Dear Readers,

In order to spread safety culture across AUB, EHSRM lobbied with the Board of Deans and AUB Administration for the establishment of a safety warden system to ensure the proper implementation of safety policies on campus. Around 45 wardens and 39 deputy wardens were officially nominated by their Deans, Chairmen or Department Heads and a general meeting was organized by EHSRM on 24 July to inform the nominees of their roles and duties and the proposed training plan. So far, the wardens have received training on incident reporting and life & fire safety.

Moreover, in an attempt to improve the efficiency of the Emergency Response Team (ERT), EHSRM held a general assembly of the team to discuss challenges and opportunities for improving ERT response, physical fitness activities and the training plan.

EHSRM is also trying to expand and disseminate environmental health, safety and risk management knowledge and expertise at the national level and developed a training proposal for conducting training to Health Care facilities in Lebanon through the Syndicate of Hospitals.

Estimation of the Carbon Footprint of AUB

Climate change and increasing emissions of greenhouse gases are one of the critical issues that societies face today. As the impact of climate change is increasing in severity, the need for proper impacts’ management and mitigation is also escalating. The Stern report on the economics of climate change emphasizes that the “benefits of strong, early action on climate change outweigh the costs”.

In this context, the analysis and calculation of the carbon footprint of AUB comes as the first initiative to provide a baseline against which future mitigation measures and their impacts can be evaluated. The initiative was undertaken in collaboration between EHSRM and the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUB hosting two intern students from EARTH University (Costa Rica).

Data on the University’s major carbon-emitting activities were gathered, and total CO₂ emissions were calculated under 3 categories:

- **Category 1**: Direct emissions from sources owned by the University (1) electricity from on site generators, (2) fuel burned in boilers to generate steam and (3) transport vehicles owned by the University.
- **Category 2**: Indirect emissions from electricity consumption required for University activities through EDL (Electricite du Liban).
- **Category 3**: Other indirect emissions related to the University by sources not owned by the institution, such as those from (1) students and employees’ commuting, (2) staff business travel, (3) paper usage and (4) disposal of solid waste.

The University’s total emissions were estimated at 69,128 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in 2012. This is equivalent to 8.7 tonnes CO₂ per student and 280 kg CO₂ per m². Category 1, including direct emissions accounts for around 43% of the total CO₂ emissions while Category 2 accounts for around 36% and Category 3 for around 21%. This indicates that the majority of emissions are controllable.

In addition the carbon fixation by the green cover at AUB was estimated at 5.6 tonnes/year corresponding to offsetting around 0.008% of the university’s total CO₂ emissions.

AUB’s CO₂ emissions were compared with those of nine other international universities. While AUB does not rank among the highest CO₂ emitters in this comparison, there remains significant room for improvement.

The greenhouse gases emissions’ reduction plan at AUB should focus on six main themes related to the improvement of usage information and monitoring, behavioral change, improvement of energy performance, introduction of new sources of renewable energy, increasing the efficiency of the transport fleet and instituting a good solid waste management system.

1) Turning off your TV, stereo and other electrical appliances instead of leaving it on stand-by, is the best way to reduce carbon emissions:  
   a) True  
   b) False

2) Which of the following activities contribute the most to carbon emissions globally?  
   a) Agriculture  
   b) Transport  
   c) Forestry  
   d) Energy Supply

3) Which of the following would have the biggest impact on reducing carbon emissions?  
   a) Growing our own vegetables  
   b) Stopping deforestation  
   c) Taking all fossil-fuel-burning vehicles off the road  
   d) Shutting down all fossil-fuel power plants

**Think Safe**

For using an online household carbon footprint calculator [CLICK HERE]
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For the last eight years, Mrs. Khalil was working on environmental management projects funded by donors such as EU and GEF and implemented by the Ministry of Environment and managed by UNDP. Samar also worked on developing national standards, regulations and policies related to management of industrial and hazardous healthcare waste.

Mrs. Khalil developed national environmental audit manuals and a training manual for healthcare waste management. Samar joined EHSRM team as Environmental and Chemical Safety officer in April, 2013 and is responsible for industrial hygiene, indoor air quality, chemical and lab safety, environmental protection and monitoring, accident prevention, pollution control, safety training, inspections, and hazardous materials management.