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### 1. Policy Statement and References:

Tishk International University (TIU) is committed to promoting environmental sustainability and addressing climate change through integrated institutional practices in education, research, campus operations, and community engagement. The University recognizes its responsibility to contribute to sustainable development in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and to global climate action.

TIU aligns its sustainability strategy with the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 6 (Clean Water), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 11 (Sustainable Cities), 12 (Responsible Consumption), and 13 (Climate Action).

#### 1.1. References

##### 1.1.1. International Frameworks and Conventions

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Paris Agreement
- Kyoto Protocol
- UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development
- ISO 14001
- ISO 21001
- ISO 45001
- European Standards and Guidelines ESG 2015

##### 1.1.2. National and Regional References

- Iraqi Environmental Protection and Improvement Law No. 27 (2009)
- **Kurdistan Region Environmental Protection and Improvement Law No. 8 (2008)**
- Iraqi National Development Plan
- Kurdistan Regional Government environmental regulations
- **Erbil 2050 Sustainable Urban Master Plan**

### 2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Establish a structured and measurable framework for sustainability and climate action
- Integrate sustainability principles into all university functions
- Support national environmental priorities and global climate commitments
- Promote a culture of environmental responsibility among students and staff



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### 3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All academic and administrative units
- All staff, students, contractors, and visitors
- All campus facilities, operations, and activities
- All partnerships and external engagements

### 4. Definitions

- **Sustainability:** Meeting present needs without compromising future generations
- **Climate Action:** Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate impacts
- **Carbon Footprint:** Total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly or indirectly
- **Environmental Management:** Systematic approach to minimizing environmental impact

### 5. Guiding Principles

TIU adopts the following principles:

- **Alignment with Global Frameworks:** Including the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- **Local Relevance:** Addressing environmental challenges specific to Iraq (water scarcity, heat, urban growth)
- **Precautionary Approach:** Prevent environmental harm where possible
- **Resource Efficiency:** Optimize use of water, energy, and materials
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Involve internal and external stakeholders
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Regular monitoring and reporting

### 6. Strategic Pillars and Objectives

#### 6.1 Sustainable Campus and Infrastructure

TIU shall:

- Design, construct, and maintain buildings using sustainable standards
- Improve energy efficiency through smart systems and retrofitting
- Expand use of renewable energy (e.g., solar systems where feasible)
- Implement water-saving technologies (low-flow fixtures, reuse systems)
- Maintain green spaces and enhance biodiversity

#### Targets (5-year indicative):

- Reduce electricity consumption per capita by 20%
- Reduce water consumption by 25%
- Increase green campus area by 15%



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### 6.2 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

TIU commits to:

- Developing a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory
- Reducing emissions through operational efficiency
- Supporting climate-resilient infrastructure
- Incorporating climate risk assessments into planning

#### Targets:

- Establish baseline carbon footprint within 2 years
- Reduce emissions intensity by 15% within 5 years

### 6.3 Sustainable Resource Management

#### Energy Management

- Promote energy-efficient equipment and practices
- Implement awareness campaigns on energy conservation

#### Water Management

- Monitor water consumption across campus
- Promote reuse and recycling of water where feasible

#### Waste Management

- Implement waste segregation (paper, plastic, hazardous, organic)
- Promote recycling and reduce single-use plastics
- Ensure safe disposal of laboratory and medical waste

### 6.4 Sustainable Education and Curriculum Integration

TIU shall:

- Integrate sustainability and climate topics into all relevant programs
- Encourage interdisciplinary sustainability education
- Promote project-based learning addressing real environmental challenges

### 6.5 Research and Innovation

TIU shall:

- Support research addressing climate change, renewable energy, and sustainability
- Encourage publication in high-impact journals
- Promote innovation in green technologies and sustainable practices

### 6.6 Community Engagement and National Contribution

TIU shall:

- Support initiatives such as the Erbil 2050 Sustainable Urban Master Plan
- Collaborate with government entities and NGOs



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- Conduct public awareness campaigns
- Provide consultancy and research support to national sustainability efforts

### 6.7 Sustainable Procurement

TIU shall:

- Prioritize environmentally friendly products and services
- Consider lifecycle impacts in procurement decisions
- Encourage suppliers to adopt sustainable practices

### 6.8 Transportation and Mobility

TIU shall:

- Promote carpooling and shared transportation
- Encourage walking and cycling within campus
- Explore low-emission transportation options

## 7. Governance Structure

### 7.1 Sustainability Committee

A dedicated Sustainability Committee shall be established, consisting of representatives from:

- Academic departments
- Maintenance and Infrastructure
- ISO 21001 Office
- Health and Safety Committee
- Student body

#### Responsibilities:

- Develop sustainability strategies and action plans
- Monitor implementation and performance
- Report progress to university leadership

### 7.2 Roles and Responsibilities

- **Board of Trustees / University Leadership:** Strategic oversight and policy approval
- **President and Vice Deans:** Implementation and monitoring
- **ISO 21001 Office:** Integration into quality management system
- **Health and Safety Committee:** Environmental and safety compliance
- **Operational Units:** Implementation of sustainability practices
- **Academic Staff:** Curriculum integration and research
- **Students:** Active participation and awareness



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### 8. Implementation Framework

#### 8.1 Action Plans

- Annual sustainability action plans shall be developed
- Each unit shall define specific objectives and KPIs

#### 8.2 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Examples include:

- Energy consumption per student
- Water usage per building
- Waste recycling rate
- Number of sustainability-related courses
- Number of sustainability research publications

#### 8.3 Monitoring and Reporting

- Quarterly internal monitoring
- Annual sustainability report publication
- Benchmarking against international rankings (e.g., THE Impact Rankings)

#### 8.4 Training and Awareness

- Conduct regular workshops and awareness campaigns
- Provide training for staff and students on sustainability practices

### 9. Risk Management

TIU shall:

- Identify environmental risks (heatwaves, water shortages)
- Develop mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Integrate sustainability into risk management systems

### 10. Compliance and Alignment

TIU commits to compliance with:

- National environmental laws and regulations
- International standards including:
  - ISO 14001
  - ISO 21001
  - ISO 45001
- Academic frameworks such as the Bologna Process and ESG 2015



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### 11. Continuous Improvement

TIU shall:

- Regularly review sustainability performance
- Update policies based on technological and regulatory developments
- Engage in international collaborations and benchmarking

### 12. Review and Approval

This policy shall be reviewed every three (3) years or earlier if required by changes in regulations, institutional priorities, or environmental conditions.

Approved by:

**Asst. Prof. Dr. Mehmet Ozdemir**

**Vice President, Tishk International University (TIU)**

**Date:** 12/03/2024