

University of Colombo: Action Plan for Race-to-Zero

Net-Zero Target: 2050

Interim Target: 2035

| Item No. | Objective | Strategy | Activity | Target | | | | | KPI | Responsible Division Officer |
|----------|--|---|---|--------|------|------|------|------|--|-------------------------------|
| | Goal 1: Responsible leadership | | | 2023 | 2026 | 2029 | 2032 | 2035 | | |
| | Objective 1.1: To take action against climate crisis | Strategy 1.1.1 Strengthening the climate action at university level | Activity 1.1.1.1 Awareness creation Formation of a unit/committee at faculty/institute level | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | Number of awareness programs | CEI and faculties/Institutes/ |
| | | Strategy 1.1.2 Updating progress of the university commitments to the public | Activity 1.1.1.2 Communicate the university commitments via institutional strategy, sustainability report, website, social media and other relevant platforms | 6 | 12 | 18 | 24 | 30 | Number of published items | |
| | | Strategy 1.1.3 Increasing funding sources | Activity 1.1.1.3 Discuss with alumni, student societies, academic and non-academic societies, NGOs, governmental bodies regarding the possibility of funding for Race-to-Zero projects; contribution from university/each faculty/institute based on the income generation | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | Number of new funding sources annually | |
| | | Strategy 1.1.4 Encouraging the UoC community for responsible climate action | Activity 1.1.1.4: Recognize and celebrate faculties/institutes and student societies for sustainable behaviours | 30 | 45 | 60 | 75 | 90 | Number of faculties/institutes and student societies did get recognition for | |

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| | | | | | | | | | their sustainable behaviour annually | |
| | Objective 1.2: Incorporate climate action into management and governance arrangements | Strategy 1.2.1 Ensuring continuous focus on climate action | Activity 1.2.1.1: Discuss actions to be adopted at faculty/campus/school/institute level board meetings and committee meeting | 2 4 | 3 0 | 3 6 | 4 2 | 4 8 | Number of meetings taken on climate action annually | |
| | | | Activity 1.2.1.2: Address the gaps in university policies and strategies in favor of the climate action | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | Number of amendments in favor of climate action annually | |
| | Objective 1.3: To measure the progress | Strategy 1.3.1 Identify the required data and collection methods | Activity 1.3.1.1: Identify and address new emission sources within the operational greenhouse gas boundary annually | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | Number of new emission sources (excepting existing ones) identified annually | |
| | | | Activity 1.3.1.2: Collecting data from all the faculties/campus/school/institutes | 1 0 0 | 1 0 0 | 1 0 0 | 1 0 0 | 1 0 0 | Percentage of faculty/campus/school/institutes reporting data annually | |
| | Goal 2: Teaching | | | | | | | | | |
| | Objective 2.1: Teach sustainability among the UoC community | Strategy 2.1.1 Incorporating sustainability in the curriculum for all the students | Activity 2.1.1.1: Introduce sustainability related new major courses and at least one compulsory course within each existing programs | 5 5 | 6 0 | 6 5 | 7 0 | 7 5 | Percentage of courses incorporating sustainability aspects | |
| | | Strategy 2.1.2 Increasing carbon literacy and awareness on SDGs among the staff and students | Activity 2.1.1.2 Organize awareness programs for staff and students at faculty/campus/school/institute-level | 6 | 1 2 | 1 2 | 1 2 | 1 2 | Number of awareness programs on carbon literacy and SDGs | |

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| | Objective 2.2: Reduce the impact of teaching on carbon emissions | Strategy 2.2.1 Discouraging carbon emissions associated with lectures, practicals and field visits | Activity 2.2.2.1: Plan initiatives to reduce carbon emissions from lectures and laboratory activities (e.g. not providing hard copies) | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | Number of initiatives to reduce carbon emissions from lectures, practicals and field visits | |
| | | | Activity 2.2.2.2: Use vehicles with high passenger capacity and fuel efficiency for field visits | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | Percentage of vehicles with high/enough capacity and/or high energy efficiency | |
| | Goal 3: Research and Knowledge exchange | | | | | | | | | |
| | Objective 3.1: To minimize carbon emissions in research activities" | Strategy 3.1.1 Identifying and minimizing possible emissions from proposed projects. | Activity 3.1.1.1: Make it mandatory to mention carbon-emitting possibilities in research proposals, discourage them and/or give suggestions to minimize emissions | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | Percentage of measures taken to minimize carbon emissions compared to the original proposal annually | |
| | Objective 3.2: To encourage climate related research | Strategy 3.2.1 Extending financial support for climate related research | Activity 3.2.1.1: Provide financial support for climate related research, especially to cover up the existing data gaps in the countries and university's research and literature | 9 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | Number of climate related research done annually | |
| | Objective 3.3: To exchange knowledge to advance climate action | Strategy 3.3.1 Cooperating and communicating with industries, promoting and facilitating carbon neutrality | Activity 3.3.1.1: Organize discussion forums with industries | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | Number of discussion forums with the industry sector | |
| | Objective 3.4: | Strategy 3.4.1 Collaborating with | Activity 3.4.1.1: | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | Number of research | |

