

AOU Carbon Footprint Report –2024

The Arab Open University assessed its carbon footprint following the internationally recognized Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol), a framework developed by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

The assessment encompassed three key emission categories:

- **Scope 1: Direct Emissions:** These emissions originate from sources directly owned or controlled by the university. Examples include emissions from the university's vehicle fleet, on-site power generators, and refrigerant leaks. The emissions rate for 2024 is (CO2 Net of Emissions 266,112kg)
- **Scope 2: Indirect Emissions from Energy:** These emissions stem from the electricity purchased and consumed by the university. Their calculation utilized an emission factor representative of the local electricity grid. The emissions rate for 2024 is (CO2 Net of Emissions 5,586,333 kg)
- **Scope 3: Other Indirect Emissions:** This category encompasses indirect emissions linked to AOU activities but beyond its direct control. AOU's examples include emissions associated with business travel, procured goods and services, and waste generation. (CO2 Net of Emissions 2186 kg)

Analysis Results

- The carbon footprint assessment of AOU indicates that Scope 2 (indirect emissions from energy), stemming from the consumption of purchased electricity on campus, constitute the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Scope 1 emissions, encompassing direct emissions from the university's vehicle fleet and refrigerant leaks, also represent a substantial portion of the overall carbon footprint."

Emission reduction measures

To minimize its environmental impact, the Arab Open University (AOU) is committed to implementing a range of carbon reduction strategies. These include:

- 1- **Transitioning to Renewable Energy:** Shifting towards renewable energy sources to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and decrease electricity-related emissions.
- 2- **Promoting Sustainable Transportation:** Encouraging the use of public transportation and incentivizing the adoption of low-emission vehicles within the university community.
- 3- **Implementing Energy Efficiency Measures:** Enhancing energy efficiency within campus buildings and optimizing air conditioning systems.
- 4- **Enhancing Waste Management:** Promoting recycling programs and implementing initiatives to minimize waste generation.
- 5- **Fostering a Culture of Sustainability:** Raising awareness and educating the university community on the importance of environmental sustainability through various initiatives.

Conclusion

The carbon footprint report provides a critical assessment of the Arab Open University's environmental impact, serving as a valuable tool for informed decision-making towards a more sustainable future. The AOU is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and strives to be a leader in environmental sustainability within the higher education sector. Through the implementation of concrete actions and the active engagement of the entire university community, the AOU aims to make a significant contribution to climate change mitigation and ensure a healthy planet for future generations.