

Supporting Government on Climate Risk Monitoring and Early Warning

Informing and supporting local and regional government on climate-related disaster risk, early warning and monitoring

13.3.4

Supporting Government on Climate Risk Monitoring and Early Warning

Does the university inform and support local or regional government in local climate change disaster or risk early warning and monitoring?

Our approach

Babylon Governorate sits on the front line of Iraq's climate crisis. Extreme summer heat, falling water levels in the Euphrates and Shatt al-Hilla, groundwater depletion, dust storms and the encroachment of desert on farmland are already affecting health, food production and public services. Local government needs reliable evidence and technical capacity to see these risks coming and to act on them in time.

Al-Mustaqbal University places its expertise directly at the service of the Governorate. Through its Sustainable Development Division, the University holds seats on the Governorate's climate and sustainable-development bodies, contributes to the data systems that local planners rely on, proposes monitoring tools such as remote sensing and GIS, and turns the Governorate's own priorities in water, energy and environment into applied research.

The evidence that follows sets out how the University informs and supports local and regional government in monitoring climate risk and preparing for its impacts.

Evidence at a glance

#	INITIATIVE	GOVERNMENT PARTNER
01	**Seat on Babylon's climate assessment team**	Climate Change Assessment Team, SD Committee
02	**Strategy and indicator database for Babylon**	Babylon Governorate, Ministry of Planning
03	**Research partnership with the Governorate**	Deputy Governors, Planning Directorate
04	**Energy resilience for Babylon**	Local government, Ministry of Electricity
05	**Climate impacts report for government**	Local and national government
06	**Ministry of Planning at Sustainability Week**	Ministry of Planning, Governorate SD Committee
07	**Active learning and sustainable development**	Academic and advisory experts

A Seat on Babylon's Climate Change Assessment Team

The University is represented on the bodies through which Babylon Governorate assesses and responds to climate risk. The Director of the University's Sustainable Development Division serves as a member of the Climate Change Assessment Team in Babylon Governorate, and as a member and rapporteur of the Governorate's Sustainable Development Committee.

Through these roles the University brings scientific evidence directly into the Governorate's assessment of local climate hazards. At the conference launching the Local Nationally Determined Contributions for Babil and Dhi Qar, the University proposed a funded climate research programme that uses remote sensing and GIS to monitor climate risks across the Governorate, giving local authorities the means to track drought, land degradation and other hazards over time.



Building Babylon's Sustainable Development Strategy and Indicator Database

The University took part in an expanded meeting at the Babylon Governorate Headquarters to develop the Governorate's Sustainable Development Strategy, alongside the directors of government departments and sectoral institutions. Participants agreed an integrated strategy built on a comprehensive database of SDG targets and indicators, with each department responsible for keeping its own data up to date, under the directives of the Ministry of Planning.

On the instruction of the University President, the University offered the Governorate's committee continuing support for environmental, economic and social development. A shared, regularly updated indicator database gives local government the monitoring baseline it needs to detect emerging climate-related pressures on water, land and public services.





Turning the Governorate's Climate Challenges into Applied Research

The University met the Deputy Governor for Planning Affairs, the Deputy Governor for Administrative Affairs and the Director of the Public Policy and Planning Directorate to build a lasting research partnership with Babylon Governorate. The two sides identified the challenges on which the University's colleges and research centres can provide evidence, including water, energy, environment, agriculture, urban planning and municipal services.

The University has since written formally to the Governorate's departments offering applied research and graduation projects on these priorities. The partnership ensures that the University's research capacity is directed at the climate-sensitive problems that local decision-makers face, and that its findings reach those who must act on them.



Energy Resilience for Babylon: The Fifth Future Forum on Sustainable Cities

Power interruptions during Iraq's extreme summers are one of the most direct ways in which heatwaves endanger public health. The University's Department of Building and Construction Technologies Engineering, with the Iraqi Academics Syndicate, held the Fifth Future Forum on Sustainable Cities with Babylon local government, the Ministry of Electricity and the Investment Commission.

Its workshop, “From Interruption to Sustainability”, presented a residential-neighbourhood model of hybrid energy systems and solar-powered local microgrids, together with the legislation, green finance and investment models needed to deliver them. The forum gave government a practical blueprint for keeping homes and services running when the grid fails under climate stress.



