

Approach to Environmental Sustainability and Green Campus at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia: A Review

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Abstract Environmental pollution is a complex and rapidly evolving challenge faced by urban environments. University campuses are susceptible to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions arising from energy use, particularly due to vehicular movement, solid waste generation and disposal, and electricity generation. The impact of GHG emissions, particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂) on climate change, mainly global warming, which has emerged a contemporary concern. The recent increase in the number of proposals for regulatory legislations on emission control indicates the need for a clear methodology to address GHG emissions, as well as their environmental impacts. This paper deals with CO₂ emission arising from energy used and solid waste within the campus of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru. The objective of this study is only the environmental aspect, related to carbon emission from energy used in the study area under review. This emission sources on UTM campus include, transportation, electricity and waste generation. This work reviews the application of compliance plans and approaches for the monitoring and control of environmentally sustainable parameters and categories. The performance of each model which reflects the sustainability achievement goals was determined. Constraints to the practice of sustainability concepts are identified and measures to improve sustainability levels are suggested. It is concluded that by following the standard set by Universitas Indonesia (UI) ranking, sustainability coupled with, enabling environment will be enhanced for universities' dwellers.

Keywords Climate Change, Sustainability, Green Campus, Green Metric, Environment

1. Introduction

Universities with large populations and spatial extents are faced with significant carbon emission problems and

pollution issues. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have a significant impact on the composition of the Earth's atmosphere. The major sources of GHGs on campuses are electricity usage, vehicular movement, and waste disposal. [1] Therefore, the issue of carbon dioxide has become a global threat and as such, the world is at work to remedy this excruciating ill with a trickling down effect to universities and schools worldwide in the study of climate change. [8] With sound knowledge and in-depth research outputs the pros and cons of climate change, will present a definite means of curtailing carbon dioxide emissions. [6]


Therefore, substantial investment is required to cut down on the emission rate of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. To adapt to this adverse impact of unavoidable climate changes, there is an increasing demand for good quality environmental sustainability. The specific component of campus sustainability and greening is the management of energy and solid wastes.

Universities in Malaysia are mostly having their own sustainable unit on campus and UTM is not an exception. UTM has made some positive impacts from some of the initiatives which have helped in achieving the mission of reducing carbon dioxide emission on campus with respect to the global climate issues, UTM began in 2009 through simple initiatives such as promoting recycling, saving paper, energy and water (Zen et al., 2014). Enforcement of such actions in having sustainable initiatives within the area that can effectively reduce carbon emissions on campus is successful due to formulation and implementation of policies by the management [3].

According to Universitas Indonesia (UI) Green Metric World University ranking 2013 and 2014, 2015 and 2016 and 2017 UTM was ranked 98th and 86th, 118th and 85th and 66th position respectively for environmental performance. (Figures 1 and 2). These rankings indicate the efforts of universities to keep the environment green and sustainable, a drop in the position indicate a positive respond towards sustainability as this reduction could be seen as a direct consequence of the implementation and interventions of

the university management including the community to make the campus environment more sustainable.[2] For this study, only the environmental aspect, related to carbon

emission from energy use is considered such as electricity, transportation and waste generation within the university environment.

Detail GreenMetric Ranking 2013										
University	Country	Country Name	Ranking	Total Score	Setting And Infrastructure	Energy and Climate Change	Waste	Water	Transportation	Education
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia		Malaysia	98	5,654	649	1,360	1,425	750	962	507


Detail GreenMetric Ranking 2014										
University	Country	Country Name	Ranking	Total Score	Setting And Infrastructure	Energy and Climate Change	Waste	Water	Transportation	Education
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia		Malaysia	86	6,230	718	1,360	1,575	600	1,325	652

Figure 1. UTM Green Metric Ranking 2013 and 2014




Ranking	University	Country	Total Score	Setting and Infrastructure	Energy and Climate Change	Waste	Water	Transportation	Education	
118	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia		5230	769	1025	1575	390	753	718	
85	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia			5866	1366	821	798	690	820	1371
66	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia			1120	1180	1428	625	813	786	5952

Figure 2. UTM Green Metric 2015 to 2017

2. Main Sources of Carbon Emissions in UTM

2.1. Energy

Energy consumption in Malaysia largely hinges on Electricity supply and UTM is not an exception to this national phenomenon- [1] The case study area (UTM - Johor campus), approximately houses 575 buildings which include, faculties buildings, student’s hostels, library, banks, post office, mosque, departmental buildings with elevators, laboratories for science and engineers, Hospital and Computer Unit. All the listed facilities largely depend on electricity for its effective and efficient running.

