

Advancing Sustainability: A Roadmap for Asia Pacific University's Commitment to Sustainability Principles, Plans & Goals

Executive Summary

Asia Pacific University (APU) recognizes the critical importance of Sustainability aspects of sustainability in fulfilling its role as an institution of higher learning and a responsible member of society. This report outlines why sustainability is a priority for APU, the benefits it brings, and the university's commitment to a sustainable future. It also discusses global trends, rankings, and the impact on student choice. Additionally, it explores APU's social license to operate, its current sustainability maturity level, and the concept of materiality in sustainability reporting. The report highlights the importance of double materiality for APU and presents a materiality map and gap analysis. It further details APU's current sustainability actions, including research and teaching initiatives and the university's role as a living lab for sustainability practices. The report also addresses how APU operationalizes sustainability, emphasizing sustainable decision-making and accountability, as well as performance reporting. It concludes with proposed next steps for APU's sustainability journey.

Why sustainability?

Sustainability is not just a buzzword; it is a fundamental principle that guides responsible decision-making and ensures the well-being of current and future generations. For APU, sustainability is essential because it aligns with our core values of excellence, integrity, and social responsibility. By integrating sustainability into our operations, we can reduce our environmental impact, enhance social equity, and improve governance practices.

Benefits

Adopting sustainable practices offers numerous benefits for APU. It enhances our reputation as a socially responsible institution, attracts top talent, and strengthens stakeholder relationships. Moreover, sustainability initiatives can lead to cost savings, operational efficiencies, and innovation opportunities. Ultimately, embracing sustainability contributes to a better world for all.

Our sustainable future

As we strive for a sustainable future, APU is committed to aligning with global trends and rankings that emphasize sustainability performance. By integrating sustainability into our strategic planning and decision-making processes, we can enhance our competitiveness and meet the evolving expectations of students, staff, and society.

Global trends, rankings, and student choice

APU recognizes that sustainability is a key factor in student choice and institutional rankings. Students are increasingly seeking universities that demonstrate a commitment to sustainability, both in their operations and academic programs. By prioritizing sustainability, APU can attract and retain top students, faculty, and staff, enhancing our reputation and impact.

APU's social license to operate

APU acknowledges that our operations impact the environment and society. Therefore, we must earn and maintain a social license to operate by engaging with stakeholders, addressing their concerns, and contributing positively to the communities in which we operate. By aligning our practices with societal expectations, we can enhance our legitimacy and ensure long-term sustainability.

Sustainability Maturity

APU's sustainability maturity level is currently in the development phase. While we have made significant progress in integrating sustainability into our operations and culture, there is still room for improvement. By continuing to prioritize sustainability and implementing targeted initiatives, we aim to advance to a leadership position in sustainability maturity.

Materiality

Materiality is a key concept in sustainability reporting, as it helps organizations identify and prioritize the most significant ESG issues. APU recognizes the importance of materiality in guiding our sustainability efforts and reporting. By focusing on material issues, we can enhance our impact and credibility in sustainability reporting.

Double materiality

Double materiality refers to the impact of ESG issues on both the organization and the broader economy and society. APU recognizes the importance of double materiality and its implications for our sustainability strategy. By considering both internal and external impacts, we can better address the interconnected challenges of sustainability.

Why should APU take double materiality seriously?

Taking double materiality seriously is crucial for APU because it enables us to understand and manage our impact on the economy, society, and the environment. By considering both internal and external factors, we can ensure that our sustainability efforts are meaningful, relevant, and impactful.

Materiality Map

APU's materiality map outlines the most significant ESG issues facing the university and its stakeholders. By mapping these issues, we can prioritize our sustainability efforts and allocate resources effectively. The materiality map serves as a guide for decision-making and helps us focus on issues that matter most to our stakeholders.

Gap analysis and implications of materiality

APU has conducted a gap analysis to identify areas where we can improve our sustainability performance. The analysis highlights areas where we are excelling and areas where there is room for improvement. By addressing these gaps, we can enhance our sustainability performance and meet the expectations of our stakeholders.

