

University Sustainability Research Policy

Advancing Knowledge for a Sustainable Future

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1. Purpose

This policy establishes the University of Jordan (UJ) commitment to fostering high-impact research that advances environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic resilience. It promotes interdisciplinary, collaborative, and ethical research aligned with global sustainability challenges and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. Scope

The policy applies to all research activities, including basic and applied research, faculty-led projects, student theses and dissertations, funded research programs, and research collaborations across all colleges, centers, and institutes within the University.

3. Vision and Commitment

The University envisions becoming a regional and global leader in sustainability research. We are committed to:

- Advancing scientific understanding and innovative solutions for sustainability challenges
- Encouraging interdisciplinary research and community partnerships
- Supporting faculty and student engagement in sustainability-related topics
- Aligning research priorities with institutional, national, and global sustainability agendas

4. Alignment with the UN SDGs

University research initiatives will contribute to the advancement of the following priority SDGs:

SDG	Focus Areas
SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	Research on water conservation, treatment, and access
SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	Research on renewable energy, smart grids, and energy efficiency
SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	Urban planning, green infrastructure, and smart cities research
SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production	Circular economy, sustainable business models, and waste management
SDG 13 – Climate Action	GHG reduction strategies, climate adaptation, and carbon markets
SDG 15 – Life on Land	Biodiversity, land use, and conservation initiatives
SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals	Research networks, international collaboration, and multi-sectoral partnerships

5. Policy Principles

University sustainability research will be guided by the following principles:

- **Scientific Rigor & Integrity:** All research must meet the highest academic and ethical standards.
- **Interdisciplinarity:** Researchers are encouraged to cross traditional academic boundaries.
- **Societal Relevance:** Research should address real-world challenges and provide actionable outcomes.
- **Community & Industry Engagement:** Engage stakeholders to co-create knowledge and ensure impact.
- **Open Access & Transparency:** Promote the dissemination of research for the public good.

6. Research Support and Funding

- The University will establish dedicated sustainability research grants and seed funding programs.
- Faculty and students will be supported in pursuing national and international sustainability research funding (e.g., Horizon Europe, Green Climate Fund, UAE Research Programs).

- Sustainability will be a priority theme in internal funding, doctoral scholarships, and postdoctoral fellowships.

7. Collaboration and Partnerships

The University encourages:

- Joint research with government bodies, NGOs, private sector, and international institutions.
- Participation in global sustainability research networks and knowledge-sharing platforms.
- Establishment of centers of excellence and research clusters focused on key sustainability themes.

8. Research Ethics and ESG Integration

All sustainability research must:

- Comply with the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Policy
- Integrate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations
- Ensure that research practices do not harm communities, the environment, or future generations
- Promote **Just Transition** and **Climate Justice** principles in design and implementation

9. Capacity Building and Engagement

The University will:

- Provide training programs and workshops on sustainability research methodologies, ESG standards, and SDG alignment
- Encourage student and early-career researcher involvement in sustainability research
- Recognize outstanding sustainability research through awards, fellowships, and innovation challenges

10. Monitoring, Reporting, and Impact

- A dedicated Sustainability Research Committee or office will track and report research activities and outcomes
- The University will publish an Annual Sustainability Research Report, outlining contributions, partnerships, and SDG impacts

- Research metrics will include both academic outputs (publications, citations) and societal impacts (policy influence, community benefit, innovation uptake)

II. Review and Continuous Improvement

This policy will be reviewed every **three years** by the Research Office and the University Sustainability Committee. Updates will reflect evolving research priorities, national strategies, and global sustainability trends.