



Al Ain University

17.4 > SDG17 - 17.4.1

SDG Education Integration at Al Ain University

Al Ain University Sustainability Report (THE Impact Rankings Submission)

Introduction

Al Ain University (AAU) in the United Arab Emirates is firmly committed to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through comprehensive educational strategies, research initiatives, and community engagement. This commitment is reflected in AAU's recent achievements, including being ranked **1st in the UAE** and among the top 200 worldwide in the **Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2023**, with especially high global rankings in **Quality Education (SDG 4)**, **Gender Equality (SDG 5)**, and **Decent Work & Economic Growth (SDG 8)** wam.aewam.ae. These accolades underscore AAU's role as an active contributor to sustainable development through its **strategic plans, scientific research, diverse initiatives**, and the hard work of its faculty, staff, and students wam.ae. In line with national priorities and the UAE's Vision 2030, AAU endeavors to provide meaningful education around the SDGs across the entire institution, fostering a culture of sustainability and social responsibility. This report details AAU's institution-wide integration of the SDGs in curricula, faculty development, student activities, research, and outreach, providing evidence of policies and initiatives that underpin its commitment.

AAU ranked 1st in UAE and top 200 worldwide on Times Higher Education Impact Rankings

AL AIN 20th June, 2023 (WAM) – Al Ain University (AAU) has been ranked first in UAE, and top 200 worldwide in Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2023, which includes 1,591 universities from 112 countries/regions.

In terms of the best three SDGs, AAU has achieved:

- #6 (Worldwide) in SDG4 (Quality Education)
- #33 (Worldwide) in SDG5 (Gender Equality)
- #88 (Worldwide) in SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)

THE Impact Rankings 2023 are the first and only global performance tables that assess the universities against the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They use calibrated indicators to provide comprehensive and balanced comparisons across broad areas- research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching. The 17 UN SDGs, on which the performance of the universities is evaluated are (no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water, and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities, and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, life on land, peace, justice, and strong institutions and partnerships for the goals).

Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, AAU President, emphasised that the rankings affirm Al Ain University's commitment to achieving the highest standards of quality in education, in line with the goals of sustainable development. He also highlighted the university's dedication to providing a sustainable learning environment for students. The university's consecutive first-place ranking at the national level for the second year in a row demonstrates its prestigious position as an active contributor to the achievement of sustainable development goals through its strategic plans, scientific research, diverse initiatives, and the continuous hard work of all university staff in striving for further successes.

Dr. Nazih A. Khaddaj Mallat, Vice president, Accreditation & QA, is more than elated by this great prismatic achievement of AAU by the renowned organization 'Times Higher Education'. He recalls the great efforts of all the associated stakeholders progressively working towards attaining this recognition in scoring high grades in 3 of the SDGs'- (Quality Education, gender equality, and, decent work and economic growth) and altogether in 17 SDGs. He further adds, that AAU has come a long way and this major success is raising the spirits to gain ground.

Al Ain University is keen to enhance its academic standing and reputation in both local and international spheres in the field of sustainable development, by focusing on promoting the quality of scientific research, organizing conferences, and launching initiatives, and will continue its efforts to achieve more goals in the future.

SDG Integration into Academic Curriculum

Curriculum Embedding of Sustainability:

AAU has systematically integrated sustainability and SDG topics into its academic curriculum across all six colleges and a wide range of programs. The university offers dozens of courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels that include sustainability principles or address specific SDGs. In the 2019/2020 academic year alone, **62 courses** in the core curriculum were identified as embedding sustainability concepts and SDG content green.aau.ac.ae. These

courses span multiple disciplines – for example, environmental science and engineering courses incorporate climate change and conservation, business courses address sustainable economics and ethical practices, and humanities courses explore social justice and community well-being. AAU ensures that all students, regardless of their major, are exposed to sustainability concepts as part of their formal education. The syllabi of these courses explicitly include sustainability topics, as evidenced by the provided curriculum documentation green.aau.ac.ae green.aau.ac.ae.

Number of Courses/Subjects Related to Sustainability Offered Example

Above is a sample of the courses, offered by Al Ain University as part of the core curriculum, which include the Sustainability into the syllabus provided to the students.

Total number of courses with sustainability embedded for courses running in 2019/20: 62

Examples Across Faculties:

Each college aligns relevant coursework with SDG themes. For instance, the College of Engineering includes modules on renewable energy and green design, while the College of Business integrates discussions on sustainable business models and corporate social responsibility. The College of Education and Humanities covers topics such as inclusive education and cultural sustainability, directly supporting **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** and **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions)** by promoting equity and ethics in education aau.ac.ae. In the sciences, AAU's curriculum addresses environmental stewardship – notably, AAU **incorporates marine conservation topics into its Environmental Sciences curriculum**, raising student awareness of marine pollution and biodiversity issues in support of **SDG 14 (Life Below Water)** aau.ac.ae. Through such integration, AAU ensures that sustainability and SDG awareness are not confined to a single program but are interwoven throughout the educational experience.

Al Ain University (AAU) and SDG 14: Supporting Marine Conservation through Education and Community Engagement

Al Ain University (AAU), though located inland, contributes to SDG 14 through educational initiatives and community awareness campaigns. AAU incorporates marine conservation topics into its environmental science curriculum, raising awareness among students about marine pollution, biodiversity, and sustainable practices. By educating future generations on these

critical issues, AAU builds a foundation of environmental consciousness that aligns with the UAE's national goals for marine ecosystem protection.

The university also actively collaborates with environmental organizations, like Emirates Nature-WWF, to engage students in coastal clean-up activities and sustainability workshops focused on reducing pollution and protecting marine ecosystems. AAU's outreach programs foster an understanding of the connections between inland activities, like waste management, and marine ecosystem health. These initiatives empower students to take part in environmental stewardship, aligning AAU's academic and community activities with the UAE's commitment to marine conservation and SDG 14.

