



AURAK

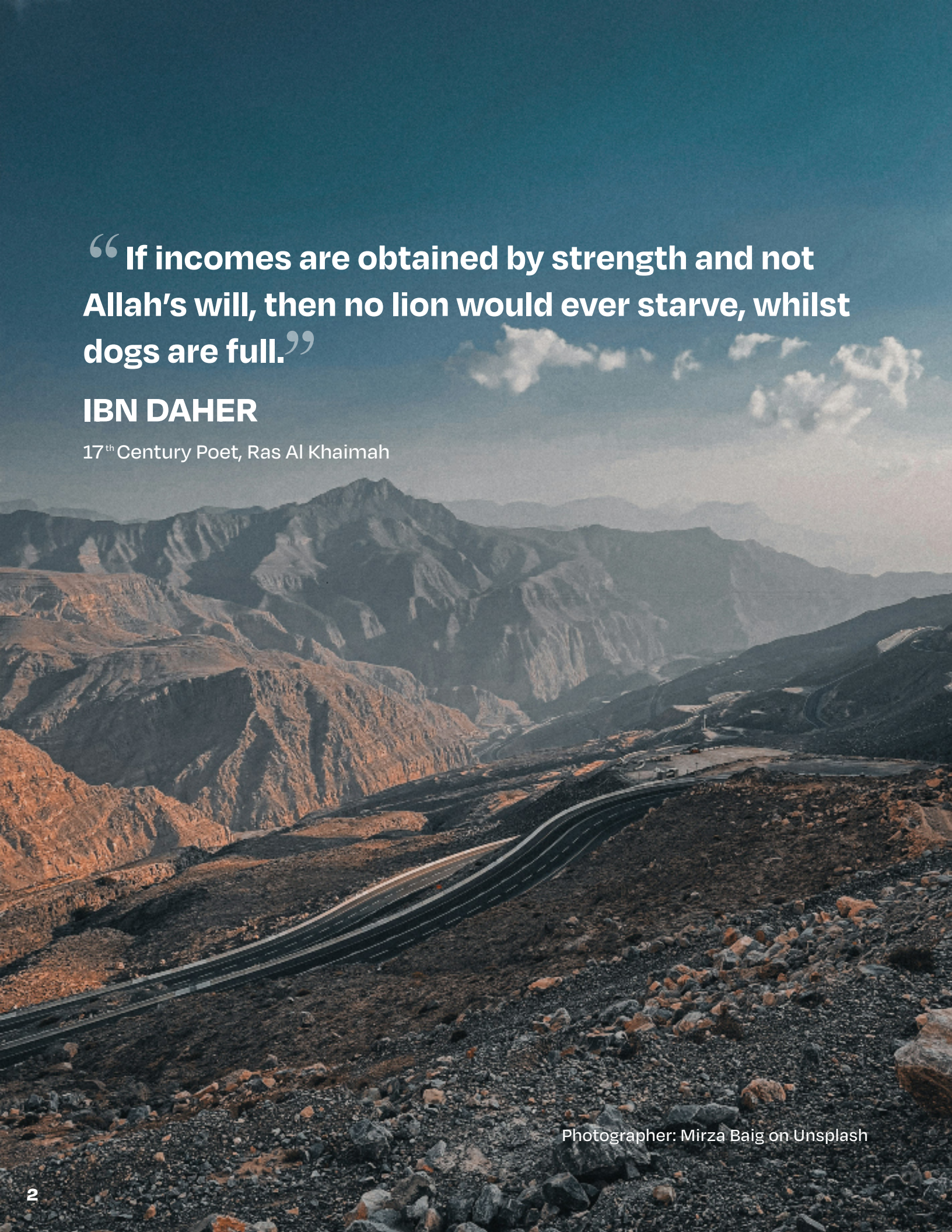
الجامعة الأمريكية في رأس الخيمة
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF RAS AL KHAIMAH



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN



OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND SUSTAINABILITY
2024 - 2029



“If incomes are obtained by strength and not Allah’s will, then no lion would ever starve, whilst dogs are full.”

IBN DAHER

17th Century Poet, Ras Al Khaimah

Photographer: Mirza Baig on Unsplash



AURAK RISING

ARABIAN TAHR

AURAK'S MASCOT

The Arabian Tahr, an endangered species of horned mountain goat native to the Al Hajar mountain range, was chosen as AURAK's Mascot through a student competition to raise awareness of its endangered status. Students designed the winning statue, it now stands at the campus entrance, welcoming visitors upon arrival.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the President of the American University of Ras Al Khaimah (AURAK), I want to address an issue of profound importance that transcends our roles and unites us in a shared responsibility—Sustainability



Environmental Impact

Our planet is facing unprecedented challenges, and as a leading institution of higher learning, we must respond with urgency and purpose. Climate change is one of the most significant threats to our world today. Its impacts are far-reaching, affecting ecosystems, economies, and communities globally. We must create solutions that will safeguard our planet for future generations.

Clean energy is one of the most critical areas where we can make a difference. Our university is committed to reducing its carbon footprint by investing in renewable energy sources, enhancing energy efficiency, and fostering innovation in sustainable technologies. We have already begun transitioning our campus energy systems to more sustainable alternatives, but more work must be done. I encourage everyone in our community to consider how we can collectively contribute to this vital goal.

Waste management is another crucial component of our sustainability strategy. We can minimize our waste's environmental impact by reducing, reusing, and recycling. Our university is implementing more comprehensive waste reduction programs, expanding recycling efforts, and partnering with local organizations to manage our waste responsibly.

