Report on SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities at Al-Turath University

Reporting period: calendar year 2025 and academic year 2024-25

Committee: Al-Turath University SDG Impact Committee

Web page: https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/cities/

Introduction

Al-Turath University (TU) is a private university in the Mansour district of Baghdad, on Al-Naqabat Street. It is an urban campus that shares its neighbourhood with schools, families and local services, and it supports SDG 11 in four ways: it opens its library and grounds to the surrounding community, it holds cultural, sports and student events, it runs sustainable campus transport and builds to an energy-efficient construction policy, and it supports families, orphans, schools and the elderly through regular social initiatives. This report is organized by the THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2027 indicators for SDG 11, so each section documents one indicator. Items dated before 2025 are labelled as earlier evidence of ongoing practice.

TU's SDG 11 page describes five areas of work: sustainable urban planning education, efficient use of resources and energy, environmental research, community partnerships such as cleaning and tree-planting campaigns, and sustainability education (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/cities/). TU presented this work at the First Central Festival for Sustainable Development in Baghdad in August 2025 (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/08/sustainable-leadership/), and the Ministry of Higher Education gave TU a special recognition for its role in volunteer work at the First National Conference for Voluntary Work on 19 October 2025 (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/11/student-activity-award/).

1. Public access to library, green space and campus facilities (11.2.2, 11.2.4)

- **Library open to the community (11.2.2).** On 24 June 2023 TU announced that its library is open to the community: high school students, local students, faculty members and researchers are welcome to use its physical and electronic resources, including academic journals and research databases, in a quiet study environment with continuous electricity and internet access. TU describes this as a response to Iraq's electricity problems and the need for dependable study spaces, and says it is meant to encourage scholarly collaboration and support the local educational community (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2023/06/al-turath-university-library-welcomes-community-access-supporting-local-students-and-faculty-members/).
- **Information services for visitors.** On 24 August 2025 TU launched a comprehensive project to develop the Information Center at the Mohammed Bin Ali Building, to give students and visitors quick and accurate access to information, using modern technology to speed up procedures (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/08/develop-information-services-at-the-mohammed-bin-ali-building/).
- **Open green space (11.2.4).** TU has allocated large green spaces between its buildings and at its entrances, and has planted trees around the external walls of the campus (Al-Turath University Sustainability Magazine). A large afforestation campaign planted hundreds of perennial and evergreen trees on campus with the active participation of students; TU says it expands green spaces, raises environmental awareness and provides recreational spaces that improve quality of life (Al-Turath University Sustainability Magazine). TU's Ramadan and community events are also held in the campus grounds, including the annual Ramadan community football tournament, which involves families, youth and adults, in separate events for children and for adults, with food stalls and space for families and friends (24 November 2024,

https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/11/29006/). Public access to the gardens on occasion s like Ramadan and Eid.



Garden in front of the main building: lawn, date palm and shrubs



Garden area with date palms, trees and shrubs



Main plaza and landscaped grounds



Shaded outdoor seating area in the campus grounds

- **Al-Turath Park (11.2.4).** On 22 June 2024 TU announced construction of "Al-Turath Park", with 15 floors, on Al-Naqabat Street in Al-Mansour, to serve students and the residents of the surrounding areas; construction began on the first floor (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/06/%d8%ac%d8%a7%d9%85%d8%b9%d8%a9-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%aa%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%ab-%d8%aa%d8%af%d8%b4%d9%86-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b9%d9%85%d9%84-%d8%a8%d8%a5%d9%86%d8%b4%d8%a7%d8%a1-%d8%a8%d8%a7%d8%b1%d9%83-%d9%86%d9%85/).
- **Heritage buildings and museums (11.2.1, 11.2.3).** Not applicable.

2. Arts, culture and public events (11.2.5, 11.2.6, 11.3)

TU's Student Activities Department organizes cultural, artistic and sports events throughout the year (https://uoturath.edu.iq/student-activities/). The events below are documented on the TU website.