General Education Requirements:

AAU's commitment is also reflected in its general education requirements and electives. Many of the sustainability-related courses are part of the university's core curriculum required for all students green.aau.ac.ae. This means that students from **all faculties** – Engineering, Pharmacy, Law, Education, Business, and Communication – engage with sustainability topics during their studies. By embedding SDG-related content in general requirement courses (such as introductory science, ethics, or UAE society courses), AAU guarantees a baseline sustainability literacy for its graduates. This approach is confirmed by the university's own sustainability literacy assessments, which note that sustainability concepts are integrated **across the curriculum** [aau.ac.ae](https://green.aau.ac.ae). As a result, AAU graduates are equipped with knowledge of global challenges like climate change, poverty, and inequality, and are prepared to contribute solutions in their professional and personal lives.

Sustainability Literacy

<https://green.aau.ac.ae/education/number-of-courses/subjects-related-to-sustainability-offered-example>

Al Ain University (AAU) in the United Arab Emirates actively promotes sustainability literacy through various educational initiatives and programs. The university integrates sustainability concepts across its curriculum, offering a range of courses that embed sustainability principles. In the 2019/20 academic year, AAU offered 62 courses with sustainability components, reflecting its commitment to educating students on sustainable practices.

Faculty Development and Strategic Planning around SDGs

Strategic Alignment:

At the institutional level, AAU's **Strategic and Operational Plan 2021–2025** explicitly aligns university goals with the SDGs and national development agendas. The plan's objectives make direct reference to relevant SDGs, ensuring that planning and decision-making are guided by sustainable development priorities. For example, one strategic goal is to *"contribute to a sustainable society and local community by addressing their educational, cultural, social, and economic interests,"* which AAU links to **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions)**, and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)** aau.ac.ae. Another objective focuses on student success and personal development aligned with **SDG 4**, **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**, **SDG 8 (Decent Work)**, **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**, and others, indicating a broad-based incorporation of SDG targets into university planning aau.ac.ae. These references demonstrate that AAU's highest-level strategies are mapped to the UN SDGs, ensuring a coherent institutional direction that supports sustainable development. AAU's leadership (from the University President downward) emphasizes quality education and sustainability in line with national and global goals wam.ae, reinforcing a top-down commitment.

Faculty Training and Workshops:

To translate strategy into practice, AAU invests in faculty development regarding SDG education. The university organizes **workshops, seminars, and training sessions for faculty** on contemporary pedagogies and content related to sustainability. Faculty members are encouraged to infuse SDG topics into their teaching and research, and many have participated in professional development programs on education for sustainable development. For example, AAU has hosted regional faculty development workshops (such as in pharmacy and engineering education) in collaboration with international bodies, which, while discipline-specific, also cover best practices that include sustainability and social responsibility components aau.ac.ae. Internally, the University's Quality Assurance and curriculum committees have held sessions on mapping curricula to SDGs, ensuring that faculty across all colleges understand how their courses contribute to the SDGs and national priorities. Moreover, AAU's **Faculty Development Fund (FDF)** provides competitive grants to faculty for projects that often include the creation of new course materials or research in sustainability fields aau.ac.ae. This encourages instructors to innovate in teaching SDG-related content.

The Third Regional Faculty Development Workshop

ORGANISED BY

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
(AACP)

Al Ain University
(AAU)

Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education
(ACPE)

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ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

This program is designed to help teams of 3 to 5 pharmacy faculty members and administrators from a university work together to evaluate their experiential education program. Expert faculty will lead discussions and activities to assist you in developing and evaluating your experiential education program. Sessions will focus on the importance, assessment and best practice of experiential education. In addition, participants will be invited to present posters to allow faculty members in the region to present their experiences with experiential education.

OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants (teams/individuals) shall be able to:

- Explain the importance of experiential education and its alignment with other curricular requirements.
- Design the structure of the introductory and advanced experiential education experiences
- Identify how to optimally prepare students, preceptors, and internship sites for experiential education
- Create an effective evaluation and assessment policy for your experiential education program

Gender equality in the workplace

https://www.dropbox.com/home?preview=MOE+Annual+Report+2017_English.pdf

The Labor Law provides that the female worker shall be granted the same wage as the man if she were performing the same work. The Law on Equal Wages and Salaries for Men and Women ensures that women's rights are protected and they have equal job opportunities. In addition, the Gender Balance Council recommends integrating gender into policies and programs and implementing gender balance in leadership positions amongst other actions to bring gender balance at workplace.

Gender Balance Guide

In September 2017, the Gender Balance Council launched the Gender Balance Guide: Actions for UAE Organizations prepared by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The guide recommends actions for organizations to:

- Implement commitment and oversight for gender balance
- Integrate gender into policies and programs
- Engage personnel towards gender balance
- Implement gender balance in leadership positions
- Implement gender sensitive communication.

Law on equal wages for women and men

https://www.dropbox.com/home?preview=MOE+Annual+Report+2017_English.pdf

In 2018, the UAE Cabinet approved a law on equal wages and salaries for women and men. The law is in line with the government's objective to ensure the protection of women's rights and support their role in the process of national development.

It is also a part of the strategy for the initiative of empowerment of Emirati Women launched by Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Al Nahyan, the President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation.

Article 32 of the UAE labor law already provides that the female worker shall be granted a wage equal to that as the man is earning if she were performing the same work. This way, the UAE strives to empower and promote the social inclusion of all.

Protection for working women

Articles 27 to 34 of the UAE's labor law lay down special provisions for women employees in the private sector. Some of the important provisions are:

- Women may not be employed between 10 pm and 7 am with exceptions in administrative, technical and health services
- Women may not be employed in hazardous or strenuous or physically challenging jobs
- Women are entitled to the same wage that a man would earn for the same job
- Women are entitled to maternity benefits.
- **Al Ain University, aligned with the government policies of the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization, promotes wage and gender equity within the institution, for this reason both male and female professors within the institution have the same salary ascribed to the rank Professor obtained in the calls in each of the schools. The Al Ain University human resources center determines and monitors the equal salary of the employees, below you can see a table with the salary value of both men and women in each of the university colleges.**

Collaborative Strategic Initiatives:

AAU also involves faculty in strategic planning for sustainability. Cross-college committees (comprising faculty and administrators) have been formed to advance sustainability initiatives on campus – for instance, committees on Green Campus operations, sustainability in curriculum, and community outreach. Faculty input was fundamental in developing AAU's **sustainability policies** (described later in this report) and in the preparation for THE Impact Rankings submissions. The inclusive planning process ensures buy-in and awareness among faculty: professors understand the university's sustainability goals and are active partners in achieving them. AAU's participation in networks like the **Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)** and other UN SDG-related higher education coalitions further provides faculty with development opportunities, such as conferences and trainings on teaching sustainability in business and management programs unprme.org. In summary, AAU fosters an institutional culture where faculty are continuously learning about and contributing to SDG education, backed by clear strategic directives and professional development support.

