



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2022 - 2026

AL-BALQA APPLIED UNIVERSITY



Al-Balqa Applied University aims at utilizing its expertise and resources to further promote the culture of climate change community resilience by smart means such as social inclusion with the focus on youth to prepare the new generation for future challenges

تهدف جامعة البلقاء التطبيقية إلى الاستفادة من خبراتها ومواردها لمواصلة تعزيز ثقافة تغير المناخ وقدرة المجتمع على الصمود بوسائل ذكية مثل الإدماج الاجتماعي مع التركيز على الشباب لإعداد الجيل الجديد لتحديات المستقبل

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

AL-BALQA APPLIED UNIVERSITY

NASER ALMANASEER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Al-Balqa Applied university is one of the largest state universities in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It provides services through its thirteen distributed campuses in Jordan, covering nearly all climatic regions from the highlands in the mid-west to the very dry governorates in the south and far east of Jordan. This diversity in climatic conditions, motivated Al-Balqa Applied University to adopt wide range of activities related to climate variability and change, with the focus on climate adaptation. For example, Al-Balqa Applied University is innovative university in terms of water and draught research, capacity development, and pioneer technology transfer initiatives ranging from solar energy to wastewater treatment for reuse, to smart agriculture. Moreover, Al-Balqa applied University established academic technical programs with the focus on smart agriculture, water treatment, smart buildings, electric and hybrid cars, not to mention the various awareness activities in climate change. Another clear example of the serious role Al-Balqa applied University play in the region is demonstrated by hosting the 76th United Nations Days in 2021 with the focus on climate change.

At campus level, the university started complete infrastructure innovation during the COVID-19 lockdown when the campuses have very minimal employees and nearly no students. Most of the new buildings, and the renovated buildings took smart standards including natural light, aeration, renewable energy, less cooling and heating by proper insulation, and reuse all possible materials. Further, the green areas are substantially increased by developing new landscaping and small scattered gardens with rainwater harvesting systems for supplementary irrigation.

Although there are not yet reliable records on the emission reduction, but we believe that these smart practices certainly contributing to emission reduction. Al-Balqa Applied University will establish a system to collect the necessary data to track its advancement in reducing emissions. In fact, being within one of the driest countries in the world, the attention always on saving more water for green areas, which is some thing AL-Balqa Applied University excel. As evidence, Al-Balqa Applied University ranked 52 on UI Green Metric in 2021.

Despite the well-established practices of Al-Balqa Applied University in conserving resources and protecting the environment, this climate action plan is the first written plan. The purpose of this plan is to document the existing successful practices, and to build on it is considering the Jordanian National Climate Change Policy. Further, Al-Balqa applied University is taking it one further step to target student through awareness, mandatory courses, and involve them in initiatives and activities to prepare them for the future of climate and related challenges.

AKNOWLEDGEMENT

Al-Balqa Applied University Acknowledge the significant contributions of the Jordanian Ministry of Environment, the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation, and the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture for providing the necessary data, policies, and reports to start this Action Plan. Also, Al-Balqa Applied University Acknowledge the technical support during the various expert consultations which significantly contributed to the development of this Action Plan. Furthermore, the role of our students in answering questionnaires and volunteering to help gathering the needed data is highly recognized. Finally, high appreciation goes to the technical committee for their revision and guidance during the preparation of this Action Plan.

UNDER REVIEW

DISCLAIMER

This Action Plan is proposed by Al-Balqa Applied University to inform and assist communities in identifying climate change challenges. It is important to consider the following points:

- This Action Plan is NOT a comprehensive or exhaustive list of resiliency or adaptation actions that may be relevant.
- The provided alternatives are not appropriate in all circumstances; the appropriateness of each alternative should be considered in the local context for which it is being considered.
- This Action Plan should not be relied on exclusively in conducting risk assessments, developing response plans, or making adaptation decisions.
- This information is not a substitute for the professional advice of an environmental or climate change professional or attorney

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UNDER REVIEW

1. MOTIVATION AND THE WAY FORWARD

Jordan is located in West Asia region and characterized by dry to semi-dry climate conditions with an annual precipitation that falls under 50 millimeters in most areas. Jordan faces several challenges with the need to import of 98% of its energy, while severe aridity and water scarcity make it environmentally sensitive to climate change. Climate-related hazards are affecting Jordan, such as extreme temperatures, droughts, flash floods, storms, and landslides. These hazards are increasing in frequency and intensity due to climate change. Flooding has caused serious implications in the last years where lives have been lost, and several square kilometers of agricultural lands were destroyed in addition to sever damages to infrastructure. Landslides and erosion problems have occurred as well, and they were concentrated on the steep slopes of mountains and wadis. Climate change affects various sectors including agricultural, coastal areas, biodiversity, urban systems, society, water, and health sectors, where adaptation options are required to mitigate its effects.

Climate-related hazards affected Jordan, such as the extreme temperature droughts, flash floods, storms, and landslides. These hazards are increasing in frequency and intensity by years due to climate change. Flooding has caused serious implications in the last years where lives have been lost, and several square kilometers of agricultural lands were destroyed in addition to the sever damages to infrastructure. Landslides and erosion problems have occurred as well, and they were concentrated on the steep slopes of mountains and wadis. The impact of climate change will certainly affect various sectors including agricultural, coastal, biodiversity, urban, society, water, and health sectors. Generally, Jordan seeks to continuously build adaptive capacity by reducing the country's' vulnerability through implementing comprehensive adaptation measures with consideration for gender aspects and the needs of the most vulnerable groups.

Al-Balqa Applied University, being one of the lead state universities in Jordan, with over 60 thousand students have a vision, a message, a commitment toward the community. It is difficult for the central government to tackle all climate change problems. Al-Balqa Applied University promote the concept of decentralization where smart onsite solutions can be planned and implemented to collectively contribute to problem solving. Based on this vision and responsibility, Al-Balqa Applied University is taking serious steps to adapt to climate change within its campuses and premises, but also beyond.

To achieve this vision, a plan is needed. Hence, Al-Balqa Applied University start developing this draft plan and it will be further consulted among target groups, expert stakeholders, and top management before it put into action, to ensure readiness and sustainability

2. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES

Al-Balqa Applied University was inspired by the National Action Plan that was lunched on the 76th Anniversary of the United Nations at Al-Balqa Applied University in 2021. The National Action Plan main objective is to **“mainstream climate change adaptation in the development planning processes to enhance climate resilience and adaptive capacities and, reduce climate vulnerability within all relevant sectors in Jordan”**. Consequently, the main object of Al-Balqa Applied University Climate Action Plan came in agreement with the National Action Plan main objective, but on a different scale and with slightly different approach.

Al-Balqa Applied University aims at utilizing its expertise and resources to further promote the culture of climate change community resilience by smart means such as social inclusion with the focus on youth to prepare the new generation for future challenges