Water is a precious resource and conserving it must be a priority. Our campus is exploring innovative water conservation techniques, including reducing the consumption of our buildings.

Social Impact

I am deeply committed to our institution's role in fostering social impact. Our dedication to creating a more just and equitable society is woven into everything we do. We strive to create an inclusive environment where all students, faculty, and staff feel valued and respected. We actively partner with industries and organizations to create meaningful employment opportunities to provide our students and alumni with the skills and connections they need to thrive in an ever-changing job market.

Our commitment to knowledge exchange extends beyond the classroom. We are dedicated to sharing our expertise with the broader community, fostering collaborations that drive innovation and address societal challenges.

Education remains our cornerstone in integrating sustainability into our curricula, research, and daily practices. We are committed to providing a world-class education that prepares our students for professional success and instills a sense of responsibility to contribute to the greater good. Through curriculum development, community programs, and lifelong learning opportunities, we aim to equip our students with the knowledge and skills to impact the world positively. By equipping our students with the knowledge and skills to address these challenges, we empower the next generation of leaders to make a lasting impact.

In conclusion, sustainability is not just a goal but a commitment to our planet, communities, and future. Together, we can make the American University of Ras Al Khaimah an example of environmental stewardship, contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and play our role in creating a more sustainable world.

Dr. David A. Schmidt

President, American University of Ras Al Khaimah

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Establishing the sustainability committee at AURAK demonstrates our commitment to environmental and social sustainability. This committee, which boasts diverse representation from all departments, including senior leadership at AURAK, plays a crucial role in our comprehensive approach to sustainability.

Message from the Chair

AURAK's sustainability plan strategically focuses on three critical areas of environmental sustainability. First, it addresses our energy consumption and carbon footprint, promoting the use of clean energy within the AURAK community. Second, it outlines strategies for creating a sustainable built environment, enhancing our efforts for a green and healthy campus. Third, it directs our sustainability initiatives towards operational excellence, focusing on sustainable travel, water efficiency, waste management, and sustainable procurement.

Further, AURAK's commitment to social sustainability is unwavering. It encompasses education, research, governance and equality, health and well-being, community engagement, and partnerships. In an educational environment, AURAK's sustainability action plan positions its aspirations with realistic goals. It has carefully crafted a sustainable action plan that balances the social and planetary priorities in a way that is both ecologically safe and socially just—a space in which AURAK and the broader community can thrive.



Prof. Tahseen Anwer Arshi

Associate Provost for Research and Sustainability

Committee Members

Dr. Tahseen Anwer Arshi - Associate Provost for Office of Research and Sustainability (Chair)

Dr. Uday Kumar Nutakki - Chief Sustainability Officer/Associate Professor in Chemical Engineering

Dr. David A. Schmidt - President

Prof. Stephen Wilhite - Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success / Provost

Mr. Basheer Daoud - Vice President - Operational Excellence and Financial Management

Dr. Imad Hoballah - Vice President for Institutional Advancement & External Relations

Mr. Mohamad A. Abdulqader - Director of Strategy and Institutional Research

Dr. Kevin Scott Konecny - Associate Provost for Student Affairs

Mr. Rajesh Prema - Associate Provost for Enrollment Management/ Director, Marketing & Communications

Ms. Rania Ali - Registrar, Office of Registrar

Mr. Mohamed Darwish - Director, Saqr Library

Ms. Karla Fraser - Manager, Student Life Department

Mr. Yousef Al Nuaimi - Admissions Manager

Mr. Omair Mushtaq Memon - Finance Director, Office of Finance

Mr. Abba Tahir - Manager, Office of Human Resources

Mr. Mohamed Sharul - Manager, Office of Information Technology

Ms. Khadija Alshehhi - Manager, Office of Procurement and Auxiliary Services

Engr. Muzaffar Razzaq - Acting Manager, Office of Facilities Management

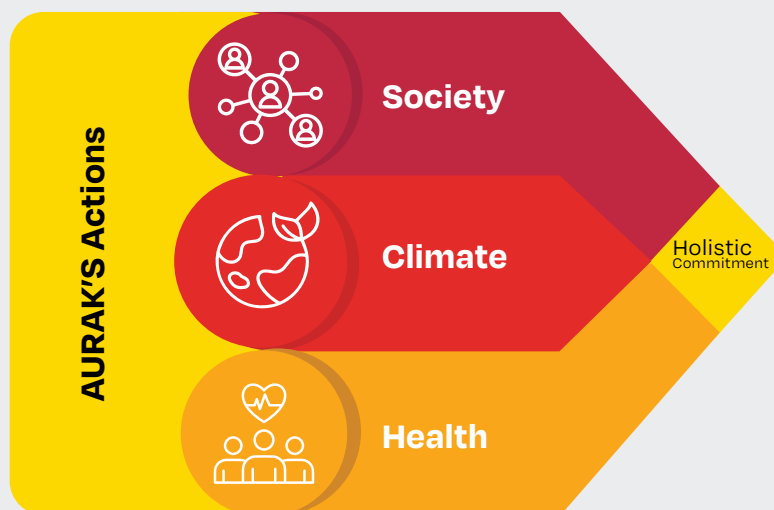
Ms. Haifa Awad - Assistant Manager, Office of the Provost

Ms. Wennie Bandico - Manager, Office of the President



AURAK SUSTAINABILITY GOAL

**A JUST SOCIETY,
PROTECTED CLIMATE,
AND HEALTHY PEOPLE**



**AURAK will promote sustainability in all university activities,
including the curriculum design, student life programming, administrative func-
tions, and campus facilities management.**



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1



**PROMOTE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
THAT ALIGN WITH THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

2



**REDUCE THE UNIVERSITY'S CARBON
FOOTPRINT IN ACCORDANCE WITH UAE
GOALS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

3



**EMBED SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES IN ALL
UNIVERSITY CURRICULA**

INITIATIVES OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS

INITIATIVE 1.1

Implement procurement processes that generate economies of scale, engage vendors who respect the environment, and implement sustainable and renewable practices.

