AZERBAIJAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Climate Action Policy

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1. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

Azerbaijan Technical University (hereinafter “AzTU”) operates within a national and global context where climate change directly affects public infrastructure, industrial systems, urban environments, and societal resilience. As a technical university with a strong applied-engineering profile, AzTU recognizes that its responsibility in this context extends beyond strategy formulation to the effective governance, implementation, and continuous oversight of climate-related commitments.

AzTU has adopted a Plan that defines the University’s climate objectives, targets, actions, and timelines. This Policy does not replace, duplicate, or restate that Climate Action Plan (hereinafter the “Plan”). Instead, it establishes the institutional governance framework through which the Plan is implemented, embedded into university processes, monitored, and periodically reviewed.

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- define the principles and standards that govern how the Plan is executed across AzTU;
- clarify roles, responsibilities, and accountability for climate-related decision-making;
- ensure that climate actions are consistently integrated into academic, operational, and administrative processes; and
- provide continuity, transparency, and institutional control over climate implementation regardless of changes in leadership, projects, or external conditions.

This Policy functions as a policy-level governance instrument. It sets expectations for oversight, coordination, and performance management, while detailed actions, targets, and technical measures remain defined within the Plan and its supporting implementation documents. Together, the Plan and this Policy form a coherent framework that enables AzTU to deliver climate commitments in a structured, accountable, and institutionally embedded manner.

2. REGULATORY ALIGNMENT

Climate change represents one of the defining global challenges of the twenty-first century, with direct implications for economic systems, infrastructure resilience, and societal well-being. As a party to the Paris Agreement, the Republic of Azerbaijan has committed to reducing national greenhouse gas emissions by 35% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels[1], establishing a clear national trajectory for climate action.

Within this context, AzTU aligns its institutional climate objectives with national commitments, using [PLACEHOLDER: institutional emissions baseline year] as the reference point for internal monitoring. As a leading technical and engineering university, AzTU recognizes its responsibility to support this transition through education, applied research, and the sustainable management of campus operations and infrastructure. The Policy also contributes to the achievement of SDGs 7, 9, 11, 12, and 13.

Alignment is not treated as a static compliance exercise. Regulatory developments, updated national targets, and emerging international standards are reviewed periodically and integrated through the Policy Evolution mechanism described in Section 9.

[1] International Energy Agency – Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement: Azerbaijan

3. KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following key terms are used with the meanings set out below. These definitions clarify document hierarchy, governance responsibilities, and the scope of climate-related oversight at AzTU:

- **Plan:** AzTU's approved strategic document that defines climate-related objectives, targets, actions, timelines, and performance indicators. The Plan specifies what AzTU intends to achieve in relation to climate mitigation and adaptation;
- **Climate Action Policy:** A policy-level instrument that establishes principles, governance arrangements, accountability mechanisms, and oversight processes for the implementation, monitoring, and review of the Plan. This Policy does not set targets or actions;
- **Scope 1 Emissions:** Direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources owned or controlled by AzTU, such as on-site fuel combustion and university-owned vehicles;
- **Scope 2 Emissions:** Indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with the generation of purchased electricity, heat, or cooling consumed by AzTU;
- **Scope 3 Emissions:** Other indirect greenhouse gas emissions occurring across AzTU's value chain, including procurement, waste, business travel, and commuting, where data is available;
- **Baseline Year**: [PLACEHOLDER: approved baseline year] – a reference year against which institutional climate performance and progress are measured;
- **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions:** Emissions of gases that contribute to climate change, including carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, measured using internationally recognized accounting methodologies;
- **Institutional Boundary:** The organizational and operational boundary within which AzTU accounts for emissions, energy use, and climate-related impacts;
- **Resilience**: The capacity of AzTU's systems and infrastructure to absorb and recover from climate-related events;
- **Mitigation:** Actions intended to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions associated with AzTU's activities, as defined in the Plan;
- **Adaptation:** Measures aimed at strengthening the resilience of AzTU's infrastructure and operations to climate-related risks;
- **Carbon offset:** A certified reduction or removal of greenhouse gases used to compensate for emissions elsewhere, applied only after all feasible reductions are achieved.

