SDG #13: CLIMATE ACTION

13.1. Low Carbon Energy Use

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. That will be an exponential achievement in our contribution to the national and global efforts to tackle climate change. Climate action is a collective action that involves all members of Ajman University. You have a chance to be part of the driving force that will reshape our future, ensure Sustainability and resilience, and preserve our environment and earth for future generations.

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

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. The strategy considers how to achieve resilience to the impacts of climate change across University operations and supports a smooth and fair transition to a low and eventually zero carbon future.

AU strategy on Climate and Sustainability, adopted in the year 2022, can be accessed at: https://www.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/ehs/AU_Climate__Sustainability_Strategy_Document_2022_2030.pdf

Calculation of Carbon Footprint

After identifying all the activities and processes that generate GHG, including CO2 and its related gases from emission sources 1, 2, and 3, the carbon footprint of Ajman University has been calculated using 2020 as the base year.

Ajman University has applied the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG PROTOCOL) to report emission sources. The GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard provides requirements and guidance for companies and organizations preparing a GHG emissions inventory. The GHG Protocol is the internationally recognized standard for greenhouse gas accounting on the corporate level. It was developed by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). Gases that trap atmospheric heat are called greenhouse gases (GHGs). Since these gases get trapped in the atmospheric layer instead of being released into space, they cause global warming.

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

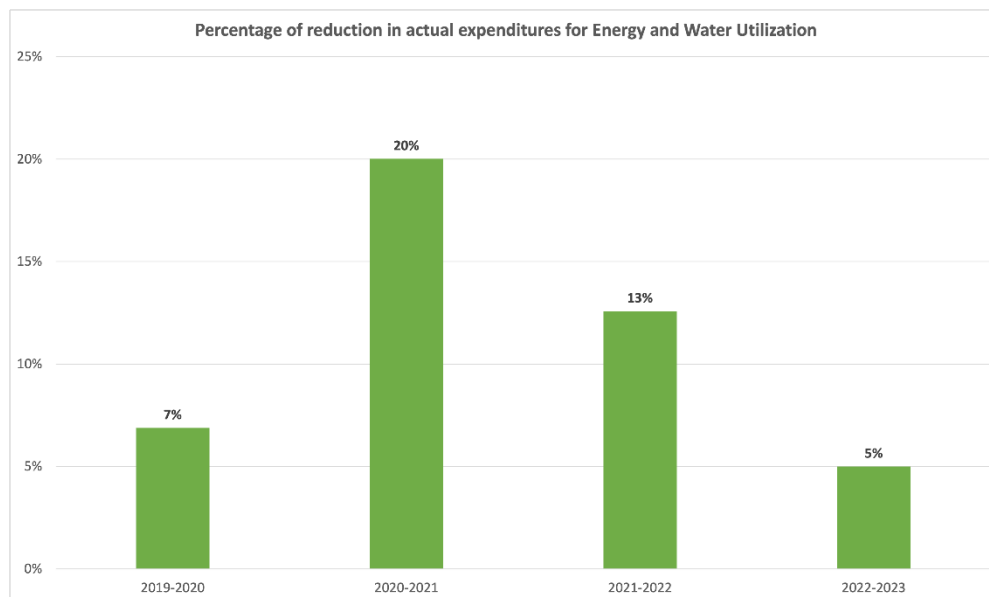https://www.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/ehs/AU_GHG_Emissions_Reduction_Plan_(2023_-_2030).pdf

Key Performance Indicators at Ajman University

In Fall 2018, Ajman University adopted an annual key performance indicators (KPIs) based evaluation system for its Colleges/Offices/Units. Each Unit was assigned a set of KPIs mapped to six of AU's strategic goals. This is a standard process that is repeated every academic year. As part of AU's commitment to the UAE Climat strategy, the relevant KPIs were adopted to measure the low carbon energy consumption. Most key offices were assigned to take initiatives during the year that can contribute to 17 UN SDGs. Some of the relevant KPIs assigned during the AY 2021-2022 were:

Key Performance Indicator	# of Offices/Colleges
% Processes digitalized during the AY 2021-2022	24
# Implemented innovative ideas on optimizing the work cycle, saving time and efforts	1
# Activities carried out to support UN SDGs	8
# Food Safety Inspections	1
% Total fund collection from students through non-cash methods	1
# Systems/tools deployed towards digital transformation	1
$ Efficiency of utility utilization	1
% Archiving of institutional documents (Catalogs, Handbooks, Manuals, etc.) since 2000	1
% Offices that implemented the archiving of documents on Laserfiche	1

The KPI on **_"$ Efficiency of Utility Utilization"_** assigned to the Office of University Facilities, was achieved during the past academic years and showcased the AU's commitment to "SDG #13 Climate Action:

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/campus/energy-and-water-utilization-efficiency

Percentage of reduction in actual expenditures for Energy and Water Utilization

Future Plans:

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