جامعة عجمان
AJMAN UNIVERSITY

2024

SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION

13.3 Environmental education measures

13.3.2 Climate Action Plan, shared

THE GLOBAL GOALS

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Introduction

As the global climate crisis intensifies, universities have a crucial role to play in driving sustainable solutions. This report delves into the University's commitment to climate action and its efforts to engage with local government and community groups to develop and implement a shared Climate Action Plan.

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

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

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

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

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

Message from the Senior Sustainability Manager

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

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

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

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

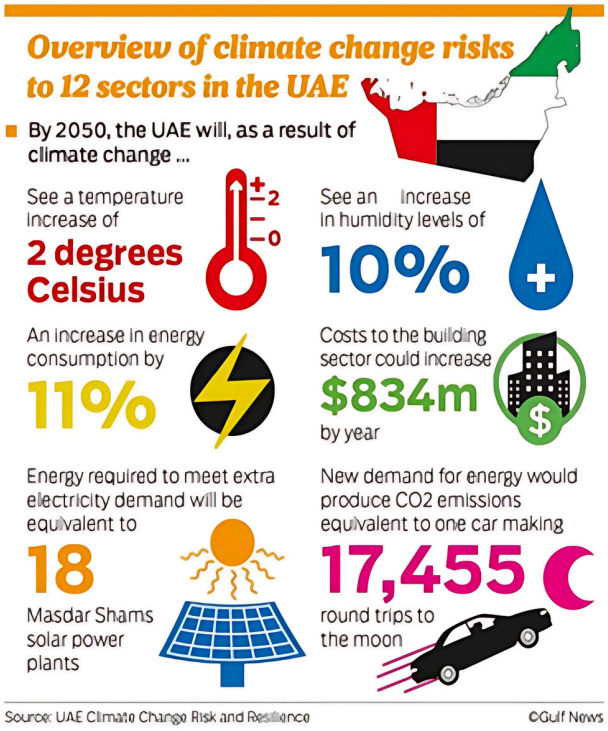
We are dedicated to leading by example in climate action

MAYA HADDAD
SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

13.3.2 Climate Action Plan, Shared

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

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



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

AU Timeline on Goals Achievement in the Climate Action Plan

January 2022

Planning Phase 1: Drafting of Climate Strategy

This process involves writing a strategic plan for the whole University, defining the timeline, steps, short and long term objectives to achieve Carbon Neutral by 2030 and Zero Carbon by 2050.

August 2022

Planning Phase 2: Campus Audit and Review of Emission Sources

This process involves the carbon footprint calculation according to scope 1 emission sources.

January 2023

Planning Phase 3: Climate Action Plan for Scope 1 Emissions

This process involves initiation of the plan intended to decrease the amount of Greenhouse Gas emissions based on the findings on the carbon footprint of the University as per phase 2 of planning.

August 2023

Planning Phase 4: Campus Audit and Review of Emission Sources

This process involves the carbon footprint calculation according to scope 2 and 3 emission sources.

January 2024

Planning Phase 5: Climate Action Plan for Scope 2 & 3 Emissions

This process involves initiation of the plan intended to decrease the amount of Greenhouse Gas emissions based on the findings on the carbon footprint of the University as per phase 4 of planning.

- ## Long Term Objectives of the Climate Action Strategy

01

Gold Sustainability Rating

Using the sustainability rating system provided by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System STARS)

02

Carbon Neutral by 2030

This is achieved when the amount of greenhouse gases released from on-campus activities is equivalent to the amount offset.

03

Zero Carbon by 2050

This is achieved when all on-campus activities release net-zero carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

04

Zero Waste by 2030

This is achieved by reaching a diversion rate of 90%

Carbon Emissions Reduction

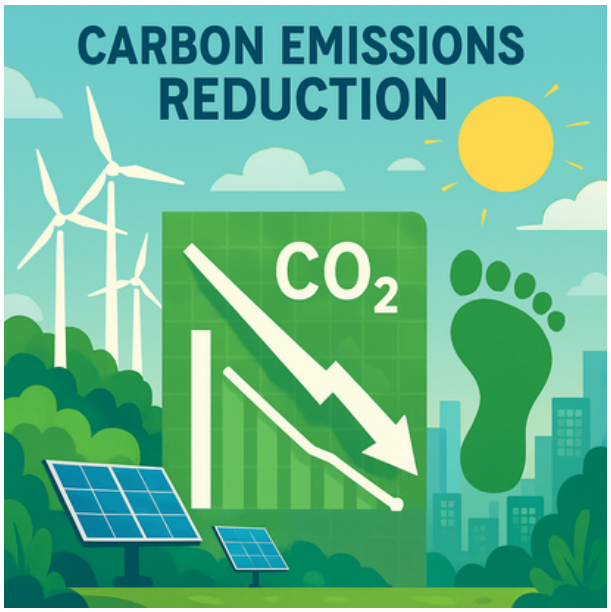
Ajman University's Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2022-2030 highlights its commitment to drive climate action goals in line with the UAE Green Agenda, Net Zero by 2050 Strategy, the National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017–2050, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Universities from various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

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

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

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

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



Our Integrated Strategy for Scope 3 Mitigation

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

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

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

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

Transparency and Collaboration: Sharing Our Climate Action Plan

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

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

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

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

Engaging Communities: Sharing Our Climate Action Journey

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

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

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

1. Interschool Environmental Public Speaking Competition (Jury member)
2. National Climate Adaptation Plan of the UAE by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (Workshop facilitator)
3. The Arab Green Summit, Dubai UAE
4. The UAE Industrial Symbiosis Symposium for the Circular Economy
5. Enhancing ESG performance: Measuring and Managing for Improved Business Resilience and Accountability
6. HSE Expo 2024 (Knowledge partner)
7. ESG Framework in the UAE by Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, May 2024 (Workshop facilitator)
8. Introduction to Climate and Carbon Literacy (Presenter)
9. Strategies for Carbon Footprint Reduction (Speaker)
10. UCN Decarbonization Academy -ongoing (Co-founder and speaker)
11. Green Entrepreneurship Program July 2024-ongoing (Co-founder)
12. Greenpeace UAE Wellbeing Economy Awards (Organizer and Speaker)
13. 2nd Girls in ICT Hackathon for Climate Change (Hackathon Judge)
14. Reduction of Climate Change Effects: Understanding the Law and Future Trends (Speaker)

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

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

"Race to Zero" Universities and Colleges

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

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

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

For a complete list of the global institutions that are part of this endeavor, and to view our plan among them, you can visit the official signatories here:
https://www.educationracetozero.org/current-signatories