[9] It is estimated that RM 20 Million is use by UTM in paying pays Electricity bills on yearly basis. With growth in both student’s population and development on a yearly basis, there is every inclination for an increase in electricity bills every year.

In 2010, UTM launched a campaign title ‘Sustainability and Go Green Campaign’ with the aim of reducing the electricity bills. To achieving this objective, several initiatives were introduced such as: Studying Electricity tariff, campaigns on energy efficiency and monitoring the effective utilization of Electrical appliances., An energy management committee was established to help reduce the emission of Greenhouse Gases within UTM environs as shown in Figure 3, 4, and 5 with the sole objective of realizing the set goals.

In 2012, following the set of objectives, Energy Efficiency Index shows a decrease in energy consumption by about 6.88% (Figure 6) [11]. The energy saved within this time frame (2010-2012) was 3.9mil kWh which has a Monetary value of about RM 3.3million. To continue the energy saving mechanism, most appliances were replaced with energy-saving types such as, T8 fluorescent lamps with T5 fluorescent lamps, older centralized systems air-conditioning system with Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) air-conditioning system and thus have a concomitant reduction on greenhouse gas emissions and Electricity bills.

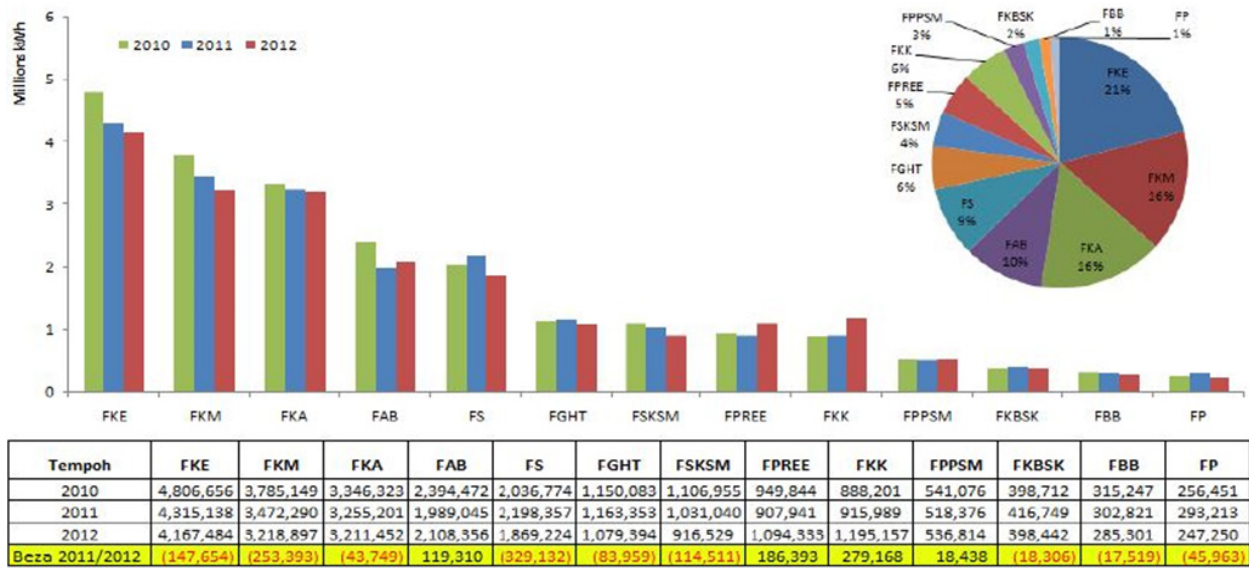


Figure 3. Energy consumption in UTM faculties (in kWh) (2010, 2011 and 2012)

All faculties showed a reduction in energy consumption compared with 2011 except FAB, FPREE, and FKK & FPPSM. Total reduction for all faculties is 450.879 kWh or -2.17% from 2011 to 2012 as shown in figure 3 [11].

