



1. INTRODUCTION

At EFIA, we see sustainability as a shared duty to protect our environment and create a better future for the next generation. In line with the UAE's vision for sustainable development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the school is committed to building awareness, responsibility, and action among students, staff, and the wider community.

By implementing sustainable practices in daily operations, learning experiences, and community involvement, the school aims to develop an environmentally conscious culture that values conserving resources, reducing waste, and caring for the planet.

2. PURPOSE

- i. To establish a clear and practical approach to promoting sustainability within the school environment.
- ii. To build awareness and understanding among students, staff, and parents about the importance of sustainable living and environmental stewardship.
- iii. To equip students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills required to act as responsible global citizens and support the Sustainable Development Goals.
- iv. To integrate sustainability practices into teaching, learning, and school operations in simple and achievable ways such as recycling, energy saving, and responsible water use.
- v. To encourage continuous improvement through regular review and reflection on the school's sustainability initiatives and achievements.

3. POLICY

1. Sustainability Strategy

1.1 Sustainability Strategy: As part of EFIA's overall wellbeing strategy, school will develop a focused and results driven sustainability strategy that includes the following:

❖ Vision and Goals

EFIA is committed to fostering a culture of sustainability through education, operations, and engagement

We aim to:

- i. Integrate sustainability education across the curriculum to promote environmental responsibility, aligning with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and UAE Vision 2030.



- ii. Contribute to Abu Dhabi Environmental Agency (EAD) and Sustainable Schools Initiative guidelines.
- iii. Operate as an environmentally responsible institution that minimizes its ecological footprint while promoting wellbeing and inclusion for all.

❖ **Alignment with UAE and Local Guidelines**

This policy aligns with:

- i. Environmental Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) Sustainability Framework.
- ii. Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council (QCC) Standards for School Audits.
- iii. ADG 07: 2017 Abu Dhabi Guideline for Green Schools – Sustainable Schools Initiative.
- iv. Abu Dhabi Department of Energy (DOE) and ADAFSA policies for efficient use of water and energy.

❖ **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Vision**

Our CSR vision is to be a responsible community partner, promoting sustainable living practices among students, staff, and families.

CSR efforts will focus on:

- i. Environmental conservation (compost making, tree planting).
- ii. Social outreach (community service, charity drives).
- iii. Educational awareness (student led campaigns, eco clubs).

❖ **Sustainability Policies**

The school will develop and promote the following sustainability focused policies:

1. **Waste Management Policy:** Encourage recycling, reuse, and reduction of plastic and paper use.
2. **Energy Conservation Policy:** Promote energy efficient practices like turning off unused lights and air conditioners.
3. **Water Conservation Policy:** Encourage responsible water use and install water saving fixtures where possible.
4. **Sustainable Transport Policy:** Encourage carpooling, walking, and the use of school buses to reduce emissions.
5. **Environmental Education Policy:** Integrate sustainability topics into science, social studies, and moral education curricula.



Key Initiatives and Action Plans

- a. Curriculum integration: EFIA will include sustainability themes in lessons, projects and assemblies so that students will develop awareness and responsibility towards the environment.
- b. Student Leadership: The school will establish an Eco Club and wellbeing Ambassadors team to lead eco initiatives and peer awareness campaigns.
- c. Energy & Water Conservation: The school will have classroom energy monitors and display of conservation reminders to lower the utility consumptions.
- d. Biodiversity: EFIA will have school garden in its limited area for hands-on learning to promote connection with the nature.
- e. Inclusion: The school will involve students with additional learning needs in sustainability projects (e.g., planting, compost making).
- f. Community Engagement: EFIA will collaborate with EAD and local recycling centers to enhance stronger school community sustainability network.

Empowering Students as Agents of Change

The school will:

- i. Integrate student led sustainability projects into the curriculum.
- ii. Encourage participation in community service activities focused on environmental wellbeing.
- iii. The school recognize student participation in the school initiative-”Donate a plant, give hope.”
- iv. Engage students in data collection and monitoring of resource usage (water, energy, waste).

❖ Leadership Commitment

The school leadership commits to aligning operations with ISO 14000 Environmental Management Standards principles (continuous improvement, pollution prevention, and compliance).The school will provide staff training on sustainability practices and monitor its implementation through regular reviews and audits.

1.2 Sustainability Governance:

- i. The school will appoint a Sustainability Lead Teacher and form a Sustainability Committee including: Science, Social Studies, PE, and Student Council representatives.
- ii. The school will draft a School Sustainability Strategy and conduct an annual review meeting to track progress via checklists (energy, waste, awareness) and update strategy yearly based on student & parent feedback.
- iii. EFIA will ensure participation of SEN students in green activities (gardening, recycling, art



with waste) and follow ADEK wellbeing and inclusion policies when integrating sustainability theme.

2. Integration of Sustainability and Environmental Wellbeing

2.1 Curriculum Integration: Sustainability concepts will be integrated across Science, Social Science, Geography, and Moral Education by incorporating SDG related activities such as SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption) and utilizing CBSE projects like composting and plastic audits for assessment.

2.2 Experiential Learning: The school will have Eco Clubs or Eco Committees to lead student driven actions such as switching off lights, gardening, waste segregation, and creating water saving awareness posters.

2.3 Psychological Environment: The school will designate a “Wellness Corner” in the classroom that features plants, calming décor, natural light, and displays affirmations and student artwork promoting peace and environmental awareness.

2.4 Physical Space: The school will showcase sustainability posters and student projects on noticeboard Our school will incorporate sustainability principles in the design and construction of future projects.

2.5 Energy efficiency: Our school will follow Estidama principles by ensuring classroom AC is used efficiently and use LED bulbs and monitor monthly AADC bills.

2.6 Reuse of Books & Learning Materials: The school will implement a Book Bank at the library where students donate used textbooks and reuse art/craft materials and stationary for project work.

2.7 Responsible Food Consumption: Our school will promote healthy eating habits through Eat Right Get Active drive.

2.8 Sustainable Technology: Our school will promote digital resources over printed ones when suitable.

3. Awareness of Sustainability Strategy and Policies

3.1 Awareness Promotion: The school will showcase the school’s sustainability policy in the reception area and on the website, hold monthly eco assemblies and social media.

3.2 Reward and Recognition: The school recognize student participation in the school initiative-”Donate a plant, give hope.”



4. Monitoring and Evaluation

4.1 Continuous Update: Our school will review strategy annually using committee feedback and align with ADEK updates and best practices.

4.2 External Evaluation: EFIA will participate in ADEK-mandated or local community sustainability programs like Emirates Environmental Group contests.

4.3 Resources and Community Partnerships: To ensure effective implementation, the school will:

- i. Partner with organizations such as EAD, Tadweer, Emirates Environmental Group, and ADEK initiatives.
- ii. Involve parents and local businesses in community clean-up and tree-planting drives.

5. Compliance:

Failure to comply with this policy shall be subject to legal accountability and the penalties stipulated in accordance with the ADEK's regulations, policies, and requirements, notwithstanding any other penalties imposed by Federal Decree Law No. (31) of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties and its amendments or any other relevant law. ADEK reserves the right to intervene if the school is found to be in violation of its obligations.

4. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually and is subject to changes as per the school and ADEK guidelines. The updated policy will be submitted for approval in line with the standard process.

Saji Oommen
Principal

Date of Next Review :10/03/2027