Our Current Actions

APU is already taking significant steps to integrate sustainability into our operations and culture. Our research and teaching initiatives focus on sustainability, and we are committed to using our campus as a living lab for sustainability practices. Additionally, we are working to operationalize sustainability across all aspects of our university.

Research and teaching

APU is committed to advancing sustainability through our research and teaching activities. Our faculty members are conducting cutting-edge research on sustainability topics, and our students are learning about sustainability principles and practices in their coursework. By integrating sustainability into our academic programs, we are preparing the next generation of leaders to address global challenges.

Cultivating a Sustainable Ecosystem of Practice

APU sees its campus as an ecosystem for sustainability practices. We are implementing sustainable technologies and practices on campus, such as renewable energy systems, green buildings, and waste reduction programs. By showcasing these initiatives, we aim to inspire others to adopt sustainable practices in their own lives and work.

Operationalizing sustainability

APU is committed to operationalizing sustainability across all aspects of our university. This includes integrating sustainability into our procurement practices, facilities management, and governance structures. By embedding sustainability into our operations, we can ensure that it remains a core value of our institution.

Sustainable decision-making and accountability

APU is committed to making sustainable decisions and being accountable for our actions. We have established clear governance structures and processes to ensure that sustainability is considered in all decision-making processes. By holding ourselves accountable, we can track our progress and continuously improve our sustainability performance.

Performance reporting

APU recognizes the importance of transparent and accurate performance reporting. We regularly report on our sustainability performance, including our progress towards our goals and targets. By sharing this information with our stakeholders, we can demonstrate our commitment to sustainability and hold ourselves accountable for our actions.

Consultation

APU values the input of its stakeholders and regularly consults with them on sustainability issues. We engage with students, staff, alumni, and the community to gather feedback and ideas for improving our sustainability performance. By listening to our stakeholders, we can ensure that our sustainability efforts are relevant and impactful.

Next steps

Looking ahead, APU will continue to prioritize sustainability and integrate it into all aspects of our operations and culture. We will focus on implementing our draft Sustainability Policy, enhancing our ESG reporting, and aligning our actions with the Sustainable Development Goals. By taking these next steps, APU will further demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and contribute to a more sustainable future for all.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Sustainability Policy

Asia Pacific University Sustainability Policy

1. Introduction

Asia Pacific University (APU) is committed to promoting sustainability in all aspects of its operations. This policy outlines APU's commitment to Sustainability principles and sets out the framework for achieving our sustainability goals.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all aspects of APU's operations, including but not limited to, campus facilities, procurement practices, curriculum development, and community engagement.

3. Policy Statement

APU recognizes that sustainability is a key priority for the university and is committed to:

- Reducing our environmental impact by minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing waste generation, and conserving resources.
- Promoting social responsibility by fostering a culture of inclusivity, diversity, and respect for human rights.
- Enhancing governance practices by promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical behavior.

4. Goals and Objectives

APU's sustainability goals and objectives are aligned with our Sustainable University Plan: 2025 and include:

- Achieving carbon neutrality by 2025 through energy efficiency measures, renewable energy projects, and carbon offsetting.
- Implementing a zero waste to landfill policy by 2025 through waste reduction, recycling, and composting initiatives.
- Enhancing biodiversity and green spaces on campus by implementing a biodiversity action plan and increasing green infrastructure.
- Promoting sustainable transportation options and reducing single-occupancy vehicle use through infrastructure improvements and incentives.
- Strengthening social responsibility and governance practices through sustainable procurement, stakeholder engagement, and transparency measures.

5. Implementation

To achieve these goals, APU will (or has already):

- Establish a Sustainability Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the Sustainable University Plan: 2025 and monitor progress towards sustainability goals.

- Appoint a Sustainability Officer responsible for coordinating sustainability initiatives and engaging with stakeholders.
- Integrate sustainability principles into the curriculum across all disciplines and promote sustainability education and awareness among students, faculty, and staff.
- Invest in renewable energy sources, energy-efficient technologies, and sustainable building practices to reduce our environmental impact.
- Collaborate with local communities, NGOs, and industry partners to implement sustainability initiatives and share best practices.
- Develop key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress towards sustainability goals and regularly report on our sustainability performance.

