

University of Balamand

Environment and Sustainability Policy

Title: Environment and Sustainability Policy

Document Type: Public

Policy Owner: Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Institute of the Environment

Applies to: Every member of the UOB community

Effective date: Immediately

For More Information, Contact: Office of the Provost

Contact Information: Provoffice@balamand.edu.lb

06-930-250

Extension: 1633, 1511 or 4357

Official Website: <https://www.balamand.edu.lb/AboutUOB/Pages/University-Policies.aspx>

Background

The University of Balamand (UOB) recognizes its critical role, as a higher education institution, in fostering a culture of sustainability through academic programs and research activities that increase awareness and promote environmental friendly practices. This recognition role has historical roots in the Sasaki Campus Master Plan of 2007 that was implemented in the construction of the University Library Learning Center and the Souk El Gharb Campus. In line with its institutional strategic plan, UOB is also committed to empowering its community with the knowledge, skills, resources and practices necessary to drive sustainable changes, achieve its strategic objectives, and guide decision-making and action plans.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Align UOB's academic, natural, and built operational environments with its strategic objective to commit to and support the Sustainable Developmental Goals and the UOB Climate Action Plan (UOB-CAP33).

<https://infogram.com/1px0r0zwp659debqepjx1zmlmcnrlv7nk3?live>

2. Fulfill UOB's ethical responsibility for achieving and maintaining a healthy natural and built environment and sustainable institutional operations on all UOB campuses.

Applies to

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, as well as institutional leadership across all University of Balamand campuses. All internal and external stakeholders are also responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy including, suppliers, visitors and contractors.

Definitions

Environmental Sustainability: Practices and management aimed at maintaining ecological balance and conserving natural resources to support the wellbeing of current and future generations.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A set of global goals established by the United Nations in its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aimed at addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice amongst others.

Carbon Neutrality: The state of achieving net-zero carbon dioxide emissions by balancing emitted carbon with an equivalent amount offset or sequestered. This is typically accomplished through a combination of reducing emissions and investing in renewable energy or carbon offset projects such as reforestation, wetland restoration and the like.

Ecological footprint: At the university level, the ecological footprint refers to the measure of the environmental impact of the university's activities. It quantifies the amount of natural resources required to sustain the university's use of resources and manage its waste. This includes factors like the energy used in buildings, the water and resources consumed, waste generation, and the impact of transportation associated with the university's operations. It helps the university understand and manage its environmental impact and work towards more sustainable practices.

Natural Environment: It encompasses all living and non-living elements that occur naturally on Earth, particularly within all UOB campuses, including the atmosphere, land, water bodies and the diversity of flora and fauna.

Zero waste: The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.

Policy Statement

This policy exemplifies UOB's commitment to environmental and sustainability stewardship within its academic and operational spheres. Specifically, the university:

1. Promotes and supports environmental sustainability through responsibility in environmental protection, climate action, and improvement in sustainable practices in university operations.
2. Adheres to environmental good practices, encompassing climate change mitigation and adaptation, natural environment and biodiversity conservation (i.e., in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework), and effective pollution control measures.
3. Provides a safe, hazard-free and non-polluted environment conducive to learning and working for students, staff, and faculty.
4. Advocates for leveraging UOB's natural and artificialized environments as vital resources for education, research, and engagement in sustainability efforts.
5. Strives towards carbon neutrality and reduction of the ecological footprint of its community.
6. Promotes 'zero waste' principles, reduces the environmental impact of its operations, conserves natural resources and lowers its operating costs through environmentally friendly strategies.
7. Fosters and supports research and educational opportunities for sustainable development solutions, as well as activities that enhance environmental conservation, awareness and responsibility.
8. Engages its community in sustainability initiatives and communicates progress through sustainability reports.

9. Favors working with businesses that endorse environmentally friendly and sustainable operations.

Enforcement

University administration, students, faculty, and staff are expected to uphold the Sustainability and Environment Policy whether on campus or during any university-related activities. Violations of this policy may subject violators to disciplinary actions in accordance with the University of Balamand by-laws.

Procedures/Forms

The University of Balamand ensures that students, faculty and staff can report any violation of this policy via completing the Environment and Sustainability Complaint Form posted on the University webpage at <https://www.balamand.edu.lb/AboutUOB/Pages/University-Policies.aspx>.

All complaints shall be treated promptly and with confidentiality. The Office of the Provost shall investigate the complaint and address the outcome of the investigation with the complainant.