



Sustainability Policy of Azerbaijan Technical University

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Purpose	This sustainability strategy aims to ensure environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

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Contents

Preamble.....	2
Purpose	2
Scope	2
Principles.....	2
Policy.....	3
Goals.....	5
Roles and Responsibilities	6
Review	7

Preamble

The document "Sustainable Development Policy (SDP) of Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU)" was prepared accordingly Resolution No. A/RES/70/1 of the UN General Assembly dated September 25, 2015, "National Coordinating Council for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan" The Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-economic Development" the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Development Strategy of Azerbaijan Technical University for 2021-2030.

Purpose

The country's sustainable policy is aimed at ensuring sustainability in the use of economic and human resources by ensuring the interests of current and future generations.

AzTU accepts the sustainability of the growth of achievements in the social and economic spheres as the main priority and its goal is to build a sustainable and inclusive university that meets the global demands of the 21st century.

The purpose of the sustainability policy at Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) is to establish a comprehensive framework that promotes environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic viability within the university community. The policy aims to integrate sustainable practices into all aspects of university operations, education, research, and community engagement. AzTU aspires to enhance environmental performance, promote social responsibility, support economic viability, integrate sustainability in education and research, and engage the university community.

Scope

The current "Document" applies to all students, academic and administrative staff, as well as guests and consultants, who participate in all educational, educational programs, and social activities of AzTU, about other persons who are not students or employees.

The scope of the sustainability policy encompasses campus operations, academic programs, community engagement, procurement and supply chain, and infrastructure and buildings. Campus operations include energy management, water conservation, waste management, and sustainable transportation. Academic programs involve curriculum development and research initiatives. Community engagement covers outreach programs and student involvement. Procurement and supply chain focus on sustainable purchasing and supplier engagement. Infrastructure and buildings emphasize green building standards and sustainable landscaping. By adhering to this policy, AzTU aims to become a leader in sustainable development in higher education.

Principles

1. AzTU supports the principle of open partnership with employees, students, and partners based on mutual respect and understanding.

- The university values collaborative relationships and seeks to build a community where all members—staff, students, and external partners—work together harmoniously, respecting each other’s perspectives and contributions.
2. AzTU is committed to the highest standards in everything it does, adhering to ethical business practices and applying the best corporate governance practices.
 - The university ensures that all its operations and decisions are conducted with integrity and accountability, following ethical guidelines and exemplary governance standards.
 3. AzTU operates strictly by Azerbaijan and international legislation in force.
 - Compliance with local and international laws and regulations is a fundamental principle for the university, ensuring that all activities are legal and meet required standards.
 4. AzTU supports increasing information openness and transparency to share knowledge on sustainability issues to promote good practice and raise awareness within the university.
 - The university is dedicated to being transparent and open about its sustainability efforts, sharing information and best practices to educate and engage the university community on these critical issues.
 5. AzTU is working on improving the management system for all types of activities by applying digital and automated systems to increase labor efficiency.
 - To enhance operational efficiency, the university is implementing digital and automated solutions that streamline processes and improve the productivity of its workforce.
 6. Identification and assessment of new risks, including external and internal risk factors, is continuously carried out by the university.
 - The university regularly evaluates potential risks, both internal and external, to proactively manage and mitigate potential threats to its operations and stakeholders.
 7. AzTU strives to reduce energy consumption implement energy-saving technologies, and invest in environmental projects and technologies to minimize energy consumption and reduce carbon footprint.
 - Committed to environmental sustainability, the university actively works to lower its energy use, adopt energy-efficient technologies, and invest in projects that reduce its overall carbon footprint.
 8. The procedure of special assessment of working conditions is carried out regularly.
 - Regular evaluations of working conditions are conducted to ensure a safe, healthy, and conducive environment for all employees and students.
 9. AzTU creates equal opportunities and conditions to realize the potential of all employees and students based on common values, cultural diversity, gender, race, and other equality.
 - The university promotes inclusivity and equal opportunities for everyone, fostering an environment where all individuals, regardless of their background, can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Policy

1. Provide opportunities that encourage and promote participation in the educational process.

- The university aims to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment that motivates students to engage actively in their studies, participate in discussions, and take advantage of learning resources.
- 2. Support vulnerable groups of the population, including the disabled and people in difficult financial situations during education.
 - The university is committed to providing additional resources and assistance to students who face physical, financial, or social challenges, ensuring they have equal access to education and opportunities for success.
- 3. Prepare mental health programs for employees and students.
 - Recognizing the importance of mental well-being, the university will develop and implement programs and services to support the mental health of both students and staff, offering counseling, workshops, and stress management resources.
- 4. Implement policies to support employment, training, and regulation.
 - The university will establish policies that facilitate job placement, provide vocational training, and ensure compliance with relevant regulations, helping students transition from education to employment.
- 5. Provide properly organized and supported scholarships, grants, and financial assistance to students.
 - Financial support will be made available through well-structured scholarships, grants, and other forms of financial aid to help students afford their education and reduce economic barriers.
- 6. Monitor work results in the field of employment and management of academic teaching load.
 - The university will track employment outcomes for graduates and manage teaching loads for faculty to ensure a balanced and effective educational environment that benefits both students and staff.
- 7. Create stable and flexible infrastructure with minimal impact on the environment.
 - The university will design and maintain infrastructure that is resilient, adaptable, and environmentally sustainable, reducing its ecological footprint and promoting long-term sustainability.
- 8. Improve existing buildings, enhance resource efficiency, and apply environmentally friendly technologies.
 - Efforts will be made to retrofit and upgrade current buildings to be more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly, incorporating green technologies and practices to conserve resources.
- 9. Keep the campus safe for people and the environment.
 - Ensuring the safety and well-being of the university community and the surrounding environment is a priority, with measures in place to prevent hazards and promote a healthy, secure campus.
- 10. Develop strategies and cultures that support the development, maintenance, and strengthening of partnerships both domestically and internationally.
 - The university will foster a culture of collaboration by building and nurturing partnerships with other educational institutions, organizations, and stakeholders both within the country and globally, enhancing its educational and research capabilities.