INITIATIVE 1.2

Implement sustainable funding and investment approaches that focus on the local community and environmentally sustainable enterprises, thereby promoting environmentally responsible practices that protect our planet's future and avoid investment in fossil fuels.

INITIATIVE 1.3

Ensure that human resource policies support the achievement of SDGs related to the health, economic well-being, and educational attainment of all employees.

INITIATIVE 2.1

Implement a green campus strategy for all new buildings using the green building standards set forth by the RAK Municipality's "Barjeel" regulations.

INITIATIVE 2.2

Identify and implement sustainable waste management strategies endorsed by the Ras Al Khaimah Environment Protection and Development Authority (EPDA) and Waste Management Agency.

INITIATIVE 3.1

Review the curriculum for each program offered at AURAK as part of the annual review and embed sustainability principles within each program.

INITIATIVE 3.2

Participate in competitions encouraging students to address social sustainability issues, such as the UAE Hackathon, Middle East Solar Decathlon, and Sustainable Campus Initiative.

PROGRAMS

HOW WE...

FUEL TOMORROW



- Carbon Neutrality
- Renewable Energy

BUILD GREEN/ HEALTHY CAMPUS



- Energy Efficiency
- Healthier & Sustainable Build Environment
- Biodiversity & Green Spaces

ACHIEVE OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE



- Sustainable Travel
- Water & Circular Economy
- Waste Management
- Sustainable Procurement

LEAD THE CHANGE



- Education
- Research
- Governance & Equality
- Health & Well-Being
- Community Engagement & Partnerships





HOW WE FUEL TOMORROW

SDG IMPACT

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



CARBON NEUTRALITY

FACT

660 million people will still lack access to electricity, and close to 2 billion people will still rely on polluting fuels. Energy accounts for 73% of human-caused greenhouse gases.

AURAK's critical objective is achieving carbon neutrality, reflecting our commitment to mitigating climate change. Our primary focus is reducing direct and indirect greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, particularly Scope 1 and 2, as per the Standardized Carbon Emissions Reporting Framework and Green House Gas Protocols.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIONS	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Commitment to Net-zero by 2050	AURAK is committed to reach Net-Zero goal by using fossil fuel-free power across campus operations in both direct emissions (Scope 1) and indirect emissions (Scope 2)	<u>ES6</u> <u>Net Zero Commitment</u>	
Generate baseline carbon emissions data for Scope 1 and Scope 2	Assess the baseline total Scope 1 + Scope 2 emissions in tonnes (tCO ₂ e) measured based on Gross Internal Area (GIA).	<u>ES9</u> <u>Progress Towards Target</u>	
Reduce Scope 1 emissions by 20% by 2030 (against 2024-2025 baseline)	Transition of the university-owned fleet to alternative energy source-driven vehicles. Decrease the operating hours of on-site backup generators.	<u>ES7</u> <u>Emissions Efficiency</u>	
A better understanding of value-chain (Scope 3) emissions by 2030	Investigate effective, appropriate carbon accounting tools and off-setting schemes that assess Scope 3 emissions based on environmental, social, and economic factors.	<u>ES9</u> <u>Progress Towards Target</u>	

RENEWABLE ENERGY

FACT

Fossil fuels account for 80 % of the global demand for primary energy, and the energy system is the source of approximately two-thirds of worldwide CO₂ emissions. Humans consume fossil fuels, which nature has taken millions of years to produce. It takes thousands of years for them to form, and in a few short decades, we will have exhausted all the reserves of these energy sources.

Another major objective of AURAK is to reduce Scope 2 carbon emissions through renewable energy sources to power its needs. AURAK strives to increase renewable energy share in its operations thus reducing indirect emissions from fossil fuel-driven utilities.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIONS	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Reduce Scope 2 emissions by 20% by 2030 (against 2024-2025 baseline)	Evaluate total annual energy (kWh equivalent) generated through renewable energy sources. Expanding the use of renewable energy sources for campus utilities • Rooftop solar PV panels for buildings, • Solar lighting, and • Solar thermal hot water systems for dormitories	ES8 <u>Renewables</u> <u>Generated</u> <u>On-site</u>	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 9 INDUSTRY, INNOV AND INFRASTRUC





HOW WE BUILD GREEN/HEALTHY CAMPUS

SDG IMPACT



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

FACT

Energy production is necessary for today's life, but much comes from sources emitting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. CO₂, a greenhouse gas, traps heat, leading to global warming and climate change, and can lead to acid rain, harming plants and animals.

At AURAK all new buildings and renovations on campus will be constructed using sustainable materials and energy-efficient solutions, incorporating integrated Building Management Systems (BMS) to optimize internal environmental conditions. This approach will reduce carbon emissions by enhancing the efficiency of electrical equipment, HVAC systems, ventilation, elevators, plumbing, water usage monitoring, lighting, and fire alarm systems. These actions align with best practices in emissions reporting, aiming to minimize the carbon footprint associated with campus operations.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIONS	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Reduce Scope 2 emissions further by 10% by 2030 (against 2024-2025 baseline)	Reduce embodied carbon in the primary materials used in new construction and major renovations. - Retrofit building materials and HVAC systems to reduce cooling energy demands. - Barjeel/LEED Compliance for all new buildings on campus - Implement energy-efficient lighting and appliances	<u>ES7</u> Emissions Efficiency <u>ES9</u> Progress Towards Target	 



HEALTHIER AND SUSTAINABLE BUILD ENVIRONMENT

FACT

The buildings and construction sector are by far the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, accounting for a staggering 37% of global emissions. Cement, steel, and aluminum production and use have a significant carbon footprint.

