KFUPM



FAST Forward to a Sustainable Future

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT | 2026

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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sustainability.kfupm.edu.sa

KFUPM

Message from the President

Our planet is constantly changing, and more than 8 billion people place growing pressure on global resources. Technology can help serve nations more equitably, and KFUPM is pushing its boundaries through advanced research. But is this, collectively, enough? Our dominance and desire for growth have affected ecosystems, the atmosphere, the sea, and our way of life, contributing to the changes we now see on Earth. As we strive to fulfill our ambitious Vision 2030 goals, Saudi Arabia, like governments worldwide, has adopted the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Universities are at the forefront of this change, through research and by teaching the next generation of innovators. Our collective role at KFUPM is to create opportunities for that generation to live in a more sustainable world. Securing their future demands sustainable growth and development built on knowledge sharing, community engagement, and a shared understanding of our roles, in line with our nation's vision. Achieving these goals is an immense task. We will solve global problems only with global partners, when governments, institutions, and industry work together as one.

At KFUPM, we are uniquely positioned to help society solve specific problems, and we must maximize our role in helping others work toward the same goals. Working with external partners comes naturally to our faculty, researchers, and students as part of our global mindset. We have nurtured outstanding talent to build sustainable energy resources and develop technologies that shape daily life, earning KFUPM recognition as a vital player on global issues.

I would like us all to consider the role each of us can play in this crucial effort. Whether as faculty or as students, we must all examine our actions and commit to building a new future, not only for KFUPM's direction but as global citizens responsible for designing a better world. Alongside our ongoing sustainability initiatives aligned with the 17 SDGs, I welcome your ideas on how we can build this future together.



Muhammad M. Al-Saggaf

President of
King Fahd University of
Petroleum & Minerals

Previous Ranking Data in 2026



Ranking Progress

2021 → 2026

801-1000 → 66

▲700 places up in the overall ranking

SDG Rankings



KFUPM

No Poverty

49 PUBLICATIONS | 633 CITATIONS | FWCI 1.28

Data for the years (2021 - 2026)

KFUPM is committed to addressing poverty at regional and global levels. Through institutional policies, financial assistance, education, research, and community partnerships, the University promotes a poverty-free campus and contributes to building a more equitable society. All undergraduate and postgraduate students, including international students, receive full scholarships or assistantships. These benefits may cover tuition fees, textbooks, accommodation, annual travel tickets, medical care, and a monthly stipend. Approximately 18% of KFUPM students come from developing or least-developed countries and receive comprehensive scholarships and financial support, helping them pursue higher education without financial barriers. KFUPM also supports students from low-income families. Through Student Affairs, eligible students may access interest-free loans to assist their families and relatives. In addition, the donor-supported KFUPM Fund provides financial assistance to students with limited financial resources, helping them meet essential educational and personal needs. The Center of Excellence for the Development of Non-Profit Organizations contributes to poverty alleviation through research, capacity building, and training programs that strengthen nonprofit organizations and their ability to serve vulnerable communities.

University Anti-Poverty Programs

In partnership with Al Fozan Academy, KFUPM equips students with leadership skills to support nonprofit and volunteer organizations and contribute to a poverty-free society.

Community Anti-Poverty Programs

In 2025, KFUPM organized its annual scientific camp for orphans in collaboration with Benaa Charity Association for Orphans, one of Saudi Arabia's largest charitable organizations of its kind. The event, themed "Soaring Towards the Future," was attended by 121 orphans in person and reached 616 participants online.

These efforts reflect KFUPM's commitment to ensuring that financial circumstances do not limit access to education, leadership development, research opportunities, or community participation. They also strengthen social mobility by preparing students to become responsible professionals, volunteers, and leaders who can develop practical solutions to poverty and promote dignity, inclusion, and shared prosperity in Saudi Arabia and beyond.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY | 2 ZERO HUNGER | 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | 4 QUALITY EDUCATION | 5 GENDER EQUALITY | 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION | 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 14 LIFE BELOW WATER | 15 LIFE ON LAND | 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

KFUPM

Zero Hunger

187 PUBLICATIONS | 2K+ CITATIONS | FWCI 2.11

Data for the years (2021 - 2026)

KFUPM believes that hunger is one of the greatest risks facing humanity. A large portion of the world's population lives in poverty and struggles to access sufficient, nutritious food. Our measures against hunger can be summarized in the following paragraphs:

Affordable Meals for Students and Staff

All KFUPM affiliates have access to affordable, healthy food. The Food Services Department ensures that the food produced within the university is of the highest quality and offered at reasonable prices. Prices are further lowered for students to ensure that they can have access to affordable and healthy meals. In addition, KFUPM dining halls offer a variety of choices for people following different diets (vegetarian, vegan, etc.).

National Hunger

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool designed to measure and track hunger in different countries at regional and global levels. The GHI is calculated from data on undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality collected from each country. GHI values below 9.9 are considered low and desirable, while values above 50 are extremely alarming. With a GHI score of 5.9 in 2025, Saudi Arabia ranked 30th out of 123 countries. Despite this remarkable score, KFUPM remains committed to helping reduce the hunger index in Saudi Arabia to zero.

KFUPM's Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Department partnered with the Saudi Food Bank Association (ETAAM) to collect surplus food from campus dining facilities and redistribute it to individuals and families in need. The initiative supports SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) by reducing food waste, promoting food security, and advancing social and environmental sustainability.

