

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Effective Date: 8 October 2021

Reviewed: 3 February 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

Sunway University is committed to advancing planetary health and sustainability across all dimensions of its operations, education, research, and stakeholder engagements. This Sustainability Policy articulates the University's pledge to environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic resilience, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and global best practices.

The policy provides a comprehensive framework that integrates sustainability into academic programs, research priorities, campus operations, and partnerships. It is aligned with the **Sunway University Climate Action Charter** and **Sustainability Strategy 2030**, ensuring a unified and holistic approach to sustainability.

As part of this commitment, Sunway University strives to minimize its environmental footprint while maximizing the efficient use of resources. A sustainability-conscious culture is fostered through awareness, education, and active engagement—most notably through the **Campus With A Conscience (CWAC)** initiative, which empowers students, staff, and stakeholders to champion sustainable practices in their daily lives. The University is also dedicated to establishing robust systems that implement, monitor, and continuously enhance sustainability performance, both on campus and in the wider community.

2. PURPOSE

This policy establishes Sunway University's commitment to integrating sustainability and planetary health into the core of its institutional mission. It provides a framework to guide strategic and operational decisions that ensure environmental, social, and economic responsibility across all University functions.

Specifically, the policy aims to:

- Embed sustainability and planetary health principles across all academic, research, administrative, and operational activities.
- Promote and implement sound environmental, social, and economic sustainability practices throughout the campus.
- Enhance awareness, engagement, and accountability for sustainability among students, staff, and stakeholders.
- Foster a culture of sustainability through education, advocacy, and campus-wide initiatives such as the Campus With A Conscience (CWAC);
- Advance sustainability and planetary health research and innovation through interdisciplinary collaboration with national and international institutions.

- Support Malaysia’s and global climate action goals, including the pursuit of Net Zero emissions and broader sustainable development objectives.
- Uphold and integrate the University’s ‘8R’ core values—Respect, Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Restore, Repurpose, and Revitalise—as guiding principles in all sustainability endeavours.
- Build strong partnerships with industry, government bodies, and civil society to co-create impactful sustainability solutions.
- Empower the Sustainability Office to lead the University’s strategic efforts in managing natural resources, energy, utilities, biodiversity, waste, and greenhouse gas emissions through data-driven, innovative, and efficient practices.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Sunway University is committed to advancing sustainability and planetary health as core institutional priorities, guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recognising the urgent need to address the global climate crisis, the University supports international efforts and commitment to limit the rise in global temperatures.

In line with this commitment, the University has set a strategic target to achieve Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2030, with incremental goals to significantly reduce its environmental impact through sustainable campus operations, research, and engagement.

The University positions itself as a driver of change, striving to create meaningful impact within its immediate community and beyond. It empowers students, staff, and partners to become change agents who contribute to local and global sustainability solutions. Through its core mission areas of teaching, learning, research, and partnerships, the University integrates the principles of planetary health—acknowledging the interdependence of human and environmental systems—to prepare graduates for leadership in a complex and changing world.

Anchored by the values of integrity, humility, and excellence, this policy affirms the University’s role in promoting an integrated approach to sustainability that enhances human well-being, protects ecosystems, and supports equitable, long-term development.

4. GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

The successful realisation of Sunway University’s sustainability and planetary health agenda requires strong institutional leadership, inclusive governance, and cross-functional collaboration. The following roles and structures are established to ensure the effective implementation, monitoring, and continuous improvement of this policy:

- **Office for the Research and Sustainability Strategy (RSS)**
This Office is responsible for leading the development, coordination, and execution of the University’s sustainability strategy. It oversees sustainability-related programmes, operations, and performance reporting, and acts as a central point for sustainability engagement across the campus. The Office is supported by academic and industry experts to ensure its work is evidence-based, impactful, and aligned with the University’s broader mission on planetary health and sustainable development.

- **Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Sustainability (PVC R&S)**
The PVC R&S provides strategic leadership in sustainability and planetary health, ensuring institutional goals are met and integrated across all levels of the University. The PVC R&S represents sustainability interests in senior decision-making and ensures alignment with national and global climate action frameworks.
- **Sunway University Sustainability & ESG Committee (SUSEC)**
SUSEC is responsible for advising, developing, and maintaining sustainability-related policies and procedures. It provides oversight on the implementation of this policy and ensures broad representation from academic, operational, and student stakeholders.
- **Faculties, Schools and Administrative Units**
Each faculty, school and administrative unit plays a vital role in embedding sustainability and planetary health principles into their academic programmes, research initiatives, operations, and stakeholder engagement initiatives. They are also encouraged to champion innovation and practices that support the University’s sustainability objectives.
- **Sustainability Data Dashboard**
A dedicated Sustainability Dashboard is established to monitor and track key performance indicators (KPIs) in line with the University’s Sustainability Strategy 2030. It supports data-driven decision-making, transparency, and accountability in achieving sustainability targets.
- **President and CEO**
The President and CEO holds overall responsibility for ensuring the effective implementation of sustainability policies and procedures across the institution, in alignment with the University's vision, values, and strategic direction.

