ليـــوا للتعليم
Liwa Education

مدرســـة لـــيـــوا الـــدولـــيـــة
Liwa International School
الـقـطـارة Al Qattara

2026-2027

Sustainability Policy

Policy Document

AY 26/27

August 2026

Effective Date: Aug 2026
Review Date: Yearly

LISQ Sustainability Policy

Rationale

Liwa International School Al Qattara (LISQ) recognizes that fostering a culture of sustainability is essential to creating a better future. This policy aims to integrate sustainable practices into all school activities, in alignment with Liwa Education and ADEK policies, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) standards.

Purpose

LISQ will promote and embed sustainable practices. By adopting sustainability principles in resource use, waste management, transportation, and curriculum, the policy aims to create a positive environmental impact and instill responsible behaviors in students, staff, and the broader community.

Policy

1. Sustainability Goals and Strategy

1.1 Align sustainability goals with UN SDGs and ADEK's environmental policies, incorporating relevant standards from the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi. LISQ will review the UN SDGs annually during the policy review process, ensure the Environmental Agency – Abu Dhabi guidelines are incorporated into staff training, and publish a school-specific sustainability report.

1.2 Develop specific action plans to support environmental conservation and foster leadership in sustainability among students.

1.3 Establish a vision for how they contribute to meeting SDG 4 (Quality Education) and align their goals with ADEK's wellbeing policies and relevant entities such as the Abu Dhabi Quality Conformity Council (QCC).

1.4 Outline mechanisms for measuring and monitoring the sustainability strategy, including compliance with ISO 14000 standards and regular evaluations.

2. Resource Management

2.1 Reuse and repurpose materials where possible, including uniforms, learning materials, and furniture, to minimize waste and reduce resource consumption. For example: set up a uniform exchange program for parents to donate or borrow uniforms, designate a drop-off area for reusable school supplies, and publish an annual report on reused materials.

2.2 Implement sustainable procurement practices and encourage the use of environmentally friendly products and technologies.

2.3 Establish a system for the reuse of physical resources in LISQ, such as books and devices, through donation, discounted resale, or temporary loan programs where possible.

3. Waste Reduction and Zero-Waste Events

3.1 Establish waste reduction practices across all school activities, including recycling, composting, and banning single-use plastics. For example: install clearly labeled recycling bins throughout the school, implement a composting program in collaboration with science classes, and introduce a rewards system for students who contribute to waste reduction.

3.2 Organize zero-waste school events by estimating resource needs accurately, using recyclable materials, and promoting bulk purchasing.

3.3 Advocate for "zero-waste" principles in broader school activities, including PTA meetings and open days, and incorporate reusable packaging options.

4. Energy and Water Conservation

4.1 Integrate energy-saving technologies, such as LED lighting and smart water usage systems, to reduce the school's environmental footprint. For example: replace all school lighting with LED alternatives within a set timeline, install water-saving taps in restrooms, and monitor energy use monthly to identify and address inefficiencies.

4.2 Encourage students and staff to practice conservation through awareness campaigns and conservation challenges.

5. Sustainable Transportation

5.1 Promote sustainable transportation options, such as the school bus, carpooling and encourage the use of low-emission vehicles for school-related activities.

5.2 Raise awareness among the LISQ community about transportation's environmental impact and actively encourage walking, cycling, and carpooling where safe and appropriate.

6. Education and Curriculum Integration

6.1 Include sustainability topics in the curriculum across all grades to promote environmental awareness, conservation, and responsible resource use. For example: introduce a "Sustainability Day" each term where students participate in environmental activities, develop specific projects linked to conservation topics, and evaluate the outcomes in class.

6.2 Provide students with experiential learning opportunities related to sustainability, such as recycling projects, gardening, and energy audits.

6.3 Engage students in practical activities, such as rainwater harvesting, energy conservation, and waste management, using school grounds as teaching tools.

Wellness Spaces and Biophilic Design

Identify and establish wellness spaces designed to promote calmness, emotional health, and connection to nature. As much as possible, these spaces will incorporate biophilic design principles, such as access to natural light, greenery, and good air quality.

