

Republic of Iraq
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific
Research



University of Diyala
Sustainable Development Unit

University of Diyala Sustainable Development Policy

Vision

To establish a pioneering and distinguished academic university environment that contributes environmentally, economically, and socially to achieving sustainable development in accordance with the concept of a green campus.

Mission

To provide an academic and research environment aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to encourage students and teaching staff to contribute to achieving sustainable development both within and beyond the university campus.

Aims

1. To provide a university educational environment that encourages and motivates students to develop their capacities and competencies to participate in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through organizing workshops, seminars, activities, and awareness campaigns inside and outside the campus to promote the culture of sustainable development and raise awareness among students, employees, and society regarding its importance and objectives.
2. To integrate sustainable development into academic curricula in a manner that fulfills labor market requirements and aligns with students' interests and the SDGs.
3. To provide infrastructure in accordance with the latest technological trends that meet current and future sustainable development requirements, while integrating digital education technologies alongside traditional teaching methods within university education.
4. To direct the activities and research of scientific departments toward meeting labor market needs and achieving sustainable development goals.
5. To strengthen the university's relationships and communication with the wider community.

Definition of the Sustainable Development Policy

This is a flexible and amendable policy concerning sustainable development that keeps pace with international developments in the fields of environment and sustainability and responds to changing international standards and requirements in order to achieve balance among the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of university activities. The policy includes a set of principles and objectives that the university seeks to achieve through implementing procedures at the level of the university and its colleges, stemming from the university's awareness of its responsibility toward the environmental impacts resulting from its activities and its commitment to providing a better environment for future generations.

Spatial and Temporal Scope

This policy shall be implemented across all university formations. The Sustainable Development Unit at the University of Diyala, together with the Sustainable Development Committees in the colleges, shall oversee the adoption, implementation, and monitoring of this policy. The policy shall be reviewed every two years in accordance with changes resulting from implementation outcomes while considering national and

global developments.

Main Themes of the Sustainable Development Policy at the University of Diyala

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards and procedures for sustainable development at the University of Diyala and to formulate mechanisms that regulate procedures aimed at preserving the environment and mitigating the impacts resulting from university activities in order to create a sustainable university environment through the following themes:

- 1. Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning**
- 2. Scientific Research and Sustainable Investment**
- 3. Sustainable University Infrastructure**
- 4. Community Service and Partnership**
- 5. Women and Childhood Support**
- 6. Equality, Diversity, and Anti-Harassment, Anti-Corruption, and Anti-Bribery**

1. Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning

Within this theme, the University of Diyala adopts a series of objectives to achieve sustainable development in the social, economic, and environmental fields:

1. Developing curricula through integrating concepts and issues related to sustainable development into each course wherever possible.
2. Directing future academic developments toward specializations that support sustainable development and labor market needs, such as establishing departments specialized in climate change and artificial intelligence.
3. Paying special attention to artificial intelligence courses in relevant scientific departments due to their importance in achieving sustainable development goals and spreading technological awareness through conferences, seminars, and training courses.
4. Encouraging volunteer work and organizing student activities related to sustainable development goals.
5. Increasing the number of courses, workshops, and seminars related to sustainable development and its goals.
6. Enhancing the sustainable development electronic portal within the university website and continuously updating it.
7. Teaching and promoting human rights and democratic principles.
8. Combating all forms of intellectual and religious extremism, discrimination based on race, gender, and religion, as well as sexual harassment and bribery through reporting and accountability procedures.
9. Providing training and educational procedures for students, faculty members, and staff regarding equality, diversity, and combating harassment, corruption, and bribery.
10. Encouraging female students through exhibitions and participation in activities aimed at marketing their products both inside and outside the university, including sports activities.

2. Scientific Research and Sustainable Investment

The university focuses on achieving the following objectives:

- a. Establishing research centers concerned with sustainable development.
- b. Establishing a specialized scientific journal on sustainable development.
- c. Directing master's theses and doctoral dissertations toward sustainable development topics such as renewable energy generation, water conservation and recycling, sustainable transportation, and pollution reduction.

- d. Investing in innovation by supporting research and innovation in sustainable technologies and practices that may contribute significantly to achieving environmental, social, and economic goals.
- e. Providing all forms of support for researchers specialized in artificial intelligence and technology fields.
- f. Expanding access to information technology services for all through the development of specialized software programs that serve the community, including establishing a Software Developers Club, in addition to supporting computer and internet centers and computer engineering and computer science departments in colleges. Access to information technology can equip underprivileged groups with valuable skills that enable them to establish low-cost projects without requiring expensive infrastructure.

3. Sustainable University Infrastructure

The university adopts the concept of sustainability in infrastructure through the following:

- a. Supporting the needs of persons with disabilities by ensuring accessible infrastructure within university buildings and formations.
- b. Encouraging innovation in sustainable development through competitions and awards for innovative projects and ideas that can be implemented inside and outside the university campus.
- c. Applying the Green Campus concept by implementing plans aimed at reducing carbon emissions and achieving net-zero emissions, making the university a model for other institutions.

Activities include:

- a. Establishing a green belt around the university and increasing green spaces within the campus through planting crops resistant to extreme climate conditions and enhancing biodiversity and water features.
- b. Utilizing the Internet of Things (IoT) in agriculture and irrigation systems within university fields and gardens through automation.
- c. Recycling wastewater and rainwater for irrigation purposes in university farms and gardens.
- d. Promoting water conservation through awareness campaigns, workshops, and the adoption of modern smart irrigation systems such as sprinklers and drip irrigation to reduce water scarcity, especially during summer and periods of low rainfall.
- e. Gradually transitioning to renewable energy in university buildings to increase the proportion of clean energy sources.
- f. Promoting ethical consumerism by encouraging environmentally friendly and sustainably sourced products, raising awareness about purchasing energy-efficient electrical appliances, and supporting the use of solar panels.