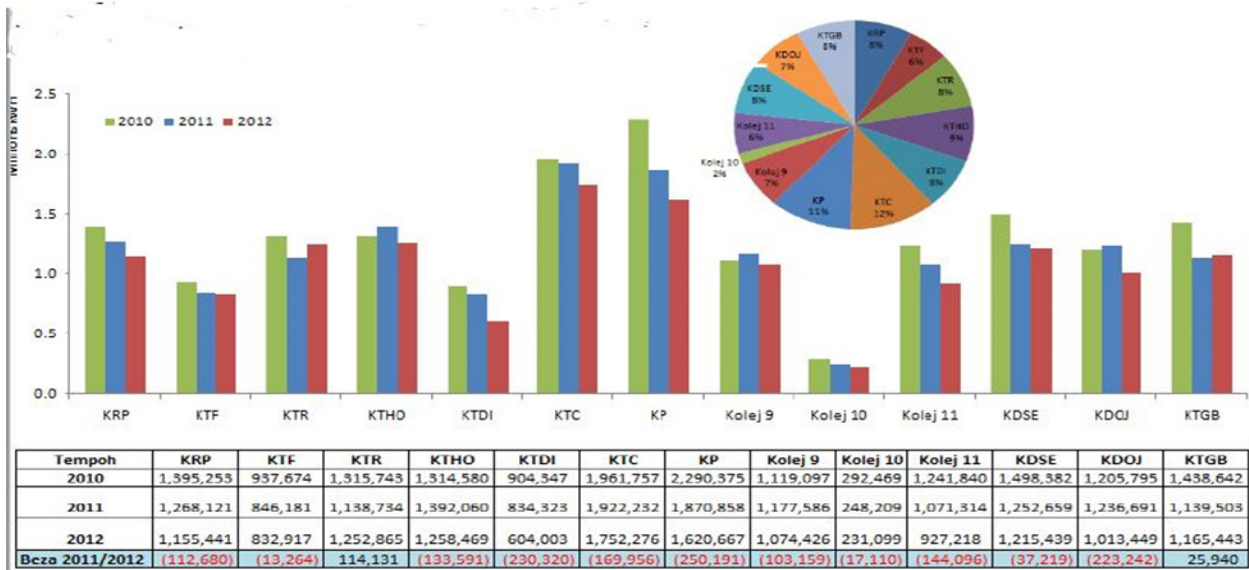


Figure 4. Electricity consumption in college UTM (in kWh) (2010, 2011 and 2012)

All colleges (except KTR & KTGB) showed a reduction in energy consumption compared to the year 2011. Total reduction for college category is 1,294,759 kWh or -8.41 % from 2011 to 2012 as shown in figure 4 [11].