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

Environment Center for Arab Towns (ECAT)

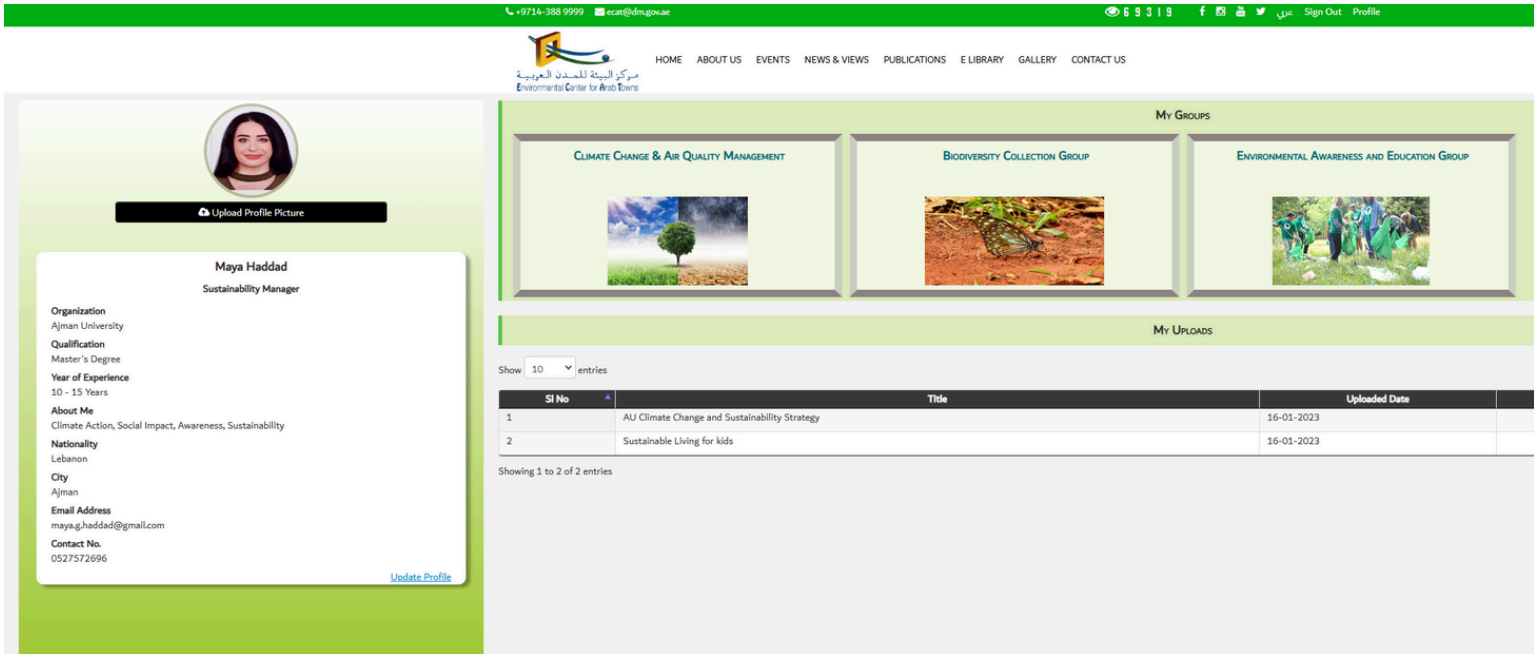
Founded in 2005 by the Arab Town Organization (ATO), the Environmental Center for Arab Towns (ECAT) serves as a vital hub for environmental collaboration in the Arab world. Led by H.E. Dawood Al Hajri, ECAT tackles critical environmental challenges and promotes sustainable development across Arab cities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

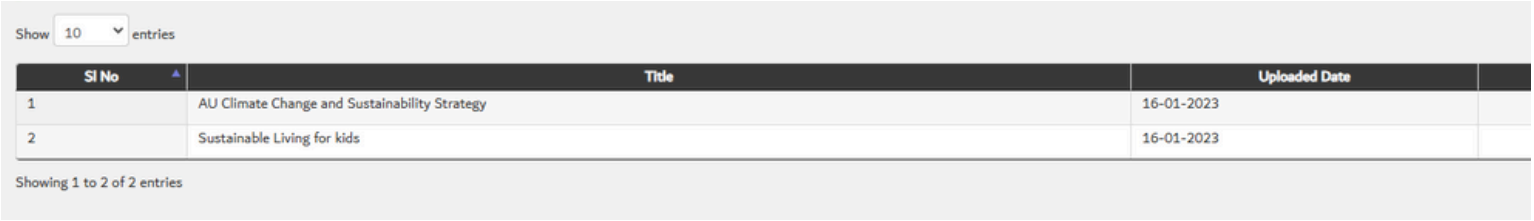
ECAT boasts a robust network of 50 Arab cities and 138 Arab experts, including Ms. Maya Haddad, Sustainability Manager at Ajman University. This diverse network fosters communication and collaboration, breaking down barriers and allowing urban centers to learn from each other's experiences.

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

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

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





Show 10 entries

Sl No	Title	Uploaded Date
1	AU Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy	16-01-2023
2	Sustainable Living for kids	16-01-2023

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

Emirates Environmental Group (EEG)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Certificate of Membership

شهادة العضوية

EEG

مقدمة إلى

awarded to

AJMAN UNIVERSITY

Contribution for the year 1st of Mar. 2025 to 31st Feb. 2026 مشاركة عن عام

السيدة/ حبيبة سلطان المرعشي
الرئيسة
Mrs. Habiba Sultan Al Marashi
Chairperson

Emirates Green Building Council

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

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

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

Their strategic goals reflect a comprehensive approach:

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

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

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

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 2024 to December 2024

Khaled Bushnaq
Chairman

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

International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI)

