



# Sustainability Report

## Arab American University



2020

## About this Report

This report highlights the activities and actions Arab American University has implemented to address the Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations in 2015.

In this report we outline some of the many activities in our University that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. We cannot capture all the amazing work of our staff and students that occurs across research, teaching, engagement/outreach and operations. However, the selection presented here gives an appreciation of the kinds of activities happening within our University that are setting us on a path to a more sustainable future for all.





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## About the University

### Vision

The Arab American University aspires to be known for graduating students who far exceeds the expectations locally and globally, adhere to the highest ethical standards and have a real impact on the society through research and innovation.

### Mission

- ✓ To offer academic programs of international standards and recruit highly qualified faculty members who value teaching and research.
- ✓ To create a collaborative environment open to the free exchange of ideas, where research, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship can flourish
- ✓ To build collaboration with international universities of highest standards.
- ✓ To instill in the students, the desire to behave ethically.
- ✓ To promote among its faculty members, staff and students the desire to serve the community at large.



## Facts and Figures

### CAMPUS

Two campuses, the main campus is located in Jenin, and the other campus is located in Ramallah - Al Rayhan neighborhood.

### ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Bachelor's

32

Masters

15

PhD

2

Higher Specialization  
and High Diploma

4

### ENROLLED STUDENTS

Bachelor's

10,271

Graduate Studies

724

Total

10,995

### ALUMNI

The total number of alumni in various disciplines since the establishment of the university in 2000 until the academic year 2017/2018 is about

14,688

Male and Female Student



## Equality

AAUP fully supports students' and employees' unions and provides them a safe and a friendly environment where they can discuss their rights and what they need including their elections. Moreover, the university accepts students from both genders and every specialization is open for both males and females, in addition to that, there's no any kind of discrimination between both genders in the hiring process.

## Well-being and Health

The Arab American University has a high ability to highlight and improve the university life of students on its campuses, as the university campus abounds with many interactive opportunities to meet new friends and discover new talents to make a difference in student life.

The Deanship of Student Affairs is a great resource for helping students achieve a distinguished student life in the Arab American University campus.

Regarding the health aspect, the university has a medical clinic for students and staff equipped with suitable equipment and staff.

Moreover, the university newly received the accreditation of the specialization of Medicine from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, so it will provide the Palestinian market with more talented and powerful doctors, in addition to the other health-related programs in the University.

## Waste Treatment

There is a careful separation of food waste and plastic waste in the university. Moreover, the University provides several paper shreds to separate paper. In addition to that, the university has several practices to reduce paper use.

Regarding medical waste, the University collects medical waste that comes mostly from the College of Dentistry and the labs in a special container. Moreover, organic and non-organic waste are disposed after they are collected through burial.

## Wastewater Treatment

AAUP commitment to achieving and spreading the sustainability culture does not stop. When it comes to clean water, sanitation and wastes, it's crucial to protect the health and safety of the university faculty, students, visitors and even the community in terms of wastewater.

The university adopts a wastewater treatment plant (station) that solves the issue of 13000 beneficiaries, this was adopted due to the lack of wastewater stations in the area, and this also leads to the suffering of the residents of the area surrounding the university and the agricultural lands from environmental and health damage due to the disposal of untreated wastewater in the open agricultural areas. The importance of this project is summarized in:

1. Treatment of wastewater resulting from the activities in the University, which amounts to about 105 cubic meters per day.
2. The purification plant-station will protect the agricultural lands in the region from seepage tanks that empty their loads into the environment and pollute them. The plant will maintain food security for farmers.
3. The purification plant will preserve public health from diseases resulting from untreated wastewater disposal into the environment.

4. The treatment plant will provide about 100 cubic meters per day of treated water for the purposes of irrigation of green spaces in the university, agricultural research and greenhouses to be constructed for research and academic purposes.
5. The purification plant will be part of the activities of the research center for smart agriculture at the university, and this center will increase the capabilities of Palestinian farmers in the subject of smart agriculture.
6. A plastic house will be established that will be controlled by modern technology with regard to irrigation, fertilization and temperatures. The treated wastewater will be used to irrigate the crops inside the greenhouse to teach farmers about smart farming patterns.

The main objective of establishing a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is to provide an alternative water source for AAUP to fill the deficit, provide water for agriculture and protect the environment and health from pollution of sewage.



## Climate and Environment

AAUP is highly committed to doing its best in communicating the sustainability culture and behavior related to nature. The university also adopts best acts towards studying and saving plants, animals and ecosystems.

The University established The Climate Change and Environmental Technology Center of Excellence, which is an influential center with regard to climate change issues and challenges, in addition to providing strategic solutions and advice to decision-makers and policy-makers in Palestine in relation to climate change and its impacts. The Center of Excellence for Climate Change and Environmental Technology is the base for many scientific analyzes and data integration, and thus the center provides an opportunity for creativity, innovation and communication, as it works to build partnerships in order to address climate challenges with the latest available environmental technology technologies. The following picture shows one of the center's activities:



## Rainwater

### Jenin:

There's a 2000 m<sup>3</sup> rainwater tank for the football field, the hall and the swimming pool. There are 8 underground tanks distributed over the buildings, with a total volume of 1,450 cubic meters, meaning that the total amount of rainwater collected per year is 3,450 cubic meters, and about a third of what is required of water to irrigate crops and gardens.

### Ramallah:

Rainwater is collected from the roofs of buildings in a 2300 m<sup>3</sup> collection tank due to natural flow. Then it is pumped to a 1300 m<sup>3</sup> tank in a high place and then to the buildings to be used in the toilets (FLUSHING).



## Energy

AAUP is also committed to produce clean energy, reduce energy consumption as possible and provide green energy alternatives. It also teaches several relevant courses and programs related to renewable energy. The University has several solar panel systems implemented on the rooftops and it also invests in other future projects.

In addition to the pre-mentioned efforts, the University uses several systems to monitor the energy in all of its facilities, including lighting, ventilation and devices electricity usage.

