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## Environment and Sustainability: March 2023

Environment and Sustainability, Office of the President  
*Aga Khan University*, [environment@aku.edu](mailto:environment@aku.edu)

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Environment and Sustainability

## Newsletter March 2023

We are happy to share the latest updates, news and activities from the Office of Environment and Sustainability (OES). As AKU has commenced its momentous 40th anniversary, we look 'onwards' to an exciting year to progress on this strategic agenda.

In this newsletter issue, you can find out about:

- Green tips campaign
- Green Events Guide
- Supplier workshop for climate action
- New solar panels in Karachi and Kampala
- Organic vegetables supplied to NFSD, Stadium Road
- And much more...

### DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know there are 2 bike racks on Stadium Road? The School of Nursing Parking can accommodate 6 bicycles, while 5 bicycles can be parked in the FOB Male Hostel.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Are you reading the 'green tip of the week'?

Responding to the interest and demand by AKU employees and students for easy and simple to implement tips to live an environmentally conscious and friendly life, the OES initiated the '[green tip of the week](#)' campaign. Every Friday, we share one green tip to your inbox to inspire greener living.



**AKU's Kampala Project Site Office turns to solar**



As AKU prepares to build a new campus in Kampala, Uganda, the Project Site Office is now operated with solar power as a primary source, while the national grid provides backup power. 10 new solar panels have been installed atop a car shed to save space and emissions.

### Launching the 'Green Events Guide'

Does your Department regularly organize and manage events? Would you like them to be more sustainable? We hope to inspire you make them more sustainable with simple actions you can apply in different categories. Check out the 'Green Events Guide' [here](#).



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## RECENT EVENTS



### AKU suppliers come together for climate action

On 8 March 2023, 40 Pakistan-based manufacturers participated in a workshop called 'Partnering for Climate Action' where innovation, knowledge, experiences, and processes on adopting sustainable practices were exchanged. "Whatever we do, we have to keep sustainability at the forefront", encouraged President Shahabuddin. Read more [here](#).

### AKU shares learning with other universities

National University of Science and Technology (NUST) recently held a conference for climate action and partnership, and invited AKU OES to speak on a panel. It was a welcome space for diverse partners to share learnings on how to decarbonize universities in Pakistan and jointly amplify climate ambition.



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## RELATED ACTIVITIES



### Link Road solar panels get a revamp

After the unprecedented monsoon rains of 2022, AKU's land on Link Road in Karachi saw an unprecedented growth of grass. Hundreds of kilograms of grass were sold and the revenue was used to install 54 new solar panels (18.5 kW capacity) to run a water pump. The older panels are being used to light up eight guard camps and provide electricity to security personnel and gardeners.

### Organic vegetables supplied to NFSD from Link Road farm

3 acres of land on Link Road have been allocated for small-scale farming to grow seasonal vegetables such as onions, brinjals, marrow, coriander, and carrots. These are grown with organic farming methods i.e. without using pesticides or industrial fertilizers. As a pilot project, around 200 kg of various vegetables were supplied to the Food Services Department (NFSD), Stadium Road in the last quarter of 2022. The supply of vegetables will resume on an ongoing basis from next month.

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## UPCOMING..

### **A brand-new e-module on environment and sustainability**

We are excited to share that an e-module on environment and sustainability is almost ready! Look out for a link to complete the self-paced certificate course on AKU's VLE. It will also be offered to new AKU employees as part of the online HR orientation.

### **A ridesharing app for AKU employees to be launched soon**

Are you weary of the rising fuel prices and the cost of commuting to work? Fret not, because soon a ridesharing app will be made available for employees in Karachi and Nairobi to carpool with your colleagues! Look out for an announcement and sign up details in the coming weeks.

### **Plastic bag phasedown at AKU Stadium Road**

We are cracking down on plastic bags and replacing them with paper bags for as much food packaging as possible. The Patient Property Bag, used in thousands in the hospital, is also getting a new look as a reusable cotton bag. We hope to implement similar changes in other AKU geographies soon.

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*The Environment and Sustainability team looks forward to sharing regular updates regarding environment and sustainability work across the University.*

*Do you have any ideas or feedback for us?  
We'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to us at [environment@aku.edu](mailto:environment@aku.edu)*

*You can find further information and [useful resources](#) on our pages on [OneAKU](#) and [AKU's website](#)*



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