



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

eCommons@AKU

Environment and Sustainability

Publications (Newsletters & Reports)

7-13-2022

Environment and Sustainability: July 2022

Environment and Sustainability, Office of the President

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ecommons.aku.edu/environment>



Part of the [Environmental Health and Protection Commons](#), and the [Environmental Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Environment and Sustainability, Office of the President, "Environment and Sustainability: July 2022" (2022). *Environment and Sustainability*. Book 2.

<https://ecommons.aku.edu/environment/2>



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



Environment and Sustainability



Newsletter July 2022

We are excited to be back with latest updates, news, and activities from the Office of Environment and Sustainability.

Did you know that the Aga Khan Development Network recently launched an interactive course, *Climate Challenge: Be Part of the Solution?* Do check it out [here!](#)

In this issue, you can find out about:

- UC Nairobi getting EDGE Advanced certified;
- The President's blog contemplates on our sustainability responsibility;
- Donated electric bikes reduce emissions and local air pollution;
- Impact of Earth Day and World Environment Day activities;
- Related events from across the university.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UC Nairobi gets EDGE Advanced certified!

You may be wondering what EDGE Advanced is and why it is important. The Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE) Advanced is a green building certification that requires a building to save a minimum of 40% in energy and 20% in water and embodied materials.

This is a big achievement for the [University Center building in Nairobi](#) as it is the first building in AKU to have achieved this milestone. Other buildings and all new constructions are mandated to aim for low/zero carbon standards as part of the AKDN Green Buildings guidelines.



Blog by AKU President prompts us to contemplate our responsibility towards nature

In his first ever blog, the President talks about the importance of sustainability and shares his personal motivations for the cause. The blog discusses interconnected and complex factors behind the sustainability crises of our time and gives us a glimpse into his background, inspiration, and actions to build a sustainable and inclusive world on individual as well as institutional levels. You can read the full

blog [here](#).

AKU receives a welcome gift - Electric bikes!

In June 2022, a donor gifted two electric bikes to AKU as a gesture of support to the sustainability agenda. One of the bikes was allocated to the Safety and Security department, while the other was handed over to the Mail and Dispatch team for everyday use.

The recipients and [users of the bikes](#) showed enthusiasm and pride in helping the institution save fuel cost and emissions. Electric mobility also reduces noise and local air pollution.



RECENT EVENTS

Students plant trees for Earth Day

To celebrate [Earth Day](#), the Office of Environment and Sustainability partnered with students from Pakistan and Uganda to plant native trees on their campuses. This year, the theme for the annual awareness and engagement focused Earth Day was 'Invest in our planet'.

A 'guide to action' was also developed and shared with all AKU staff and students to inspire environmental action every day. Here's the [Guide](#), in case you missed it.



AKU community showcases collective action on World Environment Day

On account of the World Environment Day 2022, the “[OneAKU for OneEarth](#)” campaign was initiated for the month of June. Given this year's theme of “Only One Earth”, the social media campaign symbolizes how our OneAKU community inspires through action and stands together to protect and restore our planet. More than 11,600 people engaged with the campaign on social media.

At the launch of the campaign, President Sulaiman Shahabuddin delivered a hopeful video message to encourage all AKU staff and students to become champions of sustainable living. The video received more than 4400 organic views on social media and is available to watch [here](#).

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Student Challenge for Climate Solutions

The [President's Challenge for Climate Solutions](#), launched on 24 May 2022, aims to provide AKU students globally an opportunity to ideate and implement solutions for climate change. This year's inaugural theme, *Wasting Nothing*, prompts to ponder over the wastage of our resources, including but not limited to food, water, or even time.

Workshop on climate change and human health

The Department of Community Health Sciences (CHS) organized a training workshop from 22nd to 24th June 2022 to build capacity of 50 public and private stakeholders on climate change and health. The workshop was supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and was conducted in collaboration with Ministries of Health and Climate Change in Pakistan.

Dr. Fozia Parveen – the new sustainability educator at AKU-IED

We look forward to collaborating with the new in-house sustainability educator at AKU-IED. In [Dr. Parveen's](#) own words: *“I am very excited to have joined AKU, an organization that is leading from the front by pledging to take stringent action to curb environmental and climatic challenges. As an Assistant Professor at AKU-IED, I aim to mainstream sustainability education. I believe it is our shared responsibility to create enabling environments for academia, civil society, and policy makers to collaborate on sustainability concerns”*.

The Environment and Sustainability team looks forward to sharing regular updates regarding environmental sustainability work across the University.

*Do you have any ideas or feedback for us?
We'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to us at environment@aku.edu*

You can find further information and [useful resources](#) on our pages on [OneAKU](#) and [AKU's website](#)



Environment and Sustainability, Office of the President
Aga Khan [University](#) | environment@aku.edu | www.aku.edu/environment