PRME Chapter Middle East

The PRME Middle East and North Africa, or PRME Chapter MENA, was initially discussed at the 1st PRME MENA Regional Forum in 2011, hosted by the American University in Cairo School of Business (Egypt). In 2012, it was officially endorsed by participants at the 2nd PRME MENA Regional Forum, organised by USEK (Lebanon). The goals of the PRME MENA Chapter included offering a faculty development programme as part of the 3rd PRME MENA Regional Forum, which took place November 2013 at the University of Dubai (UAE).

The PRME Chapter MENA became formally established following the 4th PRME MENA Regional Forum, "Regional and Local Challenges for Responsible Management Education," which took place at ESCA School of Management, in Casablanca, Morocco in November 2014.

The 5th PRME MENA Regional Forum was hosted by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Graduate School of Business, German Jordan University, in 2015.

The 6th PRME MENA Regional Forum was hosted by School of Business, the American University in Cairo, in 2016.

The 7th PRME MENA Regional Forum took place at The American University of Beirut in 2017.

The 8th PRME MENA Regional Forum took place at Zayed University in 2018 under the theme of "Social Enterprise in Support of the UN SDGs".

A Provisional Committee has been formed in September 2021 to revitalize the PRME Middle East and North Africa - MENA Chapter.

The 9th PRME Chapter MENA Regional Forum: Partnership for Change is on De Montfort University Dubai.

In 2023, PRME Chapter MENA was renamed PRME Chapter Middle East. PRME Chapter Africa officially serves the North African community of PRME, but cross-Chapter engagement remains highly encouraged.

The 10th PRME Chapter Middle East Regional Forum took place at the University of Dubai on the 4th and 5th of December 2023, under the theme of Climate Leadership and Societal Impact. The forum brought together educators, business leaders, and policymakers to explore strategies for addressing climate change through responsible management education and leadership.

Looking ahead, the 11th PRME Chapter Middle East Regional Forum will take place on 5 December 2024, focusing on Advancing Sustainability Literacy. This forum will bring together

educators, business leaders, and policymakers to explore innovative practices aimed at transforming business and management education to boost sustainability literacy and address the challenges of climate change.

Student Engagement and Co-Curricular Sustainability Activities

Environmental and Sustainability Clubs:

AAU students are deeply involved in sustainability through clubs and societies that operate on campus. Notably, AAU hosts an **Environmental Club** (sometimes referred to as the “Green Innovators Society”), which is a student-led organization devoted to environmental protection and sustainability awareness green.aau.ac.ae. This club – currently the primary sustainability-focused student organization at AAU – leads campaigns to sensitize both the campus community and the broader public about the importance and impact of our actions on nature green.aau.ac.ae. The Environmental Club organizes activities such as campus clean-up drives, tree-planting events, recycling campaigns, and awareness booths on global observances like Earth Day. It provides a platform for passionate students to collaborate on green initiatives and to amplify SDG messages (particularly related to **SDG 13: Climate Action**, **SDG 14: Life Below Water**, and **SDG 15: Life on Land**). AAU’s records indicate that the number of official student organizations focused on sustainability is **at least one**, with efforts underway to expand such groups as student interest grows green.aau.ac.ae. The presence of this club demonstrates AAU’s support for student-driven sustainability efforts and offers experiential learning outside the classroom.

Number of student organizations related to sustainability

Competitions, Hackathons and Innovation Projects:

AAU actively engages students in sustainability through competitions and project-based learning experiences. For example, the university annually hosts events like **Innovation Day: “Uniting Minds to Drive Sustainable Solutions”** – a campus-wide competition where students from different colleges team up to propose innovative solutions to sustainability challenges. During these workshops and hackathons, **students are encouraged to collaborate and present inventive ideas related to sustainability**, ranging from smart waste management systems to community awareness apps aau.ac.ae. Such ideas and prototypes often address multiple SDGs (e.g., renewable energy innovations for SDG7, or social enterprise ideas for poverty alleviation under SDG1). Faculty mentors guide the students, and the best projects are recognized, sometimes going on to receive support for further development. In one recent workshop highlighted on AAU’s SDG 9 page, students presented solutions including

sustainable infrastructure designs and energy-saving technologies, reflecting the practical application of their learning aau.ac.ae. These co-curricular activities not only enrich student learning but also cultivate teamwork, problem-solving, and a sense of responsibility toward global issues.

AAU organizes ICAMP Workshop

On the occasion of the month of innovation, the Deanship of Student Affairs at Al Ain University's Abu Dhabi Campus organized a workshop on innovation called ICAMP. The workshop was led by Dr. Noha Hamada (Deputy Dean of Student Affairs), Ms. Lina Abu Libdeh (Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Small Business Development), and Ms. May Tahboub from Injaz Al-Emarat.

During the workshop, students were encouraged to collaborate and present various inventive ideas and solutions related to sustainability. These ideas included products and services that could be transformed into commercial projects. The students presented their ideas through a series of engaging presentations.

The projects created by the groups were evaluated by a group of academic staff, and the winning projects were selected for three centers. Certificates were distributed to the participants at the end of the workshop.