KFUPM also organized its 17th Volunteer Day Festival, one of Saudi Arabia's largest annual volunteer events. The festival brought together more than 650 high school and university students and featured 33 community, environmental, and professional initiatives, including tree planting, patient visits, and food distribution. The event reaffirmed KFUPM's commitment to promoting specialized and sustainable volunteering and to supporting those in need.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Good Health & Well-being

925 PUBLICATIONS | 22K+ CITATIONS | FWCI 1.72

Data for the years (2021 - 2026)

KFUPM recognizes that healthy lifestyles and overall wellness are essential to achieving academic and personal success. Our multi-specialty Medical Center provides complete medical and wellness services designed to meet the needs of the entire KFUPM community, including students, employees, and their families. Founded in 1974 as a clinic with a single doctor, it now offers general, internal medicine, pediatric, obstetrics and gynecology, dermatology, ENT, and dental clinics, supported by pharmacy, laboratory, radiology, vaccination, and health education services. An on-campus Saudi Red Crescent unit also responds to medical emergencies around the clock.

Beyond Medical Care

We promote diverse activities and community engagement initiatives that support the physical and mental well-being of the university community, reinforcing our commitment to good health and well-being. In January 2026, the Physical Education Department organized the Men's Edition of the 5K Run under the theme "Movement for All." Held under the patronage of KFUPM President Dr. Muhammad M. Al-Saggaf, the event drew more than 1,400 participants, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, school students, and members of the wider community. The run was part of KFUPM's broader drive to promote fitness, social connection, and lifelong healthy living.

Well-being Initiatives

KFUPM's Irshad Platform provides students with comprehensive mental, emotional, and psychological support, academic guidance, consultations, and referrals to appropriate services. It promotes academic excellence while supporting students' overall well-being. Through the platform, KFUPM has guided more than 2,500 students, delivered over 370 hours of help sessions, and conducted more than 700 guidance visits in student dormitories, bringing support directly to where students live.

The Physical Education Department offers 67 fitness programs and activities, fostering a more active and inclusive campus culture for students at all levels. These programs give every student, regardless of experience or ability, an opportunity to build healthy habits, relieve academic stress, and connect with peers. Together, these services and initiatives reflect KFUPM's holistic approach to health, ensuring that physical, mental, and social well-being remain central to university life.

A Healthy Living and Working Environment

Campus renewal during 2025–2026 improved the physical environment in which students and staff live and work. New and renovated student housing introduced upgraded air-conditioning with advanced controls, roof and wall insulation and low-E glazing that improve thermal comfort. The Research Institute renovation added gas-leak detection, emergency shutoffs, improved chemical storage and laboratory safety systems, together with demand-based ventilation that improves indoor air quality for researchers. Campus Sustainability Report 2025–2026.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Quality Education

170 PUBLICATIONS | 1412 CITATIONS | FWCI 1.54

Data for the years (2021 - 2026)

KFUPM has long maintained its position as one of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's most prestigious universities. Over the past five years, the university has focused on enhancing the quality of its academic programs and offerings as a central priority of its transformation. In alignment with Saudi Vision 2030, KFUPM has linked all its programs to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), demonstrating its commitment to sustainable development and global impact.

New Learning Programs for Quality Education

The KFUPM Business School (KBS), holding dual accreditation from AACSB and AMBA, expanded its academic portfolio by introducing new undergraduate and doctoral programs. It further supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) by increasing access to advanced, contemporary, and specialized business education. The KBS is also gaining a new home; Building 14, constructed in 1982 and covering approximately 5,640 m², is being adapted to house it, turning an ageing facility into a modern academic destination rather than replacing it. Campus Sustainability Report 2025–2026.

In August 2025, KBS launched a PhD in Business Administration with six specializations: management and organizations, finance, marketing, accounting, operations and supply chain management, and information systems and analytics. At the undergraduate level, it introduced six new programs across three academic departments: Accounting and Corporate Finance, Finance and Financial Engineering, Business Analytics and AI, Operations and Supply Chain, Digital and Social Media Marketing, and Fintech and Entrepreneurship. The EMBA curriculum also incorporates ESG principles and net-zero strategies to promote sustainable business practices.

Program Overview – KFUPM Business School

Additionally, the University's Interdisciplinary Research Center for Hydrogen Technologies and Carbon Management hosts students at various academic levels, fostering early engagement in high-impact research. Launched in November 2023, the Center advances clean hydrogen production, storage, transportation, and utilization, alongside carbon capture, conversion, utilization, and storage. High school students participate through the Mawhiba Research Enrichment Program, which in 2026 offered four weeks of faculty-mentored projects across 12 KFUPM research centers, including in hydrogen technologies. National and international undergraduates join KFUPM's Inbound Summer Research initiative, whose 2026 edition brought together 56 participants from 18 countries. Cooperative Education (Co-op) students also complete their required practical training at the Center, creating a collaborative environment that supports the development of national talent.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Gender Equality

KFUPM

40 PUBLICATIONS | 208 CITATIONS | FWCI 0.86

Data for the years (2021 - 2026)

Women's empowerment and equal opportunities remain key objectives of KFUPM's transformation. The university continues to promote gender equality among its students, faculty, and staff in alignment with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.

Women in Education

Since approving the admission of female students to graduate programs in 2018 and welcoming them into undergraduate programs in 2021, KFUPM has continued to expand and strengthen women's participation in undergraduate and graduate education. The first cohort of about 100 female graduate students, selected from more than 600 applicants, began their studies in September 2019. Women now represent 40% of STEM enrollment and approximately 50% of engineering admissions, reflecting broader social and institutional progress across the Kingdom.

On May 21, 2026, KFUPM held its Class 56 graduation ceremony under the patronage of HRH Prince Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz, Governor of the Eastern Province. The ceremony marked a historic milestone in the university's more than six-decade history as it celebrated the graduation of its first cohort of female bachelor's students.

Infrastructure for Inclusion

Widening women's participation requires physical capacity as well as policy. By 2026 KFUPM had completed 12 new female student housing buildings providing approximately 2,040 student places across some 39,600 m² of floor area, each building offering around 85 rooms. The development gives female students safe, high-quality residential, recreational and support environments on campus, and is designed with advanced building controls, LED lighting and sensor-operated water fixtures. Campus Sustainability Report 2025–2026.

