Sustainability Annual Report 2020

The Sustainability Office
October 2020
His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi

Member of the Supreme Council, Ruler of Sharjah
and President of the University of Sharjah
The University of Sharjah (UOS) was established in 1997 by its Founder, President and Chairman, the Ruler of Sharjah, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi to meet the Emirate of Sharjah's aim of educational needs. One of the University goals is to become a leading academic institution in the Middle East and around the world.

The University of Sharjah is working to embody the directives of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, by making a concerted effort to reduce the effects of global warming, support sustainability projects and stimulate many different aspects of sustainability in education and research related fields, as well as physically implementing the concept throughout the campus. In addition, the UOS Sustainability Office was formed in 2017. This office endeavors to develop a culture of sustainability by reducing environmental impacts and incorporating sustainability in every aspect of UOS campus life and operations.
As a leading institution of higher education, we are committed to providing a collaborative, innovative and sustainable learning environment. As the curators of this educational environment, we strive to cultivate the twenty-first-century skills needed to meet current and changing demands for employability and cultural advancement. We are also paying great attention to creating a sustainable and green environment to ensure a prosperous future for the UAE. In so doing, we seek to translate and achieve the 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 calls for sustainable development in every aspect of life.
According to the UAE national agenda and the UAE Vision 2021, more effort should be spent to ensure sustainable development while preserving the environment, and to achieve a perfect balance between economic and social development. At the University of Sharjah, we are convinced that the university has a significant role and responsibility to tackle these challenges and develop sustainable solutions for the benefit of our society.

To support the role of the university towards sustainability, the University Sustainability Office was formed in October 2017, with its vision for:

“the University of Sharjah becomes a leading regional and global benchmark for sustainability excellence in higher education.”

“With engaging all the University of Sharjah stakeholders through the newly developed Sustainability Circles concept, which involves members from among the students body, employees, and faculty members, we will reach new heights and become recognized as a local and regional leader in sustainability excellence in higher education within the next five years”

Prof. Imad Alsyouf  
Director of the UOS Sustainability Office
The Sustainability Office’s missions are to enhance sustainability awareness and introduce the sustainability culture to the students, staff and faculty members as well as to the local community. In addition, it will endeavor to make sustainability integrated through undergraduate and graduate courses, specialized sustainability training and public seminars. The Sustainability Office will adopt the most relevant sustainable practices and outline proactive measures to preserve natural resources in the university campus. The campus will become a laboratory for sustainability excellence and an avenue to transfer successful sustainability stories to the local community. In addition, the Sustainability Office will collaborate with national and international organizations to achieve sustainability excellence goals.

The main goals of the Sustainability Office are:

1. Oversee sustainability-related matters at the university.
2. Embed sustainability into the culture and traditions of the university community.
3. Continuously initiate projects and practices that integrate sustainability into university life and activities.
4. Continuously measure the sustainability performance of the university.
5. Monitor the implementation of sustainability solutions on the university main campus.
6. Review and continuously improve solutions towards sustainability.
7. Be the hub for sustainability-related information and activities.
8. Publish annual reports about the achievements of the University of Sharjah towards sustainability.
9. Spread public awareness regarding sustainability issues at the University of Sharjah.
The Sustainability Office endeavors to develop a culture of sustainability, by reducing the environmental impact and incorporating sustainability in every aspect of UOS campus life and operations. These efforts can seek "incremental" improvements over time or "breakthrough" improvement all at once. This will be accomplished by implementing the continuous improvement methodology - the plan - do - check - act (PDCA) cycle:

**PLAN:** Identify an opportunity and plan for change.

**DO:** Implement the change on a small scale.

**CHECK:** Use data to analyses the results of the change and determine whether it made a difference.

**ACT:** If the change was successful, implement it on a wider scale and continuously assess the results.

**Sustainability Circles (SC), the Heart of the Sustainability Office**

- **Vice Chancellor for Administrative and Financial Affairs**
- **Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies**
- **Facilities Management and Planning Department**
- **The Sustainability Office**
- **The Sustainability Circles**
  - The Sustainability Circle Leader
  - Voluntary Members (faculty, admin and technical staff)
  - Students Sustainability Clubs (male and female) Representatives
Student Employment at the Sustainability Office

**Hiring students and engaging them in sustainability initiatives:**

The Sustainability Office hires female and male students from the UOS to work on different projects and initiatives to enhance sustainability on campus.

**Hosting Exchange students:**

The Sustainability Office hosts exchange students from different countries to work on sustainability initiatives.

- One exchange student from Sweden
- One exchange student from Bolivia

**Also, we are engaging the students in Sustainable Garden Project as a part of their courses:**

Male students from the Man and Environment course are participating in the construction work of the sustainable garden. The female students in the same course will plant trees in the official inauguration of the garden.
Summary of UOS Contribution and Achievement in Sustainability

UI GreenMetric World University Rankings (UI GWUR)

UOS maintained the first place in UAE for the third year in a row (2017-2019)

Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings: based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The University obtained the first place rank along with Khalifa University in the 2019 Times Higher Education World University Rankings of universities following the criteria of the United Nations Sustainability Program. It also achieved second place in engineering and technology in the UAE, which advanced its position in this field at the level of universities all over the world to a rank of 400th.

Please visit the UOS Office of International Relations for more information: https://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/Administration/oir/International/Pages/ur.aspx

UOS Signed the Climate Emergency Letter

UOS joined Higher Education Institutions across the globe by signing a 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, campus and community outreach programs.

AASHE AND STARS

The University of Sharjah is a member of the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) since March 2018.

We will apply for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) that measures the sustainability performance of colleges and universities.
**LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS**

- Dr. Chaouki Ghenai, Dr. Tareq Salameh and Dr. Adel Merabet received a best paper award for their paper entitled "Design, Optimization and Control of Standalone Solar PV/ Fuel Cell Hybrid Power System." in Morocco, 2017.

- 6th Cycle Sharjah Sustainability Award: The University of Sharjah has been awarded the best outstanding campus in the domain for Green Campus in the 6th Cycle 2017-2018 Sharjah Sustainability Award.

- Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport: Students from the sustainable and renewable energy engineering won the best student project award in the eleventh edition of the Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport in 2018. In addition, UOS won the best academic institution supportive of sustainability award.

- 7th Sharjah Sustainability Award: Students from the sustainable and renewable energy engineering won the 1st place in Sharjah Environmental & Protected Area Authority for designing “A Solar PV Power System Integrated with Desalination Unit for Floating Agriculture Farm in the Sea”
The 8th Cycle Sharjah Sustainability Award 2019, UOS won five sustainability awards in the following domains:

- **Domain: UOS “Sustainable Campus”**

- **Domain: Assessment Scientific Research**
  Category: Outstanding Student Award
  Research topic: Advanced Characterization of Asphalt Mixtures
  Supervisors: Dr. Waleed Zeiada and Dr. Ghazi Al-Khateeb
  Student: Myasar AbulKhair

- **Domain: Applied Scientific Research**
  Category: Outstanding Team Award
  Research topic: The Assessment of Synergic Effect of Nanoparticles
  Supervisors: Dr. Waleed Zeiada and Dr. Ghazi Al-Khateeb
  Students: Mohamed Yaman · Abdollah Esmaeil · Kussai Waleed

- **Domain: Applied Scientific Research**
  Category: Outstanding Team Award
  Supervisor: Dr. Abdul Hai Al-Alami
  Students: Bashayer ALshehhi · Moaza Alketbi

- **Domain: Design of a Model for Sustainable Environmental Solutions**
  Category: Outstanding Team Award
  Project title: Inventing an Advanced Floating Solar Distillation Device
  Supervisor: Dr. Mamdouh ElHajj Assad
  Students: Sara Almarzooqi · Nada Nouichi · Maryam Ahli
The Sustainability Office has announced the year of 2020 as the sustainability year, under the slogan of “Sustainability 2020”, in order to enhance and promote the concept of sustainability among its students, faculty and staff members. During the Sustainability 2020 awareness campaign, each Sustainability Circle organized activities, which included workshops and seminars, to create awareness and to promote and cultivate eco-friendly behaviors among the UOS stakeholders. This in turn, will embed sustainability into the culture and traditions of the University community.
University of Sharjah has participated in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings (UIGWUR) consecutively in the last three years from 2017 to 2019 and maintained the first place in UAE for the third year in a row.

The Green Metric World University Ranking aims to evaluate and rank universities all over the world according to their current condition and policies related to green campus and sustainability activities. It measures the sustainability in six aspects which are Setting and infrastructure, energy and climate change, transportation, waste, water and education.

For more information about UI GreenMetric, please visit: http://greenmetric.ui.ac.id/

Over those three years, a tremendous improvement was shown through the world ranking.

In 2017, the University of Sharjah achieved a world ranking of 452 and 398 in 2018. In 2019, the best year among the three, UOS developed its performance to be globally ranked the 294th out of 780 participating universities.

The adaptation of the continuous improvement methodology enabled UOS to identify the areas of strengths and weaknesses to ensure the preservation of the outstanding results and continuous improvement.

As an example, UOS achieved a global ranking of 35 in the water category scoring 925 points, which is almost a 208% improvement rate when compared to the year 2018.
In August 2019, UOS signed the declaration of Membership in the “National Workshop on UI GreenMetric World University Rankings” in Russia, Moscow.

UOS is the National Coordinator of UI GreenMetric World University Rankings in UAE.

Due to the University of Sharjah’s achievement in the UI GreenMetric University Rankings, the University of Sharjah has been selected to be the national coordinator for the UI GreenMetric University Rankings.

- UOS maintained its first place in UAE for the third year in a row (2017-2019)
- UOS is the National Coordinator of UIGWUR
- Achieved 35th place globally in the water category
- Improved 54 positions in 2018 compared to 2017
- Improved 104 positions in 2019 compared to 2018
A Sustainability Circle indicates that a group of volunteering members who have interests in a sustainability-related track will meet regularly to identify, analyze, and suggest initiatives or solutions to sustainability-related issues on campus. The group is usually led by a sustainability track leader.

This system has been adopted by the Sustainability Office to engage the members of the UOS community (students, staff, and faculty members) in its endeavors to develop a culture of sustainability and incorporate sustainability in every aspect of the campus life.

