**Ben Gurion University**

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**What we offer: The Ben Gurion University of the Negev *'Green Campus Initiative'*:**

The Ben Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) credentials as a leader in environmental research have long been established. Our researchers have gained expertise in a wide range of environmental and sustainability sciences.
While previously these topics were solely the focus of research and the academic curriculum, the university's environmental commitment has expanded further and became a top priority of BGU. Our acute awareness of the importance of sustainability to ensure the future, resulted in BGU ranking first of five Israeli universities in the
UI GreenMetric World University Rankings.

As part of the university sustainability efforts, the BGU 'Green Campus' initiative advances series of activities aiming to boost environmental awareness amongst the university members, create environmentally-oriented study programs and introduce a series of steps to minimize our consumption of resources, as well as monitor and reduce emissions directly and indirectly related to the University on going activities. The initiative brings together academic, technical and administrative staff alongside students working together in series of projects committees (education and community, logistics and resources, conferences and research and more.) under the university's Green Council (the initiative 'board').

Here are few selected examples of ongoing projects:

The Living Laboratory – The project aims to explore and advance measures that will minimize the university's environmental footprint. The Living Laboratory involves engaging studies addressing different aspects related to the university activities, forming a master plan for climate change mitigation and adaptation. It also develops models that will allow the university to assess the contribution of various selected steps while measuring its ongoing resource consumption and related emissions.

High schools' students environmental research projects prize - Jointly developed with the Ministries of Education and Environmental protection, we run a nationwide competition for high school students. The competition aims to inspire environmental awareness, and stimulate young students to engage in environmental related higher education. The winner receives a scholarship for their first year of studies at BGU.

An international MOOC course on environment and sustainability - The MOOC course (Massive open on-line course) "Environmental Protection, Sustainability and Conservation" involved several faculty members active in the Green Campus project. It is now the largest course at the university with over 7,000 students from 156 countries around the world and about 1,600 students from Ben Gurion University.

The BGU Green campus Climate change task force – This project organizes a series of activities around the university climate change mitigation including: the university carbon footprint analysis; advancing policy documents for climate change mitigation and adaptation regarding specific themes (e.g., water, buildings, food, transportation); encouraging and supporting students projects on climate change issues and more.

Community based green initiatives – Once a year the university community are being called to suggest projects that can increase environmental awareness and minimize pressure. Selected projects are being fund and advanced by the students and / or employees. Most of the funded projects are outside the university all over the Negev.