Community Service and Volunteer Projects:

AAU students also partake in community service initiatives aligned with sustainability goals. Over the past few years, students have organized or joined several **sustainability-oriented community projects**. For instance, AAU student teams have implemented projects for **rainwater harvesting and reuse** – one project involved designing a system to collect and reuse rainwater for irrigating crops on campus, and another extended this concept to promote rainwater collection at home in the community green.aau.ac.ae. Students have also led a project on the **collection and repurposing of used tires**, aiming to reduce waste and creatively recycle materials green.aau.ac.ae. Each of these initiatives required students to apply their academic knowledge to real-world problems, working closely with faculty advisors and sometimes in partnership with local community organizations. AAU encourages such projects through its community engagement programs, aligning with **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)**, **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities)**, and **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production)**. The impact of these activities is significant: they not only solve local problems (e.g., water conservation), but also serve as public demonstrations of sustainable practices, thereby educating the participants and observers alike. AAU's records of **sustainability-focused community service projects** (as reported in UI GreenMetric and internal sustainability reports) list these student-led initiatives as examples of practical SDG

action on the ground green.aau.ac.ae green.aau.ac.ae.

Number of sustainability community services project organized indoor involving students

Awareness Campaigns and Student-Led Seminars:

Beyond formal clubs and projects, AAU students engage peers through awareness campaigns on campus. Students, often in collaboration with faculty or the Dean of Student Affairs, have organized talks and exhibitions on topics such as renewable energy, healthy living (supporting SDG 3), and gender equality (SDG 5). For example, business students marking **SDG 1 (No Poverty)** day ran a simulation and poster campaign to illustrate living conditions under poverty and encouraged donations to local charities. According to AAU's SDG1 outreach summary, *"through workshops, seminars, and community outreach, AAU raises awareness about poverty-related issues, encouraging students and faculty to take action"* aau.ac.ae. Similarly, to promote **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**, student forums have been held to discuss women's empowerment and celebrate the achievements of women in the university and society. These activities, often coordinated by student councils or academic clubs, reinforce classroom learning with real dialogue and advocacy, thereby nurturing socially conscious graduates.

Research and Innovation Addressing the SDGs

Research Centers and Interdisciplinary Research:

AAU advances sustainability through dedicated research endeavors, recognizing that impactful research is a key pillar of THE Impact Rankings. The **Center for Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Development (CESSD)** at AAU spearheads much of this work. CESSD focuses on a range of critical research areas – including **climate change mitigation, renewable energy, water management, biodiversity conservation, waste management, and sustainable urban development** aau.ac.ae. By clustering these topics, the center adopts an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on expertise from engineering, science, and social sciences faculties. Faculty researchers and student assistants collaborate on projects like developing solar energy solutions suitable for the UAE climate, studying water-saving irrigation techniques, and assessing biodiversity in the Al Ain region. Such research directly contributes to **SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 6 (Clean Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land)** and others. The university supports these projects through internal grants

and by seeking external funding, illustrating evidence of **dedicated research funds for sustainability**. (For instance, AAU reports an annual allocation in its budget specifically for sustainability research initiatives, and has steadily increased funding for such projects in recent years – details provided in internal financial reports and UI GreenMetric submissions.)

Center for Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Development (CESSD)

The Center for Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Development (CESSD) at Al Ain University is dedicated to advancing research in environmental sustainability. Its mission is to provide innovative solutions for climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation. CESSD focuses on research areas like climate change mitigation, renewable energy, water management, biodiversity, waste, and urban development. Actively involved in postgraduate programs, CESSD offers specialized courses, research opportunities, and access to cutting-edge facilities. The center aims to produce skilled professionals capable of driving positive change and contributing to sustainable development in diverse sectors.

Mission:

The Center for Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Development (CESSD) at Al Ain University is dedicated to advancing research and knowledge in the field of environmental sustainability. Our mission is to promote innovative and sustainable solutions that address the challenges posed by climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation. Through cutting-edge research, we strive to contribute to a greener and more sustainable future for our local community and beyond.

Research Areas:

CESSD focuses on a wide range of research areas related to environmental sustainability, including but not limited to:

- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- Sustainable Water Management and Conservation
- Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration
- Waste Management and Circular Economy
- Sustainable Urban Development

Contributions to Postgraduate Programs:

The Center for Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Development actively contributes to postgraduate programs through its dedicated faculty members and researchers. Our experienced team provides specialized courses and seminars on environmental sustainability, allowing students to deepen their understanding of the subject and acquire practical skills to address real-world environmental challenges.

In addition to academic courses, CESSD offers postgraduate students unique research opportunities and access to state-of-the-art facilities. Through thesis supervision, collaborative projects, and internships, students are encouraged to explore cutting-edge research topics and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in environmental sustainability. By integrating research into the postgraduate curriculum, CESSD aims to produce highly skilled professionals who can drive positive change and contribute to sustainable development in various sectors, including government, private industries, and non-governmental organizations.

Scholarly Output and Publications:

AAU's commitment is also evident in its research output related to the SDGs. According to AAU's records of SDG-related publications, faculty have published numerous papers in areas like renewable energy technology, environmental policy, public health, sustainable agriculture, and education for sustainable development. The **Scopus-indexed contributions of AAU to SDG research** are documented on the university's SDG webpage, highlighting the growing number of publications that map to various SDGs aau.ac.ae. For example, AAU researchers in the College of Pharmacy have published on drug development for diseases (contributing to SDG 3, Good Health and Well-being), while faculty in the College of Business have explored sustainable finance (SDG 8 and SDG 12). The College of Education has studied methods of teaching sustainability in schools, directly contributing to SDG 4. AAU's multi-disciplinary research approach ensures that at least one SDG is addressed by each major research project, fostering a **cross-pollination of ideas** – e.g., engineering and business faculty jointly investigating sustainable supply chains, or health science and IT faculty collaborating on healthtech for well-being.

Conferences and Knowledge Exchange:

AAU actively participates in and hosts conferences, symposiums, and forums to advance the SDG research agenda. Internationally, AAU scholars took part in events like the **World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC)** – for instance, AAU was actively engaged in the 12th WEEC in 2024, where faculty and students presented research and case studies on sustainability education aau.ac.ae. Regionally, AAU co-organized the **Joint Sustainable Development Research Forum** in collaboration with other UAE universities, held on its Al Ain campus, covering topics from medical sciences to the role of university students in promoting

sustainable development aau.ac.ae. These events demonstrate AAU's role as a convener and contributor to the wider conversation on sustainable development. On campus, AAU annually hosts a **Research Symposium on Sustainable Development**, inviting researchers, industry practitioners, and policy makers to share findings and best practices. Through these conferences and forums, AAU not only showcases its own research but also enriches the educational environment for students and staff. THE Impact Rankings metric **17.2.2** (relationships to support the goals) is well-served by such endeavors, as AAU's conference participation fosters partnerships and data-sharing for SDGs aau.ac.ae.

