

Beni-Suef University (BSU): Sustainable Investment Policy



Purpose

Beni-Suef University (BSU) — public non-profit university. It is located in Bani Suwayf, Egypt. It is a modern higher education institution, established in 1976. BSU conducts distinguished academic and research programs in many fields of study.

The main purpose of its investment policy is to outline BSU's commitment to ensuring that funds are invested responsibly. The policy is based on international best practices and recommendations of BSU boards, stakeholders and accreditation agencies. This policy also ensures that BSU is improving its return on investment without compromising our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In line with BSU's strategy, it enhances community services to participate effectively in achieving the objectives of the social, economic and environmental dimensions within Egypt's Vision 2030.

Policy

1. The Sustainable Investment Policy (“SIP”) documents the way in which BSU Investment team currently embeds the best of sustainable investment research, risk management and idea generation.
2. SIP intends to promote active sustainable investment in companies and investment funds which demonstrate policies and practices that are in line with the University's values.
3. Sustainable investment is crucial to ensure a successful long term investment outcome and to guarantee better returns and lower risks. It describes long term, finance-driven strategies, which involve environmental, social and corporate governance elements, effective stewardship and real-world effect in investments deals.
4. BSU embraces its unique role in contributing to the United Nations SDGs. The Financial advisor to the president of the university, secretary-general of the university, and director of accounting units oversees the investment funds of the

University work to agree investment criteria based on environmental, social and governance standards (ESG).

5. BSU applies a combination of negative and positive screens to ensure that companies that may be harmful to society or the environment are excluded and to invest in businesses with responsible culture, practices, and good governance.
6. The university cooperation with the National Investment Bank affiliated to the Ministry of Planning. The bank is one of the economic arms of the state that plays a major role in mobilizing local savings and building national wealth in the country's infrastructure to serve the Egyptian citizen.
7. BSU does not have investments in extractive fossil fuels and in this way BSU is compliant with the principles of ESG, contributing to a UN Sustainable Development Goals.
8. In 2021, Beni-Suef University Council has reviewed a set of General government's regulations and policies on environmental protection and energy and water conservation that have been implemented on campus for many years. These policies and regulations stipulate the following;
 - a- Setting the necessary rules and procedures to develop and encourage the production and use of electricity from renewable sources, and raise the efficiency of use of electrical energy. (**Item 10 of Article 1 in Chapter Two of the Electricity Law issued by a Presidential Decree of Egypt by Law No. 87 of 2015**).
 - b- When selecting work sites, establishments and their branches, and granting their licenses, the requirements of environmental protection shall be taken into account in accordance with the provisions of Legislation issued in this regard. . (**Article 204 - Labor Law No. 12 of 2003**).
 - c- Rationalizing consumption is a collective societal behavior and a sustainable life system that extends to all aspects of life as long as it hurts in the interest of the citizen and the state at the same time. (**Egypt's strategy for sustainable development until 2030**).
 - d- Coal-traded companies and establishments and port authorities are subjected to the provisions of environmental monitoring and the environmental record stipulated (**in Articles No. 22 and 24 of the Environmental Law promulgated by Law No. 4 of 1994**).
9. The labor conditions of campus cleaning outsourcing, maintenance outsourcing, campus security (security services) outsourcing and others are specified in the contract according to the Standards of Labour Law and the Egyptian Constitution to ensure the health and safety of them.and to protect the workers'

rights. The standards stipulated in the Labor Law and the Egyptian Constitution that are followed and regularly revised by BSU, are listed below:

a. The standards following the Egyptian Constitution:

The state is committed to preserving the rights of workers, and works to build balanced labor relations between the two parties to the production process and guarantees methods of collective negotiation, working to protect workers from work hazards and the availability of occupational health, safety and security conditions, and it is forbidden to separate them, arbitrarily, all in the manner regulated by law. (**Article 13 - The Egyptian Constitution of 2012, amended in January 2014**)

b. The employer may not deviate from the terms agreed upon in the individual work contract or the collective labor agreement, or assign the worker to work that is not agreed upon, unless necessity calls for that to prevent the occurrence of an accident or to repair what has resulted from it, or in case of force majeure, provided that This shall be on a temporary basis, and he may assign the worker to work other than agreed upon if it is not fundamentally different from it, provided that the rights of the worker are not prejudiced. However, the employer may train the worker and qualify him to perform a different job in line with the technical development in the establishment. (**Article 76 - Labor Law No. 12 of 2003**).

c. If the fixed-term employment contract expires with the expiry of its term, it may be renewed by express agreement between the two parties for another period or periods. If the original and renewed contract terms exceed five years, the worker may terminate it in accordance with the provisions of Article (104) of this law. (**Article 106 - Labor Law No. 12 of 2003**).

