THE MALDIVES NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# Carbon Management and Emissions Reduction Policy

**Approved Date**: 18th October 2026

**Approved by**: MNU Sustainability Committee

## Introduction

The MNU Sustainability Action Plan calls for a university-wide carbon inventory, annual carbon footprint reports, measurable emission reduction targets and a carbon-neutral roadmap.

This policy establishes the process by which the University measures, manages and reduces its carbon dioxide emissions. Its purposes are to:

- establish a consistent method for measuring the University's greenhouse gas emissions;
- set a baseline and reduction targets;
- define the actions, responsibilities and reporting cycle for reducing emissions; and
- support the national targets of the Maldives under its Nationally Determined Contribution.

## Definition of Terms

**Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions:** Emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e).

**Scope 1 emissions:** Direct emissions from sources the University owns or controls, such as fuel used in generators, vehicles and vessels, and refrigerant leakage.

**Scope 2 emissions:** Indirect emissions from the generation of electricity purchased by the University.

**Scope 3 emissions:** Other indirect emissions, such as business travel, commuting, waste and purchased goods.

**Carbon inventory:** The annual record of the University's emissions by scope and source.

**Baseline year:** The year against which emission reductions are measured.

**Carbon neutrality:** A state in which the University's measured emissions are reduced as far as practicable and any remainder is balanced by verified removals or offsets.

## Statement of Policy

MNU is committed to managing and reducing its carbon dioxide emissions. The University shall measure its emissions every year, set and publish reduction targets, act to meet them, and report its progress publicly.

## Scope

This policy applies to:

1 all campuses, faculties, schools, centres, offices and student accommodation of the University;

2 Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions from the date this policy takes effect;

3 Scope 3 emissions from business air travel, and other Scope 3 sources as data become available; and

4 all staff, students, contractors and visitors, in so far as their activities affect the University's emissions.

## Policy Implementation

The Vice Chancellor shall oversee the implementation of this policy. The Sustainability Committee shall lead it. The Policy and Quality Control Unit (PQCU) shall coordinate data collection and reporting, with data supplied by Facilities Management, Finance, Procurement and Campus Managers.

## The Carbon Management Process

The University shall follow the annual cycle below.

1 **Measure** - By the end of March each year, compile the carbon inventory for the previous calendar year from electricity bills, fuel purchase records, refrigerant records and travel records, using the method of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and published emission factors. The emission factor used for purchased electricity shall be the factor published by the national authorities or the utility, and shall be stated in the inventory.

2 **Set the baseline and targets** – In support of the national commitment of reducing emissions to 1.52 million tons of CO2 equivalent ($tCO_2e$) by 2035, MNU establishes a target to reduce it scope 1 and scope 2 emissions by 2035.

3 **Plan** - Adopt a Carbon Reduction Action Plan each year, listing the measures to be taken, the expected reduction, the cost and the responsible office.

4 **Act** - Carry out the measures. Priority shall be given, in order, to: avoiding energy use; improving energy efficiency in buildings and equipment; generating renewable energy, in particular rooftop solar; moving to electric or hybrid vehicles and vessels; and reducing travel through virtual meetings.

5 **Monitor** - Review progress against targets every quarter at the Sustainability Committee.

6 **Report** - Publish the carbon inventory and progress against targets each year in the Sustainability Report and on the University website.

7 **Review** - Review targets and the action plan each year in the light of results.

## Key Principles Underpinning the Policy

1 **Reduce first** - Emissions shall be reduced at source before any offset is considered. Offsets may be used only for emissions that cannot practicably be avoided, and shall be independently verified.

2 **Accuracy and consistency** - The same boundaries, methods and emission factors shall be used from year to year, and any change shall be explained.

3 **Transparency** - Methods, data and results shall be published.

4 **Shared responsibility** - Every faculty, campus and department is responsible for the emissions arising from its activities.

5 **Alignment** - Targets and actions shall be consistent with the Energy Act (Law No. 18/2021), the Climate Emergency Act (Law No. 9/2021), the Maldives' Nationally Determined Contribution and the MNU Strategic Plan 2026-2030.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee shall:

1 approve the carbon inventory, the baseline and the targets;

2 adopt the annual Carbon Reduction Action Plan;

3 review progress every quarter; and

4 report to the Academic Senate each year.

### Policy and Quality Control Unit

The PQCU shall coordinate the collection of data, compile the carbon inventory and prepare the annual report.

### Facilities Management

Facilities Management shall provide electricity, fuel and refrigerant data for all buildings, vehicles and vessels, and shall carry out the energy measures in the action plan.

### Finance and Procurement

Finance shall provide fuel, electricity and travel expenditure records and shall budget for the action plan. Procurement shall apply low-carbon and life-cycle cost criteria in purchasing.

### Deans, Heads and Campus Managers

Deans, Heads and Campus Managers shall provide data for their units, implement the measures assigned to them and promote low-carbon practices among staff and students.

### Staff and students

Staff and students shall follow the University's energy-saving and low-carbon practices and take part in awareness and training activities.

## Related Documents

- MNU Sustainability Policy (Academic Senate, 28 September 2025)
- MNU Sustainability Action Plan
- MNU Climate and Environment Research Framework 2025-2030
- MNU Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan

- MNU Energy Review and Audit Procedure
- Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard
- Maldives' Third Nationally Determined Contribution (2025)

## Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed at least once every three years, or earlier where national targets or reporting standards change.

## Annex 1: Carbon Inventory Template

| Scope | Source | Activity data | Unit | Emission factor (state source) | Emissions (tCO2e) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scope 1 | Diesel: generators | | litres | | |
| Scope 1 | Diesel and petrol: vehicles and vessels | | litres | | |
| Scope 1 | Refrigerant top-up | | kg | | |
| Scope 2 | Purchased electricity, by campus | | kWh | | |
| Scope 3 | Business air travel | | passenger-km | | |
| Total | | | | | |