Drinking Water

1- Quality and quantity

The primary source of potable water for consumption within the university premises is purified Reverse Osmosis (RO) water, contained in sterilized water bottles. This RO water is produced by a compact RO treatment unit with a daily capacity of 10 m^3. The dimensions of the treatment unit are 2 meters in height, 3 meters in width, and 3 meters in depth (as depicted in Figure 1).

To facilitate convenient access to drinking water, Al-Mustaqbal University has strategically positioned a multitude of water dispensers across its various units. This initiative serves students, faculty, staff, and visitors alike, providing them with unfettered access to clean drinking water. Notably, the university extends the privilege of complimentary drinking water to all its employees and visitors.

As a benevolent gesture, the College frequently distributes free drinking water glasses within department lobbies. This practice reinforces the university's commitment to the welfare of its students, staff, and visitors. Visual representation in Figure 2 captures several photographs showcasing the diverse locations where drinking water is readily available throughout the university.

Similarly, during examinations, the university systematically distributes water bottles to students, invigilators, committees, and faculty members. These bottles are usually chilled during the summer days (Figure 3).

Figure 1: Reverse Osmosis treatment unit of Al-Mustaqbal University

Figure 2: Refrigerators for storing water for drinking purposes

Furthermore, Figure 3 depicts the average monthly consumption of RO water throughout the entirety of 2022. It is worth noting that this water serves a variety of purposes, encompassing drinking, cooking, and sanitation needs.

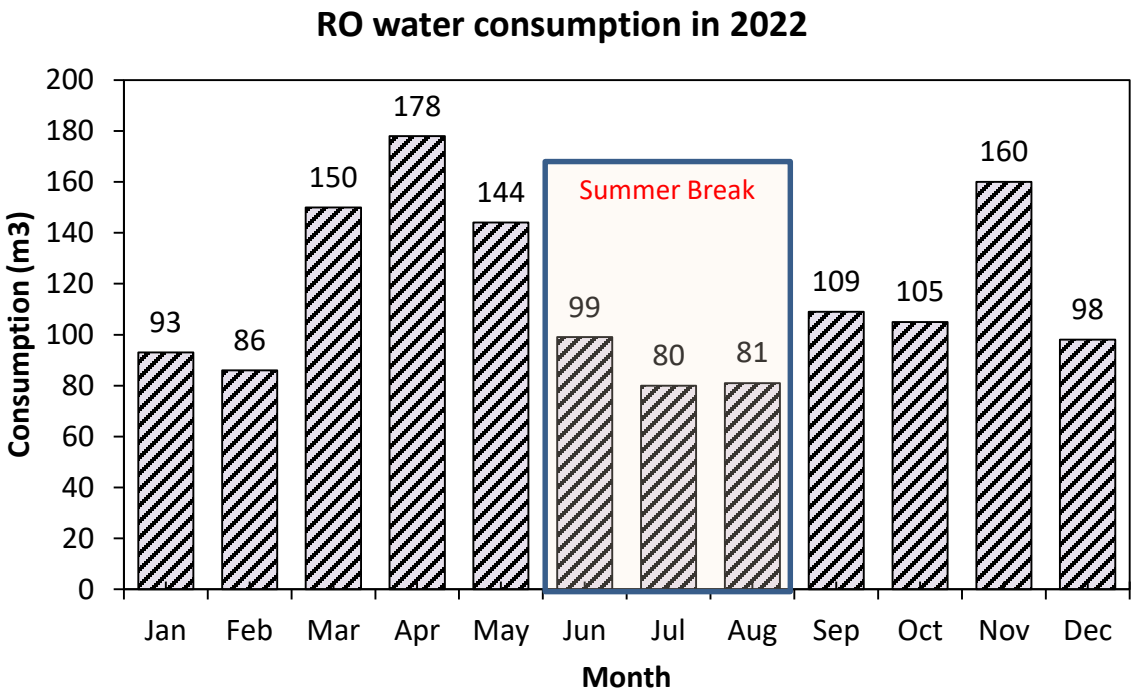

Figure 3 depicts the average RO water consumption per each month of year 2022

Furthermore, as part of its commitment to ensuring the well-being and comfort of its students and staff, Al-Mustaqbal University has implemented a well-organized practice during examination periods. Recognizing the significance of maintaining proper hydration levels, especially in an environment that demands intense focus and concentration, the university has devised a thoughtful strategy. When it comes to the crucial time of examinations, the university takes proactive measures to ensure that everyone involved is adequately supplied with refreshments. This includes the systematic distribution of water bottles to various stakeholders, encompassing not only the students who are facing the exams but also the dedicated invigilators overseeing the examination process, the committees responsible for its management, and the esteemed faculty members who have played a pivotal role in imparting knowledge (Figure 4). These water bottles, essential for maintaining hydration levels and promoting optimal cognitive function, are an indispensable part of the university's commitment to creating a conducive and supportive environment for all involved in the examination process. In an effort to enhance the experience further, the university ensures that these bottles are not only readily available but also pleasantly cool, particularly during the sweltering days of summer. This consideration for temperature is a testament to the university's dedication to the

comfort and well-being of its students and staff, demonstrating its understanding of the physical demands of examination settings, especially in adverse weather conditions.

Figure 4: A photo illustrating the free distribution of water to students during exams.

2- Reducing bottled water use on campus

In Iraq, bottled water, a seemingly convenient commodity, has inadvertently become a substantial contributor to the ever-growing dilemma of single-use plastic consumption. Beyond its convenience, the production and consumption of bottled water have cast a shadow on the environment, generating a range of negative ecological consequences. Notably, the extraction of spring water for bottling purposes often leaves ecological footprints in the form of disrupted ecosystems and compromised local water sources. This complex environmental equation calls for innovative and sustainable solutions, and Al-Mustaqbal University is taking a proactive stance in addressing this issue.

Recognizing the imperative to curb plastic waste and its associated environmental impacts, Al-Mustaqbal University has embarked on a noteworthy initiative. The university is fervently advocating for the widespread installation of strategically positioned drinking water fountains across its campus. These fountains are not just ordinary water dispensers; they are thoughtfully designed with integrated water bottle refill stations.

This two-fold approach serves to cater to the hydration needs of the university community while also promoting the adoption of more eco-friendly practices.

A pivotal aspect of this initiative is the source of the provided drinking water. Al-Mustaqbal University has tapped into its own resources by utilizing water from its Reverse Osmosis (RO) station (Figure 1). This, in fact, ensures that the water supplied to these fountains is of high quality and meets the minimum requirements of health and safety standards. By relying on their internal water infrastructure, the university is as possible reducing its reliance on external sources (such as buying the RO bottles) and minimizing the carbon footprint associated with water transportation.

In tandem with the installation of these innovative fountains, Al-Mustaqbal University has taken additional strategies to bolster the success of this sustainability activities inside the University. Reusable water bottles have been distributed extensively among the university's students and staff. This strategic move not only reduces the demand for single-use plastic water bottles but also fosters a culture of responsibility and environmental awareness within the university community. These reusable bottles are a tangible symbol of the collective effort to minimize plastic waste and the ecological harm it engenders.