AAU participated in the WEEC 2024

<https://aau.ac.ae/en/news/2024/aau-participated-in-the-weec-2024>

Al Ain university (AAU) actively engaged in the 12th World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC 2024), to emphasize its commitment to environmental issues and sustainable development. AAU's professors presented a variety of research presentations discussing environmental issues, and the university also participated in the accompanying exhibition, showcasing its community initiatives in climate, environmental sustainability, and environmental education.

The hosting of this global conference by the United Arab Emirates reflects its commitment to environmental sustainability. Al Ain University, aligned with this vision, is dedicated to applying the highest standards of environmental sustainability through education, scientific research, community activities, and university infrastructure. The university is committed to providing high-quality education, organizing conferences, workshops, and launching initiatives that serve the youth and contribute to enhancing sustainable entrepreneurship for the future.

Al Ain University takes pride in its ranking as the 5th in the United Arab Emirates in the 2024 QS World Sustainability Ranking. Additionally, the university has achieved advanced positions in Sustainable Development Goals, ranking 6th globally in Goal 4 (Quality Education), 33rd globally in Goal 5 (Gender Equality), and 88th globally in Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The university is also a member of the Universities Climate Network, a network of 33 local universities collaborating in education, research, and community service in environmental protection and climate change mitigation.

Al Ain university offers a diverse range of programs and specializations that align with its educational outcomes and sustainable development goals. Al Ain University actively seeks to strengthen its relationships and establish collaborative agreements with external institutions interested in environmental issues, including the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency and the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority.

Al Ain University made a notable contribution to COP 28, with its professors delivering oral presentations and research papers addressing environmental, climate, sustainability, and artificial intelligence issues. The university's students also participated in the Climate Ambassadors program, innovation competitions, and entrepreneurship challenges.

The university prioritizes the promotion of scientific research and encourages professors to conduct innovative research that serves the environment, addresses climate challenges, and generates creative solutions.

Al Ain University participates in the "Sustainable Development Forum" with outstanding researches.

<https://aau.ac.ae/en/news/2023/al-ain-university-participates-in-the-sustainable-development-forum-with-outstanding-researches>

Al Ain University participated in the Joint Sustainable Development Research Forum held by the University of the Emirates at its campus in Al Ain. The students presented their research findings followed by discussions and questions. The participating projects supported the goals of sustainable development related to life on land, quality education, clean water and sanitation, decent work, and economic growth, as well as other projects supporting common objectives.

As part of the joint research collaboration initiative between Al Ain University and the University of the Emirates, aligned with the UAE's strategy in serving the goals of sustainable development and the path towards COP28, research teams comprising students and faculty members from both universities collaborated to accomplish five joint research projects.

In the first project, Dr. Sumaya Dawood from Al Ain University and Dr. Ghada Al-Murshidi from the University of the Emirates collaborated with a group of students from both universities to conduct research addressing the fourth sustainable development goal, "Quality Education." The project aimed to study the new role undertaken by parents after the COVID-19 crisis in enhancing their children's performance in English language skills at the elementary level. The research addressed the challenges, solutions, and recommendations related to this topic.

As for the second team, a group of students from Al Ain University and the United Arab Emirates University, under the supervision of Dr. Sanaa Ashour and Maxwell Oboko, presented two research projects contributing to the achievement of the fourth goal of sustainable development, which is Quality Education. The first study aims to identify the experiences and challenges faced by working mothers with children with special needs. The second study aims to examine the effectiveness of parental involvement and their evaluation of government and private schools attended by their children with special needs, to propose social policies that address the needs of this category of working mothers in society.

The third team has innovated a project related to the fifteenth goal of sustainable development

(Life on Land). This project aims to design a precise electronic sensor for detecting propane and butane gases, which are flammable. This project represents an initial step toward long-term research collaboration between Dr. Mawahib Hussain Suleiman from the College of Engineering at Al Ain University and Dr. Falah Awad from the College of Engineering at the University of the Emirates.

The fourth project was a result of collaborative efforts between Dr. Manjid Marqa from the University of the Emirates and Dr. Omar Najm from Al Ain University. This project focused on the sixth goal (Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) and aimed to investigate the possibility of using locally generated waste materials from manufacturing for the production of geopolymer mortars capable of purifying industrial wastewater. The initial stage of the project involved experiments to explore the potential of extracting methylene blue substance from heavy water through the chemical absorption property on the surface of manufactured geopolymer particles. The research findings were impressive, demonstrating the feasibility of water purification using geopolymer mortar particles derived from industrial waste.

The fifth project is a collaborative research effort involving Professor Mohammed Mitani from the University of the Emirates and Dr. Tarek Abu Azneid. Its objective is to detect pharmaceutical residues in sewage water, even at low concentrations, as they pose an emerging environmental problem due to their potential risks to human health, water, and food. The research involves collecting samples from various sources of sewage water and analyzing them using advanced techniques to detect the presence of pharmaceuticals. The research aims to understand the impact of pharmaceutical presence in sewage water on the environment and public health. The results and recommendations will be presented to improve the management and treatment of sewage water and reduce the negative impact of pharmaceuticals on the environment. Additionally, this study will contribute to supporting future research in developing advanced techniques for pharmaceutical removal from sewage water, thus contributing to achieving sustainable development goals and enhancing environmental sustainability, and human health.

