**Green Education**

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. That is, equality and justice between generations is one of the factors required for sustainable development. Sustainable development is the ideal and effective use of all environmental resources, social life and economy for the distant future, with a focus on a better life of high value for every member of society in the present and future.

**Sustainable Development**

There are important milestones that the world has witnessed in the field of development from abstract environmental thought to sustainable development thought, which includes the inevitable connection of the environment with economic and social transformations, the most important of which are: -

1- In 1989, the United Nations General Assembly requested a global meeting to develop a strategy to stop the effects that pollute the environment in the context of strengthening global efforts to develop, grow, and sustain the environment in all countries of the world.

2-In response to the request in (1) above, the Earth Summit was held in Brazil/Rio de Janeiro, in June 1992 (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development), which resulted in (Agenda 21), which represents a platform of action since the conference and for the twenty-first century for governments, development agencies, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations in all areas that pollute the environment.

Agenda 21 consists of (40) chapters that emphasized sustainable development through several proposals related to the use of resources and care for the land and air. It directed governments to develop laws, instructions and systems to encourage the sustainable use of the earth’s resources, give importance to cultivating the land, and establish new foundations and methods for managing the environment.

After the Earth Summit in 1992 and the resulting link between environment and development, the Arab region witnessed a restructuring of rational environmental management, and a new conceptual framework emerged from that, which led to the expansion of the field of environmental management to include environmental impacts on development. The Agenda of the Century (Agenda 21) has identified a set of basic and supporting activities that must be carried out locally within the framework of sustainable development and according to the specificity of each country and in coordination with international organizations (UNEP and UNDP), such as improving the decision-making process, improving planning and management systems, databases and information, Choosing a national strategy for sustainable development, issuing legislation, creating established channels of coordination between development agencies and the environment, directing the activities of the private sector and procedures for controlling it, and spreading environmental awareness among the various segments of society.

3- WEHAB initiative, which is an abbreviation for the words (Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity), is the initiative to which the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, made a contribution to the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which was held in Johannesburg (WSSD). The initiative seeks to advance and focus efforts in the five main areas that are integrated with a coherent international approach that seeks to achieve sustainable development. These areas are considered among the important issues included in the plan for implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, known as (Johannesburg Plan), and it includes a number of targeted activities and events in all sectoral areas are linked together through various multilateral frameworks agreed upon between governments on the basis of a growing approach that seeks to achieve broad objectives.

4- The 9th session of United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CD9) in 5/2001 emphasized that energy is the most important thing for achieving sustainable development and identified (5) major issues related to it: - - Increasing access to advanced energy services. – Improving the efficiency of energy use and consumption. – Developing the uses of renewable energy resources. – Developing cleaner technologies for fossil fuels. – Energy in the field of transportation.

5- The Millennium Development Declaration issued by United Nations in September 2000, which set the Millennium Development Goals (reducing the poverty rate by half by 2015).

6- To prepare for the World Summit, Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, in cooperation with the regional bodies UNEP and ESCWO, issued the Abu Dhabi Declaration in February 2001, which included the Arab Declaration for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region.

7- The meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for environmental affairs in 2002, which presented the Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab region on behalf of the Arab group participating in Johannesburg Conference for the Sustainable Development Summit. It is a unified initiative that includes the visions, perceptions and directions of the Arab countries to achieve security, peace and development throughout the Arab region. The initiative aims to address the challenges facing Western countries in order to achieve sustainable development, and affirms the commitment of Arab countries to implementing the Agenda of the Century and the development goals included in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of World Summit on Sustainable Development, and seeks to activate and enhance the participation of Arab countries in order to highlight the efforts they are making towards achieving sustainable development. Especially in light of globalization and its effects, and finding a mechanism to finance programs to protect the environment and achieve sustainable development.

The challenge for the international community now is how to achieve economic development and social well-being with the least amount of consumption of natural resources and the minimum of pollution and damage to the environment, and this is the essence of sustainable development. The usual numbers show a change in one direction only, without showing the points connected between the society’s economy, social life, and the environment, as if society consists of three separate parts:

1- Economy

2- Social life (Society)

3- Environment

If these parts are viewed in separate ways, as shown in the figure, society’s problems will also be viewed as issues isolated from each other, leading to bad results such as:

1- Solving a problem may lead to the emergence of a worse problem.

2- Gradual solutions go back to creating economic groups.

3- Gradual solutions focus on short-term benefits. Instead of following piecemeal solutions, we need to consider the points of contact between economy, environment, and social life.

**Vision :**

Vision Environmental sustainability expresses biological systems, their diversity, sustainability and production over time. As for human sustainability, it is the ability to maintain and improve the quality of life in the long term, which depends on the preservation of nature and the responsible and rational use of natural resources.

**Message :**

The environmental sustainability policy forms a major part of the modern vision held by the university, this policy is based on several axes, the most important of which are:

* Raising awareness of the concepts of environmental sustainability among students and faculty at the university.
* Encouraging scientific research among students and teachers on topics related to the environment and its problems.
* Adopting plans and programs; To conserve energy and treat waste.
* Adopting a policy for movement within the university campus; Which helps reduce pollution caused by cars.

**Objectives**:

**Green Spaces**

The university seeks to increase its green spaces, as plants play a major role in reducing the severity of pollution and purifying the air.

Gardens represent a great outlet for students and teachers alike, they spread beauty and enjoyment of their views. Hence, the university has paid increasing and great attention to expanding the green spaces, planting them with beautiful types of flowers, roses and shrubs, and covering its land with green color, as shown in the pictures.

Encouraging teachers and students to conduct research on the environment and solve its problems. In addition, the university holds periodic conferences and seminars that address the problems of environmental pollution in Iraq and ways to treat them.

**University news and activities**: The university presidency is concerned with security and safety procedures and gives them great attention and follows up on all activities related to environmental and human safety.

**Local and International University Reports on Sustainability**

Al- Iraqia University paid attention to implementing the recommendations of the First National Conference on Green Education, as College of Engineering included an update in the curriculum of the Department of Renewable Energy Engineering, which is hoped to be introduced this year.

Al Iraqia University / Department of Missions and Cultural Relations was able to achieve tangible and clear progress in the content of the recommendations of First National Conference on Green Education by concluding a cooperation agreement with universities that support this field, such as (Urumieh, Razi, Ferdowsi, Shahid Beheshti, and Sharif Technology University).

**Courses Supporting Sustainability and Green Education**

**University Achievements on Green Education**

**Workshops and Courses on Green Education**

Al Iraqia University/Quality Assurance Department organizes several workshops and courses in cooperation with Department of Scholarships and Cultural Relations/Department of International Organizations, which aim to include the principles of green education in the curricula for undergraduate and postgraduate studies and train teachers on green education in:

-Sabaa Abkar Colleges Complex/in September

-Adhamiya Colleges Complex / in September

– Abu Ghraib Colleges Complex /in October

– College of Education, Tarmiya/in October