

Alfaisal University (2025)

Policy Code	
Policy Name	Climate Action Policy
Department/Office	Sustainability and Strategic Planning
Approved by	University Council
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Version	01

Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a structured institutional approach to sustainability and climate action, integrating these principles into all aspects of the university's operations, research, and education. It aims to ensure compliance with international best practices, enhance institutional sustainability performance, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Policy Scope

This policy applies to all stakeholders within the university community, including students, faculty, staff, contractors, and partners. It covers campus operations, academic and research activities, community engagement, and strategic partnerships related to sustainability and climate resilience.

Policy Statement/ Definitions/Procedures

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
Climate Action	Actions taken to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to its impacts through resilience planning, sustainable infrastructure, and environmental stewardship initiatives.

Sustainability	The responsible management of environmental, social, and economic resources to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to climate change, including carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), and other industrial gases.
Carbon Neutrality	Achieving a balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and emissions removed from the atmosphere through reduction measures, energy efficiency, renewable energy adoption, or verified carbon offset mechanisms.
Net Zero Emissions	Achieving a state where greenhouse gas emissions produced are equal to or less than emissions removed from the atmosphere through verified reduction and removal strategies, in alignment with global climate targets.
Climate Resilience	The ability of systems, infrastructure, and communities to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related risks and impacts
Renewable Energy	Energy generated from natural resources that are replenished on a human timescale, such as solar, wind, geothermal, and hydro energy.
Resource Efficiency	The sustainable use of natural resources, including energy, water, and materials, to minimize environmental impact while maintaining operational effectiveness.
Environmental Stewardship	The responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation, sustainable practices, and environmental management.
Climate Risk	Potential financial, operational, environmental, or reputational risks arising from climate change, including physical risks (extreme weather events) and transition risks (policy, regulatory, and market changes).
Stakeholders	Individuals or groups affected by or having an interest in the University's sustainability and climate action activities, including students, faculty, staff, partners, regulators, and the broader community.

Goals

The key objectives of this policy are:

1. Integrate sustainability and climate action into all aspects of university governance, operations, and academic programs.
2. Promote resource efficiency by reducing energy consumption, water usage, and waste production.

3. Achieve carbon neutrality through sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy adoption, and emission reduction initiatives.
4. Advance sustainability research and innovation by supporting projects that address climate change and environmental challenges.
5. Enhance sustainability education and awareness among students, faculty, and staff to foster a culture of environmental responsibility.
6. Strengthen community engagement and partnerships to promote sustainability beyond the university campus and contribute to national and global climate initiatives.
7. Monitor, assess, and report on sustainability performance through transparent and accountable mechanisms.

Policy Statement

Alfaisal University is dedicated to:

- Reducing its environmental footprint by implementing sustainable practices in energy, water, and waste management.
- Integrating climate action into curricula, research, and innovation to foster climate-conscious leadership.
- Engaging with the local and global community to advance climate resilience and sustainability goals.
- Supporting the transition toward carbon-neutral operations and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- Monitoring and reporting on sustainability and climate action performance for continuous improvement.

Key Principles

The university's sustainability and climate action efforts are guided by the following principles:

1. **Climate Resilience:** Adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change through research and operational strategies.
2. **Environmental Responsibility:** Reducing emissions, conserving resources, and protecting biodiversity.
3. **Social Equity:** Ensuring fair access to education, promoting inclusivity, and fostering community well-being.
4. **Economic Resilience:** Implementing cost-effective and resource-efficient solutions to enhance long-term sustainability.
5. **Collaboration:** Partnering with local and global stakeholders to drive sustainable impact and climate action.
6. **Innovation:** Encouraging research and technological solutions for sustainability and climate challenges.

Roles and Responsibilities

1.	Steering Committee	Ensure institutional commitment to sustainability and climate action, allocate necessary resources, and promote the integration of sustainability and climate initiatives across the University.
2.	Sustainability & Strategic Planning Office	Develop institutional sustainability and climate strategies, monitor performance, and report progress on climate action and sustainability initiatives.
3.	Facilities Management	Implement and support energy-efficient, resource-efficient, and climate-resilient infrastructure and operational practices across campus facilities.
4.	Faculty & Researchers	Integrate climate action and sustainability principles into academic curricula, research activities, and innovation initiatives where appropriate.
5.	Students & Staff	Support and participate in sustainability programs and adopt environmentally responsible practices in daily activities.

Monitoring, and Reporting

Alfaisal University is committed to monitoring and evaluating its climate action and sustainability performance in alignment with institutional objectives and international best practices. The University will:

- Monitor greenhouse gas emissions and environmental performance indicators.
- Track progress toward sustainability and climate action goals.
- Measure, monitor, and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in alignment with internationally recognized standards and best practices, including the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol, where applicable.
- Report sustainability and climate performance through institutional reporting and relevant external reporting frameworks where applicable.
- Support transparency and accountability through regular internal and external reporting.

Related Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following university policies and frameworks:

- Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Energy and Resource Efficiency Guidelines
- Research and Innovation Policy

Effective date

Review and Amendments
This policy will be reviewed every two years to ensure it remains aligned with evolving sustainability and climate action standards, international agreements, and best practices. Amendments may be made as necessary to enhance the university's sustainability and climate impact.