AZERBAIJAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

# Environmental Policy

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# 1. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

Azerbaijan Technical University (hereinafter “AzTU”) is committed to promoting environmental sustainability, reducing its carbon footprint, and creating a green, resilient, and resource-efficient campus environment. This Environmental Policy (hereinafter “the Policy”) establishes principles, institutional responsibilities, and implementation frameworks for managing energy, water, waste, biodiversity, transportation, and sustainability-related research and education.

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impact across all university operations;
- Promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and responsible resource management;
- Enhance water conservation, waste reduction, and circular economy practices;
- Protect and enhance biodiversity and green spaces;
- Integrate environmental awareness, education, and research into academic and community initiatives;
- Ensure compliance with national legislation and international sustainability standards; and
- Engage students, staff, and partners in achieving AzTU’s sustainability goals by 2030.

## 1.1. Legislative Context

This Policy is developed in accordance with:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Relevant Laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Environmental Protection” (No. 678-IQ of 1999);
- Presidential decrees and orders concerning sustainable development and environmental protection;
- Resolutions and orders of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- The Development Strategy of Azerbaijan Technical University for 2021–2030;
- UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”;
- National Coordinating Council for Sustainable Development guidelines;
- State Strategy “Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development”; and
- Relevant internal policies, including the University Charter, Sustainability Action Plans, and Academic Council resolutions.

# 2. KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions apply:

- **Environmental Sustainability** – Practices that ensure responsible management of natural resources while minimising environmental harm.
- **Green Campus** – A campus that integrates environmentally friendly infrastructure, operations, and behaviours to reduce ecological impact.

- **Circular Economy** – An approach to resource use that emphasises recycling, reuse, and reducing waste.
- **Energy Efficiency** – Measures and technologies that reduce energy consumption while maintaining required service levels.
- **Renewable Energy** – Energy derived from natural sources that are replenished, such as solar, wind, or geothermal.
- **Biodiversity** – The variety of plants, animals, and ecosystems, including preservation and enhancement on campus.
- **Water Conservation** – Strategies and technologies that reduce potable water use and promote responsible water management.
- **Sustainability Education** – Educational activities that integrate knowledge and practices related to environmental stewardship and responsible resource use.

## 3. APPLICABILITY

This Policy applies to:

- All campuses, facilities, and infrastructure owned, leased, or operated by AzTU;
- All academic, administrative, and support staff, as well as students at undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels;
- Contractors, service providers, and partners whose operations impact environmental sustainability;
- Sustainability-related academic, research, and community engagement activities;
- Energy, water, waste, transport, and biodiversity management across all campus operations.

The Policy covers all stages of university operations, including planning, construction, renovation, research, teaching, and campus activities.

## 4. GOVERNANCE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **University Council** – Approves the Policy, monitors overall performance, and ensures alignment with strategic sustainability objectives.
- **Rectorate** – Provides leadership, allocates resources, and ensures integration of sustainability into university planning.
- **Sustainability Working Group** – Coordinates implementation of sustainability initiatives, monitors progress, and reports outcomes.
- **Facilities Management Department** – Oversees energy, water, waste, and biodiversity projects; ensures infrastructure compliance with environmental standards.
- **Academic Departments and Research Units** – Integrate sustainability principles into curricula, research projects, and campus engagement initiatives.
- **Students, Staff, and Contractors** – Participate actively in sustainability initiatives, adhere to environmental guidelines, and report concerns or non-compliance.

# 5. ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES AND INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS

Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) integrates environmental sustainability into its core operations, infrastructure planning, academic programmes, and campus life. The University's environmental development principles establish a framework for decision-making, investment, and daily practices that reduce environmental impact, enhance resource efficiency, and promote sustainable behaviours among students, staff, and stakeholders. These principles guide the University in achieving measurable improvements in energy use, waste management, water conservation, biodiversity, transportation, and sustainability education, ensuring that environmental considerations are systematically embedded into all aspects of institutional activity.

## 5.1. Energy Efficiency and Emission Reduction

AzTU is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency across its campus. The University implements building retrofits, modernises heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems, and applies advanced energy management practices to optimise consumption. Energy usage is continuously monitored, and automated systems are utilised to minimise unnecessary energy expenditure. These measures aim to create a sustainable campus that reduces the University's overall carbon footprint while enhancing operational efficiency and long-term cost-effectiveness.

