



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

AN-NAJAH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Introduction

As climate change continues to impact communities and ecosystems globally, higher education institutions have a critical role in leading and shaping climate action. An-Najah National University (ANNU) recognizes the urgent need to address climate change and embrace sustainability at all levels of campus life. This Climate Action Plan outlines ANNU's commitment to reducing its environmental footprint, advancing climate-related research, and fostering a culture of sustainability and resilience among its students, faculty, and the broader community.

Located in Nablus, Palestine, ANNU is uniquely positioned to serve as a hub for climate resilience in the region. With a diverse academic community and a history of social engagement, the university seeks to leverage its resources, expertise, and partnerships to create meaningful change locally and contribute to global climate goals. Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national environmental policies, this plan provides a roadmap for ANNU's climate action journey over the coming years.

The Climate Action Plan sets forth specific objectives across seven key areas: emissions reduction, climate literacy, research and innovation, community engagement, partnerships, monitoring, and funding. Through targeted actions, measurable goals, and strategic collaborations, ANNU aims to become a regional leader in sustainability, serving as a model for other institutions while preparing students to address future climate challenges.

This plan is not only a commitment to environmental stewardship but also an investment in a sustainable future for the university and the communities it serves. By embracing this climate action strategy, ANNU aims to inspire and equip its students, faculty, and community members to be proactive, informed, and resilient in the face of climate change.

1. Vision

An-Najah National University (ANNU), as a leader in higher education in Palestine, recognizes its responsibility to address climate change impacts. The university's climate action plan aims to significantly enhance its adaptive capacity, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, enhance sustainability across its four campuses, and prepare students to be climate-conscious leaders.

2. Baseline Assessment (September 2023 – August 2024)

- **Total Area:** 250 acres (30% green/open space)
- **Students:** 25,000
- **Campuses:** 4
- **GHG Emissions Inventory (Ton CO₂eq):**
 - From electricity consumption: 917
 - From fuel consumption: 253
 - Total: 1,170
 - Fresh water consumption (m³/year): 52,268
 - Waste generation (Ton/year): 440
 - Number of vehicles:
 - Diesel/Gasoline: 14
 - Electric Vehicle: 1

3. Objectives

- **GHG Emission Reduction:** ANNU is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. As part of this long-term goal, the university aims to reduce its carbon emissions by 20% by 2030, implementing sustainable practices and innovative solutions across its campuses.
- **Reduction of Water Consumption and Utilization of Non-Conventional Water Supplies:** ANNU aims to reduce water consumption by 25% by 2030, focusing on improving efficiency in irrigation systems, plumbing systems, and overall water use. This includes the utilization of non-conventional water sources, such as rainwater harvesting (RWH).
- **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:** ANNU is committed to sourcing 30% of its energy from renewable sources by 2030, primarily through the installation of solar energy systems.
- **Waste Management:** ANNU strives to reduce waste sent to landfills by 25% by 2030, implementing comprehensive recycling, composting, and waste reduction initiatives across its campuses.

4. Key Initiatives

A. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

- **Solar Energy Deployment:** Install solar panels on rooftops and open areas across the four campuses.
- **Energy-Efficient Buildings:** Retrofit existing buildings to meet energy-efficient standards (LED lighting, improved insulation, energy-efficient HVAC systems, etc.).
- **Green Building Certification:** Ensure all future constructions adhere to green building standards /Codes (e.g., Green Buildings Guideline – Palestine).

B. Water Management

- **Rainwater Harvesting:** Install rainwater collection systems for use in irrigation and non-potable purposes.
- **Water-Saving Fixtures:** Implement low-flow faucets, toilets, and irrigation systems.
- **Greywater Recycling:** Explore greywater reuse for irrigation and landscaping mainly for new buildings.
- **Drought-Resilient Landscaping:** Expand the use of native plants and drought-tolerant species in the 30% green/open space.

C. Transportation

- **Sustainable Transport:** Promote walking, cycling, and using electric vehicles (EVs) or Hybrid vehicles. Install EV charging stations across campuses.
- **Public Transport Initiatives:** Work with Nablus and Tulkarm municipalities, as well as the traffic committees in both governorates, to improve public transport access to campuses, reducing dependency on private cars.
- **Carpooling and Shuttle Services:** Encourage students and staff to use carpooling and shuttle services between campuses.

D. Waste Management

- **Comprehensive Recycling Program:** Establish waste sorting stations across campuses for paper, plastic, and organic waste.
- **Composting Facilities:** Set up composting facilities for food and yard waste, to reduce the transfer of organic waste to landfills.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Educate the university community about reducing waste, particularly single-use plastics.

E. Curriculum and Research

- **Sustainability Curriculum:** Incorporate environmental management including climate change and sustainability into special course offerings across different disciplines.
- **Research Funding:** Support interdisciplinary research projects focused on the Water, Energy, and Food (WEF) Nexus considering climate resilience.
- **Green Labs Initiative:** Promote energy and resource use efficiency in the university research labs.

5. Engagement and Collaboration

- **Student and Faculty Involvement:** Establish sustainability clubs and committees to encourage student-led initiatives.
- **Community Partnerships:** Collaborate with local and international NGOs, municipalities, and private sector on climate-related projects.
- **Climate Change Education and Awareness:** Organize lectures, workshops, and events to raise awareness of climate change issues among students, staff faculty, and the local community.

6. Monitoring and Reporting

- **Annual Climate Report:** Publish an annual report tracking progress on emissions, energy use, water savings, and waste reduction and recycling.
- **Data Monitoring Systems:** Implement smart meters and sensors for real-time tracking of energy and water use across campuses.

7. Financing and Implementation

- **Green Bonds and Grants:** Seek financial support through green bonds, government grants, and international aid for renewable energy and sustainability-based projects.
- **Alumni and Corporate Sponsorship:** Engage alumni and businesses in Palestine and abroad to fund climate change-related initiatives.
- **Cost Savings:** Promote the long-term economic benefits of climate change-related initiatives through energy savings, waste reduction, and sustainable resources management.

8. Green Investments

- **ANNU** is committed to divesting from carbon-intensive industries and redirecting investments towards climate-friendly sectors, including sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and eco-friendly real estate.