Climate Action Policy of Northern Technical University

Name of Policy: Climate Action Policy

Description of Policy:

This policy positions Northern Technical University as a national leader in sustainable technical education in Iraq. Through prioritizing renewable energy adoption, carbon reduction, green infrastructure, and climate resilience, the university aims to establish a model technical campus that promotes environmental responsibility among students and staff.

Policy Applies to: Staff and Students ✓

Policy Status: Revised ✓

Final Approval Authority: President

Governing Authority: Quality Assurance and University Performance Department – Sustainability Committee

1. Introduction

Northern Technical University acknowledges its institutional responsibility to address climate change and commits to progressing toward carbon neutrality by 2030. This policy defines the university's strategic framework for reducing environmental impact through emission reduction initiatives, sustainability programs, and long-term climate resilience planning. The policy aligns with:

• QS Sustainability Rankings criteria.
• United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
• The Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

2. Climate Impact Mitigation Strategy

A. Carbon Footprint Reduction (Toward Net-Zero by 2030)

• Transition to Renewable Energy: Increasing reliance on solar energy systems across university campuses.

• Smart Energy Management: Upgrading buildings with energy-efficient technologies such as LED lighting, smart HVAC systems, and motion sensors.
• Carbon Tracking & Reporting: Annual greenhouse gas emissions assessment following DEFRA and GHG Protocol standards.

B. Sustainable Transportation & Emission Reduction

• Reduction of fossil fuel-based transportation by 50% by 2030.
• Expansion of university transport services to reduce private vehicle dependency.
• Development of bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly pathways within campus areas.

C. Water Conservation & Management

• Progressive greywater recycling systems and partial sewage treatment implementation by 2030.
• Rainwater harvesting and smart irrigation technologies.
• Green infrastructure solutions supporting water retention and efficient drainage.

D. Sustainable Construction & Green Buildings

• New buildings designed according to recognized green building principles.
• Solar-assisted HVAC and lighting systems incorporated into future construction.
• Green roofs and vertical greenery to enhance insulation and air quality.

E. Waste Management & Circular Economy

• Progress toward a Zero-Waste Campus by 2025 through recycling and reuse programs.
• Gradual reduction of single-use plastics across campus facilities.
• Composting initiatives and structured waste sorting practices.

F. Greener Campus & Biodiversity Enhancement

• Expansion of green spaces by approximately 90% by 2030 to enhance carbon sequestration.
• Planting drought-resistant and environmentally adaptive trees.
• Support for sustainable urban agriculture and environmental learning zones.

G. Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

• Infrastructure designed to withstand extreme heat and dust conditions.
• Adoption of sustainable cooling technologies to reduce overall energy demand.

3. Measures for an Environmentally Considerate Campus

A. Compulsory Sustainability Participation (For Staff & Students)

• Mandatory energy conservation practices, including switching off unused equipment.
• Annual sustainability awareness and training programs.

• Digital-first documentation policy to reduce paper usage.
• Student participation in sustainability activities each semester.

B. Sustainable Laboratories & Research Facilities (2025)

- Energy-efficient lab equipment (low-energy freezers, LED lighting).
- Green Chemistry Practices: Reducing toxic chemical waste.
- Strict waste segregation & hazardous material recycling.

C. Tobacco-Free, Clean-Air Campus (2025)

•Tobacco-free university environment.
• Implementation of air quality monitoring systems and anti-pollution initiatives.

4. Future Targets (2024–2030 Roadmap)

Goal	Target Year	Implementation Strategy
Carbon Neutrality	2030	80% renewable energy, 50% transport reduction, carbon tracking
Zero Waste Campus	2025-2028	No single-use plastics, 100% recycling, composting
Water Neutrality	2030	100% greywater recycling, rainwater harvesting
Fully Green Campus	2030	90% increase in tree cover, urban farming
All New Buildings Green Certified	2025	LEED certification, green roofs & walls
Tobacco-Free Campus	2025	Health & environmental policies, awareness campaigns

5. Monitoring, Reporting, & Accountability

• Sustainability Office oversight responsible for implementation and monitoring.
• Annual public sustainability reporting covering emissions, energy, water, and waste performance.
• International collaborations supporting sustainability innovation and funding opportunities.

President of Northern Technical University

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