

# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Version 1 written 2024



## Climate Action Plan for Arab International University

### Introduction:

Climate change is one of the most looming issues facing the world today. It affects ecosystems, economies, and communities throughout the world. Arab International University is committed to taking a leading role in sustainability and climate action. This plan outlines our strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience, and foster environmental stewardship on our campus and beyond.

### 1. Setting Ambitious Targets

AIU will set concrete and ambitious targets to drive our efforts in climate action. Our goals align with international agreements like the Paris Agreement, aimed at capping global temperature rise at below 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels. The key targets will revolve around:

- 50% greenhouse gas emission reduction by 2030.
- Net-zero emission by 2050.
- The renewable energy mix shall make up 50 percent of our energy by 2030.

### 2. Renewable Energy

Renewable energy substitution is one method to achieve the minimum amount of carbon emissions. In this regard, AIU shall adapt to the following projects:



- Investment in solar, wind, and geothermal energies into various campus projects.
- Incentivizing faculty, staff, and students to accelerate the use of renewable energy technologies.
- Promote policies eliminating the use of fossil fuels.
- Enhancement of the campus energy infrastructure to be more renewable-compatible.

### **3. Energy Efficiency**

Energy efficiency is another cost-effective strategy for reducing emissions. AIU shall implement the following strategies:

- Establishing more stringent energy efficiency standards for campus buildings and facilities.
- Promoting efficient technologies and practices in academic and administrative operations.
- Regular energy audits and retrofitting of existing buildings.
- Support for the research and development of new energy-saving technologies.

### **4. Sustainable Transportation**

The transport sector is currently the second most polluting sector with greenhouse gas emissions. Some strategy key actions by AIU include:

- Encouraging the use of electric and hybrid vehicles through subsidies and installing supporting infrastructures for recharging.
- Expanding public transportation options and making them more accessible for students and staff.
- Promoting active transportation, cycling, and walking.
- Instituting policies that reduce the use of vehicles on campus by carpooling.



## 5. Ecosystem Protection and Restoration

Ecosystems provide important ecosystem services associated with carbon sequestration, as well as biodiversity support. AIU's role includes:

- Protect the existing green spaces and natural habitats both on and off campus.
- Restore, through reforestation and afforestation, degraded ecosystems.
- Practice sustainable land management through landscaping of the campus.
- Promote and enhance urban green spaces and increase the number of trees planted.

## 6. Building Resilience and Adaptation:

Whereas mitigation makes the level of climate impacts bearable, the need to enhance resilience and adaptation becomes an important factor because some climate impacts are already being felt. AIU will:

- Vulnerability studies to assess high-risk areas and populations within the university community.
- Develop and implement campus-level climate adaptation plans.
- Invest in resilient infrastructure including flood defenses and climate-proof buildings.
- Enhance early warning systems and disaster preparedness.

## 7. Climate Education and Awareness Building:

Awareness raising and stakeholder engagement provide the driving force for climate action. AIU will:

- Incorporate Climate Education in the Curriculum across Disciplines.
- Public awareness campaigns/workshops in the university community.



- Community-based action projects.
- Collaborate with local governments, businesses, and NGOs for the promotion of sustainable practices.
- Provide funding for climate research and innovation.
- Collaborate in the advancement of climate research and innovation.

## **8. Climate Action Finance:**

Scaling-up of climate action requires adequate funding. AIU will:

- Mobilize public and private investment through mechanisms of climate finance.
- Develop green bonds among other financial instruments that support projects on renewable energy and sustainability.
- Provide funds for campus climate mitigation and adaptation projects.
- Promote corporate social responsibility and responsible investment.

## **9. Monitoring and Reporting**

Transparency and accountability are key to the success of climate action plans. AIU would:

- Put in place strong systems for monitoring and reporting on the progress targets.
- Update the climate action plans based on new scientific insights and technological advancement on a periodic basis.
- Involve stakeholders in the monitoring in order to make it inclusive and transparent.
- Publicly report progress and challenges of climate action.



**As a Conclusion:** Tackling climate change requires consistent efforts at all scales of society. In light of the crisis of climate change, addressing the high ambitions of setting targets must be set out, renewable energy sources developed, increasing energy efficiency, protection of ecosystems, building resilience, fostering education, securing finances, and implementing transparent systems. Pursuing this type of agenda will go a long way in realizing extensive positive impacts towards a sustainable future. This climate action plan shall, therefore, provide a road map that will guide our collective effort towards mitigating climate change and achieving a resilient low-carbon campus.