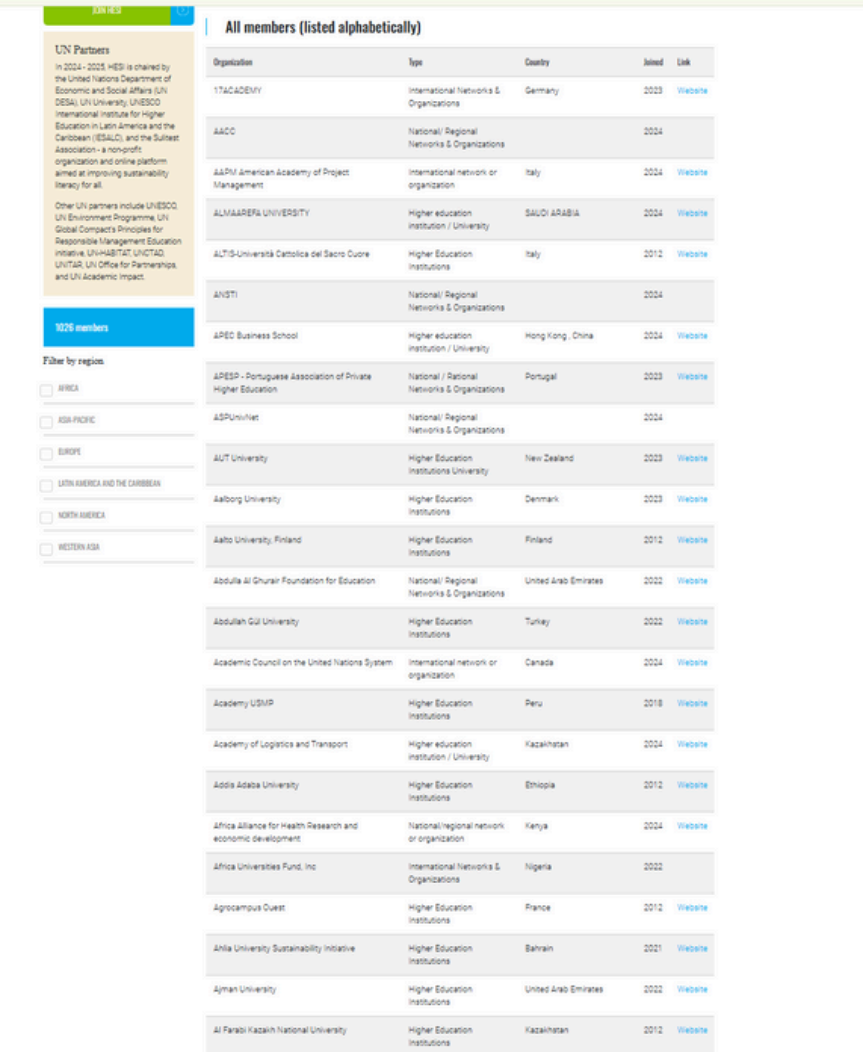
In the lead-up to the Rio+20 Conference in 2012, a groundbreaking collaboration emerged – the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI). This initiative united the power of the United Nations with the expertise of the higher education community. Today, HESI is spearheaded by the UN Department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

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

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

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

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



UN HESI

UN Partners

In 2024 - 2025, HESI is chaired by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), UN University, UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC), and the Sulitest Association - a non-profit organization and online platform aimed at improving sustainability literacy for all.

Other UN partners include UNESCO, UN Environment Programme, UN Global Compact's Principles for Responsible Management Education initiative, UN-HABITAT, UNCTAD, UNITAR, UN Office for Partnerships, and UN Academic Impact.

1026 members

Filter by region

- AFRICA
- ASIA-PACIFIC
- EUROPE
- LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
- NORTH AMERICA
- WESTERN ASIA

All members (listed alphabetically)

Organization	Type	Country	Joined	Link
1TACADEMY	International Networks & Organizations	Germany	2023	Website
AACC	National/ Regional Networks & Organizations		2024	
AAPM American Academy of Project Management	International network or organization	Italy	2024	Website
ALMAAREFA UNIVERSITY	Higher education institution / University	SAUDI ARABIA	2024	Website
ALTIS-Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	Higher Education Institutions	Italy	2012	Website
ANSTI	National/ Regional Networks & Organizations		2024	
APEC Business School	Higher education institution / University	Hong Kong , China	2024	Website
APESP - Portuguese Association of Private Higher Education	National / Rational Networks & Organizations	Portugal	2023	Website
ASPUniNet	National/ Regional Networks & Organizations		2024	
AUT University	Higher Education Institutions University	New Zealand	2023	Website
Aalborg University	Higher Education Institutions	Denmark	2023	Website
Aalto University, Finland	Higher Education Institutions	Finland	2012	Website
Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education	National/ Regional Networks & Organizations	United Arab Emirates	2022	Website
Abdullah Gül University	Higher Education Institutions	Turkey	2022	Website
Academic Council on the United Nations System	International network or organization	Canada	2024	Website
Academy USMP	Higher Education Institutions	Peru	2018	Website
Academy of Logistics and Transport	Higher education institution / University	Kazakhstan	2024	Website
Addis Ababa University	Higher Education Institutions	Ethiopia	2012	Website
Africa Alliance for Health Research and economic development	National/regional network or organization	Kenya	2024	Website
Africa Universities Fund, Inc	International Networks & Organizations	Nigeria	2022	
Agrocampus Ouest	Higher Education Institutions	France	2012	Website
Ahlia University Sustainability Initiative	Higher Education Institutions	Bahrain	2021	Website
Ajman University	Higher Education Institutions	United Arab Emirates	2022	Website
Al Farabi Kazakh National University	Higher Education Institutions	Kazakhstan	2012	Website

The SDG Accord

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

The SDG Accord serves a dual purpose:

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

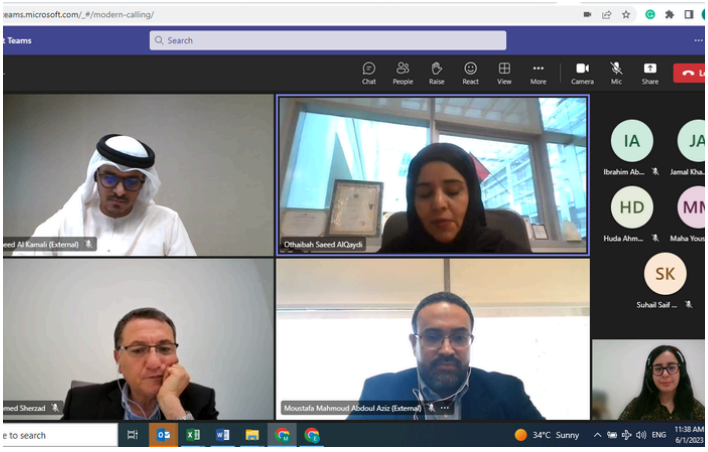
https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/partnerships/the-sdg-accord

