

Al-Bayan University

Sustainability Report for Al-Bayan University

Prepared by: Al-Bayan University Sustainability Committee



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Baghdad, Iraq

Executive Summary

In 2024, Al-Bayan University advanced a practical, community-rooted sustainability agenda that blends campus policy, student learning, and city-level engagement. The university strengthened the visibility of sustainability themes across academic programs and public communications, supported hands-on exposure to renewable energy solutions, and reinforced a “car-light campus” culture with a new campus shuttle (free buses) service that improves access, equity, and safety for students commuting from both Karkh and Rusafa districts. These actions reflect a consistent institutional direction: promoting environmental awareness, reducing avoidable emissions, and embedding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the daily life of the campus. Building on prior years, 2024 placed more emphasis on mobility, student experience, and cross-disciplinary collaboration, setting the stage for more robust measurement and targets in 2025.



Institutional Context and Approach

Al-Bayan University operates in Baghdad's dense urban environment, where mobility, energy reliability, and inclusive access are central to student success. The university's sustainability posture is therefore deliberately pragmatic: focus on high-impact measures that can be implemented quickly, communicate them clearly to students and staff, and use them to reinforce a culture of shared responsibility. While Al-Bayan continues to profile sustainability through events, college news, and social posts, the university's approach in 2024 emphasized operational changes that students can see and benefit from—especially transportation and everyday campus practices (paper-lite routines, awareness seminars, and continued restriction of private cars inside the campus to limit congestion and emissions).



Governance, Strategy, and SDG Integration

Sustainability at Al-Bayan is a collaborative effort spanning college leadership, faculty, and administrative units. Governance is intentionally lightweight and action-oriented: academic units highlight their contributions through stories, workshops, and symposia; operations teams translate policy into practice; and communications ensure that students and neighbors understand what is changing and why. SDG alignment remains a guiding framework rather than a box-ticking exercise. In 2024, the university refreshed SDG-related content and messaging to help students and visitors link campus activities with global goals—particularly those related to health and well-being, quality education, sustainable cities and communities, and partnerships for the goals. The emphasis is on literacy and participation: students should recognize SDG language, connect it to their coursework, and see it illustrated in real campus services.



Teaching and Research for Sustainability

Across programs, sustainability shows up in two complementary ways. First, several colleges integrate SDG themes and ethical considerations directly into coursework,

case studies, or lab activities. This gives students the vocabulary and frameworks to discuss climate, resources, public health, and urban resilience in the Iraqi context. Second, the university encourages experiential learning through visits and exposure to real energy systems, including solar installations and other renewable solutions. These experiences help learners move beyond abstraction, connecting theoretical principles to infrastructure that they might one day design, manage, or improve. In 2024, events with a health-and-sustainable-development focus brought together faculty, students, and invited experts, reinforcing that sustainability is not just an environmental topic—it is a comprehensive lens on human well-being, access, and opportunity.

Campus Operations: Energy, Water, Waste, and Facilities

The operational side of sustainability at Al-Bayan continues to prioritize visible, feasible improvements. Energy discipline—turning off unused lighting and equipment, rationalizing HVAC usage, and encouraging daylight-first habits in suitable spaces—remains an everyday theme. Administrative units also promote paper-lite practices and digital workflows, reducing waste and costs while improving speed and traceability. Within facilities, maintenance and safety are treated as sustainability issues: efficient systems break down less often, consume fewer resources, and keep students learning without disruption. Although Al-Bayan’s campus is not industrial in scale, the ethos is to act like a “living lab,” modeling behaviors and choices that graduates can take into public institutions and private companies across Iraq.



