



Palestine Ahliya University Sustainability Report 2025/26

Planet · People · Prosperity, aligned to ESG, GRI & the SDGs

PUBLISHED AUGUST 2026 · REPORTING PERIOD 2025/26

- 2 campus sites
- 82,800 m² total area
- 5 faculties
- 2,720 campus population



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GM = UI GreenMetric · THE = Times Higher Education Impact · QS = QS Sustainability · SDG = UN Sustainable Development Goal · GRI = Global Reporting Initiative

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Palestine Ahliya University was founded to serve as a beacon of academic excellence and community advancement, and that founding purpose runs directly through our environmental record this year: renewable systems now generating more electricity than the campus consumes, water consumption falling even as our community grows, and recycling performance holding consistently high across every reporting period.

That same purpose shapes how we govern ourselves and serve our people. We hold our academic and administrative work to rigorous quality standards, and this year that discipline shows up in rising enrolment, growing female representation in leadership, and a widening base of partnerships at home and abroad. Measuring all of this against one consistent, internationally recognized methodology lets us track our progress honestly, year after year, in service of the students and the nation this University exists to serve.

Prof. Imad Al-Zeer, President, Palestine Ahliya University

Palestine Ahliya University is a private, Bethlehem-based institution founded in 2007 by backers who wanted higher education itself to be a community investment - keeping national capital inside Palestine and putting it to work training the people who would go on to build the country. That founding logic still shapes the campus today: two sites totalling 82,800 m², a compact 20,190 m² building footprint, and five faculties - Humanities and Education, Law, Administrative and Financial Sciences, Applied Professions and Sciences, and Engineering and Informatics - built around programs the local and regional job market actually needs.

Sustainability performance is one of the clearest ways PAU measures whether it is living up to that founding mission. The University’s Center for Sustainable Development Goals Studies coordinates this work across every faculty and department, oversees participation in UI GreenMetric, and compiles this report as the University’s annual account of its progress, its gaps, and its plans to close them.

2 campus sites

82,800 m² total area

5 faculties

2,720 campus population

This report presents Palestine Ahliya University’s 2025/26 sustainability performance across three pillars - Our Planet (environmental), Our People (social), and Our Prosperity (governance & economic) - distributed over fifteen thematic sections aligned to the UI GreenMetric indicators and the Sustainable Development Goals. Every figure below traces to the University’s own 2026 GreenMetric evidence submission; where no scored indicator exists, the point is presented as a flagged narrative disclosure rather than an invented statistic.

Our Planet 107% renewable ratio 92.7% organic waste treated	Our People 423 sustainability courses 82 publications in 2026	Our Prosperity 32% budget on sustainability 45.9% female leadership
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The report's structure rests on three layers: an enduring ESG spine of three pillars; an organizing framework of the seven UI GreenMetric categories, each indicator code preserved as a tag; and cross-referenced tag layers for THE Impact, QS Sustainability, UN SDGs, and GRI, one primary goal per section.

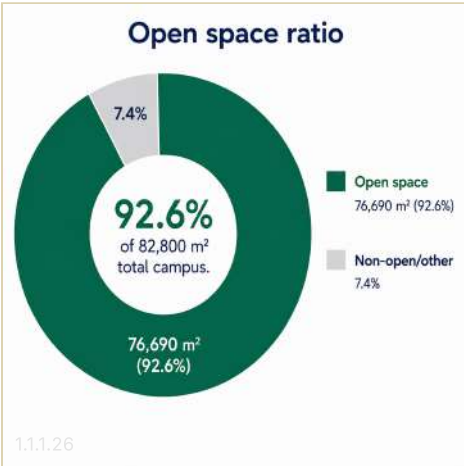
3 pillars	15 sections	75 points
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Section 1 · Living Ground

SDG 11 (primary) · linked 9, 14, 15 · GreenMetric: Setting, Infrastructure & Nature · 76,690 m² of open space across 82,800 m² of campus

1.1.1 Campus footprint & land use



Palestine Ahliya University operates two campus sites in Bethlehem, with a combined land area of 82,800 square metres and a total building footprint of 20,190 square metres. The main campus houses four buildings serving five faculties: Humanities and Education, Law, Administrative and Financial Sciences, Applied Professions and Sciences, and Engineering and Informatics. The compact building footprint leaves the majority of the land as green and open space, supporting a low density campus model that reduces heat, supports biodiversity, and keeps construction impact to a minimum across both sites, a foundation this report builds on throughout Pillar One.

82,800 m ² total area	20,190 m ² building area	2 campus sites
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- GM 1.3
- GM 1.4
- GM 1.5
- GM 1.7
- THE 11.4
- SDG 11
- GRI 304

1.1.2 Green space, biodiversity & conservation



PAU maintains 76,690 square metres of open space across its 82,800 square metre campus, an open space ratio of 92.6%. This total includes 21,446 square metres of forest vegetation used for research, teaching, and community engagement, plus 34,776 square metres of planted vegetation across gardens, lawns, and cultivated trees. An on-campus farm and nursery grow vegetables and native plant species, supporting biodiversity conservation and giving students a living laboratory for environmental study. Land use and ecological stewardship stand out as a defining feature of the University's physical campus, well above typical urban campus benchmarks.

92.6% open-space ratio	21,446 m ² forest cover	34,776 m ² planted vegetation
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- GM 1.8
- GM 1.9
- GM 1.10
- GM 1.18
- THE 11.4
- THE 14.5
- THE 15.3
- QS 1.1
- SDG 11
- GRI 304

1.1.3 Sustainable campus operations & safety



PAU runs a comprehensive security and safety system across every building and outdoor area, combining continuous CCTV surveillance, fire hydrants and extinguishers, and trained on-site security personnel who coordinate directly with local emergency services. Average emergency response time is under five minutes campus-wide. Facilities for people with disabilities, individuals with special needs, and staff requiring maternity care, including accessible parking, ramped routes, and accessible toilets, are fully operational in every building on both campuses. Safety and inclusive access are treated as a single operating standard, applied consistently across all University facilities and grounds.

<5 min emergency response

Fully accessible facilities

24/7 CCTV coverage

GM 1.7

GM 1.16

SDG 11

GRI 403

1.1.4 Ecosystem stewardship & environmental education



A dedicated indicator for pedestrian access to green space is not yet separately scored in PAU's current GreenMetric submission, so this point is disclosed as a forward looking narrative rather than a scored statistic. In practice, the University's 21,446 square metres of forest and its planted vegetation already function as outdoor teaching space, supporting environmental study, field-based learning, and student awareness activities. The campus farm extends this further by hosting applied research in sustainable agriculture. PAU intends to formalize a dedicated indicator for this activity in a future GreenMetric submission cycle, building on work already under way.

21,446 m² teaching green space

1 campus farm & nursery

SDG 14

GRI 304

1.1.5 Research for sustainable cities & ecosystems



PAU's Setting and Infrastructure programs contribute to an estimated 14 to 17 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, reflecting the breadth of the University's land use and environmental work. The compact, green Bethlehem campus, with over 90% open space and extensive forest and planted vegetation, directly advances SDG 11, sustainable cities, and SDG 15, life on land, by protecting green space and biodiversity. Its vegetation cover also supports SDG 13, climate action, through carbon absorption, natural shading, and reduced urban heat, grounded in the land use data reported earlier in this section rather than a separate program.

14-17 SDGs supported

90%+ open-space evidence base

GM 1.19

SDG 15

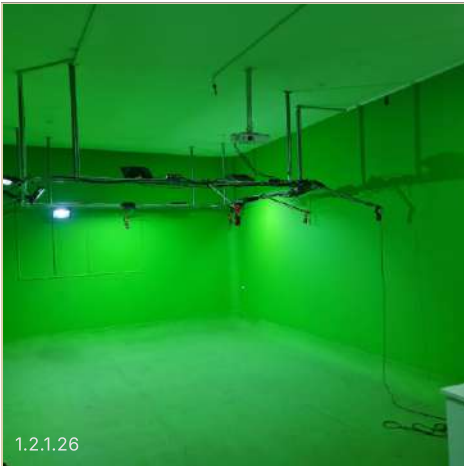
GRI 304



Section 2 · Clean Power

SDG 7 (primary) · linked 13 · GreenMetric: Energy & Climate · 107% of electricity demand met from renewables

1.2.1 Renewable energy generation



In 2026, PAU's renewable energy systems generated approximately 207,272 kWh of clean electricity, meeting 107% of the University's total electricity demand. Of this total, 93% came from solar photovoltaic panels, 4% from a wind power prototype, and 3% from a clean biomass unit, installed across both campus sites. Solar power alone produced 193,322 kWh, directly supplying computer laboratories, lighting systems, and other campus facilities. Generating more renewable electricity than the campus consumes marks a significant milestone for the University's energy transition and reduces reliance on the national grid across normal operating conditions throughout the year.

207,272 kWh generated	93% from solar PV	107% of demand met
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GM 2.5 GM 2.8 THE 7.2 THE 7.5 THE 13.2 QS 1.1 SDG 7 GRI 302

1.2.2 Energy efficiency & green buildings

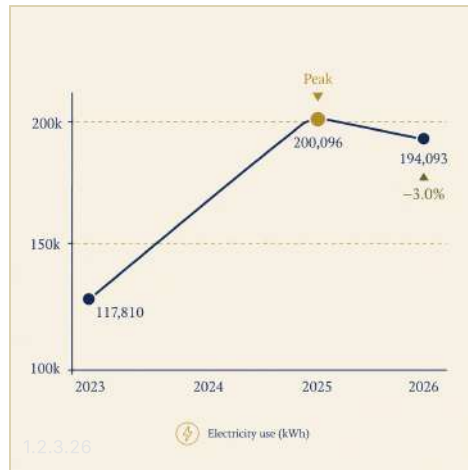


PAU has installed LED lighting systems across its buildings alongside an electrical distribution panel that monitors and manages consumption in real time. In 2026, the University launched a comprehensive Energy Management System aligned with ISO 50001, backed by top management commitment including the President and senior leadership. This formalizes a systematic, standards-based approach to improving energy performance across all six campus buildings, rather than relying on ad hoc efficiency measures. The combination of real-time monitoring, LED retrofits, and a certified management framework gives the University a structured basis for reducing energy use year over year.

