets

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

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

Climate Adaptation, Resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction

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

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

Circular Economy, Food Systems, and Sustainable Agriculture

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

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

Valuable Exposure to Global Sustainability Practices

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

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

Looking Ahead: From Knowledge to Action

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

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









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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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









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



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

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

Exclusive Tour of Dubai Customs Booth

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

Students learned about:

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

Linking Digital Transformation to Climate Action and Climate Diplomacy

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

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

Climate Finance, ESG, and Corporate Accountability

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

Inspiring Future Research and Academic Initiatives

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

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

Building Climate Resilience Through Trade Innovation

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

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

Addressing Climate Risk and the Climate Emergency

The visit took place against the backdrop of a global climate emergency, characterized by accelerating climate feedback loops and the approach of irreversible climate tipping points. Students learned that sustainable trade systems are an essential component of climate resilient development, helping economies adapt to climate risks while maintaining essential flows of goods and services. By reducing methane and black carbon emissions associated with inefficient logistics and waste, digital trade solutions contribute to near-term climate mitigation alongside long-term decarbonization efforts.

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

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

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













Ajman University Becomes the First UAE Signatory of the CANIE Accord, Strengthening Global Climate Leadership in Higher Education

Ajman University Becomes the First UAE Signatory of the CANIE Accord, Strengthening Global Climate Leadership in Higher Education

Ajman University has proudly joined the Climate Action Network for International Educators (CANIE) as a Signatory to the CANIE Accord, becoming the first university in the United Arab Emirates to take this bold step toward advancing climate action in the international education sector.The CANIE Accord, established in alignment with the Paris Agreement's objective to limit global warming to 1.5°C, represents the international education community's collective commitment to reducing emissions, fostering climate literacy, and embedding sustainability into all levels of educational practice.

By signing the Accord, Ajman University reaffirms its dedication to sustainable transformation, climate-conscious operations, and education that empowers future generations to lead with responsibility and purpose. The University's participation underscores its strategic alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action, while advancing the UAE's national agenda for net-zero emissions and environmental stewardship.

This achievement marks a significant milestone in Ajman University's sustainability journey, highlighting its continued efforts to integrate environmental awareness across teaching, research, and community engagement. Becoming a CANIE Accord Signatory strengthens Ajman University's global collaboration and reinforces its responsibility to prepare students as climate-conscious leaders shaping a sustainable future.

According to the official CANIE signatory listing, Ajman University has committed to 61 actions across five thematic areas, demonstrating comprehensive engagement with the Accord's framework. The University achieved full completion under Leadership and Influencing and Climate Education, while advancing measurable progress in Emissions Accounting, Travel, and Sustainable Operations.

Through this membership, Ajman University joins an international network of institutions and professionals working collaboratively to design policies, share resources, and drive measurable progress in reducing emissions, promoting climate education, and advancing equity within global learning communities.

This milestone further amplifies Ajman University's ongoing sustainability initiatives, which include participation in major international platforms, the integration of environmental awareness across curricula, and campus-wide efforts to promote green practices through the Office of Sustainability.

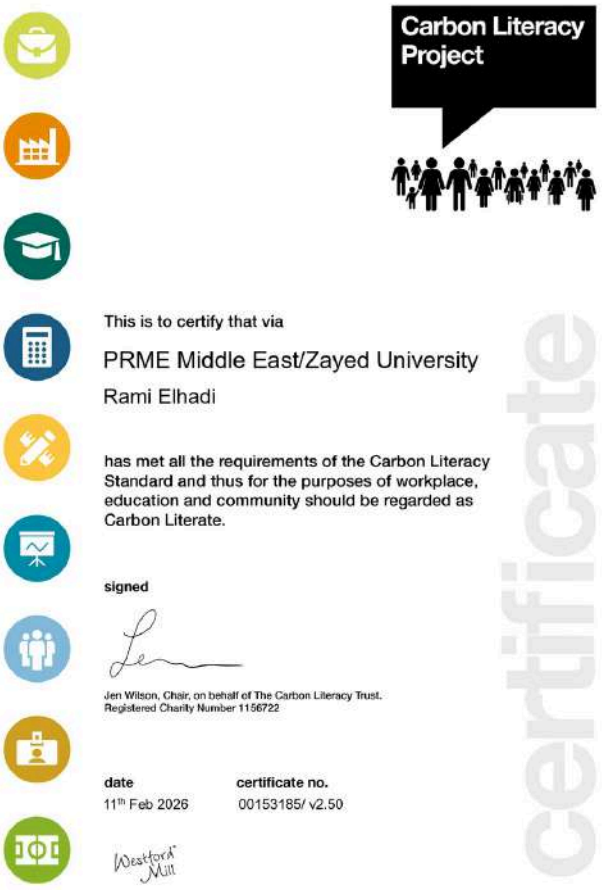
https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-becomes-the-first-uae-signatory-of-the-canie-accord-strengthening-global-climate-leadership-in-higher-education

Ajman University's Office of Sustainability Strengthens Climate Expertise Through UCN/PRME Carbon Literacy Course

Ajman University strengthened its climate and sustainability capacity through the participation of its Office of Sustainability in the UCN/PRME Carbon Literacy Course, completed by Rami Elhadi as part of the University's continued engagement with the UAE Universities Climate Network (UCN).

The three-day course was organized under the UCN Communal Activation Pillar in collaboration with Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), with course delivery supported by Zayed University faculty. The programme focused on strengthening participants' understanding of climate change and carbon emissions and introducing practical approaches to climate action and carbon reduction.

The course explored the science and impacts of climate change, together with practical approaches to reducing carbon emissions and supporting the transition towards a low-carbon future. Participants were also required to develop a final personal or professional pledge as part of the course requirements.


Carbon Literacy Project

This is to certify that via

PRME Middle East/Zayed University

Rami Elhadi

has met all the requirements of the Carbon Literacy Standard and thus for the purposes of workplace, education and community should be regarded as Carbon Literate.

signed

Jen Wilson, Chair, on behalf of The Carbon Literacy Trust.
Registered Charity Number 1156722

date
11th Feb 2026

certificate no.
00153185/ v2.50

certificate

Representing Ajman University's Office of Sustainability, Rami Elhadi completed the 16.5-hour course and was awarded a Certificate of Participation dated 19 May 2026, having attended at least seven of the eleven sessions and successfully passed the final examination.

The training complements Ajman University's broader engagement with the UAE Universities Climate Network and its UCN Decarbonization Academy, through which the University contributes to strengthening climate knowledge, institutional capacity, and practical approaches to decarbonisation across higher education.

This achievement reflects Ajman University's continued commitment to professional development and sustainability capacity building, while strengthening the expertise needed to support climate action and informed sustainability practices across the University community.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-universitys-office-of-sustainability-strengthens-climate-expertise-through-ucnprme-carbon-literacy-course

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



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

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

Sustainable Furniture and the Circular Economy

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

- "ReForma": This featured project explored a sustainable stool design inspired by architectural structures. Created entirely using reclaimed materials, ReForma exemplifies how structural aesthetics and ecological responsibility can converge in everyday objects. The project supports climate adaptation plans by demonstrating low-impact design solutions that can be deployed across vulnerable communities.

- "Reclaimed Reflections": Another standout project demonstrated the innovative use of reused plastic pipes, recycled cardboard, mirrors, and eco-friendly cement to create durable and stylish sustainable furniture solutions. This project highlights the potential of multi-material upcycling in reducing construction and design waste while contributing to ecosystem restoration through reduced landfill pressure and resource extraction.

Healthcare Innovation: Sleep Apnea Detection Device

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

Advancing Climate Literacy and Behavioural Change

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

A Platform for Global Green Transition and Climate Finance

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

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

Building Climate Resilience and a Just Transition

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

Commitment to Innovation and Experiential Learning

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

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

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





Ajman University Joins Prestigious UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Bolstering Its Commitment to Global Goals

In a significant move that underscores its deep commitment to addressing the world's most pressing challenges, Ajman University (AU) has announced its official membership with the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a global initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General to mobilize expertise for sustainable development.

This strategic membership aligns AU with a prestigious network of universities, research centers, and knowledge institutions worldwide, all dedicated to implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

As a member of the SDSN, Ajman University will actively contribute to and benefit from a collaborative platform focused on practical problem-solving for sustainable development. This includes:

- Promoting Integrated Education: Developing and sharing educational programs and curricula that equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to achieve the SDGs.
- Driving Applied Research: Conducting and leveraging interdisciplinary research to identify and scale innovative solutions for environmental, social, and economic challenges.
- Strengthening Public Engagement: Collaborating with government, business, and civil society to facilitate the adoption of sustainable pathways and policies, both locally and regionally.

"We are immensely proud to join the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network," said Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University. "This membership is a testament to our institutional commitment to being a catalyst for positive change. It provides an unparalleled opportunity for our faculty and students to engage in global dialogues, contribute meaningful research, and help translate the Sustainable Development Goals into tangible action within our community and beyond."

The SDSN, launched in 2012, works under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General to accelerate learning and promote integrated approaches that address the interconnected economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Its global network is structured around both national and regional chapters.

AU's membership will enable it to connect with leading experts, participate in specialized working groups, and access cutting-edge resources to further integrate the SDGs into its academic and operational fabric. This initiative directly supports the university's strategic pillars of academic excellence, research innovation, and social responsibility.

About the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN):

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement. The SDSN works closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions, the private sector, and civil society. For more information, visit www.unsdsn.org.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/ajman-university-joins-sustainable-development-solutions-network

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Interlinked Times: Climate Change and Biodiversity and How to Address Them
- Rethinking Sustainability: How Does AI Impact Environmental Solutions?
- Urbanization vs. Wellbeing: The Role of Sustainable Cities in Public Health
- Two Crises, One Solution: Fighting Climate Change to Save Biodiversity

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

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

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






Environmental Impact


SOCIAL PRESSURE
Society Impact
I Don't Want to DIE for FASH
WORKER HE AND SAFE
LD LABOR AN XPLOITATION


hand for food and resources. Traditional agriculture
r and land ecosystems. In the UAE and similar arid
tainability requires smart innovation.
AI make agriculture thrive where nature struggles?"


wable energy optimization
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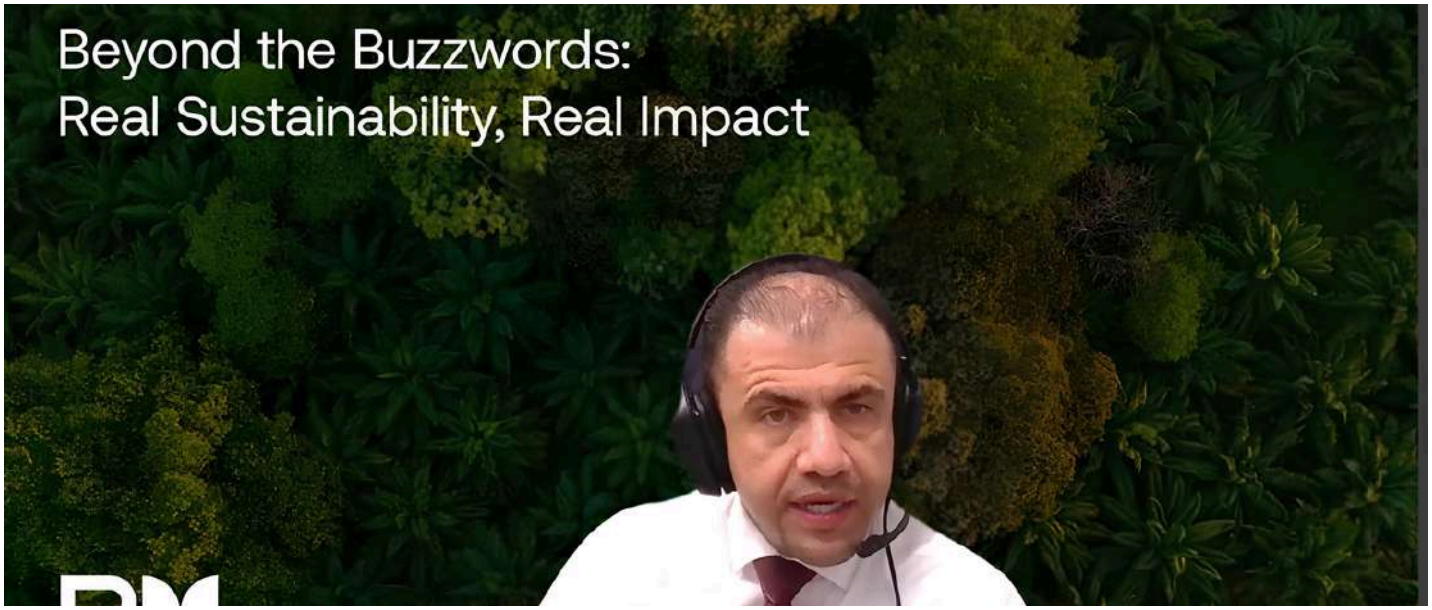
7, 9, 12, 13, 15,


MINIMAX



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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









Times Higher Education Ranks Ajman University #1 in the UAE for Climate Action



The university also ranks #1 in the UAE for two United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Partnerships for the Goals and Climate Action

Ajman University has achieved a major global milestone in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026, ranking among the world's top 300 institutions overall, with a placement in the 201–300 global band out of 1,603 institutions worldwide.

The University also delivered strong global performance across key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ranking 6th worldwide for SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, out of 1,610 institutions globally, and 99th worldwide for SDG 13: Climate Action, out of 826 institutions globally. Ajman University was also placed in the 101–200 global band for both SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being and SDG 4: Quality Education.

At the national level, Ajman University ranked #1 in the UAE for both SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals and SDG 13: Climate Action, reinforcing its position as one of the country's leading institutions in sustainability impact, climate action, and cross-sector collaboration.

The results represent significant recognition of Ajman University's institutional approach to sustainability, particularly its ability to translate strategy into measurable impact through education, research, institutional operations, student engagement, community-focused initiatives, and partnerships with public, private, academic, and civil society stakeholders.

Commenting on the achievement, Dr. Karim Seghir, Chancellor of Ajman University, said:

"Ajman University's strong performance in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings reflects a university-wide commitment to meaningful impact. Ranking 6th globally and #1 in the UAE for Partnerships for the Goals is especially significant because sustainable development cannot be advanced in isolation. It requires trusted collaboration between universities, government entities, industry, civil society, and international networks. At AU, sustainability is embedded in how we teach, how we conduct research, how we serve our community, and how we build partnerships that contribute to the UAE and the wider world."

The Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings assess universities worldwide based on their contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, evaluating performance across areas such as research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching. The ratings provide a comprehensive measure of how institutions are advancing sustainable development through real-world impact and integrating sustainability into their core missions and operations.

Ajman University's top global performance in SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals reflects the strength of its partnership ecosystem, which brings together government entities, NGOs, academic networks, healthcare providers, industry partners, and international sustainability platforms. These collaborations translate into tangible impact through scholarship programs that expand access to education, community health outreach, environmental awareness campaigns, student training, and joint research and innovation projects that address real-world challenges.

