

## URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY SETS CARBON NEUTRALITY GOAL BY 2030 UNDER GHG PROTOCOLS

### Urdaneta City University Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (Target 2030)

In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Target 13.4.1, Urdaneta City University (UCU) is firmly committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. This pledge forms part of UCU's broader sustainability framework that integrates campus operations, research, and extension programs under a unified climate responsibility agenda. By embedding sustainability into its institutional culture and community engagement, UCU aims to significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, enhance energy efficiency, and foster climate awareness among students, faculty, staff, and local stakeholders.

### Scope of Implementation

The UCU Carbon Neutrality Action Plan applies to all **university operations, facilities, and activities**, including:

- Academic and administrative buildings, laboratories, and shared facilities.
- Campus transport systems, fleet operations, and mobility initiatives.
- Energy consumption from electricity and fuel use.
- Waste management, water usage, and procurement systems.
- Community-based and extension activities that contribute to emission reductions or carbon offsets.

The plan also extends to **partnerships with local government units (LGUs), NGOs, and industry partners** in support of regional sustainability and climate adaptation efforts.

### Phasing of Implementation

Phase 1: Baseline Assessment and Capacity Building (2025–2028)

- Conduct a comprehensive GHG inventory covering Scope 1 (direct), Scope 2 (indirect energy), and Scope 3 (other indirect) emissions.
- Establish baseline data for energy, transportation, waste, and water consumption.
- Develop monitoring and reporting protocols aligned with international GHG accounting standards.

Build institutional capacity by training staff and forming specialized technical teams.

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### Phase 2: Infrastructure and Energy Transition (2026–2028)

- Retrofit campus facilities with energy-efficient systems such as LED lighting, solar-ready rooftops, and modern HVAC technologies.
- Implement renewable energy installations (e.g., solar panels) to reduce grid dependency.
- Introduce sustainable mobility options including cycling paths, electric shuttle services, and carpooling incentives.
- Upgrade building materials and design standards following green architecture principles.

### Phase 3: Waste and Resource Optimization (2027–2029)

- Strengthen campus-wide recycling, composting, and waste segregation programs.
- Adopt paperless systems, digital documentation, and sustainable procurement policies.
- Promote water conservation and the use of low-impact cleaning and maintenance products.
- Engage departments in developing innovative, low-carbon research projects and technologies.

### Phase 4: Carbon Offset and Community Engagement (2028–2030)

- Launch large-scale carbon offset initiatives such as tree planting, agroforestry, and renewable energy education programs.
- Integrate sustainability modules into curricula, student research, and community outreach.
- Conduct awareness campaigns, workshops, and local partnerships to expand climate literacy and action beyond campus.

### Phase 5: Review, Certification, and Continuous Improvement (2030 onward)

- Evaluate the university's progress toward net-zero emissions.
- Pursue third-party verification and certification under recognized carbon neutrality standards.
- Institutionalize a culture of sustainability through continuous training, innovation, and policy review.

### Governance and Coordination

Implementation will be overseen by the **Office of External Affairs & Linkages**, the **Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO)**, and the **General Services / Administrative Affairs Offices**. A **Carbon Neutrality Steering Committee** will coordinate policy development, data collection, and performance evaluation across operations, research, and extension units. Regular reporting and annual audits will ensure accountability and alignment with global sustainability benchmarks.

### Expected Outcomes

- Achieve **net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030** through reduction and offset mechanisms.
- Establish UCU as a **national model for sustainable campus operations** and climate leadership in higher education.
- Strengthen partnerships with communities, government agencies, and private organizations for collective climate action.

Foster a lasting **culture of environmental stewardship** and responsible citizenship among students and staff.

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