



UNIVERSITIES
CLIMATE NETWORK

UCN REPORT 2025

4
QUALITY
EDUCATION



13
CLIMATE
ACTION




SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



• About UCN	3
• UCN Members	4
• Leadership and Pillar Leads	5-6
• Four Pillar Updates	7-10
• UCN Meetings	11
• UCN Communication and Reach	12
• MENA Climate Solution Network	13
• Contact Information	14

4
QUALITY
EDUCATION

13
CLIMATE
ACTION

17
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



ABOUT UCN



UNIVERSITIES
CLIMATE NETWORK

The **Universities Climate Network (UCN)**, led by **Khalifa University, University of Birmingham Dubai**, and **Ajman University**, brings together 38 UAE-based universities and higher education institutions to engage youth and academia in climate action.

The network focuses on four key pillars: **Student Youth Engagement, Communal Activations, Research & Innovation**, and **Campus Carbon Neutrality** to foster a collaborative approach toward sustainability and climate solutions.



38 Universities and Higher Education Institutions

- Abu Dhabi Hospitality Academy - Les Roches
- Abu Dhabi Polytechnic
- Abu Dhabi University
- Ajman University
- Al Ain University
- American University in Dubai
- American University in the Emirates
- American University of Ras Al Khaimah
- American University of Sharjah
- Amity University Dubai
- Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy
- British University in Dubai
- Canadian University Dubai
- City University Ajman
- Curtin University Dubai
- De Montfort University Dubai
- Emirates College for Advanced Education
- Heriot-Watt University Dubai
- Gulf Medical University
- Higher Colleges of Technology
- Khalifa University
- Manipal Academy of Higher Education
- Middlesex University Dubai
- Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence
- Mohammed Bin Zayed University for Humanities
- National Defense College
- NYU Abu Dhabi
- Rabdan Academy
- Sorbonne University
- SP Jain School of Global Management
- University of Sharjah
- UAE University
- Umm Al Quwain University
- University of Birmingham Dubai
- University of Dubai
- University of Wollongong in Dubai
- Westford University College
- Zayed University

UCN LEADERSHIP TEAM



CO-CHAIR



Dr. Rasha Bayoumi

Associate Professor of Psychology
Head of Research, Dubai
University of Birmingham Dubai



CO-CHAIR



Dr. Samuel Sheng Mao

Director
ASPIRE Research Institute for Sustainability
Khalifa University



HEAD OF OPERATIONS



Maya Haddad

Sustainability Manager
Ajman University



FOUR UCN PILLARS: CO-LEADS



UNIVERSITIES
CLIMATE NETWORK



STUDENT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

CO-CHAIRS



Dr. Bhakti More
Chairperson & Professor
School of Design &
Architecture



Dr. Rebecca Keogh
EAP TNE Manager
Co-Manager Foundation
Programme



COMMUNAL ACTIVATION

CO-CHAIRS



Dr. Sherine Farouk
Associate Provost of
Academic Projects and
Internationalization



جامعة أبوظبي
Abu Dhabi University



Dr. Suzanna El Massah
Professor of Economics and
Founder of the
Sustainability Program



جامعة زايد
ZAYED UNIVERSITY



RESEARCH & INNOVATION

CO-CHAIRS



Dr. Samuel Mao
Director
ASPIRE Research Institute
for Sustainability



جامعة خليفة
Khalifa University



Dr. Nada Sayarh
Associate Professor – D.
Director Sustainability
(ERS/ ESG)



DUBAI • MUMBAI • SINGAPORE • SYDNEY



CAMPUS CARBON NEUTRALITY

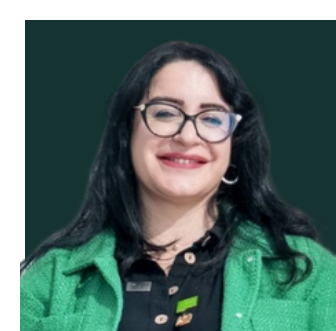
CO-CHAIRS



Julia Carlow
Associate Head of
Sustainability



American
University
of Sharjah



Maya Haddad
Senior Sustainability
Manager



جامعة عجمان
AJMAN UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PILLAR ACTIVITIES 2025



UNIVERSITIES
CLIMATE NETWORK

Khalifa University and the UCN delivered three workshops during COP30 in Belem, Brazil, on November 14, 15, and 17, 2025.