6 buildings under EnMS	ISO 50001-aligned program	LED retrofit campus-wide
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GM 2.1 GM 2.3 GM 2.9 THE 7.2 THE 7.3 QS 1.1 SDG 7 GRI 302

1.2.3 Climate action & carbon management



PAU's annual electricity consumption rose from 117,810 kWh in 2023 to a peak of 200,096 kWh in 2025, before falling to 194,093 kWh in 2026 as energy rationalization measures took hold. The University's 2026 Carbon Emissions Review records measurable progress across Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, driven by high-efficiency boiler replacements, an expanding electric vehicle fleet, and the renewable energy transition described in Section 2.1. The reversal in consumption after 2025 indicates efficiency and rationalization programs are beginning to outweigh growth in campus activity, a trend the University intends to sustain in future reporting cycles.

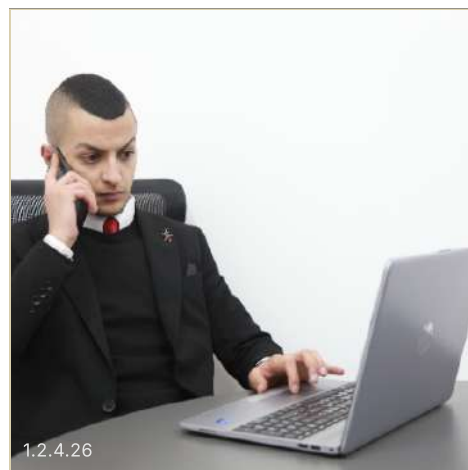
194,093 kWh used (2026)

Scope 1 & 2 emissions falling

2026 Carbon Emissions Review published

GM 2.6 GM 2.10 GM 2.11 **SDG 13** GRI 305

1.2.4 Climate education, innovation & community engagement



PAU co-delivers the SPEED Project, an Erasmus+ funded initiative advancing Hybrid Electric Vehicle education and technology across the Mediterranean region through curricula reform and new International Centers of HEV Technologies. In 2026, the University also hosted the Second International Conference on Education for Innovation at the Bethlehem Conference Palace, held under the patronage of the Minister of Education and Higher Education and in partnership with the Association of Arab Universities. Together, these two initiatives combine hands-on technical training with high-level convening, positioning PAU as an active contributor to regional climate education.

21 SPEED training sessions

2 international conferences hosted

GM 2.13 GM 2.14 **SDG 7** GRI 302

1.2.5 Research for energy & climate solutions



PAU's Energy and Climate Change research programs advance multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at once, spanning affordable and clean energy, climate action, sustainable cities, responsible consumption, and the protection of life on land and below water. Five flagship projects anchor this agenda, including the campus renewable energy program described in Section 2.1. Rather than treating energy research as a standalone academic exercise, PAU links it directly to measurable campus outcomes, from solar generation to emissions tracking, giving students and researchers a live testbed the University intends to expand in future reporting years.

5 flagship EC research projects

5 UN SDGs advanced

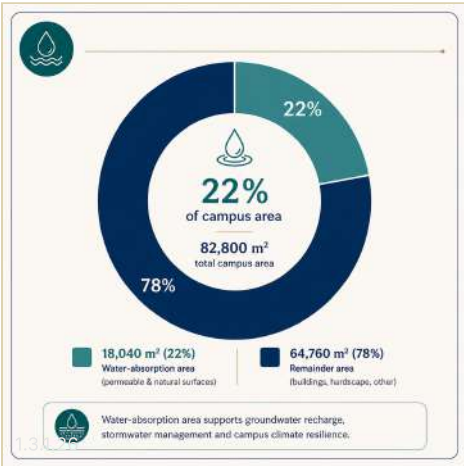
GM 2.16 **SDG 13** GRI 302



Section 3 · Every Drop

SDG 6 (primary) · linked 7, 12, 14 · GreenMetric: Water · 4,400 m³ of recycled water reused in 2026

1.3.1 Water use, monitoring & efficiency



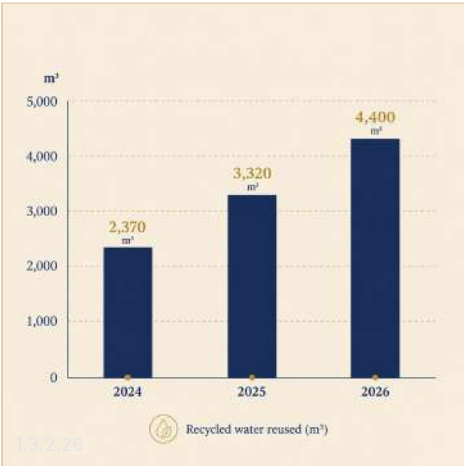
Beyond its 21,446 square metres of forest and 34,776 square metres of planted vegetation, PAU's campus includes an additional 18,040 square metres of permeable and open surfaces, covering unpaved paths, gravel areas, and open green space. Together these surfaces equal 22% of total campus area and allow rainwater absorption and groundwater recharge, reducing surface runoff during rainfall. This water absorption capacity forms the physical basis for the University's broader water monitoring and efficiency program, which extends across all campus facilities and gives PAU a fuller picture of its water cycle than metering alone would provide.

18,040 m² water-absorption area

22% of total campus area

GM 4.4 GM 4.5 THE 6.2.1 THE 6.2.2 THE 6.3.4 QS 1.1 SDG 6 GRI 303

1.3.2 Conservation, recycling & reuse



PAU's Water Recycling Program captures, treats, and reuses water from restrooms, laboratories, rainwater runoff, and air-conditioning condensate. Volumes of recycled water reused for non-potable applications grew from 2,370 cubic metres in 2024 to 3,320 cubic metres in 2025 and 4,400 cubic metres in 2026, an increase of 86% over three years. All recycled water passes through filtration and disinfection treatment before reuse, meeting quality standards appropriate to its intended application. This consistent, multi-year growth trend indicates the program is scaling, and the University expects further gains as recycling infrastructure extends to additional buildings.

4,400 m³ recycled water (2026)

+86% vs. 2024

Filtration & disinfection treated

GM 4.2 GM 4.3 THE 6.4.1 THE 6.4.2 THE 6.5.6 QS 1.1 SDG 6 GRI 303

1.3.3 Wastewater treatment & pollution prevention



Consumption of treated water on campus rose from 2,209 cubic metres in 2024 to 2,670 cubic metres in 2025 and 3,311 cubic metres in 2026, reflecting the expansion of water-saving fixtures and conservation programs across all buildings. Water-efficient units now regulate flow at 104 of 113 toilets, 94%, and 82 of 89 washbasins, 92%, minimizing waste at the point of use. The rising treated-water figure should be read alongside this fixture data: consumption is growing with campus activity, but efficient fixtures are limiting that growth relative to what unregulated fittings would produce across the same period.

3,311 m³ treated water (2026)

94% toilets water-efficient

92% washbasins water-efficient

GM 4.1

GM 4.6

SDG 6

GRI 303

1.3.4 Safe drinking water & community engagement



1.3.4.26

PAU conducts regular water quality sampling and monitoring across both campuses to identify and address potential pollution sources, including laboratories, maintenance areas, stormwater runoff, and sewage systems. This program is proactive rather than reactive: sampling points are checked on a routine schedule rather than only after an incident is reported. The approach supports a healthy, safe, and sustainable campus environment for students, staff, and visitors, and gives the University an early warning system for contamination risks before they affect drinking water quality, feeding directly into the conservation programs described elsewhere in this section.

Regular water-quality sampling

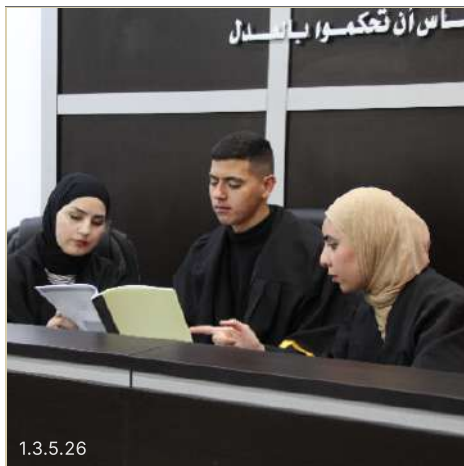
Proactive pollution-source review

GM 4.7

SDG 6

GRI 303

1.3.5 Water research & innovation



1.3.5.26

A dedicated water research indicator is not yet separately scored in PAU's current GreenMetric submission, so this point is presented as a forward disclosure rather than a measured statistic. The University's Water Conservation Program already combines three strands, infrastructure upgrades, community engagement, and ongoing monitoring, and this existing structure provides a practical foundation for a standalone applied water research stream. PAU intends to formalize this research activity and report it separately in a future cycle, once dedicated projects and outputs can be isolated from the broader conservation program described in the preceding sections of this chapter.

