

Office of the Chancellor



مكتب مدير الجامعة

Ref. No.: 251

Date: 07/03/2021

To: Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System

Subject: University of Sharjah Sustainability Report 2021

Dear STARS Administrators,

The University of Sharjah is pleased to submit its Sustainability Report 2021 to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System. This is our first submission, and we plan to continue reporting each year as we consider STARS an essential tool in guiding the University towards a more sustainable future.

The University of Sharjah is a comprehensive academic institution with a distinctive learning style and a global vision. It is a pioneer in academia and research in the UAE and GCC region. All University of Sharjah programs are accredited by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education, and a number of programs in the fields of engineering, communication, science and business administration have attained international accreditation.

The University of Sharjah strives to be a leader in sustainability in the United Arab Emirates and across the Gulf region. We are completely committed to all dimensions of sustainability, which is demonstrated through a number of activities, initiatives, and projects taking place at the University of Sharjah.

This data submission is the result of major efforts under the supervision of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies and the Sustainability Office, along with the participation of faculty members and administrative staff in various departments. We hereby confirm that the data submitted is accurate and look forward to continuing our participation in the STARS initiative.

Sincerely,

**Professor Hamid M.K. Al Naimiy,
Chancellor of the University of Sharjah**

University of Sharjah: Towards a Sustainable Campus

1- University of Sharjah Sustainability Achievements:

The University of Sharjah endeavours to fulfil the directives and vision of His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council, Ruler of Sharjah and President of the University of Sharjah, which call for reducing global warming, supporting sustainable projects and addressing environmental problems. To this end, the University of Sharjah has embarked upon meeting all challenges to develop sustainable solutions for the benefit of our community.

Summary of the most prominent achievements of the University of Sharjah in the area of sustainability:

Global classification programs and participation with international institutions of higher education:

The University of Sharjah has been gradually consolidating its advanced position among international universities, and this is evidenced by its participation in the following:

- The University of Sharjah maintains the rank of first place in the UAE, according to the “UI GreenMetric World University Rankings” for the fourth year in a row.
- The University of Sharjah signed the UI Green Metric Network declaration of membership at the “The National Workshop on UI Green Metric World University Rankings and World Sustainable Campus Tour” in Moscow.
- The University of Sharjah was ranked in the range of the top 200-300 best world universities and first place in the United Arab Emirates.
- UOS has been a member in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) since March 2018.
- The University of Sharjah joined higher education institutions across the globe in signing the Climate Emergency Letter and agreed to undertake a three-point plan through work with students.

The three-point plan includes:

- 1- Committing to going carbon neutral by 2050 at the very latest.
- 2- Mobilizing more resources for action-oriented climate change research and skills creation.
- 3- Increasing the delivery of environmental and sustainability education across curricula and campuses and through community outreach programs.

Please see our participation in the local sustainability awards and more information at the following link:

<https://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/Administration/Sustainability/Pages/USA.aspx>

2- The University of Sharjah “Sustainable Campus”

Areas of focus:

- Building infrastructure, spaces and buildings management by designing buildings in a manner that provides a comfortable environment for all community members through creating and expanding open areas between buildings and increasing the portion of green areas. Additionally, we seek to improve the aesthetic environment (i.e. buildings depicting an architectural label, reflective of high cultural values, efficiency of buildings in preserving the quality, reducing heat and introducing sunlight for brightening).
- Energy management by adding units to measure areas of mass consumption and determine causes, shifting to clean energy as much as possible, finding solutions to reduce consumption and replacing traditional appliances with energy-saving eco-friendly ones.
- Water management by adding water-saving faucets, using recycled water for irrigation and purifying tap water for drinking purposes.
- Waste management and recycling through waste campus recycling programs, including paper sheets, plastic and metal cans. Also, recycling biological waste to make inorganic compost, recycling wood and car tires to manufacture aesthetic pieces, and raising awareness through recycling campaigns.
- Sustainable transportation represented by the mass and free internal transportation, in addition to sustainable transportation (electric vehicles) and the projects for adding electric scooters (under study).
- Education by offering programs and research in the field of sustainability and renewable energy at the University of Sharjah. UOS offers a B.S. in Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering, which has an enrollment of 600 students, in average, and an allocated budget for sustainable research. Over the last three years, 766 research papers were published, in addition to a number of publications on campus to raise awareness regarding the area of sustainability.

3- University of Sharjah Sustainability Office:

According to the UAE national agenda and the UAE Vision 2021, more efforts are required to ensure sustainable development, while preserving the environment, to achieve a balance between economic and social development. We believe that the University of Sharjah has the responsibility to confront these challenges and an important role to play in developing sustainable solutions for the benefit of our community.

The vision of the Sustainability Office, established in October 2017, is for the “the University of Sharjah to become a regional and global leader in the area of sustainability and exhibit a benchmark for sustainability excellence in higher education.”

The Sustainability Circles Concept:

One of our main goals is to ensure campus sustainability by establishing a financially sustainable institution with diverse sources of income. We also seek to manage resources to establish a sustainable financial base, examine the distribution of resources across programs, enhance the concept of environmentally sustainable campus, and revise cost-ineffective academic programs.

The Sustainability Office has adopted the concept of “sustainability circles” as an environmental management system for University projects in sustainable development. The sustainability circle concept is based on the well-known concept called quality circles. A sustainability circle indicates that a group of volunteer members with interests in a sustainability-related track such as energy, water, transportation, etc., will meet regularly to identify, analyze and suggest initiatives or solutions. Suggested solutions are presented to the Higher Administration. Once approved, they are applied across the campus immediately.

30 sustainability circles were established. Each circle reflects a specific sustainable field and presents sustainability projects and awareness campaigns at the University level, which have directly enhanced and elevated the University's position in global sustainability rating programs.

Link: <https://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/Administration/Sustainability/Pages/sc.aspx>

Sustainability year 2020

The Sustainability Office has announced the year of 2020 as its sustainability year, under the theme “Sustainability 2020,” in order to enhance and promote the concept of sustainability among all University of Sharjah stakeholders and to instil sustainability into the culture and traditions of the University community.

During the Sustainability 2020 awareness campaign, each sustainability circle coordinated activities, including workshops and seminars, to create awareness and cultivate eco-friendly conduct among all UOS stakeholders.