Led by Dr. Samuel Mao, UCN Co-Chair, the workshops addressed the following topics:

1. Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate:
The Role of Higher Education Institutions
2. The Role of Universities in Accelerating the SDGs through Innovation, Implementation, Cooperation, and Communication
3. Strengthening dialogue across the MENA, Amazon, and UK regions to demonstrate how research networks can translate evidence into policy and practice, while nurturing the next generation of climate leaders.



Research Landscape Survey

Collected data for the Research Landscape Survey (14 technical subgroups) from the UCN members, with pending one university in order to complete the 2-page report.

Climate Solutions Summit in 2026

Organized collaborative meetings with Youth Engagement Pillar and partners for the workshops.



STUDENT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PILLAR ACTIVITIES 2025



UNIVERSITIES
CLIMATE NETWORK

Launch of 'UCN Youth Ambassador Program'

A leadership role that empowers young individuals to advocate for environmental sustainability, promote climate change awareness, and drive impactful initiatives.

Photo: First in-person meeting of pillar co-leads and several youth ambassadors.



Co-hosted the Higher Education Climate Dialogue Conference; November 8-9, 2025

Organized by the American University of Sharjah, HECD is a student-led initiative running for six years, since 2020.

Climate Change & Me

An online series where youth ambassadors were invited to share their disciplines, interests in climate solutions, and related research or community work.

- 6 Online Sessions
- 18 Speakers
- 200 participants



Conducted the Universities Readiness Survey



Received over 300 respondents; highlighted strong student demand for a platform to share work, exchange ideas, collaborate, and promote interdisciplinary climate solutions.



Identified six workshops for the Climate Solutions Summit in 2026.

- Youth Workshop on Net Zero
- Carbon Literacy Workshop
- Social Media X Climate Change Workshop
- Workshop on 'Green Entrepreneurship' by Young Greenpreneurs
- Building a Sustainable Industrial Ecosystem
- Simulation Exercise by Abu Dhabi Ports

COMMUNAL ACTIVATION PILLAR ACTIVITIES 2025



UNIVERSITIES
CLIMATE NETWORK

Organized the UCN/PRME Carbon Literacy Training Online Course

The course was held on 6,10,13 November 2025 in collaboration with Zayed University.

- 200+ students/faculty members registered
- 60 accepted
- 29 completed the course

Contributed to the Youth Speak Forum 2025: Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, September 27-28, 2025

The event addressed the role of AI in advancing the UAE's Net Zero 2050 goals



2



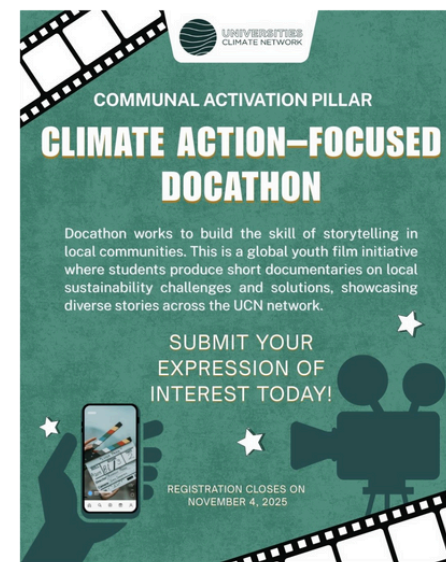
4

Co-organized the UCN Panel at ICASF 2025; December 11, 2025

From Evidence to Impact: Orchestrating Higher-Education Policy, Research & Innovation toward Net Zero 2050, through National and International University Climate Networks”, organized by Abu Dhabi University.



1



3



Contributed to the PRME Chapter Middle East 12th Regional Forum; December 8, 2025

Topic: Education for Sustainable Business Models in the Middle East: Connecting Academia, Business, and Society. The event focused on the best practices promoting sustainability literacy within business and management education in the Middle East.