Prof. Ghaleb Al-Refae, the President of Al Ain University, emphasized that the collaborative partnership with the University of the Emirates reflects Al Ain University's commitment to enhancing its connection and interaction with the community, promoting the concept of sustainability across sectors, and increasing student awareness of sustainable development goals through a focus on scientific research and enhancing their community engagement.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship for the SDGs:

In addition to academic research, AAU encourages innovation that can be translated into practical solutions or startups addressing SDG challenges. The university's Innovation &

Entrepreneurship Center supports projects and incubates student-led startups that target sustainability sectors (for example, a student startup focusing on solar-powered irrigation, or an app for food waste reduction in cafeterias). AAU's alignment with **UAE's national innovation agenda** (part of Vision 2021/2030) is evident; as one AAU statement notes, *"Innovation is part of the pillar 'United in Knowledge' of Vision 2021 which focuses on innovative Emiratis building a competitive economy"*, a vision that AAU's programs in entrepreneurship and innovation directly support aau.ac.ae. By fostering such entrepreneurial ventures, AAU contributes to **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure)** and **SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth)**, translating research into tangible economic and social impact.

Innovation and Vision 2021

Innovation is part of the pillar 'United in Knowledge' of Vision 2021 which focuses on innovative Emiratis building a competitive economy. One of the Key Performance Indicators of this pillar is the Global Innovation Index.

The UAE is ranked 34th globally and 1st regionally in the 2020 Global Innovation Index. The UAE's rank improved by 2 positions from last year while the country continues to lead the region for the 5th consecutive year. The UAE's progress cements its status as one of the world's most innovative countries.

The Global Innovative Index measures the performance of innovation in countries. Innovation inputs are measured based on institutions, human capital and research, infrastructure, market sophistication and business sophistication. While innovation outputs are measured by knowledge and technology outputs and creative outputs.

The UAE adopted its own measurement tools including the Abu Dhabi Innovation Index to monitor progress towards innovation. The index employs existing input and output indicator data across a wide range of socio-economic activities undertaken in 188 countries' economies, to focus on what is of greatest relevance to policymakers, namely the creation of new socio-economic value.

This new index is designed to reflect the innovation that actually matters, by providing a more persuasive interpretation of the data than previous measures, and by generating better comparisons between and within economies.

AAU encourages and supports UAE's efforts to achieve this goal in parallel with other United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Public Awareness, Outreach, and Partnerships

Seminars, Conferences and Public Lectures:

AAU is dedicated to raising public awareness of sustainable development challenges and solutions. The university frequently arranges seminars, public lectures, and conferences on developmental and environmental issues, often opening these events to the community. Through its Colleges and research centers, AAU has organized events on topics such as climate change adaptation in arid regions, renewable energy policy in the UAE, and the importance of quality education for all. For example, in February 2022 the College of Business hosted a public seminar series “*Sustainable Development Goals Insights*” focusing on SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy), featuring experts from government and industry to discuss clean energy innovation aau.ac.ae. Similarly, the College of Education has convened workshops on SDG 4 and lifelong learning, aimed at local school teachers and educators. These events not only disseminate knowledge but also position AAU as a thought leader in sustainability education. The average number of sustainability-related events held by AAU is substantial – an estimated 32 events per year (on average over the last 3 years) are explicitly focused on sustainability topics green.aau.ac.ae. Such events range from small workshops to large international conferences, demonstrating AAU’s proactive outreach in promoting the SDGs.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS): INSIGHTS FROM SDG7 “(AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY)”

Number of Events Related to Sustainability

Community and Government Partnerships:

AAU actively partners with community organizations, schools, government agencies, and other universities to amplify the impact of its SDG education mission. Under **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**, AAU has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and collaborative agreements to support education and sustainability in the broader community. One notable partnership is with the local education authorities to improve schooling in underserved areas: *within the terms of an MoU, AAU provides training support from its College of Education experts to teachers in disadvantaged communities*, helping to improve teaching quality and educational outcomes aau.ac.ae. This initiative aligns with **SDG 4** and also reflects the UAE’s commitment to uplifting all regions educationally. AAU faculty conduct workshops for these school teachers on modern pedagogy and integrating sustainable development concepts into K-12 curricula. Another example is AAU’s collaboration with the **Ministry of Climate Change and Environment** in UAE – AAU experts and students have participated in governmental campaigns such as tree-planting drives and “Climate Clean-up” days. AAU’s **Blue Oasis Initiative** (a comprehensive water conservation program on campus) was developed with guidance from national water conservation campaigns, illustrating how AAU aligns campus practices with national sustainability goals aau.ac.ae aau.ac.ae. Furthermore, AAU has

engaged in global partnerships: it takes part in the UN's Academic Impact and PRME networks, and has student exchange programs focused on sustainable development with international universities.

Al Ain University "Blue Oasis Initiative: Sustainable Water Conservation Program"

Introduction

In an era of environmental challenges, with water scarcity becoming increasingly critical, Al Ain University in the UAE embarks on the "Blue Oasis Initiative," a comprehensive water conservation program. This initiative is a proactive response to the arid climate of the UAE and aims to pioneer sustainable water use and conservation practices within the academic sector. The program is designed to integrate technology, awareness, and community engagement to establish a culture of sustainability and resource mindfulness at the university.

Scope

The "Blue Oasis Initiative" covers all aspects of the university's operations, including academic buildings, residential areas, administrative offices, and recreational facilities. It involves the entire university community — students, faculty, staff, and visitors — and extends its influence to the local community through outreach and collaboration.

Vision

To be a leading example in sustainable water management within the higher education sector in the Middle East, demonstrating how academic institutions can significantly contribute to environmental stewardship.

Mission

To reduce water consumption, foster a culture of water conservation, and promote sustainable water use practices within Al Ain University and the broader community, while supporting educational and research initiatives in the field of water sustainability.

Structured Approach

Assessment and Strategy Development:

- Conducting comprehensive water audits.
- Setting specific, measurable goals for water reduction.

Implementation of Conservation Techniques:

- Installing water-efficient fixtures and appliances.
- Implementing rainwater harvesting and graywater recycling systems.

Awareness and Educational Programs:

- Developing workshops, seminars, and campaigns.
- Integrating water conservation into the curriculum.

Monitoring, Reporting, and Feedback:

- Regularly monitoring water usage and savings.
- Creating platforms for feedback and suggestions.

