



Environmental Policy of Azerbaijan Technical University

Document Type	Policy
Scope (applies to)	All staff and students
Issued in	2023
Revised	June 2024
Expiry date	2026
Approver	University Council
Document owner	Sustainability Development Institution
Document status	Published
Information classification	Public
EDI review/Equality impact assessment	None
Purpose	This environmental strategy aims to reduce carbon footprint, promoting renewable energy, enhancing resource efficiency, and creating a green, sustainable campus environment.

Baku-2024

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Preamble

The document "Environmental Development Policy (IDP) 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 purpose of the environmental policy at Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) focuses on reducing its carbon footprint, promoting renewable energy, enhancing resource efficiency, and creating a green, sustainable campus environment by 2030. The policy aspires to enhance environmental performance, promote social and environmental responsibility, support economic viability, and engage the university community. AzTU aims to advance its sustainability goals effectively, creating a greener and more environmentally responsible campus.

Scope

The scope of the Environmental Policy at Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) encompasses a wide range of sustainability initiatives, aimed at transforming the university into a model of environmental responsibility. The policy targets various aspects of university operations, infrastructure, and academic programs, and includes specific objectives related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste management, water conservation, transportation, biodiversity, and education. By adhering to this policy, AzTU aims to become a leader in environmental 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

Azerbaijan Technical University is actively engaged in several green projects aimed at enhancing sustainability and reducing environmental impact:

1. **Energy Efficiency Improvements:** Focus on retrofitting existing buildings to enhance energy efficiency, including modern HVAC systems and improved insulation.
2. **Renewable Energy Projects:** Plans to integrate renewable energy sources, particularly solar energy, into infrastructure
3. **Waste Management and Recycling:** Implementation of a comprehensive waste management system that promotes recycling and composting, with separate waste collection points on campus
4. **Water Conservation Efforts:** Investment in water-saving technologies, including rainwater harvesting systems and low-flow fixtures

5. **Biodiversity and Green Spaces:** Commitment to enhancing campus biodiversity by developing green spaces and restoring natural habitats
6. **Sustainable Transportation:** Promotion of sustainable commuting options, including bike lanes and electric vehicle charging stations
7. **Environmental Education:** Incorporation of sustainability into the curriculum and promotion of awareness through workshops and outreach programs

Short-Term Action Plan (1-3 years)

- Conduct energy audits to assess current consumption and identify quick wins for reducing energy use.
- Implement motion sensor lighting and energy-efficient appliances in existing buildings.
- Launch a campus-wide recycling program with designated bins for paper, plastics, and organic waste.
- Transition to paperless operations by promoting digital communication and reducing paper use.
- Install water-efficient fixtures in campus restrooms and kitchens.
- Begin rainwater harvesting projects for irrigation purposes.
- Establish bike-sharing programs and bike lanes on campus to encourage cycling.
- Provide information on public transport options and promote carpooling among students and staff.
- Conduct workshops and seminars on sustainability practices for students and staff.
- Integrate sustainability topics into the curriculum across various disciplines.

Long-Term Action Plan (3-10 years)

- Develop a strategy to incorporate renewable energy sources, such as solar panels, into campus facilities.
- Establish long-term partnerships with local energy providers for sustainable energy solutions.
- Achieve a significant increase in recycling rates and decrease landfill waste through a robust waste management policy.
- Implement composting programs for organic waste generated on campus.
- Expand green areas and create ecological corridors on campus to support local wildlife.
- Undertake habitat restoration projects as part of biodiversity conservation efforts.
- Ensure all new buildings meet green building standards and include sustainable materials and technologies.
- Develop a campus-wide transportation management plan to optimize traffic flow and promote sustainable commuting options.
- Foster research initiatives focused on sustainability challenges and innovative solutions within the local context.
- Collaborate with local businesses and governmental organizations on sustainability projects and initiatives.

Goals

Promoting actions and initiatives in support of new models of growth and conscious lifestyles, until 2030 the university identifies 7 areas in which the main work to implement the principles of environmental development will be concentrated:

1. **Energy Efficiency and Emission Reduction** (Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 3% by 2030 (compared to 2024 levels))
 - **Building Reconstruction and Insulation:** Retrofit buildings to improve thermal insulation and energy efficiency, replacing outdated equipment with modern, energy-efficient systems.
 - **Automatic Energy Controls:** Install motion sensors and other automated systems to reduce unnecessary power consumption.
 - **Monitoring and Reporting:** Conduct regular energy audits, track energy usage, and report emissions levels through detailed energy balances.
2. **Renewable Energy Adoption** (Reduce non-renewable energy sources and integrate renewable energy technologies)
 - **Exploring Renewable Energy:** AzTU plans to integrate renewable energy technologies, such as solar power, into its campus energy systems.
 - **Sustainable Energy Plans:** The university is developing energy plans focused on rationalizing resource consumption and reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources.
3. **Waste Management and Circular Economy** (Minimize landfill waste, increase recycling rates, and promote composting across the campus)
 - **Recycling Initiatives:** Establish separate collection points for recyclable materials (e.g., paper, plastics, glass) and partner with local waste management companies for proper disposal.
 - **Paperless Transition:** Encourage the transition to paperless work environments by developing digital communication tools.
 - **Waste Reduction:** Implement waste reduction strategies, including waste audits, to identify key waste streams and reduce overall waste generation.
4. **Water Conservation** (Enhance water conservation through efficient systems and technologies)
 - **Water-Efficient Fixtures:** Install low-flow toilets, faucets, and irrigation systems in campus buildings.
 - **Rainwater Harvesting:** Implement rainwater harvesting systems for non-potable uses such as irrigation.
 - **Leak Detection and Maintenance:** Conduct regular checks for water leaks to prevent losses and ensure efficient water distribution.
5. **Sustainable Transportation** (Promote sustainable transportation options to reduce carbon emissions from commuting)
 - **Cycling and Walking:** Develop bike lanes, pedestrian pathways, and bike-sharing programs to encourage active transportation.

- **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure:** Offer incentives such as electric vehicle charging stations and preferential parking for carpoolers.
 - **Public Transit:** Partner with local authorities to improve access to public transportation.
6. **Biodiversity and Green Spaces** (Preserve and enhance biodiversity on campus through conservation and greening projects)
- **Green Spaces:** Expand green areas, including parks and gardens, with native plant species to support biodiversity.
 - **Habitat Restoration:** Conduct habitat restoration projects to protect and enhance ecosystems within the campus.
 - **Biodiversity Monitoring:** Carry out assessments of flora and fauna, creating protected zones for wildlife.
7. **Environmental Education and Research** (Promote sustainability education and research among students and staff)
- **Curriculum Integration:** Incorporate sustainability principles into the curriculum across multiple disciplines to prepare students for a sustainable future.
 - **Sustainability Research:** Encourage research projects focused on environmental issues, climate change, and innovative sustainability solutions.
 - **Outreach Programs:** Organize workshops, conferences, and public events to raise awareness about sustainability.

Roles and Responsibilities

The University will be responsible for the implementation of this policy and has the authority to develop appropriate procedures:

- **Sustainability Working Group:** Responsible for overseeing and implementing the university's sustainability policies, monitoring progress, and reporting to the administration.
- **University Council:** Provides strategic direction and ensures alignment of sustainability initiatives with university-wide goals.
- **Student and Faculty Engagement:** Engage the university community through educational programs, initiatives, and involvement in sustainability projects.

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.