



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) is committed to achieving environmental sustainability and carbon neutrality. We will integrate this commitment into every aspect of our institution, through our teaching, research, campus operations, and community engagement. Our responsibility to protect the planet for future generations is integral to our mission of providing a holistic and ethical education.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors of USJ, and governs all university activities conducted on campus and in university-sponsored programmes.

USJ ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

As environmental stewards and educators, USJ is committed to the following principles:

1. **Leadership in Environmental Stewardship:** Champion environmental best practices to prevent pollution, protect biodiversity, and promote ecological health.
2. **Integration of Sustainability:** Embed environmental and sustainability values into our curriculum, research, operational decisions, and campus culture.
3. **Resource Efficiency:** Implement measures to optimize the use of energy, water, and other resources across all university activities.
4. **Continuous Improvement:** Regularly assess the environmental impacts of our operations, minimizing material usage, reducing waste, and preventing further contributions to pollution.
5. **Compliance and Beyond:** Comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations in Macao and aim to exceed them where possible.
6. **Sustainable Procurement and Waste Management:** Work towards reducing the use of harmful materials and ensuring responsible disposal practices, from procurement to waste management.
7. **Education and Empowerment:** Conduct training and workshops for students, staff, alumni, and community partners, encouraging environmental responsibility and activism.
8. **Encouraging Responsible Partnerships:** Promote environmentally responsible practices among our community partners.
9. **Performance and Accountability:** Monitor our environmental performance regularly and make improvements as necessary.
10. **Pursuit of a Sustainable Future:** Pursue long-term strategies to establish a resilient, eco-friendly, and carbon-neutral campus.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

University Leadership: Provide strategic direction, allocate necessary resources, and champion the policy's implementation.



Green Committee: Be responsible for developing action plans, coordinating implementation, and monitoring progress.

Faculty Deans/Heads of Department/Office Heads: Ensure the integration of sustainability principles into their respective areas of responsibility, including curriculum, research, and operational activities.

All Students, Faculty, and Staff Are expected to familiarize themselves with this policy and contribute to its success through their daily actions and decisions.

USJ ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

To realize our principles, the University will implement the following strategic actions.

1. Sustainable Campus Operations

Objective: Minimize the environmental footprint of USJ's campus operations.

Key Actions:

- I. Implement energy-saving measures (e.g., LED lighting, smart energy management systems, and avoiding unnecessary stand-bys).
- II. Reduce water consumption through efficient systems and rainwater harvesting.
- III. Regularly monitor and repair leaks in water systems to avoid wastage.
- IV. Promote water conservation awareness campaigns across the campus.
- V. Promote eco-friendly building designs and materials in all construction projects.
- VI. Implement green cleaning products and sustainable maintenance practices.
- VII. Promote the reuse and recycling of materials or equipment where possible.
- VIII. Reduce the use of paper and promote digital alternatives – e.g., Dissertations to be digital only.

2. Green Meetings and Events

Objective: Ensure that all meetings and events in the university adhere to environmentally friendly practices

Key Actions:

- I. Reduce paper use and promote digital alternatives in all meetings/events communications.
- II. Promote the reuse and recycling of materials or equipment where possible.
- III. Implement eco-friendly materials in banquets/refreshments.
- IV. Eliminate the usage of all single-use items like plastic bags, spoons, bottles, or cups, and replace them with reusable or compostable alternatives.
- V. No food waste.
- VI. Incorporate “Green” in the event presentation form.
- VII. Create “Green Guidelines” for meetings and events.

3. Green Procurement

Objective: Ensure that purchasing decisions prioritize environmentally friendly and sustainable products.



Key Actions:

- I. Choose suppliers that adhere to sustainable practices.
- II. Purchase recycled, biodegradable, or certified eco-friendly materials.
- III. Minimize packaging waste and avoid single-use plastics.
- IV. Ensure responsible disposal methods and product lifecycle management.

4. Waste Reduction and Recycling

Objective: Reduce waste generation and increase recycling efforts across the university.

Key Actions:

- I. Set up a comprehensive waste management system that includes avoidance, reuse, recycling, composting, and responsible disposal.
- II. Implement campus-wide initiatives to reduce single-use plastics and non-recyclable plastics.
- III. Educate students and staff on reducing, reusing, and recycling materials.
- IV. Track waste generation and strive for continuous reductions.