AURAK is committed to building healthier and more sustainable architecture. It aims to reduce carbon footprint in all built environments.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIONS	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Reduce embodied carbon in construction	Take actions to mitigate embodied carbon related to the primary materials used in new construction and major renovations by a minimum of 10% compared to conventional buildings.	<u>ES7</u> <u>Emissions</u> <u>Efficiency</u>	 
Healthier, sustainable indoor built environments	Implement actions towards removing harmful classes of chemicals, such as PFAS, from AURAK's supply chain and incorporate sustainable building standards to improve indoor air quality.	<u>ES9</u> <u>Progress Towards</u> <u>Target</u>	 



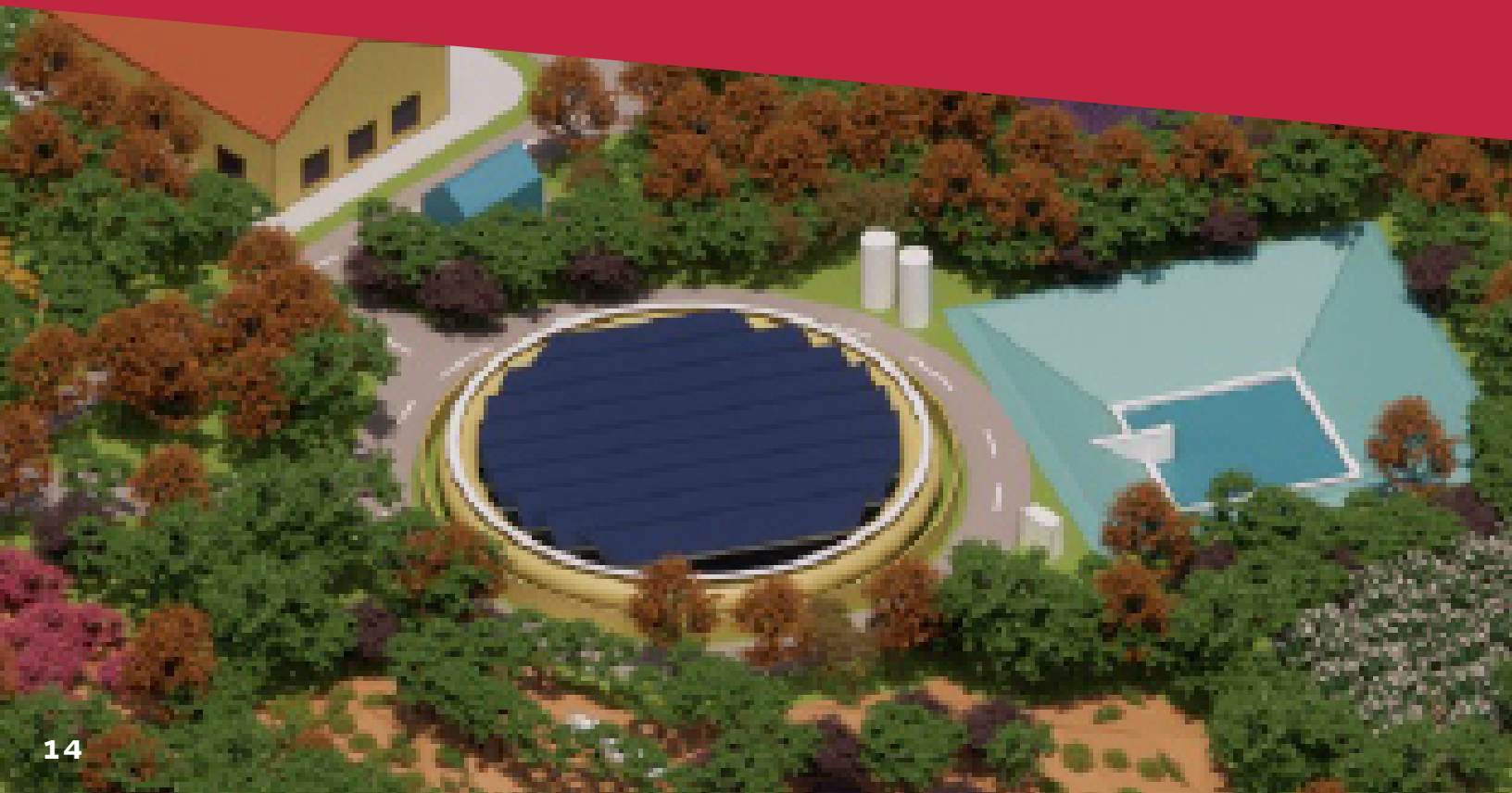
BIODIVERSITY AND GREENSPACES

FACT

Reduced biodiversity means millions of people face a future where food supplies are more vulnerable to pests and disease and fresh water is irregular or short supply. As wild-collected medicinal plants become less available, the health of 60% of the world's population who use predominantly plant-based traditional medicines is compromised. Loss of crop diversity and subsequent reliance on agrochemicals expose people to health-damaging pollutants.