Program-level monitoring in place

3-strand program: infrastructure, engagement, monitoring

SDG 6

GRI 303

Section 4 · Nothing Wasted

SDG 12 (primary) · GreenMetric: Waste · 92.7% of organic waste treated, reused, or recycled

1.4.1 Recycling & recycled-waste share



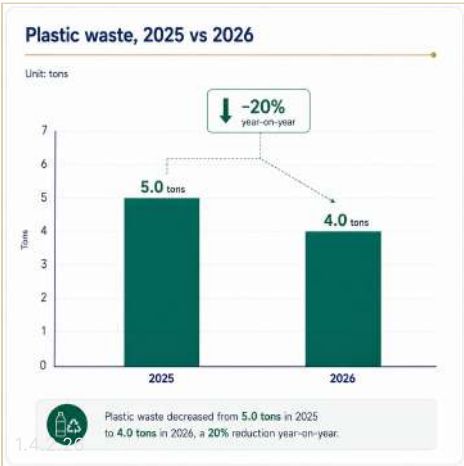
PAU's 3R, Reduce Reuse Recycle, Waste Management Program reached over 80% implementation by 2026, combining modern infrastructure, digital transformation, awareness campaigns, and partnerships with local recycling entities. Plastic waste generated on campus fell from 5.0 tons in 2025 to 4.0 tons in 2026, a 20% reduction achieved in full compliance with Palestinian Environmental Authority regulations. The program's breadth, spanning technology, policy, and community partnerships rather than a single intervention, is presented as the primary driver of this reduction, and the University expects the implementation rate to keep climbing toward full coverage in coming years.

80%+ 3R program implementation

20% plastic-waste reduction

GM 3.1 THE 12.3 QS 1.1 SDG 12 GRI 306

1.4.2 Resource efficiency & waste reduction



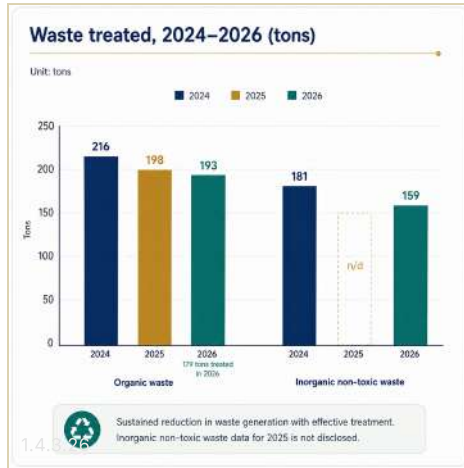
PAU tracks paper and plastic volumes annually under its 3R framework, with plastic waste production falling from 5.0 tons in 2025 to 4.0 tons in 2026. This reduction rests on a combined institutional framework that includes digital transformation initiatives to cut paper use, official sustainability policies, awareness programs for students and staff, and dedicated on-campus recycling infrastructure. Applying all four elements together, rather than any single measure in isolation, is presented as the basis for measurable, long-term reductions in material consumption across academic, administrative, and student operations, with year-on-year tracking maintained for both material streams.

4.0 tons plastic waste (2026)

20% year-on-year reduction

GM 3.2 GM 3.3 GM 3.4 SDG 12 GRI 306

1.4.3 Integrated waste management



Organic waste production at PAU fell from 216 tons in 2024 to 198 tons in 2025 and 193 tons in 2026, of which 179 tons were treated through reuse, down-cycling, or up-cycling. Composting and upcycling are coordinated with the Bethlehem Municipality Waste Management Department across all campus cafeterias and green areas. Inorganic non-toxic waste, covering paper, plastic, and glass, fell from 181 tons in 2024 to 159 tons in 2026. The consistent multi-year decline across both organic and inorganic streams indicates the reduction is structural, supported by the municipal treatment partnership described above rather than a single-year anomaly.

193 tons organic waste (2026)

159 tons inorganic waste (2026)

179 tons organic waste treated

GM 3.5

GM 3.6

GM 3.7

GM 3.8

GM 3.9

GM 3.10

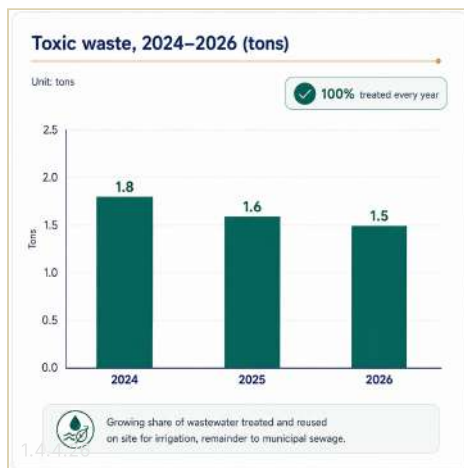
GM 3.11

GM 3.12

SDG 12

GRI 306

1.4.4 Hazardous waste & wastewater management



PAU maintained a fully compliant toxic and hazardous waste management system throughout 2026, safely collecting, storing, transporting, and treating all chemical, biological, and electronic waste generated by laboratories and facilities. Toxic waste volumes fell from 1.8 tons in 2024 to 1.6 tons in 2025 and 1.5 tons in 2026, with 100% of this waste treated in every reported year. A growing share of campus wastewater is now treated and reused on site for irrigation, with the remainder conveyed to the municipal sewage network, evidence of a maturing rather than merely adequate management system.

1.5 tons toxic waste (2026)

100% toxic waste treated

Sewage partly reused for irrigation

GM 3.13

GM 3.14

GM 3.15

GM 3.16

GM 3.17

SDG 12

GRI 306

1.4.5 Research for circular economy & responsible consumption



PAU's waste management programs advance multiple Sustainable Development Goals simultaneously. Food-waste minimization supports ethical consumption under SDGs 2, 3, 10, and 12. Composting and fertilizer production improve soil fertility and strengthen partnerships with local farmers under SDGs 4, 8, 12, 13, and 15. ICT-based smart recycling promotes innovation and resource efficiency across the campus waste system under SDG 9. Three flagship circular-economy programs anchor this work, each mapped to a distinct cluster of goals rather than treated as one generic sustainability initiative, giving the University a clearer basis for tracking impact by theme.

3 flagship circular-economy programs

3 SDG-linked program categories

GM 3.18

SDG 12

GRI 306

Section 5 · Sustainable Mobility

SDG 11 (primary) · linked 13 · GreenMetric: Transportation · Just 0.9% of campus area given to parking

1.5.1 Sustainable & shared transport



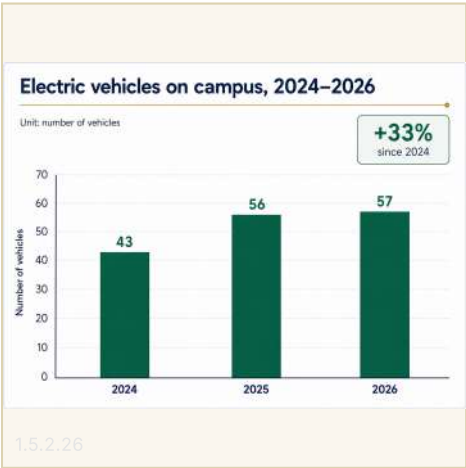
PAU does not operate a campus shuttle service. Its compact size and strategic location on the main Bethlehem-Hebron road, close to the city center, make a dedicated shuttle unnecessary. Students, faculty, and staff instead reach campus using local buses, shared taxis, and other public transit options already serving the area. This reliance on existing public infrastructure, rather than a University-run fleet, reduces private-vehicle demand, eases traffic congestion, and lowers carbon emissions associated with commuting. The absence of a shuttle is presented here as a deliberate outcome of campus location and design, not a service gap.

0 university shuttles needed

City-center transit access

GM 5.5 GM 5.15 THE 11.4 SDG 11 GRI 305

1.5.2 Zero-emission fleet & vehicle intensity



The ratio of vehicles, cars and motorcycles combined, to total campus population at PAU is 0.027, with just 74 vehicles serving a campus population of 2,720, including only 5 university-managed cars. Zero-emission vehicle use is rising steadily: an average of 57 electric vehicles now operate on campus daily, up from 56 in 2025 and 43 in 2024, representing about 0.021 vehicles per capita. The low overall vehicle intensity combined with a growing electric-vehicle share indicates the campus is both naturally low-traffic and actively shifting the traffic it does have toward zero-emission alternatives year over year.

0.027 vehicles per capita

57 ZEVs on campus daily

+33% ZEVs since 2024

GM 5.4 GM 5.9 SDG 13 GRI 305

1.5.3 Parking management



1.5.3.26

PAU's total designated parking area is just 745 square metres, 110 spaces, against a total campus area of 82,800 square metres, a parking-to-campus ratio of only 0.9%. The University has progressively reduced its parking footprint since 2020, starting with a 6% reduction that year and reaching a cumulative 20% reduction by 2024, a level it has maintained since. This sustained reduction signals an ongoing policy of discouraging private-vehicle use in favor of the public transit and shared-mobility options described elsewhere in this section, freeing land for green and academic use instead.

0.9% parking-to-campus ratio

20% cumulative parking reduction

745 m² total parking area

GM 5.13

GM 5.14

SDG 11

GRI 305

1.5.4 Pedestrian paths & walkability



1.5.4.26

Both PAU campuses are designed for pedestrian accessibility and safety, with dedicated pathways that include accessible routes, ramps, and tactile guiding blocks for individuals with physical disabilities. The University has also implemented six transportation initiatives aimed at reducing private-vehicle use, including car-sharing programs, limited parking allocation, enhanced links to public transportation, and free electric-bicycle rentals for students and staff. Presenting walkability and vehicle-reduction measures together in this section reflects PAU's approach to mobility as a single connected system, where safe pedestrian infrastructure and reduced car dependence reinforce each other rather than operating as separate initiatives.

