

University Student Union Sustainability Policy

Empowering Students to Lead Sustainable Change

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1. Purpose

The Student Union Sustainability Policy is developed in line with the University of Jordan (UJ) Sustainability strategy, to affirm our commitment to promoting environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic responsibility across all Student Union operations, events, campaigns, and advocacy efforts. This policy aims to embed sustainability into student life and leadership, encourage climate-conscious behavior, and inspire change aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. Scope

This policy applies to all activities, services, operations, and partnerships undertaken by the Student Union, including but not limited to:

- Student-led clubs and societies
- Union-run facilities (cafés, stores, event spaces)
- Events, campaigns, and advocacy
- Procurement, waste management, and energy use
- Collaborations with university administration and external stakeholders

3. Vision and Commitment

We envision a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable campus community where students are empowered to take meaningful action on environmental and social issues. The Student Union commits to:

- Leading by example in sustainable operations
- Advocating for university-wide sustainability policies
- Engaging students in climate action and social responsibility
- Supporting the global agenda for sustainability through the SDGs

4. Alignment with UN SDGs

The Student Union will prioritize efforts that support the following SDGs:

SDG	Action Areas
SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being	Promote mental and physical well-being through green spaces and healthy initiatives
SDG 4 – Quality Education	Conduct sustainability workshops, campaigns, and peer learning
SDG 5 – Gender Equality	Ensure inclusivity and equitable access in leadership and participation
SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	Encourage sustainable transportation and responsible urban engagement
SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production	Reduce waste, avoid single-use plastics, and promote circular economy practices
SDG 13 – Climate Action	Organize climate awareness events and reduce carbon footprint of SU activities
SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals	Collaborate with JU, NGOs, the community, and local businesses on joint sustainability initiatives

5. Policy Principles

The Student Union will adopt the following core principles:

- **Environmental Responsibility:** Reduce energy, water, and material use in SU facilities and events.
- **Social Justice:** Champion equity, diversity, and inclusion across all programs.
- **Economic Resilience:** Use funds ethically and support local, ethical, and sustainable vendors.
- **Student Engagement:** Encourage students to co-lead sustainability efforts and influence institutional change.

6. Operations and Procurement

The Student Union of the University of Jordan will:

- Avoid single-use plastics at events and in SU spaces.

- Source reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable materials.
- Choose ethical and local suppliers for merchandise and services.
- Audit and monitor the carbon footprint of major events and campaigns.
- Ensure all equipment purchases (e.g., IT, lighting) meet energy-efficiency standards.

7. Events and Campaigns

Sustainability will be a core part of SU programming:

- Events will aim for zero waste, low energy use, and eco-friendly transportation.
- Green event guidelines will be shared with clubs and societies.
- Annual sustainability-themed campaigns (e.g., Earth Week, Green Month) will raise awareness and drive student action.

8. Education and Engagement

The SU will:

- Offer student-led training and workshops on sustainability topics.
- Support student research and innovation projects related to climate and sustainability.
- Maintain a visible sustainability presence on social media, noticeboards, and newsletters.
- Celebrate student sustainability champions and clubs with recognition and awards.

9. Partnerships and Advocacy

The Student Union will:

- Collaborate with the university's sustainability office and participate in institutional planning.
- Join national and international student sustainability networks.
- Advocate for green investments, carbon neutrality, and ethical institutional policies
- Engage local communities, NGOs, and city governments in joint initiatives.

10. Accountability and Governance

- The **SU Sustainability Officer** or a designated sustainability committee shall oversee implementation and monitoring of this policy.
- Each year, a **Sustainability Action Plan** will be developed with input from students.



- Progress and challenges will be published in an **Annual Sustainability Report**, shared with students and the university administration.
- Feedback from the student body will be actively sought to improve practices.

II. Review and Continuous Improvement

This policy will be reviewed every **two academic years** by the SU Executive Committee and student sustainability representatives. Updates will reflect emerging sustainability challenges, opportunities, and student priorities.