4. APPLICABILITY

This Policy applies across AzTU and governs how the approved Plan is implemented, overseen, and reviewed within the institutional boundary. It is applicable to all parts of AzTU whose activities influence, enable, or support the delivery of climate-related objectives defined in the Plan.

Specifically, this Policy applies to:

- all academic faculties, departments, and research units;
- administrative and support units involved in facilities management, infrastructure, procurement, energy use, and operations;
- university-controlled campuses, buildings, laboratories, workshops, and technical facilities;

- activities and assets falling under AzTU's operational control, as defined in the Plan.

This Policy does not introduce new climate targets, actions, or commitments. Its applicability is limited to governance, coordination, oversight, and performance management of the Plan.

5. GOVERNANCE

This Policy establishes the governance arrangements through which AzTU oversees the implementation, monitoring, and review of its approved Plan. Governance under this Policy focuses on accountability, coordination, and institutional control, while climate targets, actions, and timelines remain defined within the Plan.

Governance responsibilities under this Policy are as follows:

- **Rectorate:** Provides overall strategic oversight of the Plan, ensures alignment with institutional strategy and regulatory obligations, and approves major policy-level updates related to climate governance;
- **Sustainability Committee:** A central coordinating body chaired by the Rector. It oversees planning, coordination, and monitoring of climate and sustainability initiatives, reviews annual progress, and submits recommendations to the Rector.
- **Designated Sustainability Working Team:** The Sustainability Committee coordinates permanent Working Groups, each responsible for a core sustainability area:
  - Sustainable Research Working Group: Supports interdisciplinary research on renewable energy, low-carbon solutions, and climate resilience.
  - Industry Engagement Working Group: Advances collaboration with industry on applied sustainability projects and technology transfer.
  - Environmental Governance Working Group: Oversees environmental policy integration and sustainability aspects of campus operations.
  - Social Responsibility Working Group: Promotes sustainability awareness and community engagement among staff and students.
- **Academic and Administrative Units:** Are responsible for implementing relevant elements of the Plan within their functional areas and for cooperating with monitoring and reporting processes established under this Policy.

Governance, escalation, and approval processes related to climate oversight follow AzTU's established institutional procedures.

6. POLICY PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS

This section defines the principles and institutional standards that govern how the approved Plan is implemented, prioritized, and overseen at AzTU. The principles reflect AzTU's applied engineering and infrastructure profile and guide decision-making across academic, operational, and administrative domains.

6.1. Systems-Based Climate Approach

Implementation of the Plan is governed through a systems perspective that recognizes interdependencies between infrastructure, operations, academic activity, and institutional behavior. Oversight under this Policy seeks to prevent fragmented actions and ensure coordinated delivery across the University.

Climate considerations are expected to be embedded at planning and decision stages rather than added retrospectively. Governance focuses on system-wide impacts and informed assessment of trade-offs between efficiency, emissions reduction, and long-term resilience.

6.2. Evidence-Informed and Technically Grounded Decisions

Governance of the Plan relies on verified data, technical assessments, and analytical approaches appropriate to engineering and infrastructure contexts. Where complete datasets are not yet available, interim assumptions are documented transparently and replaced once verified information is confirmed.

This principle governs, in particular:

- establishment and revision of emissions baselines: [PLACEHOLDER: institutional baseline year and approved calculation methodology];
- prioritization of mitigation and adaptation measures defined in the Plan; and
- evaluation of infrastructure and operational investments using lifecycle considerations.

6.3. Progressive and Realistic Emissions Reduction

This Policy governs how emissions reduction commitments defined in the Plan are implemented and monitored within AzTU's institutional boundary. Oversight emphasizes phased, achievable progress aligned with institutional capacity, rather than short-term or purely compensatory measures.

Targets, timelines, and scope definitions remain defined within the Plan and are monitored under this Policy using AzTU-approved data: [PLACEHOLDER: confirmed Scope 1-3 targets, timelines, and scope coverage].

6.4. Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Asset Management

Oversight under this Policy ensures that climate resilience considerations set out in the Plan are applied consistently in infrastructure planning and asset management. This includes risks relevant to AzTU's geographic location and operational profile, such as heat stress and extreme weather.

Governance applies resilience considerations to:

- major construction and renovation decisions;
- infrastructure renewal and maintenance planning; and
- evaluation of systems critical to teaching, research, and operations.