Date	Event	Source
Nov 2023	First International Forum on Displacement and International	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2023/11/first-international-forum-of-displacement-and-international-immigration/

Date	Event	Source
	Migration, hosted by TU under the patronage of the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Migration and Displacement, with the Minister of Migration and Displacement, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, the Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration, the President of the International Association of Universities and NGO representatives. Topics: the role of education in the causes of migration and displacement, and new policies with NGOs on poverty, education and jobs.	
Apr 2024	TU hosted a course on developing artistic activities with the participation of 63 universities.	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/04/al-turath-university-hosts-developing-artistic-activities-with-participation-of-63-universities/
May–Jun 2024	Third annual exhibition of student works and designs by the Design Department, with graduation projects, under the patronage of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and in the presence of the University President.	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/06/%d8%ac%d8%a7%d9%85%d8%b9%d8%a9-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%aa%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%ab-%d8%aa%d9%82%d9%8a%d9%85-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%85%d8%b9%d8%b1%d8%b6-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b3%d9%86%d9%88%d9%8a-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%ab%d8%a7%d9%84/
2023–24	First place for TU in the University Short Film Festival; a TU student won Best Actress.	Al-Turath University Sustainability Magazine
24 Nov 2024	Annual Ramadan community football tournament for families, youth and adults.	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/11/29006/
Jan 2025	TU's university sports programme and its role in student development.	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/01/sport/
18 Mar 2025	Iftar dinner hosted by the Chairman for families of martyrs and	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/03/chairman-hosts-iftar-dinner-for-families-of-security-forces-martyrs-and-injured/

Date	Event	Source
	wounded members of the security forces.	
Aug 2025	First Central Festival for Sustainable Development, Baghdad.	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/08/sustainable-leadership/
19 Oct 2025	First National Conference for Voluntary Work, Al-Hakeem Grand Hall, University of Baghdad, with 50 universities; TU received a special recognition from the Minister of Higher Education.	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/11/student-activity-award/
Dec 2025	Humanitarian initiative for children with Down syndrome and orphans, with more than 60 children.	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/12/humanitarian-initiative-supporting-children/

- **Intangible heritage (11.2.6).** As a cultural touch, TU's electric campus cars are designed with motifs from ancient Iraqi civilization such as Gilgamesh, the Ziggurat, Ishtar, Nebuchadnezzar and the Winged Bull (Al-Turath University Sustainability Magazine), and TU describes its Ali Al-Ugaili Building, for the Colleges of Pharmacy and Dentistry, as built to contemporary designs that align with the university's heritage identity (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/04/%d9%85%d8%a8%d9%86%d9%89-%d8%b9%d9%84%d9%8a-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b9%da%af%d9%8a%d9%84%d9%8a-%d8%aa%d8%ad%d9%81%d8%a9-%d9%85%d8%b9%d9%85%d8%a7%d8%b1%d9%8a%d8%a9-%d8%aa%d9%86%d8%b6%d9%85-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%89/).
- **Arts and heritage spending (11.3).** Spending on arts and heritage in 2025: 5000000 IQD.

3. Sustainable practices (11.4)

- **Free campus transport (11.4.2).** TU provides free transport inside the campus, linking the main entrance with all of its buildings (22 June 2024, https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/06/%d9%81%d9%8a-%d8%b3%d8%a7%d8%a8%d9%82%d8%a9-%d8%aa%d8%b9%d8%af-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a7%d9%88%d9%84%d9%89-%d9%81%d9%8a-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%ac%d8%a7%d9%85%d8%b9%d8%a7%d8%aa-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b9%d8%b1%d8%a7%d9%82/). In April 2024 TU adopted eco-friendly electric vehicles powered by clean energy to move students around the campus, in line with the Ministry of Higher Education's strategy for sustainability and green education (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/04/al-turath-university-adopts-using-eco-friendly-e-vehicles-to-transport-students-within-its-campus/). TU allocated 15 such electric cars that emit no exhaust gases to carry students, guests and faculty members free of charge (Al-Turath University Sustainability Magazine). TU's Carbon Divestment and Clean Mobility Policy (TU-CDCM-2023) sets a target of a fully electric campus transport system by 2028 (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-energy-policy/).
- **Commuting to campus (11.4.1, 11.4.2).** The public "Alawi" bus runs directly in front of the university on Al-Naqabat Street from dawn until evening, with fares of about $0.30–1 per trip

against $3–5 by taxi, and TU's housing guidance for international students recommends neighbourhoods within about 5 km of the campus, such as Mansour, Harthiya, Khadra, 14 Ramadan, Adl and Yarmouk (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/international/housing-costs/).