Under KFUPM's strategic leadership, the university, in partnership with the Women and Energy Association, launched the SANA Program, a comprehensive initiative designed to empower women across various sectors, particularly the energy industry. The program's first stage, held on campus in January 2026, was a three-day energy bootcamp that brought together more than 80 students from KFUPM's first female graduating cohort to prepare them for impactful roles in Saudi Arabia's energy sector.

Women in Leadership

KFUPM continues to support women's participation in academic, administrative, and leadership positions by providing opportunities for professional growth and career advancement. In 2018, the university opened faculty positions at all academic ranks to women, aiming not only to recruit female faculty but also to prepare women leaders. It has also removed all restrictions on female employment across its workplaces, and women have been appointed to senior roles, including Director of Public Relations, Director of Student Affairs, Director of Talent Development, and Advisor to the President.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Clean Water & Sanitation

KFUPM

1582 PUBLICATIONS | 41K+ CITATIONS | FWCI 1.92

Data for the years (2021 - 2026)

Global demand for safe water continues to grow faster than population, driven by rapid industrialization, expanding agriculture, and urbanization. In Saudi Arabia, where water supplies depend largely on desalinated seawater and groundwater, protecting water quality is a national priority.

KFUPM, through ARC-EMS (Applied Research Center for Environment and Marine Studies), supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the University's Environmental Sustainability Strategy: Water by systematically monitoring, quantifying, and removing water contaminants, including residues from emerging pollutants. Established in 1977 as the Center for Environment and Water, ARC-EMS has conducted more than 330 projects worth over SAR 850 million. Following APHA and EPA standards, its laboratories analyze groundwater, wastewater, seawater, sediment, and biota for pollutants such as trace metals, petroleum hydrocarbons, and phenols.

ARC-EMS developed eco-friendly adsorbents from marine and agricultural waste for wastewater treatment, supporting waste management and circular economy principles. In a 2024 study, ARC-EMS researchers converted dead palm leaves into a biobased activated carbon that achieved high-performance removal of the painkiller paracetamol from water and remained reusable after regeneration. This initiative also addresses the date-palm waste generated in Saudi Arabia, home to more than 37 million palm trees.

Beyond ARC-EMS, KFUPM's Interdisciplinary Research Center for Membranes and Water Security tackles water challenges facing the oil and gas, desalination, and petrochemical industries. In September 2025, KFUPM's Institute for Knowledge Exchange (KIKX) hosted the Fifth Water Research Community event with the Saudi Water Authority, bringing together more than 200 participants, with ARC-EMS among the participating centers. Clean Water and Sanitation at KFUPM.





Water Management on Campus

Alongside its research, KFUPM manages its own water system under the Environmental Sustainability Strategy: Water. The campus operates 11 deep wells and 5 reverse-osmosis units supplying academic, faculty and student housing areas. Reject water from the RO units is reused for irrigation, with reused volumes estimated at up to 500 m^3 per day. Aerators, water-efficient flush tanks and recirculating hot-water lines reduce consumption, and new buildings are fitted with separate drain lines that collect greywater from wash basins, showers and kitchen sinks for future recycling. Pollution is prevented through enclosed storage, isolating valves and inspection manholes.

During 2025–2026 the RO plant and pumping system were modernized, replacing manual operation with automated pumping and centralized SCADA control, improving pressure and flow, while reducing leakage. A new sewer line was tapped into the National Water Company network, allowing a 40-year-old lift station to be taken out of service and dismantled and removing its pumping demand entirely. Sensor-operated water fixtures were installed throughout new and renovated student and faculty housing. Campus Sustainability Report 2025–2026.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Affordable & Clean Energy

KFUPM

4234 PUBLICATIONS | 87K+ CITATIONS | FWCI 1.90

Data for the years (2021-2026)

KFUPM recognizes that conserving energy and adopting modern, low-impact technologies are essential to protecting our planet. Balancing clean and affordable energy remains a significant challenge, yet the university continues to integrate sustainability into its academic, research, and operational activities. The Environmental Sustainability Strategy: Energy (ESSE) was developed to address this challenge through comprehensive actions, processes, and policies that promote energy efficiency, minimize waste, advance clean energy technologies, reduce carbon emissions, and engage the community under a framework of environmental compliance and responsibility. Affordable and Clean Energy at KFUPM.

Measures Toward Affordable and Clean Energy

KFUPM's Energy Policy reflects its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It applies to all university operations, including new constructions, renovations, and upgrades, and requires that all buildings meet energy efficiency standards, enhance conservation, reduce overall consumption, and incorporate renewable energy sources. Compliance with the Saudi Building Code (SBC) ensures that sustainability is embedded in every stage of design and construction. KFUPM is also committed to the Saudi Green Building Code, which emphasizes energy efficiency. A dedicated presidential committee actively promotes energy-saving initiatives across campus. The ESSE outlines specific goals and practical measures to reduce costs and environmental impact, while the Climate Action Plan sets time-bound targets for cutting campus emissions. The Center of Excellence in Energy Efficiency (CEEE) conducts detailed energy audits to analyze consumption patterns and identify areas for improvement.

Measures Delivered in 2025–2026

Replacing air-cooled with water-cooled chillers saves 6 MW annually, worth about SAR 7.0 million a year; variable-frequency drives cut HVAC motor energy use by more than half; high-efficiency insulation has reduced air-conditioning costs by around 40%; and an ongoing LED retrofit across buildings, dormitories and 175 houses represents an investment of SAR 2.53 million.

The Research Institute renovation is the largest single result. High-efficiency centrifugal chillers, LED lighting, building management controls, variable-frequency pumping and demand-based ventilation are estimated to save approximately 21.6 million kWh per year and avoid about 11,383 tonnes of CO_2 annually, improving energy intensity from roughly 240 to 160 kWh/m²/year and saving an estimated SAR 7.33 million a year. Twelve new female student housing buildings are expected to perform 25–35% better than conventional housing of similar use, and all new developments and renovations are being fitted with metering devices so that energy and water performance can be measured rather than estimated. Campus Sustainability Report 2025–2026.

