AZERBAIJAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Sustainability Policy

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1. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

Azerbaijan Technical University (hereinafter “AzTU”) is committed to advancing sustainable development as a core institutional value and strategic priority. The University recognises that sustainability is essential to fulfilling its educational, research, and societal mission in a rapidly changing global environment.

This Sustainability Policy (hereinafter the “Policy”) establishes a unified institutional framework for integrating environmental responsibility, social equity, and economic viability into all areas of University activity. Through this Policy, AzTU seeks to ensure the responsible use of natural, economic, and human resources while safeguarding the interests of present and future generations.

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- embed sustainability principles into governance, education, research, and operations;
- support long-term institutional resilience and responsible growth;
- contribute to national development priorities and global sustainability agendas; and
- promote a culture of shared responsibility for sustainable development across the University community.

1.1. Legislative and Strategic Context

This Policy is developed in accordance with:

- the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”;
- the national development priorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including “Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development”;
- the Development Strategy of Azerbaijan Technical University for 2021–2030; and
- applicable national legislation and international best practices in higher education sustainability.

2. KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

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

- **Sustainable Development:** Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, integrating environmental protection, social wellbeing, and economic growth.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Responsible management of natural resources, reduction of environmental impact, and protection of ecosystems through efficient energy use, waste reduction, pollution prevention, and climate-conscious practices.
- **Social Sustainability:** Promotion of social equity, inclusion, health, safety, wellbeing, and equal opportunities for students, staff, and the wider community.
- **Economic Sustainability:** Efficient and responsible use of financial and material resources to ensure long-term institutional stability, value creation, and innovation.
- **Stakeholders:** Students, academic and administrative staff, management, partners, suppliers, public authorities, and other parties affected by or involved in university activities.

3. APPLICABILITY

This Policy applies to all members of Azerbaijan Technical University, including:

- students at all levels;
- academic, administrative, and technical staff;
- senior management and governing body members.

It also applies to guests, consultants, contractors, partners, suppliers, and other third parties engaged in activities related to the University.

The Policy covers all areas of university activity, including education, research, innovation, campus operations, infrastructure and facilities management, procurement and supply chains, community engagement, and international cooperation. It applies to activities conducted both on and off campus, as well as to national and international projects implemented under AzTU's authority.

4. GOVERNANCE

Overall responsibility for the implementation of this Policy lies with Azerbaijan Technical University.

- **University Leadership:** The Rector provides institutional leadership for sustainability and ensures that sustainability principles are embedded into strategic planning, decision-making, and operational management. Adequate resources and institutional support are allocated to enable effective implementation.
- **Structural Units and Departments:** Faculties, departments, and administrative units are responsible for integrating sustainability principles into their activities, monitoring performance, and reporting on progress within their areas of responsibility.
- **Academic and Administrative Staff and Students:** All members of the University community are expected to support the objectives of this Policy through responsible behaviour, participation in sustainability initiatives, and compliance with relevant internal regulations and procedures.
- **Coordination Mechanisms:** The University may establish sustainability committees, working groups, or designated coordinators to support cross-institutional coordination, data collection, and implementation of sustainability initiatives.

5. SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES, PRIORITY AREAS, AND INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS

5.1. Environmental Sustainability

AzTU is committed to minimising its environmental footprint and improving resource efficiency. Priority measures include:

- reducing energy and water consumption;
- improving energy efficiency in buildings and infrastructure;
- promoting renewable and environmentally friendly technologies;
- minimising waste generation and supporting recycling; and
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions through digitalisation and sustainable campus practices.

5.2. Social Sustainability

AzTU promotes a safe, inclusive, and supportive University environment. Social sustainability priorities include:

- equal opportunities, diversity, and inclusion;
- health, safety, and wellbeing of students and staff;
- support for vulnerable groups;
- development of mental health and wellbeing programmes; and
- active participation in academic, cultural, and social life.

5.3. Economic Sustainability

The University ensures responsible financial and resource management to support long-term stability and growth. Economic sustainability includes:

- transparent and efficient financial management;
- support for employment and professional development;
- provision of scholarships and financial assistance;
- promotion of innovation, research, and entrepreneurship aligned with sustainable development principles.

5.4. Education, Research, and Innovation for Sustainable Development

Sustainability is integrated into education and research through:

- inclusion of sustainable development topics in curricula;
- development of new courses and academic programmes;
- support for interdisciplinary and applied research;
- engagement of students in sustainability-related projects and initiatives; and
- dissemination of research outcomes that contribute to societal and technological advancement.

5.5. Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships

AzTU cooperates with public authorities, industry, civil society, and international partners to advance sustainable development. Stakeholder engagement supports knowledge exchange, innovation, and shared responsibility for sustainability outcomes.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

This Policy is implemented through integration into AzTU’s strategic planning, academic programmes, research activities, campus operations, and administrative processes.

Supporting procedures, action plans, and guidelines may be developed to operationalise sustainability objectives in specific areas. Implementation responsibilities follow the governance framework set out in this Policy and operate within existing institutional management systems.

7. MONITORING AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

AzTU monitors the implementation and effectiveness of this Policy through systematic data collection, analysis, and reporting to ensure transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

Indicative performance indicators may include:

- energy and water consumption levels;
- waste reduction and recycling rates;
- number of sustainability-related courses and research projects;
- participation in sustainability initiatives;
- employment and graduate outcomes; and
- engagement with external partners and community initiatives.

Structural units report on sustainability performance in accordance with established procedures. Consolidated reports support informed decision-making and strategic planning by university leadership.

8. POLICY EVOLUTION

This Policy is reviewed at least every two years or earlier where required by changes in legislation, national priorities, or institutional strategy.

Reviews assess relevance, effectiveness, and impact, drawing on monitoring results and stakeholder input. Based on review outcomes, AzTU updates sustainability objectives, measures, and implementation mechanisms to ensure alignment with national and international best practices.

The existing version of this Policy remains in force until a revised version is formally approved.

AZTU

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