## 5.2. Renewable Energy Adoption

The University actively promotes the integration of renewable energy solutions to reduce reliance on non-renewable sources. Solar energy and other sustainable technologies are gradually incorporated into campus infrastructure, with long-term plans to expand renewable energy capacity across buildings and facilities. Energy planning considers environmental, operational, and financial sustainability, ensuring that renewable energy adoption aligns with national regulations, institutional priorities, and international best practices.

## 5.3. Waste Management and Circular Economy

AzTU implements comprehensive waste management practices to minimise landfill contributions and promote recycling and composting. Waste streams are assessed continuously to identify reduction opportunities, and campus operations are designed to support circular economy principles. The University encourages digitalisation to reduce paper usage and actively promotes sustainable practices in laboratories, offices, and student activities. These efforts collectively foster a culture of environmental responsibility and resource efficiency.

## 5.4. Water Conservation and Resource Efficiency

Water conservation is central to the University's environmental strategy. Efficient fixtures, low-flow irrigation systems, and rainwater harvesting projects are implemented to reduce potable water consumption. AzTU monitors water usage, maintains infrastructure to prevent leaks, and promotes responsible water use throughout the campus. These measures ensure that water resources are managed sustainably and contribute to the broader goal of creating a resource-efficient campus.

### 5.5. Sustainable Transportation

The University encourages environmentally responsible commuting options to reduce transportation-related emissions. Active travel, including cycling and walking, is promoted through dedicated infrastructure and facilities, while electric vehicle charging stations are installed to support sustainable transport choices. Collaboration with local authorities enhances access to public transportation, further reducing the environmental impact of campus commuting. These initiatives aim to create a greener, healthier, and more accessible campus environment for students and staff.

### 5.6. Biodiversity and Green Spaces

AzTU is committed to preserving and enhancing campus biodiversity. Green spaces are expanded, natural habitats are restored, and flora and fauna are monitored to maintain ecological balance. Landscaping and greening projects create sustainable, educational, and recreational areas for the campus community. Biodiversity conservation is embedded in campus planning, reinforcing the University's role as a model for environmentally responsible higher education institutions.

### 5.7. Sustainability Education and Research

Sustainability education and research are integral to AzTU's environmental development objectives. Environmental principles are embedded into curricula across disciplines, and research initiatives focus on addressing sustainability challenges at local and global levels. Workshops, seminars, and community outreach programmes engage students, staff, and external partners in practical sustainability practices. These efforts foster environmental awareness, promote innovative solutions, and cultivate a culture of responsibility, ensuring that AzTU remains a leader in environmental development and sustainability in higher education.

### 5.8. Reducing the Impact of Alien and Invasive Species

AzTU is committed to preventing and reducing the adverse impacts of alien and invasive species on native biodiversity across its campuses and areas affected by university operations. To achieve this, the University shall:

- Identify alien species, assess their potential invasiveness and maintain a species register;
- Prioritise native, ecologically appropriate plants in landscaping and procurement, and prohibit the introduction and planting of species identified as invasive;
- Conduct periodic monitoring and implement expert-informed control measures that minimise harm to native species and habitats;
- Restore affected habitats using native species;
- Provide awareness and guidance for staff, students and contractors.

## 6. IMPLEMENTATION

Sustainability initiatives are systematically embedded into infrastructure planning, campus operations, academic programmes, and research projects across Azerbaijan Technical University. Each department and operational unit implements initiatives in accordance with defined standards, action plans, and established timelines to ensure consistency and effectiveness. Digital monitoring systems are employed to track performance in energy use, water consumption, and waste management, providing accurate data to inform evidence-based decision-making. In parallel, awareness campaigns,

staff training, and student engagement programmes are conducted to foster a campus-wide culture of sustainability, ensuring that environmentally responsible practices are embraced throughout the University community.

## 7. MONITORING AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The University monitors environmental performance using KPIs including:

- Energy consumption and greenhouse gas emission reductions;
- Percentage of energy from renewable sources;
- Volume of recycled and composted waste;
- Water consumption and rainwater reuse metrics;
- Area and biodiversity of green spaces;
- Participation in sustainability education and research initiatives.

Annual performance reports are submitted to the University Council and Sustainability Working Group. Results inform operational improvements, investment priorities, and long-term planning.

## 8. POLICY EVOLUTION

This Policy is reviewed every two years, or sooner if required by regulatory changes, technological developments, or environmental performance outcomes.

The Sustainability Working Group coordinates reviews, integrating monitoring results, stakeholder feedback, and best practice developments. Updated Policy versions are submitted to the University Council for approval and disseminated across the university community.

AZTU

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

