



Report on Sustainable Development Goal 12

Responsible consumption and production

2024



Foreword

This report provides an in-depth analysis of our university's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12), focusing on sustainable consumption and production patterns. This study investigates sustainability initiatives, emphasizing ethical sourcing, waste disposal policies, waste reduction strategies, and the measurement of recycled materials on campus.

Introduction

This report assesses the commitment of our university to Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12), which aims to foster responsible consumption and production. The focus is on the ethical sourcing of food and supplies, waste disposal policies, strategies for minimizing plastic and disposable items, and the measurement of recycled waste. Our investigation reveals both the university's current commitments and the proactive steps taken to reduce its environmental footprint. This introduction sets the stage for a comprehensive look at our sustainability journey, underscoring the need for continuous initiatives and the potential expansion of policies to include outsourced services and suppliers.

References

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

[AzTU Sustainability](#)

[AzTU SDG 12 Report / November 2023](#)

SDG 12 keywords - Responsible consumption and production

Capitalism	Energy consumption	Greenhouse gasses	Production	Sustainable consumption	Waste
Cars	Energy efficiency	Harvest losses	Recycle	Sustainable Energy	Wasteful consumption
Circular economy	Energy use	Life cycle	Reduce waste generation	Sustainable management	Water
Commercial enterprises	Food	Market distortions	Reduction	Sustainable practices	Water pollution
Consumerism	Food losses	Materialism	Renewable	Sustainable production	Water supply
Consumer levels	Food supply	Materials goods	Resource efficiency	Sustainable public procurement	
Consumption	Food waste	Monitoring sustainable development	Responsible production chains	Sustainable resource use	
Deep de-carbonization	Fossil fuel subsidies	Natural resources	Retail	Sustainable supply chain	
Ecological	Future proof	Obsolescence	Retail industry	Sustainable tourism	
Efficient use of resources	Global food waste	Over consumption	Reuse	Vehicles	

SDG 12 Targets

AzTU actively works towards several targets set by SDG 12: Ethical Sourcing of Food and Supplies, Waste Disposal Policies (Hazardous Materials), Waste Disposal Measurement (Landfill and Recycling), Use Minimization of Plastic, Use Minimization of Disposable Items, Extension of Policies to Outsourced Services and Supply Chain, Proportion of Recycled Waste, Publication of Sustainability Report.

1. Awareness and Education:

- Conduct at least two major sustainability awareness campaigns each academic year.
- Engage 50% of the campus community in sustainability workshops or events annually.

2. Collaboration and Partnerships:

- Establish partnerships with at least five external organizations focused on sustainability.
- Initiate joint projects or initiatives with these partners within six months of establishing partnerships.

3. Integration into Curriculum:

- Integrate sustainability principles into at least 20% of academic programs.
- Develop interdisciplinary programs and offer courses related to sustainability within the next two years.

SDG 12's Positive Impact on Other SDGs

SDG 12 has a significant impact on other Sustainable Development Goals, and at AzTU, here are some of the key interconnections:

- **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger):** Ethical sourcing and reduced food waste contribute to food security. By sourcing food sustainably, the university can support local farmers and promote sustainable agriculture, helping to ensure access to nutritious food.
- **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being):** Reducing waste, particularly from single-use plastics and disposable items, can improve health outcomes by decreasing pollution and promoting a healthier campus environment. Ethical sourcing can also ensure healthier food options for students and staff.

- **SDG 4 (Quality Education):** Integrating sustainability principles into the curriculum enhances educational opportunities for students. By fostering a culture of sustainability, the university prepares future leaders who are knowledgeable about environmental responsibility.
- **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** Reducing plastic use helps decrease pollution in water bodies. Sustainable waste management practices prevent contamination of water sources, contributing to cleaner water and improved sanitation.
- **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy):** Implementing sustainable practices can extend to energy consumption on campus. By prioritizing energy-efficient practices, the university can reduce its carbon footprint and promote renewable energy sources.
- **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities):** Responsible waste management and reduced consumption foster cleaner and more sustainable campus environments. This can lead to improved urban planning and community engagement in sustainability efforts.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** Reducing waste and promoting recycling directly contribute to lower greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable consumption practices help mitigate climate change impacts by minimizing resource extraction and energy use.
- **SDG 15 (Life on Land):** Sustainable sourcing and waste management can protect biodiversity. By avoiding harmful materials and practices, the university can help preserve natural ecosystems and promote sustainable land use.
- **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals):** Collaborating with external organizations and suppliers on sustainability initiatives fosters partnerships that can amplify the impact of sustainability efforts across multiple sectors and communities.