The Sustainability Office has established 30 Sustainability Circles. Each of these Sustainability Circles is associated with a specific sustainable field, and has its own goals, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), achievement and initiatives. The Sustainability Circles cover the following tracks:

- Landscape and Building Management
- Building Operation and Maintenance
- People with Disabilities
- Sustainability Studies
- Sustainability Curriculum
- Energy and Climate Change
- Transportation
- Waste Management
- Water Resources Management
- Water Science and Technology
- Food and Dining
- Purchasing
- Green Policy
- Sustainable Garden
- Agriculture
- Linking and Education Farming “LEAF”
- Animal Welfare
- Community Partnership
- Workplace Health, Safety and Wellbeing
- Community Health
- Awareness
- Creative Initiatives
- Male & Female Students Sustainability Activities
- Male & Female Students Sport Activities
- Continuous improvement and Sustainability Excellence
- English & Arabic Editing and Publications
- Sustainability Projects Implementation

Briefs on the achievements of the most active Sustainability Circles in the following pages.
Chapter 1: UOS Buildings and Landscape Management
This Sustainability Circle acknowledges the importance of sustaining the indoor and outdoor environment of the university in addition to the importance of the sustainable master plans. Consequently, it preserves the indoor environment by ensuring that the university buildings operate in a manner that minimizes the consumption of resources. It also preserves the outdoor environment by maintaining a healthy and safe environment, that fulfills the needs of campus users. Furthermore, it directs its attention to the improvement of the aesthetic scenery of the university environment.

**Goals**

1. Manage the grounds sustainably by integrating economic, social, and ecological dimensions to meet users’ needs, protecting wildlife habitat, conserving resources, and maintaining healthy ecosystems

2. Design, maintain, and manage all hard and soft services in ways that provide a safe, livable and healthy indoor environment while simultaneously mitigating the impacts of buildings on the outdoor environment

3. Incorporate environmental features into the design and planning of the campus in order to reproduce a sustainable master plan that considers all practices of sustainability
Current Projects and Achievements:
1. Landscape design of the Sustainable Farm for the UOS
2. Barrier-Free and Sustainable Master plan for UOS campus
3. Architectural design of M3 for the Institute of Leadership in Higher Education
4. Sustainable Courtyard at College of Fine Arts and Design
5. Renovation of the UOS Registration Department,

KPIs

1. Building Design and Construction:
   - Incorporating environmental features in design and construction projects.
   - Sustainable decisions in the design phase for enhanced indoor environmental quality, safe, healthy, and productive spaces for the campus community.

2. Landscape management:
   - Campus wide sustainable management of the grounds.

3. Sustainability planning:
   - Campus master plan and physical campus plan for current and new buildings, moving towards sustainability.

4. Student Life on Campus:
   - Integrating campus culture and building management and its spaces by providing interactive design decisions, to promote the engagement of students by integrating sustainability into their daily live on campus.

5. STARS Ranking – documentation:
   - Preparing the documentation for STARS for 3 components:
     - Mandatory component of the Institutional Characteristics consisting of:
       A) IC1 Institutional Boundary,
       B) IC2 Operational Characteristics,
       C) IC3 Academics and Demographics
     - OP3 Building Design and Construction
     - OP 9 Landscape Management

New Initiatives

1. Waste Management and Segregation Campaign, total cost: AED 33,000
2. Sustainable Courtyards for UOS campus, total cost: AED 6000 for (15*5) sq.m
3. Project of access and comprehensive design for persons with disabilities, total cost: AED 200,000
More details on the Projects:

1. **Barrier-Free and Sustainable Master plan for UOS campus.**
   Universal design has been the solution for a barrier free environment, especially in educational institutions. UOS has stepped forward to adapt the existing campus to the Universal Design guidelines for a barrier free campus. **People with Disabilities Sustainability Circle** has initiated reconnaissance survey to map the existing barriers and develop solutions. Detailed discussions were held with **Ms. Fatima Al Muaini** and the People with Disabilities Sustainability Circle in May, 2019.
   **Ms. Usha** explained the recently completed project in December 2018, with UNDP Kuwait ‘Achieving Kuwait 2035 vision towards Persons with Disability Project: Conducting Accessibility Audits in the Built Environment’. One of the pilot projects was the College of Life Sciences, Kuwait University.
   **Ms. Traudel & Ms. Mariam** explained that a similar exercise was carried out by them for the main campus.
2. Developing a proposal of the Leadership Institute in M3 building in collaboration with the Facilities Management & Planning Department

Description: The offices of VCAA requested for the design & planning of the new vision for the ILHE in the relocated premises on the UOS main campus. An introductory meeting in May, 2019, was coordinated by Prof. Maher, Dir., ILHE, Eng. Louay, Dir., Facilities Management and the members to finalize the site selection and the design brief. The team members prepared several alternate design solutions and examples of which are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ILHE Needs</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offices</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Offices for ILHE staff including furniture</td>
<td>These offices are needed for faculty and staff of ILHE to be able to discharge their duties effectively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Room</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>A 12 seater meeting room including furniture</td>
<td>Needed for staff and board meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Rooms</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Large workshop rooms (60 seats) including furniture and modern technology</td>
<td>Needed for professional development workshops for staff, faculty, and graduate students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Learning Room 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Large active learning room (30 seats) including furniture and active learning technology</td>
<td>With active learning technology and furniture, the room will be used for training and also to deliver specialized active-based curriculum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Learning Room 2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Workstations including furniture and active learning technology</td>
<td>Needed for faculty and staff to practice and also work with trainers on a one to one basis and small groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open lounge with sofas and tables</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Open lounge where faculty and staff can sit relax and exchange ideas</td>
<td>Provides faculty with the welcoming feeling and the opportunities to have coffee meetings with colleagues and also relax when they are not engaged.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Option 1:**

Overall furniture theme of interactive multi use space for continuous occupancy and different types of users at all times. Spread all over the corridors lounge areas and with semi-custom design and fitting for all kind of spaces and shapes, creating a dynamic & attractive work, learning and rest spaces.

Spacious friendly lounges and well-articulated Office spaces
An overall furniture theme of an interactive multi-use space for segregated occupancy and different types of users at all times. The use of glass for partitions will enhance visibility and yet provide privacy.

3. **UNHABITAT surveys for public spaces**:

In collaboration with UNICEF and UNHABITAT, the Sharjah Urban Planning Council conducted a Citywide Public Spaces Assessment, as a mutually beneficial chance for SUPC and the University of Sharjah to collaborate. The assessment took place during the month of June (on the 3rd week and/or 4th week), and a maximum number of 20 students were involved in the process remunerated by UNHABITAT, as shown in the photo at right. Surveys were completed in three days. Partnering on this project was a great opportunity to engage students in planning and decision making, and the results of the assessment will be presented at the World Urban Forum 2020 – Abu Dhabi.
4. Integration of Ecology Course Content with AE Design courses:
An initiative of the LBMO Leader and Associate Leader to integrate the Ecology Course content with AE Design courses, especially landscape design finds success in the meeting with Prof. Dr Ali El-Keblawy (Dept. AB) in November, 2019. Coordinate contents of Introduction to Ecology and Landscape Design to complement each other where Introduction to Ecology can be suggested as a pre-requisite for Landscape Design was put into consideration.

5. STARS ranking:
UOS has taken up the initiative to apply for the STARS ranking. The team (Emad, Usha & Osama) working on the Mandatory component of the Institutional Characteristics consisting of A) IC1 Institutional Boundary, B) IC2 Operational Characteristics, C) IC3 Academics and Demographics. Initial documentation was carried out based on the GreenMetrics database. Further inputs from FMPD and associated personnel were incorporated. Mr. Osama is working on the Buildings component, OP3 Building Design and Construction, which has few to none to claim points. Ms. Usha is working on the Grounds component of OP 9 Landscape Management, which needs liaising with FMPD and external agencies for data.

6. Renovating the Registration Department Offices, UOS

A. Design Brief:
Dr. Hussein El Mehdi, Dean, Registration Department and the team initiated a proposal with a new vision of an enhanced spatial experience and working environment. The presentation by the Registration Department in November, 2019, illustrated the requirements as well as the envisioned spatial experiences.

Two teams are engaged in the design solution:
1) Dr. Iman, Nadia & Rand, along with one student,
2) Mariam, Traudel, Lamees, and Farah, along with one student.
Both teams developed alternate design solutions and presented to the LBMO members present in February 2020.

B. Presentation to Client:
An online meeting, for a virtual presentation to the Registration Department was held on 20th April, 2020. Dr. Hussein El Mehdi, Ms. Reem and the team from the Registration Department participated in the virtual presentation by the design teams led by Ms. Nadia, Dr. Iman and Ms. Mariam.
Presentation 1 - Ms. Nadia Al Badri, CFAD

Presentation 2 - Dr. Iman Ibrahim

Presentation 3 - Ms. Mariam Hassan, DAE
The Building Operation and Maintenance Sustainability Circle (BOMSC) ensures that the buildings and facilities of the university are user-friendly, and are compatible with individuals’ needs. It also ensures that the services are provided at the lowest costs possible. Like most sustainability circles, the Building Operation and Maintenance Sustainability Circle incorporates other sustainability tasks that are of relevance to the operation and maintenance of the university campus, grounds, buildings and equipment. This includes preserving the indoor and outdoor air quality, substituting energy sources with more renewable ones and protecting the environment, among many others.

**Goals:**
1. Develop new and undertake major renovations of occupied facilities that would meet or exceed the Certified Rating of the LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Rating System, when feasible.
2. Implement sustainable building principles in all new and existing buildings to achieve measurable life cycle cost savings.
3. Support and promote sustainable building principles and operational initiatives, including energy reduction, water conservation and improved air quality.

**KPIs:**
1. Measuring the progress in the achievable level under the LEED® rating system.
2. Estimating the save in energy, cost, and detrimental environmental flows after applying various awareness strategies to the university stakeholders.
3. Identifying the number of activities performed to raise awareness in sustainable operation and maintenance (such as seminars, talks, workshops, and alike).
Current Projects and Achievements

Different events and seminars were conducted that are related to sustainable building operations and maintenance and directed to students, staff and faculty members in the university.

New Initiatives

1. Indoor Air Quality

The members of BOMSC will assure and confirm that work and learn in the buildings of UOS are done under a high standard of indoor environmental quality. Cleaning chemicals used on campus comply with the Green Cleaning Standard. Reported air quality issues are investigated thoroughly to determine if air testing is necessary. The BOMSC will continue to incorporate the use of carbon monoxide level monitoring in occupied spaces and monitors for carbon monoxide in all residential living spaces on campus.

