



Report on Sustainable Development Goal 11
Sustainable Cities and Communities

2024



Foreword

This report provides an in-depth analysis of our university's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11), focusing on sustainable cities and communities. It outlines the initiatives, practices, and contributions made towards promoting cultural heritage, supporting the arts, and implementing sustainable practices on campus.

Introduction

This report assesses the commitment of our university to Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11), which aims to foster sustainable cities and communities. The focus is on the institution's contributions to public access to cultural heritage, support for the arts, and the implementation of sustainable practices within the campus environment.

References

[National Information Portal on Sustainable Development Goals of the Republic of Azerbaijan](#)

[AzTU Sustainability](#)

[AzTU SDG 11 Report / November 2023](#)

SDG 11 keywords - Sustainable cities and communities

Adaptable	Disaster Strategy	Local materials	Resilient	Sustainable urbanization
Adaptation	Disasters	Mitigation	Risk reduction strategy	Urban development
Affordable housing	Fine particulate matter	Natural disasters	Road safety	Urban planning
Air pollution	Green spaces	Natural heritage	Safe cities	Urban sustainability
Air quality	Heritage	Overcrowding	Shanty	Town planning
Cities	Housing	Pollution	Slums	Transport systems
Climate change	Human settlements	Population	Smart cities	Urban
Community	Impact of cities	Population growth	Solid waste	Urbanization
Cultural heritage	Inadequate housing	Public spaces	Suburban	Waste
Decentralization	Informal settlements	Public transport	Sustainable	Waste generation
Development planning	Infrastructure	Resilient buildings	Sustainable building/s	Waste management
Disaster management	Land	Resource efficiency	Sustainable cities/city	Water
Disaster risk reduction	Land consumption	Resource needs	Sustainable communities	Water related disasters

SDG 11 Targets

1. Support of Arts and Heritage

- Public access to culturally significant monuments and buildings.
- Engagement with local arts and community events.

2. Expenditure on Arts and Heritage

- Funding allocation for preserving cultural assets and supporting artistic initiatives.

3. Sustainable Practices

- Promoting sustainable commuting options for students and staff.
- Encouraging the use of renewable energy sources.

Statistics and Their Indicators

• Public Access to Heritage Sites

- Number of significant cultural monuments accessible to the public.

• Library Access

- Percentage of library resources available to the public.

• Public Performances

- Number of annual performances organized by university cultural groups.

• Green Spaces

- Area of green spaces available to the community on campus.

• Sustainable Commuting

- Percentage of employees utilizing sustainable commuting options.

SDG 11`s Positive Impact on other SDGs

The initiatives under SDG 11 significantly contribute to achieving other Sustainable Development Goals, such as:

- **SDG 4 (Quality Education):** Enhancing access to educational resources through public libraries and cultural exhibitions.
- **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality):** Providing equal access to cultural heritage and arts for all community members.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** Implementing sustainable practices and promoting renewable energy initiatives.

Current situation

Support of Arts and Heritage: Our university actively promotes public engagement with culturally significant monuments. The "Mother Statue," which commemorates victims of genocide, serves as a poignant site for collective mourning and remembrance, especially during designated days of commemoration. Similarly, a statue of a former president, prominently situated within the main building, is ceremoniously adorned with flower garlands on important occasions, reflecting our



commitment to honoring historical legacies. The main building itself, constructed in 1950, is not only a vital part of Baku's architectural heritage but has also been featured in various cinematic works, such as *Where is Ahmad?* (1963), *Star* (1964), and *The Scoundrel* (1988), underscoring its cultural and historical significance.

The university provides access to a diverse array of library resources. While the physical library primarily serves students and staff, certain areas and collections are accessible to visitors during regular hours. Our online library system offers a range of open-access journals and databases, t

hereby facilitating public access to select academic resources. Additionally, guest memberships are available, which grant specific borrowing privileges (<https://library.aztu.edu.az/>).

Public access to exhibition spaces is also a notable feature of our university. Entry is generally granted to guests selected by university management and department representatives, with exhibitions showcasing art, historical artifacts, and works by faculty and students, particularly during significant events.

