



UNIVERSITY OF KHORFAKKAN

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

(2026–2030)

Our University. Our Responsibility. Our Sustainable Future.



SUSTAINABLE
CAMPUS



INSPIRED
EDUCATION



INNOVATIVE
TOGETHER



CLIMATE
ACTION



SUSTAINABLE
OPERATIONS



INSPIRED
EDUCATION



INNOVATIVE
RESEARCH



STRONGER
TOGETHER

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Vision

To become a leading sustainable university that integrates measurable climate action across operations, education, research, and community engagement, contributing to the UAE Net Zero 2050 Strategy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, while strengthening the climate resilience of the University and the Khorfakkan community.

Strategic Area 1: Sustainable Operations

Objective 1: Improve Energy Efficiency

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Scopes 1, 2, and 3 by implementing energy-efficient infrastructure, smart building technologies, behavioural awareness campaigns, and other emissions reduction initiatives, while reducing campus electricity consumption by **20% per square meter by 2030**, using 2025 as the baseline, with an interim milestone of 10% reduction by 2028. Scope 3 reduction targets will be refined following the baseline assessment in Phase 1.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

- Annual electricity consumption (kWh/m²)
- Percentage reduction against the verified 2026 baseline.
- Number and percentage of principal buildings covered by monthly energy monitoring.
- Annual electricity-cost savings.
- Percentage of relevant equipment purchases meeting approved energy-efficiency requirements.
- We can add University actions

Objective 2: Increase Renewable Energy

Generate or procure **25% of the University's electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030**.

KPIs:

- Technical, structural and financial feasibility study completed.
- Suitable rooftop and car-park area identified in m².
- Solar PV capacity installed (kW)

- Percentage of renewable energy used
- Annual renewable electricity generated (kWh)
- Capital cost, annual savings and estimated payback period.

Objective 3: Reduce Water Consumption

Reduce potable water consumption **by 15% per capita by 2030** through water-efficient fixtures, irrigation optimization, and awareness initiatives.

KPIs:

- Water consumption per campus user
- Water savings achieved annually as per baseline
- Number of water-saving technologies installed

Objective 4: Improve Waste Management

Complete a campus waste-characterisation audit by December 2027 and introduce source-segregation systems in all principal academic and administrative buildings. Achieve at least 30% verified waste diversion from landfill by 2028 and 50% by 2030, subject to the availability of appropriate collection and processing services.

KPIs:

- Recycling rate
- Waste diverted from landfill
- Reduction in single-use plastics
- Annual number and cost of targeted single-use plastic items purchased

Objective 5: Sustainable Transportation

Reduce single-occupancy vehicle commuting by **15% by 2030** through carpooling, public transport incentives, cycling facilities, and electric vehicle infrastructure. **KPIs:**

- Percentage of sustainable commuting
- EV charging stations installed
- Participation in mobility initiatives

Strategic Area 2: Climate Education

Objective 1: Integrate Sustainability into Curricula

Ensure that **100% of undergraduate academic programs incorporate sustainability or climate-related learning outcomes by 2029.**

KPIs:

- Percentage of programs with sustainability learning outcomes
- Number of revised courses
- Student achievement of sustainability competencies
- Percentage of programmes completing curriculum mapping.
- Number of courses using UAE-based sustainability cases or applications.

Objective 2: Faculty Capacity Building

Provide sustainability and climate education training to **at least 80% of academic staff by 2028.**

KPIs:

- Number of faculty trained
- Number of workshops delivered
- Faculty satisfaction rates

Objective 3: Student Engagement

Engage at least **70% of students annually in climate-related activities, projects, competitions, or awareness campaigns by 2028.**

KPIs:

- Student participation rate
- Number of sustainability events
- Student-led initiatives completed

Objective 4: Sustainability Literacy

Increase student sustainability literacy scores **by 20% by 2030**, measured through periodic surveys or assessments.

KPIs:

- Sustainability literacy assessment results
- Survey participation rate
- Improvement over baseline

Strategic Area 3: Climate Research

Objective 1: Expand Climate Research

Increase climate-related research publications by **50% by 2030** compared with the 2025 baseline.