Enhancing biodiversity on campus is a strategic priority for AURAK. It contributes to environmental sustainability and improves the quality of life for the university community. In the next few years, we will focus on increasing green spaces and creating biodiversity hubs, implementing actions that align with the broader environmental goals of preserving ecosystems and reducing land-related emissions.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTION	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Expand campus greenand open spaces	Expand green campus and green spaces, identifying opportunities to increase green spaces.	ES7 Emissions Efficiency	 
Support local biodiversity efforts	Partner with local/international organizations to increase biodiversity efforts for lowering heat and air pollution, encouraging walking, and sequestering carbon. Develop at least one biodiversity hub (e.g., transforming RAKRIC in collaboration with RAK COC and Dewberry)	ES9 Progress Towards Target	





HOW WE ACHIEVE OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

SDG IMPACT



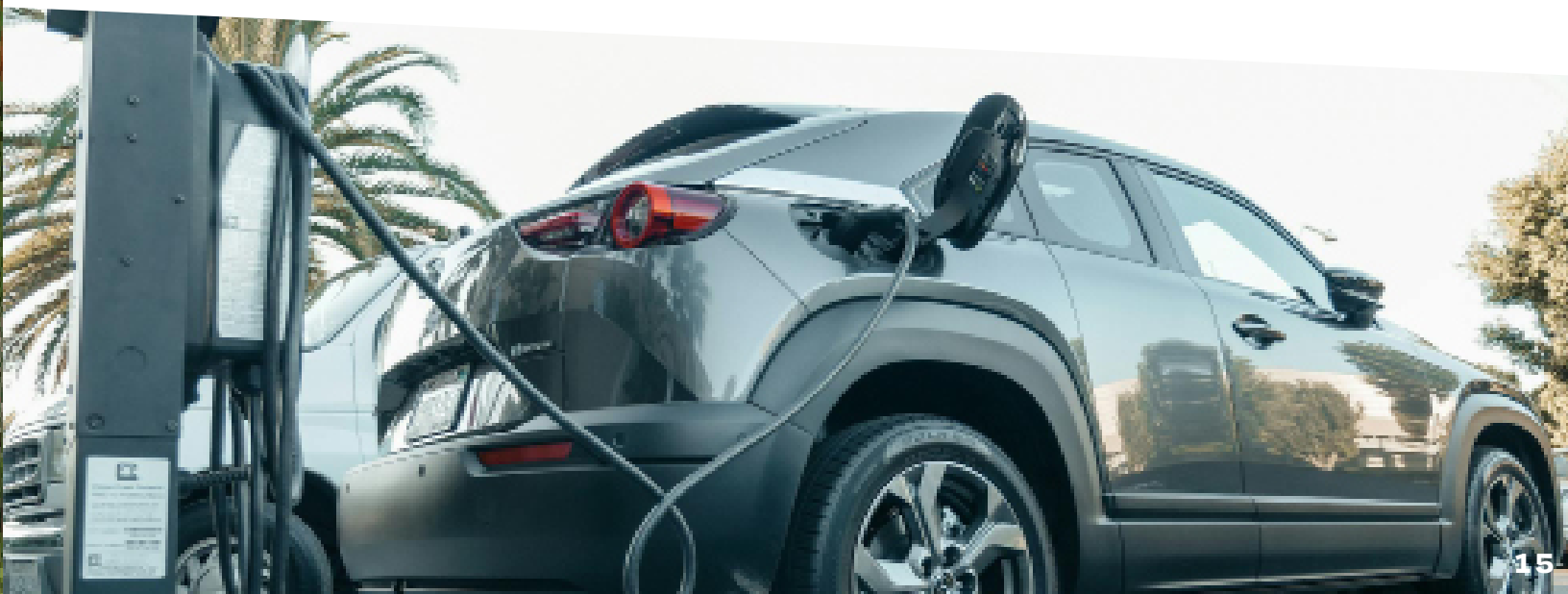
SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

FACT

The transport sector is one of the largest sources of CO₂ emissions and a significant source of air pollution. Two new vehicles enter the roads every second, and by 2030, there will be more than four. The transport sector burns most of the world's petroleum and is one of the largest global greenhouse gas emissions sources. Cars are a major contributor to air pollution, producing significant amounts of nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide.

Travel significantly contributes to Scope 3 emissions, and AURAK is committed to reducing these impacts through various initiatives. This section includes actions aimed at encouraging carpooling, promoting the use of public transportation, and expanding flexible working arrangements to reduce commuting. These measures are crucial for minimizing the University's transportation-related emissions, aligning with the GHG Protocol guidelines on managing and reporting Scope 3 emissions effectively.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIONS	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Support and encourage sustainable transport modes	Add charging outlets on campus to encourage the use of electric cars. Increase the share of sustainable transport modes (public transport, carpooling, biking, living on campus, etc.) in overall campus travel.	ES9 <u>Progress Towards Target</u>	
Baseline travel emissions	Establish baseline measurements for carbon emissions from business travel, staff commuting, and student travel.	ES7 <u>Emissions Efficiency</u>	



WATER AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

FACT

In 2022, 2.2 billion people still lacked safely managed drinking water, including 703 million without a basic water service; 3.5 billion people lacked safely managed sanitation, including 1.5 billion without essential sanitation services; and 2 billion lacked a primary handwashing facility, including 653 million with no handwashing facility at all.