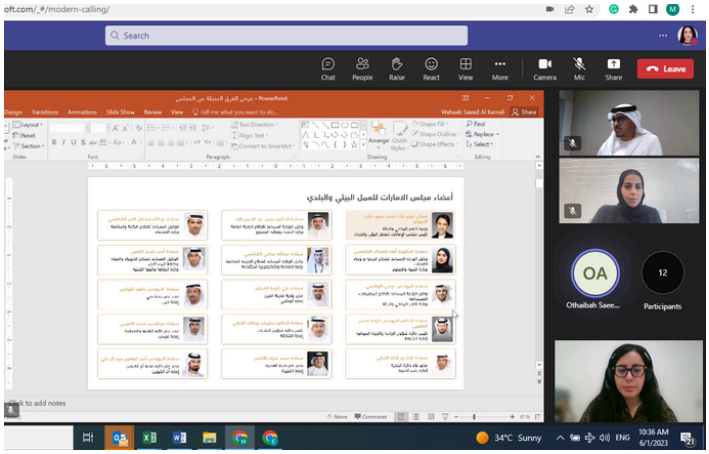
Emirates Municipal Environmental Council

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

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

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





The Grace Preservation Second Global Conference

Ajman University proudly showcased its sustainability achievements at The Grace Preservation Second Global Conference, an esteemed event organized by the Emirates Red Crescent with the support of ADNOC, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WAM, the Dubai Charity Association, among other prominent partners. The conference, held on November 26, 2024, was a convergence of minds focused on advancing sustainability both nationally and globally.

Central to the discussions were best practices in sustainability, groundbreaking projects, and the pioneering efforts of UAE universities. The agenda delved into crucial areas such as minimizing food waste, advancing sustainable agriculture, fostering a circular economy, and exploring innovative water preservation solutions.

Ajman University's Office of Sustainability extended an invitation to its community, urging students and staff to engage in diverse sessions, absorb valuable insights, and connect with industry experts.

Ms. Maya Haddad, Sustainability Manager at Ajman University, participated as a speaker in a panel discussing ‘Sustainable Projects and Experiences of UAE Universities for Future Generations.’ She shared AU's exemplary sustainability and climate action practices and its steadfast dedication to cultivating future generations of sustainability leaders.

This conference provided Ajman University with a remarkable platform to highlight its successes and reaffirm its commitment to promoting sustainability at both institutional and community levels.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2024/ajman-university-shines-at-global-sustainability-conference

Ajman University Architecture Students Triumph at Prestigious ASHRAE Student Debate Competition

Students from the Department of Architecture at Ajman University have demonstrated exceptional talent and intellectual prowess by securing a win at the prestigious ASHRAE Student Debate Competition. The event was held on Thursday, 21st November 2024, at the Auditorium of Al Safa Art & Design Library in Dubai.

Under the supervision of Dr.Muna Salameh, students Aysha Nimra and Itemat Sauria, alongside their teams, represented the university with distinction. The competition provided a rigorous platform for students to engage in critical discourse on pivotal industry topics, showcasing their deep knowledge, confidence, and debating skills.

The debate featured challenging and forward-thinking themes central to the future of the built environment, including:

- Energy Efficiency vs. Occupant Well-Being: Examining the primary drivers of sustainable development.
- Digital Innovation vs. Human Expertise: Debating the key forces behind building decarbonization.
- The Future of Urban Planning: Weighing the merits of Smart Cities against Green Cities.

"This victory is a testament to the quality of our academic programs and the dedication of our students," said Dr.Muna. "Competing in a forum like ASHRAE allows our future architects to hone essential skills and gain recognition among industry professionals. We are incredibly proud of how they represented Ajman University."

The achievement highlights the department's success in providing students with opportunities that extend beyond the classroom, fostering critical thinking, public speaking, and engagement with global sustainability trends.

This win not only brings acclaim to the students and the Department of Architecture but also reinforces Ajman University's commitment to developing skilled graduates who are prepared to lead and innovate in their fields.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2024/ajman-university-architecture-students-triumph-at-prestigious-ashrae-student-debate-competition

Ajman University's Office of Sustainability Participates in the Forbes Middle East Sustainability Leaders Summit 2024

Ajman University's Office of Sustainability participated in the second edition of the Forbes Middle East Sustainability Leaders Summit 2024, held at Marina Hall, ADNEC Center, Abu Dhabi, from October 17 to 18, 2024, under the theme "Shaping a Sustainable Tomorrow."

Chaired by H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade, the two-day summit served as a leading platform to accelerate progress toward sustainable development, strengthen climate resilience, and promote environmentally responsible economic growth.

The summit brought together leaders and experts from both the public and private sectors across the region to develop and adopt green and sustainable practices that address the unique environmental and economic challenges faced by Middle Eastern nations. Its impact extended beyond the region's borders, contributing to the global fight against climate change by fostering innovative ideas and solutions that advance social well-being and environmental stewardship.

Ajman University was represented by Maya Haddad, Senior Sustainability Manager at the Office of Sustainability, who participated in panel discussions exploring the role of higher education in driving sustainable transformation and the importance of integrating sustainability principles into institutional and community practices.

Ajman University's participation in the summit reaffirms its strong commitment to supporting national and international sustainability initiatives, while reinforcing its position as a leading academic institution in innovation and sustainability at both the regional and global levels.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2024/ajman-universitys-office-of-sustainability-participates-in-the-forbes-middle-east-sustainability-leaders-summit-2024

The Office of Sustainability and the Office of Community Engagement Participate in the Arabia CSR & Sustainability Forum 2024

The Office of Sustainability and the Office of Community Engagement at Ajman University participated in the second day of the 12th cycle of the Arabia CSR & Sustainability Forum 2024, held under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Economy. The forum, themed "Sustainable Prosperity: Reorienting for a Balanced Future," aimed to bring together experts and thought leaders from the Arab region and beyond to discuss pressing regional and global issues, proposing effective solutions through discussions, panel sessions, and interactive Q&A.

In line with Ajman University's commitment to developing inclusive education and enhancing community engagement, a group of university students were supported to attend the forum, offering them the opportunity to engage in valuable discussions that took place during the event. Additionally, this support extended to students from the National Charity School, providing them the chance to interact with experts and leaders participating in the forum, which contributed to expanding their knowledge horizons and increasing their awareness of global and regional issues.

The forum addressed key topics such as economy, innovation, investment, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability, and social and behavioral aspects.

The efforts of the Office of Sustainability and the Office of Community Engagement at Ajman University reflect the University's commitment to promoting community awareness and active participation in critical issues that shape the future. By supporting participation in prominent events like the Arabia CSR & Sustainability Forum, the two offices aim to provide educational opportunities for all segments of society, contributing to the development of a generation capable of driving positive change within their communities.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2024/the-office-of-sustainability-and-the-office-of-community-engagement-participate-in-the-arabia-csr-sustainability-forum-2024

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/gallery/arabia-csr-forum-2024

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

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

Exploring the Research: Bridging the Gap between Policy and Practice

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

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

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

Tools & Resources: Empowering Institutions to Act

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

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

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

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

Looking Ahead: Collaborating for Impact

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

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

Ajman University hosted the 7th Edition of the Ajman International Environment Conference (AIEC)

Ajman University recently hosted the 7th Edition of the Ajman International Environment Conference (AIEC), a landmark event that brought together global experts, academics, and professionals to discuss critical environmental issues. With a focus on "Climate-Neutral City 2050," the conference explored innovative strategies to accelerate climate action and promote sustainable urban development. The event aligned closely with the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, reflecting the UAE's commitment to leading on climate issues.