7. Sustainability Governance

7.1 Establish a Sustainability Committee responsible for reviewing and updating the school's sustainability policy annually, monitoring progress, and supporting them to ensure school practices align with Liwa Education policies and ADEK and other regulatory requirements. As part of this, assign student representatives to the committee, hold quarterly committee meetings, and produce an annual sustainability review report shared with parents and staff.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

8.1 Conduct regular evaluations of sustainability initiatives using ISO 14000 standards and ADEK's environmental guidelines.

8.2 Utilize feedback from annual wellbeing surveys to adjust sustainability strategies and gather insights from the school community.

8.3 Administer ADEK-mandated evaluations and include sustainability in their annual wellbeing surveys.

9. Communication

LISQ ensures this policy is communicated effectively to all stakeholders, including staff, students, parents, and contractors, through school assemblies, newsletters, and online platforms.

10. Review and Updates

LISQ will review this policy annually and update it in response to feedback, new regulatory requirements, and evolving sustainability standards.

Appendix A: Action Plan for 1.2

Objective

Develop specific action plans to support environmental conservation and foster leadership in sustainability among students.

Action Steps

1. **Formation of a Sustainability Team:**
    - Assign staff and student representatives to the team.
    - Meet monthly to develop and review action plans.
2. **Environmental Conservation Projects:**
    - Plan and execute initiatives such as tree planting, campus gardening, and waste segregation drives.
    - Collaborate with local environmental organizations for resources and expertise.
3. **Student Leadership Development:**
    - Organize workshops to educate students on sustainability leadership.
    - Assign sustainability ambassadors to monitor and encourage eco-friendly behaviors among peers.
4. **Curriculum Integration:**
    - Include sustainability projects in science, social studies, and art classes.
    - Use project-based learning to engage students in real-world conservation challenges.
5. **Community Involvement:**
    - Host sustainability fairs to showcase student-led projects.
    - Involve parents and local businesses in sustainability initiatives.
6. **Evaluation and Feedback:**
    - Monitor the progress of each project using defined KPIs (e.g., waste reduction percentage, participation rates).
    - Conduct quarterly reviews with feedback from the school community to refine action plans.

Timeline

- **Month 1:** Form the team and outline initial projects.
- **Months 2-6:** Implement at least three conservation initiatives.

- **Months 7–12:** Review and report on project outcomes.

Resources Required

- Budget for materials (e.g., seeds, compost bins).
- Collaboration with local environmental groups.
- Staff time for training and monitoring.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased student participation in sustainability efforts.
- Measurable improvements in campus environmental impact.
- Enhanced awareness and leadership skills among students.

Appendix B: Suggested Vision for 1.3

Vision Statement: LISQ strives to lead by example in fostering sustainability while advancing equitable, inclusive, and high-quality education for all students. By integrating sustainability into every facet of learning and operations, the school aims to empower students to become responsible global citizens, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and mindset to address current and future challenges. Through alignment with Liwa education and ADEK's wellbeing policies and collaboration with key entities like the Abu Dhabi Quality Conformity Council (QCC), LISQ will create a learning environment that promotes academic excellence, holistic wellbeing, and sustainable practices.

Key Elements of the Vision:

1. **Commitment to Quality Education (SDG 4):**
    - Ensure access to innovative, inclusive, and practical learning opportunities that prepare students for sustainable futures.
    - Foster critical thinking and problem-solving through experiential and sustainability-focused projects.
    - Promote lifelong learning by embedding sustainability into curricula across all grades.
2. **Holistic Wellbeing Approach:**
    - Prioritize student and staff mental, physical, and emotional health by implementing ADEK's wellbeing policies.
    - Develop wellness spaces and programs that nurture a balanced and supportive school culture.

- Offer training and resources to equip teachers and staff with tools to support student wellbeing.

3. **Alignment with QCC and Relevant Entities:**
   - Partner with QCC to maintain and exceed standards of quality and safety in educational practices.
   - Utilize QCC's guidance to enhance the school's sustainability measures and ensure compliance with local and international standards.
   - Collaborate with other Abu Dhabi-based organizations to integrate community resources into educational initiatives.
4. **Empowering Students as Change Agents:**
   - Encourage student-led sustainability initiatives to develop leadership and advocacy skills.
   - Provide platforms for students to share their learnings and contributions to sustainability within the local and global community.
   - Celebrate student achievements in sustainability through awards and recognition programs.

