

American International University-Bangladesh

Sustainable Development Goals Report



SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



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AIUB Sustainability Report (2020–2025): SDG

12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

Campus Operations: Sustainable Practices and Resource Management

Waste Management and Plastics Reduction: AIUB has implemented campus-wide waste management programs emphasizing recycling and composting. The university's Climate Action Plan calls for “*effective programs for recycling and composting*” and promotes “*reusable alternatives*” to “*reduce the usage of single-use plastics*” aiub.edu. In observance of World Environment Day, the AIUB Environment Club has led zero-waste initiatives – for example, organizing contests to repurpose waste into new products – reinforcing a culture of waste reduction on campus aiub.edu aiub.edu. These efforts align with AIUB's carbon footprint assessments, which track emissions from solid waste and commit to continual waste reduction as part of the university's net-zero strategy aiub.edu aiub.edu.

Energy and Water Conservation: The university has adopted energy-saving practices in campus operations. Energy-efficient LED lighting, appliances, and HVAC systems are used wherever possible, and AIUB is investing in renewable energy infrastructure like solar panels to decarbonize campus power supply aiub.edu aiub.edu. Water usage is likewise optimized through low-flow fixtures and monitoring of consumption, with “*water-saving fixtures*” and campaigns to promote water-conscious behavior outlined in the Climate Action Plan aiub.edu. These measures, combined with green building designs on AIUB's 13-acre eco-friendly campus, minimize resource waste and environmental impact aiub.edu aiub.edu.

Sustainable Procurement and Food Waste: AIUB has a formal Sustainable Procurement Policy that balances social, economic, and environmental factors in purchasing decisions aiub.edu. The policy mandates practices such as maximizing e-procurement (paperless processes), buying energy-efficient and locally sourced products (e.g. organic local produce), minimizing packaging waste, and opting for reusable or refillable materials aiub.edu. Suppliers and contractors are expected to adhere to AIUB's sustainability standards, ensuring that “*impacts from production, transportation, use and disposal*” of goods are carefully considered aiub.edu. To tackle food waste, the campus encourages waste sorting and composting of organic waste from cafeterias as part of its broader zero-waste goal aiub.edu. Through these initiatives – from phasing out single-use plastics to responsible purchasing and food waste composting – AIUB's operations exemplify sustainable consumption and production practices on campus. Evidence of progress is seen in AIUB's **Footprint Report 2025**, which documents declines in per capita greenhouse gas emissions due in part to “*energy-efficient infrastructure*” and “*promotion of sustainable behaviors*” among the campus community aiub.edu.

Academic and Research Initiatives: Education for Sustainable Production

Curriculum Integration: Sustainability principles have been embedded across AIUB's academic programs to equip students with relevant knowledge and skills. In the *Bachelor of*

Architecture curriculum, courses such as “*Environment and Design I, II, III*” focus on sustainable design and environmental considerations in building practices aiub.edu. Similarly, the *Computer Engineering* program includes “*Engineering Ethics and Environmental Protection*”, emphasizing engineers’ ethical responsibility toward the environment aiub.edu. AIUB has in fact made sustainability a **compulsory component** in all degree programs, ensuring that topics related to sustainable development and responsible resource management appear throughout the syllabus aiub.edu aiub.edu. Business and social science courses incorporate concepts of sustainable production systems and consumer behavior, reflecting the university’s commitment to produce graduates literate in sustainability challenges and solutions.