Energy and the Community

KFUPM targets 100% renewable energy use by 2040, a fossil-fuel-free campus by 2050 and carbon neutrality by 2060.

Beyond campus, the Interdisciplinary Research Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (IRC-SES) provides training, outreach, and consultancy for institutions worldwide. Faculty members have contributed to Saudi Arabia's National Communications to the UNFCCC in 2005, 2011, 2016, and 2022. The university also supports start-ups and innovation in renewable and low-carbon technologies through the Renewable Energy Technical Incubator (RETI), funded by the National Industrial Development and Logistics Program (NIDLP).





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Decent Work & Economic Growth

657 PUBLICATIONS | 13K+ CITATIONS | FWCI 2.08

Data for the years (2021 - 2026)

KFUPM upholds and supports principles that safeguard workers' health, welfare, and safety in accordance with Saudi law, the initiatives of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (Labor Law | Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development), and the Human Rights Commission. The University complies with the provisions of Saudi Labor Law, Amendments to Labor Law, as amended by Royal Decree Nos. M/134, M/5, and M/44, which establish workers' fundamental rights, freedoms, and responsibilities. KFUPM strictly prohibits discrimination, forced labor, and child labor, while actively fostering an outstanding work environment that promotes employee well-being and personal growth. Its salary scales do not discriminate between genders and are regularly reviewed to remain competitive, and contracts with service providers specify contractor workers' wages rather than leaving them to contractors. A dedicated labor affairs unit safeguards employees' rights and responds to their concerns. Decent Work and Economic Growth at KFUPM.

This commitment to decent work extends beyond campus through Dhahran Techno Valley Venture Building & Founder Development (DTV), KFUPM's innovation ecosystem that transforms research into market-ready ventures and supports regional economic growth and job creation. DTV hosts more than 30 global organizations, including SLB, Baker Hughes, and Halliburton, and supports a workforce of over 1,750 professionals. DTV's Deep Tech Venture Program identifies promising technologies and provides selected ventures with up to SAR 200,000 in funding, product-development support, mentorship, market access, and residency. In 2025, the program engaged 27 KFUPM faculty and student projects, spanning advanced materials, AI, robotics, and the circular economy, with the top 10 advancing to a four-month venture-building program. Through its partnership with ROSHNEXT, DTV also supported three KFUPM startups with funding and opportunities to pilot their innovations in real-world developments. Selected from 54 submissions, the winners each received a SAR 200,000 grant for innovations in adsorption cooling, sustainable construction materials, and palm-waste recycling.

The Physical Working Environment

Decent work also depends on the conditions people work in. The Research Institute renovation improved indoor air quality, thermal comfort, laboratory safety and emergency response for researchers and technical staff, adding demand-based ventilation, gas-leak detection, emergency shutoffs and improved chemical storage. The rehabilitation of 50 faculty villas at Al-Farouq Courts improved the quality of staff housing, and the service-tunnel rehabilitation made a critical maintenance corridor safer for the staff who work in it. Campus Sustainability Report 2025–2026.





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

KFUPM

2210 PUBLICATIONS | 48K+ CITATIONS | FWCI 1.96

Data for the years (2021 - 2026)

KFUPM is recognized for its leadership in innovation and patenting. In 2025 it ranked **2nd worldwide** among universities granted U.S. utility patents, with 320 patents — up from 5th the previous year (NAI Top 100 Worldwide). The university has restructured its research programs so that research becomes products and infrastructure that benefit society rather than research-for-papers alone. KFUPM's entrepreneurship ecosystem supports students and local creators in establishing startups through the DTV Startup Challenge. Entrepreneurship Ecosystem | KFUPM.

Building National Capability

KFUPM launched a new undergraduate program in Semiconductor Design and Engineering, the first of its kind in Saudi Arabia, training graduates in integrated-circuit design to seed local startups developing power-efficient AI chips.

New Research Infrastructure

The Road Safety Research and Innovation Lab, founded in 2026 under the IRC for Smart Mobility and Logistics, advances safer transport through AI, simulation, and digital twins, including a camel-detection driver-alert system for desert highways.

Two international alliances address advanced energy infrastructure: KARAM, with the University of Manchester, on long-term radioactive waste management, and the Saudi–Swiss Advanced Modular Reactor Alliance, with the Paul Scherrer Institute.

Resilient Campus Infrastructure

A new prefabricated modular data centre of approximately 5,000 m² is under construction at KFUPM East Park, migrating critical IT infrastructure from Building 14 and resolving existing space, power and cooling constraints. Designed to a Tier III reliability objective, it starts at an IT load of about 0.63 MW and scales to approximately 1.05 MW, supporting enterprise IT, high-performance computing and telecommunications. The campus service tunnel, a critical utility corridor, was rehabilitated with renewed ceilings, flooring and pipelines and improved ventilation, lighting, drainage, CCTV and fire-safety systems. Campus Sustainability Report 2025–2026.

Innovation in Service of Others

Under a Research with Humanity grant, KFUPM is working with the Botswana International University of Science and Technology to develop Limestone Calcined Clay Cement from Botswana's own clays, cutting cost and emissions for affordable housing while building local research capacity. Project record.

Emdaad, developed by the Electrical Engineering and IT departments, has replaced the university's paper-based inventory and item-request process with a single digital workflow, removing printed forms and reducing duplicate procurement.

Three KFUPM student teams competed in the Sustainable Construction Solutions Hackathon at Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University, a national forum of 15 Saudi universities; a KFUPM team placed second.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Reduced Inequalities

KFUPM

98 PUBLICATIONS | 947 CITATIONS | FWCI 1.44

Data for the years (2021-2026)

KFUPM is committed to fairness, inclusivity, and equal opportunity for all. The university's admission process, faculty hiring, and staff recruitment are transparent and non-discriminatory, with no bias toward gender, race, religion, disability, or nationality. KFUPM also addresses income disparities by revising workforce agreements to ensure fair wages for all contracted personnel, from faculty assistants to janitorial staff.

