جامعة عجمان
AJMAN UNIVERSITY

2024

SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION

13.4 Commitment to carbon neutral university

13.4.2 Indicator: Achieve by date

THE GLOBAL GOALS

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Introduction

The escalating climate crisis demands urgent action and a transition to a low-carbon future. Universities, as centers of knowledge and innovation, have a crucial role to play in driving this transition. By setting ambitious targets and implementing effective strategies, universities can lead the way in achieving carbon neutrality.

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This report delves into the University's commitment to carbon neutrality and its progress towards achieving this goal. By examining the University's target date for achieving carbon neutrality for Scope 1 ,Scope 2 and hopefully Scope 3 emissions, we aim to assess its ambition and commitment to a sustainable future.

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

- **Achieve by Date (13.4.2)**: This indicator assesses the University's target date for achieving carbon neutrality for Scope 1 , Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions.

By analyzing this indicator, we can gain valuable insights into the University's leadership in climate action and its potential to inspire others to adopt sustainable practices.

Message from the Chancellor

As the climate crisis intensifies, it is imperative that we take bold and decisive action to reduce our carbon footprint. Our University is committed to playing a leading role in the global effort to achieve carbon neutrality.

By setting ambitious targets and implementing innovative strategies, we are working to minimize our environmental impact and create a more sustainable future. We are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all sources, including direct emissions, indirect emissions from purchased energy, and other indirect emissions. Through energy efficiency initiatives, we are taking significant steps towards achieving our carbon neutrality goal.

By embracing sustainability as a core value, we are inspiring future generations to become responsible global citizens.

Ajman University is committed to become carbon neutral by 2030

KARIM SEGHIR,PHD
CHANCELLOR

13.4.2 Indicator: Achieve by date

COMMITMENT TO A SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENT DATE

Ajman University's Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2022-2030 establishes a clear and decisive framework for the institution's role in advancing climate action. This strategy is deliberately aligned with the UAE's strategic vision, including the UAE Green Agenda, the Net Zero by 2050 Strategy, and the National Climate Change Plan, while also contributing directly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In doing so, the university positions itself at the forefront of a global movement within higher education to achieve carbon neutrality.

The strategy commits the university to two ambitious, time-bound targets: achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. These distinct yet interconnected goals demonstrate a sophisticated and exponential approach to decarbonization.

- The 2030 carbon neutrality pledge focuses on balancing the university's direct operational footprint (Scopes 1 and 2) through aggressive emissions reductions and high-quality offset mechanisms.
- The longer-term 2050 net zero emissions target represents a comprehensive commitment to deep decarbonization across the institution's entire value chain (Scopes 1, 2, and 3), leaving no source of emissions unexamined.

Achieving these objectives will require a concerted, collective effort from every segment of the Ajman University community, from students and faculty to administrative and operational staff. This collective action is essential for the university to fulfill its pledge as a driving force in reshaping a sustainable future, building institutional resilience, and preserving the environment for generations to come.

Through the implementation of this AU Climate and Sustainability Strategy, Ajman University demonstrates its unwavering dedication to climate leadership. This pledge is a crucial step in mitigating the impacts of climate change and actively creating a more sustainable and prosperous future, in harmony with both national ambitions and global necessities.

The AU Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2022-2030 serves as the University's comprehensive operational blueprint, translating high-level climate commitments into a concrete and actionable plan. It provides a clear roadmap for integrating sustainability into the core of University operations, academics, and community engagement.

The strategy is structured around several key, interconnected pillars designed to drive measurable outcomes:

1. Decarbonization and Energy Transformation: This forms the core of the emission reduction effort. The strategy outlines a direct path to a carbon-neutral campus through:
    - Strategic De-carbonization: Implementing a prioritized plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions across all scopes.
    - Investment in Efficiency and Renewables: Championing investments in state-of-the-art energy optimization solutions, such as building management system upgrades and high-efficiency infrastructure, coupled with a strategic shift toward renewable energy sources, both on-site and through procurement.
2. Environmental Stewardship and Impact Reduction: Moving beyond energy, the strategy commits to a holistic minimization of the University's environmental footprint. This involves:
    - Systemic Process Review: Continuously evaluating and improving University activities and processes, from waste management and water use to procurement and transportation to systematically lower their environmental impact rating.
    - Exploring Innovation: Dedicating resources to research and pilot new, innovative technologies and methods for decreasing both direct and indirect CO2 emissions, positioning AU as a living laboratory for sustainability.
3. Climate Resilience and Adaptation: Acknowledging that some climate impacts are already inevitable, the strategy proactively addresses adaptation. It focuses on building resilience across University operations, ensuring that infrastructure, supply chains, and academic programs can withstand and thrive in the face of climate-related disruptions.
4. Engagement and Cultural Shift: Recognizing that technical solutions alone are insufficient, the strategy prioritizes the human element. It mandates the creation of widespread awareness and educational initiatives to empower every member of the University community—students, faculty, and staff—to understand and take meaningful action for climate change.

