SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Al Ain University



جامعة العين
AL AIN UNIVERSITY

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17

Contribution to SDG 14 Life Below Water

Institutional position

Al Ain University's contribution to SDG 14 is centred on protecting aquatic systems through upstream action: water conservation, wastewater treatment, pollution prevention, safe chemical and medical-waste disposal, environmental research and education. In an inland and arid setting, this focus addresses the pathways through which land-based activities affect freshwater, groundwater and marine environments.

The 2024 Sustainable Methods for Wastewater Treatment workshop provided direct educational evidence, while AAU's standing water and waste programmes document conservation, treated-water use and pollution controls. Collaboration with the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi and participation in international environmental-education networks strengthen the University's capacity to connect campus practice with wider ecosystem protection.

Principal strengths

Strength area	AAU institutional strength
Upstream pollution prevention	Waste, chemical and medical-disposal controls reduce risks to water systems.
Wastewater knowledge	Specialist education develops understanding of treatment, reuse and water quality.
Water stewardship	Conservation, efficient appliances and treated-water irrigation reduce pressure on freshwater resources.
Environmental collaboration	Government and international networks connect AAU with wider ecosystem priorities.

Institutional approach

AAU links SDG 14 with SDG 6 and SDG 12 through a source-to-environment approach. Preventing contaminants from entering drainage and wastewater systems, controlling hazardous materials and reducing waste are practical protections for aquatic ecosystems.

Research and education add a long-term dimension. Engineering, environmental and sustainability expertise supports work on treatment, monitoring, pollution and climate effects, while community events improve understanding of responsible water and waste behaviour.

Implementation in 2024

The following evidence shows how the University's institutional approach was translated into activity during the principal reporting year.

2024 evidence	Contribution to the Goal	Sources
Wastewater-treatment education	A 2024 workshop addressed sustainable treatment approaches and resource recovery.	E04
Water-pollution controls	AAU's campus framework addressed garbage, chemicals, oils, detergents and medical waste.	E03 E05
Treated-water use	Drip irrigation supported efficient reuse while reducing evaporation and freshwater demand.	E03
Environment Agency partnership	The partnership opened routes for scientific collaboration on environmental priorities in Abu Dhabi.	E06
International environmental education	AAU participation in WEEC 2024 placed its environmental work in a global learning network.	E07

Strengths across University functions

University function	Contribution and strength
Campus operations	Water conservation, wastewater controls and safe waste management reduce land-based pressures on aquatic environments.
Education	Engineering and environmental workshops develop professional understanding of treatment, reuse and pollution prevention.
Research	Sustainability and international environmental collaboration create capacity for water-quality and ecosystem-related inquiry.
Engagement	Environmental events and public education promote behaviours that reduce waste and protect shared water resources.

Current continuity

Later teaching on water management in arid areas and continuing environmental partnerships sustain AAU's focus on water quality, efficient use and ecosystem protection.

Institutional conclusion

AAU's SDG 14 strength is its practical upstream-protection model. By combining water efficiency, wastewater education, pollution control and environmental partnership, the University addresses the land-based drivers that influence aquatic health.

Public evidence register

The following public sources support the institutional framework, implementation evidence and continuity presented in this report.

ID	Public source	Relevance	Link
E01	United Nations SDG 14 Life Below Water	Goal context	Open evidence
E02	AAU SDG 14 institutional page	University SDG framework	Open evidence
E03	AAU GreenMetric water programme	Water conservation and pollution control	Open evidence
E04	Sustainable Methods for Wastewater Treatment workshop 2024	Wastewater education	Open evidence
E05	AAU GreenMetric waste programme	Hazardous and solid-waste controls	Open evidence
E06	AAU MoU with Environment Agency Abu Dhabi	Environmental research partnership	Open evidence
E07	AAU at World Environmental Education Congress 2024	International knowledge exchange	Open evidence
E08	AAU Sustainability Research Center	Interdisciplinary environmental research	Open evidence
E09	AAU and Mount Union water and flood alarm project	Water-related engineering innovation	Open evidence
E10	Water Management in Arid Areas lecture 2025	Current continuity	Open evidence