Fair and Inclusive Admissions

Admission decisions are based solely on academic merit. The Regular Track uses a weighted score: 50% from the General Aptitude Test (Qudurat), 40% from the Achievement Test (Tahsili), and 10% from high school GPA. The SAT and Olympiad Tracks provide additional pathways. KFUPM began admitting female undergraduates and attracts students from over 87 countries, ensuring admission is based on competence, merit, and opportunity rather than gender or nationality.

Support and Non-Discrimination

A dedicated committee oversees scholarships for low-income students, verifying financial need. KFUPM also prioritizes the recruitment of female faculty and staff. Strong anti-discrimination policies are embedded in the Code of Conduct (Paragraph 7.3, page 9), which emphasizes respect, dignity, and a harassment-free environment.

Equal access to admission means little without support afterwards. The Civil and Environmental Engineering Department runs a structured counselling programme for students at academic risk: those with a cumulative GPA at or below 2.10 are assigned to one of four faculty counsellors who follow their progress through the term. Fourteen students were supported in the first term and twelve in the second, with referrals to the university's counselling service where needed, and several improved enough to leave the at-risk list within one term.

Accessibility for All

KFUPM provides extensive support for people with disabilities. Facilities include mobility-friendly routes, automatic doors, toilet aids, audio maps, and special tracks for the visually impaired. Academic services, such as note-taking assistance and advisory support through the special needs unit, ensure an inclusive learning environment for every student.

KFUPM also hosts doctoral researchers from Pakistan and China on their national scholarships without charging bench fees, and sent four undergraduates to Shanghai Jiao Tong University under the Ibn Battuta Global Scholarship.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sustainable Cities & Communities

853 PUBLICATIONS | 13K+ CITATIONS | FWCI 1.71

Data for the years (2021-2026)

KFUPM plays an active role in supporting sustainable urban development. Through education, research, and collaboration with local communities, KFUPM works to create inclusive and smart cities that are socially, environmentally, and economically balanced while respecting human rights.

Building the Campus Community

During 2025–2026 KFUPM delivered one of the largest campus development programmes in its history. Twelve new female student housing buildings were completed, providing approximately 2,040 student places across some 39,600 m² of floor area. Nine male student housing buildings were renovated with nine more under way, and 50 of the 131 faculty villas at Al-Farouq Courts were rehabilitated. The programme combines new construction where additional capacity is needed with renovation that extends the life of existing buildings, guided by the Campus Master Plan 2050 and its direction for a resilient, resource-efficient, low-carbon and people-centred campus. Campus Sustainability Report 2025–2026.

Sustainable Practices on Campus

KFUPM encourages sustainable commuting by providing on-campus buses, supporting a cycling club, and offering essential services close to housing such as restaurants, a mall, and sports facilities. Remote work is available for employees in line with HRSD regulations (article 9, page 9). The university provides affordable housing for employees at about 4,000 US dollars annually including utilities, against up to 20,000 nearby (faculty handbook, page 135). Students benefit from shared furnished housing at 600 SAR per semester, free during summer, against up to 1,500 SAR per month nearby (student handbook, pages 35 & 36).

The Campus as a Testbed

KFUPM tests sustainable construction materials on its own campus. Lightweight paving blocks made from ground PET bottles have been laid as sidewalks and monitored under Eastern Province conditions; geopolymer blocks incorporating waste glass powder have been installed as speed breakers; and 3D-printed concrete furniture stands at the UHPC Modular Podcast Corner, printed from mixtures replacing up to 80% of Portland cement.

Academic Programs and Research

KFUPM offers graduate degrees in Smart and Sustainable Cities and Intelligent Transportation. A new undergraduate program in Smart Cities explores sustainable transportation, renewable energy, 15-minute cities, vertical farming, and resilient housing. KFUPM research also addresses resilience beyond the Kingdom, assessing flood-control and drought-mitigation infrastructure readiness across West Asia and North Africa to produce hazard maps and adaptation guidelines for national agencies.

Community Engagement

The campus is open to the public with access to the medical center, library, sports complex, and green spaces. Events such as Career Day have been organized for more than thirty years. The Sustainability Club promotes Vision 2030 and the Saudi Green Initiative through seminars, competitions, and recycling projects. The annual 5K Run brought together more than 1,400 participants from the university and the wider community.

Global Studies also hosted a public talk on Najdi Sibaheen folktales, given by a University of Oxford doctoral researcher drawing on eight years of fieldwork with Najdi elders, supporting the Kingdom's intangible cultural heritage.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Responsible Consumption & Production

KFUPM

1052 PUBLICATIONS | 23K+ CITATIONS | FWCI 2.12

Data for the years (2021-2026)

KFUPM is dedicated to advancing responsible consumption and production practices within the university and the surrounding community.

Operational Measures

The Environment Health & Safety (EHS) department oversees strict procedures for municipal and hazardous chemical waste disposal. The medical center follows a Medical Waste Management Policy for infectious, chemical, pharmaceutical, and sharp waste, and KFUPM operates a specialized Radioactive Waste Room.

Recycling and Waste Management

A campus-wide recycling initiative includes "Plastic Waste Reduction" under Environment, Health and Safety - Recycling & Waste Management. Color-coded recycling stations have been installed across campus, and reusable water bottles, free tap water outlets, and biodegradable paper bags are encouraged. Students take part directly: Civil and Environmental Engineering students volunteered on the EHS waste-management programme during the year.

Renewing Assets Rather Than Replacing Them

KFUPM's campus development programme treats existing buildings as a resource. Male student housing and faculty villas are being renovated rather than demolished, retaining structures, chilled-water pipes and suitable existing wiring while replacing inefficient systems. Building 14, constructed in 1982 and covering approximately 5,640 m², is being adapted to house the KFUPM Business School rather than replaced. A 40-year-old wastewater lift station was removed from service by rerouting the sewer line into the National Water Company network, avoiding an extensive retrofit and the continuing consumption of spare parts, materials and maintenance effort. Campus Sustainability Report 2025–2026.