For SDG 13: Climate Action, AU's ranking among the world's top 100 institutions and #1 in the UAE is linked to initiatives such as the MENA Climate Solutions Research Network, which brings together regional stakeholders to support climate-focused research and practical solutions. The University has also expanded its climate-related efforts through decarbonization training, sustainability-focused learning, campus environmental initiatives, and student-led projects that encourage climate awareness and innovation.

AU's contributions to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being include a range of community-oriented initiatives, including mobile healthcare services that reach underserved populations, public health awareness campaigns, mental health support programs, preventive health activities, and health-focused community partnerships. These efforts are complemented by hands-on training opportunities that enable students to gain practical experience in healthcare and community service.

In advancing SDG 4: Quality Education, AU continues to deliver inclusive, internationally benchmarked, and career-relevant programs. Sustainability is embedded across academic offerings, while experiential learning, research opportunities, faculty development, and industry engagement help prepare students for the workforce. Ongoing investment in teaching, innovation, and partnerships supports the delivery of education that extends beyond the classroom and contributes to long-term societal impact.

Dr. Seghir added:

"These results reinforce our belief that universities have a responsibility not only to educate, but also to mobilize knowledge, partnerships, and institutional capacity for the benefit of society. As a non-profit university, Ajman University will continue to strengthen its role as a platform for access, inclusion, innovation, and sustainable development."

Building on this achievement, Ajman University will continue to expand its global partnerships, strengthen its sustainability initiatives, and deepen its impact across education, research, and community engagement in support of the UAE's development priorities and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2026/ajman-university-ranked-among-worlds-top-300-in-times-higher-education-sustainability-impact-ratings-2026











THE Sustainability Impact Rankings	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Overall Rank	601–800	601–800	401–600	301-400	**201-300**
SDG3: Good Health and Wellbeing	301–400	401–600	301–400	101-200	**101-200**
SDG4: Quality Education	401–600	301–400	201–300	201-300	**101-200**
SDG13: Climate Action			101–200	101-200	**99**
SDG17: Partnership for the Goals	301–400	101–200	101–200	16	**6**

Ajman University Earns Sustainability Seal for Transformative Impact



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

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

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

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

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

Sustainable Innovation

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

Collaborating Globally

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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













Ajman University Joins Global Network to Transform Campus into a Living Laboratory for Sustainability



Ajman University Joins Global Network to Transform Campus into a Living Laboratory for Sustainability

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.

Ajman University's Commitment to Sustainability

Ajman University's participation in this global community reflects its ongoing dedication to sustainability and innovation. By joining this network, AU will have the opportunity to:

- Integrate research with operations: Use the campus as a testing ground for sustainable solutions, allowing faculty and students to apply their research to real-world challenges within the university environment.
- Collaborate globally: Connect with sustainability leaders from over 45 participating institutions across North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and South America.
- Empower the AU community: Engage students, faculty, and staff in active contributions to sustainability goals, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and innovation.
- Accelerate sustainable campus models: Learn from and share best practices with peer institutions to implement cutting-edge sustainability solutions.
- Enhance institutional impact: Strengthen AU's reputation as a forward-thinking institution committed to addressing global sustainability challenges.

A Global Network of Leading Institutions

The Campus as a Living Lab Community of Practice includes participation from renowned universities worldwide, such as:

- North America: Concordia University, Duke University, Georgetown University, Harvard University, McGill University, Northeastern University, University of British Columbia, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Toronto, Yale University
- Europe: EHL Hospitality Business School, ETH Zurich, Freie Universität Berlin, HEC Paris, Technical University of Munich, University of Basel, University of Genoa, University of Lausanne, University of Leeds, University of Strathclyde, University of Twente, University of Zurich, VU Amsterdam, ZHAW
- Asia and Middle East: HKUST, Hong Kong Baptist University, KAUST, Koç University, National Taiwan University, National University of Singapore, Siam University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Education University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, VinUniversity
- Africa: Stellenbosch University, University of Cape Town
- Australia: University of Melbourne, University of Tasmania
- South America: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Unicamp, Universidad Veracruzana

As a member of this distinguished group, Ajman University joins a collaborative effort to tackle some of the most pressing sustainability challenges facing higher education and society at large.

Looking Ahead

Ajman University's participation in the Campus as a Living Lab Community of Practice marks a significant milestone in its sustainability journey. By leveraging its campus as a living laboratory, AU is poised to develop innovative solutions that benefit not only its students and faculty but also the broader community in the UAE and beyond.

Through this global partnership, Ajman University reaffirms its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and its role as a catalyst for positive change. As the only UAE institution in this community, AU is proud to represent the nation on the international stage, contributing to a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

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

Ajman University Joins Global Biodiversity Community of Practice to Advance Conservation and Restoration

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.

By sharing best practices and collaborating on biodiversity initiatives, members can lead impactful efforts within their institutions and the broader global community.

Leadership in Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Community of Practice is guided by two distinguished leaders from Freie Universität Berlin:

Katrin Schweigel manages international sustainability networks for Freie Universität Berlin, where she plays a key role in advancing the university's efforts toward environmental and social responsibility. With expertise in sustainability governance and institutional change, Katrin develops strategies that integrate sustainability into academic, operational, and community practices.

Rebecca Rongstock serves as the Biodiversity Manager for Freie Universität Berlin, collaborating with stakeholders to develop a biodiversity strategy that enhances native urban flora and fauna on campus. Her work bridges biodiversity and conservation research with the planning and management of the university's green spaces and buildings. As a doctoral student with a background in biodiversity, evolution, and ecology, Rebecca's research focuses on the effects of global change on plant and soil ecosystems.

What Ajman University's Participation Means

Ajman University's inclusion in the Biodiversity Community of Practice offers significant opportunities for the institution and its community:

- Integrate biodiversity into campus operations: Develop and implement strategies to enhance native flora and fauna on campus, creating a model for sustainable urban biodiversity in the UAE.
- Advance research and teaching: Connect AU faculty and students with global expertise in biodiversity conservation, opening doors for collaborative research and educational initiatives.
- Promote responsible purchasing: Align procurement practices with biodiversity goals, ensuring that AU's operations support rather than harm ecosystems.
- Engage the community: Involve students, faculty, staff, and the wider Ajman community in biodiversity initiatives, fostering environmental stewardship and awareness.
- Collaborate globally: Exchange knowledge and best practices with leading institutions worldwide, contributing to and benefiting from a global pool of expertise.
- Enhance institutional impact: Strengthen AU's reputation as a leader in sustainability and biodiversity, aligning with national and international environmental goals.

A Global Coalition for Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Community of Practice includes participation from prestigious universities across the globe, including:

- North America: Georgetown University, Harvard University, McGill University, Princeton University, Simon Fraser University, The University of British Columbia, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Toronto, Yale University
- Europe: Cyprus University of Technology, EHL Hospitality Business School, ETH Zurich, Freie Universität Berlin, HEC Paris, Stellenbosch University, The University of Edinburgh, Trinity College Dublin, University of Cape Town, University of Lausanne, University of Leeds, University of Strathclyde, University of Twente, University of Zurich
- Middle East: KAUST, Koç University
- Asia and Australia: Tecnológico de Monterrey
- South America: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Unicamp

As a member of this distinguished coalition, Ajman University joins a collaborative effort to address the critical global challenge of biodiversity loss, contributing to solutions that benefit both local ecosystems and the planet.

Looking Ahead

Ajman University's participation in the Biodiversity Community of Practice represents a significant step forward in its sustainability journey. By integrating biodiversity into its operations, research, teaching, and community engagement, AU is poised to make meaningful contributions to conservation and restoration efforts in the UAE and beyond.

Through this global partnership, Ajman University reaffirms its commitment to environmental stewardship and its role as a catalyst for positive change. As a participant in this community, AU is proud to stand alongside the world's leading institutions in protecting biodiversity for future generations.

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

Ajman University Joins ISCN Scope 3 Emissions Community of Practice to Advance Campus Carbon Accountability



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

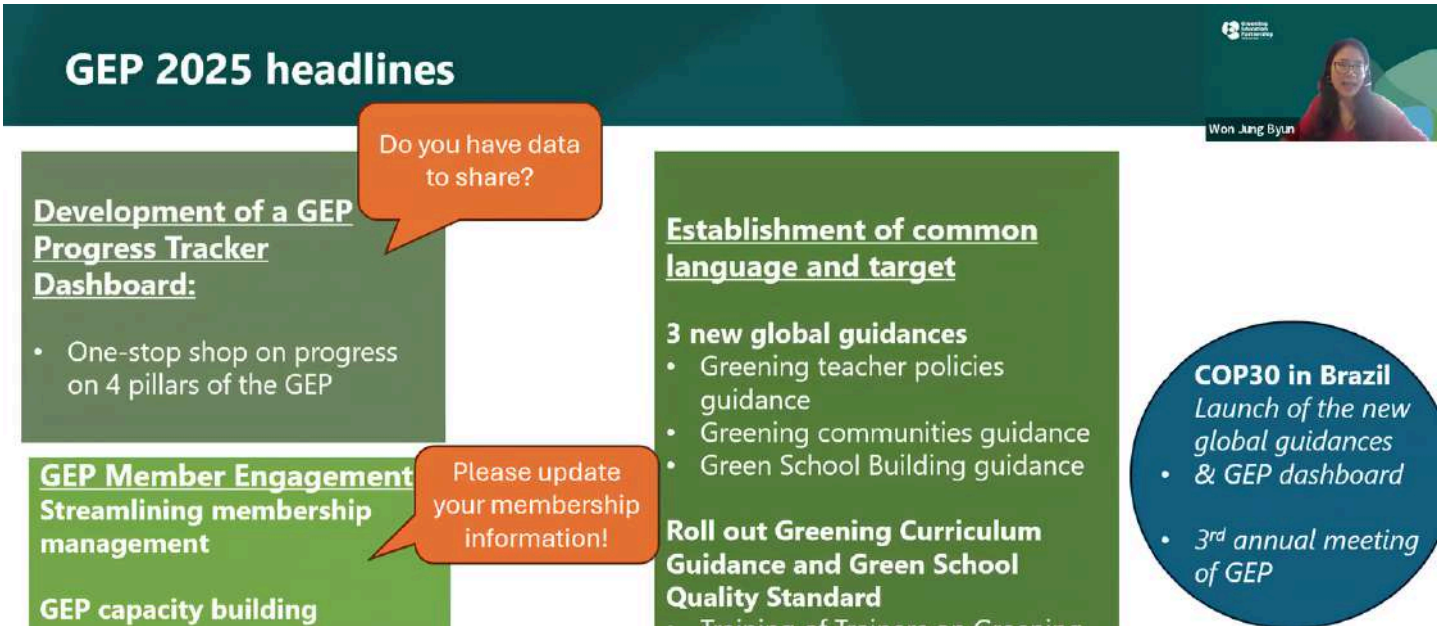
For universities, Scope 3 emissions are both the most significant and the most difficult to manage. They sit outside direct operational control but are tied directly to institutional choices, procurement systems, travel policies, and campus culture.

As Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, has explained: "Our most significant carbon footprint lies within our value chain, these are our Scope 3 emissions. Scope 3 encompasses all indirect greenhouse gas emissions across the life cycle of the products we use."

A Multi-Pronged Strategy to Reduce Scope 3 Emissions

Ajman University is addressing Scope 3 emissions through targeted actions across its value chain:

Sustainable Procurement: The university prioritises suppliers with a verifiable commitment to ecological responsibility and aims to build long-term vendor partnerships that optimise value while minimising environmental impact. It has already achieved a 10.59% decrease in emissions associated with capital goods.



Sustainable Travel and Commuting: Free shuttle buses and golf carts are reducing vehicle use and carbon emissions on and around campus. As the first UAE signatory of the CANIE Accord, Ajman University has committed to 61 actions across five thematic areas, with full completion under Leadership and Influencing and Climate Education, and measurable progress in Emissions Accounting, Travel, and Sustainable Operations.

Waste Reduction: Campus recycling and waste reduction programmes have contributed to a 23% reduction in emissions from operational waste generation during the 2022–2023 academic year.

Greenhouse Gas Protocol Alignment: The university's Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2022–2030 sets out a roadmap and actionable targets aligned with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, including dedicated measures to reduce Scope 3 emissions across the institution's value chain.

Commitment to Carbon Neutrality by 2030

Ajman University's participation in the ISCN Scope 3 Emissions Community of Practice reinforces its commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 and net zero by 2050. The university is one of only two UAE universities pledged to reach net-zero emissions by 2030 under the Global Race to Zero campaign.

Global Collaboration, Local Impact

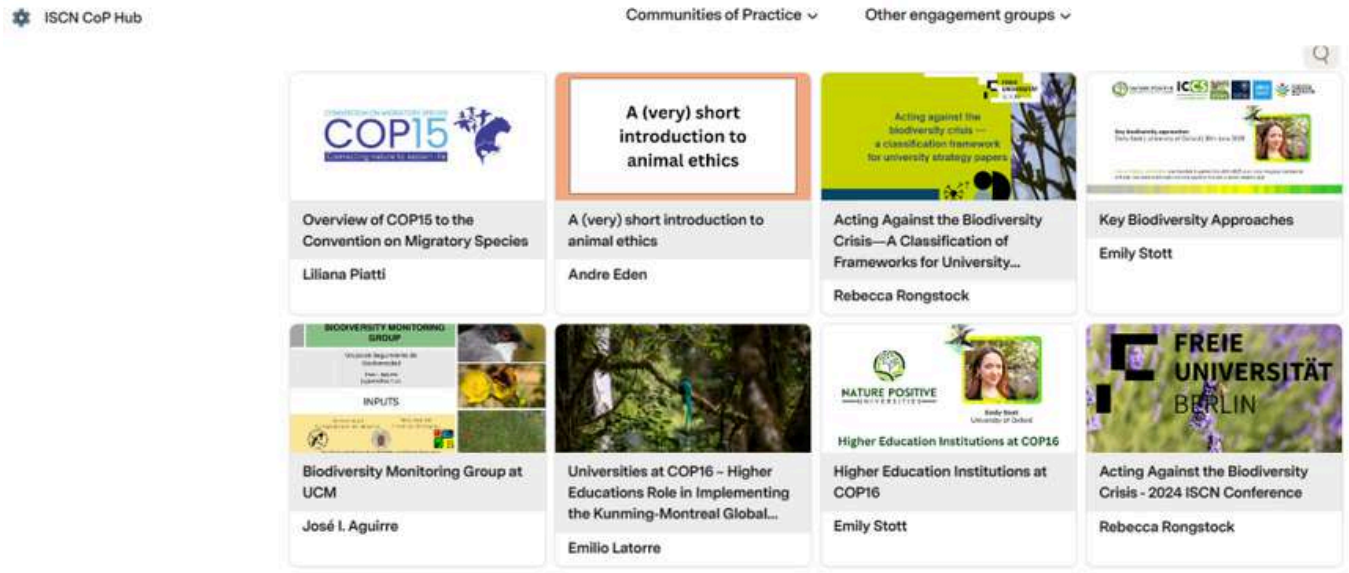
Through the ISCN Scope 3 Emissions Community of Practice, Ajman University gains access to a global network of institutions facing similar challenges in measuring and reducing indirect emissions. The collaboration allows the university to learn from best practices developed at institutions such as the University of Toronto, ETH Zurich, and the National University of Singapore, while sharing its own approaches to sustainable procurement, commuting, and waste management.