6 transportation initiatives

Accessible tactile pathways

GM 5.16

SDG 11

GRI 305

1.5.5 Transport programmes' impact on the SDGs



1.5.5.26

PAU's sustainable transportation initiatives, car-sharing, reduced parking allocation, enhanced public transit links, and electric-bicycle rentals, contribute to multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at once. Together they promote low-carbon mobility, reduce air pollution from private-vehicle trips, and help create a safe, inclusive, and accessible transport system across both campuses. The University treats these initiatives as a coordinated mobility program rather than isolated pilots, with each measure reinforcing the others described in Sections 5.1 through 5.4. PAU intends to track ridership and emissions-avoidance data for these programs more precisely in future reporting cycles.

Multiple SDGs advanced by mobility program

GM 5.18

SDG 11

GRI 305



Section 1 · Learning for Life

SDG 4 (primary) · linked 9, 17 · GreenMetric: Education & Research · 423 of 1,402 courses are sustainability-related

2.1.1 Sustainability in the curriculum

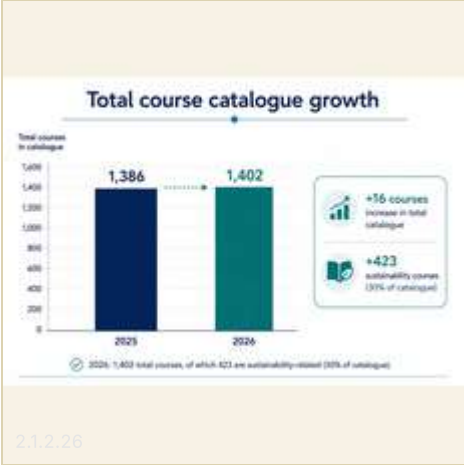


In 2026, Palestine Ahliya University offered 423 courses related to sustainability and renewable energy, about 30% of its total course catalogue of 1,402 courses. That catalogue has itself grown substantially, up from 820 courses in 2023. This steady expansion shows the University growing its overall academic offering while maintaining, and slightly increasing, the proportion dedicated to sustainability content across faculties. The combination of catalogue growth and a stable or rising sustainability share indicates the increase in course numbers is not diluting sustainability content, but keeping pace with it across the institution's five faculties.

423 sustainability courses	30% of total courses	1,402 total courses (2026)
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- GM 6.1
- GM 6.2
- GM 6.3
- THE 4.3
- QS 1.2
- SDG 4
- GRI 404

2.1.2 Education for the SDGs & lifelong learning

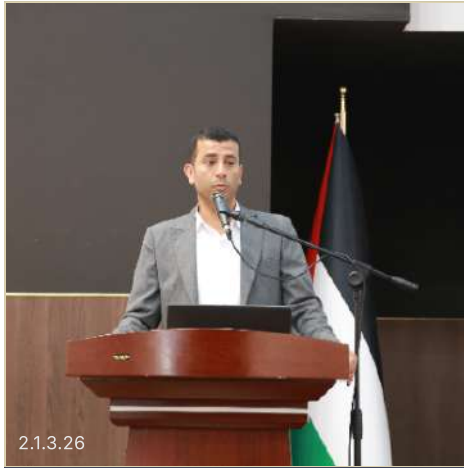


PAU's academic portfolio spans qualifications from secondary certificates through to doctoral degrees, including a PhD in Educational Creativity and Innovation offered by the Faculty of Postgraduate Studies and Scientific Research. The University's total course catalogue grew from 820 courses in 2023 to 1,402 courses in 2026, a 71% increase. This growth is presented as evidence of deliberate expansion of SDG-aligned, lifelong-learning pathways across disciplines, since it accompanies the parallel rise in sustainability-specific course numbers documented in Section 6.1. Postgraduate expansion in particular reflects PAU's push into research-level sustainability education.

PhD-level programs offered	+71% course growth since 2023
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- GM 6.20
- THE 4.2
- THE 4.3
- THE 17.4
- QS 2.4
- SDG 4
- GRI 404

2.1.3 Inclusive access to education



2.1.3.26

A standalone scored indicator for inclusive-access programming beyond overall enrolment figures is not yet isolated in PAU's current GreenMetric submission, so this point is presented as a narrative disclosure. The University's expanding course catalogue and postgraduate offerings, spanning certificate through PhD level across all five faculties, are disclosed here as indirect evidence of broadening access, pending a dedicated future indicator. PAU intends to develop a specific measure of inclusive access, potentially covering scholarship uptake or first-generation enrolment, once appropriate data collection is established, and will report against it in a subsequent sustainability cycle.

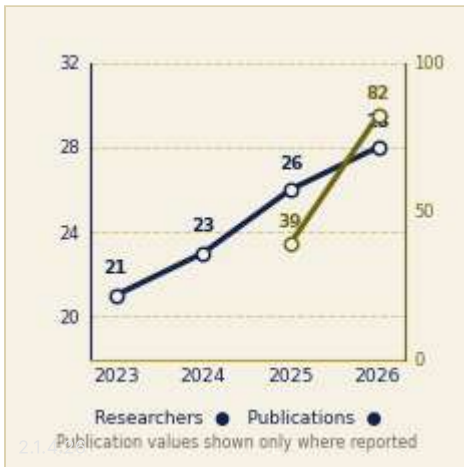
Certificate-to-PhD pathway available

5 faculties offer the pathway

SDG 4

GRI 404

2.1.4 Research capacity & sustainability publications



The number of lecturers and researchers active at PAU reached 28 in 2026, up from 26 in 2025, 23 in 2024, and 21 in 2023. Scholarly publications on sustainability grew sharply over the same period, from 59 in 2025 to 82 in 2026, a ratio of roughly 2.9 publications per researcher. This publication intensity, achieved within a comparatively small and growing faculty, reflects rising research output concentrated in a compact, research-active group rather than output spread thinly across a much larger body. The University expects both researcher numbers and publication output to keep rising in step.

82 sustainability publications (2026)

28 researchers on campus

2.9 publications per researcher

GM 6.5

GM 6.6

GM 6.8

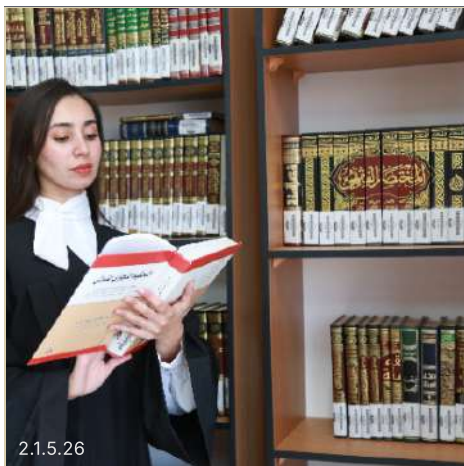
GM 6.9

GM 6.10

SDG 9

GRI 404

2.1.5 Innovation, entrepreneurship & commercialisation



2.1.5.26

PAU supported 14 sustainability-related startups in 2026, up from 12 in 2025 and 11 in 2024, incubated on campus across fields including solar energy. This growing pipeline reflects the University's strategy of translating sustainability research and coursework, described in Sections 6.1 and 6.4, into applied, commercially viable ventures for students and graduates. The steady year-on-year increase, rather than a single spike, suggests the incubation process is becoming a repeatable part of the University's academic model. PAU intends to track startup survival and growth rates in addition to the raw count in future reporting cycles.

14 sustainability startups (2026)

+27% since 2024

GM 6.16

SDG 9

GRI 404



Section 2 · Whole & Well

SDG 3 (primary) · GreenMetric: Health infrastructure · A five-pillar campus health and wellbeing centre

2.2.1 Health services & infrastructure on campus



The PAU Clinic provides essential medical services, including routine check-ups, first aid, preventive care, and health consultations, ensuring immediate medical attention is available to students, faculty, and administrative staff. The clinic's work spans five distinct program areas: Health Services, Education and Awareness, Consultations and Solutions, Sports, Entertainment and Community Activities, and Advocacy and Support. Structuring campus health provision around five defined streams, rather than a single generic medical service, allows the University to address preventive, educational, and social dimensions of wellbeing together, each discussed individually in the sections that follow.

1 campus clinic

5 programme areas

GM 1.17 THE 3.3 QS 2.1 SDG 3 GRI 403

2.2.2 Wellbeing, nutrition & food security



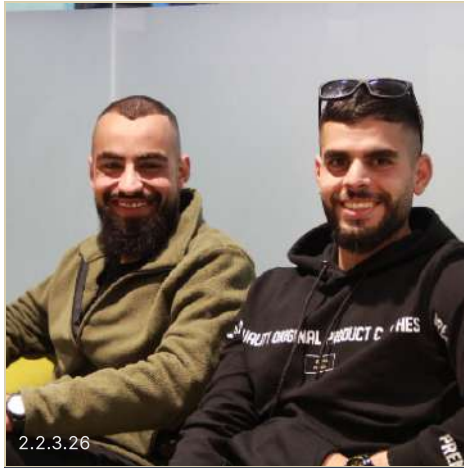
A dedicated nutrition and food-security indicator is not yet separately scored in PAU's current GreenMetric submission, so this point is presented as a forward-looking disclosure. The PAU Clinic's Sports, Entertainment, and Community Activities stream, one of the five program areas outlined in Section 7.1, already supports student wellbeing alongside core medical services. The University intends to expand formal food-security programming beyond this existing stream and will report it as a distinct, measurable activity once implemented. This disclosure is made now to set an accountable marker for that planned expansion rather than to overstate current provision.

