



Sustainable Commute & Travel Policy

Purpose

Building on the Iqra University's (IU) Environment Strategy Goal 4: Responsible & Resilient Campus (established in 2019), the dedicated policy for sustainable commute & travel policy is formulated for overall IU community traveling to & from the campuses to educate them in their contribution in the global emissions and the importance of choosing sustainable commute and traveling options.

Scope

This policy applies to all members of the Iqra University community, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors. It covers all transportation activities related to commuting to and from university campuses and university-related travel, both local and international.

Introduction

Iqra University's commitment towards protecting the environment and implementing sustainable measures in our everyday processes to reach Net Zero Target by 2030 - sets our strategic direction and enables future initiatives; following policy demonstrate this commitment and reinforces the environment targets set out in the overall University's Environment Strategy. Build on the targets of reducing on-campus carbon emissions from all vehicles by 60% by 2030 and integrates the practice of identifying and reporting emissions in Scope 1, 2, and 3; the policy aims to minimize the environmental impact of transportation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote a culture of sustainability across the university community.

As an educational institution, with its campuses located in two major industrial cities of Pakistan; its imperative for the overall functioning and well-being of our community to actively choose sustainable ways of traveling, reducing individual emission and air pollution. The university has limited owned transportation services, contributing to fairly less Scope 1 emissions however due to involvement of third-party intermediaries for the traveling, this ultimately increases Scope 3 emissions. Pertaining to this the university is dedicatedly educating and conducting numerous awareness sessions regarding Greenhouse Gas Emissions within the University.

Pertaining to this, dedicated targets has been set forth in continuity to the IU Environment Strategy Goal 4: Responsible & Resilient Campus (updated July 2023), the major targets for the year FY 2023 - 2024 is as follows;

1. Develop a dedicated framework for monitoring of Scope 1 & 3 across the campuses.
2. Collaborate and partner with Academic Institutions and Industries (national & international both) associated with Net Zero Emissions' studies and research to develop dedicated projects for reducing emissions at individual & organizational level.
3. Reducing on campus carbon emissions through vehicles by 60% by 2030.

Definitions

Greenhouse Gases (GHG) & GHG Effect: Greenhouse gases are those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that effectively absorb thermal infrared radiation, emitted by the Earth's surface, by the atmosphere itself and by clouds. Thus, greenhouse gases trap heat within the surface-troposphere system. This is called the greenhouse effect. Water vapor (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), methane (CH₄), and ozone (O₃) are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere.¹

Emissions: Emissions of GHG caused by human activities. These activities include the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, land use, livestock production, fertilisation, waste management and industrial processes.²

Scopes of Emissions: The GHG Protocol Corporate Standard classifies a company's GHG emissions into three 'scopes'. **Scope 1** emissions are direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. **Scope 2** emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy. **Scope 3** emissions are all indirect emissions (not included in scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions.³

Sustainable Commuting and Travel Strategies

1. Emphasize reducing non-essential travel to support the university's broader goal of reducing vehicle emissions..
2. Continue promoting public transit options to reduce reliance on personal vehicles, thus lowering Scope 1 and 3 emissions.
3. Expand carpooling initiatives as part of the strategy to cut down vehicle emissions.

¹<https://www.ipcc.ch/help/frequently-asked-questions/#:~:text=The%20IPCC%20describes%20greenhouse%20gases,atmosphere%20itself%2C%20and%20by%20clouds> .

²<https://www.ipcc.ch/help/frequently-asked-questions/#:~:text=The%20IPCC%20describes%20greenhouse%20gases,atmosphere%20itself%2C%20and%20by%20clouds>

³ <https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/FAQ.pdf>

4. Invest in cycling infrastructure to provide alternatives to vehicle use, directly supporting the reduction of on-campus emissions.
5. Enhance pedestrian pathways to encourage walking, further contributing to the reduction in vehicle usage and emissions.
6. Transition the university's fleet to electric or hybrid vehicles, aligning fleet management practices with the target of reducing on-campus vehicle emissions.
7. Maintain centralized travel records to accurately report on Scope 3 emissions associated with university-related travel.
8. Ensure that all selected travel suppliers contribute to the university's broader sustainability goals, including the accurate reporting of travel-related emissions.
9. Ensure pre-booking authorization for international travel includes consideration of the university's emission reduction targets.
10. Prioritize the use of sustainable transport options in alignment with the university's emission reduction and reporting goals.
11. Maintain provisions that ensure compliance with emission reduction targets while accessibility & inclusion accommodating specific needs.
12. Reinforce the one-day Work from Home (WFH) policy to reduce the need for commuting, thereby supporting the reduction of on-campus vehicle emissions. In addition to that, offers flexible scheduling to minimize peak-hour traffic, further reducing emissions.
13. Develop educational programs that emphasize the importance of the university's targets for net-zero emissions, vehicle emission reductions, and comprehensive emissions reporting.
14. Establish a committee to oversee the integration of these targets within the policy implementation and monitor progress.
15. Continue tracking commuting patterns and carbon emissions, with a focus on achieving the targets set in IU Environment Strategy (updated July 2023).

Reporting

In accordance with milestones and key targets developed by the Administration Department, the concerned department will report their quarterly performance to the Office of Sustainability.

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Associated Policies	Environment Policy , Environment Strategy