

**UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH
MBARARA (USJM)**



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY 2024

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Background

The Archdiocese of Mbarara (AoM) started a university as part of its mission and mandate to establish educational institutions of different levels to share in the salvific ministry of Christ by being the salt and light to the world. The founders coined the name: University of Saint Joseph Mbarara (USJM), for the university from St. Joseph, foster father to Jesus and the patron Saint of the pioneer St. Joseph Technical School, whose tradition of hard workmanship and community responsive education, USJM is to uphold.

The personal qualities and values of St. Joseph, the worker, such as integrity, hardworking, commitment, are behind this tradition, and the University will uphold them. USJM aims at total orientation and focus on tertiary education that meets community needs and engineers socioeconomic transformation. It delivers relevant, affordable, high quality, inclusive and community-responsive university education. The University of Saint Joseph Mbarara derives its vision and mission from the Christian understanding of the integral growth of a person.

- i. **Vision:** A leading center for integrated community responsive university education.
- ii. **Mission:** To provide holistic education for sustainable development.

- iii. **Motto:** Foster Excellence and Integrity (*Praestantia et Integritate Foveat*)
- iv. **Slogan:** For and With the Community
- v. **Philosophy:** Community-Responsive and Engaged university education
- vi. **Core Values**
 - a. God fearing,
 - b. Integrity,
 - c. Excellence,
 - d. Accountability,
 - e. Community responsiveness
- vii. **Objectives:**
 - a. To provide relevant university education.
 - b. To promote research and innovation among stakeholders.
 - c. To nurture citizens of integrity and sense of common good.
 - d. To nurture students with demand-oriented skills.

- e. To promote best practices in institutional governance.
- f. To promote pastoral mission of the church

It is USJM commitment to encourage the development of each individual through education at all levels, stressing in particular the creation/promotion of an environment where intellectual and moral values are priorities. Since the person is at the center of all growth and development, both at individual and societal levels, all members of the community respect each other in an attempt to create an environment of openness and trust. The University is committed to promoting justice, respect, solidarity, human rights, equality, and environmental protection, both in its own community and society in general.

Purpose

This policy outlines the University of Saint Joseph's commitment to promoting environmental sustainability and protecting natural resources on campus and in the surrounding community.

Scope

This policy applies to all University operations, including academic programs, administrative functions, campus facilities, and events.

3. Sustainability Goals

- i. **Carbon Neutrality:** Aim for carbon neutrality by 2026,
- ii. **Waste Reduction:** Achieve a 90% reduction in waste sent to landfills by 2026,
- iii. **Energy Efficiency:** Implement energy conservation measures to reduce overall energy consumption by 50% by 2026,
- iv. **Water Conservation:** Reduce water usage by 90% through efficient practices and technologies.

4. Compliance

The University will comply with all applicable local, national ,regional and international environmental regulations and standards.

5. Education and Outreach

- i. **Curriculum Integration:** Incorporate sustainability into academic programs and encourage research on environmental issues.
- ii. **Workshops and Training:** Offer workshops for students and staff on sustainability practices.

- iii. **Awareness Campaigns:** Conduct regular campaigns to promote environmental awareness and action.
- iv. **Conduct research**

6. Sustainable Practices

- i. **Energy Management:** Utilize renewable energy sources and implement energy-efficient technologies in campus buildings.
- ii. **Waste Management:** Develop a comprehensive recycling program and encourage composting to minimize waste.
- iii. **Sustainable Transportation:** Promote public transportation, carpooling, biking, and walking as alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle use.
- iv. **Sustainable Purchasing:** Prioritize purchasing environmentally friendly products and services.

7. Monitoring and Reporting

- i. **Performance Metrics:** Establish key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress towards sustainability goals.
- ii. **Annual Report:** Publish an annual sustainability report that highlights achievements and areas for improvement.

8. Stakeholder Engagement

- i. **Campus Community:** Encourage participation from students, faculty, and staff in sustainability initiatives and decision-making processes.
- ii. **Partnerships:** Collaborate with local organizations, government agencies, and other universities to enhance sustainability efforts.

9. Implementation and Review

- i. **Responsibility:** Assign a Sustainability Committee to oversee the implementation of this policy and report to USJM leadership.
- ii. **Review Process:** Conduct periodic reviews of the policy and update it as necessary to reflect changing circumstances and advancements in sustainability practices.

10. Conclusion

The University of Saint Joseph is dedicated to fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and sustainability. This policy serves as a foundation for our ongoing efforts to protect our planet for future generations.

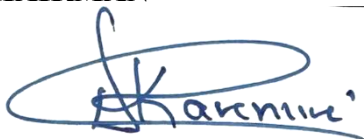
11. Amendment of The Manual

The Manual, subject to amendment from time to time by relevant authority, was approved by University of Saint Joseph Mbarara Governing Council on the day of.....



Rev Fr Gervase Nsekanimanya Diido

CHAIRMAN



Rev Fr Dr Deus M Karemiri (PhD)

VICE CHANCELLOR