One of the highlights of the conference was the participation of Ms. Maya Haddad, Sustainability Manager at Ajman University. Her involvement exemplified the university's dedication to sustainability and active contribution to environmental initiatives. In recognition of her efforts, Ms. Haddad received a certificate of recognition for her valuable contribution to the event.

Key topics discussed during the conference included the role of artificial intelligence in achieving net-zero emissions, transitioning to low-carbon infrastructure, and the integration of circular waste economies. These discussions are critical to addressing the environmental challenges of today and fostering collaboration for a more resilient future.

Ajman University's involvement in hosting the conference not only reinforces its commitment to sustainability but also highlights its role as a key player in the UAE's broader environmental and climate initiatives. By actively engaging in these discussions, the university continues to pave the way for innovative solutions that align with the UAE's Vision 2050.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2024/ajman-university-hosted-the-7th-edition-of-the-ajman-international-environment-conference-aiec

Ajman University's Role in the ISCN Biodiversity Community of Practice

Ajman University proudly participates in the International Sustainable Campus Network's (ISCN) Biodiversity Community of Practice, joining a prestigious group of higher education institutions such as Yale University, Harvard University, the University of Toronto, and King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST). This global network is dedicated to advancing biodiversity conservation and restoration through collaboration, research, and knowledge exchange.

The Biodiversity Community of Practice focuses on integrating biodiversity considerations into key areas such as campus operations, teaching, research, responsible purchasing, and community engagement. By sharing best practices and collaborating on biodiversity initiatives, members are empowered to lead impactful efforts within their institutions and contribute to the broader global movement for biodiversity protection.

Ajman University's involvement highlights its dedication to sustainability, aiming to embed biodiversity into its operations and academic environment. Through this collaboration with some of the world's most renowned universities, AU strengthens its capacity to drive biodiversity-focused initiatives, playing a key role in conservation efforts locally and globally. By embracing this mission, AU not only enhances its own practices but also contributes to the global effort to protect and restore biodiversity for future generations.

To learn more, visit: Biodiversity Community of Practice - ISCN (international-sustainable-campus-network.org)

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2024/ajman-universitys-role-in-the-iscn-biodiversity-community-of-practice

Office of Sustainability at Ajman University Participates in SEE Institute's Climate Talk Series: Unlocking AI Solutions for a Sustainable Future

The Office of Sustainability at Ajman University recently attended the 6th edition of the Climate Talk series, hosted by the SEE Institute. This engaging event focused on the transformative role of artificial intelligence in enhancing sustainability within the built environment. Experts gathered to discuss AI-driven innovations in areas such as smart building management, energy efficiency, and sustainable urban planning.

Ajman University's office of sustainability in this event underscores its commitment to providing students with comprehensive insights into global sustainability trends. By engaging in discussions on how AI can optimize resource use and drive sustainable practices, the Office of Sustainability aims to enrich the learning experience for students and prepare them for a future defined by innovation and sustainability. This aligns perfectly with the university's mission to foster collaboration between academia, industry, and policymakers, empowering students to contribute meaningfully to a more sustainable world.

The SEE Institute is recognized as a leading hub for sustainability education, research, and business incubation, focusing on promoting sustainable practices both locally and globally. Aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the institute addresses the increasing demand for sustainability professionals through its comprehensive education programs. Operating from a net zero emissions building, which serves as a benchmark for energy efficiency, the SEE Institute collaborates with governments, industries, and academia to advance the global sustainability agenda through research initiatives, conferences, and knowledge sharing.

Through participation in events like the Climate Talk series, the Office of Sustainability continues to strengthen its role as a leader in sustainability education and innovation, helping shape a greener and more resilient future for all.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2024/office-of-sustainability-at-ajman-university-participates-in-see-institutes-climate-talk-series-unlocking-ai-solutions-for-a-sustainable-future

Ajman University's Office of Sustainability Takes Part in Dubai Holding Women + Fin-Erth Climate Dinner

Ajman University, represented by the Office of Sustainability, participated in the inaugural Dubai Holding Women + Fin-Erth Climate Dinner held on 17 September 2024 at Al Nafoorah, Jumeirah Al Qasr Hotel, Dubai. Organized by Dubai Holding, in partnership with Fin-Erth, the exclusive event gathered around 80 influential women leaders across the UAE's climate ecosystem to explore collaborative pathways for advancing climate solutions and building momentum towards a sustainable future

Building on the legacy of COP28 and Dubai Holding's pivotal role as a Principal Pathway Sponsor, the dinner marked the first step in establishing a dedicated community of female leaders committed to driving environmental progress and supporting the UAE's Net Zero 2050 agenda. The evening featured a welcome reception followed by a guided seated dinner designed to encourage open dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collective brainstorming around unlocking innovative approaches to climate action.

Throughout the discussions, participants reflected on the power of women's leadership in accelerating sustainability initiatives across diverse sectors, from green finance and circular economy solutions to low-carbon innovation. The gathering underscored the significance of fostering inclusive platforms where women can collaborate, mentor, and amplify each other's impact in shaping a resilient climate future.

The event also served as a launchpad for ongoing engagement, with attendees invited to join a dedicated WhatsApp community, a dynamic network aimed at sustaining collaboration, learning, and mutual support among women driving climate action in the region. Fin-Erth will circulate the key discussion takeaways and future action points emerging from the dinner's thematic tables.

Ajman University's participation reflects its ongoing dedication to empowering women in sustainability leadership and its alignment with the UAE's national vision for climate innovation, gender inclusion, and global environmental stewardship.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2024/ajman-universitys-office-of-sustainability-takes-part-in-dubai-holding-women-fin-erth-climate-dinner

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/gallery/dubai-holdings-building-momentum-in-climate-dinner

Ajman University Shapes National Climate Resilience at UAE Adaptation Plan Consultation

Ajman University has reinforced its role as a key advisor to the nation's climate agenda through its active participation in the official government consultation sessions for the UAE National Climate Adaptation Plan (NAP). The high-level meeting, led by the national Climate Change Team and GGGI, focused on integrating social equity and robust governance into the core of the country's strategy to build resilience against climate impacts.