5. KEY COMMITMENTS

Sunway University’s sustainability commitments are aligned with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles and serve as the foundation for institutional efforts to advance planetary health and sustainable development. These commitments are structured into key thematic areas that reflect the University's strategic focus areas under its Sustainability Strategy 2030 and Climate Action Charter. Each commitment outlines the procedures that the University will undertake to ensure effective implementation and accountability.

5.1 Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action

- 5.1.1 The University will pursue the achievement of Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2030, with clear interim targets to guide emission reduction efforts.
- 5.1.2 The University will support the broader Sunway Group’s goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 20% by 2030 through energy conservation, sustainable design, and operational efficiency.
- 5.1.3 Climate resilience strategies will be integrated into academic programmes, research agendas, and infrastructure planning to build adaptive capacity.
- 5.1.4 The University will align its climate action initiatives with Malaysia’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national climate policies.

5.2 Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation

- 5.2.1 The University will prioritise the adoption of renewable energy sources wherever feasible, including solar and other clean technologies.
- 5.2.2 All new building projects and major renovations will be designed to closely aligned to national and international green building certification standards.
- 5.2.3 The University will continue to explore sourcing electricity from renewable sources and incorporate this transition into its long-term energy planning.
- 5.2.4 Energy consumption will be minimised through responsible usage, campus-wide awareness campaigns, and smart energy management systems.
- 5.2.5 The procurement of certified energy-efficient equipment will be standard practice for all departments.
- 5.2.6 The University will pilot and adopt emerging energy efficiency technologies, particularly those applicable to high-consumption facilities.
- 5.2.7 Infrastructure for low-carbon transportation will be enhanced, including promoting and facilitating the use of electric vehicle and availability of dedicated charging stations.
- 5.2.8 The University will improve, and construct covered pedestrian walkways to promote walkability and connectivity to public transport hubs.
- 5.2.9 Annual institutional funds will be allocated to support research, innovation, and pilot projects in energy efficiency and carbon reduction.

5.3 Water Stewardship and Security

- 5.3.1 The University is committed to reducing campus-wide water intensity dependency by 10% by 2030.
- 5.3.2 Rainwater harvesting systems will be expanded to support landscape irrigation and reduce reliance on potable municipal water.
- 5.3.3 Sustainable landscaping practices will be adopted, including the use of native and drought-tolerant plants for at least 50% of landscaped areas.
- 5.3.4 Smart irrigation systems will be installed to regulate water usage based on weather and soil conditions.
- 5.3.5 On-campus water treatment and reuse systems will be deployed where feasible to reduce potable water dependency.
- 5.3.6 Water-efficient fittings certified under WEPLS, WELS, or equivalent schemes will be mandatory in all new and existing buildings.
- 5.3.7 Private water metering systems will be installed across various water use areas to facilitate leak detection and usage optimisation.
- 5.3.8 Cooling towers installed across the campus will follow water-efficient design principles and, where possible, utilise recycled water such as AHU condensation.

5.4 Circular Economy and Waste Management

- 5.4.1 The University will aim to divert at least 40% of all campus-generated waste from landfills by 2030 through comprehensive recycling and reuse initiatives.
- 5.4.2 Policies and infrastructure will be implemented to phase out single-use plastics and encourage the use of reusable alternatives campus-wide.
- 5.4.3 Sustainable consumption behaviours will be promoted through educational campaigns and adequate waste separation facilities.

- 5.4.4 Waste generation will be minimised by prioritising reusable products, recyclable materials, and minimal packaging.
- 5.4.5 The University will support circular economy research, including waste-to-energy innovation, materials recovery, and upcycling initiatives.

5.5 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience

- 5.5.1 The University will maintain and enhance campus biodiversity through sustainable landscaping, habitat restoration, and conservation of green spaces.
- 5.5.2 All landholdings will be managed to contribute to ecosystem preservation and environmental education.
- 5.5.3 Procurement practices will prioritise environmentally friendly, non-toxic, and ethically sourced products.
- 5.5.4 Biodiversity goals will be embedded into infrastructure planning and campus design, in alignment with National Policy on Biological Diversity 2022-2030.

5.6 Sustainability Education and Research

- 5.6.1 Sustainability and planetary health principles will be embedded in academic curricula across all faculties.
- 5.6.2 The University will foster interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research to address key sustainability challenges.
- 5.6.3 The Campus with a Conscience (CWAC) initiative will be expanded as a platform for student engagement, applied learning, and service to the community.
- 5.6.4 Dedicated funding and grants will be provided to support research and innovation in clean technology, energy, waste, water, and biodiversity.
- 5.6.5 The University will promote sustainability-themed research outputs and international partnerships through publications, conferences, and global collaborations.

