



SUSTAINABILITY

PLAN AND CLIMATE CHANGE



SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

UNICARIBE

PLSCC-UNICARIBE-001
VERSION 01

	PREPARED BY	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED BY
NAME	Ricardo Ramírez Julián Peña	Denisse Morales	José Alejandro Aybar M. Emilio Mínguez
CHARGE	Vice-Rector for Strategy and Development Director of the Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Management and Renewable Energies	Director of Accreditation and Institutional Quality	Chancellor Rector
DATE	3-11-2025	3-11-2025	4-11-2025

Make sure that this is the current version of the document. It is not allowed to distribute, circulate. copy, reproduce, manipulate, modify or disseminate this content in any way without the prior written authorization of the person responsible for compliance with the Internal Quality Management System of the Universidad del Caribe.

CONTENT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
2. STRATEGIC AXES.....	5
2.1. Culture.....	5
2.2. Mitigation.....	5
2.3. Adaptation	5
2.4. Education	6
2.5. Research.....	6
2.6. Link.....	6
3. INDICATORS FOR THE INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN (PEI) AND THE ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN (POA)	6
3.1. Energy, Water & Waste	6
3.2. Outreach Programs and Culture of Sustainability	6
3.3. Education	7
3.4. Research.....	7
3.5. Link.....	7
4. REFERENCES.....	7

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **University of the Caribbean (UNICARIBE)**, founded in 1995 in Santo Domingo, is a pioneering institution in offering flexible, accessible and innovative higher education. Its academic model (**MEDUC**) combines blended and distance learning modalities, which allows more than 37,000 active students to pursue their professional training without interrupting their work or personal responsibilities.

To date, more than 54,000 graduates have contributed through their training and leadership to the development of society in different international contexts.

UNICARIBE promotes student-centered teaching and comprehensive development, the use of cutting-edge technologies through top-level platforms such as Banner, Blackboard, Class, CloudLabs, Coursera, Ally, among others, as well as the promotion of research, sustainability, and international cooperation.

Studying at UNICARIBE means being part of an academic community committed to social and economic progress, with a global vision and up-to-date programs in STEAM areas. The institution has a highly qualified faculty that prepares professionals to face the challenges of today's world.

In addition, we offer a scholarship program for people with disabilities, allowing them to pursue the career of their choice at no cost.

Supporting society's major challenges such as equity and inclusion in quality higher education, UNICARIBE developed its **Sustainability and Climate Change Plan** in November 2025 to mobilize actions that contribute to the energy transition, carbon neutrality, and the circular economy.

In this context, the **Global Climate Letter for Universities and Colleges**, published on July 10, 2019, seeks to mobilize the leadership and support of universities, colleges, students and educational networks around the world to achieve sustainable development with zero carbon emissions. Indeed, more than 7,000 universities on six continents have declared a climate emergency and agreed on a plan to address this crisis, recognizing the need for drastic social transformation to combat the growing threat of climate change.

The **University of the Caribbean (UNICARIBE)**, committed to this initiative, declares:

1. Contribute to carbon neutrality by 2050.
2. Mobilize resources for research, innovation and entrepreneurship on issues related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
3. Support the creation of formal, informal and outreach education programs on environmental education and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), at the undergraduate, graduate and continuing education levels.

Through this **Sustainability and Climate Change Plan 2025**, UNICARIBE assumes its co-responsibility with humanity to face the current climate emergency. By mobilizing our capacities urgently, we seek to minimize risks, mitigate impacts and adapt to changes, contributing to the fulfillment of the international commitments established in the **Paris Agreement**.

This plan constitutes a framework document that synthesizes the path traced towards sustainability. It is a dynamic strategy, conceived as a process of continuous creation based on dialogue, cooperation and the union of efforts of the entire university community to achieve its goals.

UNICARIBE's aspiration is to become a benchmark university for its sustainability model, with concrete actions in the face of the great challenges of sustainable development, promoting an environmental culture and the training of talent capable of responsibly managing natural resources and renewable energies.

2. STRATEGIC AXES

2.1. Culture

Implement a culture of institutional sustainability at all levels: operational, tactical and strategic.

This involves systematically integrating sustainable values, principles and practices into university management, ensuring that environmental, social and economic awareness guides every decision and action. Sustainability is assumed as a collective norm to guarantee long-term well-being.

2.2. Mitigation

Reducing the institution's environmental impact by reducing the carbon footprint, circular water management and comprehensive waste management. This includes concrete actions to optimize energy use, promote the circular economy, and responsibly manage waste, in order to minimize the negative impact on the environment.

2.3. Adaptation

Strengthen institutional resilience to the present and future impacts of climate change. Adaptation seeks to anticipate and respond to environmental risks through strategies that reduce the vulnerability of infrastructure, operations, and the university community, guaranteeing the continuity of functions under new environmental conditions.

2.4. Education

Train students and teachers on climate change and sustainable development issues. This is achieved by integrating this content into the curriculum, fostering knowledge, skills and values that promote climate action and sustainability at all educational levels.

2.5. Research

Promote interdisciplinary research to generate systemic solutions to the climate crisis. The objective is to produce applicable knowledge that allows addressing the complexity of climate change from multiple approaches, promoting sustainable development in local and global communities.

2.6. Link

Actively participate in local, national and international alliances dedicated to sustainability and climate change.

UNICARIBE puts its academic, scientific and technological capacities at the service of society, contributing to the collective progress towards a sustainable transition.

3. INDICATORS FOR THE INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN (PEI) AND THE ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN (POA)

3.1. Energy, Water & Waste

- % of energy consumed from renewable sources.
- % reduction in energy consumption per m² (kWh/m²).
- % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- % reduction in water consumption.
- % water reuse.
- % reduction of waste (organic and inorganic).

3.2. Outreach Programs and Culture of Sustainability

- Number of events related to the dissemination of the SDGs.
- Number of participants in environmental awareness activities.

3.3. Education

- Formal and informal programs (undergraduate, graduate and continuing education) linked to sustainability and climate change.
- Number of students enrolled and graduated in these programs.

3.4. Research

- Scientific publications linked to the SDGs.
- Scientific events dedicated to sustainability and climate change.

3.5. Link

- Number of companies, public institutions and civil society organizations associated with UNICARIBE in sustainability projects.

4. REFERENCES

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2015). *Paris Agreement*.
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/spanish_paris_agreement.pdf

IPBES. (2019). *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Summary for decision makers*. https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-02/ipbes_global_assessment_report_summary_for_policymakers_en.pdf