The consultation served as a critical platform to ensure the plan is both inclusive and effective. University representatives contributed expert insights on two foundational pillars of the NAP: conducting a Gender and Social Safeguards Assessment and establishing a Climate Governance Baseline.

The session centered on several key national objectives, where AU's expertise proved invaluable:

- Ensuring Inclusive Adaptation: Providing input to guarantee the NAP mitigates negative social impacts and promotes sustainable development for all people in the UAE.
- Mapping Social Safeguards: Helping to identify key policies related to gender equality and socioeconomic development that are relevant to climate adaptation.
- Strengthening Institutional Capacity: Contributing to the assessment of stakeholder capacity to implement inclusive and equitable climate policies.
- Fostering Collaborative Governance: Engaging as a key stakeholder to ensure the NAP is widely supported, participatory, and effectively addresses the nation's adaptation needs.

Following the session, Ajman University is also contributing to two vital national surveys emanating from the consultation, further solidifying its partnership in the plan's development.

This direct engagement underscores Ajman University's strategic alignment with the UAE's Net Zero 2050 ambition and its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By lending its academic and professional expertise to this foundational national policy, the university continues to demonstrate its vital role in building a more resilient and sustainable future for the United Arab Emirates.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2024/ajman-university-shapes-national-climate-resilience-at-uae-adaptation-plan-consultation

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

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

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

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

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

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

ISCN
International Sustainable Campus Network

Ajman University Lends Expertise to National Climate Agenda at Emirates Environmental Council Brainstorming Session

In a significant move to align institutional knowledge with national priorities, Ajman University's sustainability leaders participated in a high-level brainstorming session with the Emirates Municipal Environmental Council. The session, convened by the Council established under the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, focused on developing integrated strategies to advance the UAE's environmental and climate goals.

The University's delegation, including its Senior Sustainability Managers and faculty experts, contributed across multiple specialized teams, positioning AU as a key academic partner in translating national climate policy into actionable, ground-level initiatives.

"Our role extends beyond our campus borders," stated Maya Haddad from Ajman University's Office of Sustainability. "This collaborative session was a powerful demonstration of how academic research, innovation, and community engagement can directly inform and accelerate national progress. By contributing to these teams, we are ensuring that scientific rigor and educational excellence are embedded into the UAE's journey toward a sustainable future."

The brainstorming session saw AU experts provide strategic input across five critical pillars of the Council's work:

1. Environmental and Municipal Studies and Research: University researchers proposed collaborative studies on pressing local environmental challenges, offering the institution's advanced labs and data analysis capabilities to support evidence-based municipal decision-making.
2. Education and Public Awareness: Drawing on its core mission, the AU team brainstormed innovative public outreach campaigns and curriculum frameworks designed to foster a culture of environmental stewardship from schools to the wider community.
3. Regional and International Representation: Faculty members with global experience contributed insights on international best practices, helping to position the UAE's municipal efforts within the broader context of global climate agreements and partnerships.
4. Policy and Legislation Development: Legal and policy scholars from the University provided critical analysis for drafting robust environmental regulations, ensuring that new policies are both scientifically sound and practically enforceable.
5. Transformational Projects: Engineers and sustainability innovators from AU contributed ideas for pioneering projects in areas like circular waste management and green infrastructure, showcasing the university's capacity to be a testbed for scalable, real-world solutions.

This active participation underscores Ajman University's deep commitment to its Third Mission of community engagement and its strategic alignment with the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative. By lending its academic and technical weight to the Emirates Municipal Environmental Council, the University continues to solidify its role as a vital engine for environmental progress and a key contributor to a greener, more resilient future for the nation.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2024/ajman-university-lends-expertise-to-national-climate-agenda-at-emirates-environmental-council-brainstorming-session

Ajman University's Office of Sustainability Participates in UNFCCC Workshop on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and Carbon Markets

The Office of Sustainability at Ajman University has participated in an on-campus workshop led by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to explore Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and the potential of carbon markets to support cities in reaching net-zero targets. This workshop, titled "Navigating Article 6: Opportunities for Cities' Net-Zero Commitments," provided an in-depth overview of how cities like Ajman can utilize Article 6's mechanisms to drive sustainable development and climate action at the urban level.

The session opened with a comprehensive introduction to the three main mechanisms within Article 6, which allow for varied approaches to emissions reductions:

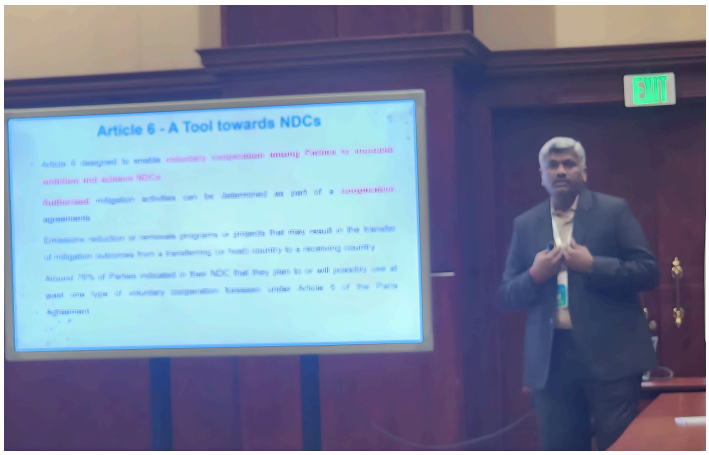
- Article 6.2 focuses on cooperative approaches between countries, enabling cross-border emission reduction exchanges.
- Article 6.4 provides a new market-based system, enabling both public and private entities to generate emission reduction credits, similar to the previous Clean Development Mechanism.
- Article 6.8 encourages non-market-based collaborations for sustainable development, offering alternative options to traditional carbon trading.

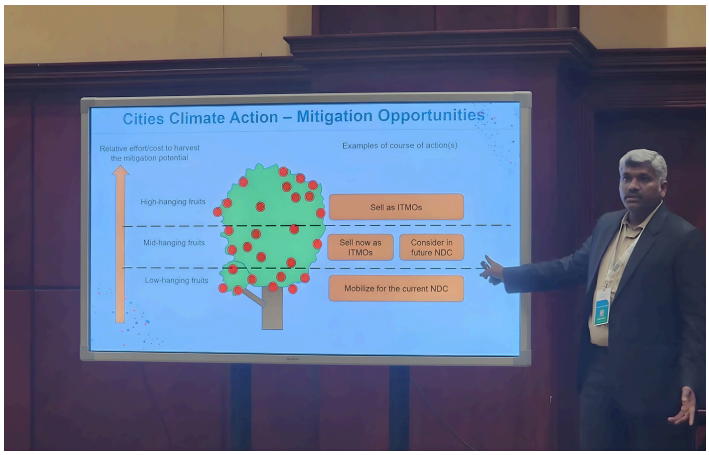
In addition, UNFCCC experts included the institutional, accounting, and reporting requirements for effective implementation. These frameworks emphasize transparency and alignment with Nationally Determined Contributions, particularly as cities develop their local greenhouse gas emission reduction objectives. The evolving role of carbon markets was also highlighted, outlining how cities can integrate their climate goals with national strategies for substantial impact.

