Qassim University جامعة القصيم **Policy and Procedures** **Sustainability/Climate Policy**	**POLICY ID: DQ-CL-21-1-2** **Approval date**: 23/05/2021 **Review date**: 20/06/2024 **Effective date**: 20/07/2021

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1. Sustainability: refers to the ability to maintain or improve certain processes or practices without depleting the resources or causing harm to the environment, economy, or society.

1.2. Climate: refers to the prevailing attitudes, behaviors, and standards within the University community that affect the well-being of its members.

2. PURPOSE

2.1. To foster a positive and supportive campus environment where all members feel safe, respected, and empowered to thrive academically, professionally, and personally.

2.2. To address negative issues that impact the campus climate, such as intolerance, bias, or lack of representation.

2.3. To demonstrate the university's commitment to addressing sustainability and climate issues, thereby building trust among students, faculty, staff, and external stakeholders.

3. POLICY

3.1. Setting targets for carbon neutrality by a specific date, often aiming for zero carbon emissions through energy conservation, renewable energy use, and offsets.

3.2. Transitioning campus energy sources to renewable energy, such as solar, wind, and geothermal.

3.3. Retrofitting existing buildings and constructing new ones to meet high energy-efficiency standards. Encouraging the use of energy-saving technologies, including LED lighting and smart HVAC systems.

3.4. Minimizing waste generation through composting, recycling, and reducing single-use plastics.

3.5. Promoting alternative transportation options like electric vehicles, biking, walking, and public transit.

3.6. Encouraging sustainable food practices, including sourcing food locally, offering plant-based meal options, and reducing food waste.

3.7. Incorporating sustainability and climate change topics into curricula and supporting research on climate solutions.

3.8. Developing green spaces, managing water sustainably, and implementing policies that reduce environmental degradation (e.g., water conservation efforts).

3.9. Engaging students, faculty, staff, and local communities in sustainability efforts, such as organizing climate action campaigns, hosting sustainability-themed events, and raising awareness about environmental issues.

3.10. Planning for the potential impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather, by ensuring campus infrastructure can withstand these changes and maintain safety for the community.

4. REASON FOR THE POLICY

The primary reason is to protect the environment from further degradation. This includes preserving biodiversity, reducing pollution, and conserving natural resources

5. PROCEDURES

5.1. Create specific action plans for each goal or target outlined in the policy. These action plans should include clear timelines, responsible parties, and required resources.

5.2. Assign roles and responsibilities for each aspect of the sustainability policy.

5.3. Integrate sustainability into everyday operations, including energy management, transportation, waste management, and procurement practices.

5.4. Identify the necessary resources, such as funding, personnel, and technology, to carry out the actions in the plan.

5.5. Offer training for faculty, staff, and students on the University's sustainability policies, practices, and goals.

5.6. Promote sustainability through university communications channels (websites, social media, newsletters) to raise awareness about initiatives.

5.7. Determine key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress toward the university's sustainability and climate action goals.

5.8. Collect data regularly (e.g., monthly, quarterly, or annually) on sustainability metrics. Use software tools or sustainability platforms to track and manage data.

5.9. Implement energy-saving practices across campus buildings and facilities.

5.10. Develop procedures for promoting sustainable transportation.

5.11. Develop procedures for waste reduction, recycling, and composting.

5.12. Implement water-saving measures such as low-flow faucets, water-efficient landscaping, and rainwater harvesting systems.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1. University Administration is responsible for implementing and enforcing policies, providing resources, and ensuring compliance with legal requirements.

6.2. Faculty and Staff expected to model inclusive behavior, report incidents, and support students.

6.3. Students are encouraged to participate in creating a positive climate, report concerns, and utilize available resources.

7. REVIEW

7.1. Regular review of policies and procedures every 3 years to ensure they are effective and up-to-date.

7.2. Channels for students, faculty, and staff to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the policies.

7.3. Commitment to continuous improvement based on feedback and evaluation results.

8. DISTRIBUTION

8.1. All deanships and Colleges of Qassim University.

8.2. Available on the University website.

Approved By: Date Signed: 20/06/2024

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