Wellbeing programming underway

1 of 5 clinic programme areas

THE 2.3 QS 2.1 SDG 3 GRI 403

2.2.3 Health workforce development



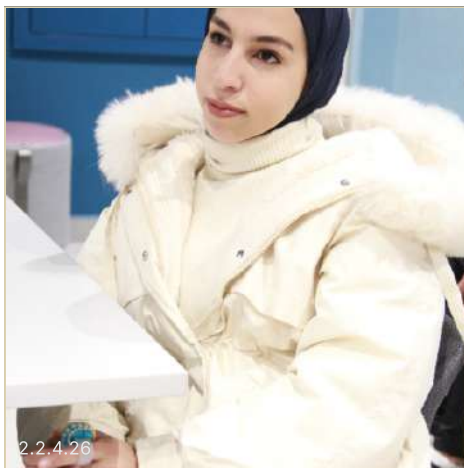
PAU's health infrastructure is staffed to provide preventive care and mental-health counselling, with trained professionals available to offer confidential guidance and therapy to students and staff. A standalone health-workforce-development indicator is not yet separately scored in the current GreenMetric submission, so this point is disclosed as a narrative rather than a measured statistic. Continued investment in clinic staffing, including specialist mental-health capacity, is presented here as a forward commitment. The University plans to track staffing ratios and counselling utilization as distinct metrics once the necessary data systems are in place for future reporting.

Trained counselling staff available

Confidential counselling available

SDG 3 GRI 403

2.2.4 Community health partnerships



The PAU Clinic's Advocacy and Support function, one of its five program areas, extends campus health services toward broader community engagement beyond the student and staff population. A formal, separately evidenced community-health-partnership indicator is not yet in place, so this point is presented as a narrative disclosure rather than a scored outcome. Deepening these community ties is disclosed here as a forward commitment, pending a future evidence submission that can quantify the reach of this advocacy work. The University views this as a natural extension of the clinic's existing five-part structure rather than a new program.

Advocacy & support function active

1 of 5 clinic programme areas

SDG 3 GRI 403

2.2.5 Health & wellbeing research



No standalone scored indicator for health and wellbeing research currently exists in PAU's GreenMetric submission, so this point is presented as a narrative disclosure. The University's broader research base, 82 sustainability publications in 2026 produced by 28 researchers institution-wide as reported in Section 6.4, provides a practical foundation on which a dedicated health-and-wellbeing research stream could be built and separately tracked. PAU intends to identify and report publications specific to campus health and wellbeing as a distinct subset of this total in future reporting cycles, once its research-classification system can isolate that category.

Broader research base of 82 publications

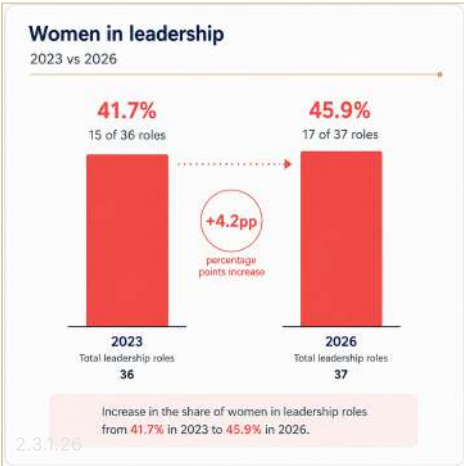
28 researchers institution-wide

SDG 3 GRI 403

Section 3 · Everyone Belongs

SDG 5 (primary) · linked 10, 1 · GreenMetric: Access · Leadership · 45.9% of institutional leaders are women

2.3.1 Gender equality & women’s leadership



Women hold 17 of 37 institutional and deputy leadership positions at Palestine Ahliya University in 2026, 45.9%, up from 15 of 36, 41.7%, in 2023. This represents a sustained multi-year equity trend across faculty, study-program, and administrative leadership rather than a single-year gain. The increase of 4.2 percentage points over three years places PAU among the stronger performers in the region for female institutional representation. The University reports this figure annually as its primary gender-equality indicator and intends to continue tracking leadership composition at this level of detail in every future sustainability report.

45.9% women in leadership (2026)

17 of 37 leadership roles

+4.2pp since 2023

GM 7.17 THE 5.2 THE 5.4 THE 5.5 QS 2.2 SDG 5 GRI 405

2.3.2 Women’s progress & anti-discrimination



A standalone scored indicator tracking broader anti-discrimination policy compliance, beyond leadership representation alone, is not yet isolated in PAU’s current GreenMetric submission. The steady rise in female leadership share, from 41.7% in 2023 to 45.9% in 2026 as reported in Section 8.1, is disclosed here as the primary available evidence of institutional progress on gender equity. A dedicated anti-discrimination audit is planned to complement this leadership data with policy-compliance evidence covering hiring, pay, and grievance handling. The University will report the audit’s findings as a separate, scored indicator once completed and reviewed.

Rising female representation trend

+4.2pp female leadership since 2023

THE 5.3 THE 5.6 THE 10.6 QS 2.2 SDG 10 GRI 406

2.3.3 Inclusive student access & success



A first-generation or need-based student access indicator is not yet separately scored in PAU's current GreenMetric submission. The University's growing overall enrolment and its expanding certificate-to-PhD academic pathway, described in Section 6.2, are disclosed here as indirect evidence of broadening access, pending a dedicated future indicator on inclusive student success specifically. This pathway spans all five faculties, giving students multiple entry points regardless of prior qualification level. PAU intends to introduce direct measures of first-generation and need-based enrolment, potentially linked to its financial-aid and scholarship data, in a subsequent sustainability reporting cycle.

Certificate-to-PhD access pathway

5-faculty access pathway

SDG 10 GRI 405

2.3.4 Inclusion of persons with disabilities



PAU provides facilities for people with disabilities, individuals with special needs, and staff requiring maternity care across all buildings on both campuses, fully operational rather than partially implemented. Provisions include designated disabled parking near building entrances, step-free and ramped access between buildings, accessible toilets, elevators, and accessible pedestrian paths with clear signage. Together these features support safe, independent movement for students, staff, and visitors with reduced mobility. This campus-wide, all-building coverage is presented as a completed baseline standard rather than an ongoing rollout, distinguishing it from the forward-commitment disclosures elsewhere in this section.

Disability access at all buildings

Elevators & ramped routes campus-wide

GM 1.15 SDG 10 GRI 405

2.3.5 Research for equity & social inclusion



A standalone research-output indicator focused specifically on equity and social inclusion is not yet separately scored at PAU. The University's rising female-leadership share, 45.9% in 2026, and its campus-wide disability-access programs, both reported earlier in this section, form the evidentiary base from which a dedicated equity-research stream is intended to be formalized. PAU views these operational achievements as a practical starting point for academic research on equity, rather than treating research and practice as separate tracks. Findings from this planned research stream will be reported against a distinct indicator once the stream produces output.

Equity evidence base established

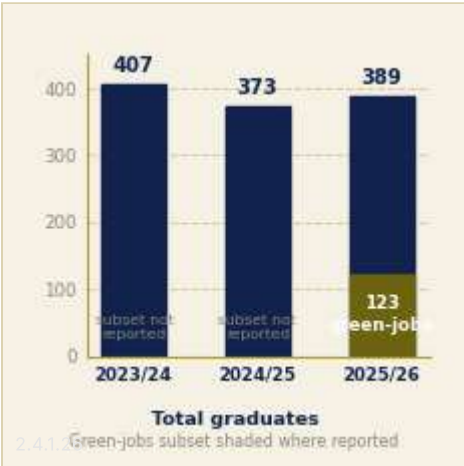
45.9% female leadership baseline

SDG 5 GRI 405

Section 4 · Ready for Tomorrow

SDG 8 (primary) · linked 2 · GreenMetric: Green jobs · 123 graduates placed in green jobs in 2026 alone

2.4.1 Graduate employability & future skills



Over the three academic years from 2023/24 to 2025/26, PAU graduated 1,169 students, with 407, 373, and 389 graduates respectively in each year. Of these, 363 secured green or sustainability-related jobs across the three-year period, including 123 placements in 2026 alone. This outcome reflects the University's success in aligning academic programs, including its solar-energy and therapeutic-nutrition specializations, with the region's green labour market. The rising annual placement figure, alongside a relatively stable graduate count, indicates the green-jobs share of total placements is increasing rather than simply tracking overall graduate numbers year on year.

1,169 graduates (3-yr total)

363 in green jobs (3-yr total)

123 green-job placements in 2026

GM 6.17 GM 6.18 GM 6.19 THE 2.4 QS 2.5 SDG 8 GRI 401

2.4.2 Work-integrated learning



2.4.2.26

A standalone work-integrated-learning or co-op placement indicator is not yet separately scored in PAU's current GreenMetric submission. The University's green-jobs tracking, conducted through its Career Centre and supported by alumni tracer studies, provides the evidentiary base from which formal work-integrated-learning placements could be measured in future reporting cycles. These existing tracer studies already follow graduates into employment, giving PAU a practical starting infrastructure rather than requiring an entirely new data system. The University intends to extend this tracking to capture structured placements and internships undertaken during study, not only outcomes after graduation.

Career Centre tracer-study system active

Alumni tracer studies conducted

THE 8.4 SDG 8 GRI 401

2.4.3 Fair employment practices



A dedicated fair-employment-practices indicator is not yet separately scored at PAU. The University's Human Resources framework operates alongside its written Code of Ethics and its Anti-Corruption and Integrity System, both detailed in Pillar Three of this report, providing an institutional foundation for future formal fair-employment disclosure. Because these governance instruments already apply to all staff, extending them into a dedicated employment-practices indicator is presented as a natural next step rather than a new undertaking. PAU intends to publish specific data on hiring, pay equity, and grievance outcomes once appropriate tracking systems are established.