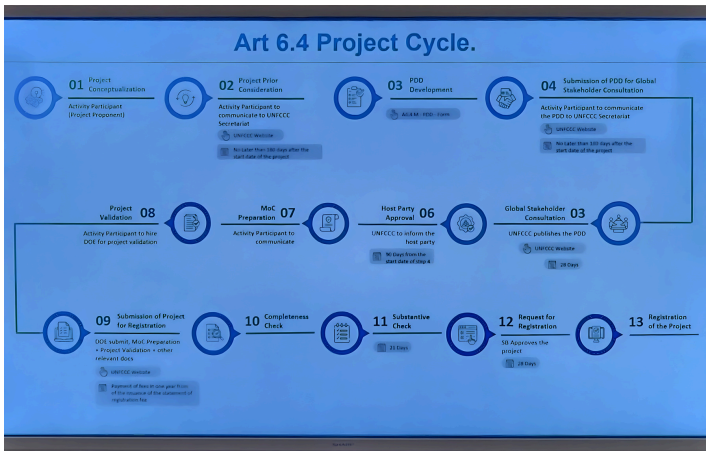
A case study on Ajman's GHG profile illustrated possible urban mitigation projects within the Article 6 framework. Experts examined the similarities between Article 6.4 and the CDM, with discussions on baseline approaches, crediting periods, and the transition processes from the CDM to Article 6.4. The role of the private sector, particularly in Article 6.2, was emphasized as an increasingly valuable partner in advancing sustainability initiatives.

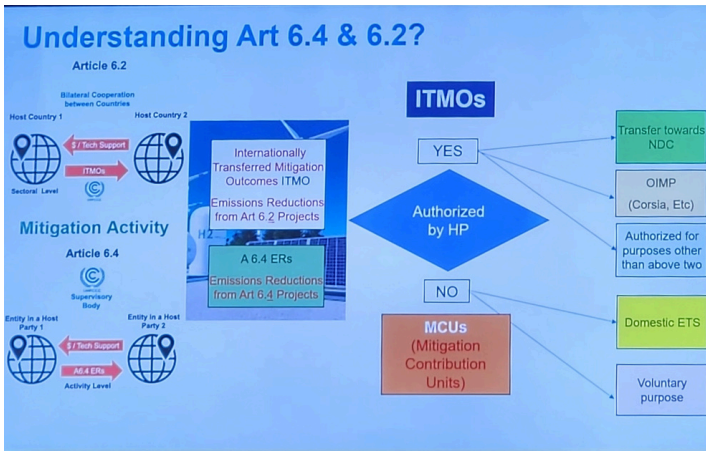
The workshop concluded with a Q&A session where participants exchanged insights on the implementation of Article 6 mechanisms to meet ambitious net-zero objectives. Through case studies, expert presentations, and shared best practices, the workshop highlighted the essential role cities play in advancing global climate objectives, demonstrating how Article 6 tools can lead to significant climate action at the local level.

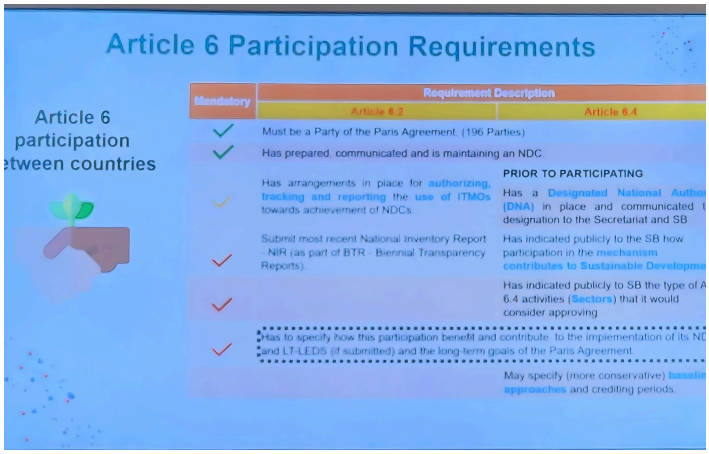
https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2024/ajman-universitys-office-of-sustainability-participates-in-unfccc-workshop-on-article-6-of-the-paris-agreement-and-carbon-markets

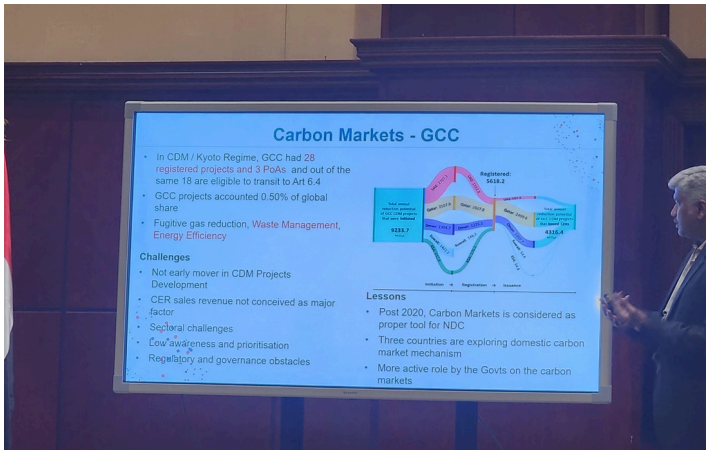

Article 6 - A Tool towards NDCs
EXIT

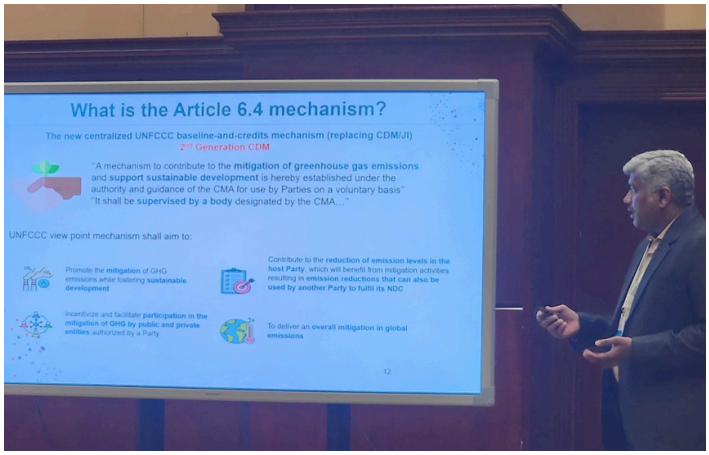

Cities Climate Action – Mitigation Opportunities
Relative effort/cost to harvest the mitigation potential
Examples of course of action(s)
High-hanging fruits
Mid-hanging fruits
Low-hanging fruits
Sell as ITMOs
Sell now as ITMOs
Consider in future NDC
Mobilize for the current NDC