2. Reduce energy

The members of BOMSC will assure UOS management that the building A/C systems have methods to reduce unnecessary airflow in times of low occupancy by the use of occupancy sensors, CO\textsubscript{2} monitoring and scheduling of VAV airflows through the building automation systems. They also can shut down systems completely when they are not needed. Existing systems are retrofitted under these same guidelines. Lighting systems include the installation of sensors and controls to detect occupancy and reduce output during unoccupied times. The LED lighting is used in all new installations and used to replace all fluorescent lights as they burn out.
3. **Cleaner energy sources**
BOMSC will assure that UOS continues to evaluate the use of renewable energy sources on campus.

4. **Protect the Environment**
BOMSC will constantly check that the campus grounds are maintained by regular maintenance and the lawns, gardens, upland area and green roofing are maintained.

5. **Waste Reduction**
BOMSC will assure that the amount of waste materials is reduced by reusing products that are repurposed. Products that cannot be repurposed are recycled in a manner that is most beneficial and conducive to the environment. The university will continue to recycle computers, electronics, batteries, ink cartridges, fluorescent light bulbs and hazardous materials.

6. **Energy Performance**
BOMSC will assure that the electricity use in buildings is metered to improve building efficiencies and system operations by benchmarking consumption. Energy audits and retro-commissioning are performed to identify energy-related improvements. A comprehensive equipment maintenance plan is followed to maintain equipment at peak performance.

7. **Water reduction**
BOMSC will assure that all campus buildings have low flow/ water-saving fixtures. The University uses native plants throughout the campus to reduce the need for irrigation.

8. **Outdoor Air Quality**
BOMSC will assure that all the outdoor air quality surrounding the campus will continue to be improved by the reduction of harmful emissions through converting campus equipment to cleaner fuel sources and by reducing equipment operating times utilizing schedules, temperature set-backs controls and energy recovery systems. The reduction of emissions from vendor and UOS owned vehicles will be accomplished by encouraging the use and enforcement of clean new vehicle technologies such as electric and hybrid vehicles.
Since the Sustainability Office considers individuals to be the essence of the sustainability process, it caters for every social group, with the people of determination taking the lead. Through the People of Determination Sustainability Circle, a Disability Resource Center is established to fulfill the needs of male and female students with disabilities. The main goal of the center is to eliminate any form of discrimination between students and provide them with equal educational opportunities. The services of the center start from providing assistance in registering in university programs all the way to guiding them with choosing a suitable career. The People of Determination Sustainability Circle also ensures that the university campus, building and facilities are user-friendly in that they correspond to the students’ needs, such as the abundant availability of elevators and ramps.

**Principles** of universal access and universal design for sustainable empowerment of the people with disabilities at higher education institutions:
1. Principle of universal design of the teaching and learning environment
2. Principle of universal design of the urban environment
3. Principle of universal design of the technical environment
4. Principle of universal design of transportation

**Main Goal**
To be pioneers in the universal access and universal design for the sustainable empowerment of the people with disabilities at higher education institutions.

**Sub-Goals**
1. Create awareness on the importance of sustainability in universal access.
2. Contribute to developing the infrastructure and information network.
3. Activate areas of cooperation and research collaboration.
4. Improve areas of sustainability in universal access.
Key Performance Indicators

1. Assessment of the current situation regarding universal access for People with disabilities at the University of Sharjah.
2. Rate of areas requiring the development of universal access for people with disabilities at the University of Sharjah.
3. Rate of progress and improvement in universal access for people with disabilities at the University of Sharjah.

A group of people from the University of Sharjah has been trained on World Disability Union Environmental Standards Course for People of Disabilities, to become specialist in terms of assessing and evaluating the buildings for the universal access.

Evaluation of construction projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date of Completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A recommendations report on full accessibility to the new break lounge (cafeteria, interactive rooms and halls) at UOS</td>
<td>23 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A field visit to assess the construction projects of the new break lounge (cafeteria, interactive rooms and halls) at UOS</td>
<td>16 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A recommendations report on the needs of people with disabilities in relation to new buildings design at UOS</td>
<td>25 February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A recommendations report on multi-level parking spaces construction at UOS</td>
<td>6 February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of construction projects at UOS: Air Conditioned Closed Corridors: A sample from W4-M4</td>
<td>10 October 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of construction projects at UOS: Bathrooms for people with disabilities: A sample from M11</td>
<td>10 October 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Initiatives and suggested projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date of Completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integrative Full Accessibility Project: Urban Environment – external environment indicators</td>
<td>3 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A project encouraging faculty members UOS students, and alumni to join the Environmental policy of the European Union for People with Disabilities Evaluator Program</td>
<td>22 December 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A project titled: Professional Diploma in Sign Language at UOS</td>
<td>24 September 2019</td>
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### Preparation of studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date of Completion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of a survey on the diagnosis of status quo of accessibility to auditoriums and conference/seminar halls for people with disabilities</td>
<td>5 May 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Consultative, analytical, intellectual and dialogue sessions

#### 1. Consultative Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date of Completion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A consultative session on the new lounge project (cafeteria, interactive rooms and halls) at UOS with Prof. Zaid Al Sadoon – Director of the Physical Plant at UOS</td>
<td>27 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A consultative session pertaining to Urban Environment: A consultative Workshop with Prof. Zaid Al Sadoon – Director of the Physical Plant at UOS</td>
<td>3 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A consultative session pertaining to the safety and security of UOS Campus with Prof. Zaid Al Sadoon – Director of the Physical Plant at UOS</td>
<td>26 November 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A consultative session pertaining to multi-level parking spaces construction at UOS with Prof. Zaid Al Sadoon – Director of the Physical Plant at UOS</td>
<td>6 February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A consultative session to study a project titled: Assessment of obstacle free access to Bathrooms for People with Disabilities with Prof. Zaid Al Sadoon – Director of the Physical Plant at UOS</td>
<td>23 December 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A consultative session to study a project titled: Air Conditioned Closed Corridors with Prof. Walid Metwally – a faculty member at the college of engineering at UOS</td>
<td>3 October 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A consultative session to study a project titled: Diagnosis of the status quo of Bathrooms for People with Disabilities at UOS with Prof. Walid Metwally – a faculty member at the college of engineering at UOS</td>
<td>3 October 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A consultative session to study a project titled: Social Awareness of Full Access sustainability with The Sustainability Office Director and Head of Sustainability Circles</td>
<td>24 September 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A consultative session to study a project titled: Comprehensive Full Accessibility with The Sustainability Office Director and Head of Sustainability Circles</td>
<td>17 September 2019</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### 2. Dialogue Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date of Completion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Dialogue Session on the achievements of People with Disabilities Sustainability Circle for the Academic Year 2018-2019 with The Sustainability Office Director and Head of Sustainability Circles</td>
<td>29 September 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Dialogue Session on Updating the webpage of People with Disabilities Sustainability Circle with the Sustainability Office</td>
<td>25 September 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Dialogue Session on Planning the sustainability awareness campaign with The Sustainability Office Director and Head of Sustainability Circles</td>
<td>3 September 2019</td>
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### 3. Intellectual Sessions (led by students with special needs – People of determination)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date of Completion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An Introductory session on the Accomplishments of People with Disabilities Sustainability Circle at UOS</td>
<td>16 September 2019</td>
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</table>

### Participations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date of Completion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in the UI GreenMetric pertaining to experience of universities in the management of COVID-19 effects on the field of teaching, learning and work.</td>
<td>9 June 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in STARS-INNOVATION in the area of comprehensive accessibility</td>
<td>18 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in a session titled SMART LIVING CAMPUS</td>
<td>12 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in a session titled: Planning and Developing UOS Campus</td>
<td>11 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in a session titled: Safety and Security of UOS Campus</td>
<td>3 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in a session titled: STARS Project Forum</td>
<td>17 February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in the Professional Diploma Program titled: The Environmental policy of the European Union for People with Disabilities Evaluator Program Organized by the International Disability Alliance</td>
<td>4-6 February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in a session titled: Raising Awareness on Sustainability at UOS</td>
<td>6 November 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in the inauguration of Year of Sustainability at UOS</td>
<td>17 September 2019</td>
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</table>
## Preparation of Surveys:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date of Completion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A survey on the Degree of Academic Adaptations Practice for Deaf and Hearing-impaired Students at Higher Education Institutions in the UAE: A Sample from UOS</td>
<td>31 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A survey on KPIs of obstacle free access in parking spaces for people with disability</td>
<td>1 January 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Survey on KPIs of obstacle free access in Bathrooms for people with disability</td>
<td>23 December 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A survey on the Degree of Academic Adaptations Practice for People with Disabilities by Faculty Members at Higher Education Institutions in the UAE: A sample from UOS</td>
<td>34 November 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Survey on Volunteering at Sustainability Circles</td>
<td>4 November 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some photos of the disability facilities that are distributed all over the campus.
Chapter 2: Sustainability Education
(Curriculum & Research)
The first step towards developing a sense of responsibility in students, staff and faculty members towards achieving sustainability is by educating them on the importance of sustainability and the means to be taken to achieve it. Enlightenment can be brought about through conducting research and studies, and suggesting and sharing inventive ideas amongst one another. Thus, the Sustainability Office should ensure that the faculty members merge sustainability in their academic programs by encouraging their students to carry out research in various sustainability topics. The university library should also respond to that intent by providing the resources necessary for research as a form of assistance.

**Goal**

- Conducting studies/research to understand sustainability challenges and develop innovative ideas to address those challenges.

**KPIs**

1. Percentage of faculty and/or staff that are engaged in sustainability research
2. Percentage of research-producing departments that are engaged in sustainability research.
3. An ongoing program to encourage students in multiple disciplines or academic programs to conduct research in sustainability.
4. A program to encourage faculty from multiple disciplines or academic programs to conduct research in sustainability topics.
5. Written policies and procedures that give positive recognition to interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary research during faculty promotion and/or tenure decisions.

6. Ongoing library support for sustainability research and learning.

7. The number of the institution's research-producing divisions that are covered by a published open access policy, which ensures that versions of future scholarly articles by faculty and staff are deposited in a designated open access repository (All, Some or None).

8. The institution provides financial incentives to support faculty members with article processing and other open access publication charges.

**Current Projects and Achievements**

- **Sustainability studies (research)**: UOS has allocated funding to encourage research related to sustainability.

**New Initiatives**

- Establishing a research group to conduct studies and research toward developing a sustainable university campus.
Sustainability courses can provide valuable ground in the concepts and principles of sustainability. They ensure that the institution’s approach to sustainability education is comprehensive and includes diverse topics. In addition, they will help students to develop a broad understanding of the field of sustainability.

**Goal**

- To integrate sustainability concepts throughout the curriculum to prepare students to apply sustainability principles in their professional fields.