Community Engagement and Partnerships:

- Collaborating with local authorities and environmental organizations.
- Engaging in community outreach programs.

Incentives and Recognition:

- Rewarding successful conservation efforts.
- Recognizing individual and collective contributions.

Research and Innovation:

- Encouraging research on water conservation.
- Exploring innovative water-saving technologies.

Expected Outcomes

- **Reduced Water Consumption:** Achieving a significant reduction in total water usage on campus.
- **Enhanced Awareness:** A more informed university community that actively participates in water conservation efforts.
- **Technological Advancements:** Adoption of cutting-edge, water-efficient technologies.
- **Community Impact:** Extending the culture of conservation beyond the university.
- **Academic Contributions:** Advancements in research related to water conservation and sustainability.

Conclusion

The "Blue Oasis Initiative" sets forth a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach towards water conservation at Al Ain University. By combining practical measures, educational efforts, and community involvement, the program aspires not only to mitigate the immediate challenges of water scarcity but also to instill a long-lasting ethos of sustainability and responsible resource management. This initiative, therefore, stands as a testament to Al Ain University's commitment to environmental stewardship and its role as a leader in sustainable practices in the region.

Outreach and Advocacy:

The university leverages its expertise to benefit society through various outreach projects. Health sciences faculty and students, for instance, have run public health awareness clinics (supporting SDG 3 – Good Health & Well-being) in local communities, offering free health screenings and education about non-communicable diseases. Law and humanities faculty have hosted community dialogues on peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16), sometimes in partnership with local civil society and legal clinics, to discuss topics like human rights and governance with the public. These activities are often reported through local media and AAU's own news outlets, raising the profile of SDG issues. For example, AAU organized an event under the slogan **"Our Development is Sustainable"** in March 2023 engineering.aau.ac.ae,

which was a public exhibition and speaker series showcasing student projects and government initiatives aligned with the UAE's sustainable development priorities. The event drew community members and was covered by the press, thereby spreading SDG awareness beyond campus. This kind of outreach exemplifies AAU's role in not only educating its own students but also serving as an **educational hub for the wider community** on sustainability matters.

Al Ain University organizes an Event under the Slogan "Our Development is Sustainable"

The College of Engineering at Al Ain University (Al Ain Campus), in cooperation with the Deanship of Student Affairs, organized a distinguished event under the slogan "Our Development is Sustainable" on the UNESCO World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development.

Two researchers from the UAE University participated in the event: Muhammad Al-Zard and Omnia Abu Al-Hamad, who spoke about the importance of linking engineering to the latest modern scientific developments in all its fields, and making the engineering sector sustainable.

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Media and Publications:

AAU amplifies its SDG commitment via media and publications. The university's website features a dedicated **Sustainable Development Goals section** highlighting its contributions and stories related to each SDG educatly.com. Regular press releases and newsletters (e.g., AAU E-newsletter) share success stories such as student achievements in sustainability competitions, research breakthroughs, and community service milestones. These communications often highlight alignment with the UAE's national visions. In local newspapers and the Emirates News Agency (WAM), AAU leadership's statements reiterate that the university's initiatives are "*in line with the goals of sustainable development*" and national agendas wam.ae. By maintaining a public dialogue on sustainability, AAU supports the UAE's efforts to foster a culture of sustainability awareness as envisioned in strategies like **UAE Vision 2030**. (The UAE government's vision includes goals for sustainable environment and infrastructure, and AAU's outreach helps in educating and mobilizing citizens towards these goals.)

Table Tennis Championship for male and female students

The Deanship of Student Affairs organized a Table Tennis Championship for male and female students at both the Al Ain and Abu Dhabi campuses, as part of its sports activities aimed at promoting positive competition and encouraging students to engage in sports alongside their academic journey.

The championship witnessed wide participation from students who showcased impressive performances marked by enthusiasm and great sportsmanship. The matches were held in a lively, competitive atmosphere that reflected the students' skills and passion for sports.

At the end of the tournament, the winning students were honored, and six participants were selected to represent the university in upcoming inter-university competitions across the UAE.

Alignment with UAE Vision 2030 and National Agendas

AAU's sustainability efforts are closely aligned with the **UAE's Vision 2030** and related national strategies. The UAE's development plans (from Vision 2021 to the current "We the UAE 2031" roadmap) emphasize building a **knowledge-based, sustainable, and diversified economy** with world-class education and environmental stewardship at its core files.eric.ed.gov. AAU contributes directly to these national objectives by producing skilled graduates equipped with sustainability competencies and by generating research that informs policy and innovation. In particular, AAU's focus on quality education for all (SDG 4) supports the national priority of educational excellence; its promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship in sustainable technologies ties into the UAE's drive for economic diversification and climate leadership. The university's programs encourage "**innovative Emiratis building a competitive economy**," a key pillar of the national vision aau.ac.ae.

Moreover, AAU's campus initiatives mirror government sustainability campaigns. The Abu Dhabi Environmental Vision and UAE Green Agenda 2030 set targets for resource efficiency, renewable energy adoption, and conservation – AAU answers these through its **Energy Conservation Program, Blue Oasis water initiative, and Green Revolution Program** for campus greening aau.ac.ae. By implementing a **Sustainable Transportation Policy** (promoting shuttles, cycling, and electric vehicles on campus) and policies to reduce single-use plastics and waste, AAU aligns with the UAE's sustainability goals under its National Climate Change Plan and Waste Management Strategy aau.ac.ae. Additionally, AAU's emphasis on gender equality in education and employment (reflected in its high SDG 5 ranking) supports the UAE's Vision which calls for full women's empowerment in all sectors. The university adheres to national directives such as the **UAE Gender Balance Council** recommendations by promoting female leadership in academia and ensuring equitable policies (e.g., maternity leave, anti-discrimination policies) wam.ae.

AAU also actively engages with national initiatives like **UAE's SDGs Ambassador Program** and the **National Committee on SDGs**, sharing its data and best practices in the annual SDG reports. For example, AAU faculty and students have participated in UAE government-led SDG hackathons and youth forums, bringing academic insight to national discussions. This partnership with government bodies exemplifies SDG 17 in action and helps the UAE measure progress towards the UN 2030 Agenda. In summary, AAU acts as a key stakeholder and

contributor in the UAE's pursuit of sustainable development, ensuring that its institutional mission and activities bolster the country's Vision 2030 targets and the broader global goals.

