SDG 12
SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Abstract

This study explores the sustainability initiatives undertaken by our university, focusing on ethical sourcing, waste disposal policies, use minimization strategies, and the measurement of recycled waste. The responses reveal the current status and ongoing efforts in each area, providing insights into the university's commitment to environmental responsibility. The findings underscore the importance of continued development and implementation of comprehensive sustainability policies for a more environmentally conscious institution.

Legal Base

Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on food safety
https://afsa.gov.az/storage/pages/882/1682479437.pdf

Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on industrial and household waste
https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/aze47723.pdf

Introduction

As institutions worldwide recognize the imperative of sustainable practices, this study delves into the sustainability policies and practices of our university. The examination encompasses ethical sourcing of food and supplies, waste disposal policies, use minimization strategies for plastic and disposable items, and the measurement of recycled waste. The responses reveal the university's existing commitments and the active endeavors to enhance its environmental footprint. This introduction sets the stage for a detailed exploration of the university's sustainability journey, emphasizing the need for ongoing initiatives and the potential extension of policies to outsourced services and supplier

Actions

1. **Ethical Sourcing of Food and Supplies:**

- Achieve 100% adherence to ethical sourcing standards confirmed by relevant food safety agencies.
- Regular audits and certifications for all university cafeterias and suppliers.

2. **Waste Disposal Policies (Hazardous Materials):**

- Establish a formal policy for proper disposal of hazardous materials by a specified date.
- Collaborate with waste management experts to develop and implement safe disposal practices.

3. **Waste Disposal Measurement (Landfill and Recycling):**
- Implement a comprehensive waste measurement system covering all waste streams by a specific timeframe.
- Invest in technology for accurate measurement and reporting of landfill and recycled waste quantities.

4. **Use Minimization of Plastic:**
- Develop and implement policies to reduce plastic usage by a certain percentage within a defined period.
- Introduce alternatives, such as biodegradable materials, and promote awareness campaigns on campus.

5. **Use Minimization of Disposable Items:**
- Reduce disposable item usage by a specified percentage within a set timeframe.
- Introduce reusable alternatives, encourage the use of sustainable materials, and educate the campus community.

6. **Extension of Policies to Outsourced Services and Supply Chain**:
- Include outsourced services and suppliers in sustainability policies within a defined timeframe.
- Collaborate with external partners to align with university sustainability goals and expectations.

7. **Proportion of Recycled Waste:**
- Increase the proportion of recycled waste across various streams by a certain percentage.
- Expand recycling initiatives beyond paper to include plastics, electronics, and other recyclable materials.

8. **Publication of Sustainability Report:**
- Regularly publish a comprehensive sustainability report by a specified date.
- Establish a dedicated sustainability reporting team, compile relevant data, and ensure transparency in reporting practices.

Conclusion

In summary, the report reveals commendable steps taken by our university in sustainability, particularly in ethical sourcing and waste measurement. However, identified gaps in policies for hazardous waste, plastic and disposable item minimization, and supply chain considerations highlight areas for immediate attention. The successful paper recycling initiative demonstrates progress, but there's room for improvement in measuring and increasing the proportion of recycled waste across various streams. Moving forward, the university must prioritize the

development of comprehensive policies and extend its sustainability efforts to foster a culture of environmental responsibility and transparency.

Future steps

1. **Policy Development**:

- Formulate and implement formal policies for hazardous waste disposal, plastic use minimization, and reduction of disposable items.
- Extend sustainability policies to cover outsourced services, suppliers, and the broader supply chain.

2. **Waste Management Enhancement:**

- Invest in technology for comprehensive waste measurement, covering diverse waste streams.
- Expand recycling initiatives to include plastics, electronics, and other recyclable materials.

3. **Awareness and Education:**

- Conduct awareness campaigns to educate the campus community about the importance of sustainability and the impact of individual actions.
- Promote the use of sustainable alternatives and the benefits of responsible waste disposal.

4. **Collaboration and Partnerships:**

- Collaborate with waste management experts, environmental organizations, and industry partners for guidance and best practices.
- Establish partnerships with suppliers aligned with the university's sustainability goals.

5. **Continuous Improvement:**

- Regularly assess and update sustainability policies to reflect advancements in eco-friendly practices and technologies.
- Set periodic targets for waste reduction, recycling, and other sustainability metrics, with continuous monitoring and reporting.

6. **Transparency and Reporting:**

- Regularly publish a comprehensive sustainability report, providing transparent insights into the university's environmental impact and progress.

- Engage stakeholders in sustainability initiatives and seek feedback for continuous improvement.

7. **Integration into Curriculum:**

- Integrate sustainability principles into the academic curriculum to educate and inspire future generations.
- Establish interdisciplinary programs and projects focused on environmental stewardship.

Some photos