**KPIs**

1. Percentage of undergraduate and graduate courses offered that are sustainability-focused.
2. Percentage of undergraduate and graduate courses offered that are sustainability-inclusive.
3. Percentage of academic departments that offer sustainability courses.

**New Initiatives**

To offer a university elective sustainability-focused course.
Chapter 3: Operations and Resources Management
Energy is a key driver and the Energy and Climate Change Sustainability Circle takes all measures to minimize its consumption and sustain its production. In reducing the energy usage of the university buildings, street lighting and transportation, the university will also manage to cut costs. Consequently, this Sustainability Circle hopes to

**Goal**

- Develop a comprehensive strategy to examine energy use, associated costs and environmental impacts (greenhouse gas emissions) at the University of Sharjah campus and propose an energy saving plan to reduce the energy usage for the University buildings, street lighting and transportation.

**KPIs**

1. Total Electricity Usage per Year (kWh) at UOS campus.
2. Renewable energy produced inside the campus (kWh).
4. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Current Projects and Achievements

1. Parabolic Trough Solar Collector Air Conditioning System - Roof W12 (SEWA project)

2. Smart Sensor and Doors - Reduce the cooling load

Automatic doors

A picture of a ground floor in a building at the university showing the location of the sensors

4. LED Lighting - University of Sharjah

To reduce electricity consumption and conserve resources: The University of Sharjah has replaced traditional lights with LED lights, for their efficiency as they only lose 5% of electricity as heat.
5. UOS Solar House · Solar Decathlon.

   The solar house includes dimming control of LED lighting, electrical sockets remote control, tablet recognition pin points, clip-meters to measure consumption of AC, lights, appliances, and to measure PV production.

7. Shrouded Wind Turbine - W12 Roof.

**New Initiatives**

Energy Monitoring System for Building – M9 Building
- Total energy consumption for M9
- Energy Savings (reduce energy consumption)

Agriculture Green House
1. Integration of Renewable Energy System
2. (Design of solar PV system for the greenhouse)

2. Electric Vehicle Charging Station Powered with Renewable and Sustainable Energy System at the University of Sharjah.
Transportation is a crucial requirement and the mostly used facility by every individual on campus, be it a student, employee, worker or visitor. Therefore, this Sustainability Circle attempts to minimize the negative impacts resulting from the continuous use of transportation, such as pollution and traffic congestion. Furthermore, the Transportation Sustainability Circle encourages campus users to use more sustainable modes of transportation to promote a better and healthier lifestyle.

**Goals**

The transportation sustainability circle aims to:

1. **Move towards sustainable transportation systems**: since transportation is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants that contribute to health problems, using more sustainable modes of transportation helps reduce air pollution, traffic congestion, and GHG emissions.

2. **Promote the overall health and wellbeing of the campus**

3. **Community by encouraging and facilitating cycling and walking**, where UOS has bicycle racks distributed around the campus, as shown in the picture at right.
4. Achieve cost savings and to support local economies by reducing the use of petroleum-based fuels for transportation.

5. Support carpooling to travel to and from the university: carpooling will reduce the number of vehicles entering the campus which will reduce the air pollution and the GHG emissions on campus.

**Current Projects and Achievements**

Various transportation services are provided for the UOS community:

- Transportation services for students having training off-campus.
- Transportation services from and to Sharjah and Dubai international airports exclusively to the UOS dormitory students.
- Weekly shopping services for the UOS dormitory students to different shopping centers (according to a dormitory-prepared schedule).
- Emergency transportation for the UOS dormitory students to hospitals and outpatient clinics (as instructed by the dormitory management).
- In-campus transportation available from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm (from the dormitory to the medical college).
- Transportation for staff and faculty members to attend conferences and official visits.
- Transportation services for new faculty members to complete their transactions.
- Transportation services to Sharjah and Ajman for staff members.

Zero Emission Vehicles: UOS owns 45 zero emission vehicles that are provided and charged by UOS and powered by both electricity and solar energy. Examples of Zero emissions vehicle are shown below.
New Initiatives

1. **Encourage car-sharing in campus:**
   To reduce the number of cars entering the campus and to encourage car-sharing principle among university population, UOS will provide dedicated car parking spaces for those who are practicing car-sharing to encourage them.

2. **First and last mile mobility:**
   As the Sustainability Office is striving to solve the parking problems, encourage car sharing as well as introduce the zero emission vehicles to be used by the students, the Sustainability Office is studying the First and Last mile mobility initiative. The Sustainability Office is currently studying the ION Beea’h proposal, which includes the following:
   - Electric car sharing for students and faculty members that can be accessible through a smart application.
   - Introducing electric scooter & bicycles, as shown below.
Waste recycling and reduction has always been one of the most common solutions proposed to help save the environment. In addition to that, the Waste Management Sustainability Circle covers every other aspect of waste management, including reusing and diverting waste. In this sustainability circle, the concept of waste is not restricted to litter and residue of materials. Rather it incorporates waste from other fields such as energy, construction and demolition, and electronic gadgets. Therefore, this sustainability circle offers several, diverse means to deal with waste in conformity with the different fields.

**Goals**

1. Move towards a zero-waste campus by diverting a maximum amount of waste from landfills.
2. Promote waste reduction & reuse programs on campus.
3. Apply waste segregation, recycling & composting for material recovery.
4. Implement energy recovery systems on campus.
5. Minimize and safely dispose hazardous waste, including lab- and e-waste.
7. Raise awareness of the campus community about sustainable waste management.
KPIs

1. **Waste Minimization**
   - Total amount of waste reduced on campus annually (ton/year).
   - Specific amount of waste reduced per weighted campus user annually (ton/person/year).

2. **Waste Reuse**
   - Total amount of waste reused on campus annually (ton/year).
   - Specific amount of waste reused per weighted campus user annually (ton/person/year).

3. **Waste Diversion**
   - Total amount of waste diverted on campus annually (ton/year).
   - Specific amount of waste diverted per weighted campus user annually (ton/person/year).

4. **Waste Recycling**
   - Total amount of waste recycled on campus annually (ton/year).
   - Specific amount of waste recycled per weighted campus user annually (ton/person/year).

5. **Energy Recovery**
   - Total amount of energy recovered on campus annually (kWh/year).
   - Specific amount of energy recovered per weighted campus user annually (kWh/person/year).

6. **C&D Waste Management**
   - Total amount of C&D waste diverted from landfill (ton/year).
   - Fraction of C&D waste diverted from landfill (%).

7. **Hazardous Waste Management**
   - Fraction of hazardous waste safely managed (%).

8. **Electronic Waste (E-waste) Management**
   - Total amount of e-waste segregated, reused, or recycled on campus annually (ton/year).
   - Fraction of e-waste segregated, reused, or recycled (%).
Current Projects and Achievements

1. Recycling
   - Recycling blue bins are available in some offices and departments at the university in order to facilitate recycling for students, staff, and faculty members.

2. Paper Work Reduction & E-Communications
   - As per the internal memo by the University Chancellor, UOS staff and faculty members are encouraged to reduce paper work and move to electronic communications.

3. E-Archiving System
   - For 3,055 courses, 98 programs, 700 faculty members & 15000 students, UOS automated all files by implementing an E-portfolio system.

4. Double-sided Printing
   - The Sustainability Office sends regular announcements regarding double-sided printing for students, staff, and faculty members.
5. Donation
   - The university has multiple donation boxes distributed on campus.

6. Green Waste
   - Green wastes is collected and transported to a nearby composting facility. The produced fertilizer is reused as a soil conditioner.

7. Electronic Waste
   - E-waste depots are located throughout the campus to receive various kinds of electronic waste. Those depots are emptied regularly.

8. Hazardous Waste
   - UOS manages the toxic waste through a qualified waste disposal contractor called "Wekaya".
   - UOS has a separate contract for each facility in order to effectively manage the waste based on each waste generator.
   - Treatment is carried out at the waste treatment plant located in Al Sajaa.
New Initiatives

1. Recycling
   - Promote recycling inside the university buildings.
   - Supply desk-side recycling bins for paper products, beverage containers, and cardboard in all campus offices and classrooms.
   - Supply suitable recycling bins for faculty housing and student dorms.
   - Propose a new effective recycling-based waste collection system for the campus.

2. Awareness Programs
   - Promote a paper reduction policy with programs such as: "Think before you print", "Print double-sided", "Consider not printing at all", and "Green paper-free meetings".
   - Switch to reusable mugs, water bottles, and bags within campus.

3. Donation Station
   - Establish donation stations at convenient locations on campus.
   - Stations can receive items such as furniture, cloths, homeware, books, etc., particularly from staff and students moving out of the UOS community.
   - Free pick-up can be arranged to encourage participation.
   - Donated items can be sold for a low price to sustain the operation of the facility.

4. E-waste Depot
   - Establish convenient e-waste drop-off locations on campus.
   - Those depots can receive ink/toner cartridges, cell phones, computers, monitors, televisions, and most other electronic items and peripherals.
   - Reusable items can be sold for a low price to sustain the operation of the facility.

5. University Facilities
   - Centralize printers and copying machines: Currently, a study is being conducted to get rid of all decentralized printers and replace them with centralized ones.

6. Composting
   - A large fraction of waste, particularly grass trimmings and kitchen waste from restaurants and households can be turned into a useful soil amendment through composting.
   - The composting process can be easily implemented and operated on campus.
   - The compost can be used to fertilize green areas on campus, or to be sold externally.
With water being one of the most consumed resources on the university campus, the Water Resource Management Sustainability Circle attempts to reduce water consumption and preserve the quality of the amount consumed. This circle also strives to implement recycling practices such as the reuse of rainwater and AC water, the reuse of wastewater for cleaning purposes, and the installation of water-efficient devices.

**Goals**

1. Reduce water use by reducing campus water withdrawals.
2. Conserve water and make efforts to protect water quality, as well as to treat water and utilize it as a resource rather than a waste product.

**KPIs**

1. Annual water use per person.
2. Annual water use per gross floor area.
3. Annual water use per vegetated ground (potable and non-potable).
4. Rainwater/AC/grey water reuse.
5. Green infrastructure & LID practices, policies, plans, etc.
**Current Projects and Achievements**

1. Installing water efficient devices & smart meters
   Water nozzles were installed in washing rooms around the campus. These water nozzles reduce the amount of water flow coming out of the tap, and as a result, reduce the total amount of water consumed.

2. Water re-use
   The University City of Sharjah trucks have a combination of fresh and treated waste water for cleaning purposes of roads and pedestrian walkways, as shown below.
   Over 60% of the irrigation water for green area at University City, campus is recycled grey water.