As Maya Haddad has noted: "Insights from translating international agreements into local action are directly applicable to our campus and community initiatives."

Ajman University's engagement in this community of practice reflects its commitment to turning global sustainability frameworks into measurable action on campus, in the UAE, and across the higher education sector worldwide.

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

Ajman University Joins Global Sustainability Governance & Leadership Community of Practice



AU advances its sustainability agenda by partnering with MIT, Harvard, Princeton, and other world-leading universities to embed sustainability into institutional governance and leadership.

Ajman University (AU) has taken another significant step in its sustainability journey by joining the Sustainability Governance & Leadership Community of Practice, a prestigious initiative under the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN). This global community connects higher education institutions dedicated to advancing sustainability through effective governance and leadership practices.

AU's membership places it among an elite group of world-renowned universities, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard University, Princeton University, ETH Zurich, EPFL, McGill University, and the University of Toronto. As a participant in this community, Ajman University demonstrates its commitment to embedding sustainability into institutional decision-making, policies, and leadership structures to drive long-term, transformative change.

What is the Sustainability Governance & Leadership Community of Practice?

The Sustainability Governance & Leadership Community of Practice connects higher education institutions dedicated to advancing sustainability through effective governance and leadership practices. This community focuses on:

- Embedding sustainability into institutional decision-making: Ensuring that sustainability considerations are central to how universities govern themselves and plan for the future.
- Developing policies that drive change: Creating and implementing policies that support sustainability across all aspects of university operations.
- Building leadership structures: Establishing governance models that empower leaders at all levels to champion sustainability.
- Fostering leadership buy-in: Engaging senior leadership and decision-makers to prioritize and champion sustainability initiatives.
- Engaging stakeholders: Involving students, faculty, staff, and external partners in sustainability governance and decision-making processes.

Members collaborate to share strategies for fostering leadership buy-in, engaging stakeholders, and creating governance models that support sustainability at all levels. Through knowledge exchange and peer learning, participants empower their institutions to lead the way in building a sustainable future.

Leadership in Sustainability Governance

The Sustainability Governance & Leadership Community of Practice is guided by John Robinson, Co-Chair of the University of Toronto's Committee on the Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability (CECCS). John collaborates with Ron Saporta, the university's Chief Operating Officer and fellow Co-Chair, to drive sustainability initiatives across the institution. Together with CECCS staff, they focus on transforming the university's approach to sustainability in teaching, research, operations, and community engagement, with a particular emphasis on governance and leadership.

This leadership model exemplifies the community's core belief: that meaningful sustainability progress requires commitment and coordination at the highest levels of institutional governance.

What Ajman University's Participation Means

Ajman University's inclusion in the Sustainability Governance & Leadership Community of Practice offers significant opportunities for the institution and its community:

- Strengthen governance frameworks: Develop and refine governance models that embed sustainability into AU's decision-making processes, policies, and strategic planning.
- Secure leadership commitment: Engage AU's senior leadership in championing sustainability, ensuring that environmental and social responsibility are central to the university's mission.
- Engage stakeholders effectively: Create meaningful opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and community partners to participate in sustainability governance.
- Learn from global peers: Exchange strategies and best practices with leading institutions worldwide, benefiting from their experience in embedding sustainability into governance.
- Share AU's expertise: Contribute Ajman University's own insights and experiences to the global conversation on sustainability governance, enhancing its reputation as a regional leader.
- Drive long-term change: Build institutional structures that ensure sustainability remains a priority for years to come, regardless of changes in leadership or circumstances.
- Enhance institutional impact: Position AU as a model for sustainability governance in the UAE and the broader Middle East region.

The Importance of Governance in Sustainability

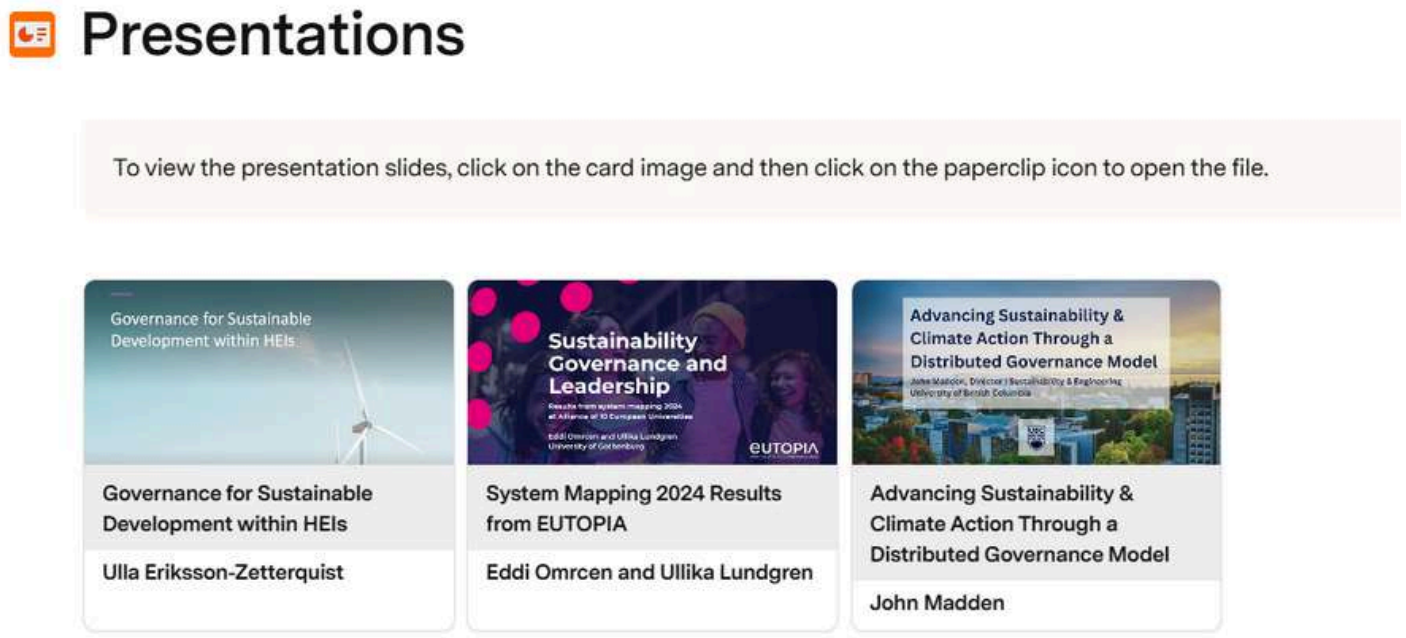
Sustainability governance is increasingly recognized as essential to achieving meaningful and lasting environmental and social progress. Without robust governance structures and committed leadership, sustainability initiatives risk being fragmented, underfunded, or abandoned when leadership changes.

By participating in this Community of Practice, Ajman University is addressing one of the most critical yet often overlooked aspects of sustainability: the institutional frameworks and leadership commitment needed to turn good intentions into lasting impact.

Looking Ahead

Ajman University's participation in the Sustainability Governance & Leadership Community of Practice represents a significant step forward in its sustainability journey. By strengthening governance and leadership around sustainability, AU is building the institutional foundation needed to achieve its environmental and social goals.

Through this global partnership, Ajman University reaffirms its commitment to sustainability leadership and its role as a catalyst for positive change. As a participant in this community, AU is proud to stand alongside the world's leading institutions in shaping a more sustainable future for higher education and society at large.



https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-joins-global-sustainability-governance-leadership-community-of-practice-131026-053903

Ajman University Continues to Co-Lead UAE Universities Climate Network as New Leadership Appointed



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.

The official handover ceremony, organized at New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), was attended by His Excellency Edward Hobart, the UK Ambassador to the UAE; His Excellency Ambassador Majid Al-Suwaidi, Director-General of the COP28 UAE Presidency; Professor Sir John O'Reilly, President of Khalifa University; and other key stakeholders.

Ajman University's Continued Co-Leadership

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 UCN's four pillars for thought leadership and action.

Her Excellency Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28, commented on the appointments: "Universities play an integral role in supporting climate action. They provide the research, education and expertise to respond to the climate challenge, developing the solutions and capacity to reduce emissions and address the adaptation gap. With the appointments of Dr Samuel Mao, Dr Rasha Bayoumi and Ms Maya Haddad in the UAE, I am delighted that UCN are building on their success at COP28 to take forward this agenda across the MENA region."

Building on COP28 Success

The UAE Universities Climate Network was formed to unify the voices of UAE universities and showcase the crucial role of higher education in tackling climate change. Its lasting impact extends beyond COP28, with a strategy built on four pillars:

- Student Youth Engagement Pillar: Empowering youth climate leaders by igniting a global movement of student climate action, engaging young leaders from the UAE and worldwide.

- Research & Innovation Pillar: Fueling innovation and solutions by disseminating climate research and analysis, providing policymakers with actionable recommendations to accelerate climate solutions.
- Communal Activations Pillar: Engaging communities with action by activating university campuses and stakeholders to broaden public engagement on climate change through evidence-based initiatives.
- Campus Carbon Neutrality Pillar: Leading by example through pioneering carbon neutrality, spearheading university decarbonization plans aligned with the UAE's ambitious 2050 Net Zero strategy.

Ajman University's Ongoing Contributions to the UCN

Ajman University's continued co-leadership of the UCN is rooted in its broader institutional commitment to sustainability. As a signatory of the UN Environment Program's Race to Net Zero for Universities, Ajman University submits annual GHG inventory reports and has made consistent progress toward carbon neutrality.

The university's flagship sustainability initiative, the "Greening Communities: Mangrove Planting Project," won the prestigious QS Reimagine Education Award 2024 in the "Sustainability Education Action" category and was recognized as Best University-Led Project at the MAJRA Sustainable Impact Challenge 2025.

In the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026, Ajman University ranked among the world's top 300 universities overall and achieved #1 in the UAE for both SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Taking the UCN to the Next Stage

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

Ajman University Champions Green Schools at World Environment Day GEP Webinar



As the world marks World Environment Day, Ajman University reaffirmed its commitment to advancing climate action in education by participating in the Greening Education Partnership (GEP) Capacity Building Webinar Series, focused on "Innovative Practices for Advancing Green Schools."

The webinar, organized by the GEP Secretariat, brought together global education leaders to spotlight contributions under Pillar 1 of the Greening Education Partnership: Greening Schools. The session underscored education's role as the most effective long-term solution to the climate crisis.

A Global Platform for Green Schools

Launched at the UN Transforming Education Summit in September 2022, the Greening Education Partnership now includes over 1,700 organizations and 97 member states, all working to "get every learner climate-ready" through four pillars of action: greening schools, greening curriculum, greening teacher training and education systems' capacities, and greening communities .

The World Environment Day webinar provided a valuable opportunity for GEP members to showcase good practices and innovative activities that advance green schools globally. The event featured presentations and interactive discussions on how places of learning can transform to align with green practices and contribute to global environmental awareness .

Ajman University's GEP Engagement

Ajman University's participation in the webinar reflects its sustained engagement with the Greening Education Partnership at the highest levels. The university has been an active contributor to GEP working groups since 2023, when the Office of Sustainability participated in the Third Quarterly Working Group Meeting focused on advancing greening education . Discussions at that session centered on GEP's core pillars while preparing for COP28 .

At COP28 in Dubai, Ajman University's Sustainability Manager and a student delegation attended the Greening Education Partnership Annual Meeting, where high-level discussions involved education and environment ministers from various countries . During this session, The Declaration on the Common Agenda for Education and Climate Change was endorsed, calling for unified efforts to integrate climate education into national policies .

Innovative Practices in Green Schools

Ajman University's flagship sustainability initiative, the "Greening Communities: Mangrove Planting Project," exemplifies the kind of innovative practice the GEP webinar seeks to spotlight. The project, which won the prestigious QS Reimagine Education Award 2024 in the "Sustainability Education Action" category, engages students, faculty, school students, and community members in restoring mangrove ecosystems .

The initiative aligns with the UAE's goal of planting 100 million mangrove trees by 2030 and supports multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals, including Quality Education, Climate Action, Life on Land, and Partnerships for the Goals . In May 2025, the university resumed the mangrove planting initiative in collaboration with Al Zorah Golf Club and Quest for Adventure, bringing together students from private schools, students of determination, and members of the Ajman University community .

The project also received national recognition as Best University-Led Project at the MAJRA Sustainable Impact Challenge 2025, standing out from more than 228 entries across the UAE .

Institutional Commitment to Climate Action

Ajman University's engagement with the GEP is part of a broader institutional strategy that has earned global recognition. In the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026, Ajman University ranked among the world's top 300 institutions overall and achieved #1 in the UAE for both SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) .

Speaking on the university's sustainability achievements, Dr. Karim Seghir, Chancellor of Ajman University, stated: "Sustainability is embedded in how we teach, how we conduct research, how we serve our community, and how we build partnerships that contribute to the UAE and the wider world" .

Looking Ahead

As World Environment Day 2025 calls for collective action on climate change, Ajman University remains committed to the GEP's vision of transforming education systems worldwide. Through active participation in global forums, innovative campus initiatives, and community-driven projects, the university continues to demonstrate that higher education institutions can be powerful catalysts for climate action and sustainable development.

The GEP Capacity Building Webinar Series, launched in 2024, facilitates peer-to-peer learning and fosters collaboration across the partnership. Ajman University's ongoing engagement with these sessions reflects its dedication to staying at the forefront of greening education and contributing to the global movement for climate-ready learners.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-champions-green-schools-at-world-environment-day-gep-webinar

Ajman University Joins Global Dialogue on Sustainability Education at ISCN CoP Launch Session



Ajman University has reinforced its commitment to advancing sustainability education on the global stage by participating in the launch session of the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) Sustainability Education Community of Practice (CoP), held on October 1, 2025.

The session brought together sustainability leaders from universities worldwide to discuss innovative approaches to embedding sustainability competencies across higher education. The ISCN Sustainability Education Working Group hosted the event, which focused on shaping the future of sustainability education and planning for the upcoming COP in Cape Town.

Setting the Stage: Recap from the May 2025 Roundtable

The session opened with a recap of the ISCN Education Roundtable held in May 2025, which established key themes that continue to guide the Community of Practice. Four central priorities emerged from that discussion:

- Recognizing diverse perspectives in sustainability education
- Ensuring relevance to ALL students regardless of discipline
- Skill-building as a core component of sustainability curricula
- Envisioning universities of the future and their role in society

These themes provided a foundation for the October session's deeper discussions, reflecting a shared recognition that sustainability education must extend beyond environmental science programs to reach learners across every field of study.

Understanding Today's Students: A Framework for Engagement

A significant portion of the session was devoted to understanding how universities can make sustainability relevant to diverse student populations. Participants explored a categorization framework that identified four distinct student profiles based on their career trajectories and sustainability knowledge needs:

- Flexitarians: students pursuing traditional careers who benefit from adding broad-based sustainability knowledge, enhancing their adaptability and value across multiple sectors.
- Generalists: students pursuing sustainability-focused careers who engage in cross-disciplinary training, allowing them to contribute value on multiple levels.

- Authorities: students in traditional career tracks who develop specific sustainability-related skills, achieving high levels of expertise that add value in targeted areas.
- Specialists: students pursuing specialized tracks within sustainability fields who receive focused disciplinary training, contributing deep expertise in specific domains.

