

Our Climate Action Plan, Shared with Government and Community

The University's plan to cut emissions and build resilience, and how it is shared with local government and community partners

13.3.2

Our Climate Action Plan, Shared with Government and Community

Does the university have a Climate Action Plan, shared with local government and local community groups?

Our approach

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to Iraq's environment, economy and public health. Al-Mustaqbal University has adopted a Climate Action Plan that sets out how it will cut its own emissions, adapt its campus to a hotter and drier climate, and use its teaching, research and partnerships to help the wider community do the same.

The plan is organised around clear targets and six fundamentals: clean and sustainable energy, a waste-free institution, water conservation, more green space, fewer vehicles, and a smoke-free campus. It is supported by commitments in education, training and research.

The plan is not kept within the University. It is presented to and discussed with local and national government, and shared with community and international partners, so that the University's actions support wider climate action in Babylon and across Iraq.

Evidence at a glance

#	INITIATIVE	SHARED WITH / FOCUS
01	**Plan targets and roadmap**	Halve CO_2 emissions; zero-carbon buildings
02	**Clean and sustainable energy**	Solar PV, efficient buildings, research
03	**Five further fundamentals**	Waste, water, green space, transport, health
04	**Education, training and research**	Curriculum, staff training, community awareness
05	**Localising climate commitments**	Babil and Dhi Qar, CRS, climate organisations
06	**Forum on desertification and drought**	FAO, Babylon local officials
07	**Discussing the plan with government**	Local and national government

Al-Mustaqbal University

Our Climate Action Plan: Targets and Roadmap

The plan commits the University to three headline targets, and to a phased roadmap that moves from planning and early projects to a fully decarbonised campus.

Target	Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by half by 2030
Target	Move the campus to clean and sustainable energy
Target	Zero-carbon buildings by 2050
Stage 1	Plan adopted; energy-saving projects proposed and first installations completed
Stage 2	Water conservation and a waste-free institution
Stage 3	More green space and expanded solar energy systems
Stage 4	Clean energy, fewer vehicles and carbon removed from buildings



Fundamental One: Clean and Sustainable Energy

The University is moving its energy supply from fossil fuels to renewables in three steps: installing photovoltaic panels on buildings to meet their own demand; expanding solar generation to cover the campus's full needs for electricity, cooling and heating; and connecting the campus grid to the national grid to export surplus solar power. The plan aims for 80% of the energy the University consumes to come from sources other than the national grid by 2030.

Demand is being cut at the same time. Street and outdoor lighting has been converted to solar-powered units with zero emissions; double glazing, high-efficiency inverter cooling and heating systems and LED lighting reduce the energy needed in Iraq's extreme summers and cold winters; and green roofs are being introduced to lower cooling loads. A renewable energy laboratory supports research into new low-carbon technologies.





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Five Further Fundamentals for a Sustainable Campus

Alongside clean energy, five further fundamentals guide how the campus is run. Together they require staff and students to work hand in hand towards an environmentally friendly university.

Waste-free institution	Reduce and recycle all campus waste; paperless official correspondence; no plastic bags on campus; research on waste management and cleaner production
Water conservation	Sensor-operated taps; permeable paving to aid rainwater harvesting; sensor-controlled irrigation; greywater recycled for watering plants; rainwater collected for reuse
Green space	Expand green areas for a cleaner, cooler campus; drought-resistant fruit trees; trees along walkways and near buildings; green roofs; vegetables grown for student restaurants
Fewer vehicles	Halve staff and student car use by 2030; shuttle buses to and from campus; low-emission fuels and fuel-efficient driving
Smoke-free campus	A tobacco, smoke and nicotine-free campus for the health and well-being of staff and students





Education, Training and Research for Climate Action

The plan commits the University to include energy conversion and management in the curriculum; to train academic staff and experts in sustainable energy for buildings; to encourage research on energy and buildings; to support sustainable construction through consultancy; to promote innovative funding for energy-efficiency projects; and to use efficient equipment and systems such as LED lighting, renewable energy and solar-powered air conditioning.

The University also works with national and international organisations to bring solar-powered technologies, such as water filtration, desalination, heating and cooling, to the community, and runs awareness campaigns on campus and in the community on planting and caring for trees. Workshops, such as one by the Department of Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Techniques Engineering on using LPG as a cleaner alternative fuel, carry the plan into practice.



Sharing Our Plan: Localising Climate Commitments in Babil and Dhi Qar

The University took part in a workshop on localising Iraq's Nationally Determined Contributions in Babil and Dhi Qar Governorates, held at the College of Science for Women, University of Babylon, with climate and sustainable-development organisations and the support of Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

The University presented its own approach to climate action, through research, sustainable technologies, green campus practice and student skills, as a contribution to local climate planning, and reaffirmed its commitment to partnership with local government, the private sector and civil society.





Sharing Our Plan with Community and International Partners

The University held the Future Forum to Combat Desertification and Drought, with the participation of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), local officials from Babylon Governorate, academics and environmental experts. The University set out how it builds sustainability into its teaching, research and institutional practice, with climate action, life on land, food security and partnerships as priorities.

The FAO's representative described its work against desertification and drought and in strengthening rural resilience, and the role universities can play through their staff, researchers and student projects. The forum gave the University's climate commitments a wider audience among the community and decision-makers of Babylon.



Discussing Our Plan with Local and National Government

The University meets regularly with local and national government to discuss its Climate Action Plan, exchanging views on emission reduction, renewable energy and campus sustainability, and exploring how the University's experience can support government climate policy.

These meetings ensure the plan is known to the authorities responsible for climate action, and that the University's targets and actions are aligned with national and local priorities.







OUR COMMITMENT

Our Climate Action Plan sets clear targets for a low-carbon, resilient campus, and we share it openly with government and community partners. The University will continue to put the plan into practice and to work with others so that its progress supports climate action across Babylon and Iraq.

AL-MUSTAQBAL UNIVERSITY

Towards a Sustainable University