Appendix C: Mechanisms for 1.4

Objective

Outline mechanisms for measuring and monitoring the sustainability strategy, including compliance with ISO 14000 standards and regular evaluations.

Mechanisms

1. **Sustainability Performance Dashboard:**
   - Develop a digital dashboard to track key metrics, such as energy consumption, waste reduction, and participation in sustainability activities.
   - Update the dashboard monthly with input from staff and students.
2. **Annual Sustainability Audit:**
   - Conduct an external audit annually to assess compliance with ISO 14000 standards.
   - Include a comprehensive review of procurement, waste management, and energy conservation measures.
3. **Surveys and Feedback Tools:**
   - Administer annual surveys to students, staff, and parents to measure satisfaction with sustainability initiatives.

- Use feedback to inform adjustments to the strategy.

4. **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):**
   - Establish KPIs for each sustainability domain (e.g., 10% reduction in paper use, 20% increase in recycled materials).
   - Share progress towards these KPIs during school assemblies and newsletters.
5. **Monitoring Committees:**
   - Task the Sustainability Committee with quarterly reviews of action plans and performance metrics.
   - Involve student representatives in data collection and reporting.
6. **Regular Training and Updates:**
   - Provide ongoing training for staff to ensure alignment with ISO 14000 requirements.
   - Host bi-annual workshops for staff and students on the latest sustainability standards and practices.
7. **Reporting and Transparency:**
   - Publish an annual sustainability report outlining progress, challenges, and future goals.
   - Ensure the report is accessible to all stakeholders through the school website and newsletters.

Timeline

- **Quarterly:** Committee reviews and updates on action plans.
- **Annually:** Comprehensive audit, survey administration, and publication of the sustainability report.
- **Monthly:** Dashboard updates and progress checks.

Resources Required

- Software for tracking and reporting metrics.
- Budget for external audits and training sessions.
- Staff time dedicated to monitoring and data collection.

Expected Outcomes

- Improved compliance with sustainability standards.
- Enhanced community engagement through transparent reporting.

- Tangible progress towards sustainability goals, evidenced by KPI achievements.

Appendix D: System for Reuse of Physical Resources

Objective

Establish a structured system for the reuse of physical resources, including uniforms, books, furniture, and electronics, to reduce waste and promote sustainability.

System Components

1. **Donation and Collection Points:**
    - Set up clearly marked collection bins at accessible locations across the campus for items such as uniforms, books, and supplies.
    - Schedule regular collection drives at the beginning and end of each academic year.
2. **Inventory Management:**
    - Maintain a digital inventory of reusable items, categorized by type, condition, and quantity.
    - Use inventory data to match donated items with student and staff needs.
3. **Resource Redistribution Events:**
    - Organize events, such as "Swap Days" or "Reuse Fairs," where students and parents can select items from the inventory at no cost or a minimal fee.
    - Prioritize items for families with financial constraints.
4. **Collaboration with External Partners:**
    - Partner with local NGOs or recycling organizations to handle surplus items that cannot be reused within the school.
    - Explore grants or sponsorships for expanding reuse initiatives.
5. **Awareness Campaigns:**
    - Conduct campaigns to educate the school community on the benefits of reusing resources.
    - Use posters, newsletters, and school assemblies to promote participation in reuse programs.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation:**
    - Track the volume and types of items reused or donated annually.
    - Survey participants to gather feedback and identify areas for improvement.

Timeline

- **Month 1:** Establish collection points and announce the program.
- **Months 2-4:** Begin inventory management and conduct the first collection drive.
- **Month 5:** Host the first redistribution event.
- **Ongoing:** Monitor, evaluate, and refine the system based on community feedback.

Resources Required

- Collection bins and storage space.
- Software for inventory management.
- Volunteer or staff time for managing drives and events.
- Budget for promotional materials and event logistics.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased reuse of physical resources, reducing waste and costs for families.
- Enhanced awareness of sustainability practices among students and staff.
- Strengthened community collaboration through shared sustainability efforts

Appendix E: Integrated Action Plan for Waste Reduction

Objective

Develop and implement an integrated approach to waste reduction, zero-waste events, and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility.

Action Steps

1. **Establish Waste Management Systems:**
    - Install clearly labeled bins for recycling, composting, and general waste across campus.
    - Partner with local recycling facilities to ensure proper disposal of collected materials.
2. **Implement Composting Programs:**
    - Create designated composting areas managed by the science department.
    - Incorporate composting education into classroom activities and science projects.