This framework sparked discussion on practical strategies for integrating sustainability content into fields such as Artificial Intelligence and Technology, Pharmacology and Health Sciences, and Behavioral Neuroscience disciplines not traditionally associated with environmental education but increasingly recognizing sustainability as integral to their future practice.

Core Competencies for Sustainability Education

The session emphasized that effective sustainability education combines content knowledge with skill-building. Participants explored a competency framework centered on five interconnected capabilities:

- Systems Thinking: understanding the interconnections between environmental, social, and economic systems
- Futures Thinking: anticipating and preparing for long-term sustainability challenges
- Values Thinking: examining ethical dimensions of sustainability decisions
- Strategic Thinking: developing practical approaches to complex sustainability problems
- Action-Oriented Problem Solving: translating knowledge into tangible impact

These competencies are designed to equip students not merely with information about sustainability, but with the capacity to act as agents of change in their professional and personal lives.

Addressing Institutional Barriers

A key discussion segment focused on the institutional barriers that can impede the integration of sustainability education across university curricula. Participants identified common challenges including disciplinary silos, competing accreditation requirements, faculty capacity gaps, and the need for stronger institutional commitment. The conversation highlighted the importance of cross-departmental collaboration and leadership support in overcoming these obstacles.

Ajman University's Role and Contributions

Ajman University's participation in the ISCN Sustainability Education CoP reflects its broader institutional commitment to sustainability leadership. The university has embedded sustainability across its academic programs, campus operations, and community engagement initiatives, earning recognition among the world's top 300 universities in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026, including a #1 ranking in the UAE for SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Through active engagement in international sustainability networks, Ajman University contributes its experience in areas such as community-based environmental projects, campus carbon management, and student-led sustainability initiatives. The university's Office of Sustainability continues to drive forward its mission of integrating sustainability into every facet of university life.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-joins-global-dialogue-on-sustainability-education-at-iscn-cop-launch-session

Ajman University Champions Green Education at COP30: Maya Haddad Joins Global Call for Urgent Action



Ajman University's Sustainability Manager virtually represented the institution at the COP30 climate conference in Belém, Brazil, reinforcing AU's commitment to the UNESCO Greening Education Partnership and the global push to make half of all schools green by 2030.

As world leaders gathered for the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, UNESCO issued an urgent call to accelerate the transformation of schools into green institutions. New data released ahead of the conference revealed that 96,000 schools across 93 countries have already adopted UNESCO-recommended green practices, yet the Organisation warned that progress remains uneven and must be dramatically scaled up to meet the target of 50% of schools in every country becoming green by 2030.

Representing Ajman University at this pivotal global forum was Ms. Maya Haddad, the university's Senior Sustainability Manager, who has been at the forefront of AU's environmental leadership. Haddad joined the Ajman University delegation at COP30, where she participated in high-level discussions on climate education, youth engagement, and the role of higher education in advancing the sustainability agenda.

A Global Platform for Green Schools

The UNESCO call to action was presented during the COP30 Ministerial Roundtable on greening education, co-hosted by Brazil's Minister of Education and UNESCO. The roundtable brought together policymakers, educators, and institutional leaders to exchange best practices on integrating environmental issues into curricula, strengthening teacher training, and fostering inter-ministerial collaboration.

Central to these efforts is the Greening Education Partnership (GEP), a global initiative launched at the UN Transforming Education Summit in 2022. The partnership now counts 97 countries and 1,900 stakeholders among its signatories. Ajman University has been an active member of the GEP, with Haddad playing a leading role in advancing its objectives both within the UAE and internationally.

A new global dashboard co-led by UNESCO and ISESCO was also launched at COP30, providing a one-stop-shop for tracking progress across the GEP's four key pillars: greening schools, greening curriculum, greening communities, and greening teacher training and education system capacities.

Maya Haddad: Driving Sustainability at Ajman University and Beyond

Maya Haddad's participation at COP30 is the latest chapter in her extensive work championing sustainability in higher education. As AU's Senior Sustainability Manager, delivered over a dozen impactful sessions on sustainable development and climate action.

Her leadership extends beyond the university campus. Haddad serves as Head of Operations for the UAE Universities Climate Network (UCN), a coalition of UAE-based universities committed to mobilising youth and academia in climate action. In this capacity, she has been instrumental in coordinating university delegations for COP30, organising joint workshops and panel sessions, and ensuring that Emirati voices are heard on the global stage.

At COP30, Haddad continued this mission, emphasising the critical role of young people in the climate movement. "The participation of youth in climate negotiations is not just symbolic it is essential," she said. "Universities have a responsibility to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and platforms they need to become the leaders of a sustainable future."

Ajman University's Commitment to the Greening Education Partnership

Ajman University's engagement with the GEP reflects its broader strategic focus on integrating sustainability across operations, academic programmes, and community initiatives. The university's Office of Sustainability has participated in multiple GEP working group meetings, contributing to the development of global standards and targets for greening education.

AU's alignment with the GEP's "Greening Communities" pillar is evident in initiatives such as the Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration event organised in collaboration with Al Zorah Development Company, as well as awareness sessions and workshops delivered by students on topics like climate resilience and environmental stewardship.

The university has also demonstrated its commitment through concrete institutional actions: it is one of only two UAE universities pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030, and it has secured participation in pivotal global initiatives including the Nature Positive Pledge alongside the University of Oxford and UNEP.

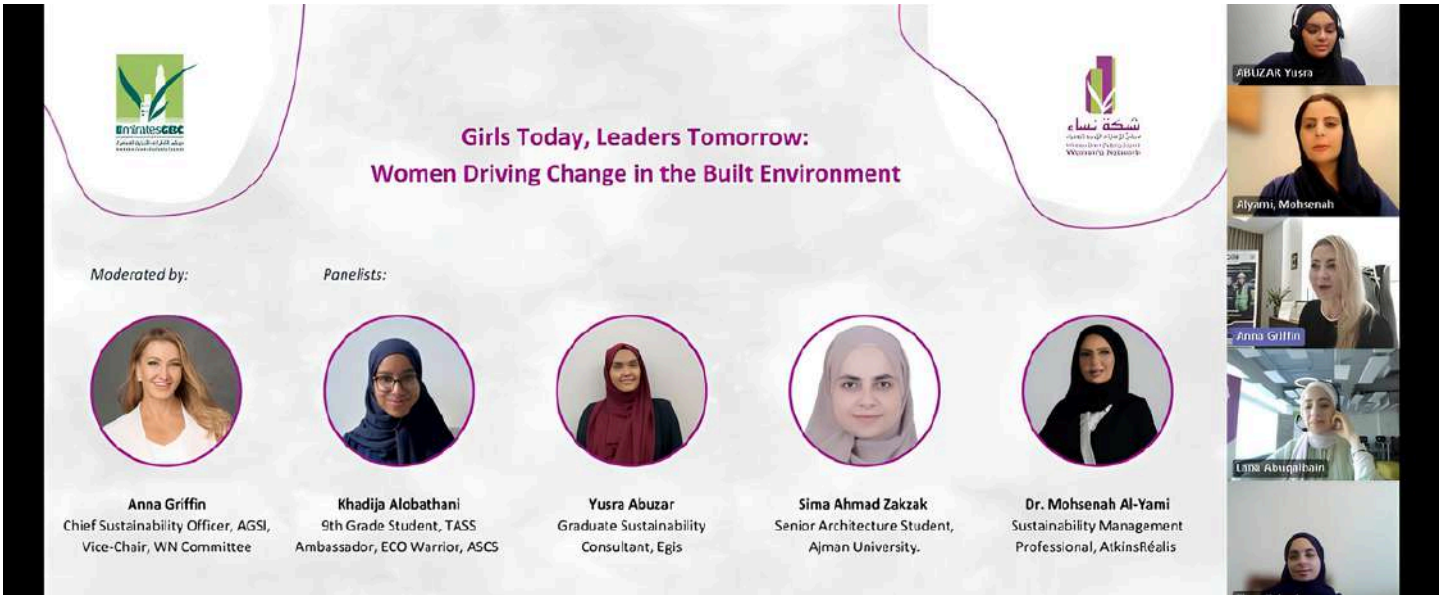
A Call to Action for Higher Education

As COP30 concluded, UNESCO's message was clear: the window for achieving the 2030 green schools target is narrowing, and the education sector must redouble its efforts. "Education is one of the most powerful tools in the global efforts to address the climate crisis," said Stefania Giannini, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education. "We must ensure that every learner is equipped not only to understand the challenges but also to take action as part of the transition to a greener, more sustainable society".

Ajman University, through the leadership of Maya Haddad and the Office of Sustainability, remains steadfast in answering that call. By participating in COP30 and actively contributing to the Greening Education Partnership, AU is not only shaping the future of its own campus but also helping to build a global movement for climate-ready education.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-champions-green-education-at-cop30-maya-haddad-joins-global-call-for-urgent-action

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ajman University Strengthens EmiratesGBC Partnership as Judge for the 13th Annual MENA Green Building Awards



In a continued demonstration of its leadership in sustainability and green building education, Ajman University has further activated its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC). As part of this ongoing collaboration, an Ajman University representative recently served as a distinguished judge for the 13th Annual MENA Green Building Awards.

Aligning with the broader objectives of the World Green Economy Summit (WGES) to accelerate the transition to a green economy, the MENA Green Building Awards recognize outstanding leadership, innovation, and sustainability across the region's built environment.

Evaluating Regional Excellence in the Built Environment

As a judge for this prestigious regional award, the Ajman University representative reviewed a diverse portfolio of pioneering projects submitted by the EmiratesGBC. The evaluation process focused on identifying initiatives that push the boundaries of sustainable design, resource efficiency, and environmental stewardship in the built environment.

This role provided a valuable opportunity to not only assess the latest green building innovations but also to bring global best practices back to the Ajman University community. The insights gained from reviewing these cutting-edge projects will help inform the university’s own campus decarbonization strategies and academic curricula.

A Milestone in the EmiratesGBC MoU

The judging appointment is a direct result of the continuous activation of the strategic MoU between Ajman University and EmiratesGBC. Signed to integrate sustainability across the university's core functions, the partnership focuses on three main pillars:

- Curriculum Enhancement: Embedding green building principles and sustainability into academic programs.
- Research Innovation: Collaborating on applied research related to sustainable built environments.
- Community Engagement: Joint initiatives such as the "Healthy UAE Universities Campaign," which involves advanced research into Indoor Environmental Quality and Energy Monitoring on campus.

Driving the Green Economy Forward

Ajman University's active role in the MENA Green Building Awards reflects its unwavering commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By engaging with industry leaders and evaluating regional sustainability projects, the university continues to bridge the gap between academic excellence and real-world environmental impact.

This initiative builds on Ajman University's recent global recognitions, including its ranking among the world's top 300 universities in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026, where it secured the #1 spot in the UAE for SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

By maintaining an active and dynamic partnership with EmiratesGBC, Ajman University is ensuring that its students, faculty, and campus operations remain at the forefront of the region's green building and sustainability movement.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-strengthens-emiratesgbc-partnership-as-judge-for-the-13th-annual-mena-green-building-awards

Emirates Green Building Council's 14th Annual Congress, under the theme: "Mission to 1.5°C: Be Bold on Buildings."



The Architecture Department, led by Dr. Muna Salameh, showcased innovative student work focused on climate-resilient architecture, highlighting solutions that support climate action in the built environment. The exhibition featured designs of sustainable school buildings and pavilions that provide shaded outdoor environments essential for thermal comfort in the UAE's hot climate.

Dr. Muna guided a student team composed of Farah and Jana, who presented their sustainable architectural proposals with creativity and professionalism. Their work reflects a deep understanding of environmental challenges and a commitment to future-forward design thinking.

Ajman University remains honored to continue its valued role as a Knowledge Partner of the Emirates Green Building Council, contributing to meaningful dialogue and innovation in sustainability and architecture.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/cad/news/2025/emirates-green-building-councils-14th-annual-congress-under-the-theme-mission-to-15c-be-bold-on-buildings

Ajman University Champions Gender Equity and Sustainability in Landmark EGBC Women Network White Paper



Ajman University is proud to announce its contribution to a pivotal new publication by the Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) Women's Network. Titled "Complementary Strengths – Advancing Equity in the UAE Built Environment (2025)," the white paper delivers a compelling, data-driven case for gender inclusion as a strategic imperative for the region's sustainable future.

The launch of this white paper marks another significant milestone in Ajman University's ongoing partnership with the EGBC, reinforcing the university's commitment to fostering inclusive, equitable, and sustainable built environments.

Gender Inclusion: A Strategic Advantage

The white paper challenges the notion that gender inclusion is merely a social gesture, instead presenting it as a strategic advantage with measurable benefits for innovation, financial resilience, and sustainability.

Based on data gathered from 121 professionals, in-depth interviews, and collaborative discussions led by the EGBC Women's Network, the findings are unequivocal: women bring quantifiable value to sustainability, inclusivity, and overall wellbeing in the built environment. Furthermore, the report highlights that implementing targeted policies such as flexible work arrangements, equal pay, and genuinely inclusive workplaces makes a tangible and measurable difference in driving the industry forward.

Driving Equity in the Built Environment

The UAE's built environment is undergoing a massive transformation driven by the nation's Net Zero 2050 strategy and sustainable urban development goals. The white paper emphasizes that this transition requires the diverse perspectives and complementary strengths of all professionals in the field. By capturing the lived experiences and insights of female leaders, the EGBC Women's Network has provided policymakers, educators, and industry stakeholders with actionable recommendations to close the gender gap and maximize the sector's potential.

Aligning with Ajman University’s Strategic Vision

Ajman University’s participation in this impactful initiative reflects its broader institutional dedication to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

As an institution ranked #1 in the UAE for SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026, Ajman University believes that true sustainability cannot be achieved without equity. By actively contributing to the EGBC Women’s Network and integrating these principles into its curriculum and campus operations, the university is preparing a new generation of diverse, inclusive, and forward-thinking sustainability leaders.

A Continuing Partnership

This white paper is the latest outcome of the dynamic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ajman University and EmiratesGBC. From judging the 13th Annual MENA Green Building Awards to collaborating on the "Healthy UAE Universities Campaign," the partnership continues to yield impactful, real-world results for the UAE’s academic and environmental sectors.

Ajman University remains steadfast in its mission to bridge the gap between academic research, industry practice, and social equity, ensuring that the future of the UAE’s built environment is both green and inclusive.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-champions-gender-equity-and-sustainability-in-landmark-egbc-women-network-white-paper



Ajman University Expert Contributes to World Cities Day Roundtable to Shape Sustainable Urban Futures



Ajman University continues to play a pivotal role in driving the UAE's sustainable urban agenda. An expert representative from the university was recently invited by the Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) to participate in an exclusive roundtable discussion commemorating World Cities Day.

The event brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and sustainability experts for an inspiring session filled with meaningful dialogue and diverse perspectives on shaping the future of sustainable cities in the region and beyond.

Outlining Strategic Priorities for the Built Environment

During the high-level discussion, the Ajman University expert contributed actionable insights, sharing a strategic perspective on the top three priorities the Emirates Green Building Council should focus on to accelerate sustainability within the UAE's built environment.