Goals

Promoting actions and initiatives in support of new models of growth and conscious lifestyles, until 2030 the university identifies 5 areas in which the main work to implement the principles of sustainable development will be concentrated:

1) Positioning the university as a University of sustainable development

- a) specifying the principles of sustainable development among the university's strategic development goals;
- b) correcting the text and content of strategic and long-term program documents of the university, taking into account the goals of sustainable development;
- c) adaptation of the university's strategic goals to the sustainable development goals of the UN.

2) Educational programs

- a) Inclusion of sustainable development issues in university curricula.
- b) Creating new educational programs and revising existing educational programs with the inclusion of sustainable development issues
- c) Development of new subjects on sustainable development as an optional component of educational programs
- d) Updating the topics of student, master, and candidate theses in all faculties to include sections on environmental protection and sustainable development.

3) Science and research

- a) Inclusion of topics related to the UN sustainable development goals and issues of sustainable development of the university, city, region, and country at all educational programs and levels of study;
- b) Conducting fundamental and applied research for the university and all interested stakeholders, with the attraction of internal and external funding;
- c) Organization of internships for researchers in specialized laboratories, institutes, and centers on research topics;
- d) To stimulate student research on the topic of sustainable development, organize educational student excursions and short courses at institutes, and centers on ecology, nutrition, and health;
- e) Studying the possibility of conditions for research by teaching staff and students about green energy and resource conservation, for the further use of acquired skills in the development of innovative business projects within technology parks, business incubators, and the creation of start-up companies;
- f) Based on the library collection and the conducted scientific research of the university teaching staff, the creation of a special catalog/knowledge base on a wide range of issues and principles of sustainable development, regular exhibitions of literature on the topic, holding special library open days with access to working with the knowledge base for city residents;
- g) Organization of round tables, discussions, and scientific, theoretical, and practical conferences on current issues of sustainable development;
- h) Study of the possibilities and conditions for publishing university teaching staff in specialized scientific publications.

3) Green university

- a) Creation of a working group to prepare proposals for improving the energy efficiency of structures and buildings of the University,
- b) reconstruction of buildings and improvement of thermal insulation, replacement of outdated equipment with more efficient ones, installation of motion sensors for automatic power shutdown, etc.
- c) Development of a university energy plan to rationalize the consumption of primary resources, increase the energy efficiency of buildings, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- d) Regular monitoring and analysis of energy consumption dynamics, compilation of energy balances, publication of energy data, and informing teaching staff and students about the university's achievements in the field of energy saving - ensuring economical use of water, installing limiters
- e) saving paper, developing electronic means of communication, and transitioning to paperless office work
- f) organizing waste paper collection on university campuses
- g) study of best practices and experiences of sustainable national and international campuses, development of initiatives to assess the volume of waste produced, to reduce it, separate its collection, as well as methods for its collection and disposal
- h) organizing separate collections for the main types of waste (paper/cardboard, plastic, glass), initiating agreements with city organizations for their recycling or environmentally friendly disposal

4) Promotion of sustainable development ideas

- a) development of cooperation with local or regional authorities in the implementation of specific programs for the sustainable development of an industry, region, or territory;
- b) participation in city events to improve and green the territory and other initiatives;
- c) development of mutually beneficial cooperation with local enterprises and support of business initiatives aimed at sustainable development, organization of internships for university students in organizations guided by the principles of sustainable development;
- d) holding joint conferences, round tables, and preparing scientific publications;

5) Inter-university cooperation on sustainable development issues

- a) explore the possibilities and conditions for joining national and international Associations and networks of interuniversity cooperation on sustainable development issues
- b) study the successful experience of domestic and foreign universities to use best practices in the university's sustainable development policy

Roles and Responsibilities

The University will be responsible for the implementation of this policy and has the authority to develop appropriate procedures regarding, among other things:

- Setting standards for sustainable development
- Create policy implementation mechanisms

- Define the processes by which all departments and departments must monitor, measure, evaluate, and report to the Rector on their progress towards achieving the goals set out in the University's SDP.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years. The previous version of the policy will remain in full force and effects until the adoption of new version.