6.5. Responsible Operations and Resource Use

This Policy governs how operational practices support climate objectives within applicable public-sector regulatory limits. Oversight promotes alignment between energy efficiency, resource conservation, and operational reliability.

Where legally permissible, governance processes may enable consideration of environmental performance criteria in procurement and operational decisions, particularly for energy-intensive equipment, building systems, and long-lived assets.

6.6. Integration with Education and Applied Research

Governance under this Policy supports integration of climate considerations into AzTU's education and applied research, consistent with the Plan. This includes encouraging climate-relevant curriculum content and research related to low-carbon technologies and resilient infrastructure.

Where appropriate, implementation challenges identified through the Plan may inform research priorities and student projects, strengthening links between institutional practice and academic output.

6.7. Institutional Engagement and Behavior

Effective delivery of the Plan depends on informed participation across the University. This Policy governs how awareness and engagement mechanisms support climate-related responsibilities at different institutional levels.

Engagement approaches are designed to be practical and proportionate, aligned with AzTU's operational context, and supportive of institutional objectives rather than reliant solely on voluntary action.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

This Policy governs how the approved Plan is embedded into AzTU's institutional processes and day-to-day operations. Implementation under this Policy focuses on integration, coordination, and accountability, rather than defining new climate actions or targets.

Implementation is achieved through incorporation of climate considerations into existing institutional processes, including planning, budgeting, infrastructure development, facilities management, and relevant academic and research activities.

Operationalization of this Policy may be supported by internal procedures, technical guidelines, and action plans developed by responsible units where required. These supporting instruments provide practical details for implementation and reference this Policy and the Plan, without altering their scope or intent.

Overall coordination and oversight of implementation follow the governance arrangements defined in Section 5. Academic and administrative units remain responsible for implementing relevant elements of the Plan within their functional areas and for cooperating with monitoring and reporting processes established under this Policy.

8. MONITORING AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

AzTU establishes structured monitoring and reporting arrangements to ensure accountability, transparency, and credibility in sustainability performance. Monitoring supports institutional oversight, compliance with commitments, and continuous improvement, and enables alignment with national and international sustainability frameworks.

Sustainability monitoring is conducted through the following elements:

- **Institutional Oversight and Review:** Sustainability performance is reviewed annually under the coordination of the Sustainability Committee. Outcomes are submitted to the Rectorate and inform institutional reporting and follow-up actions.
- **Greenhouse Gas Accounting:** An institutional greenhouse gas inventory is compiled annually under the oversight of the Sustainability Committee, based on data provided by responsible units. The inventory is prepared using recognised international standards and subject to internal validation.
- **Performance Indicators:** Monitoring is supported by a defined set of indicators, which may include metrics related to energy efficiency, renewable energy use, waste management, transport-related emissions, and coverage of indirect emissions categories, where applicable.
- **Disclosure and Communication:** Key sustainability outcomes are disclosed through AzTU's official channels and shared with relevant public authorities and external sustainability networks. An annual sustainability summary is communicated internally.

8.1. Data Management

Emissions calculations follow recognised international standards, including the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard using Azerbaijan's national grid emission factors for electricity and DEFRA[2] emission factors for commuting and waste.

The organisational boundary follows an operational-control approach. Data are subject to internal quality review, and records and methodologies are retained in accordance with institutional archiving requirements to support audit and verification.

Monitoring under this Policy covers, in particular:

- progress against climate objectives, targets, and actions defined in the Plan;
- institutional greenhouse gas emissions and energy performance within the approved boundary;
- implementation status of priority mitigation and adaptation measures; and
- alignment of operational decisions with the principles set out in this Policy.

Data collection and consolidation are coordinated by the designated responsible function with inputs from relevant academic and administrative units.

9. POLICY EVOLUTION

This Policy is reviewed periodically to ensure that it remains effective, relevant, and aligned with institutional priorities, regulatory requirements, and the approved Plan. Reviews consider implementation experience, monitoring outcomes, changes in national climate policy, and developments affecting AzTU's operational or academic context.

The Policy is reviewed at least once every two years. Proposed revisions are prepared by the designated sustainability team, reviewed through the relevant governance bodies and submitted for approval to the Rectorate.

[2] DEFRA (UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) GHG Conversion Factors are used where national factors are unavailable

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