Current situation

There is no special policy for this practice, but our university has implemented a waste disposal practice, including categorized trash bins for different types of waste (e.g., general, recyclable, and paper). While no specific mention of hazardous materials disposal is widely available, this categorization indicates an effort toward responsible waste management.



Currently, our university has categorized bins and special paper boxes, showing a commitment to waste separation. However, there's no formal policy specifically aimed at measuring the exact amount of waste sent to landfill versus recycled (<https://aztu.edu.az/az/news/aztu-da-qida-tullantilarinin-tekrar-emalina-hesr-olunan-deyirmi-masa-kecirilib-8418>).

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://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/aze47723.pdf>).

Activities, events and campaigns related to the SDG 12

Here are some common activities and initiatives that student youth organizations frequently engage in:

Green Events and Initiatives: Hosting environmentally friendly events such as zero-waste fairs or tree planting activities to promote ecological awareness and action

(https://www.aztu.edu.az/sub_site/en/telebe-gencler-teskilati-71).



Community Engagement: Implementing projects that benefit the local community, such as community gardens, renewable energy installations, or recycling programs.

Research and Innovation: Conducting research projects on sustainability topics, developing innovative solutions or technologies that contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.



By implementing these activities, events, and campaigns, our university can actively promote the principles of SDG 12, engage the campus community, and foster a culture of sustainability. These

efforts can create lasting change and enhance awareness of responsible consumption and production practices among students, staff, and the broader community.

Future Goals

- Establish formal policies to ensure proper disposal of hazardous waste, reduce plastic use, and minimize disposable items.
- Broaden sustainability policies to cover outsourced services and the entire supply chain.
- Invest in technologies for accurate measurement and tracking of waste across various streams.
- Expand recycling efforts to include a wider range of materials, such as plastics and electronics.
- Launch educational campaigns to raise awareness within the campus community about sustainability and the impact of individual actions.
- Encourage the adoption of sustainable alternatives and proper waste disposal practices.
- Collaborate with waste management professionals and environmental organizations to implement best practices.
- Forge partnerships with suppliers who share the university's sustainability goals.
- Regularly review and update sustainability policies to integrate new, eco-friendly technologies and practices.
- Set specific, measurable targets for waste reduction, recycling, and other sustainability objectives.
- Publish an annual sustainability report that provides transparent information about the university's environmental impact.
- Involve stakeholders in sustainability efforts, seeking feedback to continually improve practices.
- Integrate sustainability into academic programs to inspire and educate future leaders.
- Develop interdisciplinary courses and initiatives focused on sustainability.

By implementing these actions, our university will strengthen its commitment to responsible consumption and production, advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and fostering a more sustainable future.

Conclusion

While AzTU demonstrates a commendable commitment to responsible consumption and production, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 12, there remains room for improvement. The implementation of categorized waste disposal practices signals a positive step toward responsible waste management; however, the absence of specific policies for measuring waste reduction and recycling effectiveness hampers the institution's potential impact. By adopting formal policies to quantify the amount of waste diverted from landfills and to enhance the overall waste management strategy, the university can not only align more closely with SDG 12 objectives but also foster a culture of sustainability among students and staff.

The findings of this study reveal the necessity for the university to develop more comprehensive sustainability policies that encompass ethical sourcing, waste minimization strategies, and robust recycling initiatives. A proactive approach in addressing hazardous materials and enhancing community engagement in sustainability practices will further strengthen the commitment to environmental responsibility. As highlighted by relevant legal frameworks, such as the Law on Food Safety and laws addressing industrial and household waste, there is a solid foundation upon which to build these initiatives. By leveraging existing legal guidelines and fostering a culture of responsible consumption and production, the university can position itself as a leader in sustainability, inspiring stakeholders to contribute to a more environmentally sustainable future.