Reducing Consumption in University Operations

KFUPM is removing paper from its administrative processes. The Emdaad platform replaces the university's paper inventory and item-request forms with a single digital workflow, which also improves visibility of existing stock and so reduces unnecessary procurement.

The Department of Global Studies ran a paper-reduction initiative across the full academic year, cutting the printed pages used in midterm and final examinations by around 50% while maintaining assessment requirements.

Responsible production is also taught as a design discipline: engineering students run a life cycle assessment on their own components at the CAD stage, and the MS in Sustainability and Environmental Management includes a dedicated course in the circular materials economy.

Sustainability Reporting

KFUPM publishes an annual sustainability report showcasing progress toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals across all seventeen goals. More details are available at sustainability.kfupm.edu.sa.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Climate Action

KFUPM

1904 PUBLICATIONS | 39K+ CITATIONS | FWCI 1.88

Data for the years (2021 - 2026)

As the global population rises and greenhouse gas emissions increase, KFUPM is actively addressing climate change through education, research, policy advice, and innovation, both nationally and internationally.

A Campus Decarbonization Pathway

KFUPM measures and reports the carbon emissions of its campus energy use, with a reported footprint of 232,411.7 tonnes of carbon, and became a signatory of the Race to Zero campaign in 2023. Its Climate Action Plan sets time-bound targets: a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025; 50% renewable energy use supported by around 80 MW of renewable installation and a 50% emissions reduction by 2030; 100% renewable energy and a 75% reduction by 2040; a fossil-fuel-free campus by 2050; and carbon neutrality covering direct and indirect emissions by 2060. Planned measures include net-zero-carbon new buildings by 2030, a campus microgrid supplied largely by renewable energy, completion of LED retrofits, solar deployment on smaller campus facilities and low-carbon mobility.

Informing Climate Policy

A member of the Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty serves as a Lead Author of the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report, Working Group III, Chapter 11 on Transport Systems and Mobility Services, for the 2025–2028 cycle, the assessment on which global mitigation policy is built. IPCC author database

KFUPM was also nominated by the Saudi Ministry of Energy as a technical expert at the United Nations Sixth Global Dialogue under the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Work Programme in Addis Ababa, addressing waste-sector mitigation and circular economy approaches. Event details.

Education and Research Initiatives

KFUPM hosts specialized centers focused on reducing climate change impacts, with research in renewable energy, hydrogen, and energy storage, and an academic concentration on climate change adaptation. Key projects include converting carbon dioxide into hydrocarbon products and advancing Carbon Capture and Sequestration, for which King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology established a national Technical Innovation Center at KFUPM. Climate action is embedded across degree programmes, from an undergraduate course on energy and the environment that maps Vision 2030 objectives onto the SDGs, to graduate courses in greenhouse-gas emissions management and climate adaptation reaching roughly 50 students.

Public Engagement and Knowledge Sharing

Through the Institute for Knowledge Exchange (KIKX), KFUPM organizes seminars on technological breakthroughs in research, hydrogen's role in clean energy, and the transition to a decarbonized circular economy in the polymer and plastic industry. KFUPM also hosted the 3rd Green Sustainable Future Conference (GiKS 2026) in January 2026, gathering experts, policymakers, and youth from 13 countries.

KFUPM releases climate-monitoring tools for public use: the ATBI Burn Severity Explorer, built on a wildfire index developed at the university, maps burn severity worldwide from satellite imagery. KFUPM was also represented at the Climate Corps Summer School at Korea University, spanning 49 universities across 28 countries. Through these initiatives, KFUPM combines research, teaching, policy advice, and community engagement to reduce environmental impact — and, through its Climate Action Plan, to decarbonize its own campus.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Life Below Water

KFUPM

372 PUBLICATIONS | 4K+ CITATIONS | FWCI 1.60 Data for the years (2021 - 2026)

KFUPM supports aquatic ecosystems through education, research and action. The Applied Research Center for Environment and Marine Studies (ARCEMS) hosted GiKS 2026, offering 26 free talks and workshops on groundwater, marine science and biology to researchers, policymakers, students and school pupils. At the Eastern Province Shrimp Festival 2025 in Qatif, a KFUPM researcher led the workshop "Sustainability of Marine Fisheries" for fishermen, students and researchers, and the university raised visitors' awareness of the harm caused by overfishing and dumped fishing gear. Life Below Water at KFUPM.

ARCEMS's GiKS 2025 drew over 1,000 participants to themes including ecosystem-based management of marine resources. The EHS Food Safety Manual requires campus fish to come from licensed, traceable sources, and the Strategy on Sustainable Procurement builds sustainability into every purchase. With McDermott, Saipem and DMDC, ARCEMS monitors construction impacts on water, sediment, seagrass and coral. Its MEWA-supported fisheries project applies a GPS-GIS framework mapping trawling overlap with coral reefs and mangroves, while a HADAQ pilot survey mapped derelict fishing gear at 46 locations around Jana Island, a turtle nesting ground.

Water-Sensitive Waste Disposal

Discharges follow the Saudi General Environmental Regulations, which set effluent limits such as BOD 25 mg/l, and KFUPM's 2025 Chemical Waste Management procedure, which prohibits drain disposal of liquid chemical waste. The EHS plastic waste reduction plan promotes reusable bottles, free water taps and paper bags. ARCEMS's marine plastic pollution assessment found most Arabian Gulf beach litter comes from land-based sources.