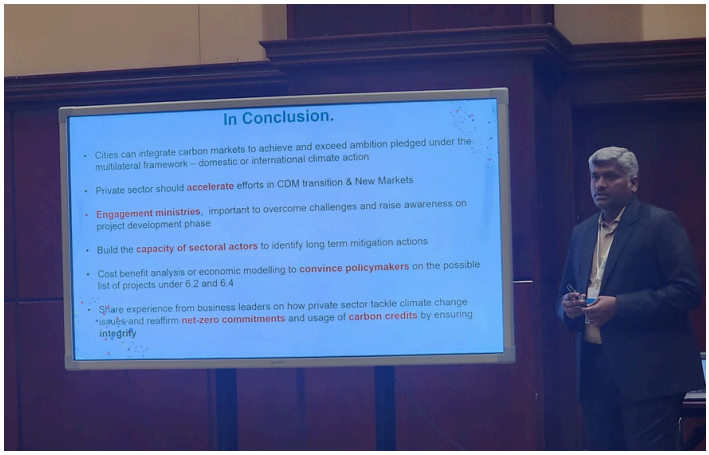

Art 6.4 Project Cycle.
01 Project Conceptualization
Activity Participant (Project Proponent)
02 Project Prior Consideration
Activity Participant to communicate to UNFCCC Secretariat
UNFCCC Website
No later than 180 days after the start date of the project
03 PDD Development
A6.4M - PDD - Form
04 Submission of PDD for Global Stakeholder Consultation
Activity Participant to communicate the PDD to UNFCCC Secretariat
UNFCCC Website
No later than 150 days after the start date of the project
03 Global Stakeholder Consultation
UNFCCC publishes the PDD
UNFCCC Website
28 Days
06 Host Party Approval
UNFCCC to inform the host party
90 Days from the start date of step 4
07 MoC Preparation
Activity Participant to communicate
08 Project Validation
Activity Participant to hire DOE for project validation
09 Submission of Project for Registration
DOE submit, MoC Preparation + Project Validation + other relevant docs
UNFCCC Website
Payment of fees in one year from of the issuance of the statement of registration fee
10 Completeness Check
11 Substantive Check
21 Days
12 Request for Registration
SB Approves the project
28 Days
13 Registration of the Project


Understanding Art 6.4 & 6.2?
Article 6.2
Bilateral Cooperation between Countries
Host Country 1
Host Country 2
$ / Tech Support
ITMOs
Sectoral Level
Mitigation Activity
Article 6.4
Supervisory Body
Entity in a Host Party 1
Entity in a Host Party 2
$ / Tech Support
A6.4 ERs
Activity Level
Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes ITMO
Emissions Reductions from Art 6.2 Projects
A 6.4 ERs
Emissions Reductions from Art 6.4 Projects
ITMOs
YES
Authorized by HP
NO
MCUs (Mitigation Contribution Units)
Transfer towards NDC
OIMP (Corsia, Etc)
Authorized for purposes other than above two
Domestic ETS
Voluntary purpose


Article 6 Participation Requirements
Article 6 participation between countries
Mandatory
Requirement Description
Article 6.2
Article 6.4
Must be a Party of the Paris Agreement. (196 Parties)
Has prepared, communicated and is maintaining an NDC.
Has arrangements in place for authorizing, tracking and reporting the use of ITMOs towards achievement of NDCs.
Submit most recent National Inventory Report - NIR (as part of BTR - Biennial Transparency Reports).
Has to specify how this participation benefit and contribute to the implementation of its ND and LT-LEDS (if submitted) and the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.
PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING
Has a Designated National Author (DNA) in place and communicated t designation to the Secretariat and SB
Has indicated publicly to the SB how participation in the mechanism contributes to Sustainable Developme
Has indicated publicly to SB the type of A 6.4 activities (Sectors) that it would consider approving
May specify (more conservative) baselin approaches and crediting periods.


Carbon Markets - GCC
In CDM / Kyoto Regime, GCC had 28 registered projects and 3 PoAs and out of the same 18 are eligible to transit to Art 6.4
GCC projects accounted 0.50% of global share
Fugitive gas reduction, Waste Management, Energy Efficiency
Challenges
Not early mover in CDM Projects Development
CER sales revenue not conceived as major factor
Sectoral challenges
Low awareness and prioritisation
Regulatory and governance obstacles
Registered: 5018.2
9233.7
4316.4
Lessons
Post 2020, Carbon Markets is considered as proper tool for NDC
Three countries are exploring domestic carbon market mechanism
More active role by the Govts on the carbon markets


What is the Article 6.4 mechanism?
The new centralized UNFCCC baseline-and-credits mechanism (replacing CDM/JI)
2nd Generation CDM
"A mechanism to contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and support sustainable development is hereby established under the authority and guidance of the CMA for use by Parties on a voluntary basis"
"It shall be supervised by a body designated by the CMA..."
UNFCCC view point mechanism shall aim to:
Promote the mitigation of GHG emissions while fostering sustainable development
Contribute to the reduction of emission levels in the host Party, which will benefit from mitigation activities resulting in emission reductions that can also be used by another Party to fulfil its NDC
Incentivize and facilitate participation in the mitigation of GHG by public and private entities authorized by a Party
To deliver an overall mitigation in global emissions
12


In Conclusion.
Cities can integrate carbon markets to achieve and exceed ambition pledged under the multilateral framework – domestic or international climate action
Private sector should accelerate efforts in CDM transition & New Markets
Engagement ministries, important to overcome challenges and raise awareness on project development phase
Build the capacity of sectoral actors to identify long term mitigation actions
Cost benefit analysis or economic modelling to convince policymakers on the possible list of projects under 6.2 and 6.4
Share experience from business leaders on how private sector tackle climate change issues and reaffirm net-zero commitments and usage of carbon credits by ensuring integrity

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

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