

Local Education Programmes on Climate Change

Campaigns and learning programmes on climate risks, impacts, mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

13.3.1

Local Education Programmes on Climate Change

Does the university provide local education programmes or campaigns on climate change risks, impacts, mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning?

Our approach

Iraq is among the countries most exposed to climate change. Rising summer temperatures, prolonged drought, declining river flows, dust storms and desertification already affect health, agriculture and livelihoods across Babylon Governorate. Al-Mustaqbal University treats climate literacy as a public responsibility, and carries its expertise beyond the campus to schools, farmers, public-sector staff and the wider community.

Our programmes follow the full climate cycle: understanding risks and impacts, cutting emissions, adapting everyday practice, reducing the harm of extreme events and recognising early warning signs. They are delivered through a standing student ambassador network, the annual International Sustainability Week, the observance of UN environmental days, and targeted outreach to schools and agricultural communities.

The evidence that follows presents the University's principal local climate-education programmes and campaigns. Each is open to the public or delivered directly in the community, and each reflects Iraq's national environmental priorities and the University's guiding vision, “Towards a Sustainable University”.

Evidence at a glance

#	INITIATIVE	CLIMATE FOCUS
01	**Al-Mustaqbal Ambassadors for Sustainability**	Trained youth climate educators
02	**The Sustainability March**	Public awareness of mitigation and adaptation
03	**Earth Day field learning**	Nature-based solutions, low-carbon transport
04	**Desertification and Drought Day**	Drought adaptation, land restoration
05	**Plant health workshop and campaign**	Climate-resilient agriculture
06	**Sustainable Agriculture in Babylon**	Farmer training against desertification
07	**Together for a Sustainable Future**	Energy saving, emissions reduction
08	**Hilla High School for Excellence**	Pollution and waste awareness

Al-Mustaqbal Ambassadors for Sustainability

Launched as the first initiative of its kind among Iraqi universities, Al-Mustaqbal Ambassadors for Sustainability trains students and young teachers from universities and secondary schools to act as climate and sustainability educators in their own communities. The programme rests on four pillars (green education; climate, policy and economics; good health and well-being; and sport), with learning tracks covering all seventeen SDGs.

Ambassadors receive structured training and then lead awareness activities on campus, in schools and in public spaces. The programme gives the University a permanent, trained volunteer base for climate education, and it drives the University's community campaigns, including the Sustainability March. Its launch included field visits to the Renewable Energy Research Centre, the Sustainable Farm, the Arab Green House and the new solid-waste incineration facility, so that participants could see mitigation in practice.









The Sustainability March

The Sustainability March opened the University's Fourth International Sustainability Week, bringing staff, students and the “Ambassadors of Future Sustainability” together in a public procession designed as a moving climate classroom. Awareness stops along the route explained the University's practical responses to climate change: expanding green cover and protecting biodiversity, adopting clean energy, water-saving irrigation, hydroponic and tissue-culture cultivation, waste reduction and recycling, and low-carbon transport on campus.

The march turned the University's own climate actions into a public demonstration of mitigation and adaptation, showing participants how institutional choices translate into lower emissions and greater resilience. It builds on the University's long-standing commitment to operate as a sustainable campus.





Earth Day: Learning Climate Action in the Field

To mark Earth Day, the University took climate education out of the lecture hall and into the field. Students and staff toured the University's botanical nature reserve, examined greenhouse and hydroponic cultivation that uses a fraction of conventional irrigation water, and planted trees and seedlings across campus. Bicycles and scooters were promoted as everyday alternatives to car travel, linking personal choices to the University's carbon footprint.

The day was framed as a practical response to pressure on Iraq's natural resources, and as a model for using global environmental days to build lasting sustainable habits among young people.





World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Desertification and drought are among the most immediate climate threats facing central Iraq. The University marked the UN World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought with an event that showcased the season's tree-planting campaigns, carried out on campus and in the surrounding area to extend green cover and hold back land degradation.

The event presented the University's hydroponic agriculture projects as a working model of drought adaptation, reducing water demand while supporting local food and water security, and engaged participants through awareness banners on protecting land and water.





Plant Health, Food Security and a Changing Climate

Rising temperatures and erratic rainfall are increasing pest and disease pressure on crops across Iraq. To mark the International Day of Plant Health, the College of Agricultural Technologies, working with the University's Sustainability Division, held a scientific workshop on protecting plants from pests and diseases and on sustainable agricultural practice.

The workshop was followed by a campus-wide awareness campaign, with educational brochures explaining how healthy plants protect biodiversity, sustain food security and strengthen resilience to climate stress.





Sustainable Agriculture in Babylon: Seeds against Desertification

The University sponsored a volunteer initiative in Babylon Governorate, run by local activists and students, to produce and distribute agricultural seeds free of charge. Its aims are to combat desertification, encourage sustainable agriculture and strengthen local food security.

Alongside the seed distribution, the initiative ran awareness and training sessions for farmers and residents on environmentally sound farming, conserving soil fertility and biodiversity, and adapting cultivation to a hotter, drier climate while reducing the waste of natural resources.







“Together for a Sustainable Future”: A Public Awareness Campaign

Under its vision “Towards a Sustainable University”, the University ran “Together for a Sustainable Future”, a public campaign to reduce pollution and confront climate change by building a culture of environmental responsibility. The campaign offered practical guidance on saving energy, choosing renewable energy and green transport, and cutting everyday emissions.

Awareness publications were distributed on campus and in the wider community, reinforcing positive environmental behaviour beyond the University's gates.





Taking Climate Education into Schools

University staff visited Hilla High School for Excellence to deliver a lecture on the harm caused by plastic waste to the environment and to human health. Teachers and students from several grades discussed practical responses: reducing use, recycling, and choosing environmentally friendly alternatives.

The school administration commended the University's role in raising environmental awareness among young people. The visit forms part of a wider programme of outreach to local schools.







OUR COMMITMENT

Taken together, these programmes give Babylon's communities a continuing source of climate knowledge: trained young educators, public campaigns tied to the UN environmental calendar, practical learning for farmers, and early engagement with schools. The University will continue to widen this reach as part of its commitment to climate action.

AL-MUSTAQBAL UNIVERSITY

Towards a Sustainable University