**Future Initiatives**

3. Water Harvesting:
   - **Re-use of AC condensed water** from air-conditioners for cleaning and gardening purposes: All air conditioning systems that produce condensate drains condensed water. Typically, it flows into a floor drain, sewer line or simply outside into the yard. A simple way to recycle this condensed water in a home is to have the drain line running into a rainwater barrel or other storage container.
   - **Rainwater harvesting:** A specially designed landscape that could be used as storage reservoir in rainy season for water harvesting is practiced worldwide. If adopted it is proposed to create a playground, such as small football or tennis stadium that will be exploited by faculty and staff kids during the year and as water harvesting storage during the rainy season.

4. Water Education:
   The objective of this initiative is to raise water conservation awareness through water education. This can be achieved through:
   - Awareness campaigns on water conservation among faculty, staff and students (using proper education materials such as brochures, posters, animations, etc.).
   - Create or adopt a university compulsory course (such as “Man and the environment”).
   - Use of students clubs etc.
   - Holding student competitions for innovation ideas.
This circle aims to disseminate knowledge and spread awareness on water quality and water conservation matters, ensure safe water quality throughout the existing on-campus bottled water coolers and support the move towards less bottled waters through tap water filtration and monitoring initiatives.

**Goals**

1. Making efforts to reduce water use on-campus and promote water reuse, as applicable.
2. Disseminating knowledge and spreading awareness on water quality and water conservation matters.
3. Ensuring safe potable and domestic water quality.
4. Ensuring safe water quality throughout the existing on-campus bottled water coolers.
5. Supporting the move towards less bottled waters through tap water filtration and monitoring.

**KPIs**

1. Reduction in water use per person (STARS criteria).
2. Reduction in water use per unit of floor area (STARS criteria).
3. Reduction in water withdrawal per unit of vegetated grounds (STARS criteria).
4. Reduction in reliance on bottled water dispensers and an increase in tap water dispenser use.
5. Reduction in plastic wastes generated by discarded bottled waters.
Current Projects and Achievements

- Publishing a step-by-step guide on how the UOS community (and beyond) can clean their bottled water coolers for safer water quality as shown below

- Spreading public awareness on water quality, sanitation and water conservation matters through departmental and student led activities (e.g. World Water Day, EHS Day, etc.)

- Engaging students in research projects as well as conducting research related to water quality, science, and technology.

- Water filtration system:
The University is planning to reduce the single-use plastic bottles since it is unsustainable; keeping in consideration the public perception that tap water is not drinkable. A real need for change must be done for both an environmental impact and a public perception. Water Filtration System pilot project has been installed in the Health Sciences College. Water samples have been collected from three locations in the university and tested by Sharjah Municipality and the UOS laboratory. Moreover, the quality of water used in the sustainable garden has been tested by taking water samples.
New Initiatives

- Adopt water conservation strategies (water saving devices/appliances, greywater/wastewater/AC drain water reuse).
- Ensure safe water quality (bottled water coolers, tap dispensers).
- Shift to more sustainable choices and practices in potable, domestic, and other water uses.
- Spread awareness on water quality and water conservation matters and possibly provide incentives for water savers (through student orientation, EcoReps, sustainability ambassadors/water champions, pledges, residence hall water (energy, etc.) saving competitions, water wastage hotline, community outreach etc.).
Seeing that food is one of the essential components of life, the Food and Dining Sustainability Circle ensures the provision of food sustainably and fulfillment of the needs of every individual on campus. This also includes checking the source and quality of the food provided. The Sustainability Office strives to achieve sustainability to the fullest extent by reusing food waste and recycling unconsumed food products. Through educating students, staff and faculty members on the importance of food sustainability, they are provided with the opportunity to contribute with respect to safety measures.

**Goals**

1. **Support a sustainable food system:** UOS can use its purchasing power to require transparency from their distributors and find out where the food comes from and how it was produced. Institutions can use their food purchases to encourage safe, environmentally friendly and humanitarian farming methods; and help eliminating unsafe working conditions and support sustainable agriculture. These actions help reducing environmental impacts and support fair and resilient food systems.

2. **Operate the dining services sustainably** by preventing food waste and diverting food materials from the waste stream, by making low impact dining options available, and by educating their customers about more sustainable options and practices.

3. **Managing food waste initiative:** the goal behind this initiative is to distribute or recycle the extra food that is generated, where it can be treated and composed in order to be used as organic fertilizer that can be used in the sustainable garden project in UOS, or to be distributed to people in need through contacting companies specialized in this field in case the food was in good conditions.
Current Projects and Achievements

- Organize an awareness event on “sustainable diet”
Despite the call over saving money, the Purchasing Sustainability Circle encourages the purchase of items as long as it adds value to the sustainability process. In other words, the items purchased should be free of toxicity, environmentally friendly, and fit for reuse. The items are not restricted to electronic gadgets, but they also cover food products and beverages. To ensure the contribution of students, staff and faculty members to the Purchasing Sustainability Circle, they should all have a unified vision with regard to the type of products to be purchased, as well as be allowed to share convenient, yet sustainable, suggestions.

**Goals**

1. Purchasing non-hazardous materials such as non-toxic cleaning products, thereby promoting healthy work, living, and learning spaces.
2. Purchasing recycled and environmentally certified materials such as recycled-content and third party certified office paper by supporting markets for environmentally preferable paper.
3. Purchasing eco-efficient and low waste products that have less impact on health and environmental resources (e.g., energy and material consumption), particularly electronic products such as desktop computers, laptops and imaging equipment (copiers, digital duplicators, facsimile machines, mailing machines, multifunction devices, and printers and scanners).
4. Purchasing eco-labeled or green-stickers products that identify environmentally proven products with less environmental footprint such as consumed resources and amount of pollution created.
5. Purchasing safe and secured food and beverage products that support sustainable food systems, by prioritizing the purchase of plant-based and sustainably or ethically produced food and beverage items. These actions reduce the social and environmental impacts of food production and help foster food security, improved conditions for farm workers, healthier soils and waterways.
6. Green collaboration with partners such as sharing knowledge and training.
**KPIs**

1. Percentage of environmentally certified materials.
2. Percentage of eco-labeled or green-stickers products.
3. Percentage of rejected or returned items due to environmental issues.
4. Percentage of recycled or reused materials.
5. Percentage of environmentally collaborative suppliers (e.g., sharing knowledge and training).

**Current Projects and Achievements**

- UOS started purchasing energy efficient computers, laptops, LED lights as well as other equipment and energy efficient appliances
The Public Policy Circle aspires to promote environmental sustainability in the University of Sharjah and in the local and national community. To realize this broad goal, the circle will work closely and coordinate with other sustainability circles in the university and with off-campus entities. The circle will use various modalities, including sustainability policy initiatives, workshops, fairs, field visits, etc. in seeking to realize this goal.

**Goals**

1. Coordinating the efforts of circles of the Sustainability Office at the University of Sharjah and converting them into policies.
2. Promoting environmental sustainability behaviors within the university in general and the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science fields.
3. Making environmentally friendly changes to policies and/or creating new policies.
4. Highlighting the multi-dimensionality of environmental sustainability and raising awareness on it.
5. Raising community awareness in collaboration with off-campus entities.
**Current Projects and Achievements**

- We hosted the first Green-IRxForum (2019) in collaboration with the IRSociety, in which the topic ‘Tensions Between Environmental Health/Protection and Development’ was discussed. Policies that encourage economic growth over sustainability and development have been discussed by the attendees including students and faculty members.

**New Initiatives**

2. Annual Vegan Day.
3. Off-campus field visits to group homes.
4. Representing the University at various sustainability events.
5. Holding award-winning fairs related to environmental sustainability on campus.
6. Posting signs related to environmental sustainability on-campus.
Chapter 4: Planning and Biodiversity
The idea of this initiative is to develop and implement environmental, social and economic project that aims at raising the responsibility of the community towards sustainability and reducing the excessive use of resources and energies, reducing waste and relying on local plants suitable for the UAE environment. As a part of the initiative to implement sustainable development objectives, UOS adopts a ‘sustainable garden project’ that seeks to change the production and consumption patterns from unsustainable sources to more sustainable ones, to address water and air pollution, to protect and manage natural resources, and to prevent desertification, environmental degradation, and degradation of biodiversity.

UOS, with the support of its departments and numerous resources including the facilities management and planning department, faculty members, and scientific research institutes, and in collaborations with the University City of Sharjah, has the right potential to achieve the goals of the sustainable garden. The implementation of the sustainable garden will take place in different phases, enabling the goals to be achieved in feasible framework.

This initiative is based on encouraging UOS community (students, staff and faculty members) and their family members to participate and contribute to the cultivation of specific areas of the sustainable garden using modern and intelligent technologies to reduce the use of water, fertilizers and energy.
Goals

The sustainable garden project aims to:

1. Strengthen sustainability practices at the university.
2. Promote awareness of sustainability among members of the UOS community.
3. Develop a sustainable and successful project that can be used as a viable model in Sharjah.
4. Maintain and strengthen the UOS status in the global rankings in the fields of sustainable development and its commitment to clean environment standards.
5. Promote Health and Nutrition:
   Create access to affordable, local, healthy and sustainable food sources for UOS residents, promote healthy living through gardening.

6. Growing Locally:
   Make it easy to grow healthy food for personal use, help to ensure that we know where our food comes from, that it is grown without chemicals and that it is not genetically modified.

7. Provide Educational Opportunities:
   The community garden offers both hands-on and seminars events throughout the year focused on health and nutrition, environmental stewardship, and organic gardening.

8. Provide Educational Opportunities:
   The community garden offers both hands-on and seminars events throughout the year focused on health and nutrition, environmental stewardship, and organic gardening.

9. Strengthening the Local Community:
   - Create public/private partnerships – build diverse and collaborative relationships with community organizations, and governmental entities.
   - Connect people with each other, reducing isolation and creating a stronger sense of place. (Growing, eating and sharing food bring communities together.)

10. Improve quality of life: Health, well-being & happiness by offering practices and educational opportunities for people of all ages. This enhances a sense of community on campus through team building and working towards a common goal.

11. Protecting the Environment:
   - Protect the quality of our land, soil, air and water by eliminating the use of chemical, and fertilizers. Prevent food waste and lower our carbon footprints - reduce, reuse, recycle.
   - Endorse public policy that will confirm support for community gardens.
**KPIs**

1. **Energy Management:**
   There is both an economic and an environmental cost to energy usage from farming to processing. Tracking energy usage can help to reduce costs and emissions within the operation.