KPIs:

- Number of climate-related publications
- Citation impact
- Percentage of total research related to sustainability

Objective 2: Increase External Research Funding

Secure **at least five externally funded climate or sustainability research projects by 2030**, with a combined value of no less than AED 2 million.

KPIs:

- Number of funded projects
- Total research funding secured
- Number of funding agencies engaged

Objective 3: Strengthen Partnerships

Establish **at least 10 active national and international partnerships focused on climate action and sustainability by 2029**.

KPIs:

- Number of active collaborations
- Joint publications
- Joint research projects

Objective 4: Promote Student Research

Support **at least 30 student research projects on climate change and sustainability annually by 2028**.

KPIs:

- Student research projects completed
- Conference presentations
- Student publications

Governance and Monitoring

The implementation of this Climate Action Plan will be overseen by the University's Sustainability Office in collaboration with the Department of Strategy and Institutional Development, the Department of Institutional Effectiveness and Academic Accreditation, Facilities Management, academic colleges, the Deanship of Scientific Research, and the Academic Affairs Vice-Chancellor.

Progress will be monitored through:

- Annual sustainability performance reports.
- Quarterly KPI reviews.
- Periodic benchmarking against national and international sustainability frameworks.
- Stakeholder feedback and continuous improvement initiatives.
- Public reporting of key achievements.

Implementation Arrangements

- A supporting implementation matrix will be maintained for each objective. The matrix will identify the baseline, annual milestone, final target, responsible unit, supporting units, data source, reporting frequency, evidence requirements and indicative cost category.
- Implementation will be undertaken through the University's normal planning, budgeting, procurement and approval processes. Major infrastructure projects will remain subject to technical feasibility, availability of resources and formal institutional approval.

Expected Outcomes by 2030

- Reduced institutional carbon footprint t by at least 30% against the 2025 baseline.
- Increased energy and water efficiency.
- Improved waste diversion and recycling rates.

- Sustainability embedded across all academic programs.
- Greater student and staff engagement in climate action.
- Enhanced climate-related research output and external funding.
- Stronger national and international recognition as a sustainable university.

Table 1 below summarises the seven expected outcomes by 2030, mapping each commitment to its strategic area, relevant objectives, and the key performance indicators used to track progress.

#	Expected Outcome by 2030	Strategic Area	Linked Objective(s)	Source KPIs
1	Reduced institutional carbon footprint by at least 30% against the 2025 baseline.	SA1: Sustainable Operations	Obj 1, Obj 2	Annual electricity consumption (kWh/m2); % reduction vs baseline; % renewable energy used; Annual renewable electricity generated (kWh)
2	Increased energy and water efficiency.	SA1: Sustainable Operations	Obj 1, Obj 3	Annual electricity consumption (kWh/m2); No. buildings upgraded; Water consumption per campus user; Water savings achieved annually; No. water-saving technologies installed
3	Improved waste diversion and recycling rates.	SA1: Sustainable Operations	Obj 4	Recycling rate; Waste diverted from landfill; Reduction in single-use plastics
4	Sustainability embedded across all academic programs.	SA2: Climate Education	Obj 1, Obj 2, Obj 4	% programs with sustainability learning outcomes; No. revised courses; No. faculty trained; Sustainability literacy assessment results
5	Greater student and staff engagement in climate action.	SA2: Climate Education	Obj 2, Obj 3	Student participation rate; No. sustainability events; Student-led initiatives completed; No. faculty trained; Faculty satisfaction rates
6	Enhanced climate-related	SA3: Climate Research	Obj 1, Obj 2, Obj 4	No. climate-related publications; Citation

	research output and external funding.			impact; No. funded projects; Total research funding secured; Student research projects completed
7	Stronger national and international recognition as a sustainable university.	SA3: Climate Research	Obj 2, Obj 3	No. active collaborations; Joint publications; Joint research projects; No. funding agencies engaged

2030 Vision



Environment

Universities are uniquely placed to shape the world in which we live, by helping to solve the challenges forced by individuals and communities at a local, regional and global level.

Maintain and enhance Biodiversity within our campus ground.

The university has committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2040 across our scope 1,2 and 3.



Social

A university education equips students with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to achieve their goals, make informed decisions, and contribute positively to their communities and society.