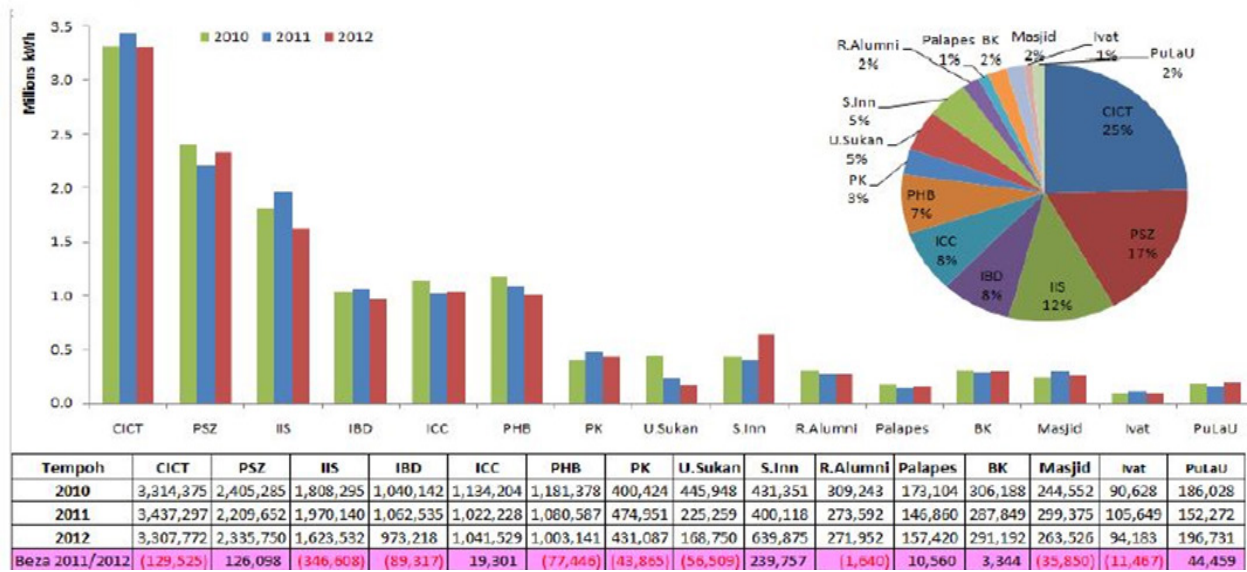


Figure 5. UTM office electricity consumption (in kWh) (2010, 2011 and 2012)

All offices (PSZ, ICC, Scholar Inn, Balai Keselamatan & Training Center) showed a decrease in the use of energy compared with 2011. Total decrease in the hostels category is 345.282 kWh or -2.63 % from 2011 to 2012 as indicated in figure 5 [11].

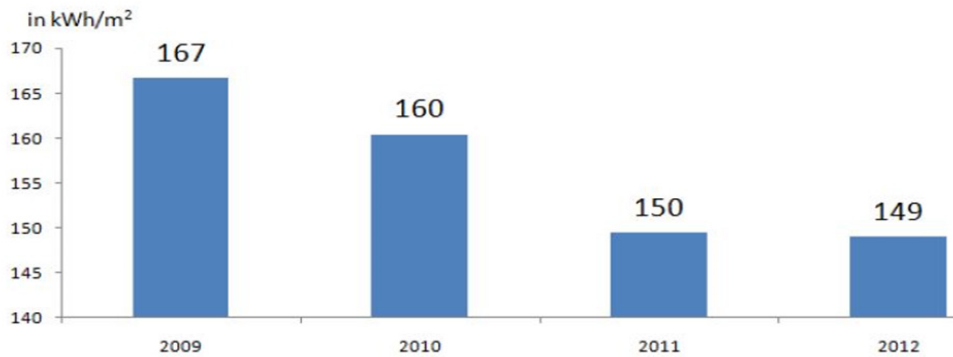


Figure 6. Chart showing UTM energy consumption rate from 2009 to 2012

2.2. Transportation

Transportation is the movement from one geographic location to another. In UTM, automobile traffic is on the increase which has direct impact on the environment through the emission of carbon dioxide.

So, transportation remains a major source of GHG and a primary contributor to the growth of CO₂ emissions (EPA, 2006) in the university campus, where high population concentration, high vehicular traffic and high energy use for various service demands results into high carbon emission due to the fossil fuel-based energy source.

Transportation and land use are inextricably related and as such, road designers should dictate the movement of people. Similarly, transportation facilities should work by the guiding principles of road designers as this support growth, because a carefully thought out town planning saves energy on transportation if the buildings are easily accessible by foot, bicycle, or public transit. It also helps avoid auto emissions due to an increase vehicular traffic flow resulting from poor accessibility in – UTM, it was classified as a combination of compact and dispersed development type. The compact inner circle, the Academic & Administration Zone, consists of four faculties, an administrative zone, mosque, library and main hall. This area was developed with a radial concept to encourage pedestrianism with easy accessibility and connectivity of the buildings at the initial development phase of the campus. The inner circle known as the Knowledge Circle is surrounded by seventeen (17) hostels, ten (10) faculties, staff residences, sports and recreational zones. In this type of dispersed campus, different modes of transportation such as regular feeder buses and private vehicles are used. This combination provides a balance of centralized core activities over the inner circle [3]

Previous research conducted identified the types of vehicles commuting within UTM. Among the commuting vehicles, are private cars which account for 82% while motorcycles constitute 18% of all vehicles coming and out of UTM campus. The survey further reveals proportion of commuting vehicles owned by UTM’s Staff and students -/- Visitors, this accounted for 62% and 38% respectively.