- **Pedestrian priority (11.4.6).** The campus has pedestrian plazas, car-free zones, covered walkways. As shown in the photos.
- **Remote work (11.4.3).** TU have wide range of counselling stuff who are most work remotely.
- **Affordable housing (11.4.4, 11.4.5).** TU is a private university with no on-campus dormitories. For international students the International Students Affairs Office helps them contact trusted real estate brokers in Mansour and find roommates, and TU's housing page gives monthly costs from about $150–300 for a room in a shared apartment, with an economical option at about $405 a month in total (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/international/housing-costs/). TU's tuition waivers for international students (15 November 2024) lower the cost of living in Baghdad for them (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/11/al-turath-university-initiative-supports-international-students-scholarships-waivers/).
- **Planning collaboration with local authorities (11.4.7).** TU paved and developed the street of the university at the expense of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees (June 2024, https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/06/%d8%a7%d9%83%d8%b3%d8%a7%d8%a1-%d9%88%d8%aa%d8%b7%d9%88%d9%8a%d8%b1-%d8%b4%d8%a7%d8%b1%d8%b9-%d8%ac%d8%a7%d9%85%d8%b9%d8%a9-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%aa%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%ab-%d8%b9%d9%84%d9%89-%d9%86%d9%81%d9%82/). In July 2023 the Baghdad Governorate sent TU a letter of appreciation for its role in supporting schools (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2023/07/letter-of-appreciation-for-tu/).
- **Sustainable new-build standards (11.4.8).** TU's Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Construction Policy (No. TU-EESCP-2023, effective 1 January 2024) applies to all new buildings and major renovations. It requires compliance with ASHRAE 90.1 or the equivalent Iraqi standard, LEED Gold or equivalent, and energy use at least 20% below the baseline (https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Energy-Construction-Policy-uoturath.pdf). The Ali Al-Ugaili Building has 8 floors of 2,500 m² each, with classrooms for 200 students and six lecture theatres for 350 people each (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/04/%d9%85%d8%a8%d9%86%d9%89-%d8%b9%d9%84%d9%8a-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b9%da%af%d9%8a%d9%84%d9%8a-%d8%aa%d8%ad%d9%81%d8%a9-%d9%85%d8%b9%d9%85%d8%a7%d8%b1%d9%8a%d8%a9-%d8%aa%d9%86%d8%b6%d9%85-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%89/).
- **Waste and campus environment.** TU applies waste sorting at source on the campus and uses environmentally friendly supplies in its activities (Al-Turath University Sustainability Magazine; https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/04/al-turath-university-continues-implementing-experience-of-sorting-waste-from-source-to-enhance-environmental-sustainability-green-education/), and since June 2024 it has used a cleaning drone to wash its large buildings.

4. Community and social support

TU treats support for its neighbours and for families in need as part of being a good city neighbour. The initiatives below are documented on the TU website and in the Al-Turath University Sustainability Magazine.

- **Ramadan Iftar for the community.** In Ramadan 2024 TU hosted a collective Iftar shared by students, and invited low-income families, orphanages and senior care facilities, with interactive events and competitions on the campus and its surroundings (15 March 2024, https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/03/ramdan/). On 18 March 2025 the Chairman hosted an Iftar dinner for families of martyrs and wounded members of the security forces (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/03/chairman-hosts-iftar-dinner-for-families-of-security-forces-martyrs-and-injured/).

- **Food baskets.** TU distributed more than 5,000 complete food baskets to needy families, with the Chairman personally taking part in preparing and distributing them (Al-Turath University Sustainability Magazine).
- **Orphans and children.** TU sent its buses to orphanages to bring orphans to the campus for a special entertainment programme (Al-Turath University Sustainability Magazine); TU's volunteer staff visited the Kilo Farah Orphanage in June 2024 (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/06/%d8%b2%d9%8a%d8%a7%d8%b1%d8%a9-%d9%83%d8%a7%d8%af%d8%b1-%d8%ac%d8%a7%d9%85%d8%b9%d8%a9-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%aa%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%ab-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%aa%d8%b7%d9%88%d8%b9%d9%8a-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%89-%d8%af%d8%a7/); and in December 2025 TU launched a humanitarian initiative caring for children with Down syndrome and orphans, with more than 60 children (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/12/humanitarian-initiative-supporting-children/).
- **Volunteering.** TU received a special recognition from the Minister of Higher Education at the First National Conference for Voluntary Work on 19 October 2025, for its leading role in promoting volunteerism and building social responsibility among students (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/11/student-activity-award/).
- **Schools and health in the neighbourhood.** The Baghdad Governorate thanked TU for supporting local schools (July 2023, https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2023/07/letter-of-appreciation-for-tu/). TU's annual community dental services and school health screenings serve local families (see the SDG 3 report), and its workshop on environmental education and school health took place in July 2025 (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/07/al-turath-education-health-workshop/).
- **Strategic Plan for Community Service 2024–2026.** TU lists this plan on its SDG pages (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/cities/).