Appendix 2 – ESG Reporting definitions

ESG Reporting Definitions

1. Scope 1 Emissions:

- Definition: Direct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by APU, such as on-campus fuel combustion and vehicle fleets.
- Reporting Requirement: Report annual Scope 1 emissions in metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e).

2. Scope 2 Emissions:

- Definition: Indirect GHG emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heat, or steam consumed by APU.
- Reporting Requirement: Report annual Scope 2 emissions in metric tons of CO₂e and disclose the emission factor used for calculations.

3. Scope 3 Emissions:

- Definition: Indirect GHG emissions that occur as a result of APU's activities but are from sources not owned or controlled by APU, such as business travel, commuting, and purchased goods and services.
- Reporting Requirement: Report relevant Scope 3 emissions categories in metric tons of CO₂e, using appropriate calculation methodologies.

4. Waste Diversion Rate:

- Definition: The percentage of waste that is diverted from landfill through recycling, composting, or other waste reduction initiatives.
- Reporting Requirement: Report annual waste diversion rate as a percentage of total waste generated.

5. Renewable Energy Use:

- Definition: The percentage of APU's energy consumption that is sourced from renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, or hydro power.
- Reporting Requirement: Report annual renewable energy use as a percentage of total energy consumption.

6. Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP):

- Definition: A plan that outlines APU's commitments and actions to enhance biodiversity and protect local flora and fauna.
- Reporting Requirement: Report progress on BAP implementation, including measures taken and outcomes achieved.

7. Sustainable Procurement Policy:

- Definition: A policy that guides APU's procurement practices to prioritize the purchase of sustainable, ethical, and locally sourced products and services.

- Reporting Requirement: Report adherence to the sustainable procurement policy and highlight key initiatives or partnerships that support sustainable procurement practices.

8. Stakeholder Engagement:

- Definition: The process of engaging with stakeholders to gather feedback, input, and perspectives on sustainability initiatives and performance.
- Reporting Requirement: Report on stakeholder engagement activities, including methods used, key findings, and actions taken in response to stakeholder feedback.

9. Transparency and Accountability:

- Definition: The practice of being open and transparent about APU's sustainability performance, governance practices, and decision-making processes.
- Reporting Requirement: Provide regular and transparent reporting on sustainability performance, including progress towards goals, challenges faced, and lessons learned.

10. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

- Definition: Quantitative measures used to track progress towards sustainability goals and objectives.
- Reporting Requirement: Report on KPIs related to energy efficiency, waste reduction, renewable energy use, and other key sustainability metrics outlined in the Sustainable University Plan: 2025.

Appendix 3 – APU by 2025 Plan on a page

Asia Pacific University's Sustainable University Plan: 2025

Vision Statement:

Asia Pacific University (APU) aims to be a global leader in sustainability, integrating Sustainability principles into all aspects of its operations by 2025.

Goals and Objectives:

1. Carbon Neutrality:

- **Goal:** Achieve carbon neutrality by 2025.
- **Objectives:**
 - Reduce Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% compared to 2020 levels.
 - Offset remaining emissions through verified carbon offset projects.
 - Implement renewable energy projects on campus to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

2. Waste Management:

- **Goal:** Achieve zero waste to landfill by 2025.
- **Objectives:**
 - Increase waste diversion rate to 80% through recycling, composting, and waste reduction initiatives.
 - Implement a circular economy approach, including reuse and repair programs.

3. Energy Efficiency:

- **Goal:** Improve energy efficiency by 20% compared to 2020 levels.
- **Objectives:**
 - Implement energy-efficient technologies and practices across campus buildings.
 - Conduct regular energy audits to identify and address areas for improvement.

4. Sustainable Transportation:

- **Goal:** Promote sustainable transportation options and reduce single-occupancy vehicle use.
- **Objectives:**
 - Expand bike infrastructure and promote cycling as a viable transportation option.
 - Provide incentives for carpooling and the use of public transportation.