As shown in Figure 7 below, the carbon emission rate was surveyed at UTM and 75% of the carbon emission was apportioned to staff and students as compared to only 19% from the university fleet and only 6% is from the shuttle buses [4].

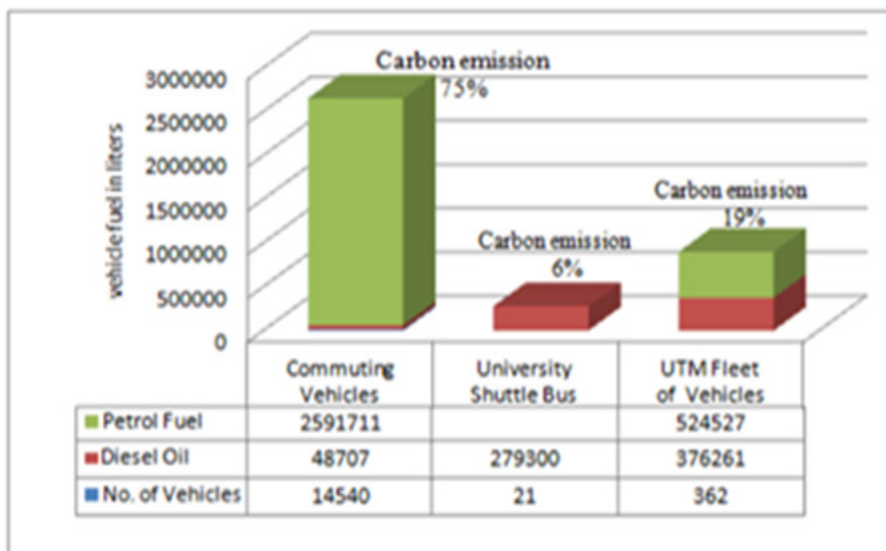


Figure 7. Carbon emission survey at UTM

Emissions from automobiles depend on the number of trips or miles traveled by each type of vehicle each day, this in turn determines the extent of pollution of the environment. For example, driving in a private car for 6 km releases 1kg CO₂ from petrol combustion; hence riding a bus is better since only 0.5kg CO₂ is released for the same distance. For the transportation guideline for UTM, 300-km has been set as the limit and within this limit set there is decrease in the emission of carbon dioxide from 3092.66 to 2900.92 metric tons. Among the activities held at the launching of UTM Sustainable Campus include riding bicycles. Bicycling and walking are two components of more global Transportation demand management (TDM) strategies of UTM bicycle program which officially started in October 2010. This effort is expected to reduce the traffic problems in UTM besides having a sustainable environment whose result directly reduces the carbon emission. Therefore, preserving and expanding the role of non-motorized transports will also minimize CO₂ emission in UTM Skudai campus. With the Mapping of the achievement of the sustainable campus in 2011 using the MMG-TSCiMU matrix table, UTM is on the transition stage for the transportation, water and energy management. Indoor environmental quality is at initial stage of the sustainability whereby more efforts need to be put in place to increase the level of sustainability. [5].

3. Solid Waste

The increase in student population has an impact on the

proportion of waste produced per day, that is, the more the student’s population the more the waste is produced. Waste generation is typical of students’ hostels, canteens, administrative buildings, Faculties and departments blocks and the influx of visitors from the outside communities. In 2009, UTM was generating 14-15 tonnes of waste per day as compared to 2010 with an increase in waste generation to 16 tonnes per day [12]. This said increase in waste generation is because of the parallel increase in student’s population and if the generation of waste is not checked, it will pose a threat and unfriendly atmosphere for both human and other living organisms [7].

