Towards Global Carbon Neutrality:
Thinking and Practice on Universities Responsibility and Action
-
Research and Talent Cultivation

Jón Atli Benediktsson
Rector and President
University of Iceland
102 Reykjavik
Iceland

- Rapid social changes demand a robust response and adaptability

- This requires openness and agility, as well as accountability

- Our aim is for a comprehensive sustainability thinking and a strong and positive influence on our society

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES

- The University of Iceland is committed through its new strategic plan to initiate and support actions related to the UN sustainability agenda and the SDGs

- Specifically, the global challenge of climate change is presented in Goal 13

- This will be emphasised in the core aspects of the university (the institution, learning and teaching, research and societal impacts)

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES

- Greater integration of sustainable development into learning and research

- Accountability in Icelandic and international communities

- Minimise the environmental impact of University operations

- Set measurable targets for decarbonisation, based on national targets which align with the targets of the Paris Agreement

- Campus development and transportation

- Wide-ranging partnerships, e.g., the Aurora Alliance

OUR MISSION FOR THE INSTITUTION

- Digitalisation of teaching and learning, e.g., during the pandemic

- Digitalisation of meetings with local and foreign stakeholders and collaborators

- Increase global awareness in exchange programmes

- Interdisciplinary approach in learning, teaching and research, e.g., through programs such as our Environment and Natural Resources graduate programme and our Institute for Sustainability Studies

1911–2021
110周年校庆
110th ANNIVERSARY
TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

- Ranking of the University in terms of sustainability and climate change

- International status and relevance of research

- Increase the societal impact of research and specialised knowledge (e.g., support in governmental policy making)

- Develop measures that advance understanding and commitments on climate action through greater engagement with climate stakeholders

OUR MISSION FOR RESEARCH & SOCIETAL IMPACT

The Aurora Alliance is a European University Network which is based on the Aurora University Network

The vision of the Aurora Alliance is
- based on social entrepreneurship and innovation and
- to graduate students who are willing and able to tackle the most challenging issues that society faces, including climate change.

The aim is to equip a diverse student population with the skills and mindset needed to contribute to addressing <u>societal challenges</u> as social entrepreneurs and innovators

Key Themes:

- Sustainability & Climate Change
- Digital Society & Global Citizenship
- Health & Well-being
- Culture: Diversity & identity

THE AURORA ALLIANCE