SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Green Initiative

Green Hub and Waste Decarbonisation - The UNILAG Green Hub promotes environmental sustainability, circular economy practices, waste recovery and climate awareness among students and surrounding communities. A major component is the University's collaboration with Lafarge Africa, the TETFund Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Management (TCEBCEM), and the Centre for Environment and Human Resources Development (CENHURD). In April 2025, these partners organised the Green Earth Seminar Series on Sustainable Climate Action in Nigeria through Waste Decarbonisation and Co-Processing Technology.

Landscaping and Campus Beautification

The University Parks and Gardens unit along with the newly created Horticulture and Beautification Committee undertakes several campus beautification, landscaping, and infrastructure upgrade initiatives supported by external partners.

Initiatives & Projects

Adopt, Beautify, University Maintains (ABUM) Scheme was launched in 2024, chaired by Research Prof. Kayode Eesuola to partner with stakeholders on horticultural landscaping and campus aesthetics.

Monthly Dejunking Exercise started in July 2026 to clear abandoned items across our campuses, including disused building materials, old tyres, dead plants, furniture, and broken equipment, while leaving properly marked and cordoned-off construction materials intact.

Waste Recycling

The University of Lagos operates campus-wide waste segregation, recycling banks, a sorting center, and a Plastic recycling micro-plant commissioned in May 2026 with the support of the French Embassy, Plastic Odyssey, and Weircapacity. Under this initiative we now have;

Recycling designated drop-off points which operate at Amina Hall, Mareire Hall, DLI Junction, and High Rise, alongside bins such as the Tangerine Recycling Bin near Folawiyo Garden.
Sorting Center located along Commercial Road opposite the Faculty of Social Sciences, where sorted recyclables (papers, plastics, cans) are processed.
Collection & Restrictions stipulates that unauthorized waste collection, sorting, scavenging, or selling on campus is prohibited; waste must go through designated janitorial contractors to the sorting center.

Real-Time Air Quality Monitoring
UNILAG's Air Quality Monitoring Research Group (AQMRG) have developed a real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) platform hosted on the University's website in November 2025. It is primarily an air-quality monitoring initiative that supports environmental research, pollution awareness and evidence-based environmental policy. The platform monitors pollutants including PM2.5, PM10, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide across the Akoka campus, surrounding environments and selected Lagos locations.

Campus Greening and 1,000 Trees Project
The University introduced the 1,000 Trees Campus Greening Project to strengthen campus biodiversity, improve the university's green environment and contribute to climate resilience. The initiative promotes tree planting and vegetation restoration as nature-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The UNILAG Academic Staff Union in response to the national body call undertook a 1000-tree-planting project across the campus as an important step towards encouraging environmental protection and sustainability. The national leadership opined that universities should play a significant role in addressing environmental challenges by adopting practical measures that promote greener campuses and encourage staff and students to become more environmentally conscious.

Climate Change Courses
The University of Lagos has integrated climate change education into 55 academic courses across 12 faculties, with the institution moving to extend the model to universities across South-West Nigeria as part of our efforts to equip graduates with the knowledge and skills to address environmental challenges within their professions.
This initiative was a response to the growing impact of climate change on Nigeria and other countries in the Global south, particularly that universities must work together to drive climate literacy and shape national responses. The university also hosted the Inter-University Dialogue on Climate Curriculum Development with the theme “Scaling Climate Literacy-An Inter-University Dialogue for Curriculum Transformation in Southwest Nigeria.”

Students Creating Climate Change Solutions

The University of Lagos Green Hub in partnership with Provident Green Club of Lagos invited passionate, creative and solution-driven students to register for the Generation Green X Conference. The event provided the opportunity for undergraduate students to;

(i) Pitch innovative solutions in sustainability and environmental technology, (ii) Network with change makers and mentors committed to a greener Nigeria, and (iii) Compete for a life-changing opportunity: Twenty (20) shortlisted students were invited to present their ideas, and ten (10) winners received one year of incubation, mentorship, and funding to bring their vision to life.

CNG Technology

The Federal Government and University of Lagos (UNILAG) have commissioned a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Daughter Station and Vehicle Conversion Centre in a collaborative effort to promote cleaner energy, reduce transportation costs and advance sustainable transportation on campus. The facilities were commissioned on Friday, November 20, 2026, under the Special Palliative Relief on University Transportation (Project SPROUT), an initiative of the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas Initiative (PCNGI) designed to provide affordable and sustainable transportation solutions across federal tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

Solar Mini-Grid Power Project

The minister for Education Dr. Alausa announced plans on Friday, November 20, 2026 during commissioning the CNG station, a joint initiative of the Federal Government and the University of Lagos of the plans by government to provide a 12-megawatt solar mini-grid project at the university to improve electricity supply. He further reaffirmed the government's commitment to infrastructure development and provide innovation grants.