5.7 Social Inclusion and Community Impact

- 5.7.1 The University through CWAC, will cultivate a culture of sustainability across the campus by engaging students, faculty, and staff through awareness programmes, volunteering, community development and outreach initiatives.
- 5.7.2 Local and international partnerships will be strengthened through sustainable development projects and knowledge-sharing platforms.
- 5.7.3 The Sunway Desa Mentari Community Development Programme will serve as a conduit for involving communities in sustainability awareness, skills training, and actionable local goals towards global goals.
- 5.7.4 Community engagement efforts will be aligned with Malaysia's national development priorities, including the MADANI framework, 12th Malaysia Plan, and SDG targets.

6. DATA, MONITORING AND REPORTING

Sunway University recognises that robust data systems, transparent monitoring, and proactive reporting are critical to delivering on its sustainability and planetary health commitments. Guided by the 12th Malaysia Plan, national environmental governance frameworks, and ESG best practices in the higher education sector, the University is establishing the following mechanisms that ensure informed decision-making, accountability, and continuous improvement across its sustainability agenda:

- 6.1 The University will establish and maintain a centralised Sustainability Data Dashboard to track key environmental, social, and governance performance indicators in alignment with the Sustainability Strategy 2030.
- 6.2 All sustainability-related activities and outcomes will be systematically monitored, measured, and evaluated to ensure alignment with institutional targets, legal requirements, and national and global sustainability benchmarks.
- 6.3 Annual internal audits and third-party assessments will be conducted to assess compliance, identify areas for improvement, and drive accountability across departments.
- 6.4 A comprehensive Sustainability Report will be published annually, providing transparent updates on achievements, challenges, and progress against sustainability targets, including contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 6.5 The University will benchmark its sustainability performance against national and global frameworks, including the UI Green Metric Rankings, THE Impact Ranking, QS Sustainability, , and the UN SDGs, to continuously evaluate its impact and improve its strategic approach.
- 6.6 Data collection and reporting mechanisms will be integrated across academic, administrative, and operational units, ensuring consistency, accuracy, and relevance of information.
- 6.7 Training and support will be provided to departments and units to build capacity for sustainability data collection, interpretation, and reporting.
- 6.8 The University will promote a culture of transparency by engaging stakeholders—including students, staff, partners, and the broader community—in regular updates, feedback processes, and performance disclosures.
- 6.9 Results from monitoring and reporting activities will inform policy refinements, strategic planning, and investment decisions to strengthen institutional resilience and sustainability performance.
- 6.10 Continuous improvement will be ensured through the regular review of monitoring tools, indicators, and data governance systems, aligning with evolving national priorities, technological developments, and planetary health principles.

7. CONCLUSION

Sunway University reaffirms its commitment to be a national and regional leader in sustainability by embedding responsible, forward-thinking practices across its academic, operational, and community spheres. This policy provides a strategic framework to guide the University's ongoing transformation into a model of environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and good governance.

Through the integration of sustainability and planetary health into its core mission, Sunway University seeks to cultivate a campus culture that is resilient, inclusive, and impact driven. By aligning with Malaysia's national aspirations—including the MADANI vision and the 12th Malaysia Plan—as well as global climate action goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the University is positioning itself as a proactive agent of change.

This policy will serve as a living document—continually reviewed, strengthened, and adapted—to ensure Sunway University not only meets its sustainability objectives but contributes meaningfully to the well-being of people, the planet, and future generations.

8. POLICY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

- Policy owner: Office for Research & Sustainability Strategy
- Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research & Sustainability)
- Approving Committee: SUSEC / SEG EXCO / SU USMC / SU Academic Senate
- Frequency of review: 3 years
- Related Policy:
 - Climate Action Charter
 - Sustainability Strategy 2030

9. LOG OF CHANGES AND REVIEWS

Date	Section	Brief description of changes
08 Oct 2021		Policy inception
19 Mar 2024	1,2, 4	Clarify policy statement to include commitment to National Net Zero Carbon by 2050 as a goal of the Institution. Rename of SSCC to Sunway University Sustainability & ESG Committee (SUSEC).
20 Nov 2024	All	Comprehensive revision to align with Sunway University Climate Action Charter and Sustainability Strategy 2030.
3 February 2025	All	Inclusion of Planetary Health principles, PVC Research & Sustainability, Sustainability Data Dashboard, CWAC and Sunway Desa Mentari Community Development Programme. Adjusted to reflect Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and sustainability targets in university strategies.

Note: The log of changes and reviews has been updated with the information provided in the latest document.