

## SAUDI ELECTRONIC UNIVERSITY

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

**Title:** Environmental and Sustainability Policy

**Authority:**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent guidelines for Environmental consciousness and sustainability in the University

**Date of Incorporation:** October 2022

**Date of Review:** Once in three years. This can also be reviewed as per the requirement of University.

**Policy Number:**

## 1. Scope / Applicability of the Policy

This document on Saudi Electronic University Environmental and Sustainability Policy will be applicable to all activities associated with university's routine internal operations and its infrastructural development to shift towards energy efficient technology. The University acknowledges that its operations interact with the environment. To control and enhance its energy & environmental performance and resilience, identify energy & environmental opportunities, and manage wastes; the University is committed to operating a system of managing its energy usage and environmental conditions.

This Environmental and Sustainability Policy commits the University to be a responsible organization that leads by example regarding energy & environmental sustainability. The University is dedicated to following good environmental practice, meeting, or exceeding all compliance obligations as decided by the Government, Tribunals and experts in the field, and strives to achieve a continual improvement.

### 1.2. Objective:

The main objectives and commitments are to:

1. Reduce carbon emissions in the university.
2. Improve energy and water efficiency and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
3. Protect the green nature, and ensure its sustenance.
4. Protect the environment by preventing pollution.
5. Upgrade the building infrastructure to improve energy efficiency.
6. To achieve 100% renewable energy campus by 2030.



7. Optimize reduction, reuse, recycling and disposal of waste, i.e. through an efficient waste management.
8. Reduce the impacts of transport and travel and encourage sustainable alternatives.
9. Manage the use, storage and disposal of materials and e-materials to reduce environmental impact.
10. Manage our campuses to protect and promote biodiversity.
11. Promote sustainable procurement, both internally and through the university's supply chains.
12. Communicate with staff, students and relevant interested parties and promote sustainable behaviors.

### **1.3. Policy Statement**

Saudi Electronic University is strongly committed to the energy & environmental sustainability. The University thrusts upon initiatives to minimize impact on energy usage and environment by its routine internal operations and its infrastructural development and giving importance to value addition among students through environment and sustainability related education.

Saudi Electronic University is dedicated to being sustainable green campus by adopting green building design through nature just development plan, optimal consumption of water substituted by rainwater recharge, green energy

infrastructure, proper waste management plan and integration of sustainability-based value addition through teaching learning process.

To attain this goal, adoption of best practices, awareness, and immersion of technologies for day-to-day university functioning in water, energy and material consumption is tuned with university mission and vision. This policy provides a set of guidelines and framework for efficient operations of activities related with environment and sustainability.

#### **1.4. Policy Framework**

1. The University is responsible for, and committed to, the protection of the environment at all levels inside campus regarding routine activities and infrastructure development.
2. The University is committed to environmental performance improvement associated with aspects of sustainability including water, energy, waste, landscaping, and infrastructure development. (Annexure 1)
3. In conjunction with contemporary need, promote and raise awareness of good environmental management practices among staff, students and other stakeholders across the University i.e. use of single use plastics, minimize wastage of water, energy, papers etc.
4. Continue to reduce the consumption of primary raw materials (including fossil fuels, water and energy) by adopting electronic processing of official work (EduGate, BlackBoard, DMS etc), integrating Solar-based energy to internal grid, provision of STP, ETP, reuse of water, rainwater harvesting infrastructure.
5. The University also seeks to enhance the contribution of energy efficient (i.e. LED lighting, efficient wiring as per national code), low carbon measures (paperless office), recyclable components and renewables (i.e.



Solar PVC) to ensure sustainable consumption without compromising performance.

6. The University employs sound waste management strategies to reduce overall waste production and increase the recycled component of the waste stream and their reuse (wastewater treatment, composting, biogas etc.)
7. Encourage and facilitate sustainable modes of community transport to, from and ensure walkability within the University. The University maintains a pool of buses on payment basis for faculty, staff and student for daily commute.
8. Develop and maintain the university landscape, open spaces and buildings of the University in an environmentally sensitive way, seeking to protect and enhance natural habitats and biodiversity.
9. The University facilitates to integrate a consideration of environmental issues into all relevant aspects of the University's teaching and research activities including campus-based research projects and survey, Social Awareness Program (SAP), LEED Lab and many more.
10. In conjunction with national and global framework, achieve recognition for environmental sustainability to ensure energy efficiency, low carbon consumption and activities, recyclable components, and renewables.

## Annexure 1.

Climate Action Plan the University is adopting an action plan to ensure compliance of climate action to deal with challenges emerging from climate change on local and regional basis under following action points:

1. Phase-wise reduction of grid energy procurement by installation of Solar PV plants on roof-top and ground to ensure carbon neutrality by 2030 in direct energy consumption.
2. Ensure energy efficiency in operation and management by incorporating LED lighting, efficient wiring, start rating instruments and appliances.
3. Development of Bioenergy based energy production based on food and dairy waste to add up carbon neutrality university target.
4. Green infrastructure development by incorporating passive and active design to reduce energy consumption and local and regional building code to reduce heat regime.
5. Provision of wastewater treatment plant to recycle and reuse at appropriate places to reduce water dependence.
6. Adoption of water infrastructure for rainwater harvesting and recharge to ensure 100% harvesting of rainwater to augment groundwater recharge, which is sole source of potable water.
7. Nature based infrastructure development to promote natural drainage system, natural vegetation, and suitable plantation to maintain vegetation area. In this regard University is maintaining natural vegetation, orchard plantation, farming area, sports complex, and build-up area in appropriate manner.
8. Promoting sustainable consumption practices to reduce waste by adopting paperless office operations, no single use plastics etc. This is supported by good waste management practices.
9. The University facilitates to integrate a consideration of environmental issues into all relevant aspects of the University's teaching and research activities including campus-based research projects and survey like butterfly count, campus bird count, Social Awareness Program (SAP), LEED Lab and many more.
10. Integrate new development in area of climate adaption time to time.