2. **Fertilizer Management:**
   Being good stewards of the land includes using the right type and amount of fertilizer, in the right place, and at the right time to ensure crop needs are satisfied.

3. **Food Safety:**
   Food Safety is about being committed to producing the safest food possible and maintaining a consistently safe operation from field to fork.

4. **Greenhouse:**
   Growing, harvesting and processing operations can take a proactive approach to minimize their carbon footprint by incorporating more sustainable practices into their core business strategies. Provides opportunities to cut operational costs by using fewer resources, such as energy, fuel, fertilizer, and water.

5. **Soil Management and Conservation:**
   Healthy soil is the foundation for healthy crops. Soils do much more than simply providing water and nutrients to crops.

6. **Waste Reduction and Material Management:**
   Reduce Reuse and Recycle. Use of raw materials, unnecessary use of energy and water, and the disposal of organic materials.

7. **Water Management:**
   Conserving water and maintaining the quality of water leaving fields and processing plants is vitally important to fresh produce operations today.

8. **Ecosystems & Biodiversity:**
   A successful sustainable growing operation considers the natural habitat, plants, while also adhering to food safety requirements.

**Current projects and achievements**

1. **Workshop**
   The Sustainable Garden Circle organized a workshop, as shown below, for the 72 sustainable garden participants on cultivation practices. It provided fresh insight and information for both experienced and beginner farmers that could enrich and expand their skills and knowledge.
2. **Building Sustainable Garden with Sustainable solutions and techniques.**

Environmentally friendly alternatives are used to implement the sustainable garden, in various stages, based on the available funding. These include:

- Solar energy as an alternative to electrical energy.
- Treated or semi-treated water for irrigation.
- Volunteers and Student projects will be used in the development of the garden sections.
- Conversion of organic materials to useful materials such as fertilizer or other.
- Natural Techniques and recycled materials will be used for building what it takes to equip the garden.

➢ **Components of the sustainable garden**

A. **Local Plants Section**
B. **Hydroponics Section**
C. **Sustainable greenhouse section**
D. **Medicinal Plants Section**
E. **Community Farming Section**

A) **Local Plants Section:**
Local plants in the UAE are known to have enormous environmental and heritage value, and our ancestors used to utilize them in all aspects of life. They are also capable of tolerating all harsh environmental conditions and can live with the least amount of water. 

**Benefit:** The use of local plants in cosmetics will help to achieve sustainable and comprehensive development which will help preserve the natural resources of future generations, as well as improve the ranking of the UAE by classifying the Global Environment Index.
B) Hydroponics Section:

Hydroponic is a method of growing plants without soil by using mineral nutrient solutions in a water solvent. The hydroponics are designed and manufactured by students, to strengthen their scientific aspects in community service.

The treated or semi-treated wastewater can be used to irrigate the plants, where 95% of irrigation water can be saved by hydroponic systems. A solar system is used to power the hydroponic.

C) Sustainable greenhouse section:

- **Used materials** are utilized for the construction of the greenhouse, mainly the columns of the greenhouse. In addition, used glass is utilized in constructing the green house as shown below.

- Solar system is used to power the greenhouse to reduce energy consumption and to produce vegetables, sustainably. Mainly it will power the pumps of the water tank.
D) Medicinal Plants Section:
A specified section of the sustainable garden is dedicated to the cultivation of plants with medicinal properties.

C) Community Farming Section:
This section is allocated to those who wish to practice free agriculture from staff and faculty members and their families in the first phase of the sustainable garden.
- An announcement was sent to all faculty and staff members through email and on the university website to invite those who are interested in community farming to participate.
A land of 15 square meters had been provided to each participant of the 72 members who applied from the faculty and staff.

➢ Sustainable garden project partners
University City of Sharjah Provided the project with workers and equipment to level the land.

Sharjah Municipality Provided the project with sand and compost for the land based on the request of University City of Sharjah.

Sharjah Roads and Transport Authority Provided the project with used interlock as requested by the sustainability office to encourage the idea of reusing material.
➢ **Water quality**

Laboratory tests were conducted at the water quality lab in UOS, by the Water Science and Technology Sustainability Circle, to test the quality of water used in the sustainable garden by taking water samples. It was found that the water used in the sustainable garden has good quality.

➢ **Impact and Benefits of the project**

The sustainable garden project will help in promoting and advancing the university in the global rankings as well as influencing and improving the university sustainability performance in terms of the following aspects:

- **Economic aspect**: by applying all aspects of sustainability to the campus, the economy of the university will improve efficiently. For instance, all of the materials and equipment used in the sustainable garden project in the university are pre-used, to encourage re-using, taking into account that just the tender for the layout without the interlock for the first phase costs around 146,000 AED. However, the tender was cancelled and the construction was conducted based on reused material and voluntary work of students, staff, and other partners.

- **Social aspect**: to improve the quality of life of people at the university as well as developing the community. For instance, including the students of the manufacturing course in the process of designing and manufacturing the hydroponic system for the sustainable garden project.
Moreover, figure shows community service and volunteering work which, besides offering a hands-on experience in a range of expertise, fostered an enthusiasm and passion among the children towards nature, team work and family gathering.

**Environmental aspect:** Recourse management and protection of the environment. It will improve the awareness of the use of sustainable practices by all stakeholders including students. This will also promote the use of clean energy as exemplified in the ‘hydroponic system’ which is powered by solar energy, in addition to the greenhouse and the water pump.

**New initiatives**

1. Involving students in sustainable garden initiatives as a volunteers or as a part of the related courses, workshops and seminars.
2. Solar system for the greenhouse, composter for the garden and water treatment station.
A landscape of a particular environment is what distinguishes it from other environments. This is why establishing an Agriculture Sustainability Circle is considered to be of major importance to the university, as UOS is well known for its green landscapes and planted vegetation, as shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2. In particular, the university will benefit in two ways. Firstly, it will develop aesthetically through its plantation of native plants, and design of gardens, parks and streets. Secondly, it will develop educationally as it provides students with the opportunity of having a hands-on experience through which they will apply what they have studied in theory.

**Goals**

1. Grow native plants under the botanical garden conditions for an educational purpose.
2. Use the native plants for landscaping some parts of the UOS campus.
3. The ultimate goal is to convince the Agriculture Sector of the University of Sharjah and the Agricultural Department in Sharjah Municipality to adopt native plants in landscaping Sharjah City.

**KPIs**

1. Acceptance of public to have native plants in landscaping.
2. Acceptance of construction companies and municipalities for using native plants in landscaping.
3. Use of the students for the native plants in their senior projects.
Current Projects and Achievements

1. Native plants are currently growing under the nursery of Fine Arts College. Seeds from around 15 species were soaked and grown in very well now. These plants comprise trees, large shrubs, small shrubs and herbs. They include also some medicinal and non-medicinal plants with cultural issues.

2. 460 seedlings of native plants were planted at UOS Sustainable Garden with the collaboration of Students of the Female Students Sustainability Circle and the Sustainability Club at the Sustainability Office.

New Initiatives

1. Students studying landscape design in Department of Architecture and Fine arts will use the grown plants in designing gardens, parks and streets.

2. Faculty from Biotechnology and Architecture will carry research together on certain kinds of native plants that have the potential to be adopted in landscaping.
Our circle will involve students from Medical Students Association (MSA) in the College of Medicine, nutritionists, health authorities, practicing physicians, teachers, school students, Bio-medical researchers, and the community in and around UAE.

We aim to be at the forefront of sustainable living by inspiring and educating our future generations by bringing about awareness (via scientific evidence) on the benefits of organic farming (from procuring seeds, soil health, low cost farming using recycled resources etc.). This will help us achieve the set goals in terms of public health nutrition among the UAE population and develop a sustainable food system.

**Goals**

1. Develop a strategy to fabricate our own soil using biodegradable kitchen waste such as vegetable peels and waste coffee grounds generated by the community living within the UOS campus (mainly targeting the houses and the restaurants). This, besides reducing the amount of waste entering the landfill, preserves and enhances UAE’s soil health for future generation.

2. Recycling the paper cups, yogurt buckets, disposed wooden boxes and planks that end up in the landfill to make your own soil and grow organic vegetables thereby building a vibrant, sustainable environment.
3. Create awareness among people about low cost community gardening in the terrace/balcony (with the consent of the municipality) of their apartment through social media/workshops/radio channels etc. and encourage them to develop community gardens that might also help in establishing stress-free and happy neighborhoods.

4. Collaborate with municipality and with their support, identify and develop measures to train and motivate apartment caretakers, to make their own soil using kitchen waste collected from residents / tenants, dwelling in the same apartment.

5. Mobilize the collection of discarded sawdust (from sawmills) and animal dungs (form the animal markets) and use them in the conversion of sandy soils to high-yield fertile land.

6. Develop long-term plans and projects to strengthen local production of fruits and vegetables using the above strategies.

Current Projects and Achievements

1. Produced +500 Kg of high-yield soil in the College of Medicine with the corporation of the faculty, service personnel and Janitors achieving “Zero food waste”

2. Reused yogurt containers from the hospital canteen to make compost bins (which otherwise will cost 400AED for one unit) in order to make our own soil.

3. Utilized sawdust and goat dung as manure in the greenhouse allocated by the UOS as a part of sustainable community gardening.

4. Planting. More than 56 types of tomatoes were grown, in addition to other food crops such as mint, dill, squash, eggplant and pepper
More photos of the harvested organic crops:

Links & Figures:

1. Created a drop off point (University of Sharjah) using an application (Make Soil) for the community to deposit biodegradable food waste. (5.10.2019)

2. Preparing bed for growing plants using saw dust and goat dung in the green house provided at UOS campus (02.09.2019).

Click the link below to watch the video:
3. Interview with Helen Farmer on Social Balcony Gardening at 108.3 FM. (09.10.2019)

Click the link below to listen to the interview:
https://bit.ly/3mZHp6j

4. Guest speaker at The New Indian Model School, Dubai as a part of learning from leaders (10.10.2019).

5. Workshop for the children in the apartment on recycling plastic bottles & paper cups to grow plants and management of biodegradable kitchen waste to produce high yield soil (12.10.2019).

Click the link below to watch the video:
https://bit.ly/389037A

6. Educating the community about organic farming through social network such as You tube & Facebook (13.10.2019).
https://youtu.be/LmSKhCnlbbI

7. Workshop on low cost gardening to the community of UAE at Kaber farms UAQ (18.10.2019).

8. Installed two water dispensers and provided paper cups for the students at the College of Medicine, UOS to reduce the use of single use water bottles. (13.10.2019).