CARBON CAMPUS NEUTRALITY PILLAR ACTIVITIES 2025



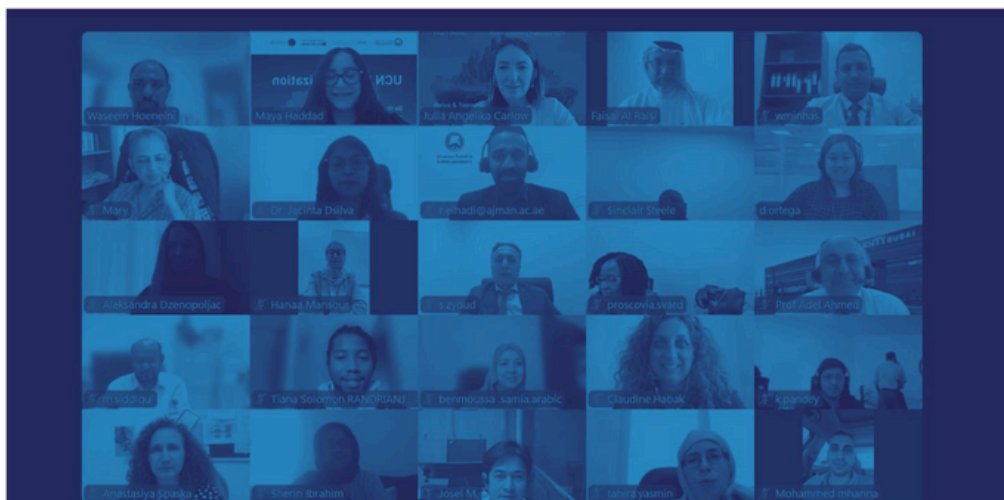