Maintaining Local Ecosystems

ARCEMS's industry monitoring helps minimize habitat alteration through monthly compliance visits, semiannual surveys and annual mitigation reviews, building on its Manifa Bay modeling. Long-term coral and seagrass monitoring has recorded coral cover at Jana Island and Abu Ali Reef since 2010. Campus water conservation measures reuse treated water and reclaim about 30% of rejected brine. KFUPM partners with MEWA's Eastern Province branch on environmental awareness, and ARCEMS's SWAT+ study of the Al-Jouf watershed set a 25-year hydrological baseline guiding aquifer recharge and floodwater harvesting.







SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Life on Land

KFUPM

318 PUBLICATIONS | 5K+ CITATIONS | FWCI 2.26

Data for the years (2021 - 2026)

KFUPM is committed to protecting ecosystems on campus and across the Kingdom through education, research, and action.

Education and Research

The university integrates land ecosystem topics into its undergraduate curriculum (Undergraduate Bulletin). Courses cover land use, the distribution of urban and regional functions, infrastructure systems, population and community ecology, species interactions, sustainability, biodiversity, evolution, food, soil, pest management, renewable energy, and the environmental challenges facing humanity. Many include field trips for practical understanding. At the graduate level, the Department of Geosciences, in collaboration with the Chemistry Department, offers master's programs in Geosciences and Environmental Sciences (MSc in Environmental Sciences). Fully sponsored by KFUPM, these graduate programs are offered free of charge to local and international students. They emphasize community resource sharing, the fundamentals of terrestrial environments, and human-induced pollution of air and land at regional and global scales (Graduate Bulletin).

Action for Land Ecosystems

The Center for Environment and Marine Studies (CEMS) works to keep climate change at bay while still powering a developing world, and its terrestrial section studies Saudi Arabia's biodiversity, ecology, and landforms (CEMS terrestrial section). Additionally, the Environment, Health & Safety (EHS) Department runs two major programs, building inspections and walkthrough inspections, to identify issues early. EHS then coordinates with the concerned departments to resolve them (EHS Office of Environmental Monitoring).

Campus Landscape and Biodiversity

The Campus Master Plan 2050 commits KFUPM to protecting biodiversity, conserving natural habitats and using water-conscious planting across the campus landscape. Drip irrigation, sprinkler systems and drought-tolerant planting reduce landscape water demand, and reject water from the campus reverse-osmosis units is reused for irrigation — estimated at up to 500 m³ per day — rather than being discharged.

Sustainable Waste Management

KFUPM implements policies on waste disposal, sewage, and recycling. The EHS department seeks responsible, environmentally friendly ways to handle all solid waste generated on campus, promoting source segregation, plastic and paper reduction, and a cost-effective reduce, reuse, and recycle program (EHS Recycling & Waste Management). Innovative systems include desalination and purification units at campus water stations that reclaim about 30% of salty water for reuse instead of discarding it (EHS Water Conservation). Hazardous waste is managed through strict safety practices, including identifying hazardous materials, selecting compatible containers, and properly disposing of solid and liquid chemical waste to safeguard land ecosystems (EHS–Chemical Waste Management).



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

KFUPM

80 PUBLICATIONS | 1K+ CITATIONS | FWCI 1.57 Data for the years (2021 - 2026)

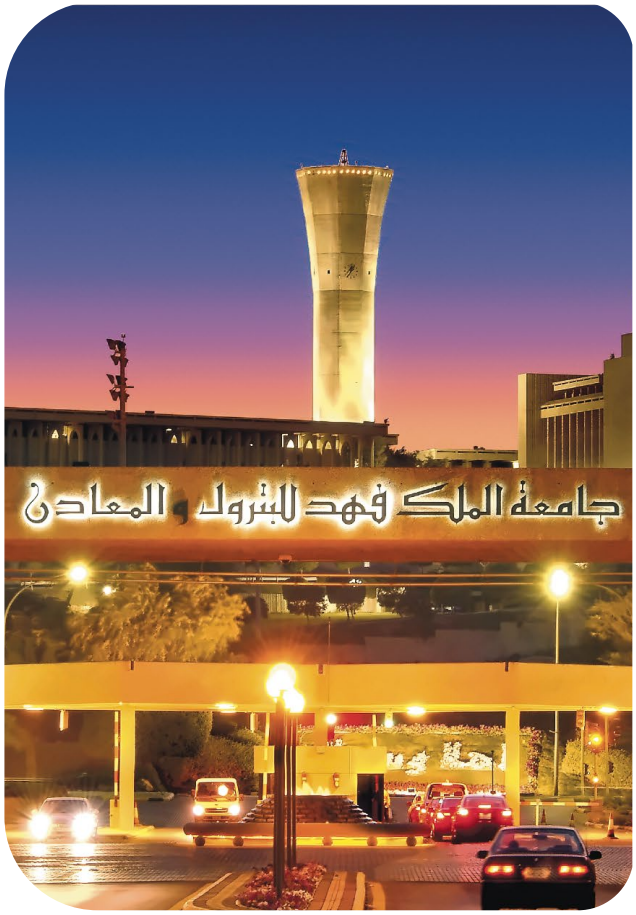
KFUPM is committed to fairness and equality, ensuring that all students and employees receive their rights under the law.

University Governance

The University is led by the President, who serves as the Chief Academic and Executive Officer, under the supervision of the Board of Trustees. The current Chairman is H.R.H. Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, Energy Minister. KFUPM students actively participate in volunteer programs such as the 16th Volunteering Day, which brought together over 1,000 student volunteers in patient visits, tree planting, and beach rehabilitation to foster social responsibility. All internal and external stakeholders are identified and involved in decision-making and issue resolution. KFUPM emphasizes building strong connections with the public and stakeholders, strengthening relationships and boosting its reputation. Open communication ensures flexibility and avoids unnecessary barriers. The University strictly follows the Kingdom's laws on corruption and bribery, enforcing a zero-tolerance policy (KFUPM Code of Conduct, Section 2.2). Campus safety policies ensure a secure and peaceful environment. Violations of Sharia Law are taken seriously, with strong disciplinary measures. Academic freedom follows the U.S. model, with all courses taught in English. This policy ensures global relevance and enhances graduates' ability to engage with industry leaders worldwide.