9. Installed GOBBLE a compost maker and a deep freezer to store the biodegradable kitchen waste and started to make the first set of high yield soil at the College of Medicine UOS (19.10.019).


12. Held our first official meeting with the students of College of Medicine to discuss the strategies and work towards achieving the same (27.10.2019).

13. Set up our first booth with the members of LEAF to bring about awareness among public in recycling biodegradable kitchen waste and low cost farming at the “Health, community and Environmental Awareness Exhibition” held at M21, UOS. (29.10.2019).
This circle aims to Promote the University of Sharjah as an animal friendly environment for the sustainability of the community through uses of social media and other public forums. This will be achieved through controlling the stray cat population through the TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) approach and create designated feeding stations.

Goals

Short-Term Goals

1. Ensure control of the stray cat population through the TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) approach.
2. Create designated feeding stations.
3. Seek volunteers to help with trapping, transporting and returning cats after surgical procedures.
4. Organize donation drives for food and other necessary support such as medical supplies and pet carriers.
5. Create awareness in the community about the benefits of TNR.
6. Represent the University of Sharjah at local, regional and international animal welfare workshops, forums and conferences.
7. Promote the University of Sharjah as an animal friendly environment for the sustainability of the community through uses of social media and other public forums.
Long-Term Goals

1. Make arrangements for care during summer months, including regular provision of food and water, and the construction of permanent air-conditioned shelters on campus.
2. Set up on-campus vet services.
3. Seek cat wellness through medical treatment and vaccinations against diseases.
4. Respond to the needs of cats and other animals requiring urgent medical attention

KPIs

1. Detecting a slower growth in the cat population
2. Discerning signs of healthier cats.
3. Observing fewer cats with indications of disease and/or fighting with other cats.
4. Perceiving a growing interest among students and faculty in animal care.

Current Projects and Achievements

1. Arrange for off-campus veterinary services for TNR.
2. Develop awareness campaign within the University of Sharjah community.
3. Visit local grocery stores to collaborate in food donation campaign.
4. Seek volunteers and necessary support.

Future Initiatives

1. Establish similar initiatives at the University of Sharjah branch locations.
2. Extend awareness campaign throughout the Emirate of Sharjah.
3. Collaborate with other organizations and government authorities in addressing the welfare of animals in the UAE.
4. Collaborate with government authorities to help in the funding of animal welfare in the Emirate of Sharjah community, for example through traffic violation payments.
5. Promote pre-vet and Veterinary Technician degree programs for students at the University of Sharjah.
6. Promote Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree program for students at the University of Sharjah.
7. Promote partnership with the Royal College Veterinary of Surgeons (RCVS), London, U.K. for the registration of UOS students obtaining DVM degrees.
8. Provide on and off campus mobile vet services, affiliated with a veterinary program at the University of Sharjah.
9. Promote the establishment of a permanent UOS veterinary service, affiliated with veterinary degree programs at the University of Sharjah.
Chapter 5: UOS Community Engagement
Community Partnership SC

Leader: Prof. Faker AL Gharibeh.
Department of Sociology College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Like the Sustainability Studies Circle, the goal of the Community Partnership Sustainability Circle is to educate individuals on the various aspects of sustainable development. This is implemented through spreading awareness, participating in voluntary events and parenting socialization. As the name suggests, the Community Partnership Sustainability Circle encourages the meeting of faculty members from different universities to discuss means to carry out sustainability with the minimum expenditures and other effective decisions with respect to managing budget.

**Goals**

1. Educating people about areas of sustainable development.
2. Spreading awareness culture of consumption behavior.
3. Conducting voluntary activities in the areas of sustainable development.
4. Supporting people to plan for safe family and decreasing social violence.
5. Enhancing environment safety and ensuring that university is friendly to social groups (elderly, disabled, women, Children, etc.). Activating the idea of social responsibility by fostering cooperation between public organizations, and other sectors.

**KPIs**

1. Student Educators Program
2. Inter-Campus Collaboration
3. Continuing Education
4. Community Service
5. Participation in Public Policy
6. Trademark Licensing
Current Projects and Achievements

1. Starting the awareness program for the Community Partnership Sustainability Circle by giving a presentation about the Social Sustainability in the Sustainability 2020 Inauguration.

2. Creative Graduation Projects Workshops at Sharjah University was held on Saturday, 28-9-2019. I would like to point out that the initiative's work is not limited to the main workshop, as students will be contacted directly later to inform them of all opportunities within the support, guidance and opportunities of graduation projects. The creation will be applied with another whole in the next phase.

3. "Meeting with representatives of the National Advanced Skills Program"
A meeting of the Department of Social Sustainability was held with representatives of the National Skills Program meeting with representatives of the National Advanced Skills Program to disseminate and enhance future skills, with the aim of enabling community members to learn about the details of the program and learn about Future skills, and then their development in support of the principle of lifelong learning, as this initiative comes as part of the "My Skills" campaign12x12). One of the important skills is financial skills and home spending:

The Financial Information Skills Workshop aims to promote practices that touch the lives of all members of the community and the family such as knowing the nature of income, expenses, profit, loss, currency value, savings, and how to prepare effective financial balances and the economy that qualifies individuals for success in entrepreneurship.

4. Volunteer Hour initiative:
The Department of Social Sustainability coordinated a visit to the Nursing Home to train students in the skills of the "Volunteer Hour" initiative in Sharjah in September 2019.
New Initiatives

1. Peaceful Community and Happy Family
   - This initiative aims to spread the best ways of parenting socialization without abuse.
   - Domestic abuse (often called 'family violence') can include physical, verbal, sexual or emotional abuse.
   - Protect the children and teenagers from bullying and abusing, and encourage them to engage in creative and constructive activities.

2. Voluntary Hour
   - Training volunteers on volunteering skills through a training workshop.
   - Identifying places and areas of volunteering in the university and community (disabled, elderly and students themselves).
   - Volunteering is only for one-hour weekly.

3. Be wise
   - How to rationalize (reduce) consumption of water and electricity at the university.

4. Budget Management
   - Many people don't realize that they spend more than they earn and slowly sink deeper into debt every year. This initiative aims to create a spending plan for your money to ensure that you will always have enough money for the things you need.
Individuals are the peripheral of the wheel of sustainability and should receive every care in order to thrive and assist in driving the sustainability process. This Sustainability Circle takes every measure to protect every individual from any accident, and continuously monitors his or her health and safety. The measures can extend so to cover non-health precautions such as indoor air quality and carbon footprint level.

**Goals**

1. Achieving high satisfaction rate among UOS employees.
2. Providing wellness programs at UOS.
3. Providing a safe environment to UOS students, staff and faculty members.
4. Providing a green office environment for UOS staff and faculty members.
5. Minimizing carbon footprint of UOS.
6. Improving indoor air quality at UOS buildings.
7. Improve driving behavior of road users within the university.
8. Improving adherence to safe behaviors within university laboratories.
9. Providing a work and study user-friendly environment for disabled people.
KPIs

1. Employees satisfaction rate.
2. Number of wellness programs, initiatives and activities.
3. Number of accidents on campus and number of safety initiatives/activities.
4. Number of relevant initiatives and average number of plants per office in UOS offices.
5. Number of relevant initiatives and carbon footprint level.
6. Indoor air quality at UOS.
7. Number of awareness programs and number of traffic collisions inside campus.
8. Number of accidents in UOS laboratories and observed number of safety violations.
9. Number of relevant initiatives and changes in the university.

New Initiatives

1. Establishing an office wellness program and hiring a graduate research assistant to develop and implement it (submitted).
2. Establishing an activity/wellness area for younger teenagers in Khawarizmi Compound (submitted with Community Partnership Circle).
3. Planning an awareness function in the next fortnight in cooperation with Awareness Circle.
Sustainable health is a personal commitment to maintaining and taking responsibility for your own health, through preventative (proactive) means such as regular physical activities, healthy diet, and maintaining balanced state of mind.

**Principles of Sustainable Health**

1. Maintain a balanced life
2. Have a healthy diet
3. Exercise regularly
4. Sleep well
5. Maintain a regular rhythm in life.
6. Take preventative natural medicines to maintain health
7. Engage in spiritual practices manifested through meditation, mind training and raising personal consciousness
8. Learn to live and laugh more
9. Building discipline in our selves through mind training and raising awareness
10. Take a simpler approach to life

**Goals**

To Protect the health and promoting the wellbeing of students and staff by:

1. Increasing awareness and promoting health
2. Improving participation and access to the health screening programs
3. Strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse
4. Improving psychosocial health
5. Improving dental health
6. Developing sustainable health alliances and outreach into the community.
7. Relating sustainable health to teaching and research
KPIs

1. Participation rates in the circle activities
2. Number of awareness days
3. Number of workshops and initiatives
4. Number of sustainable health alliances
5. Number of courses and research studies addressing sustainable health
6. Adherence rate to health screening programs
7. Rates of early detections of medical conditions such as: obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, stroke, cancer.

Current Projects and Achievements

- Mobile clinic

New Initiatives

1. Big loser: Interventional study to reduce obesity among male students
2. Elective Course Proposal: Sustainable Health
The Awareness Sustainability Circle aims to develop positive sustainability behaviors among the UOS stakeholders by raising the sustainability awareness level throughout seminars, newsletters, videos and social media.

**Goals**

1. Giving information about sustainable life.
2. Create positive attitudes about sustainability
3. Changing behaviors to be more sustainable

**KPIs**

1. Positive and sustainable attitudes.
2. Saved resources.
3. The perception of the UOS population regarding sustainably issues.

**Current Projects and Achievements**

1. TV program with Dr. Imad Alsyouf Director of the Sustainability Office, to give information about the office objectives, activities and circles, produced by cooperation with College of communication studios.
2. Graduation project about “electricity consumption awareness campaign. (College of communication, Al Dhaid Campus).
3. Published monthly newsletter to covering all events and activities related to the Sustainability Circles
4. Radio program with Dr. Ahmed Farouk, awareness leader, about the sustainability concept and its importance in the university community. This program has been produced in cooperation with College of communication studios. (Etisal FM, College of communication online Radio Station).

5. Published informative brochures about the sustainability office for the sustainability year 2020 event.

6. Produced 4 sustainability short films on the sustainability practices in Fine Arts College, Workplace Health, Safety and Wellbeing Sustainability Circle, Community Partnership Sustainability Circle, Male and Female Students Sustainability Activities Circle, Sustainable Garden and LEAF Sustainability Circles.