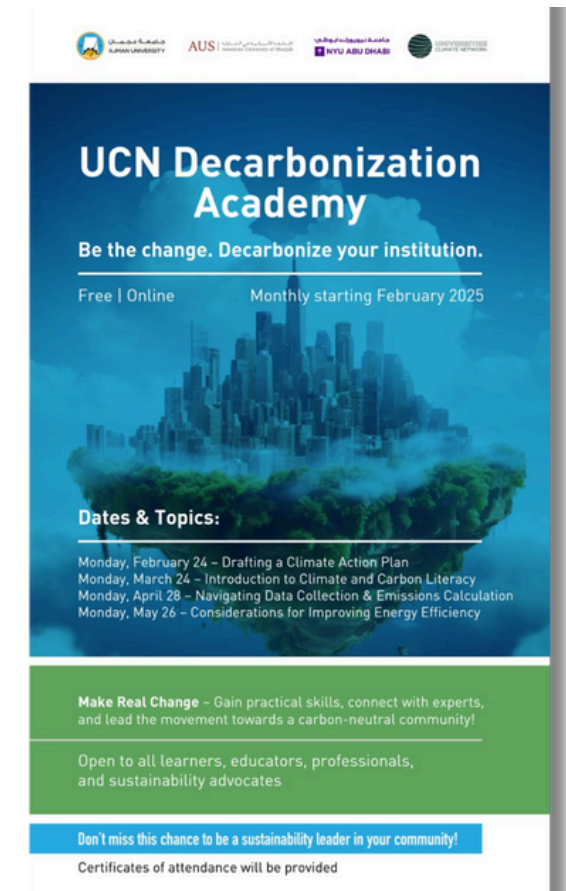
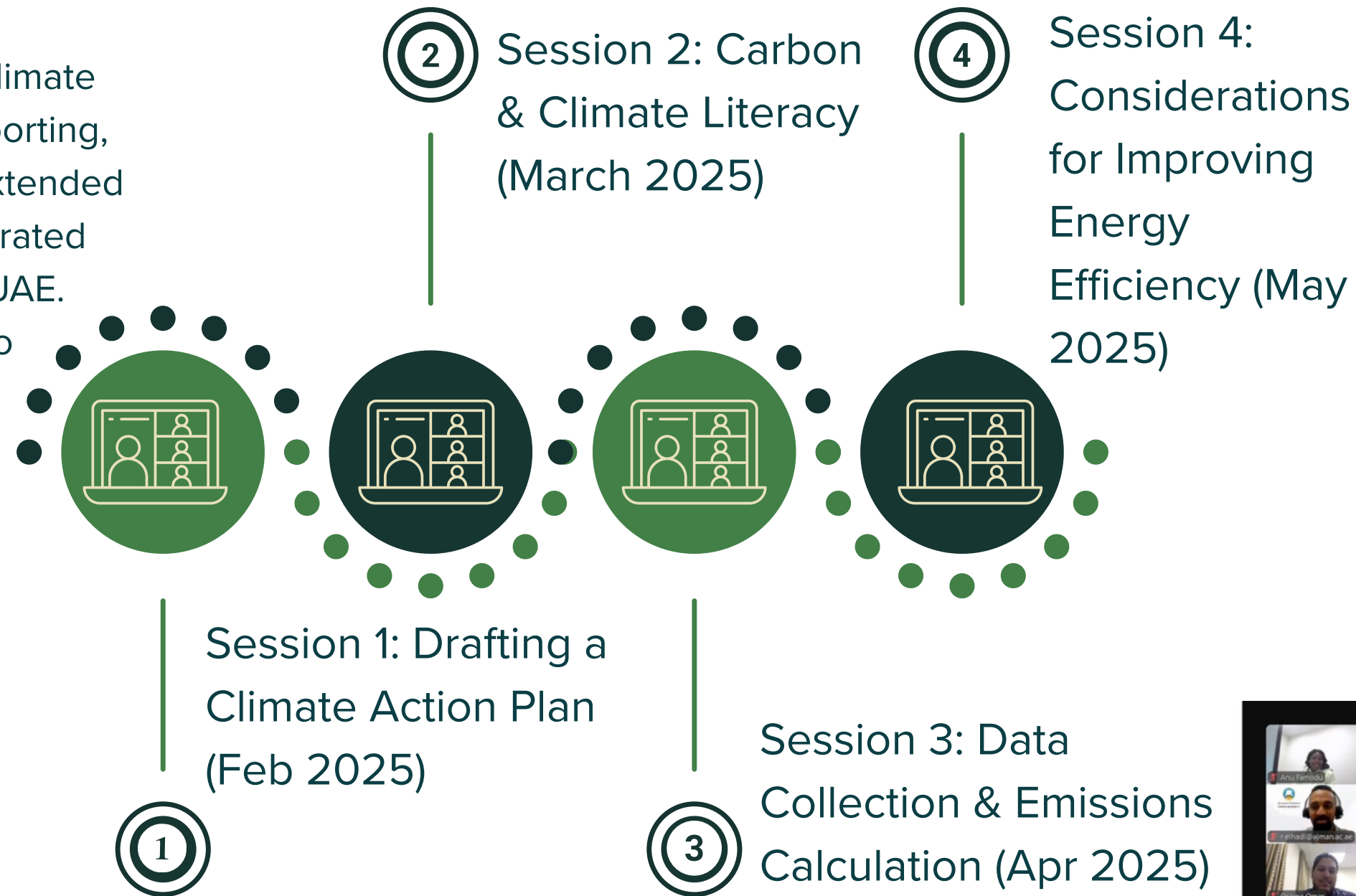
UNIVERSITIES
CLIMATE NETWORK