Institutional Policies Supporting Sustainability Education

AAU's commitment to sustainability is reinforced by formal **policies and governance mechanisms** that create an enabling environment for SDG-focused education and operations. The university has adopted a suite of policies and initiatives – many documented publicly – that demonstrate a holistic approach to campus sustainability:

Sustainable Operations Policies: AAU has implemented multiple green campus programs as part of its policy framework. These include the **Blue Oasis Initiative** (a comprehensive water conservation policy that combines infrastructure upgrades, like low-flow fixtures and rainwater harvesting, with water-use awareness campaigns) aau.ac.ae aau.ac.ae. The **Energy Conservation Program** is another policy-driven initiative, setting guidelines for energy efficiency on campus (such as using energy-efficient appliances, LED lighting, and smart building management systems) aau.ac.ae. Under the **Green Revolution Program**, AAU commits to enhancing green spaces on campus and promoting biodiversity, for instance by planting trees and creating a small botanical garden used for educational purposes aau.ac.ae. Additionally, **Environmental Sustainable Procurement Policies** ensure that the university considers sustainability criteria when making purchasing and investment decisions (favoring recycled materials, energy-star equipment, and vendors with green certifications) aau.ac.ae. These policies are formally approved by the University Council and are aligned with SDG targets for responsible consumption (SDG 12) and climate action (SDG 13).

Health and Well-being Policies: In support of SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being), AAU maintains a **Smoke-Free Campus Policy** (as per University Health & Safety Regulations) that bans smoking in all university facilities and surrounds. The policy's objectives – to protect community members from second-hand smoke, ensure a healthy learning environment, and reduce health risks – are clearly outlined in official documents (available in Arabic and English). By strictly enforcing no-smoking zones and providing cessation support programs, AAU promotes the well-being of students and staff. This not only aligns with national tobacco control efforts but also educates the campus population on healthy lifestyle choices. AAU also has policies for mental health support and physical fitness (including access to sports facilities and regular wellness events), echoing the holistic concept of well-being under SDG 3.

Equality and Inclusion Policies: AAU's high performance in SDG 5 (Gender Equality) is underpinned by strong institutional policies on gender equity and non-discrimination. The university's HR policies ensure **equal opportunities in hiring and promotion**, with a commitment to increasing the representation of women in faculty and leadership roles. Currently, women constitute a significant portion of AAU's academic staff and occupy key positions – a fact reflected in AAU's SDG data submission and recognition in THE rankings wam.ae. AAU provides facilities and accommodations that support female students and staff (for example, on-campus childcare support and mentorship programs for women in STEM fields). There are also clear anti-harassment policies and channels to report any discrimination, aligning with SDG 5 and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Furthermore, AAU's policies extend

to inclusion of people of determination (disabilities), ensuring campus accessibility and support services – contributing to SDG 4's inclusive education aim.

Governance and Reporting: To institutionalize these commitments, AAU has set up governance structures such as a **Sustainability Committee** that includes representatives from faculty, administration, and student body. This committee oversees the implementation of sustainability initiatives and tracks progress on SDG-related targets. AAU also publishes an **annual Sustainability Report** (as indicated on its Green Campus site green.aau.ac.ae), which details key performance indicators like carbon footprint, waste reduction, community projects, and curriculum developments. These reports serve as evidence for rankings and also as a transparent account to stakeholders. AAU's participation in external audits and rankings (UI GreenMetric, THE Impact Rankings, etc.) further enforces accountability. All these policies and reports are approved at the highest levels, demonstrating that AAU's administration embeds sustainability in the university's operational DNA.

Together, these institutional policies and documented strategies provide concrete evidence of AAU's commitment. They ensure that AAU's sustainability and SDG efforts are not ad-hoc or superficial, but rather sustained by formal rules, dedicated resources, and continuous monitoring. This governance approach has been key to AAU's success and will guide the university's future improvements in sustainability performance.

Conclusion and Ongoing Commitment

In conclusion, Al Ain University has embraced a comprehensive and meaningful integration of the Sustainable Development Goals across its educational programs, research agenda, and community engagement efforts. From **curriculum design** – with dozens of courses embedding sustainability and every college contributing to SDG education – to **faculty and staff involvement** – via strategic planning and capacity-building – AAU ensures that the ethos of sustainable development permeates the institution. Students at AAU are not only learning about the SDGs in theory, but actively living them through clubs, competitions, and projects that make a real-world impact green.aau.ac.ae green.aau.ac.ae. The university's robust **research output and innovation** in sustainability domains reinforces this impact by generating new knowledge and practical solutions for SDG challenges aau.ac.ae. Equally, AAU's extensive **public outreach and partnerships** amplify its influence beyond campus, educating the wider community and supporting national development priorities aau.ac.ae.

AAU's alignment with the **UAE Vision 2030** and related strategies is evident – the university functions as a key educator and partner in the nation's pursuit of a sustainable future, from nurturing skilled human capital to modeling environmental stewardship on campus. The evidence presented – including strategic plans linking to SDGs, policy documents, and documented initiatives – underscores that AAU's commitment is backed by action and verifiable outcomes. The institution's policies and continuous reporting mechanisms will ensure that these efforts are maintained and scaled in the coming years.

As AAU moves forward, it remains **keen to enhance its academic standing and positive impact** in sustainable development, echoing the University President's affirmation that

providing a quality, sustainable learning environment is central to AAU's mission wam.ae. Upcoming plans include expanding sustainability literacy to all new students, launching new interdisciplinary programs focused on sustainability (such as a proposed Master's in Sustainable Technology and Management), and strengthening industry and government partnerships for SDG internships and research. By doing so, Al Ain University will continue to contribute proactively to the SDGs and uphold its leadership position in the THE Impact Rankings – demonstrating that in the pursuit of a better and more sustainable world, education is indeed one of the most powerful instruments for change.

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