AI as Tool for Waste Decarbonization

The indispensability of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in managing solid wastes and building a smart and sustainable environment formed the crux of the lecture delivered on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 by Dr. Sam Kabari of the School of the Environment and Life Sciences, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom. Organized by the Centre for Environmental Human Resources Development (CENHURD) in collaboration with the Department of Marine Sciences, University of Lagos, the hybrid event drew; academics/researchers, environmental agencies' officials, industry stakeholders, and students. The keynote speaker emphasized the urgent need to integrate intelligent systems in solid waste management to accelerate decarbonisation efforts and mitigate climate change impacts. He noted that AI-driven solutions such as smart waste classification and sorting,

predictive analytics and optimized logistics can mitigate hazards associated with traditional waste disposal methods.

Alternative Power Supply
The University of Lagos unveiled a N140 million alternative power project for its Faculty of Arts, aimed at ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply to classrooms and study areas during national grid failures. The initiative, titled “Light Up Faculty of Arts University of Lagos,” was unveiled by the UNILAG Alumni Association and funded by philanthropist Tunde Fanimokun.

Climate Action Collaborations
Cutting GHG in Nigeria’s Built Environment - The Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) and the University of Lagos Civil and Environmental Engineering department, and technical committees on Limestone Calcined Clay Cement LC^3 are working together to develop low-carbon construction standards and sustainable building materials - such LC^3 to cut greenhouse gas emissions in Nigeria's built environment.

The University of Lagos is a partner in the Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) research initiative, supported primarily by UK Aid (FCDO) and co-funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The programme seeks to strengthen the ability of African communities and institutions to respond to climate-related risks through research, evidence-based interventions and locally driven adaptation strategies.

The Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort Fellowship Dissemination Event was a powerful rallying point for climate-responsive research driven by community, collaboration, and real-world impact. The high-level event marked the culmination of a transformative two-year fellowship jointly delivered by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and British Council. The programme brought together eighteen (18) early-career researchers from ten (10) Commonwealth nations, each focused on tackling climate challenges with solutions grounded in local realities and responsive to global imperatives.

Climate Action Plan
Over the past three decades, Ajegunle-Ikorodu in Agboyi-Ketu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has experienced rapid land use and land cover changes, transforming from a predominantly green landscape into a densely built-up community. This transformation has intensified climate-related hazards, particularly flooding, while also increasing residents’ exposure to heat waves and food-borne diseases. On March 3, 2026, the Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development (CHSD), an ARUA Centre of Excellence in Urbanization and Habitable Cities at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) hosted a stakeholder consultation forum in collaboration with the African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC), University of Manchester.

Campaigns on Climate Change

Campus Youth Initiatives

Students can join any of these initiatives to contribute to environmental preservation and acquire valuable skills that will serve them in academic and professional arenas.

1. The Green Club UNILAG: A student-led organisation passionate about environmental advocacy and enlightenment. Volunteering with The Club allows students to engage in hands-on environmental work. From organising clean-up campaigns to planting trees and promoting eco-friendly habits like recycling and reducing energy consumption. Network with like-minded individuals who are passionate about an environmental conversation.

2. Green Hub UNILAG: A student-led organisation focusing on sustainability and climate change action. Volunteers are involved in organising sustainability workshops, conducting awareness campaigns on climate change, and collaborating with other institutions to develop green campus strategies. They foster partnerships with environmental NGOs, government agencies, and corporate entities to address pressing environmental issues on both a local and national scale.

3. UNILAG Plogga: A subsidiary of Plogging Nigeria, is a campus initiative focused on environmental conservation through "plogging" - a blend of jogging and litter collection. The group organises regular campus and community clean-ups while raising awareness about proper waste management and sustainability. Volunteers gain improved fitness, the satisfaction of making a real environmental impact, opportunities to connect with like-minded people, and skills in teamwork and leadership.

4. GREEN FASU Initiative: Launched during the 11th Federation of African University Sports (FASU) Games, to merge sports with environmental sustainability. Supported by UNICEF, it focuses on waste reduction, recycling, tree planting, and energy conservation, encouraging athletes and attendees to champion ecological action. Participants were rewarded for their contributions through a Carbon Medal Table that tracks their impact, with prizes like medals and devices awarded for outstanding efforts.

5. The UNILAG Sustainability Race: This initiative promotes environmental awareness and sustainable practices within the campus community. The event highlights activities such as recycling competitions, awareness sessions on sustainability, and the unveiling of resources like the Green Hub - a centre dedicated to recycling and circular economy education. Winners of sustainability-related challenges are recognised, encouraging active participation.

Academic & Research Campaigns

Climate Literacy & Curriculum Integration: Launched through UNILAG's Institute for Continuing and Development Studies (INCDS) with Pulitzer Center support. It embeds climate education across 55 courses in 12 faculties and training lecturers and climate change ambassadors.

Waste Decarbonization & Co-Processing: Seminars and multi-stakeholder forums (including UNILAG Green Hub, CENHURD, TCEBCEM, and industry partners Lafarge) collaborated to address waste-to-energy conversion and reducing landfill waste in Lagos.

Climate-Resilient Agriculture: Research and seminars hosted by UNILAG's Distance Learning Institute focused on underutilised crops and food security under climate stress.

Conservation & Policy Convenings: UNILAG hosted the 5th Africa Congress for Conservation Biology (ACCB 2026) to advance biodiversity protection and indigenous-led climate action