Code of Ethics applies institution-wide

Applies to all staff & students

SDG 8 GRI 401

2.4.4 Decent work & employee wellbeing



A standalone employee-wellbeing indicator, distinct from the PAU Clinic's general health services described in Section 7, is not yet separately scored. The clinic's Sports, Entertainment, and Community Activities stream already extends informally to staff members, not only students, providing a base level of wellbeing support. A dedicated, formally tracked employee-wellbeing program is disclosed here as a forward commitment rather than a completed initiative. The University intends to design specific staff wellbeing metrics, potentially covering participation rates and satisfaction, and to report them separately from the clinic's broader campus health statistics in a future cycle.

Staff access to clinic wellbeing stream

1 campus clinic open to staff

SDG 8 GRI 401

2.4.5 Research for sustainable employment



A standalone research indicator on sustainable-employment pathways is not yet separately scored at PAU. The University's tracked outcome of 363 green-job placements over three years, rising to 123 placements in 2026 alone as reported in Section 9.1, forms the evidence base intended to anchor a dedicated employment-research stream in future cycles. Using existing placement data as a starting point, rather than commissioning entirely new research, allows PAU to build this stream incrementally. The University plans to analyze placement data by sector and specialization to identify which academic programs feed the green labour market most effectively.

363 green-job placements tracked (3-yr)

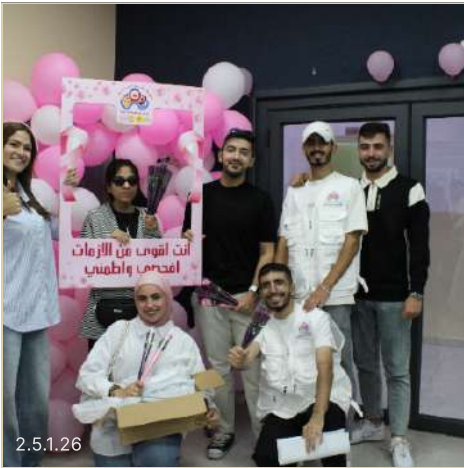
123 placements in 2026 alone

SDG 8 GRI 401

Section 5 · Beyond Our Walls

SDG 11 (primary) · linked 1, 2 · GreenMetric: Community & events · 13 sustainability community-service projects a year

2.5.1 Community engagement & cultural activities



In 2026, student organizations at PAU organized 66 sustainability-related activities, averaging 56 events per year over the preceding three years. Students are highly active in organizing cultural and sustainability events, and the University provides direct financial support for these activities to raise awareness and promote cultural change toward sustainability across the campus community. The 2026 figure sitting above the three-year average suggests continued growth in student-led activity rather than a plateau. PAU tracks this count annually as a proxy for grassroots sustainability engagement, distinct from the formally structured programs run by the University administration.

66 student-led activities (2026)

56/yr average (3-yr)

GM 6.11 GM 6.12 GM 6.13 SDG 11 GRI 413

2.5.2 Community engagement & outreach



PAU organizes 13 sustainability-related community-service projects annually involving students, including the Participation in Olive Picking initiative, which engages around 250 participants every October. Rooted in Palestine's olive-growing heritage, this annual activity preserves agricultural tradition while strengthening students' connection to the land and promoting sustainable practice. Running the same flagship activity every year, alongside twelve other projects, gives the University a consistent, comparable data point for community engagement rather than a set of one-off events. The scale of the olive-picking initiative alone, roughly 250 participants, makes it the largest single community-service activity on the calendar.

13 community-service projects/yr

~250 participants in olive picking

GM 6.15 THE 1.4 QS 2.3 SDG 1 GRI 413

2.5.3 Arts, culture & public access



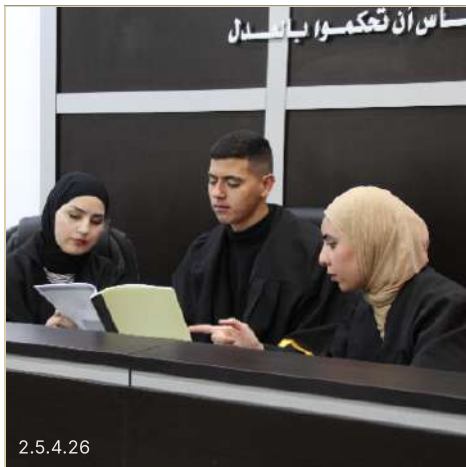
A standalone arts-and-culture-access indicator, distinct from the University's broader student-activity count, is not yet separately scored. PAU's 66 annual student-led sustainability and cultural activities, reported in Section 10.1, already include arts and cultural programming as part of that total, with a dedicated public-access indicator planned for future submissions. Separating arts and culture from the general activity count would allow the University to track this specific dimension of community engagement more precisely. PAU intends to introduce this breakdown once its event-classification system can reliably distinguish cultural programming from other sustainability-focused student activities.

Cultural programming within 66 annual events

56/yr average activities (3-yr)

SDG 11 GRI 413

2.5.4 Tackling poverty & hunger in the community



A standalone poverty-and-hunger indicator, distinct from the University's olive-picking initiative and its wider community-service projects, is not yet separately scored. These 13 annual community-service initiatives, described in Section 10.2, already engage the local agricultural community and support economic activity connected to food production. A dedicated poverty-alleviation indicator is disclosed here as a forward commitment, pending data that can isolate economic impact from the broader community-engagement figures already reported. PAU intends to work with local partners to quantify the economic benefit these projects generate for participating households in future reporting cycles.

13 community projects engaging local economy

~250 participants (olive picking)

SDG 2 GRI 413

2.5.5 Research addressing poverty & hunger



A standalone research indicator on poverty and hunger is not yet separately scored at PAU. The University's community-engagement evidence base, 13 annual service projects reaching hundreds of local participants as detailed in Sections 10.2 and 10.4, is disclosed here as the foundation for a dedicated future research stream on food security and poverty alleviation. Building research on top of an already-active community program, rather than starting from scratch, gives PAU a practical route to producing applied findings. The University intends to formalize this research stream and report specific outputs in a subsequent sustainability cycle.

Evidence base of 13 community projects

~250 participants engaged

SDG 1 GRI 413

Section 1 · Governing with Purpose

SDG 16 (primary) · linked 12, 17 · GreenMetric: Governance · A dedicated Center for Sustainable Development Goals Studies

3.1.1 Sustainability governance & coordinating unit



The Center for Sustainable Development Goals Studies at Palestine Ahliya University is dedicated to supporting Palestine’s progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. It functions as a multidisciplinary research hub addressing SDG-related issues at global, national, and institutional levels. The Center’s establishment, structure, and activities are formalized through a University leadership decree, anchoring sustainability coordination institution-wide rather than leaving it to informal or ad hoc arrangement. This decree-based structure gives the Center clear authority to coordinate sustainability work across all five faculties and administrative departments, and it is the body responsible for producing this report.

1 dedicated SDGs Center

Decree-established structure

GM 7.10 THE 16.2 QS 3.1 SDG 16 GRI 2

3.1.2 Sustainability reporting & disclosure



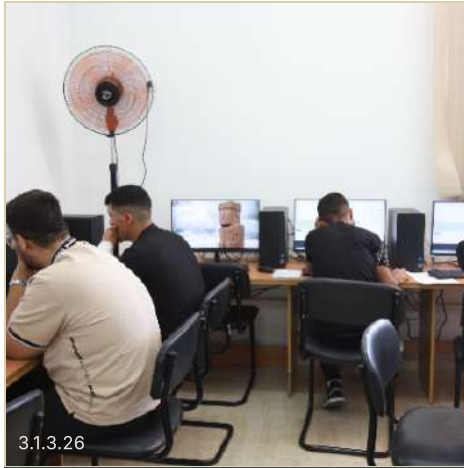
PAU publishes an annual Sustainability Report documenting its environmental, social, and governance performance, alongside a separate annual Carbon Emissions Report. Both documents are publicly available on the University’s Sustainability Center website. This report and its underlying evidence submission are reviewed and approved through a formal management sign-off process to check accuracy, consistency, and alignment with the University’s official statistics before publication. Maintaining two distinct public reports allows stakeholders to access carbon-specific detail separately from the broader sustainability narrative, with both updated on an annual cycle for consistent year-over-year comparison.

Annual sustainability report published

Carbon Emissions Report published

GM 7.6 THE 12.4 THE 17.3 SDG 12 GRI 2

3.1.3 Participatory governance & stakeholder engagement



3.1.3.26

A standalone scored indicator for student-governance participation rates is not yet isolated in PAU's current GreenMetric evidence submission. The SDGs Center and its multidisciplinary research hub structure, described in Section 11.1, already provide institutional channels through which students, faculty, and staff can contribute input on sustainability priorities. A dedicated participation-rate indicator is planned for future reporting cycles, which would quantify how many stakeholders actively engage through these channels rather than simply confirming the channels exist. PAU intends to introduce this measure once a consistent tracking method across faculties has been agreed.

SDGs Center provides stakeholder channel

Multidisciplinary research hub

SDG 16

GRI 2

3.1.4 Institutional policies, ethics & academic freedom



3.1.4.26

PAU maintains a written Code of Ethics that applies equally to university leaders, academic staff, administrative staff, and students. The code sets out the ethical principles, professional conduct standards, and responsibilities expected of every member of the University community. It is publicly available and applied consistently across the institution as the governing framework for academic and administrative conduct. Applying a single code across every category of the University community, rather than separate codes for staff and students, gives PAU one consistent reference point for ethics enforcement, referenced again in Section 12.3 of this report.