Efficient resource management is crucial for minimizing environmental impact. AURAK emphasizes the importance of minimizing waste through efficient resource use and promoting circular economy principles, including water conservation, recycling, and reuse initiatives. These initiatives align with the GHG Protocol Scope 3 emissions, focusing on upstream water use and waste impacts.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIONS	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Better understanding and effectively managing our water resources	Upgrade unmetered supplies to water meters and develop a process to monitor water data	ES9 <u>Progress Towards Target</u>	
Increase water efficiency	Conduct a holistic water impact assessment - Reduce bottled water use - Promote the use of air to water systems - Enable water conservation on campus - Install water recycling systems for grey-water - Upgrade to water-efficient fixtures and establish water monitoring	ES7 <u>Emissions Efficiency</u>	 



WASTE MANAGEMENT

FACT

Over two billion metric tons of unsustainable, human-generated waste are thrown away globally every year, entering our environment and polluting every ecosystem worldwide. Suppose we continue producing waste as we do today. In that case, the total waste generation for 2050 is projected to be around 3.78 billion metric tons, representing a 1.66 billion metric ton increase in waste since 2020.

Waste management at AURAK aims to minimize the environmental impact of waste generation and disposal. We embark on initiatives such as achieving a 50% reduction in campus waste and significantly cutting down single-use plastic consumption. These efforts are designed to address the emissions associated with waste, as defined under the Scope 3 category in the Standardized Carbon Emissions Reporting Framework, thereby supporting the University's broader sustainability objectives.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIONS	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Baseline solid waste data gathering	Measure and report data annually for major waste streams and develop guidance and resources.	<u>ES9</u> <u>Progress Towards Target</u>	
Minimizing on-campus municipal solid waste (or trash) and sustainably managing other waste streams, including plastics, recyclables, and organics.	Develop a zero-waste plan employing appropriate waste segregation and recycling programs. • Eliminate/reduce single-use plastics on campus. • Increase the number of items reused around the University. • Reduce usage of printing paper.	<u>ES7</u> <u>Emissions Efficiency</u>	



SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

FACT

Unsustainable procurement and supplier participation in sustainable practices are increasingly common in firms, exposing companies to severe financial, social, and environmental risks.

Sustainable procurement practices are essential for reducing the environmental impact of AURAK’s operations. AURAK is committed to integrating social, environmental, and economic sustainability factors into all procurement activities. This section outlines the University’s commitment to increase the procurement of sustainable products, which supports the reduction of upstream Scope 3 emissions related to the production and transportation of goods.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIONS	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Promote sustainable procurement practices	Develop a strategy to integrate value-chain emissions (Scope 3) into purchasing decisions, vendor selection, and management. - Request suppliers to provide information about their products’ environmental and climate footprint - Purchase goods and services that meet AURAK’s carbon reduction goals	<u>ES7</u> <u>Emissions</u> <u>Efficiency</u>	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 13 CLIMATE ACTION
Awareness of sourcing and optimization of asset utilization	- Raise awareness on sustainable procurement and circular economy among staff and faculty - Facilitate sharing and reuse of university assets across schools and offices - Collaborate with other universities to support asset reuse programs wherever possible.	<u>ES9</u> <u>Progress</u> <u>Towards Target</u>	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION





HOW WE LEAD THE CHANGE

SDG IMPACT



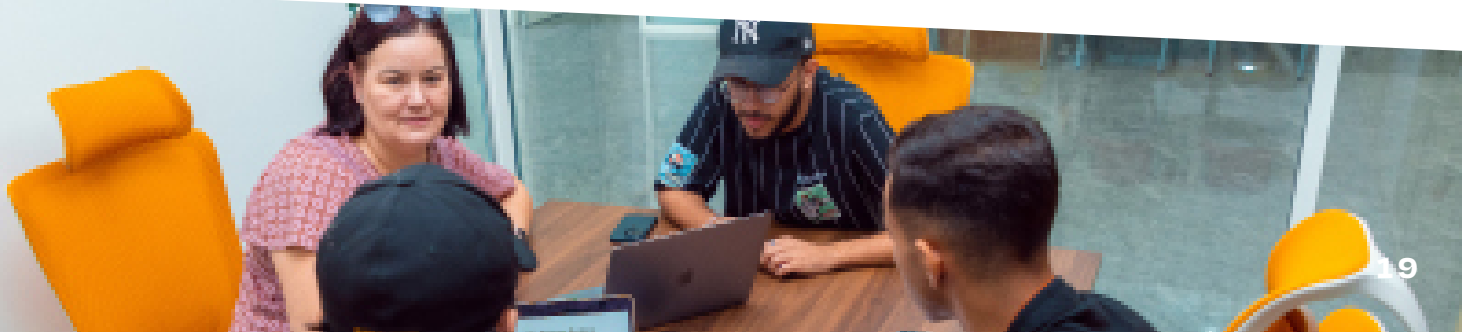
EDUCATION

FACT

Without additional measures, an estimated 84 million children and young people will stay out of school by 2030, and approximately 300 million students will lack the basic numeracy and literacy skills necessary for success in life.

Integrating sustainability into education and enhancing efforts in the University's learning and teaching initiatives increase the visibility of sustainable development (ESG) across all programs. By embedding sustainability principles across various programs and extending sustainability education to the community, AURAK fulfills its educational mandate and contributes to societal change.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIONS	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Integrate sustainability literacy into all academic disciplines	Develop courses on environment/climate science/environmental sustainability Provide dedicated training and assessment on both the environmental and social aspects of sustainability (e.g. Sulitest® TASK)	EE3 <u>Climate Science and/or Sustainability Courses</u>	 
Develop a student club for sustainability	Form of a student society focusing on environment, conservation, and climate issues. Encourage students to provide feedback and recommendations on overall sustainability strategy and collaboratively lead projects to advance the University's sustainability vision and priorities.	ES5 <u>Student Society focused on Environmental Sustainability</u>	 
Improve staff perception of environmental sustainability	Train all staff about sustainability and AURAK's impact on society, through teaching and research.	KE3 <u>Staff perception</u> GG9 <u>Staff perception</u>	 
Encourage knowledge exchange	Increase efforts to share best practices, academic expertise, and access to resources and skills (e.g., laboratories, funding) to improve	KE1 <u>Knowledge Exchange: Progress / Dissemination</u>	 



RESEARCH

FACT

The pervasiveness of reliable sustainability research remains a thorny problem for the progress of scientific endeavors, spawning an abundance of opinions, investigations, and proposals for improvement. Sustainability reporting and metrics without robust research are hurdles in developing sustainability frameworks and metrics.

