



PHOENICIA UNIVERSITY

Sustainability Policy

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I. Principles

Phoenicia University (PU) has integrated sustainability into the core of its mission and vision to become a leading institution in sustainability, dedicated to fostering a resilient and thriving community while preserving the environment for future generations. Sustainability is not just a goal but a fundamental aspect of our culture and beliefs.

As a non-profit institution of higher education, PU is committed to providing quality education that is accessible to all, preparing our students to lead in their chosen fields while promoting innovation in learning and teaching. Our dedication towards educational equality and equity extends to our commitment to sustainability, which is reflected in our sustainability strategy outlining our efforts and plans for the future across various criteria. It highlights the comprehensive work undertaken by PU during the past years, as well as our future plans. Our sustainability initiatives are organized across multiple criteria, including general environment, energy efficiency and climate change, waste management, water resources management, social responsibility, sustainable transport, and education and research.

By benchmarking ourselves against global standards, we continuously strive to improve our sustainability practices and contribute positively to environmental preservation and community well-being.

II. Responsibilities

In pursuit of its commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development, PU has established a comprehensive framework involving various units and stakeholders across the institution. This section outlines the key responsibilities of different parties within PU, ranging from administrative units to academic departments, in promoting and implementing sustainable practices.

The **Health and Safety Unit** plays a pivotal role in establishing a culture of environmental concern within the institution:

- Compiling yearly sustainability-related initiatives and action plans;
- Developing the university sustainability report;
- Supporting the implementation of sustainability and climate change mitigation action plans;
- Raising awareness on sustainability issues among staff, faculty, and students.

The **Procurement Unit** is entrusted with applying green and environmentally sound purchasing principles throughout the university's procurement processes through:

- Sourcing sustainable products and services;
- Promoting environmentally friendly procurement practices;
- Ensuring compliance with green procurement policies;
- Reducing the university's environmental footprint.

The **IT Department** plays a crucial role in promoting sustainability through the responsible use of technology and resources by:

- Using sustainability-rated equipment whenever possible;
- Reusing and recycling IT equipment to minimize electronic waste;
- Migrating to cloud-based data centers to reduce environmental impact;
- Implementing measures to reduce paper and consumable usage.

The **Content Design Department** is responsible for sustaining awareness campaigns to promote sustainability and environmental protection within the university community:

- Developing and disseminating communication materials on sustainability initiatives;
- Organizing awareness-raising events and inspiring action towards sustainability goals;
- Engaging with stakeholders to foster a culture of environmental responsibility.

The **Student Affairs Office** plays a vital role in promoting sustainability in all student activities and supporting student clubs dealing with sustainability issues:

- Integrating sustainability principles into student programs and activities;
- Providing resources and support to student-led sustainability initiatives;
- Fostering a culture of environmental stewardship among students and campus community.

The **Center for Research and Advancement (CFRA)** is responsible for allocating research funds related to sustainability topics, supporting interdisciplinary research projects, and promoting collaboration on sustainability initiatives:

- Identifying funding opportunities for sustainability research;
- Facilitating partnerships with external stakeholders;
- Advancing knowledge and innovation in sustainability science and addressing pressing environmental challenges in the country and the region;
- Promoting knowledge exchange and dissemination of research findings.

Deans, Directors, and Department Heads play a crucial role in integrating sustainability principles into academic programs, ensuring dissemination of sustainability principles, and promoting awareness of sustainability issues within their respective departments:

- Incorporating sustainability content into courses and curricula;
- Organizing conferences, workshops, and awareness campaigns on sustainability topics;
- Implementing environmentally preferable purchasing practices;
- Embedding sustainability across all aspects of university operations.

Lastly, it is the responsibility of all members of the university community, including **staff, faculty, and students**, to advancing sustainability goals and promoting environmental stewardship:

- Complying with university sustainability policies;
- Promoting sustainability in their daily activities and decision-making processes;
- Participating in sustainability-related events and initiatives that foster positive environmental impact and societal change.

III. Policies and Procedures

The recommendations put forth underscore PU's unwavering commitment to advancing sustainability and transparency across all facets of its operations. These recommendations, which encompass broad goals and comprehensive five-year action plans for university activities, represent a pivotal step towards achieving our sustainability objectives.

While these plans are not static and will evolve over time, they reflect the evolving landscape of sustainability and our institution's dedication to this cause, serving as a robust framework for guiding our sustainability initiatives.

1. Sustainability Governance

An integral part of this process involves the establishment of a Committee, which will convene annually to review and enhance the recommendations as the University's commitment to advancing sustainability and transparency. Such recommendations include the following key areas, setting ambitious yet achievable goals to drive our sustainability agenda forward:

- Building and Construction;
- Energy and Emissions;
- Waste;
- Water;
- Procurement;
- Education, Research, and Community Outreach.

These recommendations provide broad goals and five-year action plans for all university activities. However, they are not final and will evolve with the university's commitment to sustainability.

Additionally, working groups will be formed to fine-tune the action plans and provide regular progress updates to the Committee. These efforts will be transparently documented and disseminated through digital reports accessible by all stakeholders.

2. Campus Sustainability, Building Practices, and Operations

PU has been striving to be a leader of environmental responsibility by developing and implementing environmentally sound policies and practices that foster environmental sustainability.

Throughout the past ten years, PU launched many sustainability-related projects and initiatives to mitigate its impact on climate change. Initiatives include installing solar panels, implementing energy-efficient appliances, and renovating buildings with sustainability features such as energy and water efficiency measures, automation systems, and sustainable architectural practices.