AU strategy on Climate and Sustainability, adopted in the year 2022:

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/ehs/AU_Climate__Sustainability_Strategy_Document_2022_2030.pdf

AU Carbon Emissions' Reduction Website:

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

https://ehs.ajman.ac.ae/en/pages/au-carbon-emissions-reduction

"RACE TO ZERO" FOR UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

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.

Click here to view Ajman University's public commitment on the Race to Zero Website.

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	

CALCULATION OF CARBON FOOTPRINT

The calculation of Ajman University's carbon footprint is a methodical process grounded in international standards to ensure accuracy, consistency, and transparency. This section outlines the methodological framework, the reporting standards, and the specific gases included in the inventory.

1. Methodological Framework and Baseline Establishment

The process began with a comprehensive identification of all University activities and processes that generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These sources were meticulously categorized according to the three-scope framework. To ensure meaningful tracking of progress over time, 2020 has been established as the base year. This provides a fixed benchmark against which all future emissions data can be compared, allowing for an accurate assessment of the University's decarbonization efforts.

2. Adherence to the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard

Ajman University has adopted the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol) Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard as the definitive guide for its emissions inventory. Developed in partnership by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the GHG Protocol is the world's most widely recognized and trusted framework for corporate-level GHG accounting. Its application guarantees that our inventory is:

- Relevant: It accurately reflects the University's ecological impact.
- Complete: It accounts for all significant emission sources.
- Consistent: It enables meaningful historical and peer comparisons.
- Transparent: It is based on clear and auditable data and assumptions.

3. Accounting for a Broad Spectrum of Greenhouse Gases

Greenhouse gases are atmospheric gases that absorb and trap heat, leading to the greenhouse effect and global warming. To present a complete picture of the University's climate impact, this Corporate Carbon Footprint quantifies and discloses all emissions as Carbon Dioxide Equivalents (CO2e).

The CO2e metric is a standardized unit that allows for the comparison of the global warming potential of different greenhouse gases over a specified timescale (typically 100 years). This inventory includes the six key greenhouse gases regulated under the Kyoto Protocol, in addition to carbon dioxide (CO2):

- Methane (CH4)
- Nitrous Oxide (N2O)
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
- Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)
- Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF6)
- Nitrogen Trifluoride (NF3)

4. Operational Definitions: The Three Scopes of Emissions

In accordance with both the GHG Protocol and definitions from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), emissions are classified into three distinct scopes:

- Scope 1 (Direct Emissions): Emissions from sources owned or controlled directly by the University. This includes fuel combustion in campus boilers, fleet vehicles, and fugitive emissions from refrigeration and air-conditioning systems.
- Scope 2 (Indirect Emissions from Purchased Energy): Emissions resulting from the generation of electricity, steam, heating, and cooling that the University purchases and consumes.
- Scope 3 (All Other Indirect Emissions): A comprehensive category encompassing all other indirect emissions that occur in the University's value chain. This includes upstream activities like the production of purchased goods and business travel, as well as downstream activities such as student and employee commuting and waste processing.

This rigorous, standards-based approach to calculating our carbon footprint provides a trustworthy foundation for setting meaningful reduction targets, developing effective strategies, and transparently reporting on our progress toward a sustainable future.

The latest report on GHG Emissions by Ajman University, as conducted and reported by Axosomatic, can be accessed at:

https://ehs.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/ehs/AU_GHG_Inventory_Report_Final_2023_-_2024_(Revised_Oct_2025)_2.pdf

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

The KPIs assigned to each Unit strengthened the AU's commitment to Sustainability, as this was one of the key Strategic Goals in the AU Strategic Plan 2022-2027

"Enhance Institution Sustainability"

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/about/strategic-plan-2022-2027

AU Timeline on Goals Achievement in the Climate Action Plan

Long Term Objectives of the Climate Action Strategy

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