

## Establishment of The Institute of Environment and Climate Change (UPIEC), University of Phayao

### 1. Organization name & Symbolic



### 2. Principles and Reasons

From the current situation of climate change, which is increasingly severe and impacting both humanity and the planet every year, it is evidence that various circumstances are approaching dangerous levels. If proactive measures to address these issues are not taken, it will be challenging to return the situation to normal as before. Thailand, as one of the signatories to the Paris Agreement addressing the impacts of climate change, has embraced the policy. Thailand has declared its commitment to achieving the goal of carbon neutrality by the year 2050 and reaching the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2065.

University of Phayao (UP), as an educational institution, has a policy to achieve carbon neutrality, aligning with the national goal. One key aspect of this commitment is to integrate carbon neutrality into the university's work culture and organizational ethos. It aims to make carbon neutrality a part of daily work life and organizational culture, fostering understanding and awareness of the impacts of global climate change. UP has set a target to achieve carbon neutrality by the year 2040, emphasizing the involvement of students and staff in activities related to this goal. To work towards this target, UP focuses on increasing the use of renewable energy, enhancing energy efficiency in buildings and transportation, using resources wisely, and planting trees for carbon sequestration. The university

recognizes the multifaceted challenges and opportunities in the current era and is committed to adapting and continuously developing to survive and grow sustainably.

Sustainability is a crucial aspect that requires constant adaptation and holistic efforts. UP is ready to collaborate with relevant organizations at both national and international levels to contribute to the carbon neutrality goals, aligning with strategic development objectives for a sustainable university in all areas of education and integration.

Furthermore, within the framework of the guidelines for developing the education, science, research, and innovation system of the country, which is the main policy and strategy for education, science, research, and innovation for the years 2020–2027, there is a vision to "prepare Thais for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, develop an economy that provides widespread opportunities, create a stable society, and ensure a sustainable environment by fostering cutting–edge innovation globally, leading the country towards developed status." This vision aims to be a driving force in advancing the country's development in alignment with the national strategy, master plans, and government policies. Therefore, the role of the university is crucial in promoting the creation of individuals, knowledge, research, and innovation to address the challenges facing the country. It lays the foundation for the future and advances the development of knowledge into the capabilities and strengths of the country in various fields, making it highly significant.

Given the aforementioned reasons, University of Phayao has proposed the establishment of the "Institute of Environment and Climate Change, University" as a department in accordance with the University of Phayao Act of 2010, Article 7 (4). This institute serves as the primary unit of the university to carry out tasks and integrate operations related to achieving the university's carbon neutrality goals by 2040, including providing services in academic services, innovation, and research to the industrial sector. It relies on specialized knowledge and adopts modern and flexible management practices, aiming to efficiently promote and drive the university to fulfill its mission and strategies through knowledge, research, and innovation, following the strategic plan for the development of University of Phayao in the future.

### 3. Goal

3.1 To support the mission of University of Phayao in achieving the organization's carbon neutrality goals for sustainable development by executing excellent and globally recognized operations.

3.2 To be an organization focused on high-level research and innovation specifically in the fields of environmental sustainability and climate change, as well as producing highly competent human resources capable of adapting to future global changes.

3.3 To be an organization providing services, including academic services, innovation, and research, to the industrial sector based on global standards, relying on specialized knowledge in environmental sustainability and climate change.

### 4. Objective

To achieve the goals of establishing the Environmental Research and Climate Change Institute at University of Phayao , the following objectives have been defined:

4.1 To support the operations of all departments at University of Phayao in carrying out environmentally friendly activities leading to the university's carbon neutrality goal by the year 2050, recognized globally.

4.2 To support the operations of all units within University of Phayao to achieve the Green University mission (UI Green).

4.3 To develop human capacity with high competency and future-oriented skills to adapt to changes in environmental dimensions and climate change in the country.

4.4 To provide academic services to external organizations, utilizing specialized knowledge as a foundation and creating sustainable revenue from academic service activities.

4.5 To produce high-quality research outputs related to the environment and climate change, and to leverage research findings for the benefit of the industrial sector.

## 5. Strategic Information of the Institution

### 5.1 Vision:

A leading organization that leverages specialized knowledge in environmental and climate change for the sustainable development of the university and provides academic services globally based on international standards.

### 5.2 Core Missions:

1. Develop and support the operations of all departments at University of Phayao to conduct environmentally friendly activities, leading to the university's carbon neutrality goal by the year 2050, recognized globally.
2. Develop and support the operations of all units within University of Phayao to achieve the Green University mission (UI Green).
3. Develop human capacity with high competency and future-oriented skills to adapt to changes in environmental dimensions and climate change in the country, emphasizing diverse forms of experiential learning.
4. Provide academic services to external organizations, utilizing specialized knowledge as a foundation and creating sustainable revenue from academic service activities.
5. Produce high-quality research outputs related to the environment and climate change and leverage research findings for the benefit of the industrial sector.

### 5.3 Strategic Issues:

1. Achieving University of Phayao's carbon neutrality goal by the year 2040.
2. Operating to ensure University of Phayao achieves the Green University mission (UI Green).
3. Developing human capacity with high competency and future-oriented skills related to the environment and climate change in the country.

4. Providing sustainable academic services and generating income.
5. Creating high-quality research and utilizing its benefits in the industrial sector.

#### 5.4 Objectives:

1. Achieving University of Phayao's carbon neutrality goal by the year 2040.
  - Objective: Elevate the university's operations to achieve carbon neutrality, emphasizing systematic operations based on academic knowledge.
2. Operating to ensure University of Phayao achieves the Green University mission (UI Green).
  - Objective: Support sustainable environmental operations by reducing environmental impacts in all aspects of operations, including infrastructure, energy use, waste management, water resource utilization, internal transport system management, and environmental education.
3. Developing human capacity with high competency and future-oriented skills related to the environment and climate change in the country.
  - Objective: Develop high competency in individuals who can continuously learn and respond to environmental development challenges through modern, externally-linked short-term courses.
4. Providing sustainable academic services and generating income.
  - Objective: Create environmentally and climate-related academic service activities that meet the standards of the private sector and international standards, systematically managing income.
5. Creating high-quality research and utilizing its benefits in the industrial sector.
  - Objective: Create in-depth and high-quality research and innovation that can be internationally disseminated, integrating it for maximum benefit to external organizations.

## 6. Expected Outcomes:

6.1 The university has units driving the organization towards carbon neutrality for sustainable development and supports environmentally friendly activities of various related departments.

6.2 The university has a unit for human capacity development, ensuring high competency and future-proof skills to adapt to changes in environmental dimensions and the country's climate change. This is achieved through research processes, short-term training, and short courses supporting lifelong learning and skill development for the future (Upskill/Reskill).

6.3 The university has units that integrate academic services with external organizations, utilizing specialized knowledge as a foundation and generating sustainable income from systematic and globally standardized academic service activities.

6.4 The university has units that integrate innovative research in environmental and climate change at an advanced level to produce high-quality research outcomes and utilize them effectively in the industrial sector.

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