Examples of Social investments

BSU focus its social investments in several key areas, such as:

1. Providing of facilities, buildings, study programs and activities required for people with disabilities.
2. Building an integrated system for the digital transformation of the university into a smart university.
3. Establish camps and seeks the help of students to eradicate illiteracy outside the walls of the university.
4. Enhancing youth employment – providing opportunities for youth, especially disadvantaged youth, through training, mentoring, career networks, capacity building and other efforts.

5. Enhancing women's empowerment – through employment, entrepreneurship and skills development.
6. Improving financial literacy – to encourage astute financial decision making amongst our staff, clients and the general Egyptian community.
7. Support and development of human resources.
8. The interest of the Faculty of Medicine in providing training programs at the highest level in partnership with international bodies.
9. The medical system witnessed a great development within BSU Hospitals by providing medical services at the highest level, whether through rehabilitation or new constructions. For example, the Oncology and Burns Hospital was opened, which is the first of its kind at the level of the governorates of northern Upper Egypt. A specialized medical center was also opened to serve faculty members and workers within the university. Two dialysis units for adults and children were also opened and developed.
10. Increasing the rate of partnerships and protocols with service agencies.

Examples of Environmental investments

These include, but are not limited to, the following points;

- 1- BSU has key implementation points to promote carbon reduction that focus on clean transportation, renewable energy, pollution prevention and waste management, energy efficiency, water management and wastewater treatment.
- 2- The Getting funding for a large number of research projects in the energy field.
- 3- BSU arranges a budget for energy-saving improvement projects annually and it pays a great attention to rationalize energy consumption through;
- 4- Beni-Suef University made a partnership with the Center of Excellence for Water, a USAID funded project where Beni-Suef University is the co-chair for the sustainability phase.
- 5- Faculty of Postgraduate studies for Advanced Sciences has a strong infrastructure of integrated devices and laboratories that continuously conducts advanced researches and studies to solve environmental problems and to achieve the sustainable development goal based on reducing carbon dioxide emissions.
- 6- A joint cooperation protocol between the Beni-Suef University and the Ministry of Environment. It aims to; a) participate in achieving sustainable development, b)/ directing scientific research and linking it to environmental issues, and C) contributing with the ministry to the success of all projects and solving environmental problems such as waste recycling and power generation.

- 7- BSU arranges a budget for energy-saving improvement projects annually and it pays a great attention to rationalize energy consumption.
- 8- BSU is planning to install new roof-mounted photovoltaic panels on the various buildings in 2023 and 2024.
- 9- BSU is planning to provide different buildings with more modern and energy-saving means such as smart outlets that allow the passage of sunlight with keeping the atmosphere cool leading to a reduction in the use of air conditioners.
- 10- The university seeks to fulfill the pledge to provide 100% renewable energy through collaboration projects, research projects, and related activities.
- 11- The University Performance Development Center through the Office of Consulting and linking research with industry. It aims to the following;
 - a) Opening unconventional permanent channels of communication between the university, industry and society.
 - b) Determining market and industry needs, whether training needs, technological or production needs.
 - c) Providing suggestions for directing scientific research at Beni-Suef University towards the needs of the market and industry.
 - d) Marketing the results of applied scientific research projects for industry and the private sector whether local or international, in coordination with the beneficiary authorities and heads of research projects.
 - e) Strengthening and activating cooperation between the industrial zones in Beni Suef or other governorates and between the universities on the other hand, which contributes to the development of the educational process and realizing the applied benefit of research at the university?
 - f) The office, through experts in the university with various and different specializations, and the university units, provides technical and training consultations for the various industrial sectors.

Management

- I-** The sustainable investment policy is reviewed annually by the Financial Affairs, University Performance Development Center and the International Ranking and Sustainable Development Office, where reports are submitted to the University Council for final approval.
- II-** The University Council for Environmental Service and Community Development is responsible for studying and proposing the general policy, plans and programs that ensure the achievement of the university's role in community service and environmental development. Accordingly, BSU has formulated a set of energy-saving and carbon-reduction practices that include;

- a) Directing investments and efforts in renewable energy and focusing on energy raising measures.
- b) Avoiding any investments in coal and oil related industries if such opportunities become available in the future.

III- The university's financial affairs are concerned with the following:

- 1- Drafting and reviewing contracts to which the university is a party with third parties.
- 2- Review the general conditions of tenders and practices to ensure that those conditions are prepared within the framework of the laws.
- 3- Review periodic reports (purchase reports and quarterly financial reports).
- 4- It specializes in preparing the budget of the different projects and following up the various stages of them until their approval.
- 5- The Financial Affairs reviews purchases by direct order, tenders, practices, or temporary or permanent advances, and edits their disbursement forms.
- 6- Review the cash receipts and review the notification and supply of the proceeds to the bank.
- 7- Preparing financial reports related to the university's various bids and practices.