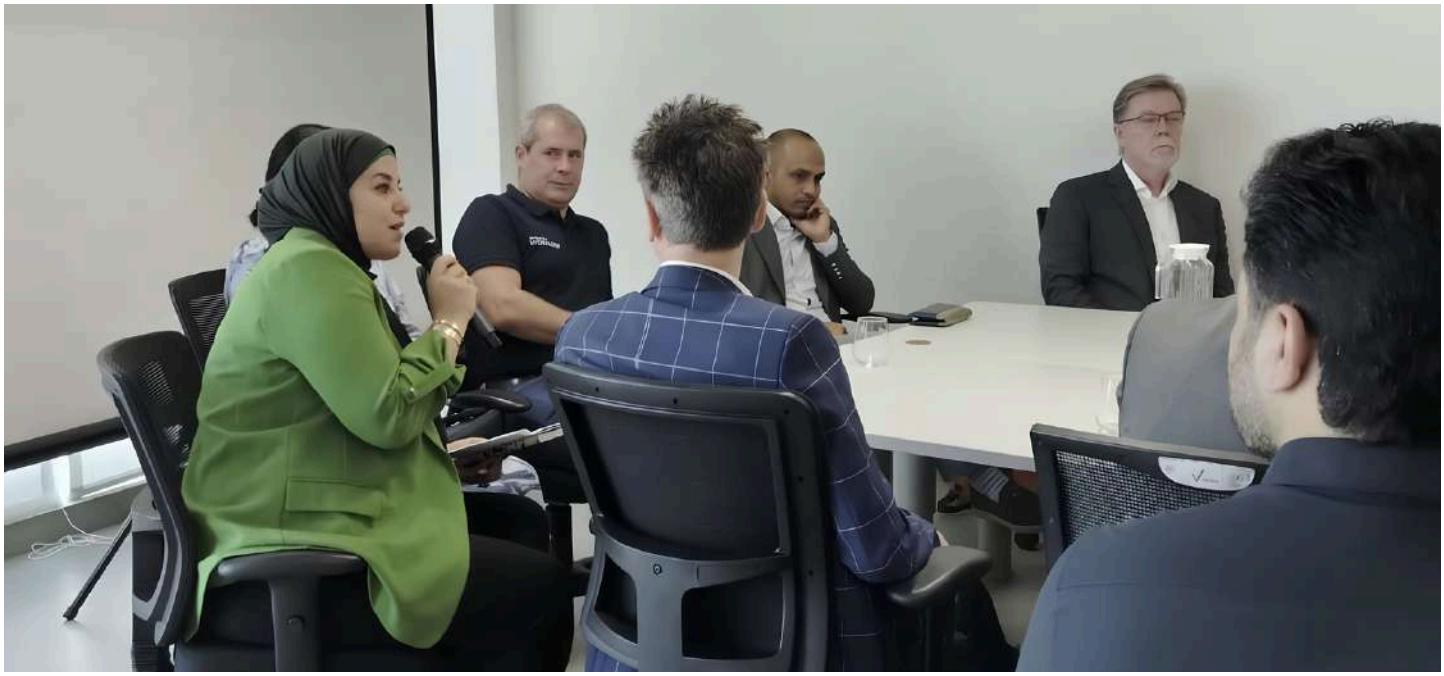
By addressing these critical priorities, the university's contribution aimed to help steer the EGBC's future initiatives toward maximum impact, ensuring that the rapid urbanization of the UAE is matched by equally aggressive and innovative decarbonization and sustainability efforts.

The roundtable provided a vital platform for cross-sector collaboration, allowing academia, industry, and government to align their visions for greener, more resilient urban spaces.

A Testament to the Strong EGBC Partnership

This roundtable discussion is the latest successful activation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ajman University and EmiratesGBC. The partnership continues to yield tangible results, bridging the gap between academic research and real-world application.

From evaluating the region's best projects as a judge for the 13th Annual MENA Green Building Awards to collaborating on the "Healthy UAE Universities Campaign" and contributing to the EGBC Women's Network White Paper, Ajman University's engagement with the Council is both deep and multifaceted.



Aligning with Global and National Sustainability Goals

Ajman University’s participation in World Cities Day aligns perfectly with its institutional commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, most notably SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

This aligns with the university's recent achievements in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026, where it was ranked #1 in the UAE for SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), and placed among the world's top 300 universities overall.

Shaping the Cities of Tomorrow

As the UAE continues to pioneer smart, green, and inclusive urban development, higher education institutions like Ajman University have a critical role to play. By lending its expertise to influential industry bodies like the EGBC, the university not only helps shape national policy and industry standards but also ensures that its students and faculty remain at the absolute forefront of sustainable urban innovation.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-expert-contributes-to-world-cities-day-roundtable-to-shape-sustainable-urban-futures

Ajman University Expert Speaks at 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.

A Milestone in the EGBC Partnership

This speaking engagement is the latest achievement under the dynamic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ajman University and EmiratesGBC. The university's ongoing collaboration with the Council has yielded remarkable results, including:

- Serving as a judge for the 13th Annual MENA Green Building Awards.
- Participating as an expert in the World Cities Day Roundtable Discussion.
- Contributing to the EGBC Women's Network White Paper on advancing equity in the UAE built environment.
- Collaborating on the "Healthy UAE Universities Campaign" to enhance indoor environmental quality on campus.

The World Green Building Week platform further elevates this partnership, connecting Ajman University's expertise to a broader international network of Green Building Councils.

Aligning with Ajman University's Sustainability Mission

This international speaking engagement perfectly aligns with Ajman University's institutional commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Ajman University recently reinforced its leadership in these areas by ranking among the world's top 300 universities in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026, and securing the #1 spot in the UAE for SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Shaping the Future of the Built Environment

As the MENA region prepares for an era of rapid urban development and stringent climate targets, the role of higher education in driving innovation cannot be overstated. By sharing its expertise at events like World Green Building Week, Ajman University is not only contributing to regional policy dialogues but also ensuring that its students and faculty are actively engaged in designing the sustainable, resilient cities of tomorrow.

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



Ajman University's Dr. Muna Joins Global Leaders at 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.



A Continuing Legacy of Collaboration with EGBC

This attendance is the latest milestone in the dynamic and multifaceted Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ajman University and EmiratesGBC. Over the past year, this partnership has yielded remarkable outcomes, including:

- Serving as a distinguished judge for the 13th Annual MENA Green Building Awards.
- Participating as an expert in the World Cities Day Roundtable Discussion.
- Speaking at the "One Region, Many Pathways" event during World Green Building Week.
- Co-authoring the EGBC Women's Network White Paper on advancing equity in the UAE built environment.

By continuously engaging with EGBC, Ajman University is reinforcing its position as a key academic stakeholder in the region's transition to a sustainable built environment.

Aligning with Ajman University's Global Rankings and SDGs

Dr. Muna's participation directly supports Ajman University's strategic commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, most notably SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

These efforts align with the university's outstanding performance in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026, where Ajman University was ranked among the world's top 300 institutions overall and achieved the #1 position in the UAE for both SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Shaping the Future of Sustainable Architecture

As the UAE continues to pioneer smart, green, and resilient urban development, the role of academic institutions in driving bold climate action cannot be overstated. Through the active engagement of experts like Dr. Muna and its ongoing strategic partnership with EmiratesGBC, Ajman University remains steadfast in its mission to design a more sustainable, equitable, and climate-resilient future for the region and beyond.

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

Ajman University's Dr. Muna Salameh Honored with Global Sustainability Champion Award 2025



Ajman University is proud to announce that Dr. Muna Salameh from the College of Architecture, Art, and Design (CAAD) has been awarded the prestigious Sustainability Champion Award 2025 by the Global Ambassadors of Sustainability (GAoS).

The honor recognizes Dr. Salameh's deep commitment, visionary leadership, and outstanding contributions to advancing sustainability and environmental stewardship within the academic sphere and the broader built environment.

A Testament to Visionary Leadership

Expressing her gratitude for the global recognition, Dr. Salameh stated: "I am deeply honoured to receive the Sustainability Champion Award 2025 from the Global Ambassadors of Sustainability in recognition of my commitment, leadership, and contributions to advancing sustainability and environmental stewardship."

The Global Ambassadors of Sustainability (GAoS) is a renowned international network dedicated to promoting sustainable development, climate action, and environmental protection across various sectors. The Sustainability Champion Award celebrates individuals who go above and beyond to drive meaningful, measurable change and inspire others to embrace sustainable practices.

Bridging Sustainable Architecture and Academia

Dr. Salameh's recognition is a direct reflection of her tireless work at Ajman University's College of Architecture, Art, and Design, where she actively integrates principles of green building, climate resilience, and sustainable urbanism into the academic curriculum.

Her recent participation in major industry events such as the Emirates Green Building Council's (EGBC) 14th Annual Congress under the theme "Mission to 1.5°C: Be Bold on Buildings" demonstrates her dedication to bridging the gap between academic research and real-world industry application. By ensuring that the next generation of architects and designers are equipped with cutting-edge sustainability practices, Dr. Salameh is helping to shape the resilient cities of tomorrow.

Elevating Ajman University's Global Sustainability Profile

This global award further elevates Ajman University's position as a leader in sustainability education and climate action. It aligns seamlessly with the university's strategic commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Ajman University's dedication to these goals was recently validated in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026, where the institution ranked among the world's top 300 universities overall and secured the #1 position in the UAE for both SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

A Culture of Sustainability Champions

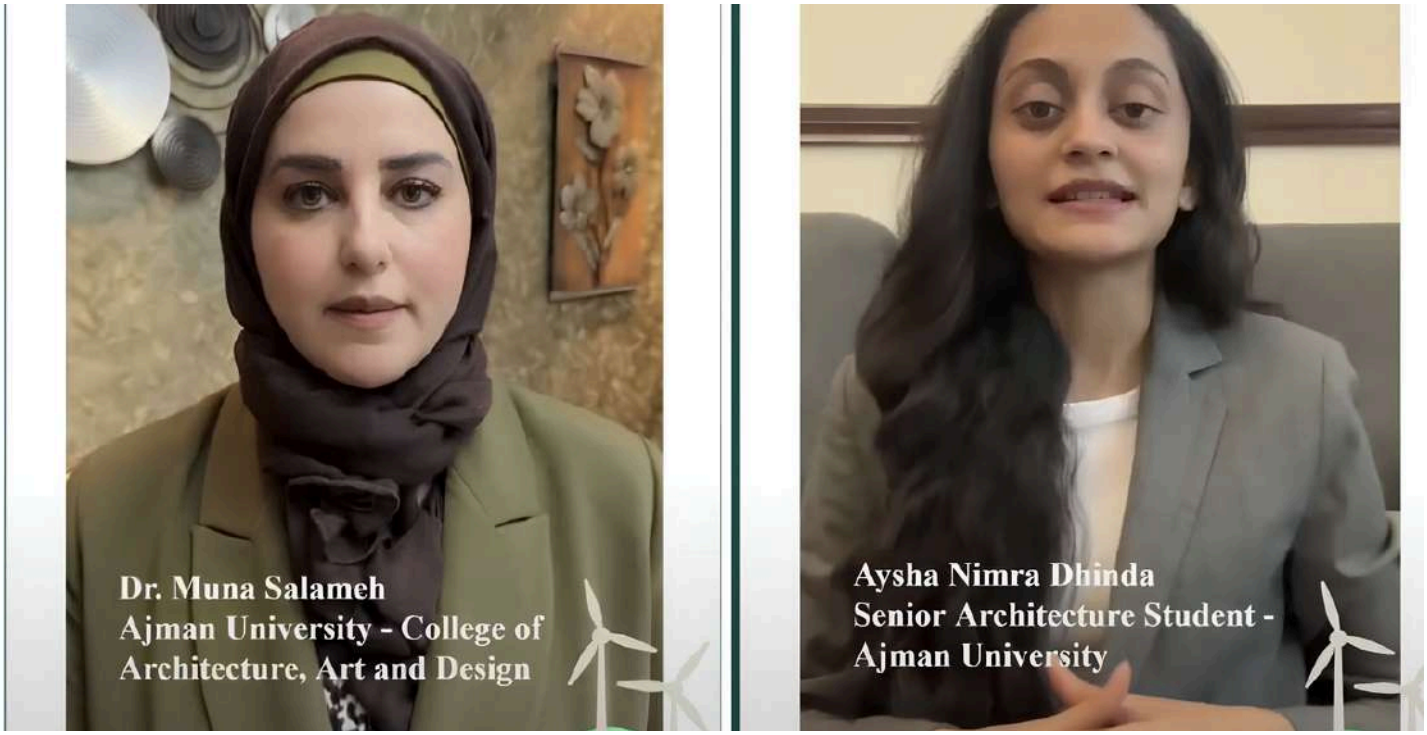
Dr. Salameh's achievement underscores the university's broader culture of sustainability, which is driven by the Office of Sustainability and supported by dynamic partnerships with organizations like the Emirates Green Building Council. From faculty experts receiving global awards to students representing the UAE at international forums, Ajman University continues to foster a community of changemakers dedicated to environmental stewardship.

Ajman University extends its warmest congratulations to Dr. Muna Salameh on this well-deserved global recognition and looks forward to her continued contributions to a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-universitys-dr-muna-salameh-honored-with-global-sustainability-champion-award-2025



Ajman University Faculty and Student Voice the Call to "Be Bold on Buildings" in EmiratesGBC Advocacy Video



Ajman University continues to amplify its voice in the global push for sustainable urban development. Dr. Muna Salameh from the College of Architecture, Art, and Design (CAAD) and student Aysha Nimra Nimara recently joined forces with the Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC) to take part in a powerful advocacy video spotlighting their shared commitment to a sustainable, low-carbon future.

The initiative was launched as the EmiratesGBC wrapped up an inspiring week of events dedicated to advancing green building practices. The video campaign posed a critical question to industry leaders, academics, and emerging professionals: “How should we be bold on buildings?”

Answering the Call for Urgent Climate Action

By participating in the advocacy campaign, Dr. Salameh and Aysha Nimra Nimara added their unique perspectives to a collective narrative reflecting the passion, innovation, and urgency driving the transition toward a climate-resilient, sustainable built environment.

Their participation highlights the critical need for bold, decisive action in the architecture and construction sectors, which account for nearly 40% of global energy-related carbon emissions. The advocacy video serves as a testament to the fact that achieving the UAE’s Net Zero 2050 goals requires a unified effort across generations from seasoned academic experts to the passionate student leaders of tomorrow.

A Dynamic Student-Faculty Collaboration

The joint participation of a distinguished faculty member and an ambitious student is a hallmark of Ajman University's educational philosophy. It demonstrates that sustainability at AU is not confined to the classroom; rather, it is a lived experience where faculty and students collaborate as co-creators of a greener future.

Aysha Nimra Nimara's involvement underscores the vital role of youth in climate advocacy, showing that students are not just passive learners but active contributors to the national and regional sustainability agenda.