Conduct innovative and world-leading research that changes people's lives.

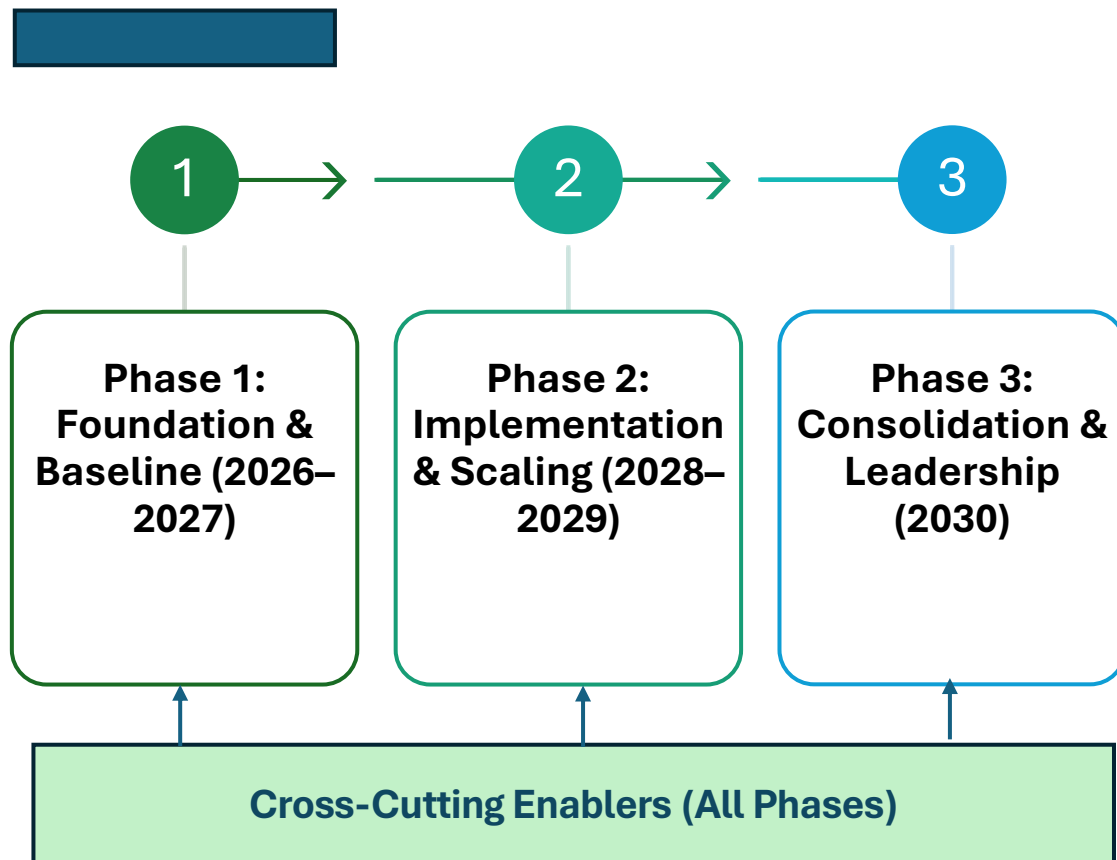


Governance

Creating a culture that enables our staff, supplier and local community to thrive.

Foster an environment of openness and transparency to ensure monitoring, development and progress occurs via oversight, verification, certification and audits.

Climate Action Roadmap (2026–2030)



Phase 1: Foundation & Baseline (2026–2027)

“Measure, Organize, and Initiate”

1. Strategic Setup

- Establish **Climate Action Steering Committee**
- Assign **climate focal points** in each college and unit
- Approve institutional **net-zero / carbon neutrality ambition (if adopted)**

2. Baseline Development

2. Baseline Development

Complete full GHG inventory (Scopes 1, 2, and a Scope 3 screening covering purchased goods, waste, travel, and commuting). The inventory is the foundation of the entire Climate Action Plan. It allows the university to:

- Quantify its carbon footprint

- Identify emission hotspots
- Set reduction targets (SMART and evidence-based)
- Enable external reporting (QS, STARS, ESG frameworks, etc.)
- Support accreditation and benchmarking