Integrating sustainability into research is essential for advancing AURAK’s commitment to environmental stewardship. By leveraging partnerships, utilizing campus resources, and embedding sustainability in academic inquiry, AURAK fosters a culture of innovation and responsible research. The following actions are proposed to enhance the University’s research capabilities in climate and sustainability.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIONS	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Strengthen research collaboration to produce ESG-related papers/policies	Partner with national and global research centers to co-develop joint papers/policies on environmental and sustainability topics. Improve citations of published research and encourage open-access publishing.	<u>ER4</u> Policy Citations (Environmental) <u>KE4</u> Policy Citations (Social) <u>GG10</u> Policy Citations (Governance) <u>GG2</u> Open-Access Publishing	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Utilize campus as a sustainability research platform	Develop research centers on environmental sustainability and transform the campus into a living lab for applied research on climate and sustainability. Incubate, pilot, and accelerate transformative new ideas on campus and with partners to test and validate innovative solutions.	<u>ER3</u> Research Center with an Environmental Sustainability Focus	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
Encourage environmental sustainability-focused research by staff and students.	Assess the impact of research across the UN's 17 sustainable development goals.	<u>ER1</u> Research Impact on SDGs for Sustainable Research <u>IE1</u> Research Impact on SDGs for Education <u>EQ1</u> Research Impact on SDG's for Equality <u>HW1</u> Research Impact of SDGs for Health and Well-being <u>EO2</u> Research Impact on SDGs for Employment and Opportunities	ALL 17 SDG's SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



GOVERNANCE AND EQUALITY

FACT

Weak governance is a driver of disaster risk and is linked to many other risk drivers, such as poverty and inequality, poorly planned urban development, and globalized economic development.

Effective governance and strong diversity initiatives are foundational to achieving AURAK's sustainability goals. By establishing robust governance structures, including a dedicated sustainability committee and comprehensive policies, AURAK ensures that sustainability is integrated into all decision-making processes. This section also emphasizes promoting diversity and inclusion to foster an equitable and supportive environment, aligning with global SDGs and enhancing social impact as evaluated by the QS Sustainability Rankings.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIONS	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Establish a sustainability framework/policy on climate action	Develop a dedicated staff member or team whose sole responsibility is to advance sustainable development at the institution. Publish a policy referring to a strategy to mitigate AURAK's climate impact, measures to be environmentally considerate, and future targets.	<u>GG3</u> <u>Dedicated staff/team for Sustainable Development</u> <u>ES10</u> <u>Policy on Climate Strategy</u>	  
Nurturing culture rooted in ethics	Support and facilitate an organizational culture based on institutional ethical values.	<u>GG1</u> <u>Ethics Culture</u>	
Promote gender equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)	Develop a policy on EDI, manage gender ratios appropriately, and provide disability support.	<u>EQ5</u> <u>Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy</u> <u>EQ4</u> <u>Women in Leadership Ratio</u> <u>EQ6</u> <u>Academic Equality (Staff View)</u> <u>EQ7</u> <u>Disability Support</u>	 



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

FACT

Approximately 400 million people lack basic health facilities, and more than 1.6 billion live in fragile settings. Every two seconds, someone dies due to a non-communicable disease, and 7 billion people die due to fine particles in polluted air.

AURAK is dedicated to fostering a healthy environment for its faculty, staff, and students. Prioritizing the provision of affordable food options, healthcare services, and mental health support is central to this commitment.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIONS	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Provide an environment and educational experience that promotes health.	Establish on-campus access to healthy, affordable food options, as well as healthcare and mental health support for staff and students.	<u>HW2</u> <u>Health Provision on Campus</u>	 



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

FACT

37 of the 69 poorest countries were in debt distress. Official development assistance (ODA) reached 206 billion in 2022, and funding dropped by 20%. According to the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), achieving SDGs will require USD 17 trillion.