The design and construction of university buildings significantly impact sustainability efforts, advancing campus sustainability. This action plan aims to ensure responsible space utilization, promote sustainable building practices, and engage the campus community in sustainability. Key highlights include space utilization analysis, sustainability communication, decision-making policy, energy and water conservation measures, and community engagement strategies.

Recent Development: PU is dedicated to advancing sustainable development through its **Environmental Health and Safety Policy (EHSP)** and **Laboratories Health and Safety Policy (LHSP)**. These initiatives demonstrate PU's commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible resource management, foster a culture of sustainability across all aspects of its operations. Additionally, PU is actively transitioning towards a paperless environment by digitizing paperwork and providing online access to forms across all departments. This initiative aligns with PU's commitment to sustainability and reducing environmental impact, minimizing waste generation, and streamlining administrative processes.

2.1. Energy Efficiency and Climate Change

As part of PU's commitment towards a greener future, enhancing energy conservation and efficiency is paramount in addressing challenges such as energy consumption, air pollution, and climate change. To tackle this, the university is embarking on an initiative to enhance energy conservation and efficiency across campus, aiming to reduce consumption and cultivate a culture of sustainability. Key actions include enhancing efficiency, and decreasing energy consumption while fostering transparency and community engagement.

Recent Developments: PU has successfully installed solar panels on rooftops across campus, contributed to campus energy sustainability and enhancing our renewable energy capacity and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels for powering campus infrastructure. Additionally, PU has dedicated resources to design and maintain green spaces on campus, enhancing biodiversity, improving air quality, and providing recreational facilities for the benefit of our campus community.

2.2. Waste Management

Efficient waste management is crucial for promoting sustainability for us to achieve zero waste in the near future. While significant progress has been made in waste diversion efforts, there remains efforts for improvement. This action plan outlines key strategies to enhance waste management practices, increase recycling rates, waste audits and monitoring, and foster a culture of sustainability across campus.

Recent Development: PU has instituted a comprehensive recycling program campus-wide, ensuring that waste is diligently sorted and recycled, thereby contributing to waste reduction and environmental preservation efforts.

2.3. Water Conservation

Water conservation and responsible management are critical for sustainable campus operations. This comprehensive action plan aims to enhance water conservation efforts, increase accountability, and promote a culture of responsible water usage. Key highlights include monitoring water usage, outreach and education initiatives, and promoting understanding and accountability regarding water resources management.

3. Sustainable Procurement Practices

Procurement practices play a significant role in promoting sustainability. This action plan aims to prioritize environmentally-friendly products and minimize waste throughout the supply chain, enhancing environmental responsibility. Key highlights include identifying sustainable products, streamlining procurement processes, and setting green spend targets.

Additionally, promoting sustainability in food sources is integral to fostering a more environmentally conscious campus community. This action plan focuses on increasing organic food, sourcing from local and ethically-sensitive suppliers, and prioritizing sustainable food purchasing practices.

Recent Development: PU has implemented procurement policies that prioritize the acquisition of environmentally friendly products and services. This includes sourcing recycled paper, eco-friendly cleaning supplies, and energy-efficient equipment, aligning with our commitment to sustainable practices.

4. Sustainability through Education, Research, and Community Engagement

Education, research, and community outreach are integral to fostering sustainability within a university environment. This action plan aims to expand opportunities for sustainability education, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and recognize contributions to sustainability efforts across the university.

Recent Developments: We are actively integrating sustainability principles into our curriculum. For example, in our Civil and Environmental Engineering Program, we offer courses related to environmental engineering and wastewater management. Similarly, within our Architecture Program, we offer courses focused on Building and Environmental Systems. On another note, PU actively engages with the local community through various sustainability events, workshops, and volunteer opportunities. Notably, PU recently collaborated with nearby municipalities to conduct a free water contamination program for villages surrounding our campus, underscoring our commitment to broader community well-being and environmental stewardship.

IV. Information, Communication and Future Perspectives

As part of our commitment to sustainability, we prioritize close monitoring of our progress and rigorous evaluation of the effectiveness of our initiatives. Through regular reviews and updates to our sustainability plan, we remain responsive to changing circumstances and feedback from stakeholders.

Annually, the **Health and Safety Unit** collect data from various departments and perform necessary analysis. These data inform the development of future plans and projects, ensuring continuous improvement and alignment with sustainability objectives.

Effective communication and stakeholder engagement are fundamental to our sustainability endeavors. A structured communication strategy will be developed to enhance awareness of our sustainability plan, engage stakeholders, and foster a culture of sustainability across the university community. We commit to providing regular updates on our progress and achievements through diverse communication channels, including newsletters, website updates, social media platforms, and campus events.

In the short term, we will embark on several key initiatives to advance sustainability university-wide. This includes establishing a sustainability office or appointing a sustainability officer, besides launching an awareness campaign on sustainability throughout the university, and integrating sustainability measures into all operational processes, construction projects, and renovation endeavors.

Looking ahead, our long-term vision encompasses the full implementation of sustainability measures, a progressive increase in the utilization of renewable energy sources on campus, and the comprehensive integration of sustainability principles into all facets of PU's operations. This includes not only digitizing paperwork and providing online access to forms but also implementing a sustainable transportation system. Furthermore, we will prioritize green building standards in all construction and renovation projects, ensuring that our facilities meet rigorous environmental performance criteria and contribute to resource efficiency, occupant comfort, and long-term sustainability. Through these initiatives, we seek to not only reduce our ecological footprint but also promote ecological resilience by preserving natural habitats, conserving biodiversity, and enhancing ecosystem services across the campus landscape.

Thank You