Research and Innovation: AIUB actively encourages research aligned with SDG 12 and related environmental goals. Faculty and students from all four faculties are engaged in sustainability research, producing peer-reviewed publications, conference papers, and innovation projects on topics ranging from renewable energy and pollution control to waste management and recycling behavior aiub.edu aiub.edu. For instance, AIUB established the **Center for Sustainable Energy Research (CSER)** under the Dr. Anwarul Abedin Institute of Innovation (D2A2I) to promote interdisciplinary research on sustainable technologies aiub.edu. CSER’s research teams focus on practical solutions in areas like renewable energy systems, energy efficiency, and circular economy innovations in energy use aiub.edu. Beyond engineering, business faculty have examined sustainable consumer behavior – one study explores young consumers’ e-waste recycling practices in Bangladesh, offering insights into promoting recycling in emerging economies (aligning with responsible consumption) aiub.edu aiub.edu. Through conferences and seminars, AIUB also disseminates research findings on sustainability: for example, the university’s international conference on sustainable development and regular **Dr. Anwarul Abedin Lecture Series** provide platforms to discuss issues like sustainable production, resource efficiency, and climate resilience in Bangladesh aiub.edu aiub.edu. By integrating sustainability in curriculum and fostering research, AIUB ensures that academic endeavors directly contribute to responsible consumption and production goals.

Student and Faculty Engagement: Campus Culture of Sustainability

Sustainability Clubs and Campaigns: A vibrant sustainability culture has taken root at AIUB, driven largely by student and faculty engagement. The **AIUB Environment Club (AEC)** spearheads many green initiatives on campus aiub.edu. The club organizes awareness campaigns, workshops, and competitions that encourage behavior change toward responsible consumption. Notably, in 2025 AEC held its first-ever “**Rethink Waste**” **Zero-Waste Product Design Contest**, where 32 student teams presented innovative upcycled products made from waste materials aiub.edu. This green competition, supported by faculty judges from various departments, showcased student creativity in reducing waste and “*reflected AIUB’s growing commitment to sustainability and student-driven environmental innovation*” aiub.edu. Similarly, the Environment Club arranges seminars on topics like plastic pollution, dye waste, air quality, and climate change to educate peers – for example, a World Environment Day seminar “*Pollution: Plastic and Dye*” in 2025 engaged students and faculty in discussing solutions to plastic pollution and awarded winners of the zero-waste contest aiub.edu aiub.edu. After such seminars, students often join rallies or campaigns across campus carrying placards with messages about recycling, reducing waste, and protecting the environment aiub.edu.

These activities not only raise awareness but actively involve the university community in practicing sustainability (e.g. using less plastic, properly sorting waste, planting trees, etc.).

Green Challenges and Innovation Initiatives: Beyond club activities, AIUB encourages student-led innovation for sustainability through hackathons, projects, and challenges. The university has hosted events like the **NASA Space Apps Challenge** in collaboration with local partners, where students tackled real-world problems including environmental and resource challenges aiub.edu. Through the Dr. Anwarul Abedin Institute of Innovation, students are supported to develop prototypes and solutions addressing issues such as waste reduction, renewable energy use, and sustainable agriculture. AIUB also runs sustainability literacy trainings and workshops for both students and staff aiub.edu. These include experiential learning opportunities – for instance, energy-saving competitions in the dorms and community gardening projects – that turn abstract sustainability concepts into hands-on practice aiub.edu. Faculty mentorship is another key aspect of engagement: professors often serve as advisors to sustainability clubs and research projects, guiding students in initiatives like tree-planting drives or campus waste audits. The outcome of these combined efforts is a campus ethos where sustainable habits are encouraged daily. Indeed, AIUB’s administration notes that a “*culture of environmental awareness and accountability*” has been cultivated among students, faculty, and staff – making the university “*a model of institutional sustainability in higher education*” aiub.edu. This culture is evidenced by ongoing eco-conscious behaviors (such as reduced paper use, participation in recycling programs, and volunteering for green causes) that complement formal policies and teaching.