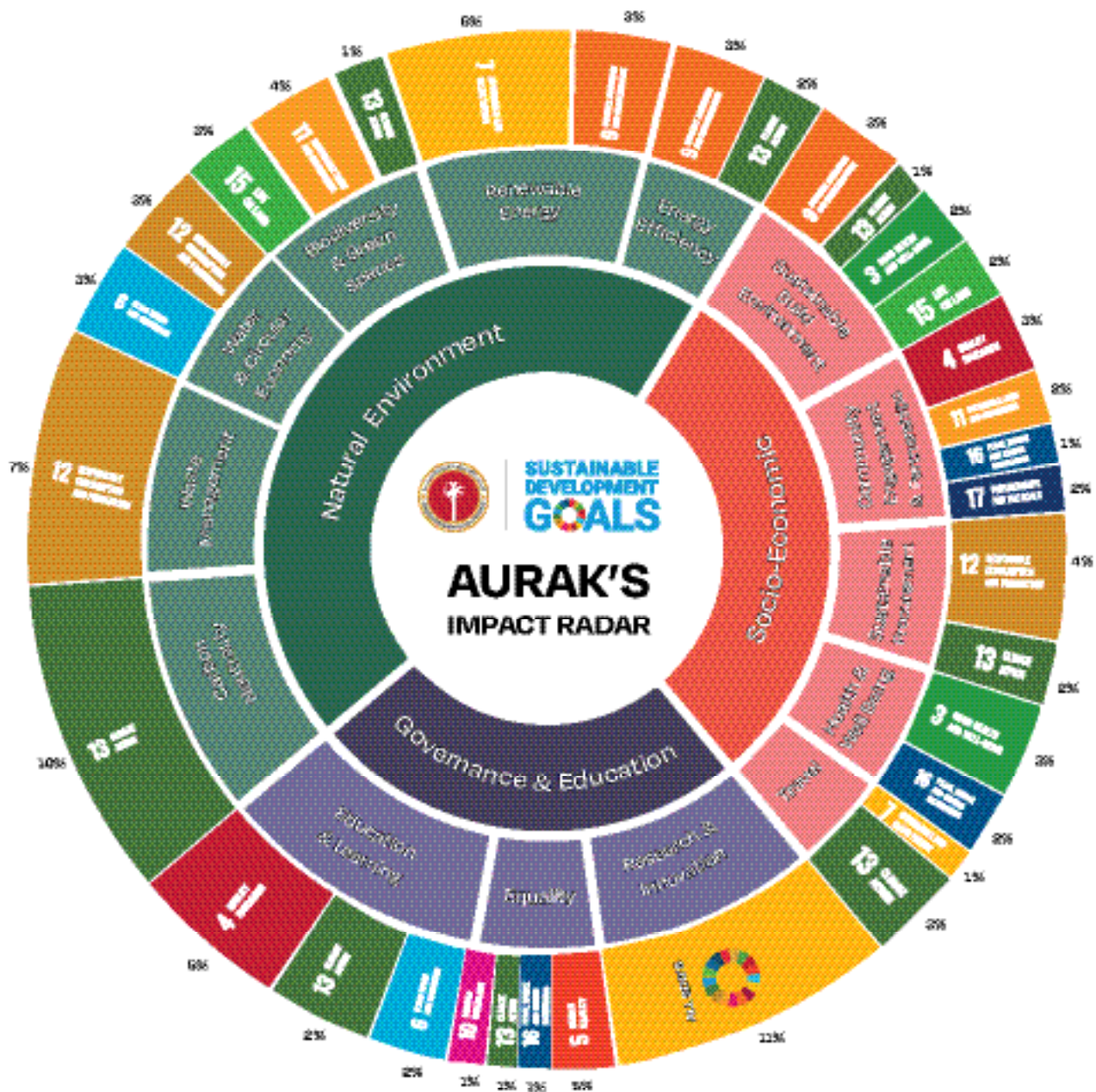
Community engagement is vital to AURAK’s sustainability strategy, which fosters partnerships and encourages participation in sustainability initiatives. Engaging the AURAK community in sustainability efforts enhances social equity and collective action, promoting transparency, accountability, behavioral change, and broad stakeholder engagement. Further, AURAK emphasizes partnering with national and global entities, governmental agencies, environmental sustainability advocates, and others on joint projects and initiatives.

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIONS	QS MAPPING	SDG IMPACT
Increase community participation in sustainability initiatives through outreach programs.	Offer outreach projects for the local community. Organize Sustainability Day, workshops, and awareness campaigns	KE2 <u>Outreach and Community Engagement</u>	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
Partner with industry for applied research	Establish strong industrial partnerships for research on environmental sustainability.	EO5 <u>Partnerships with Industry</u>	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





AURAK SUSTAINABILITY RADAR



ALIGNMENT WITH GLOBAL STANDARDS

The QS World University Rankings on Sustainability assesses universities based on their social, environmental, and governance impact, aligning closely with the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Institutions are evaluated across various metrics, including environmental impact, social impact, and governance practices, with a focus on research contributions, sustainability training, and operational policies. This ranking serves as a benchmark for universities to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability through tangible evidence, such as alumni impact, sustainable research, and effective governance structures.

At AURAK, these **QS Sustainability Rankings** are considered a crucial benchmark to enhance our sustainability efforts. By aligning our operations with the criteria outlined in these rankings, we aim to strengthen our research impact, improve our environmental and social initiatives, and ensure robust governance practices. This commitment not only supports our institutional goals but also reinforces our role as a leader in promoting sustainability within the academic community.

The AURAK Sustainability Initiative Committee is dedicated to ensuring the inclusive engagement of diverse stakeholder groups throughout the development and implementation of our sustainability strategic action plan. In developing AURAK's Sustainability Strategy, we prioritized adherence to our guiding principles, leveraging the strong foundation of our existing strategic plan and a thorough gap analysis relative to the QS Sustainability Rankings. These rankings are also mapped with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring that our reporting and actions meet global standards and are readily applicable on an international scale.





AURAK

الجامعة الأمريكية في رأس الخيمة
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF RAS AL KHAIMAH

AURAK RISING



SUSTAINABILITY

IS PART OF WHO WE ARE

Sustainability efforts are ongoing at AURAK.

Office of Research and Sustainability is a central resource office for information regarding activities, projects, initiatives, campus engagements and programs.

Visit aurak.ac.ae to stay up to date.

The online version of this and future Sustainability Action Plan documents, as well as any updates to elements of this plan will be posted at aurak.ac.ae/research-community-service