Successful Launch of the First Cohort of the UCN Decarbonization Academy

A series of open online workshops covering climate action planning, carbon literacy, emissions reporting, and campus energy efficiency. Participation extended beyond higher education leaders, which generated broader interest and momentum beyond the UAE.

Certificates were also issued to attendees who had attended 3 out of 4 sessions.

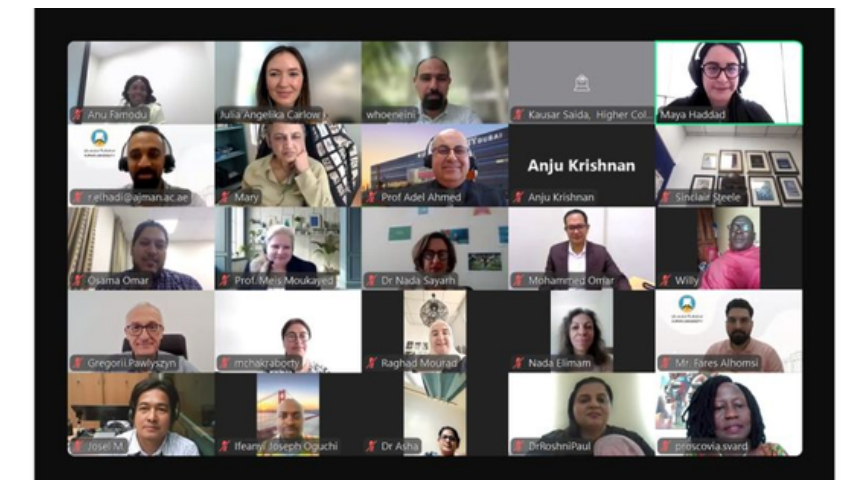
- Over 400 registered participants
- Over 100 live attendees per session.



