



SDG 17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Sustainable development is the responsibility of every part of society, across the world. It cannot be achieved without linkages, across the goals, but also between institutions, governments, companies, NGOs, and people. This is why AUS supports the SDGs through collaboration with other countries, universities, local government and international NGOs to promote best practices and the publication of data and evidence.

17.2 Relationships to support the goals

17.2.1 Relationships with regional NGOs and government for SDG policy

AUS actively collaborates with regional and national government entities, non-governmental organizations, and international networks to support the development, implementation, and monitoring of SDG-related policies. The university contributes through research partnerships, expert consultation, data sharing, and participation in national and regional sustainability initiatives, directly informing policy and adaptive management aligned with the UAE's Vision 2031 and SDG targets.

Key Collaborations:

- Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAEE)
- Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA)
- Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD)
- UAE Alliance for Climate Action (UACA)
- UAE Universities Climate Network (UCN)
- Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC)
- UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership
- Emirates Nature–WWF
- Emirates Environmental Group (EEG)

Through these partnerships, AUS plays a policy-informing role by identifying sustainability challenges, modelling future environmental and social scenarios, and contributing to adaptive management strategies that guide UAE and regional SDG implementation.

17.2.2 Cross sectoral dialogue about SDGs

AUS actively initiates and participates in cross-sectoral dialogues on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including international, cross-sectoral conferences that bring together representatives from government, NGOs, and other sectors.

Notable global conferences that AUS' has supported and participated in include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties, such as COP27, COP28, and COP29, as well as COY18, (Global Conference of Youth) the biggest and most substantial youth conference related to the multilateral UN climate processes under the banner of YOUNGO – The Official Youth Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Further details can be accessed below:

[COP27: American University of Sharjah students share plan for embedding sustainability awareness in higher education](#)

[Universities Climate Network Launched to Support Youth-Focused Objectives of COP28 UAE](#)

[American University of Sharjah to showcase climate credentials in lead-up to COP28](#)

[AUS leads UAE university discussions on student engagement in COP28](#)

[AUS to co-host Global Conference of Youth as part of COP28](#)

[AUS faculty showcase sustainable education initiatives at COP28: Bridging research, curriculum design and youth engagement](#)

[AUS at COP28: Empowering youth, advancing education and driving innovation](#)

[AUS student advocates for global climate action at COP29](#)

17.2.3 International collaboration data gathering for SDGs

AUS actively participates in international collaborations focused on gathering, measuring, and reporting data to support SDG progress monitoring. Through these partnerships, the university contributes to global databases, sustainability benchmarking, and policy-relevant research that informs progress toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Key Collaborations:

- Future17 SDG Challenge Program
- UN Global Compact
- Nature Positive Universities Network

These collaborations strengthen AUS's role in global SDG monitoring, evidence generation, and cross-institutional data exchange, advancing the university's contribution to sustainable development science.

17.2.4 Collaboration for SDG best practice

AUS participates in international and national forums to exchange research findings, evaluate comparative approaches, and develop best practices for addressing SDG challenges across higher education. The university contributes case studies, policy inputs, and workshop facilitation to strengthen collective SDG implementation.

Key Initiatives:

- UNESCO's South-South Universities Cooperation Network
- Majra CSR Fund ESG Workshop
- UAE Ministry of Education "Sustainability in Higher Education" Workshop

Through these collaborations, AUS promotes evidence-based best practice exchange, supports regional and global sustainability benchmarking, and contributes to shaping policy and practice frameworks for SDG implementation.

17.2.5 Collaboration with NGOs for SDGs

AUS partners with international and regional NGOs to advance the SDGs through student volunteering, applied research, and educational capacity building. These collaborations strengthen experiential learning and community impact while supporting SDG targets through shared action and data dissemination.

Key Collaborations:

- AUS took the **Nature Positive Universities Pledge**, a global initiative founded by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and University of Oxford in partnership with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Students have the opportunity to join the NPU Student Ambassador Program, with access to monthly green skills workshops on different biodiversity topics, networking with global peers, and volunteering opportunities to take actions on their campuses.
- AUS piloted **UNESCO's Greening with Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Bootcamp**, hosted by UNESCO IESALC, which is a flexible 16-week program tailored for university students and other higher education stakeholders from diverse sectors across the Global South. Student participants explore SDG 13 in relation to SDGs 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 17, gaining a comprehensive understanding of sustainable development.

- AUS is an advisory committee member to the **UAE Alliance for Climate Action (UACA)**, a coalition of organizations in the UAE focused on addressing climate change and advancing decarbonization among non-state actors. Dr. Steven Griffiths, Vice Chancellor for Research, is a member of the UACA Advisory Committee, where he shares AUS' research expertise to support UACA's latest initiatives such as the Road2.0 initiative, which aims to catalyze the decarbonization of commercial transport in the UAE.
- AUS is a founding member of the **UAE Universities Climate Network (UCN)**, and currently co-leads UCN's Campus Decarbonization initiative in collaboration with Ajman University. As part of this role, it has been actively guiding peer institutions to prepare for the new legal requirements through collaboration and capacity-building initiatives focused on data transparency, carbon accounting and other topics related to climate action. Most recently, the two universities launched the UCN Decarbonization Academy, a series of capacity-building workshops designed to build momentum on climate action and emissions reporting within the UAE's higher education landscape.
- **Emirates Nature–WWF**
- **Emirates Environmental Group (EEG)**

These partnerships enhance student engagement, knowledge transfer, and NGO–university collaboration, positioning AUS as an active contributor to global sustainability action and education for sustainable development (ESD).