A Continued Legacy of Partnership with EmiratesGBC

This advocacy video is the latest milestone in the highly active and fruitful Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ajman University and EmiratesGBC. Over the past year, this partnership has continuously yielded impactful results, including:

- Serving as a distinguished judge for the 13th Annual MENA Green Building Awards.
- Participating as an expert in the World Cities Day Roundtable Discussion.
- Co-authoring the EGBC Women's Network White Paper on advancing equity in the UAE built environment.
- Speaking at World Green Building Week's "One Region, Many Pathways" event.
- Attending the 14th Annual Congress under the theme "Mission to 1.5°C: Be Bold on Buildings."

Aligning with Ajman University's Global Rankings and SDGs

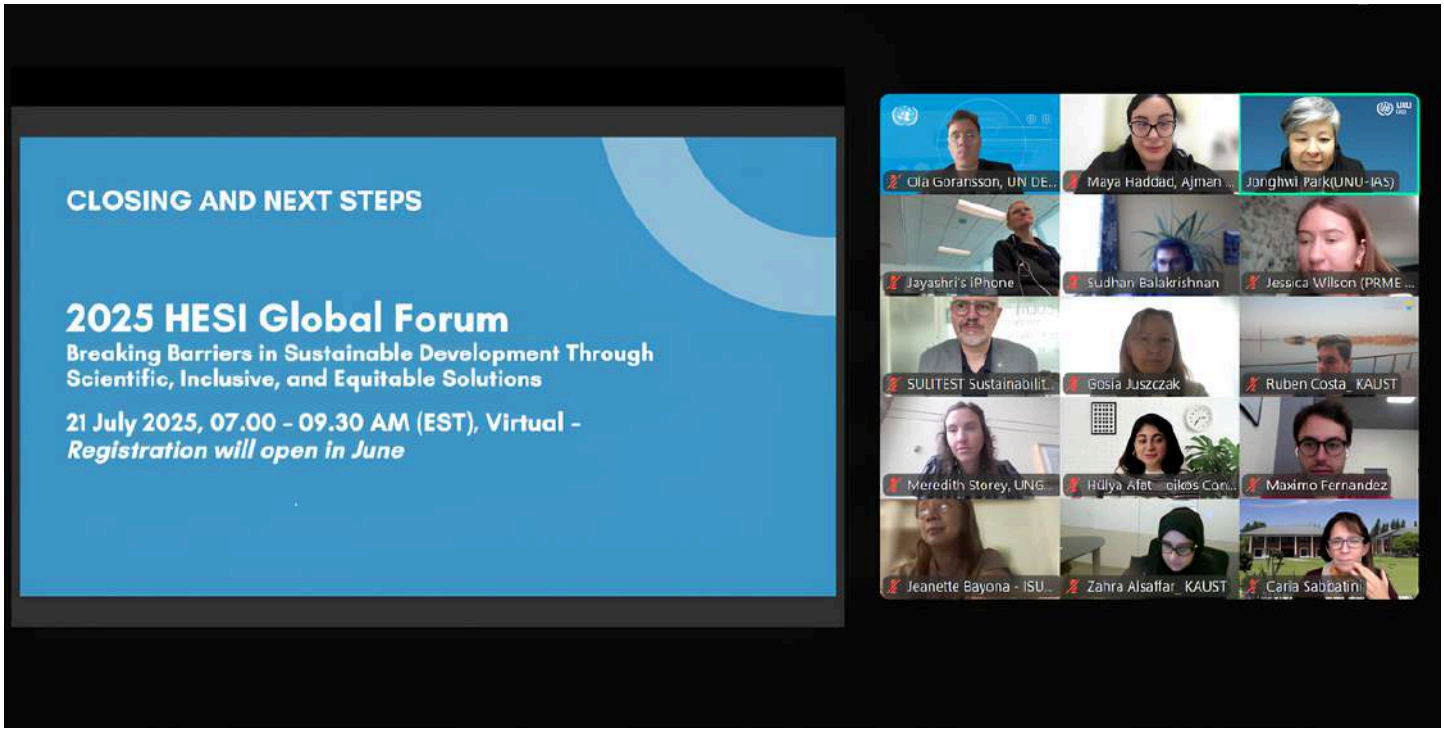
This initiative directly supports Ajman University's strategic commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

These efforts are reflected in the university's outstanding performance in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026, where Ajman University was ranked among the world's top 300 institutions overall and achieved the #1 position in the UAE for both SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

As the UAE and the global community continue to raise the bar for environmental stewardship, Ajman University remains steadfast in its mission to champion bold, innovative solutions. Through the active engagement of experts like Dr. Muna Salameh and the inspiring advocacy of students like Aysha Nimra Nimara, the university is helping to build a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future for all.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-faculty-and-student-voice-the-call-to-be-bold-on-buildings-in-emiratesgbc-advocacy-video

Ajman University's Maya Haddad Speaks on "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.

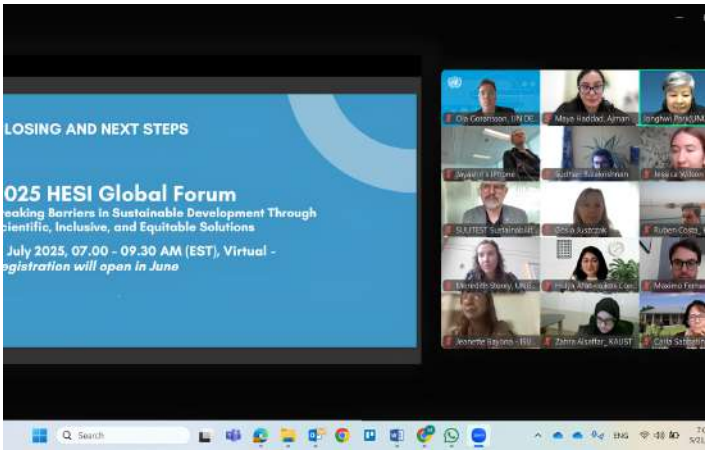
The HESI Networking Forum brought together the higher education and sustainable development community to foster collaboration and showcase innovative member-led initiatives. The programme featured opening remarks by HESI Co-Chairs, interactive networking sessions, introductions to HESI's UN partners 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


ibition Hall of Member Contributions


LOSING AND NEXT STEPS
025 HESI Global Forum
eaking Barriers in Sustainable Development Through
cientific, Inclusive, and Equitable Solutions
July 2025, 07.00 - 09.30 AM (EST), Virtual -
egistration will open in June


PRME
Strengthening business education's impact on the SDGs through values-driven curriculum, research, and community.
HESI Networking Roundtable
21 May 2025


roduction to HESI's UN
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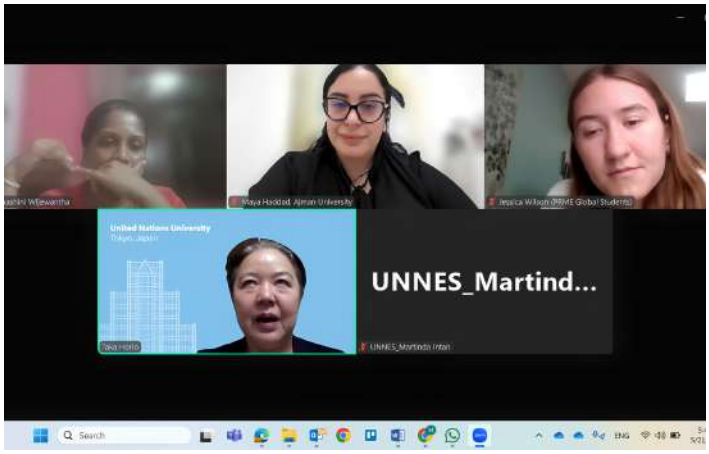
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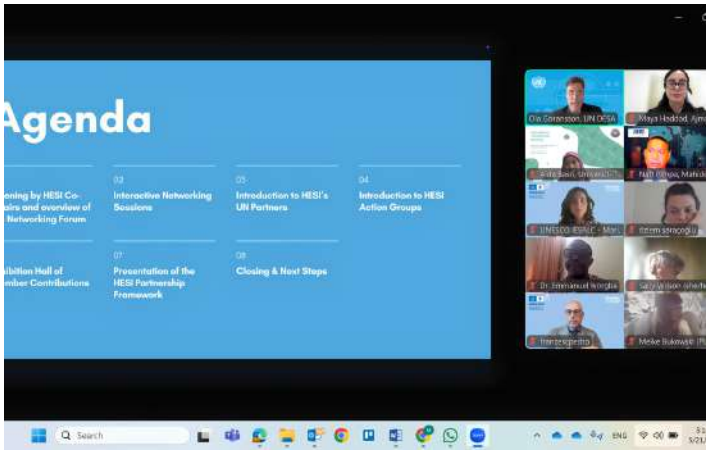

Agenda

Ajman University’s Maya Haddad Serves as Judge for Gulf Sustainability Awards Finals



Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, has been selected to serve as a judge for the finals of the Gulf Sustainability Awards (GSA), recognizing her expertise and leadership in advancing environmental, social and governance standards across the region.

The Gulf Sustainability Awards celebrate outstanding achievements in sustainability across the Gulf region, honoring organizations and initiatives that demonstrate measurable impact in areas such as climate action, responsible resource management, and community engagement. The finals bring together leading sustainability professionals, academics, and industry experts to evaluate and celebrate the most innovative and effective sustainability projects.

Haddad’s appointment as a judge reflects her growing influence in the regional sustainability landscape and her commitment to promoting best practices in higher education and beyond. In her role at Ajman University, she has been instrumental in driving climate action initiatives and fostering partnerships that support the UAE’s Net Zero targets.

As a judge, Haddad will assess finalist entries based on criteria including innovation, measurable impact, scalability, and alignment with global sustainability frameworks. Her participation underscores Ajman University’s role as a key contributor to the regional sustainability dialogue and its efforts to bridge academia, industry, and policy in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

“It is an honor to serve as a judge for the Gulf Sustainability Awards finals,” said Haddad. “The Gulf region is home to remarkable sustainability initiatives, and I look forward to recognizing the projects that are truly making a difference. This role also reflects Ajman University’s commitment to supporting and celebrating sustainability excellence across the region.”

Ajman University’s engagement with the Gulf Sustainability Awards aligns with its broader strategy of advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and promoting a culture of sustainability both on campus and within the wider community.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-universitys-maya-haddad-serves-as-judge-for-gulf-sustainability-awards-finals

Ajman University's Maya Haddad Serves as Expert in 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.

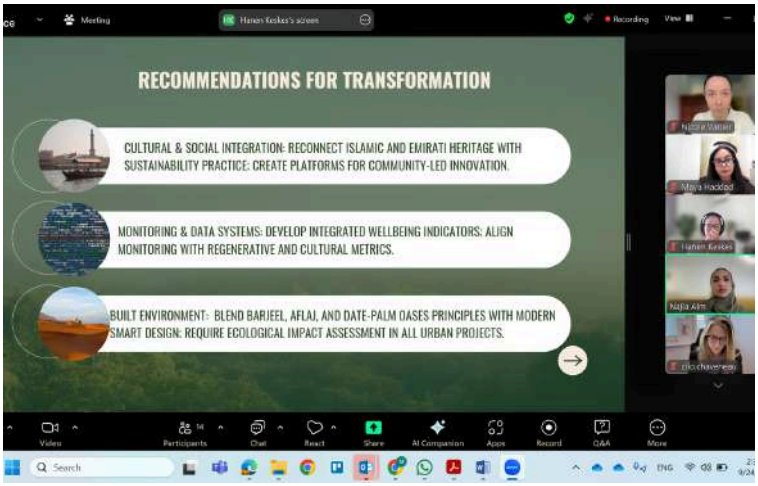
The 90-minute roundtable began with welcome and introductions outlining the project's objectives, followed by a presentation of the report's research framework, methodology, key findings, gaps, and recommendations. Haddad contributed to the validation discussion, offering expert reflections on the findings 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.

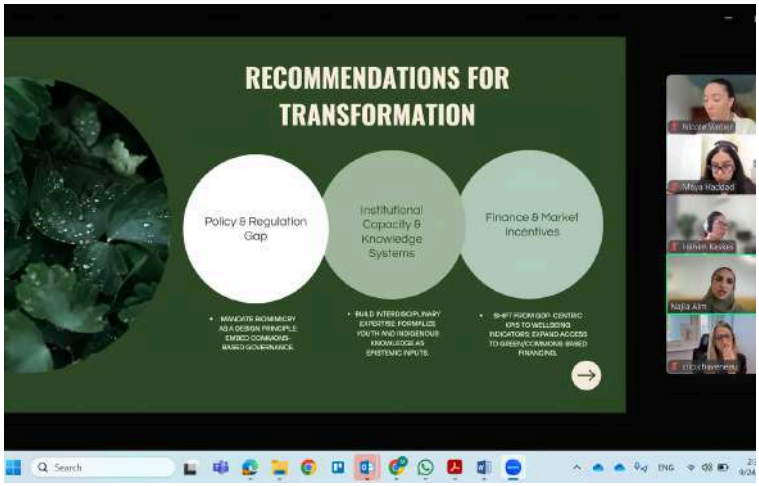
Haddad's participation underscores Ajman University's growing role in shaping regional sustainability policy and discourse. By contributing academic and operational expertise to initiatives like the Wellbeing Economy project, the university continues to bridge research, policy, and practice in support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

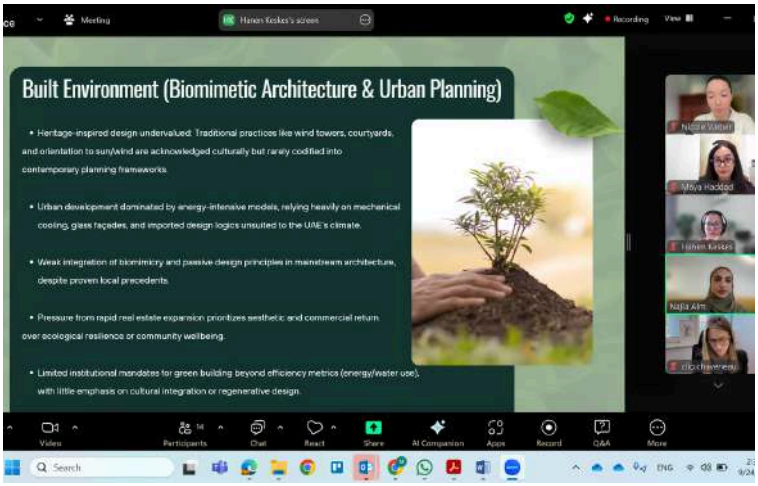
"It was a privilege to contribute to this important report," said Haddad. "The wellbeing economy framework offers a transformative lens for the UAE's sustainability journey, and biomimicry and commons practices have real potential to accelerate progress. I commend Greenpeace MENA, SEE Institute, and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi for driving this conversation forward."