1 institution-wide Code of Ethics

Publicly available governance framework

GM 7.21

SDG 16

GRI 2

3.1.5 Research for peace, justice & strong institutions



3.1.5.26

A standalone research indicator on peace, justice, and strong institutions is not yet separately scored at PAU. The SDGs Center's multidisciplinary mandate, described in Section 11.1, positions the University to develop this research stream, building on its existing institutional and policy research base. This point is disclosed here as a forward commitment rather than a completed research output. Given the Center's existing role coordinating SDG-related work at institutional and national levels, extending its mandate into formal peace and governance research is presented as a natural next step, with outputs expected in a future report.

SDGs Center research mandate active

Institution-wide policy base

SDG 16

GRI 2



Section 2 · Transparency & Integrity

SDG 16 (primary) · GreenMetric: Integrity · A written, institution-wide Code of Ethics

3.2.1 Anti-corruption & integrity system



PAU maintains a comprehensive Anti-Corruption and Integrity System that promotes transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct across all University operations. The system is implemented, formally evaluated, and currently under continuous revision, reflecting an active rather than static governance commitment to institutional integrity. Continuous revision distinguishes this from a fixed policy document: the system is treated as something to be regularly tested and improved rather than adopted once and left unchanged. This ongoing evaluation cycle is coordinated alongside the whistleblowing system described in Section 12.2 and the Code of Ethics referenced throughout this pillar.

System implemented & under active revision

Institution-wide coverage

GM 7.18 QS 3.1 SDG 16 GRI 205

3.2.2 Whistleblowing & complaint system



PAU operates a Whistle-Blowing and Complaint System that enables students, staff, and other stakeholders to report misconduct, grievances, or policy violations safely and confidentially. The system is anchored by a formal Whistle-Blowing and Complaints Policy, which defines reportable matters, reporting procedures, and protections for whistleblowers. Like the anti-corruption system described in Section 12.1, this policy is implemented, formally evaluated, and currently under revision. Offering a confidential channel separate from normal management reporting lines gives students and staff a route to raise concerns without fear of retaliation, a key requirement for effective institutional accountability.

Formal whistleblower policy in force

Confidential reporting channel active

GM 7.19 SDG 16 GRI 205

3.2.3 Written code of ethics



PAU's written Code of Ethics applies to university leaders, academic staff, administrative staff, and students alike, setting out the ethical principles, professional conduct standards, and responsibilities expected of every member of the University community. It is publicly available and consistently applied across the institution. Positioned within the Transparency and Integrity pillar, the code functions as the reference document underpinning both the Anti-Corruption and Integrity System and the Whistle-Blowing and Complaint System described earlier in this section, giving the University a single, coherent ethical standard rather than separate rules for each governance mechanism.

1 institution-wide ethics code

Applies to all staff & students

GM 7.21

SDG 16

GRI 205

3.2.4 Financial transparency & accountability



PAU publishes an annual Financial Report as part of its commitment to financial transparency and good governance. The report presents audited financial statements, including specific budget allocations for sustainability efforts, and is publicly available on the University's website alongside the annual Sustainability Report referenced in Section 11.2. Publishing audited financial and sustainability data together, on the same public platform, gives stakeholders open access to both dimensions of institutional performance without needing to request separate documents. This financial report is the source for the sustainability-budget figures reported in detail in Pillar Three, Section 13.

Annual audited financial report

Publicly available online

GM 7.8

SDG 16

GRI 201

3.2.5 Ethics oversight & institutional integrity



Beyond its written Code of Ethics and Anti-Corruption and Integrity System, PAU's governance structure combines a whistleblower policy, an annual audited financial report, and continuous system-revision cycles. Together these form a layered oversight model spanning ethics, financial accountability, and confidential reporting, rather than relying on any single mechanism. The University intends to formalize this combination further into a single, integrated ethics-oversight framework, consolidating the separate policies described in Sections 12.1 through 12.4 under one governance structure. This value-add disclosure gives readers a consolidated view of how these individual mechanisms function together in practice.

3 integrated integrity mechanisms

Continuous revision cycle

SDG 16

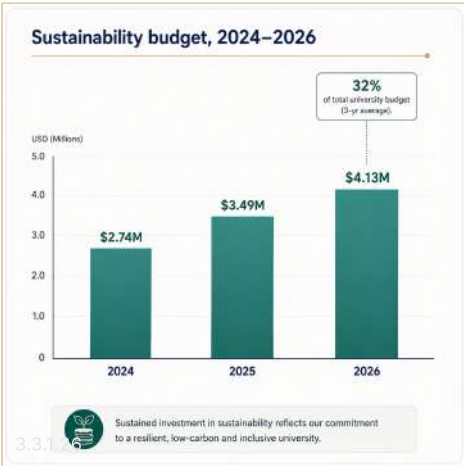
GRI 205



Section 3 · Responsible Finance & Procurement

SDG 12 (primary) · linked 8, 9 · GreenMetric: Budget · 32% of the university budget goes to sustainability

3.3.1 Sustainability budget & finance



PAU's sustainability budget reached \$4,134,565 in 2026, up from \$3,488,283 in 2025 and \$2,736,263 in 2024, against a total university budget that grew from \$10.0 million to \$12.9 million over the same period. On a three-year average basis, this represents about 32% of the total university budget dedicated to sustainability effort, a substantial and rising institutional commitment. Sustainability spending has grown faster than the overall budget in every year of this period, meaning the increase reflects a deliberate reallocation of resources rather than simply scaling up alongside general institutional growth.

\$4.13M sustainability budget (2026)

32% of total university budget

+51% sustainability budget since 2024

GM 7.2 THE 8.3 SDG 8 GRI 201

3.3.2 Ethical & sustainable procurement



A standalone scored indicator for ethical-procurement policy is not yet separately isolated from PAU's broader financial-transparency evidence. The University's audited annual Financial Report, described in Section 12.4, already discloses budget allocations for sustainability efforts, providing the base from which a dedicated procurement-policy indicator is planned. Rather than creating a parallel disclosure system, PAU intends to extend its existing audited financial reporting to include specific procurement-policy criteria, such as supplier vetting and local-sourcing preference. This extension is expected to be reflected in a future edition of the Financial Report and cross-referenced in the next sustainability report.

Procurement disclosed via financial report

Audited annually

THE 12.2 SDG 12 GRI 204

3.3.3 Responsible supply chains & sustainable sourcing



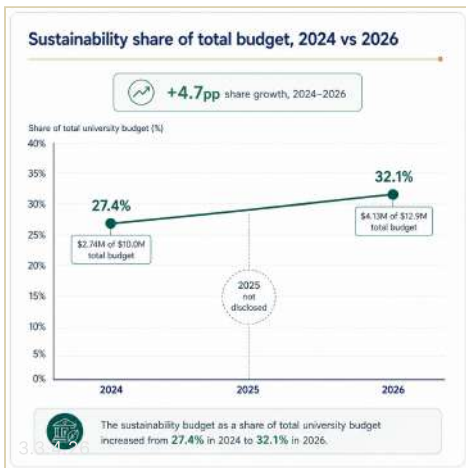
A standalone supply-chain-sourcing indicator is not yet separately scored at PAU. The University's campus farm, described in Section 1.2, and its local waste-management partnerships with the Bethlehem Municipality, described in Section 4.3, indicate an institutional preference for local sourcing and coordination, disclosed here as indirect evidence pending a dedicated indicator. These existing local partnerships give PAU a practical starting point for formalizing a supply-chain policy, rather than needing to build local supplier relationships from scratch. The University intends to document its sourcing criteria explicitly and report supplier data in a future sustainability cycle.

Local municipal partnerships in place

Bethlehem Municipality coordination

SDG 12 GRI 204

3.3.4 Sustainable investment & responsible finance



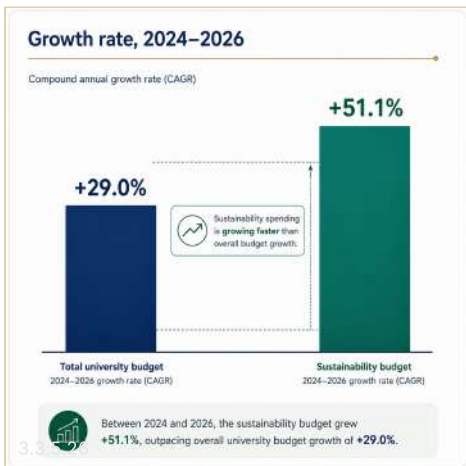
PAU's sustainability budget rose from \$2.74 million in 2024 to \$4.13 million in 2026, a 51% increase, reflecting a deliberate reallocation of institutional resources toward environmental and social programs. This growth positions sustainability finance as an expanding share of the University's overall \$12.9 million annual budget, rather than a fixed line item that simply scales with inflation. Framing sustainability spending as a growing proportion of the total budget, not just a rising dollar figure, is intended to demonstrate that the University's financial commitment is strengthening in relative terms as well as absolute terms year over year.

51% sustainability-budget growth (2024-26)

\$4.13M sustainability budget (2026)

SDG 8 GRI 201

3.3.5 Long-term financial resilience



PAU's total university budget grew from \$10.0 million in 2024 to \$12.9 million in 2026, a 29% increase, while sustainability spending grew faster still, at 51% over the same period. This gap between overall budget growth and sustainability-specific growth is presented as evidence the University is building long-term financial resilience by embedding sustainability investment ahead of general budget expansion, rather than treating it as a discretionary or trailing expense. Maintaining this pattern in future years would further reduce the risk of sustainability programs being scaled back during a period of slower overall budget growth.

29% total budget growth (2024-26)

Sustainability spend outpacing budget growth

SDG 9 GRI 201

Section 4 · Stronger Together

SDG 17 (primary) · GreenMetric: Intl. collaboration · A new joint academic partnership with the China-Arab University Union

3.4.1 International collaboration programmes



PAU reached a new agreement to strengthen cooperation between Arab universities, the University itself, and the China-Arab University Union, focused on launching joint academic programs and initiatives. This adds to the University's existing portfolio of sustainability-focused international partnerships, coordinated through its SDGs Center, described in Section 11.1, and reported annually in the Sustainability Report. Adding a new formal agreement each year, rather than only maintaining existing ties, is presented as evidence that PAU's international collaboration is actively expanding. Specific joint programs resulting from this new agreement are expected to appear in future editions of this report.