The inventory should follow recognized protocols:

- GHG Protocol Corporate Standard
- IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories (for emission factors)
- Optional alignment:
 - ISO 14064-1 (Organizational carbon accounting)
 - UI GreenMetric methodology (for universities)
- Map:
 - Energy consumption (buildings, labs, IT)
 - Water usage
 - Waste streams
 - Mobility patterns

Key Output Scope 1

- Total Scope 1 emissions (tCO₂e/year)

Key Output Scope 2

- Total Scope 2 emissions (tCO₂e/year)
- Emissions intensity:
 - per student
 - per m²

Target

- By end of 2026: *100% campus emission sources identified and quantified*
- By mid-2027: *First verified carbon baseline report published*

3. Quick-Win Interventions

- LED lighting replacement in priority buildings (target: 30–40%, estimated annual energy cost savings: 15–20%)
- Smart AC scheduling pilots in key buildings
- Awareness campaigns (“Green UKF Initiative” launch)
- Waste segregation pilot in main campus

4. Governance & Systems

- Launch **sustainability dashboard prototype**
- Integrate sustainability KPIs into UKF quality framework
- Develop procurement sustainability guidelines (draft stage)

Phase 2: Implementation & Scaling (2028–2029)

“Act, Transform, and Integrate”

1. Energy Transition

- Expansion of **solar PV installations** on campus buildings
- Energy efficiency retrofitting (HVAC optimization, insulation upgrades)
- Smart building management system (BMS) deployment

SMART Target Examples

- Reduce electricity consumption per m² by **15–25% by 2029**
- Achieve **20–30% renewable energy contribution**

2. Sustainable Campus Transformation

- Full waste segregation system across campus
- Introduction of **circular waste practices** (recycling + composting)
- Water reuse systems for landscaping

Targets

- Achieve **50–60% waste diversion from landfill**
- Reduce water consumption per capita by **20%**

3. Curriculum & Education Integration

- Embed sustainability modules across all programs
- Launch **mandatory climate literacy module for all students**

- Faculty training on green curriculum design

4. Research & Innovation Scaling

- Establish **Climate & Sustainability Research Cluster**
- Fund interdisciplinary projects (energy, water, coastal resilience)
- Launch community-based applied research in Khorfakkan region

5. Mobility & Transport Reform

- Promote carpooling and shuttle systems
- Install EV charging stations
- Introduce incentives for low-carbon commuting

Target

- Reduce transport-related emissions by **10–15%**

Phase 3: Consolidation & Leadership (2030)

“Optimize, Lead, and Demonstrate Impact”

1. Carbon Performance Optimization

- Full carbon footprint reassessment
- Optimization of all energy systems
- AI-based energy management integration

Target

- Achieve a minimum of 30% total emissions reduction from baseline, with a stretch target of 40%.

2. Net-Zero Transition Readiness

- Develop **net-zero roadmap beyond 2030**
- Offset residual emissions (verified carbon credits or regional schemes)
- Publish institutional **Net-Zero Readiness Report**

3. Institutionalization of Sustainability

- Sustainability embedded in:
 - Strategic planning
 - Budgeting

- Performance appraisal systems
- All colleges operate under **green KPIs framework**

4. External Leadership & Recognition

- Position UKF as:
 - Regional sustainability hub
 - Benchmark university in UAE climate action
- Apply for global rankings and certifications (QS Sustainability, STARS)

5. Community & Regional Impact

- Expand outreach to schools and local community
- Partner with government for coastal and environmental resilience projects
- Launch annual **UKF Climate Forum**

Cross-Cutting Enablers (All Phases)

A. Governance & Policy

- Continuous policy updates aligned with UAE sustainability agenda
- Annual climate performance review at university council level

B. Digital Transformation

- Smart campus systems (energy, water, waste analytics)
- AI-driven monitoring dashboards

C. Capacity Building

- Continuous training for faculty and staff
- Student-led sustainability leadership programs

D. Monitoring & Reporting

- Annual Climate Action Report (public)
- KPI dashboard aligned with SMART framework
- External audits every 2 years

E. Stakeholder Communication

- Regular public sustainability bulletins

- Internal newsletters
- Community engagement events to maintain transparency and drive accountability