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| | To collaborate on research targeting climate action | external bodies conducting research on climate action | Request for collaborative research on climate action | | | | | | | collaborations annually | |
| | Goal 4: Community engagement | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Objective 4.1: To encourage community-level participation in climate action | Strategy.4.1.1 Organizing awareness programs for outside community | Activity 4.1.1.1: Conduct annual awareness programs for school children on better practices to minimize carbon emissions | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | Number of awareness programs for school children annually | |
| | Objective 4.2: Support and empower student unions to engage students in climate action | | Activity 4.2.1.1: Conduct one discussion session annually with student societies of the university about their ongoing project and possibility of including projects related to climate action | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | Number of discussion sessions conducted with student societies annually | |
| | Goal 5: University Management | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Objective 5.1: To avoid, reduce, replace scope 1 Carbon emissions | Strategy 5.1.1 Preventing or minimizing emissions from vehicles | Activity 5.4.1.1: Survey on university owned vehicles for their emissions | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | Percentage of fuel efficient/zero-emission vehicles | |
| | | | Activity 5.4.1.2: Purchase fuel efficient/ zero-emission vehicles | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Percentage of fuel efficient/zero-emission vehicles bought annually | |
| | | | Activity 5.4.1.3: Utilization rate of university-owned fuel efficient/ high-passenger capacity/ zero-emission vehicles | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Percentage of fuel/efficient/high-passenger capacity/zero-emission vehicle usage | |
| | | Strategy 5.1.2 Preventing or minimizing emissions | Activity 5.4.1.4: Check appliances for leakage/fugitive emissions | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | Number of audits conducted | |

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| | | from Refrigerators and A/Cs | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Activity 5.4.1.5: Consider environmentally friendly/ energy-saving appliances when buying new items | 7 5 | 1 0 | 1 0 | 1 0 | 1 0 | 1 0 | Percentage environmentally friendly appliances purchased annually | |
| | | Strategy 5.1.3 Preventing or minimizing emissions from waste combustion | Activity 5.4.1.6: Prohibit waste combustion sites | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Percentage of waste combusted/ cases reported | |
| | Objective 5.2: Avoid, reduce, replace scope 2 Carbon emissions | Strategy 5.2.1 Preventing or minimizing emissions from electricity | Activity 5.2.1.1: Increase renewable energy sources | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 6 | Number of new renewable energy projects annually | |
| | | | Activity 5.2.1.2: Purchase energy-efficient appliances | 6 5 | 7 0 | 7 5 | 8 0 | 8 5 | 8 5 | Percentage energy efficient appliances | |
| | | | Activity 5.2.1.3: Replace old bulbs with LEDs | 6 5 | 7 0 | 7 5 | 8 0 | 8 5 | 8 5 | Percentage of LED bulbs at the university | |
| | Objective 5.3: Avoid, reduce, replace scope 3 Carbon emissions | Strategy 5.3.1 Preventing or minimizing the emissions from single occupancy vehicles | Activity 5.3.1.1: Provide shuttle services and promote car-pooling | 5 5 | 6 0 | 6 5 | 7 0 | 7 5 | 7 5 | Percentage staff utilizing university shuttles/ shared transport | |
| | | Strategy 5.3.2 Strengthening the waste management | Activity 5.3.2.1: Avoid and/or minimize waste | B y 2 0 | B y 3 0 | B y 4 0 | B y 6 0 | B y 7 0 | B y 7 0 | Percentage reduction of annual waste generation in the university | |
| | | | Activity 5.3.2.2 Reuse, or recycle waste | 5 5 | 6 0 | 6 5 | 7 0 | 7 5 | 7 5 | Percentage recycled waste | |
| | | | Activity 5.3.2.3 Minimize the waste sent to landfill sites | B y 2 0 | B y 3 0 | B y 4 0 | B y 6 0 | B y 7 0 | B y 7 0 | Percentage reduction of waste sent to landfill sites annually | |

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| | Objective 5.4: To offset carbon emissions | Strategy 5.4.1 Expanding the tree cover | Activity 5.4.1.1: Conduct a tree audit and calculate the tree cover required to offset carbon emissions by the university | 5 5 | 6 0 | 6 5 | 7 0 | 7 5 | Percentage tree cover out of the required expansion | |
| | | | Activity 5.4.1.2: Assign a committee to select plants, suitable locations and to develop a monitoring plan to make sure the planted trees survive in the university environment | 6 | 1 2 | 1 2 | 1 2 | 1 2 | Number of progress meetings/ discussion sessions held by the committee annually | |

Actions to be taken by faculties/institutes in relation to Race-to-Zero pledge

- The campus/faculty/school/institute should appoint a committee to take responsibility for the actions, which should be implemented according to the action plan of Race-to-Zero.
- The committee is responsible for decentralizing the responsibilities given in the action plan at the campus/faculty/school/institute level.
- Allocate time slots to discuss the progress of the Race-to-Zero actions in the faculty/campus/school/institute level meetings to ensure regular and consistent consideration and action.
- Every faculty/institute/school/campus should make record-keeping mandatory with the electricity, water consumption, gas consumption, and fuel consumption and ensure that the latest data are available and accessible.
- Conduct a tree audit in your campus/faculty/school/institute premises with the help of the curator and the CEI.
- Make the staff and students participate in the awareness programs conducted by the CEI and the respective campus/faculty/school/institute.
- Share and adopt guidelines in the *Environmental and Sustainability Guidelines 2021* of the University of Colombo, which is readily available on the CEI's website, within the campus/faculty/school/institute.
- Study thoroughly the University of Colombo's action plan for Race-to-Zero, in preparing the action plan and implementing the activities/strategies at the campus/faculty/school/institute level and report the progress through the committee.