3. **Host Zero-Waste Events:**
    - Develop guidelines for all school events to minimize waste, such as banning single-use plastics and prioritizing reusable or compostable materials.
    - Train event organizers on zero-waste principles.
4. **Integrate Waste Reduction in Curriculum:**
    - Engage students in waste audits to track the volume and type of waste generated.
    - Design project-based learning opportunities to create solutions for reducing waste in their daily lives.
5. **Promote Community Participation:**
    - Organize "Sustainability Days" to educate students, parents, and staff on waste reduction practices.
    - Set up a rewards system for students and classes that excel in waste reduction efforts.
6. **Monitor and Evaluate:**
    - Conduct quarterly assessments of waste management systems to measure progress.
    - Use feedback from staff and students to refine processes.

Timeline

- **Month 1:** Install waste bins and initiate partnerships with recycling facilities.
- **Month 2-3:** Begin composting programs and integrate waste reduction into curriculum.
- **Month 4:** Host the first zero-waste event and gather feedback.
- **Ongoing:** Monitor and evaluate waste management practices quarterly.

Resources Required

- Budget for bins, composting equipment, and educational materials.
- Collaboration with local recycling companies and environmental groups.
- Staff and student volunteers for waste audits and management.

Expected Outcomes

- Reduction in waste sent to landfills by 20% within the first year.

- Increased awareness and participation in sustainability efforts among students and staff.
- Establishment of a sustainable waste management culture throughout the school.

Appendix F: Zero-Waste Principles in School Activities

Definition

Zero-waste principles in school activities involve reducing waste to the smallest possible amount by rethinking, reducing, reusing, and recycling materials. These principles aim to minimize the environmental impact of school operations and events by ensuring that no waste is sent to landfills or incinerators.

Practical Examples and Suggestions

1. **Paper Reduction**:
    - Encourage digital communication for event invitations, announcements, and newsletters.
    - Replace printed worksheets with digital alternatives when possible.
2. **Reusable Supplies**:
    - Use washable plates, cups, and utensils for school events.
    - Encourage students to bring reusable water bottles and lunch containers.
3. **Composting**:
    - Establish a composting program for food scraps from the cafeteria.
    - Use compost in school gardens as fertilizer for plants.
4. **Recycling Stations**:
    - Set up clearly labeled bins for recyclables (plastic, paper, aluminum) throughout the school.
    - Partner with local recycling facilities to ensure proper processing.
5. **Uniform and Book Exchange**:
    - Host an annual uniform and book exchange program where families can donate and acquire items.
6. **Eco-Friendly Decorations**:
    - Use biodegradable or reusable decorations for events.
    - Repurpose materials like paper and fabric for creative projects.
7. **Zero-Waste Event Guidelines**:
    - Ban single-use plastics for school fairs, PTA meetings, and sports events.

- Provide refill stations for water and encourage participants to bring their own bottles.
- Plan food portions carefully to avoid excess and donate leftovers to local charities.

8. **Sustainability Education**:
    - Incorporate zero-waste principles into student projects and curriculum.
    - Organize workshops on sustainable living practices for students and parents.

Steps to Achieve Zero Waste

1. **Assessment and Planning**:
    - Conduct a waste audit to identify the types and quantities of waste generated during school activities.
    - Develop a tailored action plan to address the most significant waste streams.
2. **Community Engagement**:
    - Educate staff, students, and parents on zero-waste principles through campaigns and workshops.
    - Encourage collaboration and active participation in waste-reduction initiatives.
3. **Monitoring and Improvement**:
    - Set clear goals for waste reduction and track progress regularly.
    - Review and refine strategies based on feedback and audit results.
4. **Recognition and Incentives**:
    - Celebrate achievements in waste reduction by recognizing students and staff who contribute significantly to sustainability efforts.
    - Establish a "Green Team" to lead and promote zero-waste initiatives.

Policy Owner Department

Education Department

Key Stakeholders		
Policy Owner:	School Principal	LISQ Principal
Reviewed by:	Margaret Haynes	Director of Schools
	Kevin Wallis	Deputy CEO
Approved by:	Dr. Shereen Gobran	Chief Executive Officer