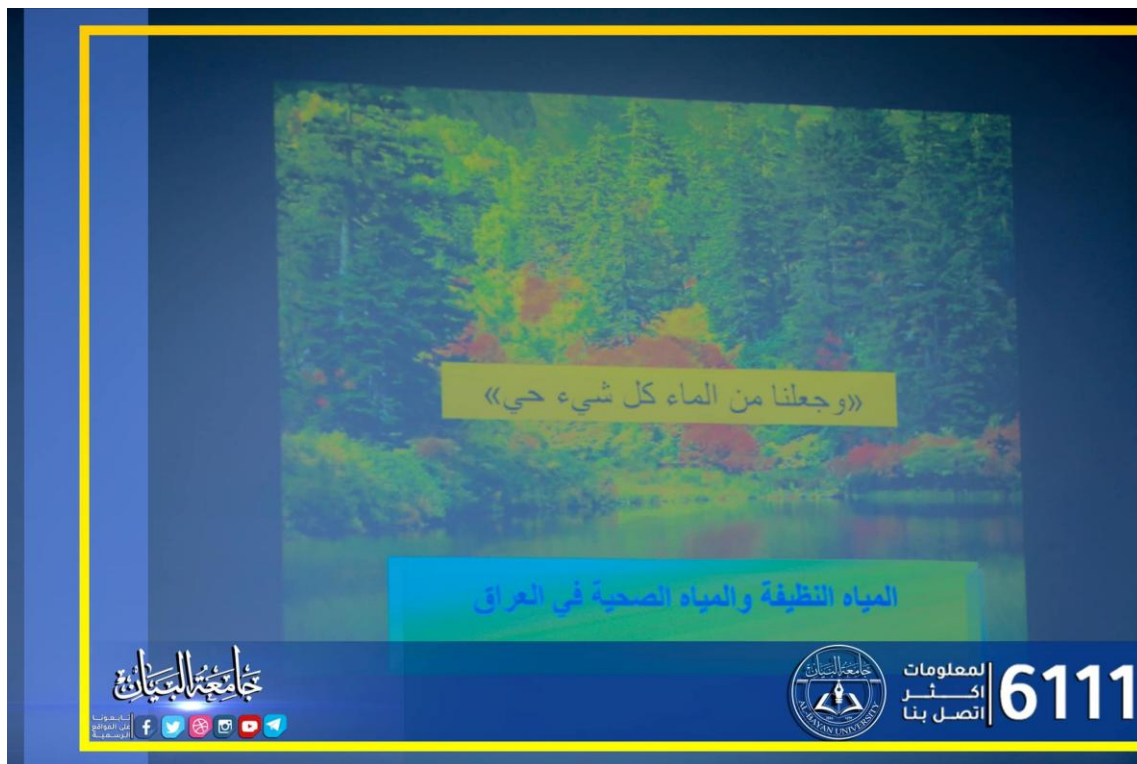
Mobility and Access: New Campus Shuttle (Free Buses) Service

The signature operational development in 2024 is the introduction of a **campus shuttle (free buses) service** covering a broad set of Baghdad neighborhoods, including routes that serve both Karkh and Rusafa. The shuttle advances several sustainability objectives at once:

- **Emissions and congestion reduction:** By offering a reliable alternative to single-occupancy car trips, the shuttle supports a cleaner commute profile and complements the university's ongoing policy of restricting private vehicles inside campus. Even modest shifts from cars to buses can reduce overall traffic pressure near the gates, decrease localized air pollutants, and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists in the immediate vicinity.
- **Equity and affordability:** Free transportation lowers the total cost of attendance, especially for students who travel long distances or face unstable fuel and transport costs. This aligns with the university's inclusion goals by minimizing mobility as a barrier to participation.

- **Safety and predictability:** University-coordinated buses provide a more controlled and consistent travel experience. For students unfamiliar with certain routes, a known, timetabled service can reduce anxiety and lateness, indirectly supporting academic performance.
- **Student experience:** The shuttle is not just a ride; it is a mobile extension of campus culture. As the service matures, the university can use ridership feedback to optimize pickup points and frequency, adjust for peak exam periods, and integrate real-time updates through social channels and notice boards.

In practice, the shuttle also strengthens community-level relationships. Clear wayfinding, respectful coordination at pickup points, and steady communication help the service fit smoothly into Baghdad's transport fabric. For sustainability accounting in 2025, the university intends to track ridership as a key performance measure, translate those numbers into avoided car-kilometers, and estimate emissions reductions using conservative conversion factors suitable for local fleet characteristics.