The university is committed to providing free public access to open and green spaces on campus. These areas are available year-round for recreational activities such as walking and relaxation. Moreover, the institution fosters community engagement by hosting various events in these outdoor settings.



Our university makes a substantial contribution to the local arts scene through an array of public performances throughout the academic year. These events involve collaborations with cultural workers and students from diverse cultural centers, thereby enriching the local arts landscape (<https://aztu.edu.az/az/news/aztu-da-qarabag-sedasi-adli-edebi-bedii-tedbir-kecirilib-8417>) and (<https://aztu.edu.az/az/news/aztu-da-quot-cadenza-quot-orkestrinin-konserti-kecirilib-8129>).

In addition to tangible cultural heritage, the university is dedicated to the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, encompassing local folklore and traditions (<https://aztu.edu.az/az/news/aztu-da-beynelxalq-ana-dili-gunune-hesr-olunan-tedbir-kecirilib-8103>). Various initiatives are in place to document oral histories, organize exhibitions, and collaborate with cultural organizations to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of our diverse cultural heritage.



Expenditure on Arts and Heritage: The funding allocated for arts and heritage at our university is directed towards the preservation of cultural assets, the support of artistic programs, and the maintenance of historical sites. This financial commitment includes resources for museum visits organized by the student union and events that celebrate cultural heritage, particularly during national holidays (<https://aztu.edu.az/az/news/azerbaycan-texniki-universitetinde-novruz-festivali-kecirilib-8533>).

Sustainable Practices: The university conducts studies on employee commuting patterns and implements measures aimed at reducing travel time. Recent initiatives have included an analysis of employee residences to improve commute efficiency, particularly for those living in Sumgait, where shared transport options such as taxis and minivans are proposed. Furthermore, the university has established infrastructure to support the use of scooters on campus, along with designated free parking for employees. Plans are underway to install an electric vehicle charging station and develop bus routes based on demand.



At present, the university does not have a formal policy promoting telecommuting or remote work for employees. However, provisions allow remote work during emergency situations, and work schedules are shortened on the days preceding holidays, offering some reduction in commuting requirements.

Currently, the university does not provide affordable housing options for employees, although financial assistance is extended to those in need through the union committee twice annually.

While the university does not directly offer affordable housing for students, those applying for dormitory accommodations are allocated space in the dormitory of a neighboring institution. Additionally, the student union committee provides financial support to students experiencing economic hardship twice a year.



The university prioritizes pedestrian access across the campus, ensuring that walkways and pathways are designed to be safe and accessible for all members of the university community.

There is currently no active collaboration with local authorities to address planning or development issues, including access to affordable housing for local residents. However, the university engages in cooperative efforts with the Urbanization and Construction Council of Azerbaijan in relation to project planning (<https://e-qanun.az/framework/46958>).



While the university does not construct new buildings to sustainable standards, it does integrate renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, into its operations. This initiative underscores a commitment to sustainability by generating clean energy on campus, even if it does not pursue certification from organizations like the World Green Building Council

<https://www.aztu.edu.az/sdg/aztu-da-gunes-elektrik-stansiyasi-istifadeye-verilib/>

<https://aztu.edu.az/az/news/aztu-da-kulek-qurgulari-qurasdirilib-8326>

Currently, there is no formal policy prioritizing construction on brownfield sites. However, the university remains committed to improving existing facilities through the ongoing reconstruction of dormitories.

Future goals

To further enhance our contributions to SDG 11, the following tasks are recommended:

- **Enhance Community Engagement:** Develop more outreach programs that connect the university with local communities and stakeholders.
- **Increase Accessibility:** Work towards making more cultural resources accessible to the public, including virtual tours of heritage sites.
- **Sustainable Housing Initiatives:** Explore partnerships with local authorities to address affordable housing for students and staff.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish metrics for assessing the impact of current initiatives on community sustainability and cultural preservation.



Conclusion

This report highlights our university's dedication to promoting the arts, preserving cultural heritage, and implementing sustainable practices aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 11. While several areas for improvement exist—particularly in the provision of affordable housing and active engagement with local authorities—our ongoing initiatives reflect a firm commitment to cultural enrichment and sustainable development, fostering a vibrant community within our institution and beyond.