

SUSTAINING MEMBER

THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES UNIVERSITY

UAE University is Leading the Way to Achieve Sustainability

The United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) - the first and foremost comprehensive national university in the United Arab Emirates. Founded in 1976 by the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, UAEU aspires to become a comprehensive, global research-intensive university. It currently enrolls approximately 17,000 undergraduate and graduate students from around 90 countries.

UAEU continues to set a benchmark for advancing sustainability through its educational programs, innovative research, and active community engagement. Designed to foster environmental awareness, UAEU's academic programs equip students with the essential skills and knowledge to address global sustainability challenges. At the core of UAEU's sustainability initiatives lies its cutting-edge research in areas such as climate resilience, waste reduction, and water conservation. For example, studies on recycled thermoplastics showcase UAEU's commitment to the circular economy by transforming waste plastics into functional materials, reinforcing environmental goals. Researchers from UAE University have several granted patents from the US Patents and Trademark Office on Low-Cost Desalination Processes and Solar-Powered Water Desalination System, and Low-Energy Desalination System. These Patents aim to dramatically reduce cost and energy consumption in desalination systems and reduce the footprint of desalination processes. Additionally, UAEU researchers have developed a pioneering carbon absorption model, focusing on innovative methods to reduce atmospheric carbon, an essential step toward net-zero emissions.

In addition, UAEU runs a Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Research Program for undergraduate students, aiming to deepen students' understanding of the SDGs and the importance of conserving natural resources.

The UAE University has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, UAE, to implement the "UAEU's Roadmap to COP28 and Beyond (2023-2026)", and to strengthen joint research and cooperation in the field of climate and environment to support the UAE's preparations to host COP28. The roadmap has three major themes: Research and Innovation, Youth Empowerment, and Local and International Partnerships. The Roadmap includes thirty-five initiatives with measurable outcomes, with a focus on sustainable energy, waste reduction, and the reuse of natural resources. UAEU introduced a postdoctoral fellowship on climate action in 2023, underscoring its dedication to addressing climate issues through education and research.

UAEU's community engagement initiatives further solidify its mission, extending the reach of its sustainability efforts both locally and globally. By aligning research priorities with high-impact events, UAEU not only contributes to global climate discussions but also promotes awareness of critical environmental challenges within the community. Through this multi-faceted approach, UAEU exemplifies its commitment to sustainable development, leveraging academic rigor, research innovation, and robust community engagement to advance both UAE's and global sustainability objectives. This comprehensive commitment positions UAEU as a driving force in creating a more sustainable and environmentally responsible future for all.