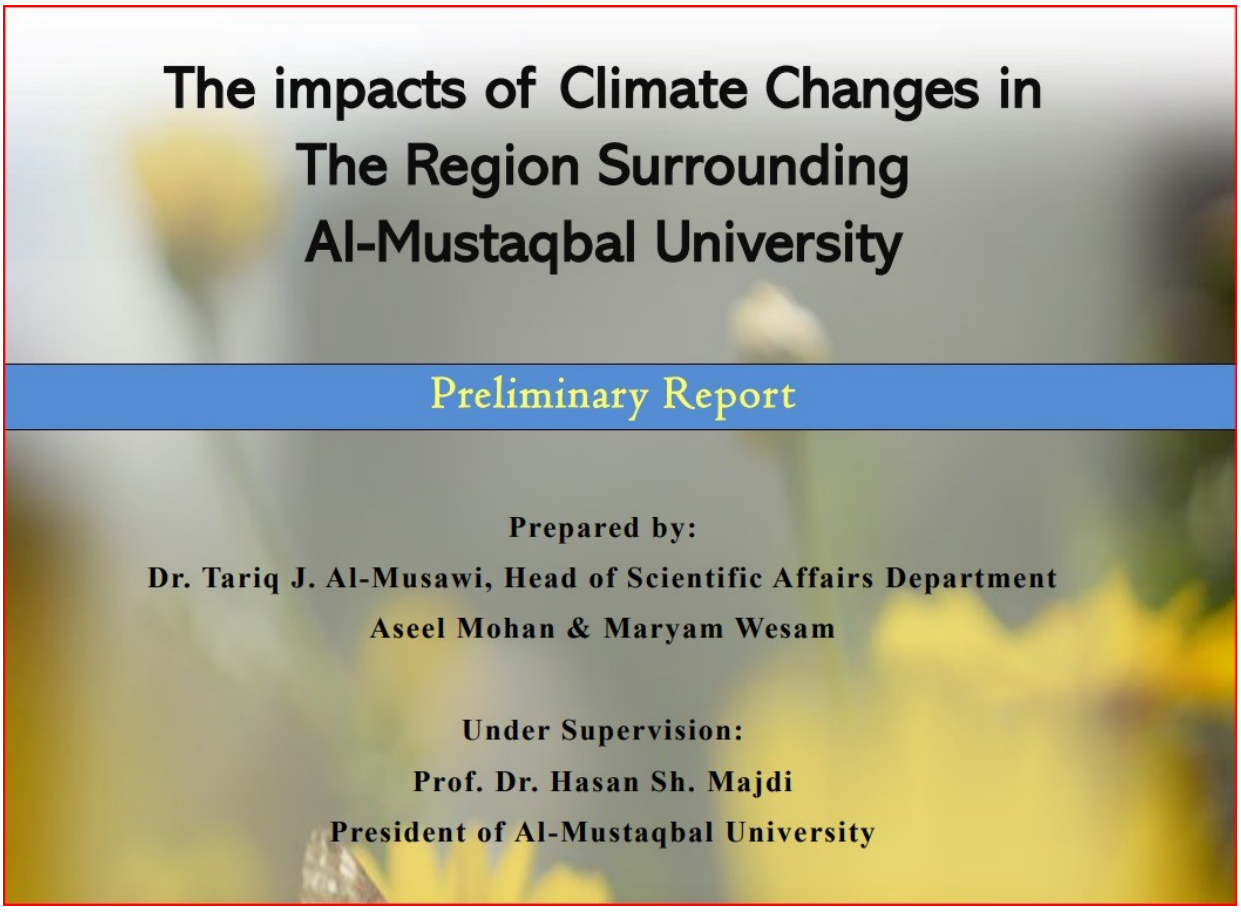


Al-Mustaqbal University

Evidence for Government: The Climate Impacts Research Programme

The University funds a collaborative research project, “The Role of Universities in Confronting the Challenges of Climate Change”, which aims to produce high-quality joint research with leading international universities and to take part in international climate conferences.

Its preliminary report, “The Impacts of Climate Change in the Region Surrounding Al-Mustaqbal University”, documents local climate trends and their effects, and was shared with local and national government so that its findings could inform their planning for climate-related risk.

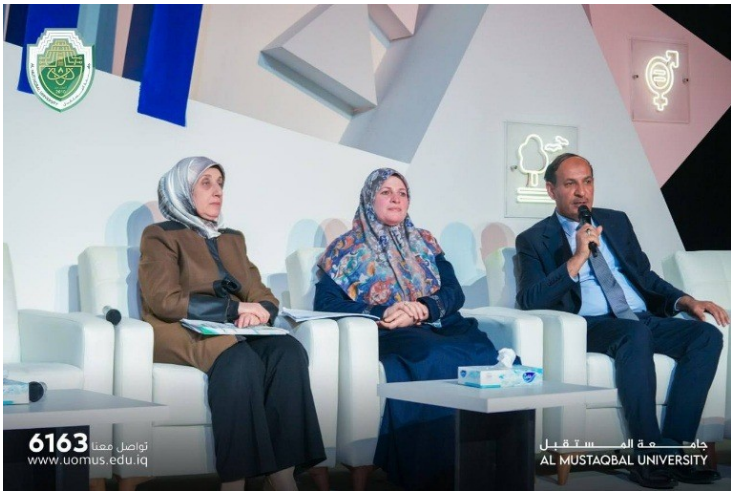


The Ministry of Planning and the University: Partners for Sustainable Development

The Ministry of Planning took part in Al-Mustaqbal Sustainability Week, held under the theme “Climate Change and the Future of Generations” and under the patronage of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Dialogue sessions examined Iraq's pathways to sustainable development, the progress made and the challenges faced, and the importance of evidence-based policy in aligning local initiatives with global frameworks.

The Ministry presented the findings of Iraq's Voluntary National Reviews to the United Nations, while discussions highlighted the University's support for national efforts, including hosting meetings of the Governorate's Sustainable Development Committee, providing technical and academic support, and launching the Al-Mustaqbal Sustainability Award. Both sides committed to deeper collaboration between the Ministry, universities and civil society.





Active Learning and Its Role in Sustainable Development

As part of Al-Mustaqbal Sustainability Week, the University held a panel discussion on “Active Learning and Its Role in Sustainable Development”, with speakers from academic and advisory backgrounds. The session examined how engaging approaches to learning support human development and well-being, and how education systems in developed and developing countries shape national progress.

Speakers addressed the evaluation of higher-education outcomes, the use of data-driven indicators to close learning gaps, and the role of psychological and educational counselling in sustainable development, with particular attention to counselling services for students at every stage of education in Iraq.









OUR COMMITMENT

Through its place on Babylon's climate and sustainable-development bodies, its contribution to the Governorate's data systems and its applied research, the University gives local government the evidence and tools to anticipate climate risk. It will continue to serve as a trusted scientific partner to the Governorate.

AL-MUSTAQBAL UNIVERSITY

Towards a Sustainable University