

Sustainability and climate action policy

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1. Purpose

The primary objective of this policy is to underscore BHOS's commitment to sustainability and climate action. With climate change posing a palpable threat to our lives and the future of our community, BHOS seeks to integrate sustainable practices across its operations. Through the implementation of this policy, the university aims to cultivate a culture of environmental responsibility among its community members, thereby making a meaningful contribution to global initiatives focused on environmental protection and mitigating climate change.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all aspects of BHOS operations, encompassing academic, administrative, and infrastructure-related activities. It extends to the entire university community, including students, faculty, staff, and external partners.

The scope includes:

- ✓ Academic Programs
- ✓ Campus Operations
- ✓ Infrastructure Development
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Community Engagement
- ✓ Reporting and Monitoring
- ✓ Continuous Improvement
- ✓ Partnerships

3. Policy Statement

BHOS is dedicated to adopting and promoting sustainable practices in all its endeavors. The university is committed to minimizing its environmental impact, advancing social responsibility, and preparing students to become leaders in sustainable development. BHOS recognizes the interconnectedness of global challenges and is determined to contribute positively to the well-being of the planet.

4. Goals

- ✓ Carbon Neutrality: Aim to achieve carbon neutrality within the next decade through energy-efficient technologies and offsetting emissions.
- ✓ Renewable Energy: Increase the share of renewable energy sources in the university's energy portfolio.
- ✓ Waste Reduction: Increase waste diversion rates through improved recycling and composting programs, with the goal of reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills.
- ✓ Resource Efficiency: Implement measures to reduce water and energy consumption across campus.
- ✓ **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Integrate sustainable design principles in new construction projects and renovations. Prioritize environmentally friendly materials and technologies in all infrastructure development
- ✓ **Sustainable Governance:** Establish a dedicated Sustainability Office to oversee the policy's implementation and coordinate sustainability efforts campus-wide. Implement sustainable governance practices to ensure that decision-making processes consider environmental impacts and align with the university's sustainability goals.
- ✓ Curriculum Integration: Embed sustainability principles across academic programs.
- ✓ Transportation: Encourage the use of eco-friendly transportation options among the university community.
- ✓ **Biodiversity Conservation:** Develop and implement programs to preserve and enhance biodiversity on campus.
- ✓ **Community Engagement:** Collaborate with local communities to address environmental challenges collectively.
- ✓ **Monitoring and Reporting:** Establish a system for regularly monitoring and reporting the university's environmental impact.
- ✓ **Continuous Improvement:** Regularly review and update sustainability goals based on advancements in technology and best practices.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

University Leadership: Provide strategic direction and allocate resources support sustainability initiatives. Ensure that sustainability goals are integrated into the university's overall vision and planning.

Faculty and Staff: Incorporate sustainability principles into teaching, research, and administrative practices. Support student-led sustainability initiatives and projects.

Students: Actively participate in sustainability programs, initiatives, and events. Advocate for sustainability measures and practices within the university community.

Facilities Management: Implement energy-saving measures and sustainable practices in campus operations. Ensure that buildings and infrastructure meet sustainability standards and certifications.

Sustainability Office: Oversee the implementation of the Sustainability and Climate Action Policy. Coordinate sustainability efforts across departments and units within the university.

Community Engagement Team: Foster partnerships with local communities, NGOs, and government agencies to address sustainability challenges. Organize outreach activities and events to engage the wider community in sustainability initiatives.

Monitoring and Reporting Team: Collect data on environmental performance and progress toward sustainability goals. Prepare regular reports on key sustainability metrics and outcomes.

6. Procedures

Policy Implementation: Establish a dedicated Sustainability Office responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Sustainability and Climate Action Policy. Develop an implementation plan outlining specific actions, timelines, and responsible parties for each sustainability goal and objective. Allocate adequate resources, including funding, personnel, and technology, to support the implementation of sustainability initiatives.

Stakeholder Engagement: Engage with stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, local communities, and industry partners, to solicit input, build consensus, and foster collaboration in sustainability efforts. Establish communication

channels and feedback mechanisms to facilitate ongoing dialogue and engagement with stakeholders.

Training and Capacity Building: Provide training and capacity-building programs for university staff and students to enhance awareness and understanding of sustainability principles, practices, and initiatives. Offer specialized training sessions on topics such as energy conservation, waste reduction, sustainable transportation, and climate resilience.

Integration into Operations: Integrate sustainability considerations into the university's operational procedures, including procurement practices, facility management, and campus planning. Develop guidelines and criteria for evaluating the sustainability performance of vendors, contractors, and suppliers.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Establish monitoring mechanisms to track progress towards sustainability goals, including key performance indicators (KPIs) related to energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, waste generation, and water usage. Conduct regular evaluations to assess the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives, identify areas for improvement, and make data-driven decisions to optimize resource allocation and strategy implementation.

Compliance and Reporting: Ensure compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and industry standards related to sustainability and environmental stewardship. Prepare comprehensive reports on sustainability performance, progress towards goals, and key achievements to communicate outcomes to internal and external stakeholders.

Continuous Improvement: Foster a culture of continuous improvement by soliciting feedback, conducting regular reviews, and incorporating lessons learned into future sustainability planning and decision-making processes. Periodically review and update procedures and protocols to reflect emerging best practices, technological advancements, and changing environmental conditions.

7. Compliance and Oversight

BHOS ensures policy adherence through rigorous compliance measures, aligning operations with sustainability standards and regulatory requirements. Internal audits identify areas for improvement, while oversight committees provide guidance and accountability. External reporting fosters transparency, upholding ethical standards and promoting continuous

improvement. These efforts integrate compliance into BHOS's sustainability governance, driving progress towards environmental goals.

8. Training and Awareness

Through comprehensive training and awareness initiatives, BHOS will empower its community members to become active agents of change, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to drive sustainable practices and contribute to the university's sustainability goals.

9. Enforcement

BHOS employs strict enforcement measures to uphold policy adherence and accountability. Clear guidelines and consequences for non-compliance are established, overseen by designated authorities. Regular monitoring and audits swiftly address violations, reinforcing BHOS's commitment to sustainability and fostering a culture of responsibility.

10. Policy Review

This policy will be subject to periodic review to align with emerging sustainability standards and global best practices. Revisions will be made in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the leadership of SOCAR, to ensure ongoing commitment to sustainability and climate action at BHOS.