Partnerships and Outreach: Collaboration for Responsible Consumption

Collaboration with Industry and Startups: AIUB actively partners with industry, startups, and government agencies to amplify its impact on sustainable consumption and production beyond campus. For example, as part of its Climate Action Plan implementation, AIUB initiated a collaboration with **Krishi Shwapno**, a youth-led agri-tech and cleantech startup that drives a circular economy through technology aiub.edu. This partnership focuses on innovative approaches to waste reduction and resource efficiency (such as converting agricultural waste into value-added products), exemplifying how AIUB links academic expertise with entrepreneurial solutions for a circular economy. AIUB has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI)** (a government research body) and a leading engineering university to promote sustainable construction practices aiub.edu. By jointly developing eco-friendly building materials and designs, this partnership advances sustainable production in the construction sector, aligning with SDG 12 goals of resource-efficient infrastructure. In addition, AIUB regularly invites industry experts for campus talks on sustainable supply chain management, green business, and responsible manufacturing. For instance, the Faculty of Business Administration hosted career talks on “*Opportunities in Manufacturing and Supply Chain*” highlighting sustainable production trends aiub.edu, and marketing students undertook industry visits to learn about factory resource management aiub.edu. These engagements ensure that the next generation of professionals from AIUB carry forward best practices in responsible consumption and production.

Community Outreach and Networks: As a civic-minded institution, AIUB extends its sustainability efforts into the community through collaborations with NGOs and participation

in global networks. The university works closely with local and national NGOs to promote sustainable practices at the grassroots level. One notable collaboration is with **Grameen Shakti**, an NGO specializing in renewable energy and green technology; together they conducted workshops to raise awareness on clean energy and climate action, empowering students and local youth to adopt renewable solutions aiub.edu. AIUB's student clubs also engage with communities – the Social Welfare Club “Shomoy” has organized outreach programs (like distributing meals in the “*Oder Eid, Amader Khushi*” campaign) that, while humanitarian in nature, also emphasize minimizing waste and efficient resource use in their operations aiub.edu. On the global stage, AIUB is a signatory of the **SDG Accord** and actively participates in forums to share best practices. In 2025, AIUB's Vice Chancellor and representatives took part in the Times Higher Education **World Academic Summit** on sustainability, discussing how universities can “*decarbonize campuses through renewable energy, green infrastructure, and sustainable operations*” and “*empower student-led initiatives*” for community impact aiub.edu aiub.edu. During this global dialogue, AIUB was highlighted for initiatives that “*promote environmental responsibility through student engagement and innovation,*” including “*tree plantation drives, waste recycling campaigns, renewable energy advocacy, and low-cost community-based solutions*” in Bangladesh aiub.edu. These examples underscore AIUB's strategy of forming partnerships for the goals (SDG 17) to scale up its contributions to SDG 12. Whether through joint research projects with international universities, agreements with NGOs and government for sustainability projects, or multi-stakeholder events and competitions, AIUB's outreach efforts are centered on sharing knowledge and collaboratively developing solutions for responsible consumption and production. By engaging external partners and the local community, the university helps spread circular economy practices, reduce environmental impacts beyond its campus, and inspire broader societal change in line with SDG 12.

Conclusion

Through a comprehensive approach spanning campus operations, academic programs, community engagement, and strategic partnerships, American International University–Bangladesh demonstrates a strong commitment to **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**. Between 2020 and 2025, AIUB has made measurable strides in reducing its environmental footprint – cutting energy use and waste, eliminating disposable plastics, and embedding sustainable procurement into policy aiub.edu aiub.edu. Concurrently, it has educated and empowered its students and faculty to be sustainability champions, integrating green courses and research opportunities that tackle real-world resource challenges aiub.edu aiub.edu. Student-driven initiatives, from zero-waste design contests to campus-wide awareness rallies, have fostered a new generation of environmentally conscious leaders aiub.edu aiub.edu. Finally, by partnering with industry innovators, government bodies, NGOs, and global networks, AIUB magnifies its impact – bringing cutting-edge solutions and community-oriented programs to the forefront of sustainable development aiub.edu aiub.edu. AIUB's efforts during 2020–2025 illustrate a holistic, evidence-based model of how a higher education institution can align with SDG 12, champion responsible consumption and production, and contribute meaningfully to a more sustainable future.