UCN DECARBONIZATION ACADEMY



UNIVERSITIES
CLIMATE NETWORK



UCN MEETINGS



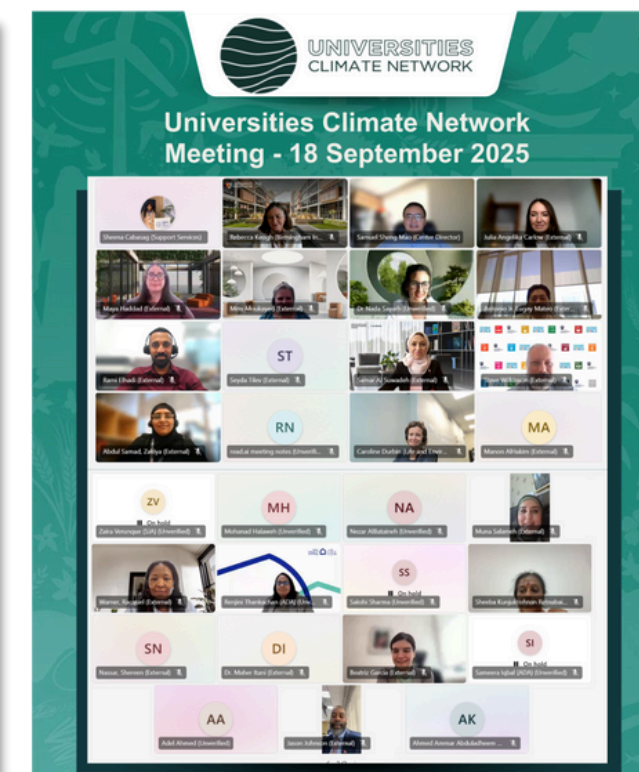
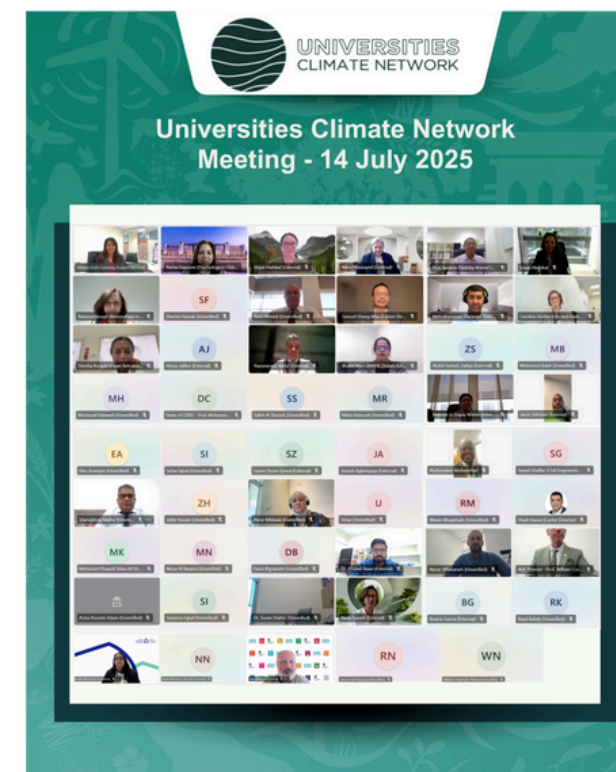
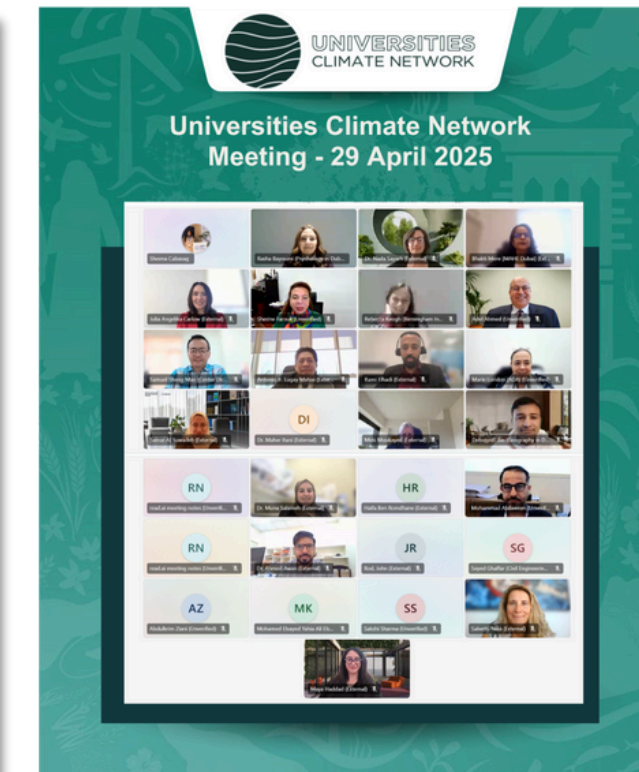
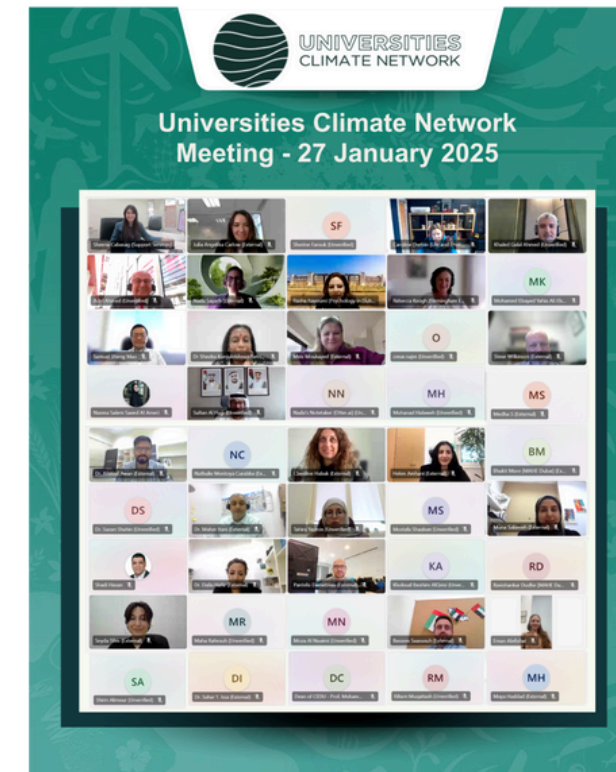
UNIVERSITIES
CLIMATE NETWORK

The UCN convened on a monthly basis throughout the year. These meetings alternated between events specifically for the MENA Climate Solutions Network and other special events. These meetings provided a platform for focused discussions and collaborative initiatives.

Each meeting included updates from the four pillars of the UCN; which highlighted ongoing activities, achievements, and planned initiatives for the year.