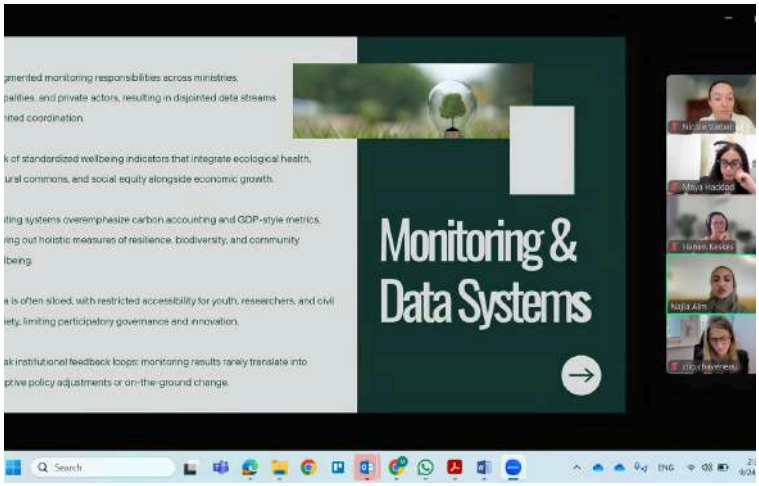
The collaboration aligns with Ajman University's broader commitment to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and supporting the UAE's transition toward a sustainable and prosperous future.

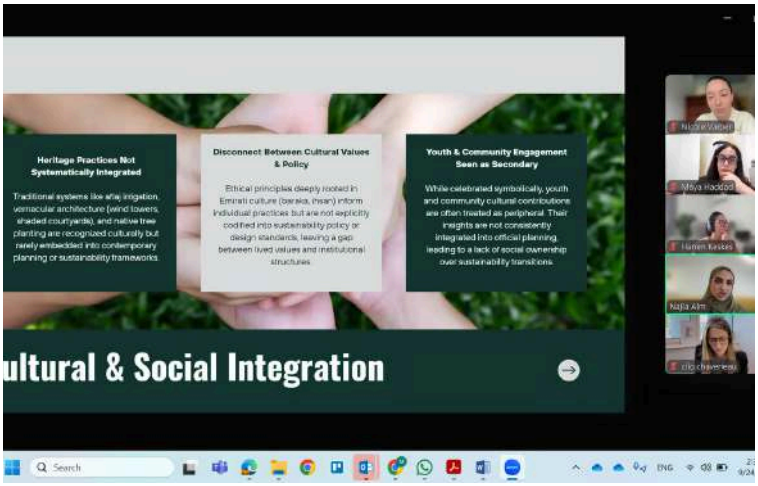
https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-universitys-maya-haddad-serves-as-expert-in-validation-roundtable-for-blooming-futures-report-on-uaes-wellbeing

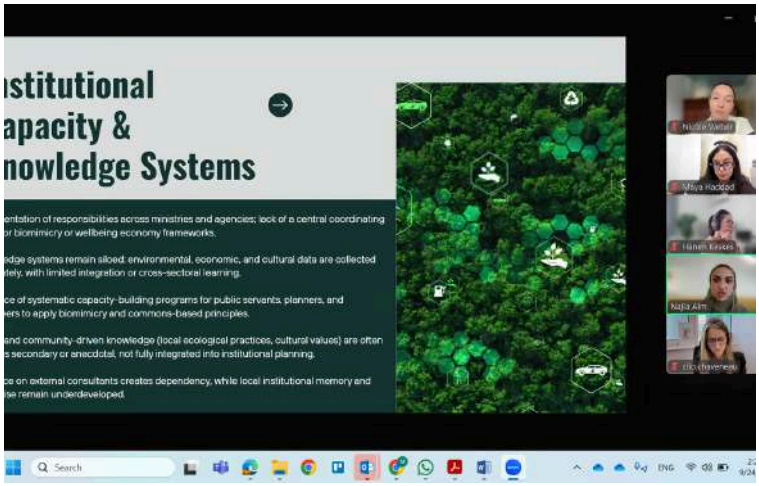

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRANSFORMATION
CULTURAL & SOCIAL INTEGRATION: RECONNECT ISLAMIC AND EMIRATI HERITAGE WITH SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICE: CREATE PLATFORMS FOR COMMUNITY-LED INNOVATION.
MONITORING & DATA SYSTEMS: DEVELOP INTEGRATED WELLBEING INDICATORS: ALIGN MONITORING WITH REGENERATIVE AND CULTURAL METRICS.
BUILT ENVIRONMENT: BLEND BARJEEL, AFLAJ, AND DATE-PALM OASES PRINCIPLES WITH MODERN SMART DESIGN: REQUIRE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN ALL URBAN PROJECTS.


RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRANSFORMATION
Policy & Regulation Gap
Institutional Capacity & Knowledge Systems
Finance & Market Incentives


Built Environment (Biomimetic Architecture & Urban Planning)
• Heritage-inspired design undervalued: Traditional practices like wind towers, courtyards, and orientation to sun/wind are acknowledged culturally but rarely codified into contemporary planning frameworks.
• Urban development dominated by energy-intensive models, relying heavily on mechanical cooling, glass façades, and imported design logics unsuited to the UAE's climate.
• Weak integration of biomimicry and passive design principles in mainstream architecture, despite proven local precedents.
• Pressure from rapid real estate expansion prioritizes aesthetic and commercial return over ecological resilience or community wellbeing.
• Limited institutional mandates for green building beyond efficiency metrics (energy/water use), with little emphasis on cultural integration or regenerative design.


Monitoring & Data Systems


Heritage Practices Not Systematically Integrated
Traditional systems like aflaj irrigation, vernacular architecture (wind towers, shaded courtyards), and native tree planting are recognized culturally but rarely embedded into contemporary planning or sustainability frameworks.
Disconnect Between Cultural Values & Policy
Ethical principles deeply rooted in Emirati culture (barakа, ihsan) inform individual practices but are not explicitly codified into sustainability policy or design standards, leaving a gap between lived values and institutional structures.
Youth & Community Engagement Seen as Secondary
While celebrated symbolically, youth and community cultural contributions are often treated as peripheral. Their insights are not consistently integrated into official planning, leading to a lack of social ownership over sustainability transitions.
ultural & Social Integration


apacity &
nowledge Systems

Ajman University Represented at launch of the “Blooming Futures: Supporting the UAE’s Journey Toward a Wellbeing Economy” report

Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, participated as a distinguished panelist at the launch of the “Blooming Futures: Supporting the UAE’s Journey Toward a Wellbeing Economy” report. The event, held at Dubai Sustainable City on 29 October 2025, was a collaborative effort between Greenpeace MENA, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, and SEE Institute.

The report explores biomimicry and commons practices in the UAE as pathways toward a Wellbeing Economy. Designed for industry leaders and policymakers, it draws on on-the-ground initiatives and curated stakeholder insights to offer a strategic roadmap for positioning the UAE as a global leader in climate action and wellbeing-centered development.

Haddad joined a panel of visionary experts for a discussion titled “Innovation for Regeneration: How Can Innovation and Regeneration Complete Rather Than Compete?” The session was moderated by Dr. Hanen Keskes, Campaigns Lead at Greenpeace MENA. Fellow panelists included Najla Almatrooshi and Nicole Weber, authors of the report from Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi; Phil Dunn, Senior Manager at Terra – The Sustainability Pavilion, Expo City Dubai; and Dr. Ramzi Laamouri, Secretary General of the Social and Cooperative Economy Network, MENA.

During the discussion, Haddad brought a crucial perspective on youth engagement, education, and the "commons" mindset. Addressing the intersection of social resilience and innovation, she explored how the principles of shared stewardship, reciprocity, and care can be applied to managing resources and knowledge.

Speaking on how young innovators approach sustainability today, Haddad highlighted a growing shift toward collaboration over competition. She emphasized that students are increasingly rooting their creativity in local realities and reimagining existing resources, rather than simply relying on imported technologies. Furthermore, she outlined how universities can create more space for this kind of thinking, fostering environments where innovation is deeply connected to community and ecological balance.

The panel also featured deep dives into how biomimicry can shape design, drawing from nature to enhance both human wellbeing and ecological balance, and how reviving collective traditions can build a regenerative economy without always depending on imported systems.

The launch event underscored the importance of systemic change and collective futures, bringing together academia, environmental advocacy, and industry to navigate the challenges of a changing world. Ajman University’s participation reflects its ongoing commitment to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals, empowering youth in climate action, and supporting the UAE’s transition toward a sustainable and prosperous future.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-represented-at-launch-of-the-blooming-futures-supporting-the-uaes-journey-toward-a-wellbeing-economy-report


GREENPEACE
غرينبيس
SEE INSTITUTE
SORBONNE UNIVERSITY ABU DHABI
BLOOMING FUTURES:
SUPPORTING THE UAE'S JOURNEY TOWARD A WELLBEING ECONOMY
Wednesday | 29 October | 2025
10:00 am to 3:00 pm (Dubai time)
ImmerSee Experience Room, Dubai Sustainable City, UAE


NAJLA ALMATROOSHI
Ajman Youth Council member
NICOLE WEBER
Master's student, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi
MAYA HADDAD
Senior Sustainability Manager, Ajman University
PHIL DUNN
Senior Manager, Terra – The Sustainability Pavilion, Expo City Dubai
DR. RAMZI LAAMOURI
Secretary General, the Social and Cooperative Economy Network, MENA




BLOOMING FUTURES:
SUPPORTING THE UAE'S JOURNEY TOWARD A WELLBEING ECONOMY
MODERATOR:
DR. HANEN KESKES,
Campaigns Lead – Greenpeace MENA
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PHIL DUNN
Senior Manager, Terra – The Sustainability Pavilion, Expo City Dubai


English
Arabic



Ajman University Participates in 3rd GEP Annual Meeting at COP30 in Brazil to Advance Global Climate Education



Ajman University participated in the 3rd Greening Education Partnership (GEP) Annual Meeting, held at the COP30 summit in Brazil and virtually on 13 November, 2025. The event brought together global education stakeholders to reaffirm education's critical role in climate action, share new publications and initiatives, and showcase innovative greening education practices.

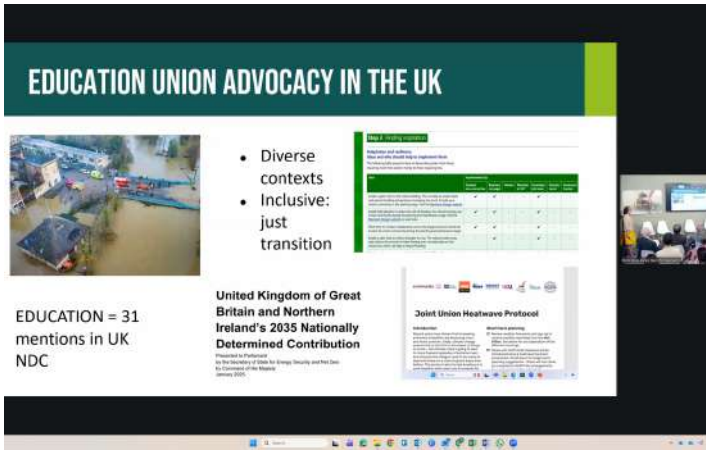
Representing Ajman University, Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager, joined the global forum, which served as a platform to call for stronger investment and international collaboration to advance climate education worldwide. Hosting the event alongside COP30 underscored the vital connection between global climate policy and the transformation of education systems.

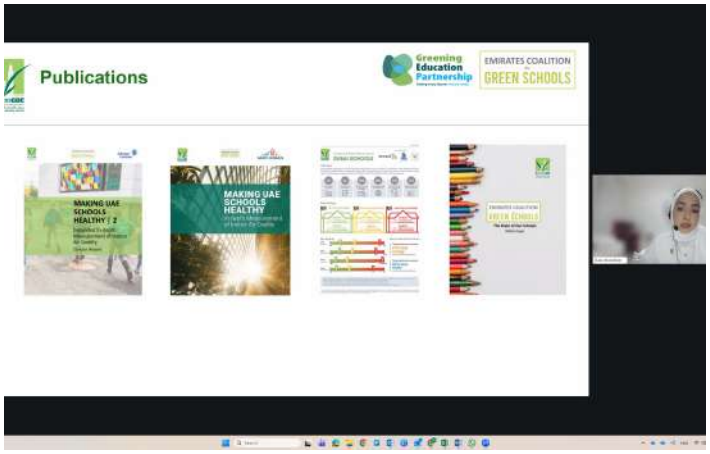
The GEP Annual Meeting highlighted the urgent need for education systems to adapt and respond to the climate crisis, emphasizing that greening education is essential for equipping learners with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to build a sustainable future. Participants explored how institutions can integrate climate action across curricula, campus operations, and community engagement.

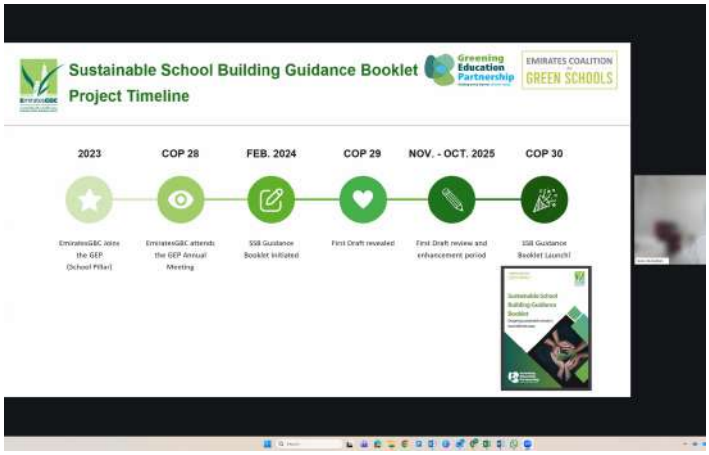
Ajman University's participation underscores its ongoing commitment to embedding sustainability into higher education. By engaging with global leaders at COP30 and sharing its own innovative greening practices, the university continues to bridge academic leadership with practical climate solutions, aligning with the UAE's Net Zero targets and the broader objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting concluded with a unified call for stronger global partnerships and increased investment in climate education, reinforcing the vital role that universities play as catalysts for environmental stewardship and systemic change. Ajman University's active involvement in the GEP reflects its dedication to preparing future leaders who are ready to drive the transition toward a sustainable and equitable world.

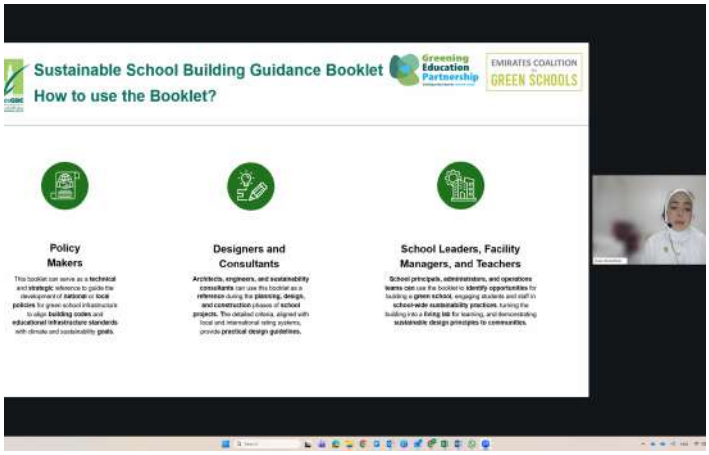
https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-participates-in-3rd-gep-annual-meeting-at-cop30-in-brazil-to-advance-global-climate-education


EDUCATION UNION ADVOCACY IN THE UK
Diverse contexts
Inclusive: just transition
EDUCATION = 31 mentions in UK NDC
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution
Joint Union Heatwave Protocol


Publications
Greening Education Partnership
EMIRATES COALITION GREEN SCHOOLS
MAKING UAE SCHOOLS HEALTHY
MAKING UAE SCHOOLS HEALTHY


Sustainable School Building Guidance Booklet
Project Timeline
Greening Education Partnership
EMIRATES COALITION GREEN SCHOOLS
2023
COP 28
FEB. 2024
COP 29
NOV. - OCT. 2025
COP 30


unesco
Greening Education Partnership
Accelerating action through climate literacy in international assessments
Mr. Mario Piacentini, Senior Analyst from the Directorate for Education and Skills, OECD
COP30 BRASIL AMAZÔNIA


Sustainable School Building Guidance Booklet
How to use the Booklet?
Greening Education Partnership
EMIRATES COALITION GREEN SCHOOLS
Policy Makers
Designers and Consultants
School Leaders, Facility Managers, and Teachers


EDUCATION & SKILLS
PISA 2029 Climate Literacy Assessment
November 2025 – GEP Meetings
PISA
OECD

Ajman University Advances Institutional Climate and Education Leadership at Times Higher Education Arab World Summit 2025



Ajman University strengthened its regional leadership in sustainability and higher education development through its active participation in the Times Higher Education Arab World Summit 2025, hosted by Al Ahliyya Amman University and held in Amman, Jordan, from 25 to 27 November 2025. Centered on the theme “Future-ready and united: A new vision for Arab higher education,” the summit convened senior leaders from academia, government, and industry to examine how universities can drive societal, economic, and environmental progress across the Arab region.