In the bid to remedy this environmental threat within UTM, an initiative was lunched on 8th September 2012 by the University Pro Chancellor, Tan Sri Salleh Mohd Nor, which was titled GREEN, HEALTHY AND SAFETY PRACTICE. The main reason for this initiative is to reduce the emission rate of carbon dioxide by creating a healthy environment for occupants of UTM. The result of this initiative is shown in Figure 8, indicating, reduction in the recorded data of solid wastes from 2009 to 2013 Paper consumption reduction in one of the ‘Green Office’ program. Was observed in 2012 and in 2013, further decrease was observed and more significant After being implemented in 2010, the recorded reduction rates in paper consumption as observed figure9 gave a reduced figure compare to 2011 when it picked before further effort set it on decrease to the low level for the year 2013 [10].

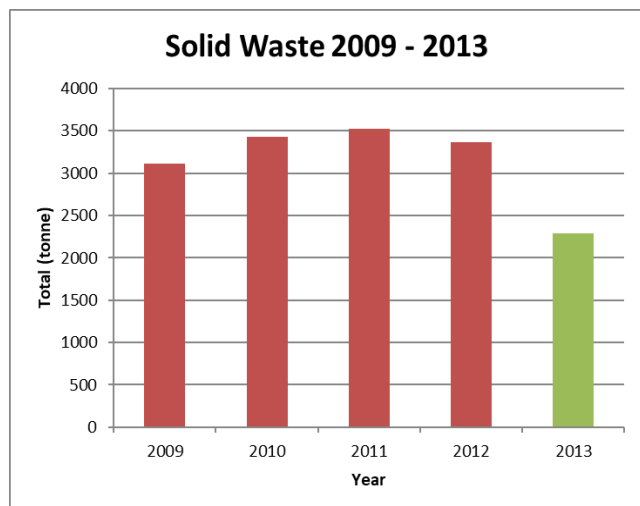


Figure 8. UTM solid waste from 2009 to 2013

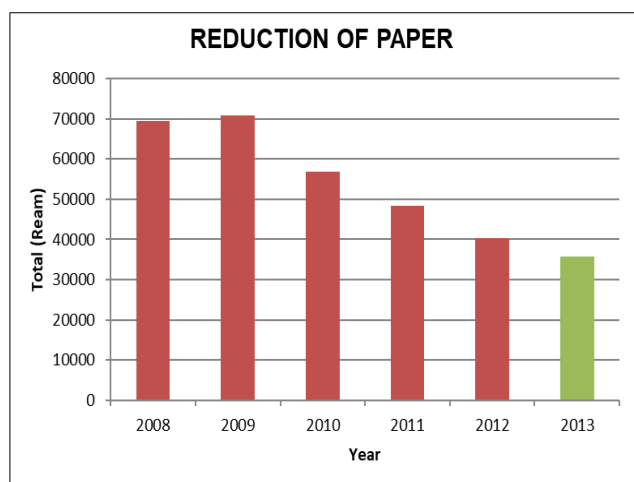


Figure 9. Reduction in paper usage in UTM from 2009 to 2013

Nine (9) researchers conducted a seven (7) months research program titled: "ON-CAMPUS BIO-RECYCLING OF FOOD AND GREEN WASTE INTO COMPOST". This research aimed at scaling up the bio recycling and composting of waste collection of food which ranges from 80 kg/day to 400 kg/day. It was this research that set the stage for UTM green waste.

4. Conclusions

From this study, it is however seen that UTM is having a positive impact on some of the initiatives program helping in achieving the mission on carbon dioxide emission reduction in response to global climate issues. Shifting towards a sustainable campus is not an easy option as it necessitates the full participation of all administrators. UTM policy makers need to set up mechanism such as education, and increase research toward the achievement of environmental sustainability.

In the case of Transportation, UTM has tried

tremendously by securing new shuttle buses with parallel construction of bus stops within UTM campus. Besides this development, green plants are grown along roads as this will encourage sidewalk for both students and other workers within UTM aside the absorption of CO₂, the creation of ponds, parks and growing of green plants also aid photosynthesis and provide good habitat for human and other species.

For the electricity part, UTM already showed its potential in using solar energy so it can decrease emission and can help the university towards achieving sustainable environment target by clinching to excellent position in the ranking, green metric ranking and environmental sustainability index in last report for example Universiti Putra (UPM) ranked 27th while UTM ranked 66th. It was mentioned that UPM had a lot of improvement at green campus and environmental sustainability in the compared.

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