5. Sustainable Food

Objective: Ensure that food provided on campus aligns with sustainability goals.

Key Actions:

- I. Minimize food waste by implementing a food waste reduction program.
- II. Encourage reusable containers and utensils in all food service outlets.
- III. Partner with local, sustainable food producers.

6. Environmental Education and Research

Objective: Integrate environmental sustainability into the curriculum and research activities.

Key Actions:

- I. Incorporate sustainability and environmental issues into all relevant programs/modules.
- II. Support faculty and student research focused on sustainability.
- III. Offer extracurricular activities, workshops, and events to promote environmental awareness.
- IV. Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration on environmental research.

7. Biodiversity and Conservation

Objective: Protect and enhance biodiversity on and around the university campus.

Key Actions:

- I. Create and maintain green spaces on campus.
- II. Support research and initiatives aimed at protecting local ecosystems and species.
- III. Promote the planting of native and climate-resilient species in campus landscaping.

8. Community and Stakeholder Engagement (Faculties)

Objective: Foster partnerships and engage with the wider community to promote environmental sustainability.



Key Actions:

- I. Partner with local organizations for environmental events, clean-ups, and educational programs.
- II. Encourage students, faculty, and staff to volunteer for community sustainability projects.
- III. Share the university's sustainability practices and achievements with the broader community.
- IV. Support outreach programs to educate local businesses and schools on environmental responsibility.

9. Carbon Neutrality and Climate Action

Objective: Commit to reducing the university's carbon footprint and achieving carbon neutrality.

Key Actions:

- I. Regularly measure and track the university's greenhouse gas emissions.
- II. Activate the solar panels.
- III. Offset unavoidable carbon emissions through tree planting (mangroves) or carbon credits.
- IV. Encourage alternative, low-carbon transportation options for students and staff - cycling, public transport, or electric vehicles.

GREEN COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION

Chair: Appointed by the Executive Council

Co-Chair: Elected by the committee members

1. Academic Faculty:

- I. Faculty of Business and Law: A representative specializing in environmental law or regulatory compliance.
- II. Faculty of Arts & Humanities: A representative with a focus on sustainable design, urban planning, or green architecture.
- III. Institute of Science and Environment: A representative to provide expertise in environmental science-related aspects such as nature conservation, waste management, pollution control, and other relevant scientific fields.
- IV. Faculty of Health and Science: A representative to provide expertise in public health or related research perspectives.
- V. Faculty of Education: A representative to contribute expertise in sustainability education, curriculum integration, teacher training, and community engagement.
- VI. Faculty of Religious Studies and Philosophy: A representative to provide ethical, cultural, and values-based perspectives on sustainability, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility.

2. Administrative Staff

- I. Technology and Facilities Office: For operational and infrastructure insights, including buildings, grounds, waste management, and daily logistics.
- II. Finance and Procurement: To advise on budgeting and sustainable purchasing.



- III. Human Resources: To align staff engagement and policy implementation.
- IV. Quality Assurance Office: To align staff engagement with THE Impact Rankings.
- V. Secretariat and Public Relations Office: To support coordination, documentation, and internal and external communication.
- VI. Office of Student Affairs: To facilitate student engagement and participation in sustainability initiatives.
- VII. Library: To serve as the university's central platform for SDG-related information and learning.

GREEN COMMITTEE REGULATIONS

1. The Green Committee serves in an advisory capacity and does not possess decision-making authority.
2. The Committee does not have an independent budget; all projects and proposals must be reviewed and approved through established university procedures on a case-by-case basis.
3. The Committee shall be accountable to the University Administrator for matters related to operational sustainability and to the Vice Rector for Internationalization and Academic Affairs for matters related to academic initiatives.
4. All activities and recommendations of the Committee shall align with the scope, guidelines, and recommendations of the ARC Program.
5. In cases of conflicting priorities or unresolved matters, final authority shall rest with the University Administrator.

POLICY REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS

This policy is reviewed regularly. Amendments may be made for clarity, fairness, or effectiveness, with stakeholder feedback considered.

Author: Green Committee

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