

# UMS SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT AWARD

## AWARD GUIDELINES DOCUMENT (2025 EDITION)

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In support of Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) strong commitment to sustainability and institutional excellence, the UMS Sustainability Impact Award was established to recognise outstanding contributions by faculties, research units, and departments in advancing impactful sustainability initiatives within the university and the wider community.

This award aims to cultivate a culture of excellence, strengthen internal benchmarking, and raise institutional awareness in line with the UMS Strategic Plan and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)..

### 2. OBJECTIVES

- To Recognise exceptional ESG-related contributions across the UMS.
- To Encourage continuous improvement in institutional sustainability practices.
- To Align UMS efforts with global university sustainability indicators (ie QS & THE).
- To Promote a culture of responsibility, transparency, and innovation within UMS.

### 3. AWARD CATEGORIES

Each participating entity (JAFPIB) will be evaluated under three main categories, reflecting both QS and THE sustainability dimensions.

Main Category	Subcategories	Weight
Environmental Impact	Campus Operations, Environmental Research, Sustainability Education	33%
Social Impact	Equity & Inclusion, Community Engagement, Graduate Impact	28%
Governance & Strategy	Sustainability Strategy, Transparency, Ethics, Partnerships	39%

## 4. SCORING & RATING SYSTEM

Each indicator will be scored on a scale from 1 (Low) to 5 (Outstanding) based on evidence submitted.

Award Levels:

Level	Score Range
Platinum	≥ 90%
Gold	80–89%
Silver	70–79%
Bronze	60–69%
Participation Acknowledgement	50–59%

## 5. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Each JAFPIB is required to submit the following by the deadline:

1. Each submission must be accompanied by a Sustainability Self-Assessment Report (maximum 10 pages), prepared using the provided template. The report should address the relevant evaluation criteria as outlined in the accompanying Excel-based assessment framework.
2. Supporting Evidence (Documents, photos, reports, press releases, URLs)
3. Summary Impact Statement – summarising and highlighting the key sustainability impacts of the initiative or program. This statement should concisely showcase the most significant outcomes, innovations, or contributions made toward environmental, social, or governance aspects of sustainability.

## 6. TIMELINE (2025)

Activity	Date
Call for Participation	30 Jul 30 2025
Submission Deadline	15 Aug 15 2025
Evaluation Period	16-20 Aug, 2025
Award Ceremony	22 Aug 2025 (Majlis Anugerah Kecemerlangan UMS- tentatif)

## 7. EVALUATION PROCESS

Evaluations will be conducted by an internal panel consisting of:

- Strategic Management Centre (PPS)
- EcoCampus Centre
- Internal sustainability expert

Scoring will be based on:

- Relevance and quality of activities/initiatives
- Supporting Evidence and documentation
- Measurable sustainability impacts
- Innovation and leadership demonstrated

## 8. LINKAGE TO STRATEGIC AND GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS

This award directly supports:


- UMS Strategic Plan 2023–2027
- SDG Campus Implementation Roadmap
- QS Sustainability Rankings Indicators
- THE Impact Rankings (SDG-aligned reporting)

## 9. CONTACT & SUBMISSION

All submissions must be submitted via the provided template forms and submitted via:

Submission Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/6nbCu71nay>

For inquiries and quick briefing session, contact:

Pusat Pengurusan Strategik (PPS)  [smc@ums.edu.my](mailto:smc@ums.edu.my)

## APPENDIX

### A. RUBRIC – guideline subject to the activity/program – provided by entitiy

#### 1. Environmental Impact (33%)

Criteria	Indicators (QS / THE)	Weight (%)
<b>Campus Operations</b>	QS: Sustainable Institutions / THE: SDG6, 7, 12, 13	9
<b>Environmental Research Output</b>	QS: Sustainable Research / THE: SDG13–15	12
<b>Environmental Education</b>	QS: Sustainable Education / THE: SDG4, 6, 13	8
<b>Marine Ecosystems &amp; Coastal Resilience</b>	THE: SDG14	4

#### 2. Social Impact (28%)

Criteria	Indicators (QS / THE)	Weight (%)
<b>Equity &amp; Inclusion</b>	QS: Equality / THE: SDG5, 10	8
<b>Community Engagement</b>	QS: Knowledge Exchange / THE: SDG11, 1	8
<b>Health &amp; Well-being</b>	THE: SDG3	8
<b>Food Security &amp; Sustainable Nutrition</b>	THE: SDG2	4

#### 3. Governance & Strategic Innovation (39%)

Criteria	Indicators (QS / THE)	Weight (%)
<b>Sustainability Strategy &amp; Policy</b>	QS: Sustainable Institutions / THE: SDG17	4
<b>Transparency &amp; Ethics</b>	QS: Good Governance / THE: SDG16	4
<b>SDG-related Research</b>	QS: Sustainable Research / THE: SDG-specific	8
<b>Partnerships for Sustainability</b>	QS: Knowledge Exchange / THE: SDG17	8
<b>Innovation &amp; Infrastructure Partnerships</b>	QS: Knowledge Exchange / THE: SDG9	5
<b>Graduate Outcomes in Sustainability</b>	QS: Employability / THE: SDG8	5
<b>Lifelong Learning &amp; Access</b>	THE: SDG4	5

## B. SCORING GUIDE

Score	Descriptor	Criteria
1	Absent / Not Evident	- No policy, initiative, or data available - No documentation or evidence uploaded - No assigned responsibility or monitoring mechanism
2	Initial / Informal	- Policy or activity exists but not formalized - Evidence is anecdotal or unverified - Data collected irregularly, stored in silos (Excel, personal drives)
3	Developing	- Policy formalized or initiative ongoing - Partial documentation and data stored centrally - Outcomes not measured or reported publicly - Lacking alignment with SDG indicators or QS keywords
4	Implemented & Evidenced	- Activity fully implemented with clear goals - Supporting evidence uploaded to institutional platform (portal, dashboard, drive) - Data updated at least annually - Outcomes linked to SDG targets or QS rubrics (e.g., Scopus-indexed research, carbon reduction, etc.)
5	Best Practice / Benchmark Level	- Comprehensive policy/action + data transparency - Results publicly reported or externally audited (e.g., GRI, SDG report, website) - Evidence includes impact measurement (e.g., % reduction, student reach) - Benchmarked against national/international standard (e.g., ISO14001, UI GreenMetric)

## C. DATA PLATFORM & EVIDENCE EXPECTATIONS

Policy Documents	Required (PDF uploads for strategy, governance, equity)	Required (policy + implementation evidence for each SDG)
Web URLs	Recommended (for transparency)	Highly recommended (proof of publication, public access)
Survey Responses	Compulsory (institutional data form)	Used to confirm SDG participation and metrics
Publication Metrics	Based on Scopus-indexed sustainability keywords	Based on Scopus data filtered by SDG mapping
Outcome Data	Required (emissions, energy, diversity, etc.)	Required (e.g., no. of outreach programs, students supported)
Platform Use* (if applicable)	Central data repository recommended (e.g., Google Drive, UMS Portal, SDG Dashboard)	Web links + annual institutional SDG report highly encouraged