

American International School



Conservation and Sustainability Policy

1. Introduction & Vision

At American International School, we believe that education extends beyond academic excellence to encompass environmental stewardship and global citizenship. As an international institution operating within Dubai, we recognize our responsibility to preserve natural resources, combat climate change, and cultivate an ecological mindset.

This Conservation and Sustainability Policy outlines our commitment to reducing our environmental footprint while embedding sustainability into our organizational culture, daily operations, and educational framework.

2. Framework Alignment

Our policy is structured to meet and support key local and global sustainability frameworks, including:

- The **Dubai Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA)** expectations for student personal development and environmental awareness.
- The **UAE Net Zero 2050** strategic initiative and the UAE Ministry of Education's **Green Education Partnership**.
- The **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, specifically focusing on Quality Education (Goal 4), Affordable and Clean Energy (Goal 7), Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12), and Climate Action (Goal 13).

3. Scope

This policy applies to all operations, campus facilities, and academic programs at American International School. It governs the actions of all members of the school community, including school leadership, faculty, administrative and auxiliary staff, students, parents, third-party vendors, and contractors.

4. Core Pillars of Sustainability

4.1 Sustainable Campus Operations & Resource Management

We are dedicated to managing our campus resources efficiently, utilizing sustainable technologies, and minimizing waste to adapt to Dubai's unique environmental climate.

- **Energy Conservation:**
 - Maintain optimal efficiency of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems by enforcing a standard temperature of 24°C during

operational hours and implementing setback temperatures during weekends and school holidays.

- Commit to a complete transition to energy-efficient LED lighting across all campus facilities.
- Enforce a mandatory "switch-off" practice for all lights, interactive smart boards, and digital devices when rooms are unoccupied.

- **Water Stewardship:**

- Install low-flow water aerators on all campus taps and implement dual-flush mechanisms in facilities to optimize water usage.
- Prioritize drought-tolerant, native plant species in school landscaping and utilize smart irrigation or treated water where possible to eliminate unnecessary water consumption.
- Conduct routine maintenance and facility audits to immediately identify and resolve water leaks.

- **Waste Management & the Circular Economy:**

- Provide clearly labeled source-segregation bins (Recyclables, General Waste) throughout classrooms, hallways, and common areas.
- Eliminate single-use plastics across the school canteen, administrative offices, and school-hosted events, encouraging the use of reusable bottles and utilizing local initiatives like "Dubai Can."
- Advance a "paper-lite" operational model by digitizing report cards, permission forms, marketing materials, and internal administrative workflows.

4.2 Curriculum & Educational Integration

We believe that sustainability must be lived and understood. We embed environmental literacy into our academic programs to empower the next generation of climate leaders.

- **Curriculum Mapping:** Integrate environmental and sustainability concepts across our American curriculum framework, aligning with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and AERO standards from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

- **Experiential Learning:** Utilize the school campus as a living laboratory, enabling students to engage with real-world data regarding energy usage, water consumption, and waste generation.
- **Innovation & Problem Solving:** Encourage interdisciplinary STEM/STEAM projects that challenge students to design innovative solutions to local and global ecological challenges.

4.3 Community Engagement & Culture

True sustainability requires collective action. We actively build partnerships to expand our environmental impact beyond the school gates.

- **Student Leadership:** Empower a student-led **Eco-Council / Green Team** to spearhead environmental campaigns, organize student initiatives, and give youth a voice in campus operational decisions.
- **Responsible Procurement:** Collaborate with school uniform providers, transport companies, and catering vendors to prioritize ethically sourced, eco-friendly, and sustainable products and practices.
- **Community Partnerships:** Engage in local UAE environmental initiatives, beach clean-ups, tree planting drives, and inter-school sustainability competitions to foster regional solidarity.

5. Governance, Roles, and Responsibilities

To ensure accountability, the implementation of this policy is a shared responsibility:

- **School Leadership Team (SLT):** Responsible for overseeing policy implementation, allocating resources for green initiatives, and ensuring long-term institutional alignment with UAE sustainability goals.
- **Facilities & Operations Team:** Tasked with monitoring utility data, managing waste management contracts, maintaining infrastructure efficiency, and implementing sustainable procurement protocols.
- **Faculty & Staff:** Expected to model sustainable behaviors, minimize resource waste in classrooms, and integrate environmental preservation concepts into their respective curricula.
- **Students:** Encouraged to actively participate in recycling programs, conserve energy and water, and lead peer-to-peer environmental awareness initiatives.

- **Parents & Community Partners:** Invited to support the school's green policies by encouraging sustainable habits at home and participating in school-led environmental initiatives.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Continuous Improvement

American International School is committed to transparency and data-driven improvement.

- The Facilities Team will maintain an internal dashboard to track monthly electricity consumption, water utilization, and waste diversion rates.
- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Sustainability Committee to reflect updated local regulations, adjust ecological targets, and introduce innovative practices that align with the evolving sustainability landscape of Dubai and the UAE.