

Current Projects on University and Campus Sustainability

❖ **Research Project - (NSTIP sponsored project -2 years):**
Title: A GIS-Based Campus Sustainability Assessment

Summary

In recognizing the importance of the sustainable (green) campus initiative and the absence of unified campus sustainability standards and practices within Saudi universities, the main objectives of this novel research are: (a) to develop sustainability indicators and practical guidelines suitable for Saudi universities and in line with the universities' international best practices; (b) to develop a GIS-based campus sustainability assessment approach and then evaluate the sustainability levels of Saudi universities and (c) To design a roadmap and policy guidelines towards sustainable universities in Saudi Arabia.

The research objectives will be met first through extensive literature review and case studies in order to understand and document global campus sustainability initiatives and best practices. With the strong knowledge base from these reviews, GIS-based campus sustainability assessment and questionnaire survey of some major Saudi universities will then be conducted to assess their existing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) in achieving campus sustainability. Following the GIS and SWOT analyses and based on the lessons drawn from the case studies and literature review, a new set of policy guidelines and roadmap will be developed for increasing the efficiency of campus environmental management practices and for promoting sustainability via teaching, research and outreach programs.

The tangible outcomes of this proposed research will be a report about the status of campus sustainability of some selected Saudi Universities, a database of sustainability indicators, benchmarks and best practices suitable for Saudi universities, a manual of how to conduct sustainability assessment and the steps towards becoming a sustainable university, training of graduate student and journal publications. The expected research findings will take Saudi universities towards sustainable path in the near future and also allows them play a leading role in promoting sustainable development in Saudi Arabia, the MENA region and the developing countries in general.

❖ **Sustainability Initiative (Ministry of Education sponsored project - 1 year):**
Title: National Scheme on Sustainability in Saudi Universities

objectives

- Introduce the concept of sustainability in higher education in the Kingdom.
- Keep Saudi universities in line with world-wide reputable and leading higher education institutions in their initiatives to achieve sustainability in higher education.
- Assess sustainability practices in Saudi universities
- Helping universities to rearrange their priorities to consider sustainability as a strategic priority in their teaching, research and operations.
- Establish sustainability units in Saudi universities.

This initiative intends to benefit all Saudi higher education institutions by establishing sustainability units at their universities comparable to those established in leading world-wide universities.