This structure allowed members to stay informed, share insights, coordinate pillar activities, and promote a cohesive approach to advancing climate solutions across the network.

The minutes of the meeting were shared with the UCN members.



UCN COMMUNICATION AND REACH



UNIVERSITIES
CLIMATE NETWORK

LinkedIn

UAE Universities Climate Network	
	2,388 followers
	56,000+ post impressions



2



4

Mailing List: 400+

The UCN manages a mailing list of over 400 members spanning both the UCN and MCSRN.

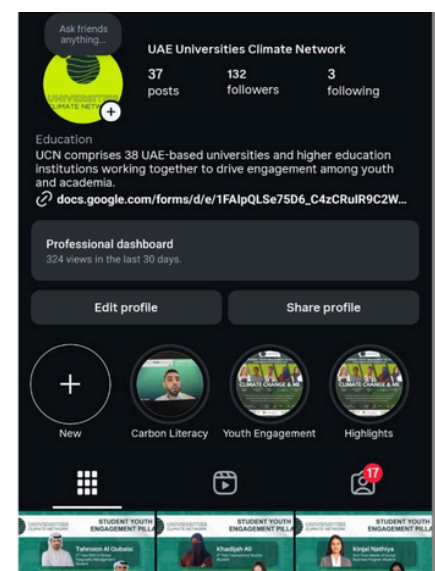
This list serves as a key communication channel for disseminating meeting announcements, event announcements, and other UCN updates.



Instagram (New Account)

@ucn.uae	
	100+ followers
	56,000+ post impressions

1



3

WhatsApp Groups

The UCN uses a central WhatsApp group along with four pillar groups to facilitate communication.

Membership: 350+

The MENA Climate Solutions Research Network, an initiative led by the Universities Climate Network and supported by Climate Champions Team, has grown to 350+ members across the MENA region.

Eight (8) Thematic Priorities

It was established to tackle critical climate challenges within the MENA region by implementing solutions aligned with the "2030 Climate Solutions - Implementation Roadmap." This roadmap, launched at COP28, identifies eight thematic priorities:

- Energy
- Transportation
- Industry
- Land Use
- Oceans and Coastal Zones
- Water
- Human Settlements
- Finance



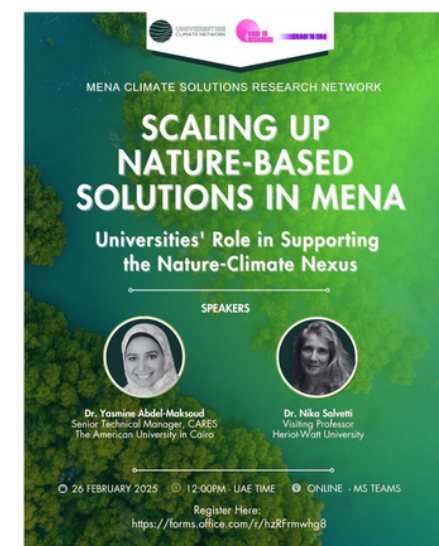
①

Official Launch

It was officially launched on November 15, 2024 at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

③

②



④

Workshop: Scaling Up Nature-Based Solutions in MENA; 26 February 2025

The event highlighted how academic institutions can strengthen the nature-climate nexus through research, innovation, and collaboration. The panel provided insights on leveraging nature-based solutions to address climate change and advance regional sustainability.

Workshop: Sustainability & Policy: Lessons from the MENA and Beyond; 27 November 2025

The panel brought together expert voices to share regional and global insights on aligning policy and sustainability which highlighted the practical strategies and lessons relevant to advancing sustainable development and informed policymaking in the UAE.





CONTACT INFORMATION



Dr. Rasha Bayoumi
UCN Co-Chair
r.bayoumi@bham.ac.uk



Dr. Samuel Sheng Mao
UCN Co-Chair
samuel.mao@ku.ac.ae



Maya Haddad
UCN Head of Operations
maya.haddad@ajman.ac.ae



Sheena Cabasag
Project Coordinator
sheena.cabasag@ku.ac.ae