5. Biodiversity and Green Spaces:

- **Goal:** Enhance biodiversity and green spaces on campus.
- **Objectives:**
 - Implement a biodiversity action plan to protect and enhance local flora and fauna.
 - Increase green spaces on campus, including the creation of community gardens and green roofs.

6. Social Responsibility and Governance:

- **Goal:** Strengthen social responsibility and governance practices.
- **Objectives:**
 - Develop and implement a sustainable procurement policy that prioritizes local, ethical, and sustainable products.
 - Enhance stakeholder engagement and transparency through regular reporting and feedback mechanisms.

Implementation Plan:

1. Governance and Leadership:

- Establish a Sustainability Steering Committee comprised of key stakeholders to oversee the implementation of the plan.
- Appoint a Sustainability Officer responsible for coordinating sustainability efforts across campus.

2. Education and Awareness:

- Integrate sustainability principles into the curriculum across all disciplines.
- Conduct regular sustainability workshops, events, and campaigns to raise awareness among students, faculty, and staff.

3. Infrastructure and Operations:

- Invest in renewable energy sources, such as solar panels and wind turbines, to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Upgrade building infrastructure to improve energy efficiency and reduce water consumption.

4. Partnerships and Collaboration:

- Collaborate with local communities, NGOs, and industry partners to implement sustainability initiatives and share best practices.
- Join international sustainability networks and initiatives to stay updated on global trends and opportunities.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Develop key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress towards sustainability goals.
- Conduct regular audits and assessments to track performance and identify areas for improvement.

Timeline and Milestones:

- By 2021: Establish Sustainability Steering Committee and appoint Sustainability Officer.
- By 2022: Conduct baseline assessments for GHG emissions, waste generation, and energy use.
- By 2023: Implement initial sustainability initiatives, such as energy efficiency upgrades and waste reduction programs.
- By 2025: Achieve carbon neutrality, zero waste to landfill, and other key sustainability goals outlined in the plan.

Appendix 4 – Alignment to Sustainable Development Goals

Action	Goal	Objectives	SDG Contribution
Carbon Neutrality	Achieve carbon neutrality by 2025	- Reduce Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions by 50% compared to 2020 levels	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy SDG 13: Climate Action
		- Offset remaining emissions through verified carbon offset projects	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy SDG 13: Climate Action
		- Implement renewable energy projects on campus to reduce reliance on fossil fuels	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy SDG 13: Climate Action
Waste Management	Achieve zero waste to landfill by 2025	- Increase waste diversion rate to 80% through recycling, composting, and waste reduction initiatives	SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
		- Implement a circular economy approach, including reuse and repair programs	SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
Energy and Water Efficiency	Improve energy efficiency by 20%	- Implement energy-efficient technologies and practices across campus buildings	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
		- Conduct regular energy audits to identify and address areas for improvement	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
	Reduce water	- Upgrade building infrastructure to reduce water consumption	SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
Sustainable Transportation	Promote sustainable transportation options	- Expand bike infrastructure and promote cycling as a viable transportation option	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
		- Provide incentives for carpooling and the use of public transportation	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Biodiversity and Green Spaces	Enhance biodiversity and green spaces on campus	- Increase green spaces on campus, including the creation of community gardens and green roofs	SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
Social Responsibility and Governance	Strengthen social responsibility and governance practices	- Develop and implement a sustainable procurement policy that prioritizes local, ethical, and sustainable products	SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
		- Enhance stakeholder engagement and transparency through regular reporting and feedback mechanisms	SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals
		- Establish a Sustainability Steering Committee and appoint Sustainability Officer	SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals
		- Collaborate with local communities, NGOs, and industry partners to implement sustainability initiatives and share best practices	SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals
Education and Awareness	Enhance Quality Education through	- Integrate sustainability principles into the curriculum across all disciplines	SDG 4: Quality Education
		- Conduct regular sustainability workshops, events, and campaigns to raise awareness among students, faculty, and staff	SDG 4: Quality Education