The summit agenda addressed critical priorities shaping the future of higher education, including innovation ecosystems, digital transformation and artificial intelligence, institutional resilience, and graduate employability. Opening discussions highlighted the accelerating global visibility of Arab universities and emphasized the growing importance of transparency, accountability, and data-informed strategy in strengthening institutional impact.

Ajman University contributed to the summit’s academic leadership dialogue through its participation in the session “Reimagining Graduate Employability” held on 26 November. Representing the University, Dr. Khaled Assaleh, Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs, engaged in discussions on how universities can better align curricula with labour market needs and regional economic shifts. The session explored future skills and mindsets, the role of work-integrated learning and internships, and the importance of entrepreneurship in preparing graduates for a rapidly evolving world of work.

A core sustainability-focused contribution from Ajman University followed through its engagement in the workshop on Institutional Climate Action Planning, also held on 26 November at the Ahmad Hourani Auditorium. The strategic session examined how universities can develop and scale comprehensive sustainability action plans addressing energy use, biodiversity, waste management, and stakeholder engagement, while embedding climate responsibility across governance, operations, and academic frameworks.



Ajman University was represented in this workshop by Ms. Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager, who shared the University's approach to building robust and accountable institutional climate action plans. Her contribution emphasized science-aligned net-zero ambition, inclusive community mobilization, and the use of transparent performance indicators, partnerships, and funding mechanisms to accelerate progress in decarbonisation and biodiversity protection.

Ajman University was also represented at the summit by Professor Mustahsan Mir, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, reflecting the University's broad institutional engagement in high-level strategic discussions shaping the future of higher education in the region.

Ajman University's engagement at the Times Higher Education Arab World Summit 2025 underscores its commitment to advancing sustainability, employability, and institutional excellence as integrated strategic priorities. Through the leadership of its academic and sustainability offices, the University continues to contribute to regional and global dialogue, reinforcing its role as a proactive institution shaping responsible, future-ready higher education in alignment with the UAE's sustainability vision.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-advances-institutional-climate-and-education-leadership-at-times-higher-education-arab-world-summit-2025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JORDAN




Arab Universities Summit
Future-ready and united: A new vision for Arab higher education
#THEarabsummit


#1
جامعة عجمان الأهلية





Ajman University Contributes to 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.

The workshop was moderated by Martina Zipoli, Senior Project Manager at the Union of Mediterranean Universities, and featured speakers Dr Murad Al-Maaitah, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Technology at Al Ahliyya Amman University, Aya Soki, Executive Director of the UN Global Compact Network Jordan, and Cengiz Yilmaz, Rector of Abdullah Gül University. Together, the speakers brought diverse institutional and regional perspectives to the discussion, highlighting shared challenges and practical approaches to advancing climate action in higher education.

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

Over an eight-year period, this leadership approach delivered tangible institutional outcomes, including 19 international programme accreditations, a debut appearance in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 within the 401–500 band, and recognition as the first private, non-profit university in the Arab region to receive international accreditation from WSCUC in the United States. According to the submission, this progress was supported through strengthened accountability and alignment mechanisms, data-driven decision-making, investment in professional development and teamwork, expansion of research and innovation capacity, and a sustained focus on social impact and inclusion.

Ajman University was also shortlisted in the category Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership for its project “Greening Communities: Mangrove Planting Project,” implemented during 2023 to 2024 in collaboration with Al Zorah Development Company and Quest for Adventure at the Al Zorah Natural Reserve in Ajman. The initiative applies a nature-based solution to protect Ajman’s vulnerable coastline by addressing rising sea levels and carbon emissions through the stabilising and carbon-sequestering capacity of mangroves, which can absorb up to four times more carbon dioxide than terrestrial forests.

With more than 3,300 mangroves planted to date, the project demonstrates strong potential environmental impact, with estimated carbon absorption ranging between 66,000 and 990,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide. Beyond its ecological contribution, the initiative integrates social impact by engaging communities in meaningful ways. Women contribute to planning efforts, students gain hands-on sustainability experience, and underserved youth are provided opportunities to connect with nature. The project’s long-term objectives include expanding mangrove cover by 50 per cent within five years and engaging more than 10,000 participants, positioning it as a replicable model for coastal resilience and community-driven climate action.

Collectively, these two shortlistings reflect more than individual submissions. They affirm Ajman University’s ability to align leadership, strategy, and sustainability within a cohesive institutional framework that delivers measurable outcomes. The recognition highlights the University’s growing role in advancing higher education excellence, environmental stewardship, and social impact across the Arab region.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-shortlisted-in-two-categories-at-the-times-higher-education-arab-world-awards-2025










THE Arab Univer



Ajman University Shortlisted in Two Categories at the Times Higher Education Arab World Awards 2025



Ajman University marked a significant institutional achievement by being shortlisted in two categories at the Times Higher Education Arab World Awards 2025, with the shortlist announced during the Times Higher Education Arab Universities Summit held in Amman, Jordan, from 25 to 27 November 2025. This recognition reflects sustained institutional progress and highlights how strategic leadership and environmental action have positioned the University among the region's most impactful higher education institutions.

The Times Higher Education Arab World Awards are among the most competitive recognitions in the region, celebrating achievements that extend beyond rankings to acknowledge leadership, innovation, and measurable real-world outcomes. Ajman University's shortlisting in two categories underscores the depth of its institutional development and the consistency of its performance across governance, sustainability, and community engagement.

In the category Leadership and Management Team of the Year, Ajman University was shortlisted for its submission titled "Senior Leadership Team Propels Ajman University to Soaring Excellence, Influence, and Impact." The submission highlights the University's senior leadership team, comprising Dr Karim Seghir, Dr Khaled Assaleh, Dr Abdulhaq Al-Nuaimi, Dr Mustahsan Mir, and Rabi Al Khofash, and the strategic direction established following the formation of a renewed leadership structure in 2017. Guided by a clearly defined stakeholder compass, an ambitious Strategic Plan, and the "Make It Happen" motto, the University progressed from unrealised potential toward growing regional and global recognition.

Ajman University Rises to 19th in the Arab University Rankings 2026



Ajman University has achieved a significant advancement in the Arab University Rankings 2026, rising from 40th place to 19th across the region. The results were announced in November 2025 during the Times Higher Education Arab Universities Summit held in Amman, Jordan, marking an important milestone in the University's continued institutional progress.

The rankings assess universities using a comprehensive methodology aligned with the global World University Rankings framework, evaluating performance across teaching quality, research environment, knowledge transfer, and international outlook. Ajman University's upward movement reflects measurable improvement across these dimensions and highlights the impact of sustained, strategic development.

A particularly strong area of performance was International Outlook, underscoring the University's focus on global engagement through international partnerships, academic collaboration, and cross-border knowledge exchange. This emphasis has contributed to the growth of a diverse academic community and strengthened the University's position within the regional and international higher education landscape.

Ajman University was represented at the summit by senior leadership and institutional representatives, including Dr Karim Seghir, Chancellor of Ajman University; Dr Khaled Assaleh, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Prof. Mustahsan Mir, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness; and Ms. Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager. Their presence reflected the University's integrated leadership approach and active participation in regional higher education dialogue.

The advancement from 40th to 19th place reflects Ajman University's commitment to evidence-based planning, academic quality enhancement, and internationalisation as core strategic priorities. The progress achieved demonstrates the effectiveness of long-term investment in governance, academic development, and institutional performance monitoring.

This improved standing represents a key step in Ajman University's ongoing trajectory of growth, reinforcing its role as a forward-looking institution contributing to the advancement of higher education across the Arab region.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-rises-to-19th-in-the-arab-university-rankings-2026


20 Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University Saudi Arabia
19 Ajman University United Arab Emirates
18 Prince Sultan University (PSU) Saudi Arabia
17 Al Ain University United Arab Emirates
16 Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University Saudi Arabia
15 King Abdulaziz University Saudi Arabia
14 Mohammed VI Polytechnic University Morocco
=13 Ahlia University Bahrain
=12 University of Sharjah United Arab Emirates







Ajman University Champions Climate Action as Key Leader in UAE Universities Climate Network (Report 2025)

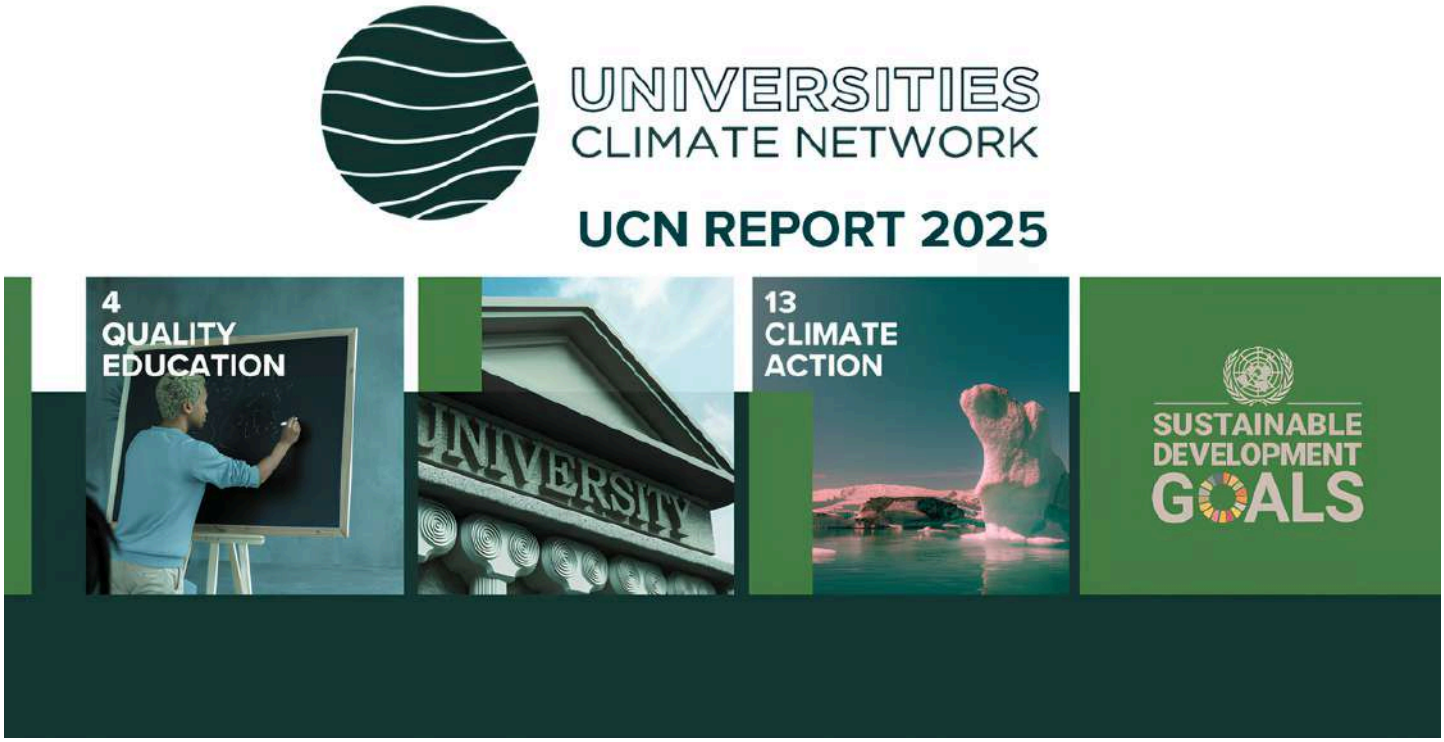


Ajman University (AU) continues to solidify its position as a trailblazer in higher education sustainability, taking a central leadership role in the newly released UAE Universities Climate Network (UCN) 2025 Report. As one of the three leading institutions of the UCN alongside Khalifa University and the University of Birmingham Dubai AU is driving collaborative climate action across a rapidly growing network of 38 UAE-based universities and higher education institutions.

The 2025 report highlights a year of remarkable achievements, global engagement, and systemic impact. It prominently features Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, who serves as the UCN Head of Operations and Co-Chair of the Communal Activation Pillar. Her leadership has been instrumental in bridging academic research with practical, community-driven climate solutions.

Operating through four key pillars Student Youth Engagement, Communal Activations, Research & Innovation, and Campus Carbon Neutrality the network's 2025 milestones demonstrate the power of collective academic action. Among the most notable achievements was the UCN's presence at COP30 in Belem, Brazil, where members delivered three high-impact workshops on ocean and cryosphere changes, accelerating the SDGs, and strengthening global research networks.

Furthermore, the network successfully launched the first cohort of the UCN Decarbonization Academy, which drew over 400 registered participants from beyond the higher education sector. The UCN also launched the Youth Ambassador Program, hosted the "Climate Change & Me" online series, and conducted a Universities Readiness Survey that gathered insights from over 300 respondents.



"The UCN 2025 Report is a powerful testament to what we can achieve when academia unites for a common cause," said Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at Ajman University and UCN Head of Operations. "Ajman University is deeply committed to empowering youth, advancing climate research, and driving the systemic changes needed to achieve Net Zero. Being part of the leadership team of this dynamic network allows us to scale our impact from our campus to the entire region and beyond."

The report also highlights the expansion of the MENA Climate Solutions Research Network, an initiative supported by the Climate Champions Team, which has now grown to over 350 members across the region. Tackling eight thematic priorities including energy, water, and finance this network ensures that higher education institutions in the MENA region are actively contributing to the global "2030 Climate Solutions Implementation Roadmap."

Ajman University's leadership in the UCN underscores its unwavering commitment to the UAE's Net Zero 2050 strategic initiative and the broader global sustainability agenda. By spearheading cross-institutional collaboration, AU is proving that universities are not just centers of learning, but vital catalysts for environmental stewardship and societal transformation.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2025/ajman-university-champions-climate-action-as-key-leader-in-uae-universities-climate-network-report-2025

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