Sustainable Projects

The university adopts projects that contribute to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, including:

- a. Establishing organic farms and high-protein mushroom farms within university agricultural fields and marketing their products to university cafeterias to encourage reliance on organic food products.
- b. Establishing aquaculture farms and fish breeding ponds.
- c. Establishing waste sorting projects for organic and non-organic waste and utilizing them through recycling and reuse programs, including compost production.

- d. Establishing a biochar production station for recycling plant residues, animal waste, food waste, and other organic materials to reduce carbon emissions.

Green Transportation

The University of Diyala seeks to transition toward environmentally friendly transportation systems within the university campus through:

1. Reducing the use of private transportation inside the campus and promoting public and eco-friendly transportation such as electric vehicles, while providing electric charging stations.
2. Promoting the use of bicycles and constructing bicycle lanes separated from vehicle roads to ensure greater safety.
3. Creating safe and comfortable pedestrian pathways equipped with rest stations and separated from vehicle roads.

Sustainable Procurement

Sustainable procurement refers to raising awareness regarding the strategic importance of government procurement as a tool for achieving environmental and social sustainability goals and international commitments.

The university adopts sustainable procurement through:

1. Purchasing energy-efficient products.
2. Transitioning toward sustainable energy sources such as solar and wind energy.
3. Reducing financial risks.
4. Supporting persons with disabilities, disadvantaged groups, and widowed women through purchasing their products, supporting charitable exhibitions, and organizing charity bazaars.
5. Reducing consumption by selecting reusable products.
6. Encouraging leasing and renting instead of purchasing where appropriate.
7. Reducing waste generation by selecting reusable and recyclable products.
8. Avoiding products containing toxic chemicals, particularly hazardous solid materials.

4. Community Service and Partnership

Through this theme, the University of Diyala seeks to engage with the local community by providing scientific, medical, technical, cultural, social, economic, and environmental services and establishing partnerships with public and private institutions to achieve the following objectives:

1. Expanding lifelong learning opportunities for the Diyala community through distance learning programs, continuing education courses, professional and technical training programs, and evening studies.
2. Supporting sustainable development projects in Diyala Governorate by providing consultations and assigning university experts to contribute through scientific studies and practical expertise via consultancy offices in colleges.
3. Organizing conferences, seminars, lectures, scientific meetings, and awareness campaigns inside and outside the university on environmental, social, and economic issues.
4. Expanding scholarships for Arab and international students.
5. Signing memoranda of understanding with local and international universities and institutions in the field of sustainable development and supporting companies that prioritize sustainability in their operations.

6. Marketing research outputs to external stakeholders.
7. Supporting biodiversity by establishing or supervising reserves for rare animal species within the governorate, such as the Arabian gazelle.

5. Women and Childhood Support

The University of Diyala believes that achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls through access to education and healthcare contributes to more sustainable societies and economic growth. Accordingly, the university adopts policies supporting motherhood and childhood, empowering women, strengthening the Motherhood and Childhood Research Center, and supporting the Women's Affairs Unit, which addresses women's issues within the university. This includes:

- Encouraging creative female students through exhibitions and bazaars to market their products and organizing voluntary campaigns supporting disadvantaged women, widows, and orphans inside and outside the university.
- Encouraging female students to participate in local, national, and international exhibitions and sports activities.
- Appointing women to important positions within the university in recognition of their effective role and leadership capabilities.
- Supporting the Women's Affairs Unit and its activities.

6. Equality, Diversity, and Combating Harassment, Corruption, and Bribery

The University of Diyala is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, faculty members, and employees. The university believes that every individual deserves to be treated with dignity and respect regardless of race, gender, or religion.

This commitment is reflected in the following policies and procedures:

- Combating intellectual and religious extremism through conferences promoting intellectual and sectarian dialogue and countering extremist ideologies.
- Teaching and promoting human rights and democratic principles.
- Applying recruitment, promotion, and retention procedures that prohibit discrimination based on race, gender, or religion.
- Implementing anti-sexual harassment and anti-discrimination procedures prohibiting all forms of harassment and discrimination.
- Establishing procedures that ensure a supportive and inclusive environment for all students, faculty members, and employees.
- Providing training and educational programs for students, faculty members, and employees.
- Prohibiting offering, receiving, requesting, facilitating, or enabling bribery involving any university employee, student, or vendor.
- Requiring any employee or individual who suspects or becomes aware of bribery to report it immediately to the President's Office.
- Investigating all allegations of bribery promptly and thoroughly, with strict disciplinary measures imposed if allegations are substantiated.
- Establishing procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing incidents of harassment and blackmail in a prompt and fair manner, with disciplinary actions that may extend to termination or permanent dismissal.
- Requiring detailed reporting of harassment incidents, including the date, time, place, names of individuals involved, and description of the behavior. All complaints shall be investigated promptly and comprehensively, and appropriate actions shall be taken if harassment is confirmed.
- Prohibiting retaliation against any individual who reports harassment or participates in an investigation. Reports may be submitted to the educational counselor at the

college, the Human Resources Department, the Citizens Affairs Department at the University Presidency, or the Follow-Up Department.

Conclusion

The University of Diyala believes in working toward achieving sustainable development and recognizes that universities and their institutions can play a major role in creating positive global change.

Through implementing this policy, the university aims to contribute to building a sustainable future for coming generations and aspires to engage all members of the university community in achieving these goals.