



Strategic Management Centre (SMC).

UMS SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT AWARD

AWARD GUIDELINES DOCUMENT

2026 EDITION



1.0 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. For this year, two categories of participants have been introduced for the award as follows.

Group A: Institutes, Faculties and Academy

Group B: Departments, Centres, and Units.

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).

2.0 Objectives

1. To recognise exceptional ESG-related contributions across the UMS.
2. To encourage continuous improvement in institutional sustainability practices.
3. To align UMS efforts with global university sustainability indicators (i.e. QS, THE and UI GreenMatrix).
4. To promote a culture of responsibility, transparency, and innovation within UMS.

3.0 Award Categories

Each participating entity (JFPIB) will be assessed across three primary categories, aligned with the sustainability dimensions outlined by QS, THE, and the UI GreenMetric, as shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Criteria Evaluation for Group A – Institutes, Faculties and Academy

Main Category	Subcategories	Weight
Environmental Impact	Campus Operations, Environmental Research, Sustainability Education	30%
Social Impact	Equity & Inclusion, Community Engagement, Graduate Impact	35%
Governance & Strategy	Sustainability Strategy, Transparency, Ethics, Partnerships	35%

Table 2: Criteria Evaluation for Group B – Departments, Centers, and Units

Main Category	Subcategories	Weight
Environmental Impact	Campus Operations, Environmental Research, Sustainability Education	35%
Social Impact	Equity & Inclusion, Community Engagement, Graduate Impact	30%
Governance & Strategy	Sustainability Strategy, Transparency, Ethics, Partnerships	35%

4.0 Scoring & Rating System

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

Table 3: Award Levels

Level	Score Range	Price
Sustainability Excellence Award	-	RM 1000.00
Best of the best Category Environmental	-	RM 500.00
Best of the best Category Social	-	RM 500.00
Best of the best Category Governance	-	RM 500.00
Platinum	≥ 90%	Certificate
Gold	80–89%	Certificate
Silver	70–79%	Certificate
Bronze	60–69%	Certificate
Participation Acknowledgement	50–59%	Certificate

*Awards will be conferred based on tiered categories such as Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Participation acknowledgement, in place of numerical ranking.

5.0 Submission Requirements

Each JFPIB 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.
4. Reported activities/initiatives must include activities/initiatives implemented in 2025 and the current year.

6.0 Timeline (2026)

Table 4: Timeline

Activity	Date
Call for Participation	2 March 2026
Submission Deadline	4 May 2026
Evaluation Period	5 – 8 May, 2026
Award Ceremony	22 Aug 2026 (Majlis Anugerah Kecemerlangan UMS)

*Reported activities/initiatives must include activities/initiatives implemented in 2025 and the current year.

7.0 Evaluation Process

Evaluations will be conducted by an internal panel consisting of:

- Strategic Management Centre (PPS)
- EcoCampus
- 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

8.0 Linkage to Strategic & 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)
- UI GreenMatrix

9.0 Contact & Submission

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

Submission Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/zSUBgR4E3c>

For inquiries and quick briefing session, contact:

Pusat Pengurusan Strategik(PPS)

Bahagian eco campus

✉ ecocampus@ums.edu.my

APPENDIX

A. RUBRIC FOR GROUP A: Guideline subject to activity/ program - provided by entity

1. Environmental Impact (30%)

Criteria	Indicators (QS / THE/ UI Green-Matrix)	Weight (%)
Campus Operations	QS: Sustainable Institutions THE: SDG6, 7, 12, 13 UI GreenMatrix: Setting & Infrastructure (SDG 6), Energy & Climate Change (SDG7), Waste (SDG12), water (SDG6)	9
Environmental Research Output	QS: Sustainable Research / THE: SDG13–15	11
Environmental Education	QS: Sustainable Education / THE: SDG4, 6, 13	7
Marine Ecosystems & Coastal Resilience	THE: SDG14	3

2. Social Impact (35%)

Criteria	Indicators (QS / THE/ UI Green-Matrix)	Weight (%)
Equity & Inclusion	QS: Equality / THE: SDG5, 10	10
Community Engagement	QS: Knowledge Exchange / THE: SDG11, 1 UI GreenMatrix: Transportation (SDG 11)	12
Health & Well-being	THE: SDG3	9
Food Security & Sustainable Nutrition	THE: SDG2	4

3. Governance & Strategic Innovation (35%)

Criteria	Indicators (QS / THE/ UI Green-Matrix)	Weight (%)
Sustainability Strategy & Policy	QS: Sustainable Institutions / THE: SDG17	4
Transparency & Ethics	QS: Good Governance / THE: SDG16	3
SDG-related Research	QS: Sustainable Research / THE: SDG-specific	8
Partnerships for Sustainability	QS: Knowledge Exchange / THE: SDG17	8
Innovation & Infrastructure Partnerships	QS: Knowledge Exchange / THE: SDG9	4
Graduate Outcomes in Sustainability	QS: Employability / THE: SDG8	4
Lifelong Learning & Access	THE: SDG4	4

B. RUBRIC FOR GROUP B: Guideline subject to activity/ program - provided by entity

4. Environmental Impact (35%)

Criteria	Indicators (QS / THE/ UI Green-Matrix)	Weight (%)
Campus Operations	QS: Sustainable Institutions THE: SDG6, 7, 12, 13 UI GreenMatrix: Setting & Infrastructure (SDG 6), Energy & Climate Change (SDG7), Waste (SDG12), water (SDG6)	10
Environmental Research Output	QS: Sustainable Research / THE: SDG13–15	13
Environmental Education	QS: Sustainable Education / THE: SDG4, 6, 13	8
Marine Ecosystems & Coastal Resilience	THE: SDG14	4

5. Social Impact (30%)

Criteria	Indicators (QS / THE/ UI Green-Matrix)	Weight (%)
Equity & Inclusion	QS: Equality / THE: SDG5, 10	10
Community Engagement	QS: Knowledge Exchange / THE: SDG11 UI GreenMatrix: Transportation (SDG 11)	10
Health & Well-being	THE: SDG3	6
Food Security & Sustainable Nutrition	THE: SDG2	4

6. Governance & Strategic Innovation (35%)

Criteria	Indicators (QS / THE/ UI Green-Matrix)	Weight (%)
Sustainability Strategy & Policy	QS: Sustainable Institutions / THE: SDG17	5
Transparency & Ethics	QS: Good Governance / THE: SDG16	4
SDG-related Research	QS: Sustainable Research / THE: SDG- specific	3
Partnerships for Sustainability	QS: Knowledge Exchange / THE: SDG17	6
Innovation & Infrastructure Partnerships	QS: Knowledge Exchange / THE: SDG9	7
Graduate Outcomes in Sustainability	QS: Employability / THE: SDG8	6
Lifelong Learning & Access	THE: SDG4	4

C. SCORING GUIDE

Score	Descriptor	Criteria
1	Absent / Not Evident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No policy, initiative, or data available - No documentation or evidence uploaded - No assigned responsibility or monitoring mechanism
2	Initial / Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy or activity exists but not formalized - Evidence is anecdotal or unverified - Data collected irregularly, stored in silos (Excel, personal drives)
3	Developing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)

D. 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