**New Initiatives**

Awareness campaign to spread sustainability around UOS, based on:

- Short films produced by cooperation with college of communication studios.
- Graduation project about sustainability concept in cooperation with graphic design and multimedia program in college of communication.
**Creative Initiatives SC**

**Dr. Iman Ibrahim**
Department of Applied Design - College of Fine Arts and Design

**Creative Initiatives** challenges the community to creatively adopt the three **Rs** - the concept to reduce consumption, reuse what still can be used, and recycle waste into a resource for further use.

**Goals**

1. Recommend practical solutions to cut costs of purchasing new materials or equipment and operate facilities optimally.

2. Provide the UOS Campus community with Eco-Friendly lifestyle prototypes to experience, and adopt sustainability as a way to conduct business.

3. Activate the existing MOU with Beea’h to collect recyclable waste and to provide students with treated materials for academic and research projects.

4. Design a comprehensive data-collection system for sustainability based initiatives that records information on processes, outcomes and budget savings.

5. Support incorporating environmental features into new and proposed UOS projects from design to implementation.

6. Strengthen ties with the local community by creating public/private partnerships and build diverse and collaborative relationships with community organizations, and governmental entities.
**KPIs**

1- Measure progress in the achievable level of reusing stored or unused items instead of purchasing new items, which includes materials and assets.

2- Report budget savings.

3- Identify the number of on-going and new activities performed and projects completed to raise awareness of sustainable initiatives.

**Current Projects and Achievements**

1- “Budget-less Instructional Spaces” Project: constructing 3 classrooms reusing doors & windows, digital projectors & projection screens, whiteboards and pin-up boards, and classroom furniture (student desks, faculty tables and chairs).

2- "Sustainable Courtyards" Project: activating the College of Fine Arts & Design courtyards using recycled materials with zero budget.

3- "Horizon Garden" Project: increasing greenery areas utilizing local plants and recycled materials.

4- “CFAD Furniture Upcycle” Project: building studio light & cutting tables with zero budget.

5- “Integrated Technology Studios” (Paperless High-tech Program)

6- Reusing Painting frames, canvases, and clay raising the awareness of 3Rs in a practical way within the College community.

7- “Recycling Printers Cartridges” Initiative: placing bins in visible areas and depositing with IBM for recycling.
8· With the aim of spreading environmental awareness among students of the University of Sharjah, the Creative Initiatives Sustainability Circle announces a student competition for the collection and recycling of plastics.

9· Organizing an awareness seminar for students about Plastic recycling under the theme of “Pro-active Solutions for Plastic Pollutions”

10· Participating in Abu Dhabi Sustainability week with students’ project about sustainable courtyards.

11· Zero waste MASTERPIECES for Beeah HQ Exhibition

12· Earth: A better Place exhibition for schools’ students

13· Participating in the Fun for Health Festival Activities, organized by the Ministry of Education

**New Initiatives**

1· Integrate recycling material in at least one full studio project across different sections.

2· Promote "SUSTAINABILITY" competitions towards expanding innovation and creative ideas.
Awareness of individuals in sustainability matters is one among the key factors which enable them to lead an ecologically responsible lifestyle.

Although students are much exposed to the issues of sustainability formally and informally, their awareness regarding implementing the principles of sustainability in day to day life is minimum and hence needs to be enhanced.

The sustainability activities circle in the Deanship of Students Affairs·Men aims to foster awareness about sustainable lifestyle and practices among students.

If our student community succeeds in extending their awareness to purposeful green actions, surely it would make a big move towards creating sustainable communities

**Goals**

1. Introducing the concept of sustainability for students.
2. Encourage students to practice sustainability and raise awareness.
3. Establishing a culture of sustainability.
4. Develop student behavior to make the university environment/life more sustainable.

**KPIs**

1. % Student satisfaction level on the sustainability events
2. % Student participation on Sustainability activities (conferences, trips, workshops, Etc.)
Current Projects and Achievements

1. Participation of the sustainability students club in the EMTECH MENA CONFERENCE

2. Participation of the sustainability students club in the STUDENTS CULBS FAIR ORGANIZED BY THE DEANSHIP OF STUDENTS AFFAIRS

New Initiatives

1. Establishing a sustainability club for Male students

2. Environmental trips and field activities

3. Organizing a competition, the result of which will be Green University Award at the end of each academic year

4. Print a guide on sustainability and distribute it to the university

5. Organizing training courses to encourage students to participate in sustainability event
The Sustainability Office believes that one of the best means to develop sustainably is by engaging with other communities to achieve mutual benefit. The Female Students Inter-Campus Engagements Sustainability Circle has been established to provide female students with the initiative to share knowledge of the approaches taken to achieve sustainability, and to apply new concepts and practices taken from different communities. The female students’ duties also extended to include offering community service by volunteering.

**Goals**

The female student’s inter-campus engagements sustainability circles aim to:

1. Collaborate with other colleges and universities to help build campus sustainability broadly. The university can make significant contributions to sustainability by sharing their experiences and expertise with other colleges and universities.

2. Engage the students and employees in community service. Volunteerism and the sense of compassion that community services help develop are fundamental to achieve sustainability.

**KPIs**

1. Time line scheme of all year-round activity
2. Student Count participating
3. Student Count Organizing
4. Faculty Collaboration
5. Quality Rating of the events
Current Initiatives


2. Clean Energy Initiative in cooperation with Sharjah Women’s Society & SEWA (ongoing).


4. Participation in the Orientation meeting for new female students (2019/2020) as a first step to raise awareness through the distribution of environmentally friendly shopping bags to avoid the use of plastic bags.

5. Participation in the inauguration of the Sustainability 2020 event with a speech from leader circle “Female Sustainability Activities”. In addition of participation of the female student club

6. Collaborating with the Creative Initiatives Sustainability Circle in the student competition for the collection and recycling of plastics under the theme of “Pro-active Solutions for Plastic Pollutions”

7. Participation in the Sustainable Campus Institute Workshop
8. The Green Campus Audit (GCA) - Sustainable Campus Institute Workshop

9. Sustainable Action Project (SAP) for SCI Educators - Sustainable Campus Institute Workshop

10. Establishing a sustainability club for female students

11. Event to gather Children’s social care home and old people home under the initiative of happiness and hope

12. Participating the female student sustainability club in the environmental health exhibition

13. Participating the female student sustainability club in attending the EmTech MENA – conference
14. Participating the female student sustainability club in planting the sustainable garden

15. Attending the 5th Annual Water & Energy Congress Week (WE WEEK).

16. Students Participate in the Debate Contest “Animal Testing,” in which the teams debated for and against banning animal testing.

17. Participating in organizing and attending Sustainable Energy & Environmental Protection conference

18. Participation in AL Marmoom Gulf Scout camp

19. Participation in Youth Camp – organized by Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
20. Participating in the Fun for Health Festival Activities, organized by the Ministry of Education

21. An interview with Sharjah TV to introduce the sustainability activities and the Sustainability Club

22. The launch of Steps for Ambition and Empowerment Initiative Under the subject (Entrepreneurship and Sustainability) (1st program: from idea to business Included 14 workshops)

23. The integration of deaf and dumb students by implementing the National Anthem of Peace in sign language in the university's celebration of the National Day of the United Arab Emirates

24. Proposal 1 to reduce paper use and effort when registering for activities and using laptops or online

25. Proposal 2 to reduce the paperwork required for trips by female students, and a circular was issued to that effect
26. Recycling the invitations of Graduation cards project (2)

27. Recycling the invitations of Graduation cards project (1)

New Initiatives

Sustainability Week:
The establishment of a festival or a forum induction of sustainability at the beginning of next spring semester, which includes all the circles of sustainability in addition to the implementation of workshops and lectures during this week, and its goal is to introduce students and the university family in general about sustainability and its work and open the door for registration as per their interest.
Male & Female Students Sport Activities SC

Leader: Captain Salah Tahir Al Amirri
Deanship of Student Affairs

Leader: Captain Saly Jacob
Deanship of Student Affairs

Newly Established Sustainability Circles
Chapter 6: The Coordination between the SC
No Sustainability Circle can be effectively implemented without continuous improvement. Thus, the Continuous Improvement and Sustainability Excellence Circle was established to better implement sustainability with respect to the changing environmental factors and the individuals’ needs. Through tracking the progress of achieving sustainability, the university can overcome difficulties and move towards better solutions.

**Tasks**

1. Map of sustainability indicators into the identified KPI by the various circles.
2. Model and analyze interdependencies among the identified KPI.
3. Identify opportunities for improvement.
4. Help in prioritizing sustainability projects and initiatives.
5. Monitoring and measuring progress in achieving the sustainability targets.
6. Contribute to creating a culture of continuous improvement (Continuous improvement should be the responsibility of everyone in the university (not just for the sustainability teams).
The English Editing and Publications circle oversees the reviewing and editing of various documents, including the annual cycle reports, prepared by the Sustainability Center, to ensure consistency and accuracy in language and formatting. The circle ensures that the documents are scrutinized and proofread before they are shared with its intended audience. In addition, the English Editing and Publications circle makes sure that the documents prepared and sent across satisfy the objectives of the Sustainability Center and are on par with the academic benchmark of the UOS.

**Goals**

1. To provide wide-ranging language support to the Sustainability Center in UOS, in the documentation of various reports as well as in publications
2. Proofreading & editing of Annual UOS Sustainability Reports
3. To provide assistance to different sustainability circles in documenting their reports

**KPIs**

1. Proofreading and editing of the Annual UOS Sustainability Reports
2. Providing language support for UOS Sustainability circles when needed
3. Advising on the writing and publication of UOS Sustainability circles

**Current Projects and Achievements**

- Proofreading & editing of the 2019 & 2020 Annual UOS Sustainability Report

**New Initiatives**

*The English Editing and Publications circle aims to provide writing solutions and documentation support for publications, including magazines and brochures, initiated by the Sustainability Center.*
Like the English Editing and Publications SC, a SC has been established for the Arabic publications
JOIN US!

Be part of the efforts that aim to incorporate sustainability into every aspect of campus life by joining one or more of the Sustainability Circles under the Sustainability Office.

https://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/Administration/Sustainability/Pages/join_us.aspx
Prepared by:
Eng. Bushra Al Jaberi – Sustainability Analyst

Text proofread by:
Dr. Douglas Rapley & Dr. Firoz Nalakath
Leaders of the English Editing and Publications
Sustainability Circle

For more information, please visit:
https://www.sharjah.ac.ae/SustainabilityOffice