17.4 Education for the SDGs

17.4.1 Education for SDGs commitment to meaningful education

AUS demonstrates a university-wide commitment to meaningful education on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by integrating sustainability principles and SDG awareness across its mandatory undergraduate curriculum and program-level learning outcomes. Sustainability and social responsibility are embedded as core competencies for all students, ensuring that education for sustainable development (ESD) is relevant and applicable to every graduate.

General Education Requirement – IEN 301

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Mindset: This mandatory course for all undergraduate students includes a specific sustainability learning outcome (LO 6): "Students must demonstrate an understanding of sustainability principles, especially as applied to innovation and entrepreneurship."

College of Engineering

Program Learning Outcome 4 (Catalogue p. 102) commits to offering programs and courses “critical to the sustainable development of society and the quality of life in the region.” All engineering degrees include mandatory sustainability-focused courses that embed environmental and social responsibility in design and innovation.

School of Business Administration

Program Learning Outcomes 2 and 5 (Catalogue p. 130) require that students develop “an awareness of social and environmental responsibility in the global marketplace” and “an understanding of societal and environmental needs in ethical, professional, and socially responsible business practice.” These are achieved through mandatory coursework in Business Ethics and Social Responsibility, required for all business majors.

17.4.2 Education for SDGs: specific courses on sustainability

AUS offers a range of dedicated programs and minors focused on sustainability and the SDGs across multiple disciplines. These courses integrate environmental science, policy, gender studies, and engineering, ensuring that sustainability education is embedded within both undergraduate and postgraduate learning opportunities.

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences and Sustainability (CAS)

A fully interdisciplinary degree integrating environmental sustainability with biology, chemistry, the humanities, and social sciences. Students engage in topics such as sustainable development, global climate change, renewable energy, environmental health, impact assessment, waste management, biodiversity conservation, and more. The program includes real-world research projects and internships addressing regional and global sustainability challenges.

Minor in Renewable Energy (CEN)

An interdisciplinary minor combining electrical and mechanical engineering to study renewable energy systems, including solar, wind, and energy conversion technologies, preparing students for the clean energy transition.

Minor in Environmental Policy (CAS)

Focuses on the social and environmental dimensions of sustainability, preparing students to design and analyze effective environmental and climate policies using interdisciplinary approaches.

Minor in Environmental Sciences (CAS)

Provides scientific breadth for addressing global environmental issues, emphasizing ecosystem resilience, environmental chemistry, and applied sustainability practices.

Minor in Environmental and Water Engineering (CEN)

Integrates engineering, chemistry, and biology to train students in protecting environmental and water resources through sustainable infrastructure design and management.

Minor in Women's Studies (CAS)

Promotes understanding of gender equity and social inclusion, key to achieving SDG 5 (Gender Equality), by exploring women's contributions and experiences in global and multicultural contexts.

PhD in Engineering – Engineering Systems Management (PhD-ESM)

A research-driven doctoral program addressing sustainability-linked challenges, including sustainable construction, supply chain optimization, and smart cities management. The program supports research collaborations with government and industry to advance innovation for sustainable development.

17.4.3 Education for SDGs in the wider community

AUS extends sustainability and SDG education beyond its campus through community outreach, alumni engagement, and humanitarian initiatives. These activities foster lifelong learning and promote sustainability literacy among alumni, local schools, and displaced communities.

Alumni Engagement

The AUS Alumni CEO Club is a dynamic networking platform where AUS graduates who have entered leadership can learn from each other and work together for the greater benefit of society. With over 30 founding members, the club showcases the exceptional achievements of AUS graduates while fostering meaningful connections that inspire innovation, collaboration and positive societal impact. Regular gatherings offer opportunities for meaningful engagement with leaders who are at the forefront of innovation and decision-making across industries, where collaboration fosters sustainable growth and opens doors to new possibilities. The AUS Alumni CEO Club's Learning and Events Cluster is chaired by Omnia Halawani, Co-CEO and Founder of GRFN, a consultancy delivering sustainable engineering and design solutions. Her expertise covers areas such as building performance, energy efficiency, sustainability and corporate responsibility.

Local Community Education

The Department of Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, along with the Office of Enrollment Management, Sharakah Program, invites Grade 8 to 12 high school students to celebrate AUS ENV Day 2024. This event provides a unique opportunity for students to increase their environmental and sustainability awareness, focusing on the crucial aspects of climate action and climate change. Participants will also learn about high-impact careers in the biological, chemical and environmental sciences within the environmental sustainability sector. Staff and students of all secondary schools are invited to attend the event for free, whether they choose to participate in competitions or not. This event is proudly sponsored by our esteemed Gold Sponsor, Henkel, along with our valued institutional advancement sponsors BEEAH Group, Petrofac and Sharjah National Oil Corporation (SNOC).

Support for Displaced People and Refugees

AUS contributes to community resilience and humanitarian awareness through initiatives such as:

- Ramadan Charitable Initiatives
- Tarahum with Gaza Campaign
- Pink October Health and Wellness Drives

These efforts provide educational, health, and social support to vulnerable and displaced populations, reinforcing AUS's values of compassion, inclusion, and global citizenship.