1 new China-Arab University Union agreement

Annual partnership reporting

GM 6.14 THE 17.2 QS 2.3 SDG 17 GRI 2

3.4.2 Cross-sector partnerships



A standalone cross-sector-partnership indicator, distinct from the University's academic collaborations, is not yet separately scored. PAU's coordination with the Bethlehem Municipality on waste and water management, described in Section 4.3 and elsewhere in Pillar One, and its Erasmus+ SPEED Project partnership, described in Section 2.4, already demonstrate cross-sector reach beyond academia alone. These existing municipal and EU-funded relationships are disclosed here as evidence that PAU's partnership activity spans government, industry, and international funding bodies, even though a single indicator to score this breadth has not yet been formalized.

Municipal & EU-funded partnerships active

Erasmus+ SPEED Project partner

THE 17.2 SDG 17 GRI 2

3.4.3 Strategic networks & memberships



PAU's participation in UI GreenMetric itself constitutes membership in a global university-sustainability benchmarking network, complemented by its new China-Arab University Union agreement, described in Section 14.1, and its long-standing Erasmus+ SPEED Project partnership, described in Section 2.4. Together these form three active strategic network memberships, spanning global benchmarking, regional academic cooperation, and European Union-funded technical collaboration. Counting GreenMetric itself as a strategic network membership reflects the practical peer-comparison and knowledge-sharing value the University derives from consistent annual participation in the ranking alongside hundreds of other institutions worldwide.

3 active strategic network memberships

UI GreenMetric network member

SDG 17 GRI 2

3.4.4 Research partnerships for sustainable development



A standalone joint-research-output indicator, distinct from the University's general publication count of 82 in 2026 reported in Section 6.4, is not yet separately scored for international partnerships specifically. The SPEED Project's Mediterranean-wide Hybrid Electric Vehicle research collaboration and the new China-Arab University Union agreement are disclosed as the evidence base for future formal tracking of joint publications and co-authored outputs. Isolating internationally co-authored research from the total publication count would give PAU a clearer measure of how much of its research output is genuinely collaborative, reported separately in future cycles.

82 total publications (2026) as baseline

SPEED Project HEV collaboration

SDG 17 GRI 2

3.4.5 Global engagement & sustainability leadership



PAU's hosting of the Second International Conference on Education for Innovation, held under the patronage of the Minister of Education and Higher Education and in partnership with the Association of Arab Universities, positions the University as a convening leader in regional sustainability and education dialogue. This role extends beyond the University's own campus-level programs, described throughout this report, into national and regional-level convening. Hosting a ministerially patronized conference is a distinct form of leadership from running internal programs, since it requires PAU to organize and represent the sector to external government and academic audiences at scale.

1 ministerially-patronized international conference hosted

Association of Arab Universities partner

SDG 17 GRI 2

Section 5 · Accountability & Digital Transformation

SDG 16 (primary) · linked 17 · GreenMetric: Digital & accountability · An AI/IoT policy guiding decision-making campus-wide

3.5.1 Government partnerships for sustainable development



A standalone indicator tracking formal government partnerships, distinct from the University's Ministry-patronized events described in Section 14.5, is not yet separately scored. PAU's hosting of national conferences under the patronage of the Minister of Education and Higher Education is disclosed as evidence of an active government-engagement channel, even though a dedicated indicator to score this relationship has not yet been formalized. The University intends to document the frequency and outcomes of government-level engagement, including any resulting policy input or funding, as a distinct measure in a future sustainability reporting cycle.

Ministry-level engagement evidenced

1 national conference hosted

THE 16.3 SDG 16 GRI 2

3.5.2 Digital governance & sustainable digital transformation



PAU has developed a digital campus master plan, supported by project-management software and digital planning tools, working toward integrating its category-specific sustainability dashboards into a single unified data platform. The University plans to use artificial intelligence and analytics to strengthen decision-making and predictive maintenance, and to publish ICT-enabled sustainability performance data annually for transparency. Moving from separate category dashboards to one unified platform is intended to make cross-pillar comparisons, for example between energy consumption and water use, easier for management and external reviewers. This platform is currently in development rather than fully deployed.

1 unified sustainability data platform planned

AI-enabled predictive maintenance roadmap

GM 7.12 GM 7.13 SDG 9 GRI 2

3.5.3 Data protection & privacy (GDPR)



PAU maintains full compliance with data-protection principles aligned with the General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR, and equivalent national data-protection standards. Its framework governs the collection, processing, storage, and sharing of personal data belonging to students, staff, and other stakeholders, and is regularly audited and continuously improved. Aligning with an internationally recognized standard, rather than only local requirements, gives the University a consistent benchmark for handling personal data across its growing digital systems, including the LMS platforms described in Section 15.4 and the unified data platform described in Section 15.2, both of which process personal data.

GDPR-aligned data-protection framework

Regularly audited & improved

GM 7.14 SDG 16 GRI 418

3.5.4 Digital inclusion & literacy



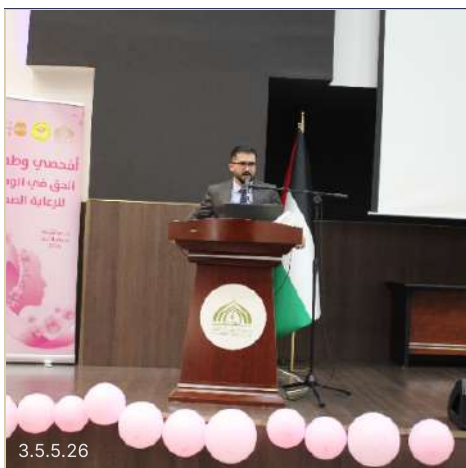
PAU implements an LMS-enabled Digital Literacy Program that equips students, faculty, and staff with essential digital skills through its learning management systems, Moodle and Microsoft Teams. The program covers online learning, digital collaboration, information literacy, and responsible technology use, integrated directly into the University's teaching infrastructure rather than delivered as a separate standalone course. Embedding digital literacy training within the same platforms used for regular coursework means students and staff build these skills through everyday use, not only through dedicated training sessions, supporting both academic delivery and the wider digital-transformation goals described in Section 15.2.

2 LMS platforms (Moodle, MS Teams)

Digital-literacy training embedded institution-wide

GM 7.20 SDG 4 GRI 404

3.5.5 Civic leadership & access to justice



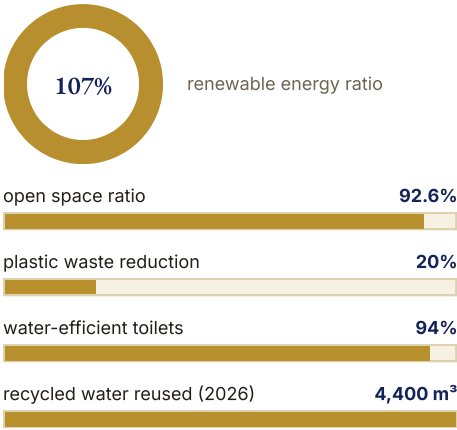
A standalone civic-leadership or access-to-justice indicator, distinct from the University's existing governance and ethics disclosures in Section 12, is not yet separately scored. PAU's Whistle-Blowing and Complaint System and its Code of Ethics already provide institutional access-to-remedy channels for students and staff, disclosed here as the evidentiary base for future dedicated reporting on civic leadership. Rather than building a new remedy mechanism, PAU intends to formalize how these existing governance tools function as access-to-justice channels and to report usage statistics, such as complaints filed and resolved, as a distinct measure in a future sustainability cycle.

Whistleblower system as remedy channel

Code of Ethics as governance backstop

SDG 16 GRI 2

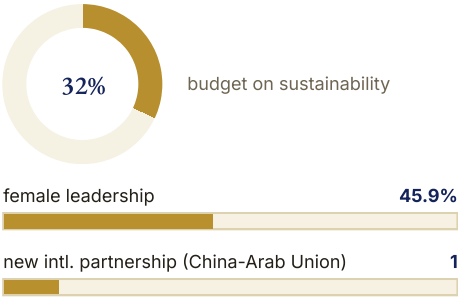
Environmental



Social



Governance



The Road Ahead

- Climate & carbon: publish a Climate Action Plan and commit to a carbon-neutral campus target date. (By 2027)
- Clean energy: sustain renewables above 100% of demand and raise on-site generation year on year. (Ongoing, reviewed annually)
- Water: hold recycled-water reuse growth on its current trajectory and cut per-capita consumption further through smart metering. (By 2028)
- Circular campus: advance toward zero-waste-to-landfill across every waste stream. (By 2030)
- Education & research: expand SDG-mapped courses and grow sustainability publications and start-ups. (By 2027)
- People & equity: sustain female leadership gains and widen access for first-generation and disabled students. (Ongoing, reviewed annually)
- Partnerships: deepen international collaborations and cross-sector SDG partnerships beyond the current portfolio. (By 2028)
- Governance & beyond-2030: keep the reporting architecture framework-independent, ready for the post-2030 agenda. (By 2030)

All 17 SDGs are addressed across the report: 10 as a section's primary focus, a further 7 through linked contributions.





"Planet · People · Prosperity, aligned to ESG, GRI & the SDGs"

Palestine Ahliya University

2 campus sites

82,800 m² total area

5 faculties

2,720 campus population

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GRI