Working With Government

KFUPM researchers collaborate annually with government agencies and institutes, producing hundreds of technical reports and studies. Interdisciplinary research centers focus on areas such as renewable energy, AI, smart mobility, hydrogen storage, advanced chemicals, water security, and digital economy, driving innovation and societal impact. KFUPM's Interdisciplinary Research Center for Biomedical and Systems Modeling (IRC-BSM) and the Bioengineering Department co-organized the Medical Devices Regulations Workshop, with sessions led by Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) experts. The event gathered students, researchers, and professionals to discuss key regulatory topics such as classification, clinical evaluation, and benefit–risk analysis. Through collaboration with a national regulatory body, the workshop promoted awareness of compliance and governance in biomedical research and strengthened institutional ties within the healthcare sector.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY | 2 ZERO HUNGER | 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | 4 QUALITY EDUCATION | 5 GENDER EQUALITY | 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION | 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 14 LIFE BELOW WATER | 15 LIFE ON LAND | 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Partnerships for the Goals

KFUPM

KFUPM is a trusted partner to the government in delivering the SDGs in Saudi Arabia. In 2025, KFUPM signed 15 agreements and memoranda of understanding. They include joint research with the Ministry of Economy and Planning, which leads the Kingdom's SDG reporting, and a joint environmental research center with the National Center for Environmental Compliance.

KFUPM also helps the Kingdom measure and report its progress. Its Research Institute supported Saudi Arabia's Second Biennial Update Report (2024) and First Biennial Transparency Report (2025) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Both reports acknowledge this support.

KFUPM is building the capacity of Saudi Arabia's non-profit sector. Since 2015, it has run the Al Fozan Academy with the Al Fozan Social Foundation, training non-profit leaders to the Edama standard endorsed by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development. With Indiana University, it also offers a dual Master of Nonprofit Management. KFUPM's Applied Research Center for Nonprofit and Social Development works with charitable foundations on sector governance standards, including establishing 290 voluntary work units to the Edama standard.

KFUPM students also work on the SDGs beyond the Kingdom. Through Future17, an SDG challenge program run by the University of Exeter with QS, they spend 12 weeks in international teams, working on live sustainability projects for companies, NGOs and public bodies. In August 2025, ten engineering students volunteered in Tanzania, collecting energy consumption data and running awareness sessions on clean cooking solutions.

Education for the SDGs

KFUPM builds the SDGs into its degrees, not only its electives. The academic bulletin maps degree programs to the goals they support; even the BSc in Chemistry, a general science degree, is mapped to twelve SDGs. Students who want to specialize can choose dedicated programs such as the BSc in Smart and Sustainable Cities and the Master of Science in Sustainability and Environmental Management.

KFUPM also brings SDG education to young people beyond the University. In July 2026, it hosted the 25th Mawhiba Academic and Research Programs, welcoming 296 gifted high school students from across Saudi Arabia. Of these, 56 spent four weeks in 12 KFUPM research centers with 42 faculty mentors on projects that included sustainable energy and hydrogen technologies.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

KFUPM

Sustainability Club

Vision and Mission

The Sustainability Club envisions a campus where sustainable practices are seamlessly part of daily life and serve as a model for other institutions. Our mission is to promote sustainability and environmental awareness within the KFUPM community and beyond by educating, inspiring, and engaging people in meaningful action. Through events, collaborations, and innovative projects, we aim to create a lasting legacy of environmental stewardship.

70+	5	5	7
STUDENTS PARTICIPATING	WORKING COMMITTEES	FOCUS AREAS	UPCOMING INITIATIVES



Initiatives

The club's efforts focus on five main areas. Education and awareness include workshops, events, and competitions that highlight sustainable living. Collaboration builds partnerships with university departments and external organizations. Campus integration ensures sustainable practices become part of everyday routines. Community engagement brings people together to make sustainability a shared goal. Advocacy uses media and public relations to promote environmental responsibility. These combined initiatives drive our mission of building a sustainable culture.

This Academic Year

More than seventy students are participating across five committees: Public Relations, Competitions, Sustainable Projects, Media, and Performance and Documentation. Working together, they strengthen the club's impact and advance sustainability within the university.

Plans for Next Year

Upcoming initiatives include the Green Speaker Series, Sustainability in Action Workshops, Sustainable Minds Competition, Sustainable Design Challenge, a Tree Planting Initiative, a Sustainability Exhibition, and a Waste Management Program. These projects are designed to integrate sustainability into campus life and inspire students across disciplines to contribute to real environmental solutions.

Credits

Contributors

College of Engineering and Physics
College of Petroleum Engineering & Geosciences
College of Chemicals and Materials
College of Design and Built Environment
KFUPM Business School
KFUPM Institute of Knowledge Exchange (KIKX)
IRC for Advanced Materials
IRC for Membranes and Water Security
IRC for Refining and Advanced Chemicals
IRC for Sustainable Energy Systems
IRC for Construction and Building Materials
IRC for Communication Systems and Sensing
IRC for Aviation and Space Exploration
IRC for Bio Systems and Machines
IRC for Hydrogen Technologies and Carbon Management
JRC for Artificial Intelligence (SDAIA-KFUPM)
ARC for Environment and Marine Studies
Center for Integrated Petroleum Research (CIPR)
Environmental Health and Safety

Special Thanks

Dr. Muhammad Al-Saggaf
KFUPM President

Dr. Ali Al-Shaikhi
Vice President of Research & Innovation

Dr. Sadiq M. Sait
Director of the Office of Institutional Planning and Analytics

Editors

Ibrahim Aljamaan
Khalid Alghamdi
Ali Alnasser
Mohammed Alhussain
Mary Basuel
Jaffar Abuqurayn

Graphic Design

Ibrahim Aljamaan

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SUSTAINABILITY
ANNUAL REPORT

2026

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