

UMS EcoCampus: Transforming Ideas into Reality

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Abstract. Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has moved up by 129 placings to 44 th ranking in the UIGreenMetric World University ranking 2016 compared to 173 th in 2015, due to our sustainability commitment under the EcoCampus agenda. In line with the global call for the “The Future We Want” made at the Rio+20 Earth Summit, UMS recognizes that fundamental changes need to be made in the way society thinks and acts towards sustainable development. We believe that this can only be achieved through the education and transformation of our values and lifestyles. Thus the idea of the EcoCampus was born with a vision to become a leading model of the “new flagship EcoCampus” of the 21 st century. UMS is committed to be a university of excellence in teaching and research, and an EcoCampus that incorporates due environmental considerations in its planning and activities by being innovative, relevant and sustainable. The environmental stewardship towards sustainable development will address local, national and global environment challenges in collaboration with stakeholders. With its strategic location and a growing population of more than 18000 students and 2855 staff, UMS recognizes that its decisions and actions can have a significant impact on the environmental, economic and social dimensions of the region, at present and in future. The UMS EcoCampus Management Centre was established in February 2013 to redefine and “green” our policies and practices in an ecologically friendly context by setting new standards in campus management and ensuring the realization of EcoCampus transformation plan based on five core values that integrated into the six key elements of EcoCampus. The implementation of the action plan and stakeholders engagement are based on a seven steps approach. It is our wish that the UMS staff and students could be proud ambassadors of “the practice of what they preach” on campus.

Keywords: Ecocampus; Transformation; Environmental Stewardship; Engagement; Sustainability.