Community and Outreach

Al-Bayan's sustainability work is outward-facing by design. Colleges host seminars and symposia that touch on social sustainability—law, human rights, health, and quality of life—while labs and departments showcase applied technology and student projects to their local communities. Social communications amplify these activities, highlighting student achievements, new services like the shuttle, and campus events that invite dialogue. This dual focus—academic rigor inside, open engagement outside—raises the university's profile as a civic partner and encourages prospective students to see Al-Bayan as both a place to learn and a platform for positive social impact.

2024 Performance Snapshot (Qualitative)

Academic integration: SDG terminology and sustainability casework appeared more plainly in 2024 across departments and events. Students increasingly encounter sustainability not as a standalone module but as a lens threaded through health, technology, management, and public policy contexts. The outcome is stronger literacy: graduates leave better able to name the environmental or social dimension of a technical challenge and propose grounded improvements.

Operational culture: Day-to-day practices—paper-lite processes, energy mindfulness, and campus traffic management—are now familiar and reinforced through routine reminders. While these measures may appear small in isolation, they compound over time, lower costs, and create a visible standard of behavior for newcomers.

Mobility transformation: The shuttle program is a tangible success of 2024 because it changes the texture of student life. It lowers commuting friction, improves arrival reliability, and showcases a university taking responsibility for part of the travel chain. The initiative also provides a new dataset that the university can use to set credible 2025 targets for emissions and access.

Experiential learning: Student exposure to real renewable-energy systems continued, bridging theory and practice. This strengthens Iraq-relevant skills in energy management and positions graduates to contribute to public and private-sector deployments of solar and efficiency upgrades.

2025 Priorities and Targets

1. **Mobility measurement and optimization:** Establish a baseline for shuttle ridership by month, estimate avoided car-kilometers, and publish a conservative CO₂e reduction figure using transparent assumptions. Pilot a simple feedback tool (QR or short survey) so riders can suggest new pickup points and timetable refinements.
2. **Energy and water baselines:** Compile annualized electricity consumption and water use for 2024, then identify three to five conservation actions for 2025 (e.g., targeted LED upgrades, occupancy sensors in selected corridors, and faucet aerators in high-use washrooms). For each, define an expected savings range and a simple verification method.
3. **Green events standard:** Introduce a checklist for all conferences and large gatherings on campus: paper-lite registration, responsible catering, waste-sorting guidance, and accessibility provisions. Encourage each event to publish a short, plain-language “sustainability note” summarizing what was done and why.
4. **SDG mapping and reporting cadence:** Consolidate college-level sustainability activities into a single annual inventory, tagging each item to the most relevant SDG (primary and secondary). This will make it easier to answer rating surveys, demonstrate continuity, and identify under-served SDG areas for future programming.
5. **Student leadership and peer education:** Formalize a sustainability ambassador program that recruits students from multiple colleges, provides training on campus practices, and tasks them with peer-to-peer outreach. Ambassadors can assist with shuttle feedback collection, energy awareness campaigns, and green events.

Methodology and Scope

This report covers activities and developments publicly communicated by Al-Bayan University during the 2024 calendar year, with emphasis on items most relevant to sustainability strategy, teaching integration, operations, and community impact. It synthesizes official announcements, college-level updates, and campus service notices into a single narrative to support internal planning and external reporting. Where quantitative data are not yet centralized (e.g., full electricity and water

ledgers or emissions baselines), the report focuses on qualitative outcomes and establishes the framework for 2025 measurement. The university's intent is to create a consistent annual cycle: communicate initiatives clearly as they launch, collect simple metrics as they operate, and translate those metrics into verified environmental and social benefits at year's end.

Conclusion

Al-Bayan University's sustainability story in 2024 is one of visible progress anchored in everyday improvements. By connecting SDG literacy to coursework and events, the university broadens how students understand their role in society. By launching the campus shuttle and upholding a car-light campus, it demonstrates that access, equity, and environmental responsibility can move forward together. And by promoting practical, low-complexity operational habits—using less paper, managing energy attentively, and maintaining safe, reliable facilities—Al-Bayan models the kind of stewardship that graduates can carry into public agencies, startups, and established firms across Iraq. The priority for 2025 is to pair this momentum with better data: count riders, quantify savings, and publish simple, honest numbers. With that, Al-Bayan can strengthen its position as a university that not only teaches sustainability but also practices it—consistently, transparently, and in ways that meaningfully improve student life and the surrounding community.

