

Alexandria University's Carbon Footprint (2023/2024)

During the very few past years, the climate change and the global warming facing the entire universe have gained much more attention due to their direct effects on the human life on earth. As a result, countries, organizations, and people have noticed that it is now the time to face these challenges and as an initial step, we must first determine or calculate the amount of pollution that we cause to our planet, then we shall work on ourselves to minimize this pollution. One of the most famous methods to monitor the climate change is to determine what is known by Carbon Footprint.

The term "Carbon Footprint" is usually used as shorthand for the amount of emitted carbon (in tons) by an organization or country. This footprint is also an important component of the Ecological Footprint, since it is one competing demand for biologically productive space. Carbon emissions from burning fossil fuel usually accumulate in the atmosphere if there is not enough biocapacity dedicated to absorb these emissions. Therefore, when the carbon footprint is reported within the context of the total Ecological Footprint, the tons of carbon dioxide emissions are expressed as the amount of productive land area required to sequester those CO₂ emissions, which tells us how much biocapacity is necessary to neutralize these emissions.

Measuring Carbon Footprint in a certain area just shows us how much biocapacity is needed to take care of our untreated carbon waste and to prevent carbon accumulation in the atmosphere, which as a consequent can enable us to address the climate change challenge in a clearer way. In fact, the climate problem emerges because the planet does not have enough biocapacity to neutralize all these emissions. Humanity's carbon Footprint has increased 11-fold since 1961. Reducing humanity's carbon Footprint is the most essential step we can take to end overshoot and live within the means of our planet.

The climate pact approved in Paris in December 2015 represented an important step in re-imagining a fossil-free future for our planet. Nearly 200 countries around the world, including Egypt, agreed to keep global temperature rise well below 2°C. According to the known data from (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) IPCC's 2014 report that a concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere of 450 ppm CO₂ equivalent gives us a 66% chance to comply with the Paris Agreement's (2°C) goal. In contrast, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States Department of Commerce (or NOAA) reports that in 2020 we were already at 504 ppm CO₂ equivalent. This confirms that the problem is increasing and there is a critical demand to rapidly solve it. Although Egypt contributes with a small portion in the global emissions of greenhouse gases, but this small portion is growing with time. In addition, Egypt is also expected to suffer from shortage of water, decrease in agricultural crops, rising sea levels due to increase in temperature and change in rainfall patterns.

In the light of the above mentioned information and according to the "Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt's Vision 2030", Alexandria University, as a very important educational institution, has taken the first steps to work on reducing carbon emissions as one of the most important sources of greenhouse gases and has implemented a plan to monitor and calculate the "Carbon Footprint since the academic year 2018 / 2019" for all its faculties, institutes and its administrative buildings in order to aid in decision-making.

When calculating the Carbon Footprint for all Alexandria University buildings for the Academic year (2023/2024), the approximate amount of emitted CO₂ was **4,284.13765 CO₂e**.

The total carbon footprint of the Faculties and Institutes of Alexandria University (Ton CO₂e)

Faculty/Institute	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
University Administration Building	NA	186.330	257.8696	235.6893
Faculty of Arts	235.887	179.299	126.5596	174.3114
Faculty of Commerce	412.128	29.3102	134.991	128.3933
Faculty of Education	21.807	9.264	28.61872	12.7546
Faculty of Medicine	1817.232	433.984	528.7561	442.4181
Faculty of Dentistry	705.702	29.379	301.0882	250.8576

Faculty of Engineering	693.748	675.702	530.7443	543.4759
Faculty of Agriculture	1326.267	1066.346	743.709	739.2388
Faculty of Pharmacy	318.059	306.118	273.1078	205.75421
Faculty of Science	317.362	218.947	222.71091	148.0105
Faculty of Nursing	122.79	161.580	140.3059	169.1397
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	186.221	172.431	144.0973	157.2076
Higher Institute of Public Health	12.646	59.204	51.1156	48.2525
Medical Research Institute	555.478	186.894	144.438	186.7957
Institute of Graduate Studies Research	10.92	7.246	16.0455	14.9636
Faculty of Physical Education for girls	277.671	380.872	306.9452	309.61494
Faculty of Physical Education for boys	214.835	319.100	235.999	192.7736
Faculty of Specific Education	12.069	3.613	11.8411	11.8663
Saba Pasha Faculty of Agriculture	92.785	109.632	98.6493	80.0543
Faculty of Education for Early Childhood	33.4747	4.745	19.0013	24.3051
Faculty of Fine Arts	22.654	19.541	20.6138	20.8157
Faculty of Tourism and Hotels	9.924	4.525	6.5065	3.9269
Faculty of Law	141.668	151.137	147.9066	183.5180
Total	7,541.33 CO₂e	4,715.1992 CO₂e	4,491.62033 CO₂e	4,284.13765 CO₂e

This report came out as a result of the concerted efforts of the academic community of Alexandria University during the academic year 2023/2024 in collecting, analyzing and editing this report in accordance with international standards and controls for carbon footprint calculations.

In order to allocate the specific position of Alexandria University regarding the extent of its contribution to carbon emissions among similar institutions, it was necessary to compare these emissions with other universities around the world.

University	Last Carbon Footprint Report	Carbon Footprint Total value (metric tons)
American University in Cairo (AUC)	2019/2020	34,391.3 CO ₂ e
Cape Town University (Republic of South Africa)	2018	75,187 CO ₂ e
Arizona University (USA)	2017	258,088 CO ₂ e
Alexandria University (Egypt)	2022/2023	4,491.62033 CO ₂ e
Alexandria University (Egypt)	2023/2024	4,284.13765 CO ₂ e

Conclusion:

According to the Carbon Footprint for all Alexandria University buildings for the Academic year (2023/2024), which is approximately 4,284.13765 CO₂e, one can conclude that the sustainability program of Alexandria University was successful. The total electricity consumption of Alexandria University for the academic year 2023/2024 is **4519154.69** kilowatts per hour. Total electricity use increased slightly compared to 2023 (**4329779.781** kilowatts per hour) The total

electricity usage increased slightly compared to year 2022/2023. Which is not a significant increase. The total gas use on the Alexandria University campus in the year 2023/2024 is **8,784 m³** (99,809 KWh), which decreased almost of 35% compared to the academic year 2022/2023, where the total gas used was **13471 m³** (153,066 kWh). On the main campus area of Alexandria University electricity is used for lighting, cooling, heating and laboratory appliances.

On the other hand, a significant decrease in the consumption of paper packages is observed. The paper packages used in all Alexandria University buildings for the Academic year (2020/2021) was 84689 paper packages. While in the year (2021/2022) it was reduced to 47911 packages. In the academic year (2022/2023), the consumed paper packages slightly increased to reach 55712 packages. In the academic year (2023/2024), the consumed paper packages reached **46876 packages**.